



Jeris - Essence of Lapland



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 2221
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

This holiday will introduce you to Lapland old and new. You'll explore the culture of the Sámi people including a Shamanic ceremony and an evening in the company of a local Sámi who will sing traditional Joikus and relate tales from Sámi folklore.

Our Opinion

“ I can distinctly remember my first ever visit to Jeris. It must have been about 15 years ago and I recall having a good look around, staring in awe at the magnificent view from the lakeside spa area and immediately ringing the office to say “sell Jeris, this place is perfect”. Naturally, it's changed a bit since then but always for the better and the improvements are always made with heritage and tradition at the forefront. There aren't many better places to explore Lapland old and new. ”

Ali Mclean



What's included?

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

- **Flights:** return flights between London and Kittilä (via Helsinki). Direct return flights from London Gatwick are available for a supplement on certain dates. Flight routes are subject to change
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights in a standard twin/double room at Hotel Jeris. Winter Cottage upgrades are available for a supplement.
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches*, 7 dinners
- **The following activities and equipment are included:** a visit to Torassieppi Winter Village, a reindeer farm visit and short sleigh ride and Northern Lights workshop, husky safari and Sámi evening, snowmobile safari and net fishing, Aurora Snow Train, showshoeing, Sauna World and Shamanic Ceremony and Lappish dinner **(order subject to change)**
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified wilderness guides and instructors during activities
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners

* If you're travelling from the 27th February 2022 you will receive 6 lunches.

Trip Overview

The setting for this trip encapsulates the splendour of Lapland in all senses. Jeris is situated on the shore of Lake Jerisjarvi (jarvi means lake in Finnish). The views across the frozen, snow-covered water towards the fells on the far shore are simply sublime and a far, far cry from the bustling towns and cities back home. Here in Lapland, you are as likely to encounter a reindeer as you are another human being.

It is the perfect base from which to truly experience the Essence of Lapland.

This holiday aims to introduce you to Lapland old and new, whilst providing you with an excellent

opportunity to witness the Northern Lights. The focus during your stay will very much be on discovering the fascinating culture of the Sámi people, the only indigenous culture in Europe. The highlights of your cultural journey will include a Shamanic ceremony and an evening in the company of a local Sámi, who will sing traditional Joikus (songs) and relate tales from Sámi folklore. You'll also be treated to some Lappish delicacies on your final night.

During the day, you will also visit Torassieppi Reindeer Farm for an insight into the traditions of reindeer herding and you'll try your hand at net ice fishing which is still practised today.

When it comes to Northern Lights hunting, Jeris resides in prime Aurora territory and the lights often grace the skies above the hotel. During the holiday we have included an Aurora workshop to provide you with an overview of the science behind Nature's light show and the myths and legends which have surrounded the phenomenon for centuries. You will also take a ride on the Aurora snow train which will take you out hunting the lights one evening. Additional Aurora activities can be added in during your stay (see '[Personalise](#)' section for details), or guests may prefer more leisurely evenings keeping watch on the sky from the lake at Jeris independently.

As this holiday is also about Lapland in the modern-day, you will try out some of the most popular present-day activities. Daytime adventures include a thrilling snowmobile safari and an unforgettable dog sledding adventure which is sure to be a true holiday highlight. You will also head out on snowshoes to explore on foot and will be treated to a visit to the onsite Arctic Sauna World to help you unwind in a typically Finnish way.

Photography by Antti Pietikainen

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND DINNER

You will be met at Kittilä Airport from where the transfer to Jeris's stunning lakeside setting takes around an hour.

After settling into your accommodation, dinner will be served in the restaurant and you will also be kitted out with your winter clothing (this might be in the morning if you have a late arrival).

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

TORASSIEPPI WINTER VILLAGE, REINDEER FARM AND NORTHERN LIGHTS WORKSHOP

After breakfast, it's a short ten-minute bus transfer to Torassieppi Reindeer Farm. Not too many of

Finnish Lapland's older buildings survived World War II, so this 100-year-old Lappish farmhouse is a rare insight into the realities of life here in the north in the last century. Torassieppi was a reindeer herder's farm and the Reindeer Museum here bears testament to the hardiness of the people who have herded here for centuries.

