



Vuokatti - Finnish Lakeland Christmas Adventure



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1921
DURATION: 5 nights

In Brief

Vuokatti is perfect for a festive winter adventure. Located in the centre of Finland, the thick and fluffy snow creates a Christmas card landscape. Understandably, adults and children alike will be eager to explore, and we have made sure to include some of our favourite winter activities. Meet a team of adorable huskies during a dog sledding safari, enjoy a snowmobiling tour, try ice fishing and strap on some snowshoes to hunt for the Northern Lights.

Our Opinion

“ I had never experienced a White Christmas in my lifetime so the magic of what a covering of snow can do to enhance the festive season had eluded me. Arriving into Vuokatti however, I was greeted by a wilderness of sparkling winter snow and the childhood excitement of Christmas time was soon rekindled. If visiting Finland in winter can generate these feelings for an adult, you can only imagine how a child will feel. A winter holiday in Vuokatti is an experience which will be remembered for a long time and this is enhanced by activities such as dog sledding and snowmobiling. ”

Amy Walkington-Gray



What's included?

- **Flights:** return flights from London to Kajaani via Helsinki (**flight routes subject to change**)
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 5 nights in a Hill View Suite (upgrade to Lake View Suite available for a supplement, subject to availability)
- **Meals:** 5 breakfasts and 5 dinners
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** husky safari, snowmobile tour, Katinkulta Spa tickets, Northern Lights snowshoe and ice fishing (**the order of activities is subject to change**)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- Winter clothing for the duration of your stay

Trip Overview

Vuokatti is a picture-perfect winter wonderland located in the Lakeland region of Finland. The setting is true winter wonderland stuff. The area is very popular with Finns from the country's south, who consider it something of a hidden gem for family holidays and it really is a magical place for a Christmas holiday.

The range of winter activities in Vuokatti is fantastic and they are operated by passionate and knowledgeable guides. We have included some of our favourites but there is also leisure time provided for you to tailor your time and we have a wealth of additional activities to choose from. There are also downhill ski slopes located nearby and a free ski bus picks up at the hotel.

If ever there was an activity which creates lifelong family memories then it is a husky safari. There are no better companions than a team of eager sled dogs, they'll be super excited before you set off but after the safari, there will be time for some husky cuddles.

There's also nothing quite like travelling over the winter landscape on a snowmobile and during your trip, you'll explore the idyllic snowy scenes of the Vuokatti Hills.

You'll have time to sit back and enjoy the serenity of your surroundings, particularly when you try the popular pastime of ice fishing.

Your evenings will be spent at Hotel Vuokatti and Suites which combines modern comforts with a picturesque setting close to the frozen lake. One of the 3 hotel saunas offer fantastic views of the night sky and it is not uncommon to witness the Northern Lights in this part of Finland. For this reason, we have also included an evening search for the Aurora Borealis. You will strap on your snowshoes and follow the winter trails in search of any flickers of light in the night sky.

This holiday is the perfect escape for families looking to enjoy a white Christmas in a relatively undiscovered region of Finland. It will no doubt be a Christmas which will never be forgotten.

Image credits: Vuokatti Safaris, Matt Robinson, K Chae, Jani KäRppä & Flatlight Films & Visit Finland

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

Following your arrival into Kajaani Airport, you will be transferred to Vuokatti Hotel and Suites which is approximately 40 minutes away. The evening is yours to spend at your leisure, so you may simply want to settle into your surroundings and enjoy the winter views from your apartment. There is plenty of space for children (and adults) to play outside in the snow and the hotel even has toboggans for guests to use.

Dinner will be enjoyed at the cosy hotel restaurant which also has a bar area and lounge.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

SNOWMOBILE TO THE VUOKATTI HILLS

Today you will experience snowmobiling, one of the most effective ways to travel over the snowy terrain and explore this wonderful landscape. You will head to the hills where the views from the tops are quite spectacular, and you can see just how big this wilderness area is.

After a safety briefing and instruction on how to drive the snowmobile, adults will set off travelling two people per machine whilst the children travel in a sleigh pulled by the guide's snowmobile. In total, you will be out for around two hours.

Drivers must be 18 years and over with a valid licence. There will be the chance for you to swap drivers during the trip.

The remainder of the day is yours to spend at your leisure. If you would like to explore

Vuokatti further then there is a range of additional activities which you can add to your holiday, including an evening search for the Northern Lights by husky or snowmobile. Please see the 'personalise' section.

The Finns traditionally celebrate Christmas on the 24th December and so, a festive dinner will be served in the restaurant this evening to mark the occasion.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
3

VUOKATTI KATINKULTA SPA AND NORTHERN LIGHTS SNOWSHOE

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel restaurant during a leisurely morning. Today we have included tickets to the Vuokatti Katinkulta Spa which has a wonderful swimming pool with a water slide and numerous jacuzzis. A free ski bus leaves from the hotel approximately every two hours between 9 am and 4.30 pm so you can choose when you would like to visit and return.

Following your evening dinner in the hotel restaurant, you will strap on your snowshoes and search for the Aurora Borealis. A local expert will lead you into the winter forest towards the best locations for potentially viewing the Northern Lights. The tour will last for approximately two hours, and following the walk, you will enjoy some hot drinks and snacks as you patiently watch the sky.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
4

HUSKY SAFARI

After breakfast, it is time for your unforgettable husky safari which is sure to be a favourite with both parents and children alike. The husky centre is about five minutes' drive from the hotel and on arrival, your guide will introduce you to the eager dogs, who will welcome you with their excited howls and barks.

After learning how to harness the dogs and receiving a full safety briefing and instructions, you will set off on the trails, travelling 2 per sled (typically one grown up driving the sled with the second person enjoying the views from the sled) on a 6km trail towards the Vuokatti hills.

