



Muotka - A Lappish New Year



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1925
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Ring in the New Year high above the Arctic Circle and in authentic Lapland, when you travel with your family to Muotka. You'll spend a week in winter wonderland surroundings and a family-friendly hotel, taking part in key activities such as dog sledding, snowmobiling, reindeer sleigh rides and searching for the Northern Lights.

Our Opinion

“ Let's face it, New Year can often be quite underwhelming. Searching for something to mark the occasion as a family can be stressful, time-consuming and frankly, anti-climactic. That's why we were thrilled to create a dedicated New Year itinerary in Muotka to not only place you in an unforgettable location as the clock strikes midnight, but have you ticking off multiple bucket list experiences together as a family. ”

Amy Hope



What's included?

- **Flights:** direct return from London Gatwick to Ivalo. Regional and non-UK departures available on request (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

Muotka, situated in the heart of Lapland and surrounded by pristine snowy wilderness is one of Finland's real gems. Throughout winter, it becomes a magical frozen playground for unbelievable activities, making it an unforgettable place to spend New Years as a family.

During your week-long adventure, you will get to experience all of the must-do Arctic activities. From snowshoeing and cross country skiing to snowmobiling through the wilds, there are plenty of ways to explore these beautiful surroundings.

You will also spend some time with two of Lapland's most-loved animals when you try dog sledding and enjoy a reindeer sleigh ride. Mushing your loyal team of dogs into the wilderness is one of the most sought-after experiences in this region and spending some time with a local reindeer herder will show you why these animals are so important in Lapland.

Due to your position high above the Arctic Circle, you will also be in with a great chance of seeing the Aurora Borealis. Forget fireworks on New Year's Eve, it's the green dancing lights that you will be looking for. Though you can simply step outside of your family-friendly accommodation to see a potential display, we have also included two dedicated

activities to increase your chances.

Travelling to Muotka over December 31st gives you the wonderful opportunity to see in the new year in style - by experiencing bucket-list activities with your loved ones in this unforgettable location.

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 New Year adventure.

Make yourself at home in your Lappish surroundings before enjoying the welcome meal in the hotel restaurant. You will also be given an Aurora alert system which will sound if the Northern Lights are above, so make sure you keep it close as this could happen at any time!

*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

Fill up on breakfast before your winter adventure on snowmobiles.

Adults will drive a snowmobile (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 this winter activity before as you will get full instructions and a driving lesson before heading out on a small journey into the wilds.

After lunch, it's time to learn everything you need to know about the Northern Lights during an Aurora workshop. You will meet with your local guide who will tell you all about the science, myths and legends surrounding the Auroras, as well as what to look out for during your hunts.

Following dinner in the restaurant, you can use your new knowledge as you go in search for the Northern Lights. The guide will use their snowmobile to pull you along as you sit in the cosy sled behind. You will travel to a nearby Aurora camp, expertly chosen based on the weather and Aurora forecast for the evening to increase your chances of seeing a display.

When you reach the camp, you will keep warm in a hut with an open fire. Your guide will check the sky constantly for a potential display and tell you stories about life in Lapland. You can enjoy hot drinks as you wait in hopes. You will be out for approximately 2.5 hours tonight.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

HUSKY SAFARI

Day 3 Husky Safari

Following breakfast, it's time to meet some of the furry locals when you transfer to a nearby husky farm.

Upon arrival, you will likely hear the dogs before you see them as you prepare for one of the most sought-after activities in the Arctic. 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 of dogs.

As the dogs take off into the wilds, you will find they will soon settle into their pace and quieten down, leaving you to enjoy the stunning snowy scenes as they unfold around you.

Enjoy lunch in the restaurant and some free time this afternoon in preparations for the New Year's Eve celebrations tonight.

A special dinner will be served in the restaurant as you wait for the clock to strike midnight. Keep your Aurora alert close as there may be a great reason to keep the kids up a little past their bedtime!

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

GENTLE SNOWSHOEING AND NORTHERN LIGHTS HUNT BY CAR

Following breakfast, you will meet with your guide who will help fit you with snowshoes ahead of your gentle walk into the wilderness.

Snowshoes make it much easier to walk over the deep, untouched snow for a peaceful way to explore the surroundings. You will follow your guide into the stunning Taiga forest, looking out for the local wildlife and hearing all about life in Finland. Enjoy lunch by the

open fire before returning to the hotel.

Following dinner tonight, you will head out into the dark night in search of the Auroras.

Stepping onto a minibus, your guide will drive you out to a location expertly chosen based on the weather and Aurora forecast for the evening. You will stop along the way for refreshments as you keep an eye on the sky for the Northern Lights. You will be out for approximately 3 hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

REINDEER FARM VISIT

After breakfast, you will meet more of Lapland's favourite animals when you visit a local reindeer farm.

To get there, you will be back on the snowmobiles to travel in Arctic style. Adults will drive the snowmobile (two per machine) while children will ride in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile as you journey further into the wilderness.

Arriving at the farm, you will meet with the local herders who will teach you all about life in Lapland and introduce you to their animals. You will learn how to lasso the animals as well as enjoy a short sleigh ride before warming up with snacks.

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 spend however you like. Make sure you keep your Aurora alert close as the Northern Lights could appear at any time.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
6

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

After breakfast, you will meet with your guide for cross-country skiing - one of the most popular forms of travel in this region.

You don't need any prior skiing experience as your guide will teach you all the techniques needed to get you out onto the snowy trails. Once you have the hang of it, you will glide into the breathtaking Taiga forest to explore as the Finns do.

Lunch and dinner will be served in the restaurant as usual ahead of a free evening.

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 New Year 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

Other options are available - see below for details.

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

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