You'll try your hand at lassoing (you may be relieved to hear it is not a live reindeer but antlers perched on a large log). You will then engage with the real thing in a reindeer-pulled sled as you enjoy a 3km circuit in the quiet, snowy forest.

A short stroll from the reindeer farm brings you to a much more modern Lappish phenomena, the Winter Village which is constructed from just snow and ice. You'll have your lunch in the ice restaurant (conditions permitting) as well as having time to admire the ice bar and the remarkable snow and ice sculptures.

Later this afternoon back at Jeris, your guide will host a Northern Lights Workshop to discuss the science and mythology that surround this remarkable celestial light show.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

DOG SLEDDING AND SÁMI EVENING

It is just a short transfer to the dog sledding centre, but the decibel level is about to be turned up to eleven. These dogs just love winter because this is when they get to do their favourite thing in the whole world.....run!

You will meet the dogs, receive a full safety briefing and then take to your sleds. With one person driving and one in the sled you'll head out into the wintry expanse on a 15km safari. It is almost cathartic watching the winter-white landscapes slip by accompanied by a soundtrack of swishing sled runners and the pitter-patter of canine feet.

Dinner this evening will be served around an open fire in the lakeside restaurant after which you will be joined by a local Sámi. He or she will sing traditional Sámi joikus. These sometimes haunting mixes of chant and song, tell of Sámi life and the natural world with which their lives have been so tightly inter-entwined over the centuries.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

SNOWMOBILE SAFARI AND NET FISHING

Two wildly contrasting activities are combined into one today.

After a full safety and tuition briefing, you'll head out on the well-maintained snowmobile trails for a 35km safari. One person will drive and another ride as pillion with opportunities to swap places along the way. Please note that you must be over 18 and hold a full driving licence to drive a snowmobile.

Snowmobiles are ubiquitous up here in Lapland and are used for daily trips such as shopping as well as leisure activities. They are also a fantastic way to get a sense of just how vast these snowy landscapes are. With rolling fells, frozen lakes and snowy forests you could easily imagine yourself to be in Narnia rather than Finland.

Stopping on one of those frozen lakes (the ice is incredibly thick), your guide will demonstrate how the Sámi people have traditionally fished here using nets and will also get a fire going and cook up lunch out in the open. Food always tastes better in the fresh air and as the air here is the cleanest in Europe you can look forward to a very tasty meal.

This evening, you may wish to include an additional Aurora activity in your holiday. The details can be found in the '[Personalise](#)' section of the holiday page. Alternatively, you may wish to take a walk to enjoy the peace of the nearby Lake and keep an eye on the sky from closer to home; you are in prime Aurora viewing territory here.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

FREE DAY AND AURORA SNOW TRAIN

Today is free to relax or try additional activities (payable locally). It won't have escaped your notice that there are a lot of dedicated cross-country skiing trails hereabouts and this is an absolute favourite pastime amongst the locals. There are few better ways to experience the intense silence of Lapland's snow-laden forests. Skis and snowshoes can be rented at Jeris should you wish to explore independently. Alternatively, if you want to take a more relaxed approach to your day, there are several spa and sauna facilities available.

This evening you will go in search of the Northern Lights with an expert local guide.

You'll board one of the Aurora Snow train's (a tracked, all-terrain vehicle) heated carriages and be taken out into the dark Arctic night. Your guide will take you to a remote Aurora viewpoint and will get a fire on the go. You will enjoy a snack and warm drink while you wait for Mother Nature to hopefully share her fabulous light show.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
6

SHOWSHOEING, SAUNA WORLD AND SHAMANIC CEREMONY

The Sámi people have used snowshoes for centuries and although today's modern versions are somewhat less cumbersome, they remain essentially, 'tennis rackets for your feet'. The genius of snowshoes is that they spread your weight and prevent you from sinking waist-deep into the powdery snow. This will be a definite advantage as you explore the stunning landscapes of the Pallas Fells.

Lunch will be served back at Jeris.

Later today, you will get to indulge in one of the Finns most favoured pastimes. It is said that the

sauna is the first room any Finnish architect considers when planning any building and here at Jeris's lakeside sauna complex, you will have the opportunity to try four different types of sauna. You can, of course, then take on the challenge of either a dip in the lake or a roll in the snow to really complete the experience - but it is entirely optional and only for those who are in excellent health.

