



Ruka Pick and Mix



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1917
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Ruka has an immense variety of brilliant, family-friendly activities, making it perfect for tailoring a holiday. Choose from snowmobiling, husky safaris, visiting a reindeer farm, meeting Santa Claus or relaxing in a sauna. The pace and level of all activities vary so that you can choose the type of trip you want and there is something for everyone to participate in.

Our Opinion

“ We are so excited to offer Ruka’s fantastic facilities and list of activities. The great thing about this destination is that the activities are very diverse, so there is something for every family member to get involved in. The starting points for all of the activities are on site, making it easy to get around, and really adding to the atmosphere of the place. ”

Amy Hope



What's included?

- **Duration:** 7 nights
- **Flights:** return from London to Kuusamo (either direct or via Helsinki depending on departure date). Flight routes subject to change.
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights accommodation in an apartment type A or B (upgrades available - supplements apply)
- **Meals:** not included (your accommodation consists of a fully equipped kitchen and is within walking distance to shops and restaurants)
- **Activities:** choose from our extensive range which is detailed in the 'Activities' section of the holiday page (activities are priced individually). The order of activities you select is subject to change. Fully qualified guides and instructors are present during activities
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay

Trip Overview

Ruka is located in the north of Kuusamo, a Finnish municipality that is renowned for its natural beauty and almost untouched wilderness. Ruka, one of the largest ski resorts in Finland, is among the country's major holiday destinations, due to its excellent snow sports opportunities. This is a place that lies in the heart of excitement and adventure.

Ruka offers a number of activities for the family to enjoy, and you have complete control over your holiday as you can choose exactly what you would like your week to consist of. You can snowmobile or husky sled over the snowy fells, or relax in the saunas and Jacuzzis in Iisakki Village during an authentic sauna experience. Why not treat yourselves to a unique overnight stay in a cosy igloo that sits amongst the snow in Iisakki Village? There is something to suit every member of the family due to the diverse range of options available.

The holiday price includes seven nights in a private apartment and cold-weather clothing for the duration of your stay. Return flights and airport transfers are also included.

Please note that many activities require a minimum number of participants in order to run so all activities are subject to availability.

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Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

You will be met at the airport and transferred to your accommodation in Ruka, where you can settle into your cosy apartment and explore the shops and restaurants at the Ruka Centre. You will have a welcome meeting, where you will be given all of the information you need for your trip and you can ask any questions that you might have.

The great thing about our tailor-made option is that you can choose exactly what you want your trip to involve.

The base price includes your flights, transfers, accommodation for seven nights, cold-weather clothing for the duration of your stay and fully qualified wilderness guides and instructors during your chosen activities. You select the activities you would like to do from the list shown in the 'Activities' section, ensuring your holiday can be as active or gentle as you wish.

Our Travel Experts are on hand to help you craft the ideal itinerary.

Included Meals: None

DAYS
2 TO 7

DESIGN YOUR OWN HOLIDAY

Fill these days with as many or as few activities as you wish, selecting from the options listed in our 'Activities' section.

There are many activities to choose from and should you need advice on the best options for you, please speak to one of our Travel Experts. They will be happy to help prepare the perfect itinerary for you.

Included Meals: None

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

You will be transferred to the airport ready for your flights home or you may wish to extend your stay. Ask our Travel Experts about extension options.

Included Meals: None

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Snowmobile safari to a reindeer farm

This snowmobile safari will have you driving through beautiful forests and ice-covered lakes to an idyllic and private reindeer farm. Your trip will also consist of a short reindeer sleigh ride, the chance to feed the reindeer and learn about their lives in Finland. When you return with your reindeer you will receive a certificate and enjoy a hot drink, sausages and a sweet snack. The driver must be 18 years or older and hold a valid driving

licence.

Overall, you will cover around 50km on your snowmobiles, with two people on each snowmobile and children below 140 cm travelling on a sled pulled by your guide.

Guide, instruction and equipment included.

Total duration: Approximately 4-5 hours

Minimum age: 10 years (children below 140 cm will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile)

Available: Wednesday at 10am

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Snowmobile introduction

This basic snowmobile safari introduces first-timers to the thrill of snowmobiling. Before you begin, your guide will give you a thorough safety briefing and introduction before you take to the snow. You will cover around 20km, with two people per snowmobile, driving through the stunning snowy forest scenery (driver must hold a full driving licence and be 18 years or older). Children below 140 cm will travel in a sled pulled by the guide.

During the drive, you will stop for a break of coffee or tea and a sweet bun.

Guide, instruction and equipment included.

