



Inari – Auroras in the Sami Heartlands



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group

VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 22001

DURATION: 4 nights

In Brief

Inari is at the heart of Sámi culture in Finnish Lapland and so, it is the perfect place to gain a sense of the region's traditions. This 4-night break includes truly memorable activities such as snowmobiling, dog sledding, reindeer encounters, cultural experiences and of course, dedicated Northern Lights hunts.

Our Opinion

“ *The main reason that Inari is so wonderful is that it is steeped in Sámi culture, offering a fascinating insight into the people who have lived in Northern Finland for centuries. The other reason that it is a great location is down to its Aurora potential – here the light pollution is minimal, and what's more, your Northern Lights hunts in the evenings will take you into the vast wilderness which surrounds the hotel. This is an incredible place to spend some time.* ”

Ali Mclean



What's included?

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

- **Flights:** return flights between London and Ivalo. Some dates include direct flights from Gatwick and others are indirect flights from Heathrow (via Helsinki). Routings are subject to change
- **Transfers:** return group airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights' accommodation in twin/double hotel rooms at the Kultahovi Hotel
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- **The following activities and equipment are included in the price:** snowmobile safari, Northern Lights hunt by reindeer-pulled sleigh, dog sledding, visit to Inari*, Reindeer and Sámi Culture visit and Aurora snowshoe (the order of activities is subject to change).
- Cold weather clothing is provided for the duration of your stay
- Services of our expert local guides

Trip Overview

This holiday offers you the chance to combine incredible activities and Aurora hunting, whilst providing you with a real insight into local culture.

The village is a hugely important place within Finland's Sámi culture, making it the ideal base from which to explore the traditions that underpin this remote corner of the world.

Inari is surrounded by the wilds of the Arctic and sits on the shores of the vast Lake Inari – an activity playground. This remote location is also at the heart of the Aurora Zone and so we have of course included dedicated Northern Lights hunts on two of your nights here, helping to maximise your chances of catching a glimpse of the spectacular natural light show.

Your holiday base will be at the Traditional Hotel Kultahovi, a Sámi owned hotel with an excellent reputation for food.

Your daytime activities are well balanced and include some unforgettable Arctic experiences. You will explore your surroundings during an exhilarating snowmobile safari, as well as trying your hand at dog

sledding.

Your cultural encounters include a very special visit to meet a local lady and her reindeer at their homestead, set deep in the wilds. You shall also visit the wonderful Sámi Siida Museum, just a short walk from the hotel.

Your evening pursuits will be dedicated to seeking out the Aurora and hopefully witnessing a spectacular display.

Whether travelling on foot during your snowshoe hunt or sitting back and relaxing during the reindeer-pulled sleigh ride, your guides on all the evening activities will utilise their local knowledge to give you the best possible chance of seeing an Aurora display. Of course, your location already boasts a great Northern Lights track record, and if conditions are favourable, you don't need to walk more than a couple of minutes from the hotel to witness a display in all its glory.

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EUROPEAN UNION

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL IN LAPLAND

Upon arrival at Ivalo Airport, you will be greeted and transferred to the Traditional Hotel Kultahovi in the small village of Inari, around 40 minutes away.

After arriving at the hotel there is the chance to settle into your rooms before dinner in the hotel's renowned restaurant.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

SNOWMOBILE SAFARI AND NORTHERN LIGHTS SEARCH BY REINDEER SLEIGH

The landscape around Inari is a real playground, with dense snowy forests and frozen lakes providing the back drop to your activities. The best way to cover distance in this region is on snowmobiles, and so after a leisurely first morning, you will enjoy a soup lunch at the hotel before heading out to explore.

Following a hearty breakfast, full instruction regarding the safe operation of a snowmobile will be provided before you hit the trails.

Typically these trips will see you travel across the vast frozen surface of Lake Inari, which is an ideal way to take in the winter landscapes. You will travel two people per snowmobile and the driver must hold a full driving licence and be over the age of 18. You will be out for around 2 hours in total.

Following your adventure, you will have the afternoon free to relax and enjoy your surroundings.

If you prefer to include additional activities, then please see the 'personalise' section of the holiday page for further details as you may like to add in additional activities such as snowshoeing or cross-country skiing.

After dinner, you will search for the Aurora in the most fitting of ways, as you travel by reindeer-pulled sleigh. These animals are synonymous with Lapland and are extremely important to the region. If conditions are favourable, then hopefully the Northern Lights will make an appearance for you tonight. You will be out for around two hours (including transfers).

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

DOG SLED SAFARI AND SÁMI SIIDA MUSEUM

After breakfast, you will transfer to a local husky centre to meet with the mushers and their loyal teams of dogs.

You'll hear all about the lives of the sled dogs and receive full tuition before heading out with your teams (two people per sled with the option to swap driver halfway through). Though the dogs may be loud and excitable before you set off, they'll soon settle into a pace so you can enjoy the peace of the wilderness around you.

After you return, the dogs will be calmer, so now is a good time to stroke them and take some photographs. You'll also enjoy hot drinks in a traditional kota (tepee) as you learn more about these wonderful animals. The duration of the whole activity including transfers will be approximately 3 hours.

Lunch will be served back at the hotel.

