AURORA ZONE

Muotka - Northern Lights Adventure



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 20003
DURATION: 4 nights

In Brief

This 4-night break to Muotka is ideal for those who want to experience the best of Lapland in an active way. You'll participate in amazing winter activities while discovering the beauty of this remote location. At night, you'll hunt for the Northern Lights in the company of expert guides.

Our Opinion

"This holiday offers all of the key experiences that you want in the Arctic in just four days. The itinerary is fast-paced but you will also get the chance to appreciate your surroundings and enjoy the spectacular picturesque location that Muotka provides. The Aurora opportunities on the fells here are excellent and the evening excursions led by expert guides will really make the most of them. The hotel is owned by our good friends Jouko and Mari from Nellim Wilderness Hotel and so you are in exceptional hands here as Muotka looks set to be as popular as our annual favourite Nellim trips."

Ali Mclean





What's included?

ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES LISTED BELOW ARE INCLUDED IN THE HOLIDAY PRICE

- **Flights:** return from London to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Flight routes are subject to change.
- **Transfers:** return scheduled group shuttle airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights' accommodation in twin/double hotel rooms
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- **The following activities and equipment are included**: Aurora workshop, cross-country skiing, Aurora camp, snowmobile safari to a reindeer farm, Aurora snowshoe hike, husky safari and Aurora hunt by minibus **(the order of activities is subject to change)**
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Aurora alert until approximately 1 am
- Services of our expert guides
- Support from our dedicated regional Aurora Zone representative

Trip Overview

Our Northern Lights Adventure packs a real activity punch in just four days and you will spend a great deal of time exploring the wilds of Lapland, both during the day and at night.

On this trip, you will travel across the snow-covered landscape in a variety of ways. From the much-loved Finnish pastime of cross-country skiing to the exhilaration of snowmobiling and the thrill of driving a team of huskies across the wilderness.

Your nocturnal activities will be dedicated to seeking out Northern Light displays and with the guide's local knowledge, and a wide variety of vantage points to choose from, your chances couldn't be higher. You will search for the lights by minibus, using snowshoes and in a sleigh pulled by a snowmobile.

Your base at Muotkan Maja Wilderness Hotel can be found amongst the forested-fells in North-East Finland. Muotka's secluded setting provides guests with an idyllic retreat.

The welcoming hotel is decorated in typical Scandinavian décor and offers cosy accommodation and excellent hospitality.

Muotka also has another attraction up its sleeve; the exceptional Aurora Kotas. The Kotas offer guests the chance to spend the night under the Arctic sky and guests can spend their entire stay in a Kota should they wish. Details of these unforgettable options can be found in the 'Accommodation' and 'Personalise' section of the holiday page.

It's hard to narrow down the reasons why we love Muotka; whether it's the wonderful welcome, the fabulous Aurora prospects, the array of activities or the spectacular location. We recommend that you simply go and see for yourself.

© WIlderness Hotel Muotka, Markku Inkila and Matt Robinson

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY 1 FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS

You will be greeted at the airport before being transferred* the 40km to the Muotkan Maja Wilderness Hotel ready to begin your exciting adventure.

Your schedule will be keeping you pretty busy for the next few days, so you may wish to get an early night once you have finished your evening meal. However, you should also keep an eye on the sky. The remoteness of the hotel means you don't have to go far to witness the Northern Lights should a display begin.

The Aurora Kotas here at Muotka are an exceptional upgrade option and provide very comfortable Aurora accommodation either for one night or your whole stay. Details of these options can be found in the 'Accommodation' and 'Personalise' sections of the holiday page.

***** Transfers are based on a scheduled group shuttle that sometimes stops at a few nearby hotels. If you would prefer to upgrade to private taxi transfers please ask our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY 2 CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING, AURORA WORKSHOP AND AURORA CAMP

Following breakfast this morning, you will be out exploring the beautiful wilderness traversing the landscape with cross-country skis (approximately two hours), navigating the trails which surround the hotel. Cross-country skiing is something of a national obsession in this part of the world and an activity

we think that everyone should try at least once. It can be addictive and so, if you would like to explore independently later on in the week, you can hire the equipment at the hotel. Lunch will be served at the hotel.

