



Muotka - a Christmas Week in Lapland



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1924
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Travel with your family to authentic Lapland, to spend Christmas high above the Arctic Circle in ideal winter wonderland surroundings. This week-long adventure in Muotka has been carefully crafted to feature all the must-do snow activities including dog sledding, snowmobiling, reindeer encounters and even Northern Lights chasing.

Our Opinion

“ There is real magic in the air in Lapland, particularly at Christmas time. Though a meeting with Father Christmas is high on many people's Lappish to-do list, for those who would rather be away from anything commercial, yet still be filled with a warm, fuzzy festive feeling, Muotka is your perfect choice. This authentic experience of Finnish Lapland complete with unbelievable winter activities is a holiday that is guaranteed to bring the Christmas cheer and cherished memories. ”

Amy Hope



What's included?

- **Flights:** direct return from London Gatwick to Ivalo. Flight routes are subject to change.
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** seven nights in a standard wilderness room (2 adults sharing with 1 child.) (**Please note:** the hotel can usually accommodate your bed set up preference but this can't be guaranteed. Upgrades available on request.)
- **Meals:** full board
- **Activities:** snowmobile tryout, Aurora workshop, Aurora camp, husky safari, gentle snowshoeing, Northern Lights hunt by car, reindeer farm visit (the order of activities is subject to change)
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- Aurora alert

Trip Overview

There are few places as ideal as Muotka for a family Christmas week. It situated in the heart of Lapland and its snowy surroundings, unbelievable winter activities and family-friendly hotel ensure you'll have an unforgettable festive break.

During your time here, you will explore the Arctic in a variety of ways. You'll get to try snowmobiling, with the kids tucked safely behind the guide in a sled, as well as snowshoeing for a gentle way to explore more of the surroundings.

Then there are the animal encounters. You will try the most sought-after winter experience during a dog sledding adventure through the wilds and gain an authentic insight into the much-loved reindeer when you visit a local reindeer farm. Here, you will really get into the Christmas spirit as you enjoy a short sleigh ride.

The fun doesn't stop as darkness falls either. Your position high above the Arctic Circle also means you're in with a great chance of seeing the Northern Lights. To aid with your search, we have included dedicated activities which will see you journey to an Aurora camp and search for the Northern Lights by car.

Muotka, with its unbelievable winter activities and a guaranteed white Christmas, has everything you need for a festive family holiday of a lifetime.

Image Credits: Wilderness Hotel Muotka & Matt Robinson

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be met and transferred* to Muotka to start your festive family week.

Settle into your new wintry surroundings before enjoying a welcome meal in the hotel restaurant. Remember, you are now in with a great chance of seeing the Northern Lights so keep your eyes on the sky. You will also be given an Aurora alert which will sound if the Northern Lights are present in the area.

*Transfers are based on a scheduled group shuttle that sometimes stops at a few nearby hotels. If you would prefer to upgrade to private taxi transfers please ask our Family Travel Experts for a quotation.

Please note the order of the activities listed in the agenda is just for guidance and is subject to change.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

SNOWMOBILE TRYOUT, AURORA WORKSHOP AND AURORA CAMP

Following breakfast in the restaurant, it's time to head out and explore the wintry surroundings via snowmobile.

Adults will drive (two per machine) while the kids will sit wrapped up in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile. This is the perfect introduction for those who haven't tried snowmobiling before as you will get full instructions and a driving lesson before heading out on a small journey into the wilds.

Following lunch back at the hotel, you will meet with your local guide for an Aurora workshop. Here, you will learn everything you need to know about the Northern Lights - from the myths and legends to the science behind the magic.

After dinner in the restaurant, it's time to put all you have learned to good use as you go in search for the Northern Lights. Sitting in a cosy sled, the guide will pull you along with their snowmobile to a nearby camp. Your location will be chosen based on the weather and Aurora forecast of the evening, to give you the very best chance of witnessing a display.

At the camp, you will keep warm in a hut with an open fire. Enjoy hot drinks as your guide checks the sky constantly and tells what to look out for when searching for the Aurora. You will be out for approximately 2.5 hours tonight.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

HUSKY SAFARI

Fill up on breakfast because today it is time to experience one of the must-do activities in the Arctic; dog sledding.

You will transfer to the nearby husky farm where the excitable dogs will be eager to take you out into the wilderness. Children will be tucked safely in the guide's sled and adults will ride two per sled (one driver and one passenger with the option to swap). You'll receive a full briefing and instructions on how to handle your loyal team before you set off along the snowy trails.

