



Menesjärvi - Aurora Short Break



HOLIDAY TYPE: Flexible Dates

VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 21007

DURATION: 3 nights

In Brief

Right in the heart of the Auroral zone, reindeer herding country and the snowy wilderness of northern Finland is sleepy, little Menesjarvi. Our flexible programme here allows you to enjoy the silent winter landscapes at your own pace. You can choose which activities you want to do during the day, and we will have you out and about searching for the Aurora at night. After all, this is one of Lady Aurora's favourite places to come dancing!

Our Opinion

“ There is something so tranquil about Hotel Korpikartano and its surroundings. It is almost impossible to come away from the hotel without feeling re-energised and refreshed. The staff here welcome everyone as friends and are so invested in ensuring everyone has a magical experience at the hotel which they are obviously so proud of. It truly is a hidden gem of a place which we are honoured to be able to introduce you to. ”

Amy Hope



What's included?

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

- **Flights:** return flights from London to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Flight routes are subject to change
- **Transfers:** return group airport transfers from Ivalo Airport
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights' accommodation in a standard double/twin hotel room
- **Meals:** 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- **Activities:** Aurora Workshop, snowshoe hunt for the Northern Lights, snowmobile Aurora hunt, free use of 'snow fun' equipment (snowshoes, kick sleds and sledges)
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Evening Sauna
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners
- **Please note:** If you are travelling on 23rd December, either snowshoeing or snowmobiling will become a day excursion to keep the evening of 24th December, when Christmas is traditionally celebrated in Finland, free for celebrations.

Trip Overview

The words "real" and "genuine" are too often overused to describe tourism destinations. In the case of Menesjarvi, we cannot stress them enough. This is where the Sami people tend their reindeer herds and Lappish traditions hold sway to this day.

The Hotel Korpikartano (try saying that after a couple of drinks!) is not easy to find. After leaving the main road north at Ivalo, the terrain becomes increasingly isolated until after 30 minutes, you turn onto an even more unlikely piece of snow-covered tarmac. It is easy at this stage to begin wondering what you've let yourself in for, but any unease will last a matter of seconds.

Situated on the shore of Lake Menesjärvi (Jarvi means lake in Finnish) and surrounded by mile upon mile of winter wilderness, this is the place to really get away from the daily stresses back home.

This is also prime Northern Lights territory and with very little light pollution in this sparsely populated

area, the chances of seeing a dazzling Auroral display are extremely good.

The lights are the main focus of your three-night stay, and it is no coincidence that people who are patient and prepared to stay up into the early hours are very often rewarded. For that reason, we have not included any daytime activities but there are several that you can do including: Visiting a reindeer herder, cross-country skiing, dog sledding and visiting the excellent Siida, Sami Museum. These activities can be booked and paid for while you are in Menesjärvi but to guarantee availability you might want to book in advance through The Aurora Zone. After all, there are only so many dogs and sleds to go round.

If you just fancy a long lie-in after a night scouring the skies then you can enjoy free use of snowshoes, kick sleds and sledges during your stay.

Concentrating on the Northern Lights will start with an Aurora workshop. You will receive information about the Northern Lights as well as instruction as to how to photograph them. We do recommend taking a DSLR camera and tripod for the best results.

You will then strap on snowshoes and your guide will lead you into the dark night while all the time looking for those tell-tale green lights as they emerge from the coal-black Arctic firmament.

The second Northern Lights hunt of your stay is on snowmobiles. You will receive full driving and safety instructions before heading into the wilderness in search of Mother Nature's celestial light show.

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EUROPEAN UNION

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Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

FLIGHTS, ARRIVAL, AND TRANSFERS

On arrival at Ivalo Airport, you will be met and transferred to the Hotel Korpikartano in Menesjärvi.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

FREE DAY AND AURORA WORKSHOP AND SNOWSHOE HUNT FOR THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

This 3-night break is all about the Northern Lights and hence, we have left the daytime free for you to do as you like. You can take advantage of the "snow fun" equipment which is free to use during your stay.

As this is very much reindeer herding country, we would certainly recommend a trip to visit a reindeer herder and join him as he checks on his herd. This can be booked in Menesjärvi (subject to availability) or in advance through us at The Aurora Zone if you wish to guarantee your spot(s).

This evening, we will host an Aurora Workshop (approximately one hour) which will include instruction on how to capture the lights with your camera and you will also learn about the science and myths behind the Aurora. You will then strap on snowshoes and head into the dead silence of the Lapland night. This activity will last for around two hours.

With a bit of luck and clear skies, you will be treated to the spectacle that has fascinated human beings for centuries.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
3

FREE DAY AND SNOWMOBILE HUNT FOR THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

If you stayed up into the early hours you may fancy a relaxing day before heading out again this evening. Alternatively, how about a dog sled safari or, if you fancy something less strenuous, a visit to the excellent Sami Siida Museum? Both can be booked in advance through us here at The Aurora Zone.

This evening, you will be searching for the Aurora on snowmobiles. You will receive full instruction and a safety briefing before setting off and your guide will head for some of the best local vantage points.

As before, with clear skies and a just a hint of geomagnetic activity in the atmosphere you could witness a sky blazing with shimmering and swirling colour.

You will travel two people per snowmobile with the chance to take turns (providing you both have full licences and are 18 years or over). In total, this activity will last around two hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
4

DEPARTURE

Menesjärvi and the Hotel Koprikartano may be remote and functional rather than five-star luxury but we have always found that it is a very, very hard place to leave.

