



Ranua - Festive Family Adventure



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1803
DURATION: 3 nights

In Brief

This exciting festive family getaway features a private meeting with Father Christmas and a reindeer sleigh ride. It is also a dream for any animal-lovers as you'll have access to Ranua Wildlife Park, home to Arctic foxes and polar bears! During your free time, complete your winter adventure with optional activities such as dog sledding and snowmobiling.

Our Opinion

“ Children will love the huge range of animals at Ranua Wildlife Park – everyone likes the polar bears but also ends up having individual favourites too! A more personalised and festive animal experience is, of course, the reindeer sleigh ride, which makes for the perfect build-up to the highlight of this holiday: a private meeting with Father Christmas himself! And if that wasn't enough, you also get to go dog sledding and hunt the Northern Lights by snowmobile. ”

Ali Mclean



What's included?

- **Flights:** return flights from London to Rovaniemi (via Helsinki). Flight routes are subject to change
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights apartment accommodation
- **Meals:** 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- **The following activities are included:** entry to Ranua Wildlife Park, 3km reindeer sleigh ride and Father Christmas visit (order subject to change). Additional activities can be added. Please see the 'Personalise' section)
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified wilderness guides and instructors for all activities

Trip Overview

The run-up to Christmas gets a natural-world makeover with this three-night holiday at Ranua – festive fun, classic Finnish snow activities, and of course, plenty of animals!

Staying in delightful apartments next to Ranua Wildlife Park, you will be a short distance from its many different Arctic species: polar bears, moose, golden eagles, wolves, arctic foxes, otters, lynx, and elk being just a few! You will have unlimited access to the park during your stay so you can visit your favourite animals again and again.

Please note, in December, we will not be offering a full board upgrade to include lunch, but guests can arrange and pay for this locally. In our experience, the restaurant can become busy during the festive lunchtimes, with outside visitors to the park, and we have found that most families prefer to make their own lunch arrangements in their wonderfully equipped apartment kitchens. One free taxi ride to the local supermarket is included in your stay, and reception can arrange this for you either at check-in or the following day, so you can easily stock up on supplies. Breakfast and dinner are included in all our holidays.

A very special animal-related activity for this time of year is the short reindeer sleigh ride, which sets the mood for the holiday moment everyone will be looking forward to: the private meeting with Father Christmas! Meeting Santa is usually rushed because the man in red has a hectic present-delivering schedule. On this holiday, however, each family will get their own session with Santa in his

woodland cabin when he is much more relaxed! Children will love hearing his stories and can ask him questions about his magical life. The whole experience is one they will never forget.

Wildlife, Father Christmas, and fun in the snow: a perfect Finnish getaway for the whole family!

Image Credit: Hotel Gulo Gulo

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

FLIGHTS, ARRIVALS AND TRANSFERS

Upon arrival at Rovaniemi Airport, you will be transferred (approximately 45 minutes) to your delightful apartment accommodation, a short distance from Ranua Wildlife Park.

Your guide will outline the programme ahead, and you will also be provided with the cold weather clothing which will be yours for the duration of your stay. Dinner will be served in the restaurant.

If you are on a later flight, a cold platter of food will be waiting for you in your apartment and you will be provided with the cold weather clothing in the morning.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

RANUA WILDLIFE PARK AND REINDEER SLEIGH RIDE

Following breakfast, you will have time to explore Ranua Wildlife Park, home to a huge range of animals including moose, golden eagles, otters, Arctic foxes and of course polar bears!

The owners of the park have put a significant amount of effort into creating the spacious enclosures for these animals which are as close in design to their natural habitats as possible. Children will learn a great deal about the animals from the displays and can come back to see their favourites whenever they like, as you will have unlimited access to the park during your stay.

To get even closer to the animals, you can upgrade to a guided tour of the park. This special activity will take you behind-the-scenes and families may also be able to join in with feeding some of the smaller animals.

This afternoon, you will start getting into the Christmassy mood with a short reindeer sleigh ride. Relax as the calm reindeer draw your sleigh over a distance of about three kilometres, lasting around 40 minutes.

Once dinner is done, you have the evening to relax. As you're in prime Northern Lights territory, why

not book onto an activity that gets you out into the wilderness and on the hunt for the magical light display? View our 'Personalised' tab for more information on activities.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
3

FATHER CHRISTMAS VISIT

After breakfast, you will have a free morning – why not head back to the park and revisit your favourite animals? Please speak to our Travel Experts for our full range of activities.

