



Saariselkä - Northern Lights Village - Tailor Made



HOLIDAY TYPE: Tailor Made
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 20011
DURATION: 3 or more nights

In Brief

The Northern Lights Village in Saariselkä provides you with innovative glass-roofed Aurora cabins, giving you the chance of seeing the famous light show every night from your bed. What's more, a tailor-made holiday here allows you to create your perfect winter break by choosing the activities to suit you.

Our Opinion

“ The Northern Lights Village in Saariselkä is the perfect place to stay if you want to combine searching for the Northern Lights with a host of winter activities and the potential to enjoy nearby ski slopes. Sleeping in a glass-roofed cabin is a wonderful experience and, if the weather is right, the night's sky out here is breathtaking to witness. ”

Jono Archer



What's included?

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

- **Flights:** return flights from London to Ivalo Airport (via Helsinki). Routings are subject to change and availability
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** a minimum of 3 nights in an Aurora Cabin (but you can stay for as long as you wish. Extra night costs are listed in the 'Dates & Prices' section)
- **Meals:** half board
- **Activities:** choose from our extensive range of activities (**individually priced in the 'Personalise' section of the holiday page**)
- Aurora alert service which you can set to alert you throughout the night or end at a specific time
- Cold weather clothing is provided for the duration of your stay
- Services of our expert local guides and Aurora Zone representative

Trip Overview

The Northern Lights Village is the latest in Finland's increasingly diverse selection of Aurora friendly accommodation. Unlike many destinations where you spend just one night in an Aurora cabin, here it's for the entire duration of your stay. Essentially, you go to bed under the stars and, with a bit of luck, the Northern Lights, but in the comfort of a warm and cosy glass-roofed cabin.

There are 80 such cabins at the Northern Lights Village which is situated just 1000 metres from the amenities in the centre of Saariselkä. The cabins are cleverly protected from the lights of Saariselkä's more distant ski centre. Being in the very heart of the Auroral Zone, the chances of watching the lights whilst lying in bed are really rather good. Wouldn't that be a story to tell when you get home?

Essentially, these tailor-made Northern Lights holidays have it all: Aurora cabins, easy access to downhill ski slopes and an extensive range of [winter activities](#) which can be tailored to suit your requirements.

After selecting your preferred holiday duration (a minimum of three nights is required) you choose the activities that best suit you. Lapland's gently rolling fells and snowy forests are just waiting to be explored and our team of experts are just a phone call away if you need any advice about how best to go about it.

There are dog sledding and snowmobile safaris of various lengths so you can choose whether you want a taster or longer adventure. If you prefer to delve into local traditions then we offer introductions to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Reindeer are synonymous with this part of the world and meeting a herder and enjoying a gentle reindeer-pulled sleigh ride is another "must-do" activity here in Finnish Lapland.

What's more, the majority of activities begin at the Northern Lights Village so you'll waste no time with transfers to activity start points.

Saariselkä also has 15 downhill ski slopes and is renowned for its network of cross-country ski trails so there really is an activity here for everybody.

After darkness falls, it's time to get out in search of the Aurora and you can also choose your preferred means of tracking down "the elusive lady". There are remote Aurora Camp excursions along the Russian border, snowshoe hikes, minibus hunts and snowmobile adventures, all of which are led by expert local guides who will do all they can to help you witness an Auroral display.

Our friend Markku, whose vision created the Northern Lights Village, is an Aurora nut. He lives and breathes the Northern Lights and is rarely happier than when he is capturing them on camera.

If you've got all the kit, then your guides will help you to capture the lights on your own camera. The guides usually take some pictures as well and if they do, you can buy them to take home as a souvenir (extra costs may apply).

For a flexible Aurora hunting holiday, staying in dedicated Northern Lights accommodation, then there are very few places which can surpass the Northern Lights Village.

Image credits: Inari-Saariselka Tourism Ltd, Markku Inkila, Ben Murgatroyd, Gustavo Lopez

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Nord
European Regional Development Fund



Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL, TRANSFER AND WELCOME

Included Meals: Dinner

DAYS
2 TO 3

TAILOR YOUR TIME

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
4

DEPARTURE

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Day trip to Nellim

The village of Nellim is said to be the meeting place of eastern, western and northern cultures. During this trip, you'll visit different points of interests and gain a wonderful insight into the region's history and culture.

The journey will first take you to the northernmost border between Finland and Russia. There's a chance to cross the unfrozen river when you walk over the Paatsjoki River Bridge which will give you better views directly into Russia.

Next, a visit to the beautifully constructed log church in the village gives you a chance to see the unique works of art on display as well as a look into the history of the Skolt Sámi people.

You will enjoy lunch at either Wilderness Hotel Nellim or you will have a wilderness lunch outdoors, over an open fire.

