



Vuokatti - Half-Term Winter Adventure



HOLIDAY TYPE: Private Departures
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1919
DURATION: 5 nights

In Brief

Vuokatti is perfect for an activity-filled half term adventure. Located in the centre of Finland, this region is a winter playground and offers all the key activities, but without the volume of visitors which Lapland experiences during peak weeks. Over 5 nights you will enjoy an unforgettable husky safari, a snowmobile adventure and will have the chance to try ice fishing. You will even search for the Northern Lights during a snowshoe trip.

Our Opinion

“ Having travelled from the UK where winter is generally grey and uninspiring, I was spellbound by the blankets of winter snow covering the trees and the vast sea of white which stretched out as far as the eye could see. The landscape awoke the child within me and I was just so eager to get out and explore. Fortunately, the range of activities available in Vuokatti is fantastic but you don't have the higher numbers of guests that can be found in areas of Lapland. The guides were amazing and really looked after us, ensuring that we had the best experience possible. I would certainly recommend Vuokatti as a firm family favourite. ”

Ali Mclean



What's included?

- **Flights:** return flights from London Heathrow 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 safari, Katinkulta Spa ticket, Northern Lights snowshoe and ice fishing (**the order of activities is subject to change**)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay

Trip Overview

Nestled in the centre of Finland, the village of Vuokatti is an ideal spot for families. Even the Finns travel here from the south of the country to rekindle forgotten childhood memories of winter. They consider it something of a hidden gem for family holidays.

The landscape is transformed into an activity playground in the winter months and the focus here is on getting outside and exploring. Our holiday includes a fantastic range of activities which are operated by knowledgeable and expert guides. We've included our favourites, along with time for you to tailor your holiday and perhaps take to the nearby downhill ski slopes or try some additional activities. Of course, relaxing and spending family time at the hotel is also an option.

Your week will begin in the best possible way with a husky safari. There are no better companions than a team of eager sled dogs.

A thrilling snowmobile safari is next on the agenda and provides the chance for you to explore the wilderness and cover greater distances.

You will also experience one of the most traditional local pastimes as you try your hand at ice-fishing.

On one evening you shall strap on some snowshoes and follow your guide into the wilderness. Your mission is to find an ideal viewpoint from which to watch the skies for the Northern Lights, which visit this region frequently during the winter months.

Throughout, families will stay at Hotel Vuokatti and Suites which combines modern comforts with a picturesque setting. There is a range of facilities, but we imagine Mum and Dad will particularly enjoy the three hotel saunas.

This holiday takes full advantage of all that is on offer in this relatively undiscovered area of Finland and is sure to create unforgettable family memories.

Image credits: Vuokatti Safaris

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

HUSKY SAFARI

What better way to start your holiday than with a husky safari. We are not sure who will be more excited, the parents, the children or the dogs, but it is certainly a favourite activity here at Activities Abroad.

You will be picked up at the hotel and transferred to the husky centre which is about five minutes away. Your guide will then introduce you to the dogs who love nothing more than to pull their sleds.

After a safety briefing and information on how to handle the sled, you will set off, travelling two people per sled on a 6km trail towards the Vuokatti hills, with one person (an adult) taking the controls and the second enjoying the views from the sled.

The excitable barking of the huskies will swiftly be replaced by the gentle pattering of

doggie feet as you glide along the trail. Hot drinks will be included during the activity. In total, you will be out for around two hours and shall be dog sledding for around 30-40 minutes depending on the conditions.

After the adventurous start to your day, you may like to add in some additional activities, or perhaps take to the nearby downhill ski slopes (payable locally), please see the 'personalise' section of the holiday page for details.

Dinner will be served at the hotel this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
3

SNOWMOBILE SAFARI TO THE VUOKATTI HILLS

Today you will experience snowmobiling, one of the most exciting ways to explore the wilderness. Your route will lead you into the Vuokatti Hills, where you can achieve brilliant views over the winter scenery.

After instruction on how to drive the snowmobile and a safety briefing, adults will travel two per machine whilst the children will travel in style in a sleigh pulled by the guide's snowmobile. There will be a break for warm drinks and snacks during the safari and you will be out for around two hours in total.

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

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.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
4

ICE FISHING

Ice fishing is a hugely popular way for families to spend time together in Finland, and this Lakeland region offers some wonderful spots.

After breakfast, you will head to a nearby frozen lake with your guides. Your first task is to drill holes through the thick ice to reach the icy waters below, then all you need to do is drop your line and wait. Trout, perch and pike are the most commonly caught fish here so fingers crossed you can land a catch. Hot drinks will be served during the activity and you will be out for around 1.5 hours in total.

Following the tour, you will be transferred back to the hotel where you can choose to either relax or try out some additional activities locally (see 'personalise' section for

details).

Dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
5

KATINKULTA SPA AND NORTHERN LIGHTS SNOWSHOE

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

During the evening you will enjoy a meal in the hotel restaurant before your snowshoe hunt for the Aurora Borealis. You will strap on your snowshoes and follow an expert guide who will lead you to areas which offer the best opportunities for viewing the Northern Lights. The tour will last for approximately two hours, and following the walk, you will enjoy some hot drinks and snacks and you can ask the guides any questions you like about the area.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
6

DEPARTURE

After breakfast, your half term adventure will sadly come to an end. You will be transferred to the airport for your return flight home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Evening Husky Safari

If you would like to try another dog sled safari, then this evening tour with a team of excitable sled dogs is ideal.

After a short transfer to the husky centre, you will be given full driving instructions and a briefing, before setting off on the trails two people per sled. Your route will cover around 12km as you enjoy the trails with your eager team of dogs. Travelling after the fall of darkness sees the wilderness take on a whole new feeling as the light of your headtorch

guides you along.

If conditions are favourable, then there is a chance that you might even be able to see the Northern Lights during your tour. You will be out on the trail with the dogs for around 1 hour.

After the safari, you will return to the husky centre and can spend time with the dogs and take photographs. A picnic dinner will then be served in the cafeteria on your return to base (so you will not dine at the hotel this evening).

You will travel two per sled with full tuition on how to control the dogs.

Duration: Approximately 3 hours (including transfers and dinner).

Min: 2 people

Availability: Wednesday at 6 pm

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Reindeer Sleigh Ride

Reindeer are some of Lapland's most-loved animals and during this activity, you'll learn all about the fantastic creatures as well as the importance of herding in the region.

After a short transfer, you will meet a local reindeer herder who will tell you about life here in the Arctic and will explain all about herding. You'll get to try lassoing before jumping into a sleigh to enjoy a short ride (approximately 200-300 metres).

Afterwards, enjoy hot drinks and snacks around an open fire.

Duration: 2hrs (including transfers)

Image credit: Nicola Barriball (client)

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