



Brändön Lodge - Autumn Auroras in Swedish Lapland



HOLIDAY TYPE: Flexible Dates

VISITING: Sweden

BROCHURE CODE: 26036

DURATION: 3 nights

In Brief

Brändön Lodge sits on the spectacular shores of the Bay of Bothnia. It is the perfect place to hunt for the Northern Lights in autumn, with minimal light pollution and plenty of activities to maximise your chances. During your time here, you'll enjoy a gentle Aurora hike, take a tour of the UNESCO-listed Gammelstad Church Village and hone your Nordic wilderness skills.



What's included?

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

- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights in a cabin
- **Meals:** 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners (2 courses)
- **The following activities are included:** Nordic wilderness skills with wilderness lunch, Gammelstad Church Village guided tour, Northern Lights walk with wilderness dinner (order subject to change)
- Services of our expert local guides
- **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

Trip Overview

Travelling to Swedish Lapland in autumn gives you the chance to see the spectacular changing colours of the season, as well as the potential to see the Northern Lights dancing in the sky above.

At this time of year, the leaves turn to shades of deep orange, yellow and red, and the first frosts start to appear as summer light fades into an autumnal glow. The shorter days mean darker skies, which provide an ideal backdrop when hunting for the Aurora. From mid-October into November, you may witness the first snow of winter and in this case, you will swap your hiking boots for snowshoes.

From your cosy cabin accommodation on the shores of the Bay of Bothnia, you are only a short walk away from the main lodge where tasty, local food is served and a welcoming atmosphere can be found as you relax in the bar and lounge.

During this three-night trip, you will explore the area and learn about the local nature, history and culture. We've made sure to include some exciting activities, both by day and night so that you can make the most of your time in Swedish Lapland.

You'll take part in a nature walk through the surrounding forest, where your guide will share their knowledge about the area and the various wilderness skills they use during the seasons, as they show you how to make your own campfire and wilderness lunch.

A guided tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Gammelstad Church Village, is also included and here you will have the opportunity to walk through this 15th Century historical site, learning about its past and significance in Scandinavian culture.

Brandon Lodge is where some of our best Northern Lights displays have been seen, which is why we've made sure to include an evening searching for the Aurora. You'll head out for a walk in search of the lights, as your expert guide leads the way. The dark skies and the reflections from the glistening sea provide the perfect opportunity to hunt for the Aurora.

You can also add on extra activities, such as searching for seals and birds by boat, or kayak, and there's even the chance to hunt the Northern Lights at sea. With plenty of free time, you can tailor your trip as you like.

Image credits: Brändön Lodge, Graeme Richardson, Quinten Elpers

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

After landing at Luleå Airport, you will be transferred to your home for the next three nights, Brändön Lodge, approximately 40 minutes away.

You can settle into your cosy cabin accommodation, before enjoying a tasty 2-course dinner in the restaurant tonight.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

NORDIC WILDERNESS SKILLS WITH LUNCH AND FREE AFTERNOON

Following breakfast, you will meet with your local guide who will take you on a nature hike into the surrounding area.

You will learn about the local flora and fauna, as you journey through the colourful forests, beneath the canopies of orange, yellow and red leaves (unless winter has come early this year). Your guide will show you how to make a campfire, as well as the art of brewing a good cup of coffee or tea over the embers. A wilderness lunch will also be served, as you relax in the peaceful surroundings. You will be

out for approximately 3 hours today. For those travelling from mid-October into November, you may arrive just in time to witness the first snow of winter. In this case, you will swap your hiking boots for snowshoes.

This afternoon has been left free for you to enjoy as you please. If you would like to add on any extra activities, please see the '[Personalise](#)' tab for full details. Perhaps you want to try out guided kayaking, or fat biking, or maybe even a relaxing hour or two in the sauna and hot tub. Alternatively, you could head out on to the water by boat, searching for seals and birdlife, and possibly even a moose!

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

GAMMELSTAD CHURCH VILLAGE TOUR AND NORTHERN LIGHTS WALK WITH DINNER

After breakfast at the lodge, you will transfer to the outskirts of nearby Luleå, which is where the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Gammelstad Church Village, is located.

Your guided tour will highlight the cultural and historical importance of this 15th Century World Heritage Site, as you walk through the narrow streets, past the incredible wooden houses. You will also have time to visit the art and craft shops nearby. This tour will last for approximately 3 hours, including transfers.

Returning to the lodge, you will have lunch in the restaurant. Following this, the afternoon has been left free for you to relax ahead of tonight's adventure, or you may choose to add on an additional activity, please see the '[Personalise](#)' tab for full details.

As the day turns to dusk and the skies begin to darken, you will set off on a Northern Lights walk with your expert guide leading the way. You will head into the forest, or along the coastal beaches, depending on the weather and Aurora forecasts. The lack of light pollution provides the perfect opportunity to see the Aurora, so hopefully, they will make an appearance for you tonight.

You will stop for a break by the fire where hot drinks will be served, along with a wilderness dinner prepared by your guide. As you embrace the peace and quiet of your natural surroundings, remember to keep your eyes peeled in case the Northern Lights appear. You will be out for approximately 3 hours tonight.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

DEPARTURE

After breakfast at the lodge, sadly it is time for you to leave the Swedish wilderness behind. You will be transferred to Luleå Airport for your flight home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Northern Lights island boat tour

Searching for the Northern Lights by boat is a fantastic experience that is only available in a handful of locations. The sea can act as the perfect mirror to reflect the Aurora, creating a wonderful sight, should conditions be right. Travelling by boat also means that you have a better chance of outrunning any potential cloud cover.

