



Brändön Lodge - Aurora Highlights at New Year



HOLIDAY TYPE: Tailor Made

VISITING: Sweden

BROCHURE CODE: 26011

DURATION: 3 or more nights

In Brief

Spend New Year in the frozen wonderland of Luleå during this 3-night stay at the incredible Brändön Lodge. Welcome in the next 12 months in style with this tailor-made trip, where you get to choose the Arctic and Aurora activities to make your dream winter itinerary.

Our Opinion

“ This holiday allows you to tailor your time and pick your own activities, giving you the chance to experience what life in Lapland is really like. Luleå sits in an enviable position with stunning views out to the frozen pack ice, all from the comfort of your own cosy winter cottage; a real gem! ”

Amy Hope



What's included?

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

- **Transfers:** return airport transfers from Luleå Airport
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights minimum accommodation in a winter cottage at Brändön Lodge
- **Meals:** 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners (2 courses)
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified wilderness guides and instructors during activities
- Free use of snowshoes and skis
- **A note on flights:** while flights are not included in the holiday price, our team will happily provide a quote and arrange them for you. Simply ask one of our Travel Experts for details of the available options
- **Please note:** if you are staying on 31st December, a festive dinner supplement is payable

Trip Overview

During this three-night Aurora Borealis trip to Luleå and its frozen archipelago, you'll get a taste of life in Swedish Lapland and welcome in the New Year in style.

Due to its location, Brandon Lodge is the ideal place to seek out the Northern Lights. You could simply step outside of your accommodation if conditions are favourable, or we offer a range of dedicated Aurora hunts available in our 'personalise' tab to help maximise your chances of seeing this brilliant display.

During the day, you can explore the Arctic landscape in a variety of ways. From dog sledding to snowmobiling, see our 'personalise' tab for all the must-do winter experiences. The beauty of this tailor-made trip means you can design your itinerary to be as relaxed or as active as you like.

The main lodge is a cosy space to unwind in after a day exploring the snowy surroundings and you can enjoy local hearty food in the central restaurant. Your winter cottage accommodation is a relaxing retreat in the middle of the Lappish wilderness - a truly unforgettable location to ring in the New Year.

©Tomas Jönsson, Graeme Richardson

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND INTRODUCTION

Arriving at Luleå Airport late this evening, you will be transferred to your winter cottage accommodation at Brändön Lodge, which is only thirty-five to forty-five minutes away.

After meeting your hosts, you will enjoy dinner in the main lodge before retiring to your accommodation. Each cabin looks out to the frozen Bothnian Bay, so be sure to have a look out tonight to see if the Northern Lights are overhead.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAYS
2 TO 3

TAILOR YOUR TIME IN SWEDISH LAPLAND

Your time at Brändön Lodge has been left completely free for you to create your dream itinerary. See our 'personalise' tab for all activities including must-do winter experiences and dedicated Aurora hunts.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

DEPARTURE

Today you will bid farewell to this incredible location as you are transferred to the airport for your flights home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Hovercraft excursion

This region is the only place we feature where guests can explore the wilds in a hovercraft. These machines perfectly suit the ever-changing seasons here and are exceptionally good fun.

You will each be given an intercom headset in order for the pilot to be able to communicate with you and impart his local knowledge.

During this two and a half hour tour, you will set off across the ice and islands and head out to the island of Brändöskär which is typically close to the edge of the frozen sea. You will disembark and take a walk on the ice where depending on the weather conditions, you may witness some of the vast natural sculptures which form as the pack ice gradually shifts and cracks.

A light lunch is included and you will be served warm drinks before returning to the lodge.

Image credit: Graeme Richardson

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Nordic Winter Skills

Having learned how to fasten snowshoes, you will be taken by a guide on a three-hour trek over the nearby trails. They will share their knowledge about the local flora and fauna and also show you different animal tracks in the snow. Making a stop, you will be taught how to set up a small fire and prepare a hot drink in the wilderness. You will have a break at a 'kota' (teepee) and enjoy a delicious lunch which will be cooked by your guide on an open fire.

Duration: 3 hours



Northern Lights Sled Tour

Enjoy a speedy search for the Northern Lights where you can relax at the same time. As you sit back on cosy reindeer pelts in a sled, your guide will pull you along with their snowmobile. Heading over the ice, you will journey between islands in your search for the Aurora. You'll make a stop for warm drinks and snacks around an open fire, as you search the skies for the Aurora

Duration: 2 hours (includes hot drinks)

@Graeme Richardson



Northern Lights Snowshoe Walk with Wilderness Dinner

Snowshoes allow you to easily get over areas of deep snow. This is particularly useful when trekking to find the Northern Lights because you will be able to get to less accessible Aurora-spotting locations.

After walking through the snow-covered forest, your guide will prepare a fire and begin cooking your evening meal, as you discuss the science behind the Aurora and learn about the local area. Hot drinks will keep you nice and warm as you look to the skies in search of the Northern

Lights.

Duration: 3 hours including outdoor dinner

@G Richardson



Husky Sledding - Self Drive

Riding a husky sled is definitely one of the most popular activities in Swedish Lapland. Having been transferred to a local husky farm, you will meet the enthusiastic dogs that will pull you along before learning how to control a sled. You will then head off following your guide, travelling two people per sled.