Duration: around 6 hours (including transfers and lunch)

Available: Monday - Sunday at 10 am from December until March. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season.

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Aurora photography workshop

Seeing the Northern Lights is an incredible experience and capturing it on camera gives you the opportunity to take this wonderful moment home with you, for what is arguably the best souvenir on offer!

This photography workshop will teach you everything you need to know in order to get that perfect shot, should the Aurora make an appearance during your stay.

Your expert guide has years of experience in Northern Lights photography and will teach you the best camera settings as well as other tips and tricks to ensure you capture a brilliant Aurora photograph.

Duration: Approximately 1 hour

Please note: you will need to bring your own equipment (camera, ideally SLR, and tripod)

Available: Monday to Sunday at 5 pm from December until March. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.



Husky safari

Dog sledding is one of the most popular winter activities and from the moment you meet your team of hugely enthusiastic huskies you know you're in for an unforgettable experience.

Your expert musher guide will show you how to handle the sled before you set off on the snowy trails travelling two people per sled (you can change drivers halfway). The dogs will fall silent as soon as the lines become taut and they focus on their favourite task, pulling the sled. The scenery here is wild but a thick blanket of snow

makes it seem calm and serene. One thing is sure; there can be few better ways to explore it than with a team of dogs.

You have the option of picking a 5, 10 or 20 km husky safari (2 people per sled). If you opt for the 20 km safari, lunch is also included.

Group size: 1-16 (approximately)

5 km: £106pp available from Monday - Sunday at 11.30 am and 15.30 pm from December until March. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season. Total duration incl. briefing: approximately 1 hr. We expect you to be out on the husky sledge for around 30-40 minutes.

10 km: £133pp available from Monday - Sunday at 9 am and 1 pm from December until March. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season. Total duration incl. briefing: approximately 2 hrs. We expect you to be out on the husky sledge for around 1 hour.

20 km (including lunch): £183pp available from Monday - Sunday at 10 am from December until March. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season. Total duration incl. briefing and lunch: approximately 4 hrs. We expect you to be out on the husky sledge for around 2 hours.

Image credits: Lapland Safaris & Jarno Artika



Reindeer sleigh ride

This 25 minute or 1-hour reindeer-pulled sleigh ride will take you on a journey around the reindeer paddock and the surrounding woodland, giving you the chance to see these animals from a new perspective.

You have the option of picking a 25 minute or 1-hour reindeer sleigh ride (approximate timings).

25 minutes (approximately): £64pp available from Monday - Sunday at 9.15 am and 12.45pm from December until March. Please note that the times may

vary throughout the season.

1-hour reindeer-pulled sleigh ride (approximately): £119pp available from Monday - Sunday at 2 pm from December until March. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season.

Group size: 1-24 (approximately)



Reindeer day

Reindeer have played an integral role in the local economy and culture for many, many centuries. An understanding of these animals and their herders is something no visitor to the region should miss.

You will meet with a reindeer herder and hear tales from the trails as you learn about reindeer husbandry. You'll get the chance to feed the animals before enjoying a one hour (approximately) reindeer-pulled sleigh ride.

Lunch is included.

Group size: 1-24 (approximately)

Available: Monday to Sunday at 11 am from December until mid-April. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Duration: Approximately 3 hours in total including lunch and the sleigh ride lasts for approximately 1 hour

Image credits: Inari-Saariselkä Tourism Ltd



Aurora camp by the lake

Local expertise and mobility are two of the key elements required for Aurora hunting success and this activity delivers on both fronts.

In the company of an expert local guide, you will travel by minibus to the shore of Lake Inari, a vast expanse of frozen water situated to the north of Saariselkä. The size of the lake means it provides an open view of the northern skies and is known locally as being an excellent spot for viewing the Northern Lights.

In a remote spot, your guide will lead you to a wilderness shelter. A fire will be lit and warm drinks and snacks will be served to ensure that you are as warm and comfortable as possible while you wait to see if the Aurora will appear.

Why not take one of the reindeer rugs, lie back on the snow, sip your hot drink and immerse yourself in the near-perfect Arctic silence?

Group numbers: 1-24 (approximately)

Availability: Monday to Sunday at 8 pm from December until March. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Duration: 3 hours (approximately)



Cross-country ski school

Saariselkä is renowned as a cross-country skiing destination and this ever-popular sport attracts Finns to the region each year.

Your instructor will show you the ropes and, once you have mastered the basics, you'll have the chance to enjoy some of the local trails. This is a great activity to try near the start of your holiday as equipment can be hired locally if you would like to hit the trails independently later on in your stay.

