



Wilderness Hotel Inari - Aurora Hunting Adventure



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 22008
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Wilderness Hotel Inari offers spectacular views over the frozen Lake Inari and puts you in prime Aurora viewing territory. Your 7-night stay uses the lake as a winter playground during dog sledding, reindeer encounters and insights into the Sámi culture. At night, it's all about dedicated Northern Lights activities.

Our Opinion

“ There are few places that depict that idyllic image of winter quite like Wilderness Hotel Inari. Based right on the shores of Lake Inari, the views from here are spectacular, and the hotel itself offers a cosy and relaxing base. Hunting for the Northern Lights is simply spectacular, as the remoteness of the destination means little light pollution and a heightened chances of spotting the Aurora. Plus, all of the best activities are possible here, including huskies, reindeer, snowmobiles and snowshoes. What more could you ask for? ”

Jono Archer



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 airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights in twin/double hotel room (accommodation upgrades available, subject to availability and supplement)
- **Meals:** full board
- **Clothing:** cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** snowshoeing, Aurora workshop, snowmobile try-out, Aurora camp, husky safari, cross-country skiing, visit a reindeer farm, Aurora hunt by car, Aurora snowshoeing (the order of activities is for guidance only, and your final itinerary will be confirmed on arrival)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- Aurora alert until approximately 1 am

Trip Overview

You'll find that many of our holidays are situated within reach of Lake Inari, but no other destination has a location quite as close as Wilderness Hotel Inari, which sits proudly on the shore.

This region of northeast Finland is renowned as a Northern Lights destination and is a real paradise for those who want a dedicated week of Aurora hunting and the chance to take part in all the Arctic activity highlights as well.

Wilderness Hotel Inari is the brainchild of our long-standing friends and local partners, Jouko and Mari Lappalainen who also own Nellim, Nangu and Muotka. Mari had coveted this location for years, simply because of the view and the Aurora potential. Having realised their dream of securing the land they then brought their charm, imagination, dedication and expert guides in, to create this wonderful destination.

When it comes to Aurora hunting there are few areas which would stack up against the Inari region.

There are so few people (far more reindeer) here that there is very little light pollution and the vast lake provides unadulterated views north across the ice. There are four dedicated Aurora hunts in this holiday which include an informative workshop, a visit to a perfectly located Aurora Camp, a hunt by car/minibus and an Aurora snowshoe hike. These activities when coupled with a seven-night stay provide the fabulous potential for witnessing the Northern Lights.

The wonderful thing about Inari is that, like in many of our destinations, if the Aurora conditions align on a night when you are not taking part in a Northern Lights hunt, you still have an excellent chance to witness them from very close to the hotel.

Many guests also like to consider upgrading to one of the Aurora cabins in order to gaze at the sky from the comfort of their own bed. Please see the accommodation section for details or ask one of our experts for an upgrade quote.

During the day you'll take to the trails for a dog sled safari with an eager team of huskies and will also try the favoured Finnish pastimes of snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. These are all exceptional ways in which to explore the landscape around you.

The village of Inari itself is not far from the hotel and is the centre of Sámi culture in Finland. We make sure that you glean insight into this fascinating indigenous culture during your holiday when you meet with a local reindeer herder and their animals. You will see why reindeer herding has been such an important part of the Sámi way of life and still is today.

This is an unforgettable week which encompasses all of the main highlights of Lapland and provides some outstanding Northern Lights viewing opportunities.

Please note: the activities outlined will all be included in your holiday, however, the order of activities listed here is for guidance only, and your final timetable will be confirmed on arrival.

If you are travelling over Christmas or New Year, you will enjoy a festive dinner and celebrations on the 24th and the 31st of December (traditionally in Finland, Christmas is celebrated on Christmas Eve).

Image credits: Inari-Saariselkä Tourism Ltd, Markku Inkila and Anthony Oberlin

White outline Interreg Nord

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final itinerary will be provided on arrival at your accommodation.

Upon arrival at Ivalo Airport, you will be met by your transfer* driver and driven to the hotel on the shores of Lake Inari around 40 minutes away.

Once you've settled into the hotel, dinner will be served in the restaurant which has huge windows looking out across the lake.

Your cold weather clothing will be allocated either tonight or tomorrow depending on your arrival time.

Whatever you do, don't forget to cast an eye to the north before bed tonight, just in case the Aurora are dancing overhead.

** 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

SNOWSHOEING AND AURORA WORKSHOP

One of the best ways to appreciate your new surroundings is on foot. You wouldn't get very far just walking around in the deep snow as you'd quickly end up knee deep, but if you put on snowshoes life is much easier. Today's snowshoe walk will last for around four hours (including a break for a lovely lunch around a campfire) and so there is plenty of time for you to soak up the silence of this wild environment. The pace will be leisurely so you have time to stop and admire the flora and fauna in the company of your expert guide.