As the dogs settle into their pace, their barks subside, leaving you to enjoy the peaceful winter scenery.

Lunch and dinner will be served in the restaurant. It is tradition in Finland to celebrate Christmas on 24th so there will be a special meal to mark the occasion tonight.

Be sure to keep your Aurora alert close, as the sky could have something extra special to add to your festivities.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

GENTLE SNOWSHOEING AND NORTHERN LIGHTS HUNT BY CAR

After breakfast, it's time to try a favourite Finnish pastime of snowshoeing. You will meet with your guide who will help you strap on a pair of snowshoes and lead you out into the surroundings. These special shoes make it easy to walk over the deep snow without sinking, leaving you to admire the winter wilderness.

You will journey into the Taiga forest and your guide will point out any local wildlife and tell you all about life in Finland. Enjoy lunch by the open fire before returning to the hotel.

Tonight, following a special Christmas dinner in the hotel restaurant, you will meet with your local guide for an exciting Northern Lights hunt by minibus. Your chosen location will

be based on the weather and Aurora forecast of the evening to give you the best possible chance of seeing a display. You will be out for approximately three hours and there will be a stop along the way for refreshments.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

REINDEER FARM VISIT

After breakfast, it's time to get the full Lappish experience with a visit to a local reindeer farm.

Using snowmobiles, you will travel in true Arctic style, journeying through the wilderness to reach the farm. Adults will drive the snowmobile (two per machine) while children will ride in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile.

Upon arrival at the local reindeer farm, you will meet with the herders who will tell you all about life here as well as teaching you some reindeer herding skills. You will learn how to lasso the animals and enjoy a cosy sleigh ride for the ultimate Christmas experience. Afterwards, enjoy warm snacks and ask the herders any questions you may have.

Please note you must be at least 18 years old and hold a full driving licence to drive a snowmobile.

Lunch and dinner will be served in the restaurant as usual then you will have a free evening to enjoy as you please. Be sure to keep your Aurora alert close...just in case!

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
6

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Following breakfast, you will meet with your local guide who will help fit you with cross-country skis - a popular way to travel in Lapland.

Don't worry if you have never tried skiing before, as this is much gentler than the downhill version and the guide will tell you all the techniques you need to know. Once you have got the hang of it, you will glide into the peaceful Taiga forest.

Lunch and dinner will be served in the restaurant as usual and then you have a free evening to spend as you please.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
7

FREE DAY

Today has been left completely free for you to enjoy together as a family, however, you would like. If you would like to fill your time with more activities, see our 'Personalise' tab for everything on offer.

As usual, all meals will be served in the hotel restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Today, it is sadly time for your week-long Christmas family break to come to an end as you are transferred to the airport for your return flights home. If you have an early flight time, we'll box up breakfast for you.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Included Accommodation

Muotka Wilderness Hotel (Nights: 1-7)



Around 40km away from Ivalo Airport, and tucked neatly in the forests and fells of North East Finland, families will find Muotka Wilderness Hotel.

Owned by our friends Jouko and Mari, the hotel offers the same warm welcome as its sister property at Nellim.

The landscape around the hotel is stunning and offers families an easily accessible escape from the every day.

There are two main buildings, one contains the majority of the rooms and the other houses the reception, restaurant and the remaining cosy bedrooms. They are just moments from each other so there are no long walks for meals. There are also superior sauna rooms in separate buildings and some very special cabin options too, again, only a short distance from the hotel's main restaurant. If you are considering upgrading to one of

these options, subject to availability and a supplement, please speak to one of our Travel Experts.

Hotel facilities

- All meals are served in the hotel's restaurant. Typically this is a buffet of options from which to choose. There tends to be a mix of international dishes alongside some local favourites. Dietary requirements can all be catered for as long as we are informed at the time of booking.
- There is a sauna in the main building which is heated daily for guest use. Saunas are not the reserve of grown-ups in Finland and so this can be a family affair.
- Free Wi-Fi is available in the main building
- Standard rooms do not have tea and coffee making facilities but tea and coffee are available free of charge in the restaurant area

Room types

STANDARD ROOMS

All standard rooms are en-suite with shower room, wardrobe, hairdryer and nightstand and can be made up as either a double or twin. We can request adjacent rooms for you if available.

Please note: the hotel can usually accommodate your bed set up preference but this can't be guaranteed. Upgrades available on request

Image Credit: Matt Robinson

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 4 people and maximum 28 (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>

Please note: our payment and cancellation terms will be unique to each booking - they will be confirmed with you at the time of quotation. The terms listed above are noted as a guide only