Group size: 1-16 (approximately)

Availability: Monday to Sunday at 10 am, 1 pm and 3 pm from December until March. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season

Duration: 2 hours (approximately)



Snowshoe hike in the fells

The beauty of snowshoeing is that it provides the chance for wildlife encounters, as the local flora and fauna will not be scared off by the noise of engines or the sound of sleds. So, for nature lovers, this is an ideal choice as your local guide will provide information on the wildlife and its natural environment. You may have the chance to witness Siberian Jay, willow grouse or a herd of roaming reindeer. You will stop for a hot drink along the way.

Group size: 1-16 (approximately)

Available: Monday - Sunday at 10 am, 1 pm & 3 pm from December until March. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season.

Duration: 2 hours (approximately); a warm drink is included

Photography by Markku Inkila



Snowmobile safari - 2 hours

We know that for some people the thought of snowmobiling may be a little daunting so this short 2 hour (approximate) safari provides the ideal introduction.

Full instruction will be provided along with a safety briefing from your expert guide and then you'll set off in convoy, following the well-marked trails and travelling two people per machine.

Snowmobiles offer the chance to explore further afield and offer the passenger (you can swap drivers) the

chance to fully enjoy the sights of Lapland.

There will be a break for you to enjoy warm drinks and snacks along the way.

Please note: Snowmobile drivers must be 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence.

Group size: 1-24 (approximately)

Available: Monday - Sunday at 9am & 1pm from December until March. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season.

Duration: 2 hours (approximately)

Snowmobiles and ice fishing



After a full safety briefing and tuition, you will drive two per snowmobile into the winter wonderland. Stopping at a remote lake, your guide will introduce you to ice fishing and you will have the chance to try your hand at this Lappish pastime. Your guide will build a campfire and lunch will be served.

Please note: Snowmobile drivers must be 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence.

Group size: 1-24 (approximately)

Available: Monday - Sunday at 10 am from December until March. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Duration: 4 hours in total including lunch (approximately)

Photography by Markku Inkila



Snowmobile safari - 4 hours

For those who want to explore much further afield then look no further as this 4-hour snowmobile safari will take you out into the wilderness beyond Saariselkä.

Full instruction will be provided along with a safety briefing from your expert guide and then you'll set off in convoy, following the marked trails and travelling two per snowmobile.

Your guide will prepare a campfire lunch for you en route (weather permitting).

Please note: Snowmobile drivers must be 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence.

Group size: 1-24 (approximately)

Available: Monday - Sunday at 10 am from December until March. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Duration: 4 hours in total (approximately)

Photography by Lapland Safaris



Aurora snowshoeing

Tonight, you will set off with your guide and travel on foot to a fellside shelter. Thankfully you'll be wearing snowshoes so you won't sink into the powdery snow which can be over a metre deep.

The silent forests are only disturbed by the creak of the snowshoes as they compress the snow underfoot and the only light will be that of your head torch and perhaps the moon overhead. It never seems as dark as you might imagine as the snow reflects a great deal of light.

At the shelter, your guide will build a fire and serve warm drinks and snacks as you wait, deep in Aurora territory, in the hope that the lights will start to dance overhead. Should they appear, then your guide will help you to capture them on camera.

Group size: 1-16 (approximately)

Availability: Monday - Sunday at 8.30 pm from December until March. Please note that the time may

vary throughout the season.

Duration: 2.5 hours (approximately)



Aurora hunting by snowmobile

Snowmobiling at night is a completely different experience. The dark forests and trails are illuminated only by your headlights creating ghostly shapes and shadows in the snow ahead.

Having ascended the side of a nearby fell, your guide will stop at a prime Aurora viewpoint. A fire will be lit and warming drinks and snacks will be served. As you wait for the Aurora to hopefully dance overhead, your expert local guide will show you how to capture the lights on camera so you're ready if they appear.

Full instruction and a safety briefing will be provided before the activity and you will travel two people per machine. For those who would like to drive their own snowmobile, a supplement is payable.

Please note: snowmobile drivers must be 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence.

Group size: 1-30 (approximately)

Availability: Monday to Sunday at 8:30 pm from December until March. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Duration: 3 hours (approximately)

Photography by Markku Inkila



Aurora hunting by heated sleigh

This snowmobile-pulled sleigh journey is one of the most innovative ways we have found to search for the Northern Lights. The sleigh is enclosed and heated, insulating you from the sub-zero temperatures outside. With approximately 8 passengers per sled, the guide will lead the way on his or her snowmobile, pulling the sled up to the top of a local fell and far from any light pollution.

Fells provide uninterrupted views of the night sky and provide excellent Aurora viewing should conditions be

favourable.

Your guide will get a fire burning and warm your cockles with hot drinks and snacks as you wait for a first glimpse of the Northern Lights. Displays can emerge very slowly from the inky blackness of the Lappish sky or suddenly appear out of nowhere so be sure to keep your eyes fixed firmly skywards.