Minimum Age: 5 years (children below 140 cm will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile)

Total Duration: 2.5 - 3 hours

Available: Monday, Tuesday, Friday & Saturday at 10.00 am and 2.00 pm



Husky safari (5km, 10km or 20km)

This truly fun and thrilling activity will crank up the energy levels for the day and fill your family with excitement. First, you will take a ten-minute transfer to meet your husky team, getting to know the life of the huskies at the husky farm, with time to cuddle and play with them! After learning how to drive the huskies, you will share an exhilarating ride with your family as your energetic and enthusiastic huskies take you, two people per sled,

on a 5, 10 or 20 km ride. The programme also includes coffee and hot sausages by the fire.

Guide, instruction and equipment included.

There are three possible distances and durations for this trip:

5km

Total Duration: Approximately 2 hours

Minimum Age: 3 years

Available: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 12.30 pm

Price from: Adult: £131; Child: £119

10km

Total Duration: Approximately 2.5-3 hours

Minimum Age: 3 years

Available: Wednesday and Friday at 10 am

Price from: Adult: £162; Child: £143

20km

Total Duration: Approximately 4-5 hours

Minimum Age: 8 years

Available: Tuesday and Saturday at 10 am

Price from: Adult: £218; Child: £187

Image credit: Ruka Safaris



Visiting Santa Claus's secret cottage

This is a truly magical and essential activity for a Christmas family holiday. Nothing is more exciting to children at Christmas time than the thought of Santa Claus! You will take a 30-minute transfer to Mr and Mrs Claus's secret cottage, where you will spend time with Santa, bake cookies in the cottage and play with Santa's helpers in some outdoor activities.

More about this Activity:

Minimum Age: N/A

Activity Duration: Approximately 3 hours

Minimum participants: 4 people

Available: Saturdays (December to end March)



Finnish sauna experience and wild food dinner

Relax and unwind at Iisakki's lakeside sauna. A local guide will talk you through the origins of sauna culture and why it is so important to Finns before you take to the sauna yourself. You will have a real, authentic experience, spending two whole hours warming up in the sauna, dipping into the ice pool, lazing in the Jacuzzi and repeating the cycle! You will be served berry juice, water and tea as well as small snacks.

Afterwards, it's time for dinner, consisting of wild food delicacies such as fish, wild game and berries.

The Wild Food Dinner is not suitable for vegetarians or vegans.

Minimum Age: 3 years old

Activity Duration: 5-6 hours overall, including transfers (The official sauna experience lasting around 2 hours)

Available: Wednesday & Friday at 4.30 pm



Snowshoe hike to Oulanka National Park

This tranquil snowshoe hike will take you to the most beautiful part of Kuusamo as you arrive at the Oulanka National Park under its winter blanket. You'll hike beside river Kitkajoki to see the Myllykoski old mill amongst the incredible winter scenery. You will hike a total of around 4km and during the programme, you will enjoy a coffee and sandwich break.

Guide, instruction and equipment included.

Minimum Age: 5 years old

Trip Duration: Approximately 5 hours

Available: Tuesday at 10 am

Image Credit: Harri Tarvainen & Visit Finland



Ice fishing

Ice fishing, or as the Finnish say, 'pilkki', is a traditional hobby of the locals. After drilling a hole into the beautiful frozen lake, you will set up your pilkki to lure in the fish beneath the ice. You might catch perch, whitefish, roach, pike, or even grayling, and if you are lucky to catch something, a guide will show you how to prepare the fish over an open fire. The experience includes a short snowshoe walk of around 1km in order to reach the ideal fishing spot and a coffee break on the lake.

Guide, instruction and equipment included.

Minimum Age: 3 years old

Trip Duration: 3 hours (including 10-minute return transfer)

Available: Wednesday & Saturday at 10 am



Visit to the reindeer farm

You will be picked up from the Safari Centre by a car transfer and taken to an idyllic reindeer farm. This is a great family activity, as the reindeer pull two people per sled through the snow for around 300m OR 1.5km, depending on which length you book. You even have the chance to feed the reindeer and listen to stories of their life and history. When you return with your reindeer, you will receive a certificate and be served a hot drink, reindeer sausages and a sweet snack.

Guide, instruction and equipment included.

Please note: the longer sleigh ride will incur an additional charge, please speak to our Travel Experts for further details.

300 metre Sleigh Ride:

Total Duration: Approximately 3 hours

Minimum Age: 2 years

Price from: Adult: £79; Child: £55

Available: Wednesday and Friday at 12pm

1.5km Sleigh Ride:

Total Duration: Approximately 3 hours

Minimum Age: 5 years

Price from: Adult: £119; Child: £109

Available: Wednesday and Friday at 11.30am



Starlight sledging to search for the Northern Lights

This is an unforgettable adventure for families, as you drive away into the forest with up to six people per sled. The route will take you through varied landscapes so you can really absorb the scenery. After around one and a half hours of sledging, you will arrive at the camp, where you will make a fire with your guide and prepare coffee, tea and grilled sausages. If you are lucky you may catch sight of the Northern Lights in the sky while you travel.

