



Vuokatti - New Year Adventure in Finnish Lakeland



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1922
DURATION: 5 nights

In Brief

Nestled in the Lakeland region of Finland, Vuokatti is a family winter playground. The frozen lakes, snowy fells and winter forest combine to create a pristine wilderness which is just begging to be explored. Vuokatti offers a fantastic range of winter activities and we have chosen our favourites for this New Year adventure. Travel along forest trails with a team of huskies, search for the Aurora via snowshoe, explore the winter scenes on a snowmobile and fish like the Finns on a vast frozen lake.

Our Opinion

“ Spending New Year in such a picturesque winter environment was a highlight, but the range of winter activities and the quality of the accommodation are what made Vuokatti stand out for me. The spacious suites afford fantastic views of either the frozen lake or the snowy hills and are perfect for families. The activities were run by highly knowledgeable guides and you could sense their passion, particularly at the husky centre. The huskies were like their furry extended family, showing a natural understanding of the guide which ensured an incredible dog sledding experience for guests. ”

Ali Mclean



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, 5 dinners
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** husky safari, snowmobile tour, Katinkulta Spa tickets, Northern Lights snowshoe and ice-fishing (order subject to change)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay

Trip Overview

Vuokatti is a pristine winter wonderland set in the Lakeland region of Finland. Finns have often considered it a hidden gem and they travel up here from the south to enjoy the pristine snowy landscape.

Like any winter wonderland, the main priority is to get outside and explore. Vuokatti is an ideal family destination as there is a fantastic range of winter activities available, all of which are operated by expert guides, who are hugely passionate about the area. We have included our favourites on the agenda, but you can tailor your holiday and add in additional activities should you wish. There are also downhill ski slopes nearby which are easily accessed via the free ski bus.

The spectacular landscape is perhaps best explored via a snowmobile and during this trip, you'll visit the stunning Vuokatti Hills for a brilliant vantage point of the surrounding area.

Your holiday also includes local favourites too, such as ice fishing. This traditional Finnish pastime takes place on a frozen lake where you will drill a hole in the ice and try to catch fish, as you admire the stunning winter landscapes around you.

A husky safari always captures the imaginations of both adults and children alike, mainly because of the eager dogs who love to pull sleds. It is difficult to put into words the experience of being pulled along by 'paw-power' alone. Just don't forget to give the dogs a cuddle after!

The dark nights and northerly location also mean that it is possible to witness the Northern Lights in this region and we have included an evening snowshoe adventure in search of Nature's greatest light show.

Your accommodation is at the wonderful Hotel Vuokatti and Suites, which is an excellent base for families, combining modern comfort and facilities with easy access to the wilderness.

This holiday takes full advantage of all that is on offer in this relatively undiscovered area of Finland and you are sure to leave with a wealth of New Year memories.

Image credits: Vuokatti Safaris and Tuomas Kaakinen, Asko Kuittinen And Visit Finland

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

Following your arrival at Kajaani Airport, you will take the transfer to your hotel in Vuokatti which is approximately 40 minutes. Dinner will be served in the restaurant and the remainder of the evening will be free for you to really settle in.

The hotel has 3 saunas including one which looks out towards the frozen lake and offers views of the night sky. You may spot the Northern Lights if you are lucky. There is also plenty of space for children to play in the snow and the hotel has toboggans which can be used free of charge. Just make sure Mum and Dad don't get to them first!

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

HUSKY SAFARI

After a leisurely breakfast, you will join a local guide and make your way to the husky centre, around 5 minutes' drive away. Prepare to be greeted by an assortment of happy barks and howls; these sled dogs love nothing more than to run and so they get very excited for the trail.

You will be given full instruction and a safety briefing before setting off on a 6km trail towards the Vuokatti hills, with one person (an adult) driving and a second enjoying the views from the sled. The barking is suddenly replaced by silence and the dogs become focused on pulling the sled. Travelling amidst a winter landscape with a team of sled dogs is difficult to put into words, but it will be sure to provide lifelong family memories. You will spend between 30 and 40 minutes out with the dogs, depending on conditions.

Following the safari, you will get the opportunity to meet the dogs and learn about their lives. This activity lasts around two hours in total and includes hot drinks.

The remainder of the day is yours to spend as you wish. You can make use of the nearby downhill ski slopes (either a 500m walk or a short ski bus ride) or there are some additional activities which can be added to your holiday, which include the chance to meet Father Christmas, so please see the 'personalise' section of the holiday page for details.

Dinner will be served in the restaurant this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
3

ICE FISHING

After breakfast, you will enjoy the traditional Finnish pastime of ice fishing.

At the lake, you will assist your guide with drilling a hole in the ice before dropping in a line and waiting to see if a fish will bite. Pike, perch and trout are the most common species in this area. Hot drinks are included and the activity will last around 1.5 hours in total.

Following the tour, you will be transferred back to the hotel where you can simply relax and enjoy the winter surroundings and the hotel facilities or include some additional activities. See our 'personalise' section for more details.

Dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
4

SNOWMOBILE TO THE VUOKATTI HILLS

One of the best ways to travel over the winter landscape is by snowmobile, and today's adventure will take you to some incredible vantage points.

Full instruction and a safety briefing will be provided before you set off on the trails towards the Vuokatti Hills. Adults will travel two people per machine and the children will journey in a sleigh pulled by the guide's snowmobile.

Please note drivers must be over 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence and there will be the chance to swap drivers during the trip. In total, you will be out for around two hours.

The remainder of the day is yours to spend at leisure.

A New Year's Eve dinner will be held this evening, in the hotel restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
5

VUOKATTI KATINKULTA SPA AND NORTHERN LIGHTS SNOWSHOE

Your New Year's Day pace is nice and leisurely. We have included tickets to the Vuokatti Katinkulta Spa in your holiday, here you will find a wonderful swimming pool, numerous hot tubs and a water slide for the kids. It provides a welcome break from the cold weather. A free ski bus leaves from the accommodation approximately every two hours between 9 am and 4.30 pm so you have a choice of when to head to the spa and come back, just make sure you're back at the hotel for dinner!

During the evening, an expert guide will lead you into the forest for an evening adventure in search of the Aurora Borealis. You will strap on your snowshoes and follow forest trails, searching for any flickers of colour in the northern sky. The tour will last approximately two hours, and following the walk, you will enjoy some hot drinks and snacks.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
6

DEPARTURE

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

Included Meals: None

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