All of the Aurora guides from the Northern Lights Village have expert knowledge about how to capture the Aurora on camera and they'll help you compose your shots.

Group size: 1-24 (approximately)

Availability: Monday to Sunday at 8:30 pm from December until March. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Duration: 3 hours (approximately)



Aurora Camp near the Russian border

Our friends at the Northern Lights Village have, over the course of many years, researched the best places in the region for Aurora viewing and created Aurora Camps in their favourite spots.

Travelling by minibus you'll head North East of Saariselkä towards the tiny village of Nellim on the shores of Lake Inari. You'll follow a small road past the village which will eventually bring you to Finland's border with Russia where there is definitely an air of James Bond!

You'll continue on to the Aurora Camp, where a campfire will be made in a Lappish tepee and hot drinks and snacks will be served; hopefully the Aurora will make an appearance for you tonight. If there is time, you may also visit Paatsjoki River Bridge, a place that features in many a glorious Aurora image.

Group size: 1-24 (approximately)

Available: Monday to Sunday at 8.00 pm from December until March. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Duration: 4 hours (approximately)

Included Accommodation

Saariselkä Northern Lights Village (Nights: 1-3)



Located in North East Finland, the Northern Lights Village sits on the outskirts of the ski resort of Saariselkä. Tucked away from the town and separated from it by dense forest, the location is ideal for viewing the Northern Lights but is still within walking distance (around 1000m) of the town's amenities. The ski slopes can be accessed via a shuttle (small charge applies) or a pleasant walk of around 40-50 minutes.

The Northern Lights Village offers accommodation in Aurora Cabins which are half-roofed with glass. The twin or double beds are situated beneath the panoramic roof and provide the chance to view the Northern Lights from your bed! It's not often that folk prefer a sleepless night but here it's not considered to be a huge inconvenience as it provides the chance to potentially witness Mother Nature's greatest light show!

There are 80 cabins in total, all of which are within a 5-10 minutes' walk of the Village's central facilities which include the restaurant where you'll enjoy breakfast and dinner.

Facilities

- The village restaurant is an atmospheric place, inspired by traditional wooden kotas (Finnish teepees). Breakfast is a buffet of continental options and some hot dishes. Evening meals are a buffet with starters of soups and salad, a choice of local meat or fish will follow (the reindeer and white fish in this region are delicious!). Typically a cake will be served for pudding, keeping you well-fuelled for your nocturnal Aurora hunting adventures. Dietary requirements are all well-catered for as long as we are informed at the time of booking. There's also a large lobby near reception for you to relax in after your meal.
- The Northern Lights Village has an onsite reindeer paddock and all activities start in the village so there is no need for time-wasting transfers. Basically, because we want to make your holiday as uncomplicated as possible, life is made very easy here.
- Saariselkä is around a 20-25 minute walk from the Northern Lights Village (40-50 minutes to the ski slopes) which means that all of the amenities, shops, cafés and local restaurants are within easy reach.
- For all Northern Lights activities, an expert guide will provide you with photographic tuition. The guides sometimes take pictures throughout the activities which can be purchased on your return to the village, if they take any.
- For all of your provided winter clothing, simply go to the onsite Safari House where overalls, gloves, boots, skis and snowshoes are stored for easy access.
- Guests can pay extra to use the hot tub, sauna and ice pool. This can be used during public time or booked for private use.

Aurora Cabins

The Aurora Cabins have a half-glass roof and all face north. The design is based on the traditional wooden kotas (teepees) of Finland.

Each cabin has twin beds (which can be made into a double) and a sofa bed, suitable for an additional adult. There is a shower room (with underfloor heating) and a toilet, as well as a luggage storage area (please note that hot water is limited). Tea and coffee making facilities, a hairdryer and a minibar are also included.

Importantly for duvet-based Aurora hunting, a timer switch can be used to heat the glass roof should your view be obscured by snowfall. It takes approximately 5-10 minutes to heat and melt the snow so there's no need to go and sweep the roof in your pyjamas!

Cabins are not cleaned between arrival and departure unless requested from reception. Additionally, towels can be exchanged at reception if required.

Free Wi-Fi.

Covid-19 Safety and Hygiene 16-step Protocol

The Northern Lights Village is committed to delivering a clean and safe environment for its guests through strict hygiene and safety protocols, in order to bring confidence to all visitors. As part of this commitment, they have introduced a 16-step protocol which includes, amongst other measures, a reduction in group sizes during activities, meal times arranged in advance to avoid overcrowding and enhanced surface and gear disinfection.

Image credits: Markku Inkila

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

This holiday requires a minimum of 1 person to run, however, on some dates we require a minimum of 8 people for our flight allocation. Maximum 30 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>