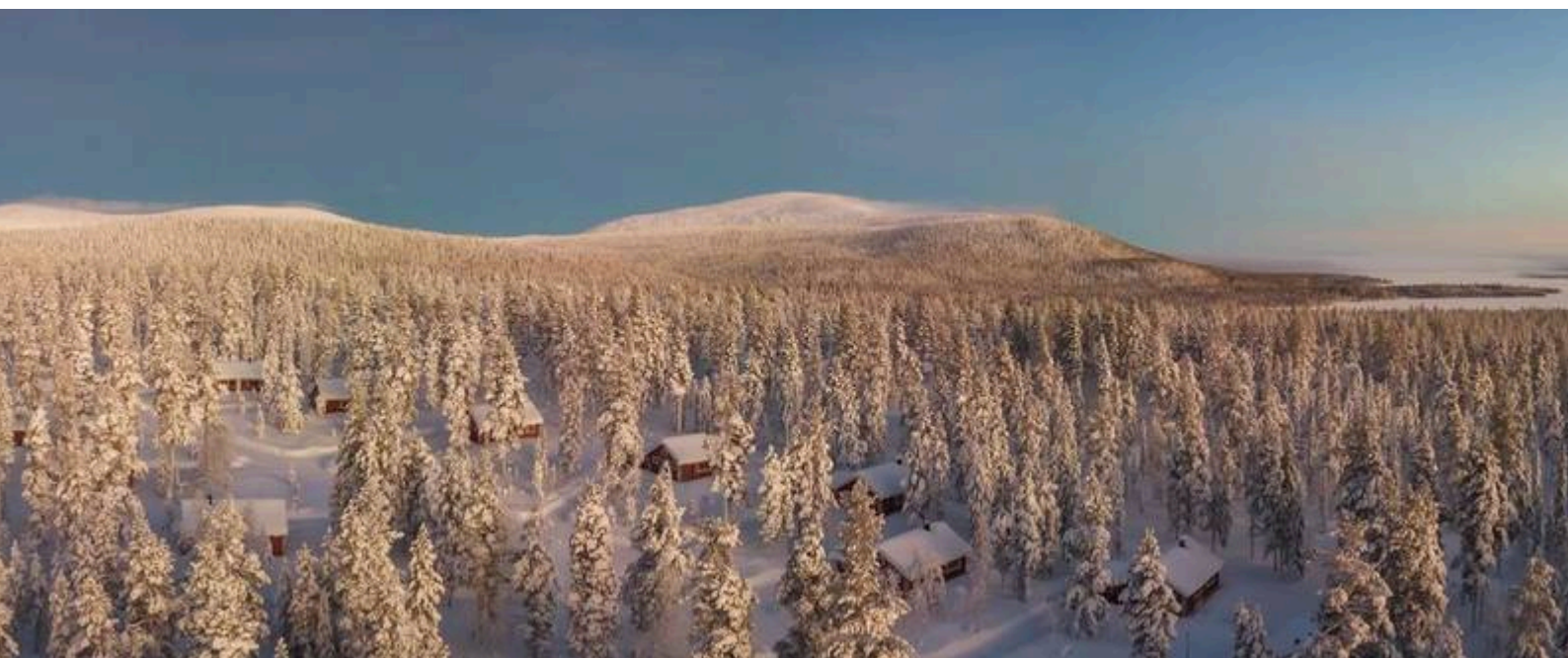




Jeris - Festive Family Fun in a Winter Cottage



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1122
DURATION: 4 nights

In Brief

This family short break allows you to take in the delights of winter in Finnish Lapland. Staying in a cosy winter cottage, each day you will enjoy activities in The Great Outdoors. These include the likes of dog sledding, snowmobiling, and a reindeer sleigh ride. You'll also have the opportunity to make the most of the Arctic during an afternoon of snow activities including snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and tobogganing, as well as the chance to eat in an ice restaurant. We, of course, provide the chance

Our Opinion

“ This four-night holiday is ideal for those families who want an authentic pre-Christmas break in Lapland. Whilst there is the chance for you to meet with Father Christmas during your time in Finland, this agenda is designed to give you and yours a range of unforgettable experiences, and is therefore not solely centred on Santa. Families will enjoy amazing safaris such as a reindeer sleigh ride, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and dog sledding. Our private meeting with Father Christmas can be included with ease and adds a magical festive touch to the holiday. ”

Ali Mclean



What's included?

