



# Inari and Nangu - Winter Escape at Lake Inari



**HOLIDAY TYPE:** Small Group

**VISITING:** Finland

**BROCHURE CODE:** 22006

**DURATION:** 7 nights

## In Brief

Explore two of Finland's most sought-after destinations during this seven-night holiday to Inari and Nangu. Both locations sit close to the expansive Lake Inari which freezes over in the winter and plays host to your memorable Aurora hunts and unbelievable Arctic activities.

## Our Opinion

“ It's hard to describe how the shores of frozen Lake Inari can make you feel both at home yet a million miles from civilisation. The welcoming hotels at both Inari and Nangu help, as does the epic Arctic activities that will have you wanting to explore every nook and cranny of this vast wilderness. ”

Caitlin Varley



## What's included?

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

- **Flights:** return from London to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Flight routes are subject to change
- **Transfers:** return scheduled group shuttle airport transfers are included as well as a transfer from Inari to Nangu
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights in a standard hotel room at Wilderness Hotel Inari, 3 nights in a standard hotel room at Wilderness Hotel Nangu
- **Meals:** full board
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** Aurora camp, reindeer farm visit, Aurora snowshoe, husky safari, Aurora camp, snowshoeing day, snowmobile tryout (order subject change)
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners
- Aurora alert until approximately 1 am

## Trip Overview

The special locations surrounding the gigantic Lake Inari are renowned for their pristine environments and Northern Lights track records. Many of our Artisan Travel Experts got their first experience of Finland's impressive wilderness in these areas and have since returned with their loved ones for many more adventures.

Inari and Nangu both offer unspoiled winter scenes, superb lookouts over frozen Lake Inari and brilliant Arctic and Aurora experiences, but they each have their charm which you will discover during your seven-night break.

Your first four nights will be spent in Inari, just outside the small village which is the heart of Sámi culture. Whether you have been to Finland before or this is your first time, Inari is a brilliantly authentic insight into the indigenous people that have called this area home for thousands of years. During your stay, you will visit a reindeer farm to discover how these animals have been integral to the

Sámi people.

In Nangu, you'll get the full wilderness experience whilst staying in the wonderful adults-only (16+) boutique hotel for extra tranquillity. With a log interior and a beautiful restaurant, you'll find it hard to leave the cosy hotel but when there's snowmobiling and snowshoeing waiting outside, it's definitely worth it.

Due to your location, you could see the Northern Lights on any night of your stay but we have also included several dedicated hunts to maximise your chances. You'll visit the Aurora Camps set up in prime lookout spots around the lake as well as snowshoeing into the Arctic night. You will also receive a login to an Aurora alert system upon arrival which works until 1 am, alerting you if the Northern Lights start to appear.

Please note that the order of activities listed is for guidance only, your final itinerary will be provided on arrival at your accommodation.

Image Credits: Wilderness Hotel Inari, Matt Robinson & Inari-Saariselkä Tourism



## Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY  
1

ARRIVAL IN INARI

On arrival at Ivalo Airport, you will be met by your driver and transferred\* to Wilderness Hotel Inari to start your Arctic adventure.

After checking in, you'll enjoy dinner in the restaurant and will have the rest of the evening to spend as you please. Due to the hotel's prime location, you simply only need to step outside and if the conditions are right, the Aurora could be there to welcome you to Finland.

Your cold weather clothing will be distributed either this evening or in the morning.

Please note that the order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final itinerary will be provided on arrival at your accommodation.

\*Transfers are based on a scheduled group shuttle that may stop at a few nearby hotels. If you would prefer to upgrade to private taxi transfers please ask our Artisan Travel Experts for a quotation.

**Included Meals:** DinnerDAY  
2

## REINDEER FARM VISIT AND AURORA CAMP

Following breakfast, you will gain an authentic insight into the local culture when you visit a nearby reindeer farm. These animals have been of vital importance to the indigenous Sámi people, helping them survive the long Arctic winters. You will have a tour of the farm as well as enjoy a short reindeer safari. In total, you will be out for around 2 to 2.5 hours (including transfers).