The holiday highlight will take place in the afternoon. You will be transported into the white woods on a snowmobile-pulled sleigh, eventually reaching a peaceful cabin among the trees. Welcome to the home of Father Christmas – you will be received by the man in red himself! Sitting by the fire he will chat with the children and listen to their Christmas wishes. Each family will get to meet Santa separately, making for a wonderfully personal experience. In total, this activity will last for around forty minutes.

Following this, you will be taken back to the Ranua Holiday Village. Dinner will be served in the restaurant, and you can go to bed with unforgettable Christmassy memories!

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
4

DEPARTURE

After breakfast, you will check out and make your way to the airport. If you are on an early flight, a breakfast box will be provided for you.

Ranua, the animals and Father Christmas will be waiting to see you next year.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Snowmobile safaris

Enjoy a thrilling snowmobile safari across Ranua's surrounding wilderness. Your guide will give you full instructions before departure (two people per snowmobile) with a range of durations to choose from 30 minutes to 6 hours. The distance covered on each safari will vary and will be determined by the group's ability.

Please note: The driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence.

Children will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's

snowmobile on selected safaris where this is offered. Older children may be able to travel as pillion on the snowmobile but this is at the discretion of the guide. Single driver supplement applies.

Duration: approximately 30 minutes

Adult price: from £71

Child price (4-14): from £50

Duration: approximately 1 hour

Adult price: from £94

Child price (4-14): from £66

Duration: approximately 2 hours

Adult price: from £116

Child price: from £82

Duration: approximately 4 hours

Adult price: from £157

Child price: from £112

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Husky safaris

This is a truly wonderful way to journey across the snow-laden landscape of Lapland!

You will travel in a sled pulled by your own eager team of huskies (up to two adults and one child per sled) with the chance for the adults to take it in turns to drive depending on which length of safari you book (3km - 45km available). After your adventure, there will usually be a chance to pet the dogs and take pictures, as well as asking the mushers any questions you may have.

Please note: All decisions are made on the day of the safari by the lead guide as to any guest's suitability to drive their own dog sled. As a general rule, those aged 15 and over are normally able to drive their own team of huskies but the guide's decision on the day will be final and in the interest of safety. On certain safaris, children under the age of 15 will either travel in a sledge driven by the guide or an accompanying adult.

Duration: approximately 15 minutes in total (approximately 3km of driving)

Adult price: from £37

Child price: from £24

Duration: approximately 20-30 minutes in total (approximately 5km of driving)

Adult price: from £57

Child price: from £37

Duration: approximately 60 minutes in total (approximately 10km of driving)

Adult price: from £88

Child price: from £47

Duration: approximately 2 hours in total (approximately 20km of driving)

Adult price: from £117

Child price: from £65



Meet the polar bear

Enjoy a close up look at a polar bear on this exciting activity!

Your guide will take you to the polar bear enclosure and you will be able to view him from the other side of the fence. Your guide will give you lots of information about this beautiful animal as you watch from just a few metres away.

Duration: approximately 45 minutes

Northern Lights safari via horse-drawn sleigh

Enjoy the opportunity to seek out the Northern Lights as well as enjoying a wonderful horse-drawn sleigh ride (6 to 8 people per sleigh) through the snowy night-time wilderness. Travelling through the neighbouring forest you can enjoy the night sky which will hopefully come alive with the dancing colours of the Aurora Borealis.

Duration: approximately 2 hours



Image credit: Visit Finland



Ice fishing via snowmobile

Your guide will give full instructions before you set off via snowmobile heading towards a nearby frozen lake. Here you will learn more about the long history of ice fishing and try your hand at it too. Warm drinks will be served around the fire and there will be the chance to cook anything that you may catch!

Duration: approximately 3 hours (30km)

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. Children will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile on selected safaris where this is offered. Older children may be able to travel as pillion on the snowmobile but this is at the discretion of the guide. Single driver supplement applies.



Searching for the Aurora Borealis via Snowmobile

Heading out into the darkness via snowmobile is a wonderful way to explore the night-time wilderness and your guide will lead the way along the dark forest trails. There will be breaks to enjoy a hot drink and keep a keen watch on the sky in anticipation of a potential Northern Lights display.

Duration: approximately 3 hours

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. Children will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile on selected safaris where this is offered. Older children may be able to travel as pillion on the snowmobile but this is at the discretion of the guide. Single driver supplement applies.

Image credit: Antti Pietikainen



Snowshoeing

One of the best ways to enjoy the wonderful forest neighbouring the wildlife park is to strap on a pair of snowshoes and head into the deep snow to explore. Your guide will offer lots of interesting information on the way on the local flora and fauna.

