



# Saariselkä – Autumn Lights Tailor Made



**HOLIDAY TYPE:** Tailor Made  
**VISITING:** Finland

**BROCHURE CODE:** 20014  
**DURATION:** 3 or more nights

## In Brief

Saariselkä, surrounded by stunning wilderness, has a fantastic Northern Lights record. At the Northern Lights Village, you'll spend every night in a glass-roofed Aurora Cabin where you could see nature's greatest show from the comfort of your bed. Autumn in Finland also brings vibrant colours and a range of activities for you to choose from.

## Our Opinion

“ Having the opportunity to spend the entirety of my trip in an Aurora Cabin was an unusual and thrilling experience. Generally, I enjoy my sleep, but whilst staying here I was fighting to stay awake. The dark nights can bring some special Aurora displays and I tried in vain to battle the tranquil and sleep-inducing surroundings in order to gaze upon the night sky from my bed. The sudden feeling of excitement when you see a flicker of green through the window is beyond description and I was lucky enough to experience this during my time at the Northern Lights Village. ”

Andy Marshall



## What's included?

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

- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** a minimum of three nights in a glass-roofed Aurora cabin
- **Meals:** half board
- **Activities:** choose from our extensive range of activities (**individually priced as detailed in the [activity timetable](#)**)
- Aurora alert service which you can set to alert you throughout the night or end at a specific time
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay

## Trip Overview

Saariselkä is nestled amidst the fells and forests of North Eastern Finland, high above the Arctic Circle. It is a prime location for Aurora activity and the Northern Lights Village offers the ingenious glass-roofed and cosy, Aurora Cabins, which is separated from the town by thick forest. Unlike other destinations where Aurora accommodation may only be for a single night, here, you get to spend the whole of your holiday in one of the cabins. The tailor-made aspect of the holiday ensures that you can maximise your potential for spotting the Aurora by choosing [Aurora activities](#), such as an adventure to the prime viewpoint at Paatsjoki Bridge, which lies close to the border of Russia. In addition, we also offer a range of [daytime activities](#) which allows you to explore the autumn landscape and delve deeper into the culture of Lapland.

The autumn is a particularly special time to visit the Arctic. September is the peak of the Finnish 'Ruska' which is a local term referring to the changing colours of the leaves. The landscapes are bathed in vibrant shades of orange and brown, but as you approach November, you may experience the first snows of winter.

There is an [assortment of activities](#) available which focus on exploring the autumn landscapes. The Urho Kekkonen National Park showcases the very best of the Finnish 'Ruska'. The pine forest and isolated fells are highlighted by the colours of autumn and the park is home to an abundance of

birdlife.

A day trip to Inari includes a relaxing cruise on the lake, combined with a visit to the Sámi Siida Museum which provides a fascinating insight into the indigenous Sámi culture.

A particular highlight in Saariselkä is an interesting and rewarding trip to the Tankavaara Gold Village, which is said to be the only international museum in the world displaying the past and present of gold panning and prospecting. After a tour of the museum, you can try your hand at searching for gold. Anything you discover is yours to keep, so search hard enough and you may find your fortune in Lapland.

To conclude, this tailor-made holiday is ideal for Aurora seekers who want to potentially experience delightful displays, whilst enjoying the tranquil autumn terrain. The prospect of spending the entirety of your holiday in an Aurora Cabin ensures that you are able to maximise your potential for spotting this natural phenomenon and the [daytime activities](#) offer insight into all aspects of Lapland.

Credit: Markku Inkila



## Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY  
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

**Included Meals:** Dinner

DAYS  
2 TO 4

FREE TIME AND OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY  
4

DEPARTURE OR EXTEND YOUR STAY

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

# Personalise this tour

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## Our pick



### Aurora Hunt by Lake Rahajärvi

Join an expert local guide on a hunt for the Aurora Borealis during the mild autumn months. If conditions are favourable then this trip offers a stunning opportunity to gaze as the Northern Lights dance overhead but are also reflected in the waters of Lake Rahajärvi – offering two displays for the price of one.