Lunch will be served in the restaurant and you will have some free time to enjoy the surroundings. After dinner, you will head out in search of the Aurora Borealis.

Lake Inari's huge frozen surface is the ideal platform for Northern Lights viewing and our local expert guides have set up various Aurora camps around the lake's shores, which you will visit tonight.

You will travel to the camp on a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile and upon arrival, you can enjoy hot drinks as you keep your eyes looking up for a potential display. You will be out for approximately 2.5 hours in total tonight.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, DinnerDAY  
3

## HUSKY SAFARI AND FREE EVENING

Fill up on breakfast ahead of dog sledding - one of the most-loved Arctic activities. After a full safety briefing and instructions on how to drive the sled, you will meet with the excitable dogs.

Don't worry if there is a lot of barking at this time, the dogs are simply really eager to get running on the trails! As soon as you release the anchor, your loyal team will settle into a comfortable pace and quieten down, leaving you to watch the winter landscape unfold.

You will travel two per sled, with one person driving and one person sitting as a passenger with the option to swap halfway. The safari will last approximately 1.5 to 2 hours\* and you will also have time to pet the dogs and take photographs afterwards. Lunch will be served at the hotel either before or after the safari.

After dinner tonight you have a free evening to enjoy as you please. Inari's brilliant location means that if the Aurora conditions are looking favourable, you only have to step outside of the hotel to see the green dancing lights. Or you may wish to book onto a dedicated activity, see our 'personalised' section for more details.

\* Please note that this safari is sometimes described locally as being 3 hrs in duration, but this duration includes lunch (which we include as standard of course).

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
4

## FREE DAY AND AURORA SNOWSHOEING

Today has been left free for you to enjoy as you please. You may wish to add on an additional activity, which you can find in the 'personalised' section.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant as usual before your Northern Lights hunt tonight.

This evening you will strap on a pair of snowshoes and make your way into the Arctic night. Snowshoes help you walk over the deep snow with ease so you can enjoy the peaceful wilderness as you follow your guide to an excellent Northern Lights vantage point. If conditions are favourable, you will be in a prime location to see the lights. You will be out for approximately 2.5 hours.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
5

## TRANSFER TO NANGU AND AURORA CAMP

After breakfast, you will bid farewell to Inari and transfer to Nangu, approximately one hour away.

You will have a free afternoon to settle into your new wilderness surroundings in a different part of Lake Inari's expansive shores.

Following dinner tonight, you will again travel into the Arctic night in a sledge pulled by your guide's snowmobile. After driving out to a lookout spot away from light pollution, you will enjoy hot drinks around the campfire as your guide tells you all about the Aurora and you search the skies. You will be out for approximately 2.5 hours.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
6

## SNOWSHOEING DAY

After breakfast, you will be back on snowshoes but this time to enjoy the stunning wilderness by day.

Snowshoeing can be physical but it is a slow-paced activity and a very peaceful way to explore the snowy surroundings.

Your guide will help fit your snowshoes before leading you through the wintery landscape, pointing out animal footprints along the way. This is a wonderfully scenic tour so make sure you bring your camera. This activity will last approximately four hours in total, including time for lunch and warm drinks around an open fire.

Following dinner in the hotel restaurant, you will have a free evening to spend as you please. Nangu's prime location gives you easy access to frozen Lake Inari, a perfect viewing location if the Northern

Lights conditions are looking favourable. Alternatively, you may wish to book a dedicated activity, please contact one of our Travel Experts..

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
7

## SNOWMOBILE TRYOUT AND FREE EVENING

Fuel up on breakfast ahead of one of the most thrilling activities available in the Arctic; snowmobiling. This tryout session is perfect for beginners or those who have never tried snowmobiling before.

After a full safety briefing, tuition and a short driving lesson, you will follow your guide onto the trails to see more of the winter wilderness.