You will then be visited by a Shaman (a local wise man) who he is here to perform a positive ceremony calling on the powers of the four elements. It is a spine-tingling throwback to how life would have been in these parts in times gone by.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
7

FREE DAY AND LAPPISH DINNER

By now you will be familiar with the local area and you may know which activities you might like to try again or you may have discovered additional activities you'd like to arrange locally. Cross-country ski trails are also abundant in this area and if you want to explore independently, then equipment can be rented from the hotel.

This evening's farewell dinner brings proceedings to a close and will include several Lappish dishes to round off a week that will have shown you the very best of Lapland, old and new. Don't forget to take a walk after your evening meal in order to keep watch on the night sky one last time. The Aurora may well appear to bid you farewell.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Unfortunately it is departure time and you will be transferred back to the airport in good time for your flights home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Northern Lights Snowshoeing

There can be no more peaceful way of searching for the Aurora than on snowshoes. You will be out and about for around two to three hours in total and warm drinks, guides, instruction and equipment are included.

Activity level: Medium

Available: Thursday and Saturday at 9pm

Duration: 2-3 hours

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Aurora Adventure by Snowmobiles

For an adventurous way to search for the Northern Lights, hop onto a snowmobile and drive through the Arctic night (2 people per snowmobile).

This form of transport takes you to the best location for spotting the Aurora and you will also enjoy warm drinks as you search the sky.

You must over 18 to drive a snowmobile and hold a valid driving licence.

Duration: 20km (approx. 2 hours)

Minimum group size: 2 adults

Suitable for: Aged 12 years and over (children can ride in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile).

Available: Monday and Saturday at 9 pm

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Hotel Jeris (Nights: 1-7)



Hotel Jeris occupies an enviable location which is 20 kilometres from the nearest village and is located directly on the shores of Lake Jerisjärvi. It is this remote position that makes the hotel an enchanting forest retreat.

The hotel is owned and run by the Pietikäinen family, who also manage the neighbouring sister hotels of Harriniva, Kittila and Torassieppi.

Their hotels are some of our most popular accommodation options in Finland, having received high praise for their knowledgeable guides and exciting activity options.

The hotel consists of a central building and 32 winter cottages in the adjacent forest.

Hotel facilities

- Your meals will be served in the hotel restaurant, which offers a rustic menu of traditional and local Finnish dishes. Meals are served buffet-style with one or two options for each course. Guests can enjoy local delicacies, such as salmon and reindeer. The hearty food here is ideal for setting you up for your adventures in the snow.
- There is a small lounge area where guests can relax in the evening and take advantage of the hotel's free Wi-Fi.
- Tea and coffee are available free of charge throughout the day in the hotel restaurant/bar area.
- A significant feature of Hotel Jeris is the wonderful Arctic Elements Lakeside Spa. Renovated for winter 2019/20, the spa is the first of its kind in Finland, with strong eco-credentials, thanks to its use of entirely renewable electricity and geothermal heating generated from the Jerisjärvi lake. There are four saunas here each inspired by an element; earth, fire, water and air and each named after Finnish gods and goddesses. Included are a traditional smoke sauna and plenty of areas for relaxation. Spa area entry is included in the majority of our trips (see what's included for details), but if not you can book entry via the reception for a daily fee. For the Aurora enthusiasts, there is also an upgrade option to the special Northern Lights sauna which offers panoramic views of the night sky. If conditions are favourable, this could be one of the most relaxing ways to see this fantastic light display. For the brave (and healthy) you can complete your sauna experience with a dip in the ice pool - a Finnish tradition.
- A small selection of souvenirs is available for guests to purchase (including postcards and local

handicrafts and snacks) in the reception area.

Double/twin rooms

In the main hotel building at Jeris, there are 27 comfortable traditional bedrooms. All guest bedrooms have an en-suite shower room, a drying cupboard and television. A limited amount of hairdryers are available from reception.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Jeris Winter Cottage Type A



The Type A Winter Cottages (36 square metres) are generally located around a 10-minute walk from the main hotel building. The cottages are ideal for couples looking for a private retreat.

The cottages can vary slightly in size but all can sleep two to four people. They consist of one spacious room with a sleeping alcove for two people and a pull out sofa bed for two more. All the cottages are privately owned; consequently, the decor and style can vary. Each cottage contains a cosy wood-burning stove, a kitchenette, a television, a shower room and a private sauna.