- **Flights:** return flights from London Heathrow to Kittilä (via Helsinki). Flight routes are subject to change
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights in a Winter Cottage Type A at Hotel Jeris
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** husky safari, Arctic Elements Sauna World, reindeer visit and reindeer sleigh ride, snowmobile safari, snow fun activities including snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and tobogganing (order of activities is subject to change). Please note that you must hold a valid UK driving licence in order to drive a snowmobile
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities

Please note: If you are travelling on 27th November, the trip is based at nearby sister hotel, Harriniva.

Trip Overview

As the sun dips below the horizon and the blue light of winter arrives with the snow, Lapland transforms into an amazing family playground. This short break is designed to maximise the number of amazing experiences you can have in just four nights.

Based in a cosy winter cottage at Jeris on the shores of a frozen lake, you will explore the snow-covered landscape in a variety of fun-filled ways. Our safaris are not two minutes tastes, but real activities that allow you to enjoy Lapland at its very best. We also leave enough time free so you can simply enjoy family snowball fights!

You'll experience 'paw-power' as you take to the trails for an unforgettable dog sledding trip, horsepower as you enjoy an adventure on snowmobiles and 'reindeer power' as you glide along in a reindeer-pulled sleigh having learnt some herding techniques. Weather permitting; you will also eat lunch in a restaurant made entirely from ice.

As Jeris sits in prime Northern Lights viewing territory, you can simply step outside each night and be on the search for the Aurora!

To complete your winter adventure, we've also included an afternoon of snow fun activities. You'll join guides to snowshoe, cross-country ski and toboggan across the snowy landscape. There's also the chance to try ice hockey as well as mini snowmobiles for the children.

Of course, as you will be travelling in the run-up to Christmas, we offer our guests the opportunity to include a magical meeting with Father Christmas in their holiday should they wish. Simply see the '[Personalise](#)' section or talk to one of our travel experts to find out more.

Please Note: If you are travelling on 27th November, the trip is based at nearby sister hotel, Harriniva.

Photography by Antti Pietikainen

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL IN LAPLAND

When you touch down at Kittilä Airport, high up above the Arctic, you will be transferred to your cosy accommodation at Hotel Jeris. Here you will enjoy an evening meal before getting to bed for some rest ahead of the start of your adventures tomorrow morning.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

HUSKY SAFARI AND ARCTIC SAUNA WORLD

After breakfast at the hotel this morning, we kick-start your holiday with the huskies. You will travel to the husky centre for a tour and the chance to meet some of the puppies! You will learn about the lives of these working dogs before taking to the trails for your own dog sledding experience. The adults will travel two people per sleigh and the children will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's team of eager dogs.

You will notice a huge change in the dogs when the sled starts to move. Prior to take off they are loud and excitable, desperate to get going but, as soon as the runners set off, they fall silent and get on with the task at hand. It's such an experience for adults and children alike and you will cover around 6km in total during the trip. Full instruction will be given prior to setting off.

Following lunch, which will be served back at the hotel, you will have the chance to enjoy a traditional Finnish pastime in the Arctic Elements Sauna World. The spa offers saunas based on each of the elements as well as wellness showers, relaxation areas and even an ice hole swimming area, for those

feeling brave!

