



Ranua - Pick and Mix



HOLIDAY TYPE: Pick and Mix
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1805
DURATION: 3 or more nights

In Brief

An unforgettable family activity experience awaits you at Ranua with this fun and flexible holiday! Pick and choose the duration and activities to suit with everything from husky sledding to snowshoeing to reindeer sleigh rides on offer, all the while enjoying the snow-topped scenery and comfortable apartments.

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. ”



What's included?

- **Flights:** either direct from London to Rovaniemi or indirect via Helsinki (depending on departure date). Flight routes are subject to change and indirect flights may require a flight supplement. Please speak to our Travel Experts for further details
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers between Rovaniemi and Ranua
- **Accommodation:** minimum 3 nights' apartment accommodation
- **Meals:** half board (upgrade to full board - available for a supplement and only after 10th January)
- Unlimited entries to the Ranua Wildlife Park for the duration of your stay
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified wilderness guides and instructors for any activities

TAILOR YOUR TRIP

A selection of winter activities can be added to your trip at an additional cost. Once you have chosen when you want to travel and for how long you can select as many or as few activities as you wish from the extensive range on the "[Activities](#)" tab and tailor your trip as required. All activities are individually priced and our Travel Experts can assist you with your selection and will then provide a personalised itinerary quotation for you.

Trip Overview

Combining welcoming and modern accommodation with a delightful variety of activities and easy access to the nearby wildlife park, Ranua has become a firm family favourite amongst our guests. Kids and adults alike will marvel at the beautiful snowy scenery whilst they enjoy all the fun excursions the winter season brings!

This tailor-made option offers you great flexibility over your choice of winter snow holiday, allowing you to be as active or as relaxed as you wish with your family – take to the snow via husky sled, meet the local wildlife, strap on a pair of snowshoes or cross-country ski along the trails. You can even fit in a visit to see Father Christmas!

You can also visit the nearby wildlife park with its array of animals including moose, Arctic fox, lynx, elk, deer and polar bears allowing your children a chance to see these amazing

animals up close.

Subject to flight and accommodation availability you can usually travel at any time throughout the winter season (please note that flight options can be limited over Christmas and New Year). We would advise a minimum of three nights to really make the most of your time here. Simply decide when you want to travel and for how long, then match your stay to the activities listed in the 'Personalise' tab. Please note that all accommodation and activities are subject to availability at the time of booking.

Flights, transfers, half board (full board option available after 10th January) and cold-weather clothing for the duration of your stay are included in your trip. From December through to 10th January, 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. Breakfast and dinner are included in all our holidays.

Please note: activity schedules are subject to change. Duration of activity includes transfer times and breaks, and all distances are approximate. Some activities require a minimum number of participants to operate and are subject to availability.

Husky safaris: all decisions are made on the day of the safari by the lead guide as to any guest's suitability to drive their own sledge. 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. On certain safaris, children under the age of 15 will either travel in a sledge driven by the guide or an accompanying adult.

Snowmobile safaris: the driver of a snowmobile must be 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 snowmobiles: all snowmobile safaris are based on two people sharing. If this is not possible in your party then you will be paired with someone else taking part in the activity. If you wish to guarantee your own snowmobile you must pay the single supplement - please ask our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL, TRANSFER & WELCOME

Upon your arrival at Rovaniemi Airport, you will be collected and transferred to the Gulo Gulo Holiday Village, which sits next to the famous Ranua Wildlife Park.

You will have time to check into your apartment and acclimatise to your new

surroundings.

Your dinner will be served at the on-site restaurant; then it's time to get a good night's sleep in preparation for your activity-packed time ahead.

Three night and four-night departures will be available. Please, contact our Travel Experts on 01670 789 991 with any enquiries.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAYS
2 TO 3

CHOOSE YOUR ACTIVITIES

Your time is free to fill with as many activities as you wish. Choose from the selection provided in the 'Personalise' tab which covers all the favourite Arctic activities (activities are all priced individually).

If you have any questions regarding the activities, please speak to our Travel Experts who will be able to advise you on the best options for your family.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
4

DEPARTURE

Following breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your journey home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Kids Snowmobiling

These mini snowmobiles have been specially built for children so they'll be able to drive them with ease. In fact, it's not uncommon to see some of the younger children with better skills than most adults! Guides will give the children instructions before they set off and then parents will supervise on the track. This is a great opportunity for children to experience this adventurous activity in a controlled way, and have a brilliant story to take back home with them!

The price includes a safety introduction from a guide and instructions on how to drive and safety equipment (including a helmet). Please note that parents must supervise this activity and are responsible to ensure their child is following the guide's instructions safely.

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Cross-Country Skis, Snowshoe and Fat Bike Rentals

If you and the family enjoy cross-country skiing, snowshoeing or cycling, you can rent the equipment for some independent exploration. Talk to the staff at the hotel for trail guides and best locations. Minimum age: 4 years old

Rental:

Snowshoes and Cross-Country Skis: £25 per person per day

Fatbikes: £55 per person day



Snowmobile Safari to the Finn Horse Farm

Following driving instructions, you will set out on snowmobiles towards Ranua Villages only horse stables.