Two people will share a snowmobile with the option to swap halfway but please note, you must hold a valid driving licence and be at least 18 years old to drive a snowmobile. You will be out for around two hours. Lunch will either be served before or after the activity.

After dinner tonight, your last evening in Nangu is free for you to spend as you please.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
8

## DEPARTURE

Today it is unfortunately time for your Finnish adventure to come to an end. Following breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight home. If you have an early flight, we will box up breakfast for you to take with you.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

# Personalise this tour

## Our pick



## Cross-country Skiing

This traditional Finnish sport is definitely worth experiencing during your time in Inari. So, strap on your skis and prepare to travel like a local.

Your guide will give you instruction and no prior experience of any form of skiing is required. Once you have mastered the basics, you will set out for a trip on the trails close to the hotel.

**Duration:** approximately 2 hours

Image credit: Wilderness Hotel Inari

## Other options

### ACTIVITIES



## Aurora Hunt by Car or Minibus

During this activity, your guides will use their local knowledge, as well as the Aurora and weather forecasts to lead you to a prime Northern Lights viewpoint.

If local conditions are good, then a specific Aurora camp will be selected, and you can spend more time trying to capture the lights on camera.

If the weather is less promising close to the hotel, then you will travel further in search of clear skies.

Your guide will impart some of the extensive knowledge and you will enjoy an evening out in wilds, hopefully gazing at the Northern Lights.

**Duration:** approximately 3 hours



## Heated Aurora Sleigh

The wonderful Jouko and Mari at Inari have once again come up with an innovation in Aurora hunting, ensuring that guests are in total comfort throughout. They have created a heated Aurora sleigh: a unique and toasty warm experience that has been thrilling visitors to Inari during the winter.

This is the way to travel in the Arctic! Climb into your Aurora-viewing cocoon which will be pulled behind a snowmobile driven by a local guide. The sleigh has large transparent windows to the front, back and, most importantly upwards, hence providing a fantastic view of the night sky. As they are heated, it could be -30C outside and you will be reclined in comfort hopefully gazing at the fabulous Northern Lights.

This safari lasts about three hours and takes you onto the frozen expanses of mystical Lake Inari some 250km north of the Arctic Circle in prime Aurora hunting territory. Your English-speaking guide will take you to some of the best vantage points where you can choose to get out (or not!), take photos and walk on the ice. You will also be served warm drinks.

We cannot guarantee that the Aurora Borealis will come out to play but regardless, the Aurora Sleigh is a fantastic way to experience the Arctic in the dead of night.

Duration approx 3 hrs.

**Maximum capacity:** 4-6 people per sleigh

## Included Accommodation

### Wilderness Hotel Inari (Nights: 1-4)



Situated on Lake Inari's shores, Wilderness Hotel Inari is one of the most spectacular destinations we



feature. Offering excellent levels of comfort and some serious 'wow factor', it is the latest addition to the Wilderness Hotels owned by our good friends Jouko and Mari Lappalainen.

Importantly it is also slap, bang in the middle of the world's best Aurora hunting territory and the hotel has implemented some innovative Northern Lights features to help maximise your viewing potential.

Wilderness Hotel Inari is ideally located around 40 minutes' drive from Ivalo Airport and just five minutes from Inari Village, which is the centre of Sámi culture in Finland.

There is a variety of accommodation on offer here, including cabins, Aurora cabins and hotel rooms, all of which are separate to (but within very easy reach of), the central restaurant building.

The hotel provides modern accommodation with décor which combines both comfort and charm. A huge amount of thought has gone into creating this very special place to stay.