You will sail into the archipelago, stopping at an island, where you will enjoy hot drinks around a campfire, as you search the skies for the Northern Lights. You may also choose to upgrade this activity to include a wilderness

dinner, for a supplement.

Duration: 2 hours (without dinner), 3 hours (with dinner)

Image credit: Graeme Richardson

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Island boat tour with lunch

There are around 1300 islands within the Luleå Archipelago, home to all sorts of flora and fauna. This boat tour will take you to one of the many islands in the Baltic Sea, where you will stop for a wilderness lunch and have the opportunity to explore the island, or just to relax and enjoy your surroundings.

Duration: 2 hours

Image credit: Graeme Richardson



Seal Safari by boat

This 2-hour boat safari will take you out into the Luleå Archipelago, amongst the many islands and small, rocky reefs in search of the seals that call these waters home.

Ringed seals and grey seals are found throughout the Baltic Sea, feeding on the plentiful shoals of herring and salmon. The fish also attract other wildlife, such as sea eagles, guillemots, capercaillies and ptarmigans.

Occasionally these boat trips even spot moose, bear and reindeer searching for food along the coast and between the islands.

Duration: 2 hours

Image credit: Graeme Richardson



Husky kennel visit with husky hike and lunch

This activity lets you meet the excitable huskies and their puppies before setting off on a hike through the forest with the dogs leading the way.

You will transfer to the husky kennels, approximately an hour away, and have the chance to meet the dogs before you head out on a walk lasting 1-2 hours. The dogs love to explore the trails and stretch their legs, and your knowledgeable guide will tell you all there is to know about the dogs and their life in Swedish Lapland.

A barbecue lunch will be served upon your return to the kennels.

If you would prefer not to do the hike, a shorter version of this activity is available, without lunch.

Duration: 2 hours (hike and lunch), 1.5 hours (kennel visit and snacks)

Please note that the price does not include the cost of the transfer to the husky kennels – please speak to one of our Travel Experts for a full quotation.



Guided sea kayaking

With the Bothnian Bay on your doorstep, sea kayaking is the perfect way to explore the coastline and the many islands of the archipelago. Your guide will give you a full safety briefing and tuition on how to paddle prior to setting off on a tour of the shallow, protected bays. If you're lucky, you might even spot some of the local wildlife, including seals, sea eagles and moose.

Duration: 4 hours

Image credit: Graeme Richardson



Guided fat biking

Fat bikes offer a great way to explore the surrounding forest and coastline, with their extra-wide tyres allowing you to travel over rough terrain with relative ease.

Your guide will lead you along the trails on a tour starting from Brändön and leading to the village, as you cycle through the woodland and along the hidden beaches.

Duration: 3 hours

Image credit: Graeme Richardson



Northern Lights Aurora Photography

If you would like to learn the best settings, tricks and tips to capture images of the Northern Lights, then this activity is for you. Your expert guide will talk you through your camera settings and explain what you need to do to maximise your chances of getting that perfect shot. Hopefully, the Aurora will make an appearance and you can put your new-found skills into practise. Please note that you will need to bring your own DSLR camera along.

Duration: 3 hours

Image credit: Quinten Elpers



Husky kennel visit with dog sledding by buggy and lunch

Even though there is no snow on the ground, travelling in autumn doesn't mean that you have to miss out on one of the most exciting activities in Lapland. The huskies train for sledding year-round and when there's no snow, they pull a four-wheeled training buggy along the forest tracks.

After transferring to the husky kennels, which are approximately an hour away, you will meet the huskies and their puppies before your guide takes you out on a

buggy tour. A team of 8-10 dogs will pull the training buggy along on this 4km run. You can sit back and enjoy the experience as your guide navigates the trails.

Duration: 2 hours

Please note that the price does not include the cost of the transfer to the husky kennels – please speak to one of our Travel Experts for a full quotation.

LITTLE EXTRAS



Sauna and hot tub

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 Baltic 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.

Sauna: £27 per person per hour

Hot tub: £62 per person per hour

Image credit: Brändön Lodge



Fat bike hire

If you'd like to explore the local trails independently, then you can hire a fat bike for the day. Using the extra-wide tyres, you can navigate through the forest and along the coastline with relative ease. Please make sure to speak to the team at the lodge to discuss routes and conditions before you set off.

Please ensure that you take the lodge number and your mobile phone with you and leave details of your route before departure.

Duration: 6 hours

Image credit: Graeme Richardson



Kayak or canoe hire

For those who are proficient in sea kayaking and canoeing, you can hire your own and explore the local waters in your free time. This activity is not guided, so you should make sure to discuss the conditions and routes with the lodge before setting off.

Please ensure that you take the lodge number and your mobile phone with you and leave details of your route before departure.

Duration: 4 hours

Price: £35 per kayak

Image credit: Graeme Richardson

Included Accommodation

Brändön Lodge Autumn (Nights: 1-3)



Brändön Lodge is located on the edge of the Bay of Bothnia, with views stretching out to the Luleå Archipelago. This stunning location is an incredible place to relax and enjoy all that autumn has to offer in this part of Swedish Lapland.

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 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

Cabins: Brändön Lodge consists of individual cabins. Each homely cabin 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 cabins 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 cabins are the terraces, where in the morning you can step out and inhale the crisp air and marvel at the view of the sea and colourful forests that stretch before you.

Image credit: Graeme Richardson, Andream Walitalo

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 2; maximum 25

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>