



Muotka - A Family Christmas in Lapland



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1905
DURATION: 4 nights

In Brief

High above the Arctic Circle and in the midst of Lapland sits Muotka, a Christmas card-worthy setting ideal for your festive family break. This 4-night stay includes all the key winter activities such as dog sledding, a reindeer experience, snowshoeing and an Aurora camp - for all the makings of a truly unbelievable Christmas.

Our Opinion

“ Secretly I think every parent dreams of being able to make their child’s ultimate Christmas wish come true.... spending this magical festive period in the idyllic winter wonderland of Lapland. If you have slightly older children who are no longer under the spell of Father Christmas then the magic of such an authentic and uncommercialized location such as Muotka is an ideal choice. From the warm, friendly welcome you will receive at the lodge to experiencing the new and exciting activities together, this holiday is guaranteed to be one of the ones you talk about and cherish for many years! ”

Amy Hope



What's included?

- **Flights:** return flights from London Heathrow to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Routings are subject to change
- **Transfers:** return scheduled group shuttle airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** four nights in a standard wilderness room (2 adults sharing with 1 child on extra bed.) (**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:** gentle snowshoeing, Aurora camp, snowmobile safari to a reindeer farm, husky safari (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

With untouched deep, powdery snow, unforgettable winter activities and situated in the very heart of Lapland, you'll be hard pushed to find anywhere as authentic, family-friendly and spectacular as Muotka for your memorable Christmas break.

Your position high above the Arctic Circle is advantageous in many ways. First, you'll have a guaranteed white Christmas - with a completely covered snowy playground to enjoy for the duration of your stay. We've included snowshoeing, a popular Finnish pastime, to help you explore the pristine environment with ease.

Your location also means you will get to meet two of the Arctic's most-loved animals; huskies and reindeer. You and the family can enjoy dog sledding across the wilderness as well experiencing a reindeer sleigh ride to really complete your Christmas break.

At night, your northerly position gives you a great chance of ticking the Northern Lights off your family bucket list. We've included a visit to a nearby Aurora camp to increase your chances as well as an Aurora alert system to help with your search. Additional Aurora activities can be added to your agenda if you have older children and wish to enjoy hunting the Aurora further, just ask one of our travel experts for a quotation.

With winter wonderland surroundings, truly memorable snow-based experiences and the chance to witness the Northern Lights, Muotka provides everything you need to create cherished Christmas memories with the whole family.

Image credits: Anthony Oberlin, Ron Thompson & Wilderness Hotel Muotka

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, your home for your Christmas family getaway.

Enjoy your welcome meal in the hotel restaurant and settle into your surroundings. As you are now in Northern Lights territory, you could see the magical display as soon as darkness falls. 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

REINDEER DAY ON CHRISTMAS EVE

In Finland, Christmas is traditionally celebrated on the 24th and so your family festivities can begin today in true Finnish style.

After breakfast, you'll quickly get into the Christmas spirit when you visit a reindeer farm. To get there, you will travel in Arctic fashion on a snowmobile. Adults will drive the snowmobile (two per machine) while children will ride in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile.

You will travel further into the wilderness to reach the local reindeer farm. These animals are synonymous with Lapland and Christmas, and you'll discover their importance when you meet with local reindeer herders who will tell you all about their lives here. You will learn how to lasso the animals and enjoy a short sleigh ride, before warming up with warm snacks.

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

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

HUSKY SAFARI ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Following breakfast, it's time to enjoy one of the must-do Arctic experiences; dog sledding.

You will meet with the excitable huskies who will be eager to get going along the snowy trails. 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 the sled before you set off into the wilds. Though the dogs are loud before you get going, you'll soon discover they fall silent when they're concentrating on the job at hand, leaving you to enjoy the wintery scenery as it unfolds around you. After the safari, there will be plenty of time to play and take pictures with your new furry friends and capture the ultimate holiday snap.

Lunch and dinner will be served in the restaurant. As today is Christmas, a special dinner will mark the occasion and you have a free evening to enjoy together as a family. Be sure to keep your Aurora alert close, as the sky could light up green to add to your festivities.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

GENTLE SNOWSHOEING AND AURORA CAMP

Following breakfast, you and the family will strap on a pair of snowshoes and explore the winter surroundings. You will receive full instructions from your guide but essentially, the snowshoes help you walk over the deep snow without sinking. During this tour, you will follow your guide into the stunning Taiga forest to really admire the pristine beauty of the area. Your guide will point out local wildlife and tell you all about life in Finland. Enjoy lunch by the open fire before returning to the hotel. Experience tells us that children tend to take to snowshoeing like a duck to water, the parents can sometimes need a little more practise, however!

After dinner in the restaurant, it's time to hunt for the Northern Lights. You will sit in the cosy sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile and keep an eye on the sky as you travel out to a nearby camp, ideally chosen based on the weather and Aurora forecast of the evening.

Upon arrival at the camp, you will keep warm in a hut with an open fire and enjoy hot drinks as your guide tells you all about the Northern Lights, while you wait for a potential display. You will be out for approximately 2.5 hours tonight.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

DEPARTURE

Today it is sadly time for your festive family adventure to come to an end. Enjoy breakfast in the restaurant before being transferred to the airport for your flight home. If you have an early flight time, we'll box up breakfast for you.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Sleep in an Aurora Kota

Muotka is renowned as an Aurora viewing destination and so the hotel has created a selection of Aurora Kotas for guests to enjoy.

These part-cabin and part-glass tepee buildings are self-contained and situated a short distance from the hotel. The idea is that you can hopefully watch the Northern Lights from the comfort of the bed.

The Kotas are all 25m² with their own private sauna, double bed and en-suite bathroom. There is also room for two extra beds for children.

Please note: prices are based on you spending the first or last night of your holiday in this unique accommodation and not keeping your original accommodation. If you would like to do this on any other night during your holiday you will need to keep your accommodation and supplements will apply. Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Image credit: Anthony Oberlin

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Muotka Wilderness Hotel (Nights: 1-4)



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.

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

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Muotka Wilderness Hotel - Superior Sauna Rooms



These sauna rooms are a great upgrade and can accommodate two adults and up to two children on extra beds. The rooms are located in separate buildings (each containing four sauna rooms) and are just a short distance from the main restaurant building. Each room is 34m².

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

Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Image credits: Muotka Wilderness Hotel

Muotka Wilderness Hotel - Panorama Log Cabins



These cosy log cabins are a wonderful treat for families. They have large glass windows on one side so you can look out across the landscape and hopefully up at the sky, where the Northern Lights often appear. The cabins are very well equipped and have an en-suite shower room, private sauna, and log burning stove.

There is a queen size bed in each and space for two extra beds for children. There is a small kitchenette and kettle provided and hairdryers are available at reception if needed.

The cabins are just a short walk from the main restaurant building and are around 50 m² in size.

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

Image credits: Muotka Wilderness Hotel

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