The excitable barking of the huskies will swiftly be replaced by the gentle pattering of paws as you glide along the trail. Following on from this truly memorable activity, you will have the chance to have a hug with the huskies before departing. The whole activity lasts around two hours and includes between 30-40 minutes on the trail with the dogs (depending on conditions). Hot drinks are included during the activity.

After the activity, you will have some free time. You may wish to add in further activities (please see the 'personalise' section for details) or head to the nearby downhill ski slopes (500m walk or a ski bus trip away); the options are varied.

Of course, a real highlight for many guests visiting the area with young children is the chance to meet with Father Christmas. If you would like to include this in your stay then please see the 'personalise' section for details.

Regardless, you're sure to have worked up an appetite and dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
5

ICE FISHING

The Finns love ice fishing, and this Lakeland region offers some fantastic locations.

After breakfast, you will head to a frozen lake and assist your guide in drilling a hole through the thick ice. You will then lower your line into the dark waters below and wait patiently for a fish to bite. Hot drinks will be served whilst you enjoy The Great Outdoors. In total, you will be out for around 1.5 hours.

Following the tour, you will be transferred back to the hotel where you can enjoy some family time.

Dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
6

DEPARTURE

After breakfast, you will say goodbye to Vuokatti after a memorable Christmas adventure in the Finnish Lakeland. You will then be transferred to the airport ready for your flights home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Meeting with Father Christmas and his reindeer

A stay in Lapland wouldn't be complete without meeting the famous man in red and his trusty animals! During this activity, you'll be transferred a short distance to Santa's Village where reindeer await.

After enjoying some hot drinks and Christmas treats, it's on to the main event – meeting Father Christmas! You will head towards his cottage for a private meeting, where you can take a family picture together and the children will receive a small gift.

There will also be time to pet and feed the reindeer during your visit.

Duration: approximately 1 hour.

Please note: transfers are not included unless the activity is happening on the same day as a husky safari.

Upgrade to include a short reindeer sleigh ride:

You may wish to upgrade your activity and include a reindeer sleigh ride. You'll hop into a sleigh and be pulled a short distance (approximately 50 metres) so you can experience Father Christmas' favourite mode of transport!

Price including a reindeer sleigh ride:

Adult: £67

Child: £67

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Snowshoe Adventure

If you would like to explore the scenery further during your stay, then we can arrange for you to enjoy a snowshoe hike in the hills around Vuokatti.

Your guide will point out any animal tracks you stumble across, and you can explore off the beaten track, using your snowshoes to keep you from sinking into the deep snow.

Hot drinks and snacks will be served during the trip

Duration: Approximately 2 hours

Min group size: 2 people

Availability: Monday and Thursday at 10.30am

Credit: Vuokatti Safaris

Included Accommodation

Vuokatti Hotel and Suites (Nights: 1-5)



Hotel Vuokatti enjoys a prime location close to Lake Nuasjärvi in the Kainuu Province of Finnish Lakeland. This wonderful hotel has 18 spacious rooms and 29 modern suites offering a high quality, peaceful environment from which to enjoy your holiday. It is a wonderful location for children and free use of the hotel toboggans always provides hours of entertainment.

Within easy reach of shops and the ski slopes of Vuokatti (both around 500m), this is the ideal location for families looking to combine winter wilderness activities with modern

amenities.

A free ski bus stops at the hotel, so getting around is nice and simple and it allows you to tailor your free time together.

Hotel facilities

- You will enjoy your breakfasts and evening meals in the hotel restaurant, which has an impressive lookout over Lake Nuasjärvi. Here a range of local ingredients such as moose, pike and reindeer are served alongside some more international options
- There is also a small café and lobby bar area which serves coffees, drinks and snacks
- Lunches are not included to give you the freedom to explore independently during your free time. There is a selection of cafes at the ski centre. You may also prefer to make use of your suite's kitchen facilities and visit the local supermarket.
- For children, there are a number of toboggans provided by the hotel which are free to use
- The hotel has numerous saunas for guests to use. There is even a large sauna with panoramic glass windows looking out onto the frozen lake. NB: the panoramic sauna is not open every day (reception will provide details) and so we cannot guarantee access to this during your holiday
- There is a small but well-equipped gym for guests to use should you wish for some indoor exercise during your stay
- Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the hotel

Room Type

VUOKATTI HILL VIEW SUITES:

These well-equipped suites are ideal for families and offer a high standard of accommodation. They are situated in an annexe, a very short walk from the main hotel building.

The Hill View Suites are 49.5m² and offer two bedrooms. The largest bedroom comes equipped with a double bed and the small room features a sofa bed for 1-2 people. There is a second sofa bed in the sitting room which again can sleep 1-2 people. Whilst the suites can sleep up to 6 people, we find that they are most suited to families of 4.

All the suites have a kitchen with modern appliances (dishwasher, oven, microwave, coffee machine), a living room with smart TV, a dining area, a shower room and a private sauna. As the name suggests, these suites offer views of the surrounding hills from their glazed terrace.

Bed linen, towels and end of stay cleaning are of course included (guests are asked to simply ensure that the dishwasher and the bins are empty). If you would like to have a mid-stay clean or a change of linen during your stay, then this can be arranged for a supplement.

Upgrade options

VUOKATTI LAKE VIEW SUITES:

For those who would like a little extra space, then the Lake View Suites are ideal. They offer 58 square metres of space and two good sized bedrooms. Again they are in the separate annexe building just a short walk from the main hotel.

Both bedrooms have a double bed, and there is a sofa bed for 1-2 people in the living area, so in total, they can sleep up to 6 people.

Please speak to our Family Travel Experts for a quotation.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 8 people and maximum 30 (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