Cabin guests will receive a small 'starter pack' of firewood. Further wood supplies can be purchased locally for approximately 10 euros.

Please note: a limited number of hairdryers are available to borrow from reception.

Please contact our Travel Experts for a quote.

Jeris Winter Cottage Type B



The Type B Winter Cottages (63 square metres) are situated around a 15-minute walk from the main hotel building and we would recommend these for groups of four or more adults.

The cottage consists of a bedroom for two people and a loft area which can sleep up to four more. The cottages can vary slightly in size but every cottage is equipped with a kitchenette, a wood-burning stove, a shower room, a toilet and a private sauna. All the cottages are privately owned; consequently, the style and decor can vary. Each cottage offers a comfortable and welcoming retreat.

Cabin guests will receive a small 'starter pack' of firewood. Further wood supplies can be purchased locally for approximately 10 euros.

Please note: A limited amount of hairdryers are available from reception.

Please contact our Travel Experts for a quote.

Credit Emmi KäHköNen Harriniva Hotel And Safaris

Jeris Winter Cottage Type C



Perfect for groups of five to seven people, the Type C Winter Cottages (70 square metres) are the largest available. These cottages are situated around a 20-minute walk from the main hotel building.

Although the size of the cottage can vary slightly, each cottage has two bedrooms (each bedroom will sleep two people.) The loft of the cottage has a sleeping alcove, which will sleep a further three people. As they are privately owned the cottages vary in decor and style but each has the same facilities. These include a kitchenette, a wood-burning stove, a shower room, a toilet and a private sauna.

Cabin guests will receive a small 'starter pack' of firewood. Further wood supplies can be purchased locally for approximately 10 euros.

Please note: A limited amount of hairdryers are available from reception.

Please contact our Travel Experts for a quote.

Torassieppi Winter Village



Located on the edge of Pallas Ylläs National Park, Torassieppi Winter Village is a marvellous construction of ice and snow, which is built anew each season. The winter village is surrounded by a picturesque backdrop of forested fells and frozen lakes.

It is located next to Torassieppi Reindeer Farm, where you will enjoy breakfast following your night in a cold room.

The Winter Village is an exhilarating place to spend the night in a unique setting.

Hotel facilities

- The Winter Village consists of approximately 10 cold bedrooms where guests sleep
- There are also further ice and snow constructions for you to explore including a snow chapel and an ice restaurant (opening times vary)
- Whilst you will sleep in the cold room, breakfast will be enjoyed in the warm building of Torassieppi Reindeer Farm. Here you will be served a hearty buffet breakfast. Torassieppi aims to use as much locally sourced and organic food as possible
- Tea and coffee are available free of charge throughout the day in the hotel restaurant / bar area.
- You will also have access to the warming sauna and toilet facilities, which are approximately 200 metres' walk away
- There is free Wi-Fi available throughout the main reception and restaurant building

Snow rooms

Torassieppi has approximately 10 snow rooms which are constructed anew each year inside large snow igloos. Beds are made of snow and ice, which are covered with a mattress. You will be kitted out with an Arctic grade sleeping bag and so you should stay warm. The indoor temperature of around -5°C is fairly consistent no matter what the weather is doing outside.

Please note: prices are based on you spending the first or last night of your holiday in this unique accommodation and not keeping your original accommodation. If you would like to do this on any other night during your holiday you will need to keep your accommodation and supplements will apply.

Aurora Dome



These incredible structures are found at both Torassieppi and Jeris and they offer a rather different overnight experience for guests. Shaped like domes, these tents have pleasant, cosy décor, with one wall designed to be see-through, allowing you to gaze at the night sky in search of the Northern Lights.

Each dome has a double bed and wood-burning stove. Toilet, shower and sauna facilities are just a short walk away (around 50-100 metres).

Depending on availability, you will either stay at an Aurora Dome in Torassieppi or Jeris. For

December dates at Torassieppi, you will have dinner at your hotel, prior to transferring to your dome at approximately 8:30/9pm; from early January onwards, you will check-in at approximately 4 pm and have dinner at Torassieppi. If you are staying at an Aurora Dome in Jeris, check-in is approximately 4 pm throughout the season and you will have dinner at Jeris. Any required transfers and breakfast are included.

Image credit: Antti Pietikainen and Harriniva Hotel and Safaris

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 22 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>