This evening, you will gather for an Aurora Workshop at the hotel. This informative presentation will provide you with a greater understanding of the Northern Lights and the basics of how to capture the Aurora on camera.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

SNOWMOBILE TRY OUT AND AURORA CAMP

After breakfast, you will have the chance to explore the wintery surroundings on an exciting introductory snowmobile adventure. After full safety instructions and a driving lesson, you'll head out for a safari, following some of the fabulous trails and travelling on the lake. You must be over 18 and hold a full driving license in order to take the controls. You will travel two people per snowmobile and

the activity lasts around two hours in total.

Your meals will be served at the hotel and you'll need a hearty dinner ahead of your Aurora Camp excursion this evening.

Jouko and Mari (the owners of the hotel) and their guides have set up wonderful Aurora Camps all over the area. They are all situated in places where the skies are pitch black and the views to the north are unobstructed. Travelling in a sleigh pulled by your guide's snowmobile, you will travel in comfort to the camp. A fire will keep you warm and hot drinks will be served as you patiently wait for the Northern Lights. With a little luck, they will make an appearance tonight. You will be out for around 2.5 hrs tonight.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

HUSKY SAFARI

There are few activities which are as synonymous with the Arctic as a husky safari. There is quite simply nothing that can really be compared to the sense of adventure you get from hitting the trail with an eager team of dogs pulling your sled along. It is a time-honoured way of travelling which has never lost any of its appeal.

You will typically meet your eager huskies on the ice of Lake Inari, just a short walk from the hotel. A full safety briefing will be given before you meet the teams and you'll be shown how to handle the sleds. As the huskies will be eager to get going (you'll hear their barks long before you see them) you'll get straight on with the safari.

Your guide will release your anchor and away you'll go, off onto the trails and out across the lake. Travelling two people per sled, you will have the chance to take it in turns to drive. It is such a thrilling experience and the scenery here can be spellbinding.

The timing of the activity will be confirmed on your arrival at the hotel, but lunch will be served in the restaurant, either before or after your adventure. The safari will last around 1.5 hours in total* and there will be some time at the end to meet the dogs and take photos.

The remainder of your day and evening are free for you to relax and unwind. Dinner will be served at the hotel and you may want to head down to the lakeshore to keep an eye out for the Aurora before bed. Remember that you can also arrange to book time at reception to visit the lakeside Aurora sauna should you wish.

* Please note that this safari is sometimes described locally as being 3 hrs in duration, but this duration includes lunch (which we include as standard of course).

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

FREE DAY AND AURORA SNOWSHOEING

Today has been left free for you to tailor your time. This is a hugely relaxing setting and there is a lot to be said for some taking a few hours just to appreciate your surroundings. We do however have additional activities which can be arranged, and these can be found in the 'personalise' section of the holiday page.

We also strongly recommend taking the time to walk into Inari Village (around 45 minutes' walk). The village is great for a spot of souvenir shopping and there are also some local cafes to enjoy.

All your meals are included and will be served in the hotel's restaurant with its panoramic windows.

Tonight, you will strap on a pair of snowshoes and head out into the Arctic night on an Aurora adventure. Experience the silence of the surrounding forest as you make your way across snowy trails to a wonderful viewpoint. Your guide will light a fire and you can enjoy hot drinks as you gaze up at the sky where hopefully, if conditions are favourable, the dancing Northern Lights will make an appearance.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
6

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AND AURORA HUNT

Cross-country skiing is one of those activities which Finns start to do as toddlers. Most of us aren't quite that lucky, but as this is such a popular pastime in Finland it would be rude not to see what all of the fuss is about. You need no prior experience of any kind of skiing to take part, as your guides will provide all the necessary tuition. Once everyone has got the hang of it, your group will head out for a loop on one of the trails close to the hotel (they are all around this region). In total this activity will last approximately two hours.

Now, if the lights have so far proven elusive, tonight could provide an excellent opportunity for you to see them. Travelling either by car or by minibus, your guide will drive you on a route specifically chosen to match the night's Aurora and weather forecasts.

The beauty of being mobile is that you can cover greater distances and therefore have a better chance of being able to find clear skies. If the conditions are good close to the hotel you'll set up in one of the Aurora Camps nearby. If there is cloud cover, you'll head further afield and will hopefully outrun it. All in all, you will be out for around 2.5 hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
7

REINDEER FARM VISIT AND FREE EVENING

Today's activity allows you to get an idea of what life is like for the traditional reindeer herders of Lapland and their animals. You'll visit a local reindeer farm where the peaceful animals will be the star attraction. The herder will provide you with details about their year and the life and importance of a reindeer to the local people and economy. The experience will last for around 2.5 hours.