## Hotel Facilities

- The focal point of the hotel is the main reception, bar, lounge and restaurant building. There will be gasps of delight from the moment you walk in and are confronted with exceptional views out towards the lake.
- All meals are served in the restaurant and the quality of the food has been excellent in our experience.
- Breakfast offers a continental selection of meats, breads, cheese, fish and pastries as well as hot options including bacon and eggs. There are fresh fruit and yoghurts to compliment
- A.t lunch and evening meals, an array of fresh salads and a soup is followed by a choice of two main dishes prepared by the chefs. Options will typically include some local flavours as well as international dishes. In the evening these are accompanied by a pudding. Tea, coffee and water are included in your stay and any additional drinks can be added to your bill.
- The restaurant is beautifully decorated, with local art and woodwork creating a great atmosphere. The fantastic north facing panoramic windows running the length of the room offer views out onto Lake Inari. We certainly expect a few evening meals to be abandoned as the Aurora becomes visible during dinner (the chefs get used to it)!
- The bar area is fully stocked so you can enjoy a drink with your meal or relax in the lounge area by the roaring fire.
- Free Wi-Fi is available in the main hotel building and rooms (it is less strong in the Aurora cabins and the log cabins but 3G reception should work on your phone).
- The crowning 'Northern Lights glory' here is the glass-roofed sauna which is housed by the lake in a modified Aurora Cabin. Guests can book the sauna at the reception in hour long slots for private use (free of charge) and so if you strike lucky, you can witness the Northern Lights from inside, which is a very special experience.

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## Room Type

### HOTEL BEDROOMS

The bedrooms are located in two separate buildings around 50 metres from the main building.

Each room has been decorated in a traditional Arctic style with inspiration taken from the local environment. They are around 30m<sup>2</sup> and have either a queen-sized bed or twin beds. Coffee and tea making facilities are provided in your room as well as either a comfortable sofa or two armchairs. If you can't face being detached from the "real world", the rooms also come with free Wi-Fi. Every bedroom is en-suite and comes complete with hairdryer and toiletries.

These rooms are designed for two people to share but a third person can be accommodated on a camp bed or pull-out sofa (supplements apply).

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**Image credits:** Inari Wilderness Hotel, Matt Robinson

## Wilderness Hotel Nangu (Nights: 5-7)



Wilderness Hotel Nangu is an adult-only (16+), boutique hotel tucked away in a secluded spot close to the shores of Lake Inari in North East Finnish Lapland. This is the ideal place for those wanting to escape to a real haven of peace and quiet which just oozes rustic style, charm and comfort. Think handmade wooden furniture, sheepskins, stunning log architecture, comfy chairs and roaring fires; all with a view over snow-laden trees and a vast frozen lake beyond.

The central log-built restaurant and reception building is a spectacular spot in which to dine and unwind and the elegant wooden buildings which contain the bedrooms are around 20-50 metres away.

The hotel was transformed in 2017 by our longstanding friends and partners Jouko and Mari and they have really put their heart and soul into making Wilderness Hotel Nangu the grown-up retreat that it is.

In prime Aurora territory and just a minute's walk from the shores of Lake Inari, this is really an incredible place in which to hunt the Northern Lights.

There are only 36 bedrooms here and so there is also a real exclusivity about this place and we would really recommend booking early to avoid disappointment.

## Hotel Facilities

- The wonderful main log building contains the reception, dining area and lounge where a roaring log fire and tasteful décor makes for a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere
- We think the food at Nangu is delicious and the setting for your meals could not be more delightful. Breakfasts and lunches are both varied buffets with local and international flavours. Evening meals are served at your table (except for Christmas and New Year's Eve) and guests are provided with two or three choices each evening
- There is a sauna situated in one of the bedroom buildings and this is available for guests to reserve during their stay. The ideal way to relax after a day of activities
- Free Wi-Fi is available in the public areas at Nangu, but really, other than checking the Aurora forecasts, we recommend that you just switch off from the outside world

## Room types

### STANDARD WILDERNESS ROOM (DOUBLE OR TWIN)

All rooms at Nangu are comfortable and elegantly decorated with a cosy and rustic, wooden interior, offering a traditional yet stylish Finnish ambience. The standard rooms accommodate two people, have a large window, an en-suite shower and toilet with a hairdryer. They also include tea and coffee making facilities. Single rooms are also available which are slightly smaller and accommodate solo travellers.

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Image credits: Matt Robinson

## 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 30 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](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>