Duration: 1.5 hours

Valid: 17 Dec – 04 Apr 2023

© G Richardson



Ice fishing

Ice fishing is an incredibly popular activity in the Nordic Countries. You will be led to a fishing spot in a snowmobile-pulled sled.

Your guide will demonstrate how to drill through the ice and set up a fishing line.

It will then be a test of patience and luck to see if you make a catch – perch are commonly caught in the waters here. As you wait, you can sit back with a hot drink and sweet snack.

Duration: 2 hours

Available: 17 Dec 2021 – 04 Apr 2023 (start and end dates depend on ice conditions)

Image credit: Lapland Safaris



Snowmobile Forest Tour

Snowmobiling through the snowy forests of Swedish Lapland is an enchanting and fast-paced experience. Having been shown how to drive the vehicles, you will follow your guide along a trail, travelling two people per snowmobile on this two-hour safari. It is also possible to upgrade to drive your own snowmobile.

Anyone wishing to drive must be at least 18 years old and in possession of a full driving licence.

This two-hour safari includes a stop for hot drinks and the

chance to swap drivers.

Duration: 2 hours

Drive your own snowmobile upgrade: add £85

Image credits: Graeme Richardson



Icebreaker

The frozen sea is a sight to behold. A vast, thick sheet of shimmering white, stretching out far into the distance, it is hard to believe that the ocean lies below. The ship then cuts through the ice with apparent ease and suddenly the water is revealed. Shards of Ice surround the boat and you would be forgiven for wondering whether you are on an expedition to Antarctica. The title of the ship 'Arctic explorer' conjures up images of historic voyages and when you get out onto the open ocean it is difficult not to feel a sense of adventure.

You will take a 35-minute transfer to Luleå from your accommodation at Brändön Lodge or Pinebay Lodge, before picking up a second transfer from Luleå to Piteå, which takes approximately 50 minutes. Following an introduction and safety briefing by the ship's captain, the journey will begin in Pitsundskanalen, which is where the mouth of the river Piteälven meets the open sea. A mere 100 yards ahead of this point, the ocean opens out and there is a seemingly endless display of ice, which is easily broken by the 'Arctic Explorer'. The ship leaves a trail of ocean behind and this makes it possible to bathe in the freezing water.

You will be given survival suits which will provide protection from the cold and also prevents you from getting wet. Following this, you will have the opportunity to float on the water. It is an invigorating experience, and when you are lowered into the ocean you may have feelings of trepidation, but this is

soon replaced by delight. You can also experience walking upon the thick ice of the frozen sea, which is a surreal experience, particularly if you imagine the contrast of a summer's day, where the water is flowing freely.

A hot drink and survival suits are included.

Duration: 2 hours cruise (5 hours total, including transfers and preparation time)

Image credit: Graeme Richardson

LITTLE EXTRAS



Hot tub and sauna

During your stay at Brändön Lodge, you will have the option to relax in the hot tub and sauna. Both of these are just a short walk from the lodge and they sit on the edge of the frozen sea. The hot tub and sauna are rented for private use together, so you can use each of them as you like. If you would like to include this, please contact one of our Travel Experts who will be able to provide you with a full quote for your needs.

Image credit Brändön Lodge

Included Accommodation

Brändön Lodge (Nights: 1-3)



Brändön Lodge is located on the edge of the sea that freezes around the Luleå Archipelago each year. It is a remarkable sight to see such a vast frozen mass of water each morning as you step out of your cosy cottage for a day of activities.

Hotel facilities

- Your meals are all served in the restaurant in the main building. You will enjoy a variety of local dishes and more international cuisine in the evening menus (which are typically two courses and served as a hearty buffet). Breakfasts are typically Scandinavian in style and provide you with the fuel that you need for a day of adventure
- The restaurant is situated on the upper floor of the main hotel building and offers panoramic views over the frozen bay while you tuck into your delicious meal
- The lodge also has a fully stocked bar and pretty impressive wine cellar for any enthusiasts staying
- A short walk from the restaurant building, there is also a sauna and hot tub for guests to enjoy. Indulging in a sauna, after an exhilarating day in the great outdoors is just the perfect way to unwind and the hot tub is the cherry on the cake! This is bookable locally and charges apply

Guest room types

Winter cottages: Brändön Lodge consists of individual winter cottages. Each homely cottage is detached, allowing guests the space to unwind and relax in comfort and having all the added benefits of the main building within walking distance.

All the winter cottages have an open plan living and dining area with kitchenette. We recommend taking tea and coffee provisions with you. They have two bedrooms (both furnished with twin beds – in some cases these can be moved together), an en-suite shower room, hairdryer and toilet. Recent room refurbishment leaves the cottages with a modern yet authentic Scandinavian feel. One of the nicest features of the cottages are the terraces, where in the morning you can step out and inhale the cool, crisp air and marvel at the view of the frozen sea and snow-covered forests that stretch before you.

Image credit: Graeme Richardson, Andream Walitalo

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 2 people; 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.

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>