Back at the Wilderness Hotel this evening you will enjoy your final dinner in the restaurant. After your meal, you can head down onto the lake to keep watch on the skies and enjoy the Arctic wilds for one last evening. Alternatively, you might like to add in additional Aurora activities or perhaps enjoy a special Sámi culture themed evening meal, please see the 'Personalise' section for details.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Today it is sadly time to wave goodbye to Inari and the Arctic. You will be transferred back to the airport in time for your return flights home.

If you have an early departure this morning a boxed breakfast will be provided for your journey.

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final itinerary will be provided on arrival.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



A night in an Aurora Kota

The Aurora Kotas combine a cabin structure with glass tepee elements, providing a large glass roof above the sleeping area, allowing guests to lose themselves in the magic of possible night-time Northern Lights displays from the comfort of their bed.

Each Kota contains a double bed and it has room for a third person on a sofa bed. These cosy cabins come with twin beds (which can be pushed together), a sofa or armchairs in the small living area and an ensuite shower room (toiletries and hairdryer are provided). You will also

have coffee and tea making facilities. Some of the cabins will also accommodate an extra person on a sofa bed. The cabins are 34m² in size. The Wi-Fi signal isn't as strong in the cabins so you may need to use the main restaurant, or use the time to switch off!

The cabins are between 20 and 50 metres from the main building.

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 speak to our Travel Experts for a quotation

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Aurora Snowmobile Safari

Heading out into the wilderness on a snowmobile, with only the headlights illuminating the trails, is a real adventure. This activity will see your guide lead you to some prime Aurora viewpoints. Should the conditions be favourable, and the lights start to dance overhead, you will of course stop and admire the show. Warm drinks will be served en-route, and the activity lasts around 2.5 hours in total (including full instruction and a safety briefing before departure). You will travel two people per snowmobile throughout.

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

Price from: £138 per person

Image Credit: Wilderness Hotel Inari



Sámi Culture with Lappish Dinner

For those who want to delve a little deeper into Sámi Culture and the local cuisine, then you can choose to upgrade your evening meal and enjoy something very different.

You will firstly be presented with an insight into Sámi Culture from a local Sámi person, dressed in their traditional costume, before enjoying a meal including delicious local foods and delicacies.

This activity requires a minimum of 4 people to operate and lasts between two and three hours in total.

The price quoted is for the upgrade from your standard evening meal.

Price from: £65 per person

Available Fridays at 6pm



Ice fishing by Snowmobile-sleigh

During this activity you will learn about one of the region's most popular pastimes. Travelling by snowmobile-pulled sleigh, your guide will lead you to a prime ice fishing location. Here you will drill holes in the ice, drop your lines and then wait patiently for a fish to bite (hopefully). Lunch will be served around a campfire out in the wilds, and regardless of whether you catch anything. This is a wonderful way to spend time in The Great Outdoors.

The activity lasts for around four hours including lunch.

Price: £152 per person

Image credit: Wilderness Hotel Inari

LITTLE EXTRAS



Cross country ski or snowshoe hire

Should you wish to explore independently during your stay, then both cross country ski gear and snowshoes can be rented at the hotel. Please ensure that you take a map and always follow marked trails. Ensure that you also have a mobile phone and the hotel's contact details in case either are required during your outing.

Price: £19 per person per day

Image Credit: Inari-Saariselkä Tourism Ltd

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Wilderness Hotel Inari (Nights: 1-7)



Situated on Lake Inari's shores, Wilderness Hotel Inari is one of the most spectacular destinations we feature. Offering excellent levels of comfort and some serious 'wow factor', it is the latest addition to the Wilderness Hotels owned by our good friends Jouko and Mari Lappalainen.

Importantly it is also slap, bang in the middle of the world's best Aurora hunting territory and the hotel has implemented some innovative Northern Lights features to help maximise your viewing potential.

Wilderness Hotel Inari is ideally located around 40 minutes' drive from Ivalo Airport and just five minutes from Inari Village, which is the centre of Sámi culture in Finland.

There is a variety of accommodation on offer here, including cabins, Aurora cabins and hotel rooms, all of which are separate to (but within very easy reach of), the central restaurant building.

The hotel provides modern accommodation with décor which combines both comfort and charm. A huge amount of thought has gone into creating this very special place to stay.