Duration: approximately 2 hours



Cross-country skiing

Explore the Arctic the ancient way – on cross-country skis! Your guide will teach you the various techniques of this activity before you head out to put your skills into practice. The ski tracks reside close to the Ranua Wildlife Park and will cover around 3km.

Duration: approximately 2 hours (3km)



Wild night safari

As darkness falls you will make your way to the wildlife park, using headlamps to seek out the gleaming eyes of the nocturnal animals. Your guide will lead the way to seek out those creatures who may be awake and there will be a chance to feed some of them.

After the excursion, you will enjoy a hot berry juice and be able to chat about your exciting experiences with the animals.

Duration: approximately 3 hours



Evening snowshoe

On this exciting evening excursion, your guide will take you into the darkness of the forest on snowshoes allowing you to enjoy the deep snow and night-time scenery. Keep a watch on the sky for hopeful sightings of dancing Northern Lights whilst enjoying a hot drink.

Duration: approximately 2.5 hours

Image credit: Antti Pietikainen

SPECIAL NIGHTS



Arctic Fox Igloo

These beautiful glass igloos add a very special accommodation experience to any stay at Ranua. There are 20 igloos in total (10 twin igloos and 10 family/lakeside igloos) which are located around 8km from Ranua Wildlife Park. They are set in an idyllic lakeside location with very little light pollution and uninterrupted views to the North, giving you an excellent chance of watching the Northern Lights from your bed, talk about a holiday memory!

Twin igloos

The igloos include a twin bed and have a small kitchenette, a bathroom with private sauna (this is Finland after all!) and a limited lake view. Guests will normally be transferred to the igloos after their evening meal at Ranua and are then picked up the following morning in time for breakfast back at the main restaurant. Whilst there is no reception building at the igloo camp, all guests receive a contact number in case of any questions or issues.

Family/lakeside igloos

These igloos have the same facilities as the twin igloos but have a double bed and space for two small extra beds for children (4-14 years old) and a lake view. Please note that the maximum occupancy is 2 adults and 2 children (4-14 years old).

Guests will normally be transferred to the igloos after their evening meal at Ranua and are then picked up the following morning in time for breakfast back at the main restaurant. Whilst there is no reception building at the igloo camp, all guests receive a contact number in case of any questions or

issues.

Please note, that the example price listed is based on guests spending the final night of their holiday in an igloo, and checking out of their apartment accommodation. If guests wish to spend any other night during their stay in a glass igloo, they must retain their apartment accommodation. Our Travel Experts will happily provide you with a quotation.

Image credits: Jari Romppainen & Marko Juntilla

Included Accommodation

Gulo Gulo Holiday Village (Nights: 1-3)



Located around 4km from the small town of Ranua, the Gulo Gulo Holiday Village takes its name from the Latin word for Wolverine, one of Finland's rare native animals and is an ideal family base. The wildlife theme continues throughout due to the accommodation's proximity to the Ranua Wildlife Park which guests have unlimited access to throughout their stay.

The holiday village offers families modern comfortable apartments which are very well equipped.

Hotel facilities

- Ranua Wildlife Park offers a wonderful opportunity to observe the lives of Arctic wild animals in their natural environments. Your ticket entitles you to visit the wildlife park as many times as you wish during your stay, something that our families always love
- The simple but convivial restaurant is situated at the wildlife park itself which is just across the road from your accommodation. Here you will enjoy your breakfast and dinner, offering a selection of traditional Finnish foods and international dishes for all the family to enjoy, including a children's menu. Lunch is also available to guests (payable locally)
- Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the apartments

Room types

APARTMENTS

The apartments are beautifully decorated with all modern comforts for families. In total, there are thirty holiday apartments at Gulo Gulo, which are housed within ten semi-detached building backing onto a lovely forest landscape.

The ground floor accommodation comprises of an open-plan living room with flat screen TV, kitchen and dining area. The kitchen is well equipped with stove, microwave, dishwasher, fridge, coffee maker and kettle (you may want to take your own tea and coffee to enjoy in your apartment).

There is one twin bedroom downstairs as well as the bathroom which includes a shower, toilet and drying cabinet for clothes. There is also a private sauna which is a real treat. The accommodation also features a hairdryer and ironing facilities if required.

On the first floor, there is a second twin bedroom as well as an open loft area with two smaller extra beds (suitable for children) as well as a shower and toilet. All linen is of course provided.

The apartments have their own decking area which can come in very handy for viewing the local wildlife or (fingers crossed!) maybe even the Northern Lights.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum numbers required for this holiday to run vary from 4 to 8 people (depending on departure date). Maximum 42 people (approximately). Please speak to our Travel Experts for further information.

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>