In the late afternoon, your guide will talk through the phenomenon of the Northern Lights in detail and describe some of the science and legends behind them. As photographing the Aurora has become increasingly popular they will also aim to discuss the optimal camera settings that will help you capture a potential image.

Tonight you will head out on your first of three nocturnal excursions in search of the Northern Lights. The guides here are all local experts and their knowledge and enthusiasm for the Aurora are unsurpassed. Tonight your guide will lead you in a sled pulled by their snowmobile to the Aurora Camp, where you will sit around a campfire, listen to stories your guide has to tell and watch the skies for a potential Northern Lights display. You will be out for around two and a half hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3 — SNOWMOBILE SAFARI TO REINDEER FARM AND NORTHERN LIGHTS SNOWSHOE TREK

Snowmobiling is one of the most thrilling ways to explore the Arctic, allowing you to cover a lot of ground and gain a sense of the scale of the wilderness. Full instruction and a safety briefing will be given before you set off, travelling two people per snowmobile. Providing you both have a full driving licence and are over 18, you will have the chance to take it in turns to either drive or be the passenger.

Your destination is a reindeer farm around 20km away, where you will meet with the local herder and his reindeer. Here you will gain an understanding of the history of herding and the importance of the reindeer to the region.

There will be time to enjoy a short sleigh ride and take some pictures of these gentle animals before embarking on your snowmobiles for the return trip to Muotka. You will be out for around four to five hours in total and a soup lunch is included.

Following dinner this evening, you will strap on your snowshoes for a hike with your guide. Snowshoeing at night is a different experience to doing so in the day, and the scenery will look very different by torchlight. It is a wonderful experience and with any luck, the Northern Lights will help guide your path. This activity will last for approximately two and a half hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4 — HUSKY SAFARI AND AURORA HUNT BY MINIBUS

Your last day in this remote corner of the world is sure to be a memorable one as you experience a husky safari across the fells. The dogs here love nothing more than to pull a sled and their enthusiasm is a joy to witness. You will travel two people per sled with a team of four to six dogs. Once the dogs'

initial excited barking has abated, they will pull you enthusiastically across the snow and the experience becomes an altogether tranquil one. The peacefulness of the activity will allow you to really appreciate the awe-inspiring wilderness that provides the backdrop to the experience.

The distance travelled will be determined by the conditions on the trail but you will be driving for around one hour with the dogs. This activity lasts around three hours in total (including a short transfer, a safety briefing and time for lunch at the hotel).

After your final dinner with the group at Muotka tonight, you will be travelling in a minibus and on the hunt for the Aurora one last time. Utilising the mobility, your guide will locate the best viewpoint and the Northern Lights will hopefully come to bid you farewell. You will be out for around two and a half hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5 DEPARTURE

Today you will bid farewell to Muotka as you are transferred to the airport for your flights home. If you are departing on an early flight, you will be provided with a breakfast box.

We can arrange for you to extend your stay in Finland and enjoy the sights and sounds of Helsinki on your way home. Please see the 'Personalise' section for details.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



A night in an Aurora Cabin

As ever, Muotka leads the way in Aurora viewing innovation and we are therefore proud to offer our guests the chance to spend the night in one of only 20 magnificent Aurora Cabins. These stunning, part-cabin, part-glass tepee buildings, offer guests an exceptional overnight Aurora hunting experience.

Guests get the space and feel of a cabin during the day and the Aurora viewing benefits of a glass igloo at night, as you sleep under a glass tepee. This means that you are provided with the most wonderful views of the night sky from the comfort of your bed.

These part-cabin and part-glass tepee buildings, are self-contained and situated a short distance from the hotel, next to the annexe. They combine the space and atmosphere of a cosy cabin with a glass roof above the bed. Each cabin faces north so ideal for guests to gaze upon the night sky every night of their holiday, from the comfort of their duvet. The cabins are all 25m² with double bed and en-suite bathroom, making them an excellent base (most of them have a private sauna).

Please note: prices are based on you spending the first or last night of your holiday in this unique accommodation and not keeping your original accommodation. If you would like to do this on any other night during your holiday you will need to keep your accommodation and supplements will apply.

Please contact our Travel Experts for a quote.

Credit: Anthony Oberlin and Minttu Mantynen

Other options

TRIP EXTENSIONS



Extend your stay in Saariselka

Following on from your holiday, we can arrange for you to extend your stay in Lapland and spend two nights in the ski village of Saariselka. This extension is ideal for those who want to combine their initial Arctic adventures with some downhill skiing or those who want some time to explore independently.