You will travel via minibus into the surrounding wilderness close to Lake Rahajärvi. Your local guide will build an open fire at the lake, where you can enjoy some hot drinks and snacks. The sense of peace and tranquillity

when sitting below the starry night sky is an experience in itself, but the feeling of anticipation that the Aurora may appear at any moment adds an extra element of excitement to the camp.

**Valid:** 1 Sep – 31 Oct

**Duration:** approximately 3 hours

**Availability:** Monday - Sunday at 8 pm

Minimum 2 people

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## Other options

### ACTIVITIES



## Aurora Camp at Paatsjoki Bridge

Paatsjoki Bridge is a prime location for Aurora hunting. The surrounding wilderness ensures that there is minimal light pollution and the flowing waters of the river can create captivating reflections if the Aurora appears in the dark sky. It is a stunning scene, providing ample photo opportunities.

You will travel to Paatsjoki Bridge via bus with an experienced, local Aurora guide. The bridge is located close to the Russian border and is approximately an hour and fifteen minutes from the village. After arriving you will sit around an open fire with your guide, waiting in anticipation for a potential sighting. Being so close to the enormity of Russia adds that extra bit of magic to the activity. Hot drinks and snacks will be provided.

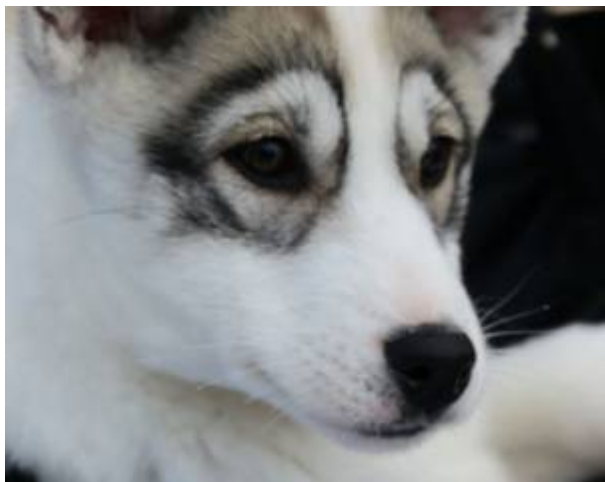
**Valid:** 1 Sep – 31 Oct

**Duration:** approximately 4 hours

**Availability:** Monday - Sunday at 8 pm

Minimum 2 people

Image credit: Markku Inkila



## Visit to a husky farm and wheeled sleigh ride

Huskies are synonymous with the Arctic and this activity is particularly popular here at the Aurora Zone. Very rarely will you witness such excitement amongst dogs as when you first enter the vicinity to prepare for a sleigh ride. Their eagerness is infectious and displayed with some pretty happy (and loud) howls and barks.

A guided tour of the farm will give you an insight into the lives of the mushers and their dogs.

Following the tour, you will experience a taste of the musher's lifestyle with a 30-minute husky pulled sleigh ride on a wheeled sled. A full safety briefing will be provided along with instructions before you set off on this thrilling trip.

**Duration:** approximately 1.5 hours

**Availability:** Monday - Sunday at 11 am

Minimum 2 people

**Credit:** Malcolm Turner



## Gold panning at Tankavaara

Find your fortune with a trip to Tankavaara, which is said to be the only international museum in the world displaying the past and present of gold panning and prospecting. Gain insight into this fascinating trade with a tour of the museum and the impressive exhibitions, before experiencing gold panning in an authentic Lappish setting.

You will be provided with the relevant equipment and given an introduction to gold panning by an experienced guide. You will then be taken to a nearby site in order to

try your hand at this unusual activity. If you are lucky enough to find any gold, you can keep it and take it home with you. Either way, you will return from this activity richer, in both knowledge and experience.