Guide, instruction and equipment included.

Total Duration: Approximately 3 hours

Minimum Age: 5 years

Available: Wednesday & Friday at 7 pm



River Floating

This unforgettable Arctic experience will see you and your family gently float down a lazy river for a unique way to get close to nature. After full instructions, you'll be given your life vest, helmet and floating suits which have been specifically designed to keep you above water and most importantly, warm. Then it's time to lie back in the river and enjoy the surroundings as you float by. You will float down the river twice and afterwards, you can enjoy hot drinks while you discuss the incredible experience you've just had.

Available: Monday – Saturday 11am

Duration: 2-3 hours

Minimum age: 15 years (minimum 160cm tall)

Image Credits: Ruka-Kuusamo Tourist Association



Snowshoe search for the Northern Lights

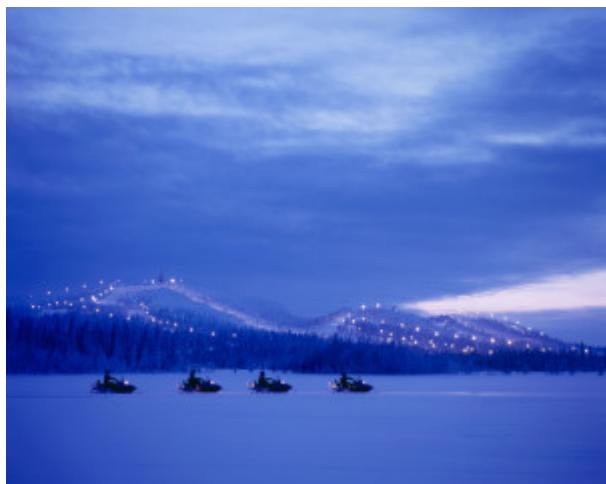
During this peaceful activity, you will follow an old reindeer trek route of around 4km in the beautiful fell surroundings. Every now and then the group will stop to admire the nature and snow-covered scenery. If the sky is clear you will see the myriad of bright stars in the sky and, with a little luck, the colourful Northern Lights. You will also break for a hot drink along the way, and your guide will tell you stories about the Northern Lights and nature.

Guide, instruction and equipment included.

Total Duration: Approximately 3 hours

Minimum Age: 5 years

Available: Monday to Saturday at 7 pm



The land of the Northern Lights

This promises to be a memorable evening as your snowmobile safari will take you through an enchanting blue twilight forest. With two people per snowmobile (driver must hold a full driving licence and be 18 years or over), covering around 30km, the darkness will provide additional excitement to your snowmobiling experience and if the sky is clear and you are lucky enough, you might even see Northern Lights. During the safari,

you will stop to enjoy coffee, bun and sausages by the fire.

Guide, instruction and equipment included.

Total duration: Approximately 3 hours

Minimum Age: 8 years (children below 140 cm will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile)

Available: Wednesday and Friday at 7pm



Snowmobiling to the Russian border

On this snowmobile safari, you will venture one person per snowmobile west to east, to the top of the magnificent Kuntivaara Hill, which is 480m above sea level. The Russian border is just around the corner and the breath-taking scenery over the Arctic wilderness is a sight that you will cherish forever. The journey is around 100km in total and is well worth the challenge. During the safari, you will enjoy a soup lunch and coffee in a cosy

wilderness restaurant.

Guide, instruction and equipment included. This tour is only recommended for people with snowmobiling experience - the snowmobile introduction activity will provide the necessary skills and experience required to undertake this longer safari.

Total duration: Approximately 6 hours

Minimum Age: 18 years

Available: Wednesday and Saturday at 10am



RZR Buggy Rally

In this programme, you can test your driving skills through an enchanting snowy forest. Each RZR car holds two people, so you can share the fun as you take to the tracks. There will also be a small contest between your group with the fastest driver winning a special prize!

Drivers must hold a valid licence and be 18 years or older.

Guide, instruction and equipment included, including helmets and seat belts.

Total duration: 2 hours

Minimum Age: 5 years

Maximum Participants: 12 persons per group

Available: Tuesday and Saturday at 2 pm



Fat Biking

If you're a family who loves bike rides then don't let the wintery conditions stop you. Using fat bikes, with wide tyres perfect for travelling across the snow, you'll follow the guide over the trails to see more of the brilliant frozen landscape. You'll travel around 4-5km, stopping along the way to enjoy hot drinks and snacks by the fire. Please note, average physical condition is required for this activity.