Dinner will be served at the hotel this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

REINDEER VISIT AND SLEIGH RIDE AND CHRISTMAS DINNER

Reindeer are synonymous with Lapland and so, of course, we have included a visit to a traditional reindeer farm after breakfast. Here you'll be shown some essential reindeer herding skills such as lassoing and once you've met with the reindeer you will enjoy a short sleigh ride.

Following your animal encounters, you will be ready for lunch. If the conditions are right then your meal will be served in a restaurant made entirely from ice! If this is not a possibility then you will eat around a campfire in a traditional wooden kota (tipi).

Back at Jeris, there will be some free time for you to spend together. You can head out into the snow for a snowball fight, arrange additional activities locally or perhaps head off for a very special meeting. We can arrange for your family to enjoy a private audience with Father Christmas in his secret cabin not far from Jeris. It is a wonderful experience for families with younger children. You can find full details regarding this activity in the 'Personalise' section of the holiday page. Or you can speak to one of our travel experts.

This evening a special Christmas dinner will be served in the hotel's restaurant so you can get a taste of the Finnish festive season.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

SNOWMOBILE SAFARI AND SNOW FUN ACTIVITIES

After breakfast, you will head out on snowmobiles for a real adventure. These machines allow you to cover much more ground so you can get out and about and see the size of this vast landscape. The adults will travel two people per snowmobile and both will have the chance to drive (you must be over 18 and hold a full driving licence in order to drive a snowmobile). Children will all travel together in a special sleigh which is pulled behind the guide's snowmobile. In total, you will cover around 20km before returning to Jeris for a warming lunch.

Your final afternoon will be spent making the most of the brilliant snow conditions. Join local guides as you snowshoe and cross-country ski along trails and whizz down the toboggan slope. There's also ice hockey and the children can even have a go in the driving seat of mini snowmobiles.

You'll most certainly work up an appetite for dinner tonight in the restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

DEPARTURE

Today you must bid farewell to Lapland and you shall be transferred back to the airport for your flights home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Visit Father Christmas

For families, meeting Father Christmas in Lapland is sure to be an unforgettable experience.

This particular experience starts with a snowmobile-pulled sleigh ride across the frozen lake and into the snow-covered forest. Your mission is to locate Father Christmas' cosy cabin, which is tucked away in a secret location. As you travel you really should keep an eye out for elves on the way too, as they're sometimes seen close by.

If there is a small group of families who are due to meet Father Christmas on the same day, then you will all gather together with one of Santa's helpers and will enjoy warm drinks. Then, one at a time, families will be led by one of the elves to meet the great man himself. If it is just your family on the day, then you will be guided straight to his cabin door.

Your private meeting with Father Christmas will last approximately 10 minutes, so you will have plenty of time to discuss your children's Christmas wishes and take photos.

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Cookie Baking

You will join other families to take part in some traditional festive Finnish fun. Together you will bake gingerbread cookies and then the children will be able to decorate a felt stocking to take home and hang up on Christmas Eve as a reminder of their time in Lapland. This activity normally lasts between 1 and 2 hours depending on how much time children want to spend perfecting their festive stocking.

Accommodation Notes

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Please note: If you are travelling on 27th November, the trip is based at nearby sister hotel, Harriniva.

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Hotel Jeris Winter Cottage (Nights: 1-4)



Winter Cottage Type A

Hotel Jeris and its winter cottages are on the shores of Lake Jerisjarvi around 20km from the nearest

town. They offer families an idyllic location for a holiday in the wilds of Finnish Lapland.

The hotel consists of the main building which is home to the hotel rooms, gift shop and restaurant. The 35 winter cottages are dotted in the surrounding forests.