**Duration:** approximately 4 hours

**Availability:** Monday - Sunday 10 am

Minimum 2 people

**Image Credit:** Visit Finland and Juho Kuva



## Day trip to Nellim

The small village of Nellim, located close to the Russian border, is at the heart of Sámi land and has three distinctive cultures, Inari Sámi, Skolt Sámi and Finn. This tour will give you an insight into these cultures, particularly that of the Skolt Sámi, which is showcased at the impressive log-built church of Nellim.

You will also explore the stunning Paatsjoki River, which looks directly out towards Russia. The river is flanked by pine trees which are dotted with shades of autumn making for an impressive and picturesque setting,

particularly as they reflect off the water's edge.

Paatsjoki Bridge is a famous location, mainly for the impressive Aurora Displays and landscapes, but it is also a thrilling prospect to simply stand on the bridge and gaze into the mysterious enigma that is Russia.

Lunch at the Nellim Wilderness Hotel is included.

**Duration:** approximately 6 hours

**Availability:** Monday - Sunday 10:00

Minimum 2 people

**Image credit:** Markku Inkila



## Hiking trek to Urho Kekkonen National Park

Urho Kekkonen National Park showcases the autumn terrain in its entirety. There are open wilderness areas bathed in vibrant colours, crystal clear rivers, and forests littered with autumn shades. The trails are excellent for both experienced hikers and beginners and a hike is a fantastic way in which to explore and immerse yourself in the natural surroundings.

The hike includes a visit to Korvatunturi Fell, which translates to 'ear fell' due to its unusual shape. Folklore suggests that the fell is the true home of Santa Claus and his secret workshop, therefore, if you see elves roaming through the forest which surrounds the picturesque fell, then don't be alarmed.

During the hike, you will stop and enjoy a light lunch by an open fire, whilst listening to engaging, first-hand stories from your wilderness guide. Approximately 2 hours will be spent walking and the tracks are suitable for hikers of all levels.

**Duration:** approximately 3 hours

**Availability:** Monday - Sunday 11 am

Minimum 2 people

**Credit Visit Finland and Aleksi Koskinen**





## Inari and Sámi Siida Museum excursion

The Sámi Siida Museum comes highly recommended and offers an engaging insight into the Sámi culture, through impressive exhibitions and colourful displays. The Sámi people have adapted to, and thrived in the harsh Arctic landscapes and have an unrivalled understanding of the nature of Lapland. Perhaps this is why they have approximately 180 words for snow. A visit to the museum is a must for those wanting to delve deeper into this nomadic lifestyle. Lunch is included during this activity.

**Valid:** 1 Sep – 31 Oct

**Duration:** approximately 6 hours

**Availability:** Tuesday - Sunday 10 am (closed Monday)

Minimum 2 people

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*Please note: The Sámi Siida Museum will sadly be closed for renovation for the 2021/2022 season so the main exhibitions are not accessible. Guests will be able to visit the gift shop and the open-air museum – an outdoor trail showcasing exhibits on the cultural heritage, architectural heritage and livelihoods of Finland's three Sámi cultures. Guests are also welcome to visit Sajos, an architecturally beautiful building in the heart of Inari which is home to the Sámi Parliament and is the centre of Sámi culture and administration. Guided tours and an informative video are offered throughout the day and there is also a shop selling Sámi handicraft, books and music.*

**Image credit:** Riku Pihlanto and Visit Finland

## Included Accommodation

Saariselkä Northern Lights Village (autumn) (Nights: 1-4)



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 500m) of the town's amenities.

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
- 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. If you do not have an SLR camera and tripod then they can both be rented locally. Your guide will also take pictures throughout the activities which can be purchased on your return to the village

## Aurora Cabins

The Aurora Cabins have a half-glass roof and all face north. The design is based around the traditional wooden kotas (teepees) of Finland and has been specifically created for the village.

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. 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 the first snowfall of the oncoming winter.

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

Wi-Fi is only available at the onsite restaurant.

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Image credits: Markku Inkila

# The Specifics

## Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 2, maximum 24 (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](http://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>