Hotel Facilities

- The focal point of the hotel is the main reception, bar, lounge and restaurant building. There will be gasps of delight from the moment you walk in and are confronted with exceptional views out towards the lake.
- All meals are served in the restaurant and the quality of the food has been excellent in our experience.
- Breakfast offers a continental selection of meats, breads, cheese, fish and pastries as well as hot options including bacon and eggs. There are fresh fruit and yoghurts to compliment
- A.t lunch and evening meals, an array of fresh salads and a soup is followed by a choice of two main dishes prepared by the chefs. Options will typically include some local flavours as well as international dishes. In the evening these are accompanied by a pudding. Tea, coffee and water are included in your stay and any additional drinks can be added to your bill.
- The restaurant is beautifully decorated, with local art and woodwork creating a great atmosphere. The fantastic north facing panoramic windows running the length of the room offer views out onto Lake Inari. We certainly expect a few evening meals to be abandoned as the Aurora becomes visible during dinner (the chefs get used to it)!
- The bar area is fully stocked so you can enjoy a drink with your meal or relax in the lounge area by the roaring fire.
- Free Wi-Fi is available in the main hotel building and rooms (it is less strong in the Aurora cabins and the log cabins but 3G reception should work on your phone).
- The crowning 'Northern Lights glory' here is the glass-roofed sauna which is housed by the lake in a modified Aurora Cabin. Guests can book the sauna at the reception in hour long slots for private use (free of charge) and so if you strike lucky, you can witness the Northern Lights from inside, which is a very special experience.

Room Type

HOTEL BEDROOMS

The bedrooms are located in two separate buildings around 50 metres from the main building.

Each room has been decorated in a traditional Arctic style with inspiration taken from the local environment. They are around 30m² and have either a queen-sized bed or twin beds. Coffee and tea making facilities are provided in your room as well as either a comfortable sofa or two armchairs. If you can't face being detached from the "real world", the rooms also come with free Wi-Fi. Every bedroom is en-suite and comes complete with hairdryer and toiletries.

These rooms are designed for two people to share but a third person can be accommodated on a camp bed or pull-out sofa (supplements apply).

Image credits: Inari Wilderness Hotel, Matt Robinson

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Wilderness Hotel Inari - Arctic Chalets



These semi-detached, designer chalets, are a new addition to Inari's range of impressive accommodation options. They are designed to offer couples an air of Arctic luxury in their own holiday hideaway.

The modern interiors are sleek and beautifully designed. Each features a bedroom with an en-suite shower, private sauna room and king size bed. The separate living area is well equipped with a warming log fire, ideal following a day of adventures and the stunning landscape is framed by full-height windows, offering views towards the lake. Each also offers a sofa bed which can sleep an additional two people, but we recommend keeping these chalets for just the two of you.

Please note that this accommodation option requires an upgrade supplement. Please contact our Aurora Experts for a quotation.

Image credits: Wilderness Hotel Inari



Wilderness Hotel Inari - Aurora Cabins

With the potential of seeing the Northern Lights above, you won't want to take your eyes off the Arctic sky. Luckily, with the Wilderness Hotel Inari's Aurora Cabins, you won't have to. These amazing structures are all equipped with an expansive heated glass roof to give you unobstructed views of the northern skies at all times. Whether you want to lie back in your bed or on the sofa, you can go on the hunt for the Aurora right from the comfort of your accommodation.

These cosy cabins come with twin beds (which can be pushed together), a sofa or armchairs in the small living area and an ensuite shower room (toiletries and hairdryer are provided). You will also have coffee and tea making facilities. Some of the cabins will also accommodate an extra person on a sofa bed. The cabins are 34m² in size. The Wi-Fi signal isn't as strong in the cabins so you may need to use the main restaurant, or use the time to switch off!

The cabins are between 20 and 50 metres from the main building.

Please note that this accommodation option requires an upgrade supplement. Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Credit: Wilderness Hotel Inari, Matt Robinson

Wilderness Hotel Inari - Log Cabins



These cosy cabins are built in the traditional way, with walls constructed from huge logs and plenty of space inside. The ground floor covers 70m² and the loft area offers an additional 20m².

On the ground floor, you'll find a spacious dining/living room, comfy seating, and a wood burning stove which can be turned to face where you are sitting. There is also the main bedroom with a queen-sized bed. There is also a kitchenette and dining area, although all your meals are provided in the restaurant. The cabins also provide free Wi-Fi although the signal is not strong in all of them. It

can, however, be used in the lounge area of the main building if needed.

The bathroom and toilet (hairdryer and toiletries are provided) are also on the ground floor and the cabin comes with the luxury of a private sauna.

The loft area upstairs can accommodate three more single beds and, thanks to the pull-out sofa in the living area, the capacity of these cabins ranges from two to six people (although we would recommend a maximum of 4 adults). They are ideal for couples looking for a very romantic hideaway or for small groups of friends or family.

The cabins are between 15m and 100m from the main building.

Please note that this accommodation option requires an upgrade supplement. Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Image credits: Matt Robinson

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 2. 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

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>