Hotel facilities:

- All meals are served in the main hotel restaurant. There is always a selection of options which often includes local dishes as well as more international cuisine.
- The buffet breakfast offers a wide selection of cooked and continental options; whilst lunch and dinner are usually a selection of salads, then a choice between a meat/fish main course and a vegetarian option, followed by a set dessert. During December, a special buffet menu and certain soft drinks are also provided for children.
- Tea and coffee are available free of charge throughout the day in the hotel restaurant/bar area.
- There is a small lounge area in the main building where guests can use the free Wi-Fi connection and there is a small shop selling souvenirs and snacks.
- Jeris is home to the lovely Arctic Sauna World just a short walk from the hotel. Renovated for winter 2019/20, the spa has strong eco-credentials thanks to its use of entirely renewable electricity and geothermal heating generated from the Jerisjärvi lake. Here there are four saunas each inspired by the four elements; earth, fire, water and air and named after Finnish gods and goddesses. You can also upgrade to the special Northern Lights sauna for a relaxing way to search the skies! If you are feeling brave (and are in good health) try an adventurous dip in the ice pool.

Winter Cottage Type A:

Type A winter cottages (30 square metres) are, on the whole, the closest to the hotel and are ideal for families with small children.

The cabins can vary in size but all sleep from two to four people in one spacious room with a sleeping alcove for two people (generally with a double bed) and a pull-out sofa bed for two more. They are all privately-owned and so the décor and style can vary, but each has a cosy wood-burning stove, clothes-drying cupboard, kitchenette, television, shower room, toilet and a private sauna.

All meals are served in the hotel restaurant.

Cabin guests will receive a small 'starter pack' of firewood. Further wood supplies can be purchased locally for approximately 10 euros.

Please note: a limited number of hairdryers are available from reception.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.



Jeris Winter Cottage Type B

Type B winter cottages (63 square metres) sleep from four to six people and are ideal for families of four or more. There is a living room area with kitchenette and wood-burning stove, one bedroom for two people and a mezzanine loft area (please note that this is accessed by a steep ladder so is not suitable for small children) which can sleep up to four more.

The cottages are all privately owned and so some contents and décor may vary, but all are equipped with a clothes drying cupboard, sauna, TV, shower and toilet room.

The cosy winter cottages are located in the forests which surround Jeris; the furthest being across the quiet road and tucked in the trees around a 15-minute walk from the main building. Your luggage will be transferred for you on arrival.

Cabin guests will receive a small 'starter pack' of firewood. Further wood supplies can be purchased locally for approximately 10 euros.

All meals are served in the hotel restaurant.

Please speak to one of our Family Travel Experts for a quote.

Please note: A limited number of hairdryers are available from reception.

Jeris Winter Cottage Type C



Type C winter cottages (70 square metres) are the largest available and sleep from four to seven people. There are two bedrooms (each for two people) downstairs and a loft sleeping area for a further two (or three if you don't mind being very cosy!) people accessed via a steep staircase (not suitable for small children).

As with all the cottages, there is a log-burning stove, clothes drying cupboard, kitchenette, sauna, TV, shower and toilet room. They can vary in layout a little and as they are privately-owned, the décor is determined by the owner's personal choice.

They are located in the forests which surround Jeris; the furthest being across the quiet road, and tucked in the trees between a 10 and a 20-minute walk from the main building. Your luggage will be transferred for you on arrival. All meals are served in the hotel restaurant.

Cabin guests will receive a small 'starter pack' of firewood. Further wood supplies can be purchased locally for approximately 10 euros.

Please speak to one of our Family Travel Experts for a quote.

Please note: A limited number of hairdryers are available from reception.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum group size of 2 people and maximum 30 people (approximately)

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum numbers required for a holiday to operate

Some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to operate (as listed in the 'Group Size' section). If your holiday departure has not yet reached the minimum number, you will be told at the time of booking. In the unlikely event that your chosen date is not guaranteed by nine weeks before your scheduled departure date, we will contact you to discuss the available options as per our booking conditions.

Minimum and maximum age

The minimum age for this holiday can be found in the 'Key Facts' section of the holiday overview.

Younger family members may be able to participate but may not be able to take part in all activities. Please contact one of our Travel Experts if you have any questions.

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.activitiesabroad.com/booking-conditions>