Available: Thursday & Saturday 11 am

Duration: 2-3 hours

Minimum height: 160cm

Image Credit: Juho Kuva & Visit Finland



Cross-Country Ski Lesson

Try one of Finland's national hobbies when you learn how to cross-country ski. You don't need any prior ski experience as the guide will teach you the technique before you take to the official ski track to practice together as a family.

Available: Monday, Wednesday & Saturday 4 pm

Duration: 1.5-2 hours

Minimum Age: 7 years old

Image Credit: Harri Tarvainen & Visit Finland

LITTLE EXTRAS



Christmas Dinner

Christmas is traditionally celebrated on Christmas Eve in Finland but we know some families prefer to save the festivities for the day itself. If you're travelling over Christmas, you can celebrate in the forest restaurant Kontioluola with a memorable meal by an open fire. Choose your starters and dessert from the brilliant buffet selection and your main course from the menu, as you enjoy the delicious food on your candlelit table. There is also a children's option for main meals. The transfers are included in the price, so you will be taken to

Kontioluola and brought back to your accommodation.



Christmas Eve dinner

If you are here for Christmas Eve, you can celebrate with a delicious dinner in forest restaurant Kontioluola. Dinner is served in a buffet-style and you can choose a starter, main course and dessert from the delicious selection. Enjoy your food by the open fire on your candlelit table, as you look forward to Christmas Day. The transfers are included in the price, so you will be taken to Kontioluola and brought back to your accommodation.



Traditional wild food dinner

You will be picked up from the Safari Centre and transferred to the wilderness restaurant, Kontioluola (Bear's Cave), which is nestled in the snow-laden woods

Here you will have the opportunity to taste local, wild food delicacies such as fish or wild game – there is something for all of the family to enjoy.

This experience is not suitable for vegans or vegetarians.

Trip Duration: 3 hours

Available: Wednesday & Friday at 7.00 pm

SPECIAL NIGHTS



Igloo night

Around 10 minutes from Ruka Centre lies Iisakki Village, where a selection of snow igloos provide a truly memorable night of accommodation.

Guests are transferred to this remote spot at around 7pm, and on arrival will enjoy a set three-course meal in the restaurant. Following dinner, you can check into your igloo. You will sleep on a bed made of ice which is covered with a mattress and cosy reindeer skins. The inside temperature is a constant -5C and you will be provided with a

military grade sleeping bag to keep you warm during the night. There is a heated area for guests to use situated a short walk from the igloos and this contains the toilet facilities.

The next morning you will enjoy breakfast at the Iisakki before being transferred back to your accommodation in Ruka.

Trip Duration: Overnight stay

Available: Monday to Sunday at 7 pm (20 December to 30 March)

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Vanha Karhu Apartments (Nights: 1-7)



Within walking distance to Ruka Centre and only 1km from Ruka's downhill slopes, Vanha Karhu Apartments offer the ideal base for a winter trip.

Well known for its wellbeing facilities there are several saunas and outdoor hot tubs

available for guests and your apartment even offers its own private sauna.

The newly renovated, modern yet cosy décor of the interiors, provides a warm atmosphere which is perfect for relaxing after a busy day in the snow.

Hotel facilities

- Your apartment has a fully equipped kitchenette, supplied with fridge, freezing compartment, toaster, microwave oven, electric stove, coffee machine, kettle and dishwasher so they are ideal for self-catering
- The central point of your accommodation will be the Ruka Centre, where you will find restaurants and shops. You can buy food for the duration of your stay here, and it is accessible by foot or via the free shuttle bus which runs daily from 9.30 until 19.00
- The starting point for all your activities is in the same courtyard as your accommodation so you never have too far to go

Guest room type

APARTMENTS A AND B

Your beautifully decorated, spacious apartment has its own living area (with a TV), fully equipped kitchenette, shower and toilet, private sauna and a separate bedroom. Each cabin also has its own terrace/porch. Wi-Fi is available and hairdryers are provided.

Image credits: Ruka Safaris

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.



Apartment C upgrade

If you are a slightly larger family or would like to spend the week in a bigger apartment, you can upgrade to apartment C which offers more space and has two twin bedrooms, as well as a sofa bed in the lounge area. This apartment has all of the facilities included in apartments A and B, with an additional washing machine.

Image credits: Ruka Safaris

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum group size 2 people; maximum 50 (on some activities)

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.

Ruka cancellation

Cancellation terms: Please note that the following cancellation terms supersede those mentioned in section 7 of our general booking terms and conditions.

More than 63 days prior to departure - Loss of deposit

- 63 to 43 days prior to departure - 40%

- 42 to 31 days prior to departure - 70%

- 30 or less days - 100%

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