Nevertheless, leave you must, and you will be returned to Ivalo Airport in good time for your return flights home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Taste of a Reindeer Herder's Day

Reindeer herding is historically, culturally and economically significant in this region and during this activity, you will gain an authentic insight into this important pastime.

After a transfer by a minibus, you will meet with a local reindeer herder who will transfer you to his home farm via a snowmobile-pulled sledge. Enjoy the winter scenes as you travel further into the wilderness to the animal's home.

Here, you will help the herder feed the animals and observe them in peaceful surroundings. Enjoy hot drinks around an open fire while you watch the reindeer and herder interact together.

Duration: approximately 3 to 3.5 hours

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Guided Cross-Country Skiing

Given the Korpikartano's heritage as a boarding school where many of the Sami children travelled huge distances by cross country skis to attend, it seems fitting to give this ancient pastime (and transportation method) a try whilst at staying in the area. A guide will give you full tuition prior to taking a short loop around the hotel to enjoy the peace and quiet. If you do wish to explore again in your free time then you can hire the skis from the hotel directly.

Duration: Approximately 1 to 1.5 hours



Husky Safari

The highlight of so many people's stay in Lapland is the husky safari. There is truly nothing comparable to preparing the dogs excitement and anticipation before they are on the safari leading almost instantly to the peace and quiet as they head off onto the winter trail. You will have the opportunity to meet the dogs and take pictures at the end of your husky adventure. We're positive this will be a Lapland memory you will treasure forever.

Duration: approximately 2.5 hours

Image credit: Marcellus Kimont



Siida and Inari Village Visit

The Sámi Siida Museum, which opened in 1998 and was renovated in 2022, is located in the village of Inari around 30 minutes from Menesjärvi. Inari village is of great cultural importance to the local Sámi communities and the museum here provides a fascinating introduction to the Sámi culture and the Northern Nature found in this area. There is a range of permanent and temporary exhibitions. The museum is also home to a wonderful gift shop showcasing some lovely souvenirs produced by local Sámi people. There will also be some free time to explore the village of Inari which has a small supermarket

and other souvenir shops to pick up some gifts to remember your time in Lapland.

Included Accommodation

Hotel Korpikartano (Nights: 1-3)



Hotel Korpikartano is a very special place in a breath-taking location in Finnish Lapland. Its situation could not be more idyllic, with a fantastic outlook over Lake Menesjärvi and the remote wilderness beyond. The lack of artificial light in the area ensures that if the Aurora appears, then you can enjoy amazing displays from very close to the hotel.

Hotel Korpikartano was originally a boarding school for those growing up in this remote part of the world and is, therefore, full of quirks, character and charm. The welcome provided by the dedicated team at the hotel, creates a wonderful atmosphere and their passion for the region is infectious.

The staff and guides have a huge passion for this landscape and for providing guests with a truly memorable stay.

The hotel comprises of two main buildings. The first houses the dining room and a number of bedrooms. A separate annexe building (a very short walk away) houses the majority of the guest accommodation.

It is a place with great soul and which offers guests the chance to completely switch off from the everyday and relax in a wild and beautiful environment. You are likely to leave feeling very privileged to have experienced this wonderful place.

Hotel facilities

- Traditional home cooking is the order of the day in the hotel's dining room. The food can be described as 'simple, tasty and hearty' and is very much designed to fuel you up for your outdoor adventures. In many cases, the evening's set menu will contain local ingredients such as fresh fish that one the staff has caught, berries which have been foraged, or meat purchased from the local reindeer herders. The set meals are all self-service. Breakfast is a buffet of breads, meat, cheese and fish with the addition of porridge and fruit. Lunch and evening meals start with a salad and bread, a set main and then a pudding which is often a local speciality. Please let us know at the time of booking if you have any dietary requirements

so these can be accommodated.

- You can also purchase a range of wine, beer and spirits to accompany your meal.
- Obviously, saunas are a pre-requisite in these parts and there are two, one in each building. They can each be booked privately by guests each day in hour long slots.
- There is an outdoor wood-burning sauna and rustic hot tub. Should you request the use of the outdoor sauna (a local charge will apply), don't forget that a dip in the lake (in autumn) or a roll in the snow (in winter) is almost obligatory (as long as you are in a good physical condition).
- The simple lounge (near the reception) provides tea and coffee making facilities. Consider this to be the perfect spot to relax by the stove with a book but remember to keep your eyes peeled for the Northern Lights as the windows face north!
- There is free Wi-Fi for guests to use throughout both buildings and there is a PC available at reception.
- Books and games are also available to borrow from reception.
- If you are travelling in the winter then the hotel offers free use of snowshoes, cross-country skis, kick sleds and toboggans so there is also something for those who love the great outdoors and want to explore independently between activities. There are marked trails across the stunning frozen lake and maps are available at reception.
- If you want to send a memento home, then there are postcards available to purchase and some local Aurora photography is for sale.
- There is a lakeside Kota (wooden tepee) which is open for all guests during the evening. Here you can light a fire and warm up in between forays out onto the lake in search of the Northern Lights.

Room types

The 28 guest bedrooms vary in size and shape as you may expect from a former school. They are cosy, comfortable and decorated with locally-sourced wood. Some of the furnishings have been crafted by the owner's own hand.

All guest bedrooms have an en-suite bathroom with shower and a hairdryer. Cups and kettles are provided in each bedroom and a variety of teas and coffee is available in each building for you to take to your room.

Image credit: Timo Halonen, Matt Robinson (please note: The images depicted show the hotel during both the winter and autumn months)

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>