There are lots of things to see and do from your comfortable and well-equipped hotel in the village centre. We can arrange for you to add in additional activities, hire downhill or cross-country skiing equipment or you can simply explore at your own pace and enjoy the shops and restaurants. The choice of how you spend your time here is yours, however, our Travel Experts will help you plan the perfect extension and provide a full quotation.

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Wilderness Hotel Muotka (Nights: 1-4)







Muotkan Maja Wilderness Hotel resides around 40km from the main town of Ivalo, tucked away in the corner of North-East Finland. Recently renovated and restored it is owned and run by the same couple as the popular Nellim Wilderness Hotel, Mari and Jouko Lappalainen. They run the hotel with the same hard-working ethos and it exudes the same warmth and charm for its much-welcomed guests.

The hotel boasts some wonderful scenery, tucked away in the forested-fells with roaming reindeer frequently seen amongst the trees. It consists of two main accommodation buildings, one with the majority of the bedrooms and another with hosts additional bedrooms, the main restaurant and the

reception area.

Hotel facilities

- The focal point of the main building is the restaurant which is where you will have the majority of your meals. Food will be served buffet style with a variety of continental and cooked food for breakfast and the choice of two or three options for each course at dinner. The menu has been designed with a focus on both traditional and international cuisine using fresh, locally-sourced ingredients
- There is a bar which is usually open until 1 am and serves a variety of spirits, wines and beers and a lounge area with comfortable armchairs to relax in during your free time
- There is a sauna in the main building which is heated daily for guest use
- Free Wi-Fi is available in the main building (at the bar and in the restaurant)
- In the main building, you will also find two fireplaces, games and books, which makes it a perfect place to relax
- The rooms do not have tea and coffee making facilities but tea and coffee are available free of charge and available in the restaurant area
- Hairdryers are available from the main hotel reception

Room types

There are 12 double and twin rooms in the main building and 11 in the additional building just across the courtyard. All rooms are en-suite with shower room, wardrobe, hairdryer and nightstand and can be made up as either a double or twin. They have also been recently renovated and offer lovely Scandinavian décor and charm.

Image credits: Jouko Lappalainen, Markku Inkila

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Wilderness Hotel Muotka - Superior Sauna Rooms





Muotka Wilderness Hotel has 16 Superior Sauna rooms, located a short distance from the main hotel building. These rooms are designed to offer rustic luxury and are ideal for small families and groups or those that simply wish for more space to relax in during their stay at Muotka. The rooms are approximately 33m² and each separate building has four superior sauna rooms inside. Please contact our Aurora Experts for a quotation.

Facilities

- All rooms will contain their own private sauna, sofa and an electric kettle to make your stay as comfortable as possible
- Each has a queen-size bed within and space for 1-2 extra beds
- All meals will be served in the hotel restaurant which is just a short walk away
- Hairdryers are available from the main hotel reception

Wilderness Hotel Muotka - Log Cabins





Situated not far from the main hotel, the log cabins at Muotka are a wonderful upgrade option for those looking for a little more space during their stay or if you are travelling as a small group or family.

Each log cabin is approximately 50m² and is fully equipped to make your stay cosy and comfortable. Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Log cabin facilities

- All cabins have their own log burner and private sauna - ideal for warming up after a day in the snow!
- Each has a double bed and space for 1-2 extra beds
- All cabins have a small kitchenette and a kettle
- The log cabins are equipped with large north-facing windows so you can easily keep watch for a potential Aurora display
- All meals will be served in the hotel restaurant which is just a short walk away
- Hairdryers are available from the main hotel reception

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

This holiday requires a minimum of 2 people to run, however, on some dates we require a minimum of 8 people for our flight allocation. Maximum 24 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

If a specific minimum age applies to this holiday, it can be found in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page.

Unless otherwise stated in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page, the minimum age for participation in an Aurora Zone holiday is typically 12 years old (there may be younger children in

some destinations who have booked with other companies). If an adult-only environment is important to you, then please contact our Travel Experts and they will advise on the best dates and destinations for you. If you are looking for a holiday designed specifically for families then please see our sister company www.activitiesabroad.com.

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.theaurorazone.com/booking-conditions