Here you can get to know the stable's five Finnish horses, before enjoying a short Finn horse sled ride (approximately 15 minutes).

Back at the stables, you will enjoy a hot snack and learn more about these peaceful animals. The activity will end with a snowmobile trip back to the hotel.

Duration: approximately 2 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.



Day Trip to Rovaniemi and Santa Claus Village

Following breakfast, your minibus will take you directly to Rovaniemi which is around an hour away. Your first stop will be the Santa Claus Village on the Arctic Circle where you can immerse yourself in the festive cheer!

Here you can meet Father Christmas and enjoy shopping from a wide range of locally crafted souvenirs. After lunch at the Santa Claus Village, you will head towards Arktikum, a wonderful local museum exhibiting the unique culture of the Arctic. Alternatively, you can head to the city centre and explore independently.

Duration: approximately 7 hours (transport 2 hours)

Minimum group size is 3 people.

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Searching for the Christmas Tree by Snowmobile

This is an exciting Snowmobile safari for the whole family, taking part in a search for the perfect Christmas tree to take to the hotel. You head out into the surrounding forested wilderness in search of the perfect Christmas tree. Adults will be given full instruction on how to drive a snowmobile and will travel in pairs, while children will sit in a sled

pulled by the guide's snowmobile. This is a great way to move through the winter scenery and allows you to see more of the stunning landscape.

Once the important decision has been made and the tree selected, you will enjoy warm drinks and cookies around a campfire before taking your tree back to Ranua to decorate.

Please note that in order to drive a snowmobile you must be over 18 and hold a full driving licence.

Duration: approximately 2 hours



Visit Father Christmas in His Secret Cabin

Hidden in the depths of the forest is Father Christmas's very special cabin and this is your chance to visit the man himself! Your guide will drive you the short 10-minute journey amongst the trees, stopping on the way to seek out clues to Father Christmas's whereabouts. Eventually, you will come across a tiny wooden cabin where you will be warmly welcomed by the man in red!

You will spend around 20 minutes here allowing the children to talk with Father Christmas, listen to his stories and ask him any questions they may have about his very important job.

Duration: approximately 45 minutes



Short reindeer sleigh ride

This special short reindeer trip gives you a quick but fun taster of travelling via reindeer-pulled sled across the snow.

Duration: approximately 15 minutes



Sleigh Ride to Finnish Horse Farm

Starting at the Wildlife Park, you will take a relaxing horse-drawn sleigh ride into the village of Ranua and visit the Finnish horse farm. You will get to know the stable's five Finnish horses and other animals on the farm, such as Northern Finncattle, chickens and rabbits.

Duration: approximately 2 hours



Reindeer Sleigh Ride

Enjoy a short journey via reindeer-pulled sled, travelling the way people have done here for centuries! The ride will take you from the hotel out into the surrounding wilderness.

Duration: approximately 40 minutes

Child (2-14 years) price: £70 per child



Lappish Workshop in Ranua: Arts and Crafts With Ms. Paula

Join local handicraft artist Ms. Paula in her workshop, where you'll make a traditional Lappish souvenir to take home with you.

You can choose between different sessions depending on the item you want to make. From genuine reindeer leather shoulder bags and pouches to a unique piece of Lappish jewellery, the choice is yours! Children can also take part by making a red-nosed reindeer using a variety of materials.

The workshop is situated in Ranua's traditional Lappish hut, located next to the information and ticket sales office.

Minimum group size is 4 persons and maximum group size is 36 persons (excluding the round reindeer leather pouch or a small bag workshop where the minimum group size is 8 and the maximum is 38).

Duration: 1-1.5 hours in total

Image credit: Gulo Gulo Holiday Village



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 1 hour

Adult price: from £114

Child price (4-14): from £85

Duration: approximately 2 hours

Adult price: from £144

Child price (4-14): n/a

Duration: approximately 6 hours

Adult price: from £218

Child price: n/a



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



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



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



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

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.



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



Snowmobile Safari to the Reindeer Farm

Following driving instructions, you will set out on snowmobile towards Laivala, a small authentic reindeer farm, which is approximately 15km from the Holiday Village Gulo Gulo. Here you will be welcomed by the herder and taken to see his reindeer, before enjoying a short reindeer sled ride (approximately 15 minutes).

Back at the farm you will enjoy a hot snack and learn more about the life of the reindeer herders and their long history in this region. The activity will end with a snowmobile trip back to the hotel.

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.



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 20-30 minutes in total

Adult price: from £70

Child price: from £45

Duration: approximately 60 minutes in total

Adult price: from £109

Child price: from £60

Duration: approximately 2 hours in total

Adult price: from £139

Child price: from £70

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

VILLA

The villas are beautifully decorated with all modern comforts for families. In total, there are thirty 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.

These 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>

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