In the afternoon, you can take the short walk to the Sámi Siida Museum*. The exhibitions here are world-renowned and you will learn a huge amount about life in the region and the culture which underpins the traditions to this day. There is also a wonderful short film including imagery taken in the local area and some spectacular Northern Lights pictures.

After your evening meal in the hotel's restaurant, tonight you will have a free evening to spend as you please. You may want to book onto another Northern Lights hunt, see our 'Personalise' section for details.

***Please note:** The Sámi Siida Museum will sadly be closed for renovation for the 2021/2022 season so the main exhibitions are not accessible. Guests will be able to visit the gift shop and the open-air

museum – an outdoor trail showcasing exhibits on the cultural heritage, architectural heritage and livelihoods of Finland's three Sámi cultures. Guests are also welcome to visit Sajos, an architecturally beautiful building in the heart of Inari which is home to the Sámi Parliament and is the centre of Sámi culture and administration. Guided tours and an informative video are offered throughout the day and there is also a shop selling Sámi handicraft, books and music.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

REINDEER AND SÁMI CULTURE, AURORA SNOWSHOE

Following breakfast, you will have some free time, a great opportunity could be to walk to the village and buy some souvenirs to take home with you. Lunch will then be served at the hotel.

Your afternoon will be spent furthering your knowledge of the traditional local culture as you head to the shores of Lake Muddas, to meet a lady named Tuula. For many years, Tuula has welcomed people to her homestead and imparted her knowledge and shared her stories.

First on the agenda is the chance to meet and feed her reindeer, which is a wonderful chance to see the animals up close. You will then learn a little about the history of her family home and how life has changed in the region over the past years. She will then demonstrate how traditional reindeer boots are made.

Snowshoes are an effective way to travel easily over the deep snow and are a wonderfully peaceful way of exploring. After dinner in the hotel, tonight your guide will lead you on a snowshoe hike through the forest, deep into the darkness and to a prime Aurora viewpoint where a campfire will be lit. You will be out for around three hours (including transfers) and, if conditions are favourable, hopefully you will be treated to a farewell display.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

DEPARTURE

Today it is sadly time for you to head home and you will be transferred to the airport in time for your return flights. If you would like to extend your stay in the region, then simply talk to one of our Aurora Travel Experts.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Aurora hunting by car or minibus

If you would like to include an extra Aurora activity during your stay, then we can arrange for you to include an Aurora hunt by car during your free evening.

If there is localised cloud cover in Inari, then your guide will use the most recent Aurora and weather forecasts to determine a route for your Northern Lights hunt, in the hope of finding clear skies.

There are both 2.5 hour and 4-hour options available, depending on how long you wish to be out.

2.5 hrs - £90 per person

4 hrs - £132 per person

Photography by Inari Saariselka Tourism

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Snowshoe trip

Snowshoes are the ideal way to enjoy the beauty and peace of the wilderness around Inari. Your guide will lead you on a scenic trail, pointing out animal tracks, and answering any questions you may have.

Duration approx. 2 hours including transfers

Available- Monday to Saturday.

Photography by Juho Kuva and Visit Finland



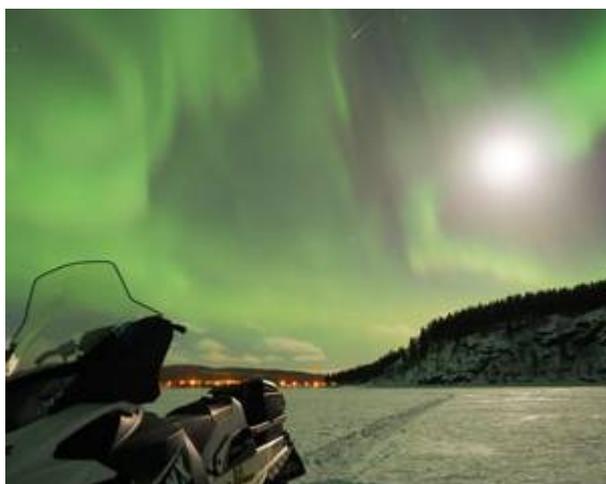
Cross country ski school

This is one of the most popular pastimes in Finland and it is a wonderful way to travel around the area. You will learn to ski like a local, as full instruction is provided by your guide. You will have the chance to master the basics, before enjoying a short ski trip along some of the nearby trails.

Duration approx. 2 hours including transfers

Available- Monday to Saturday.

Photography by Juho Kuva and Visit Finland



Search for the Northern Lights by snowmobile

Following your day time safari, you might like to try snowmobiling after dark, exploring using your headlights to illuminate the trail.

After a full safety briefing and instruction, your guide will lead you away from the village, to a prime Aurora viewpoint where warm drinks and snacks will be provided. If conditions are favourable, then the Northern Lights may well dance in the sky above you.

You'll travel two people per snowmobile. Driver must be over 18 and hold a full driving licence.

Duration approx. 3 hours. Available daily.

Photography by Visit Inari And Matti Maenpaa

SPECIAL NIGHTS



Spend the night in an Aurora Hut

A short drive from the hotel sits Holiday Village Inari, which boasts some wonderful Aurora accommodation on Lake Inari's shores.

There are five glass roofed cabins available, which allow you to spend the night gazing at the sky above you, from the comfort of your bed. They all have a compact en suite shower room, twin beds, a sofa, hairdryer, kettle and Wifi.

You will be transferred following your evening meal at the Kultahovi, before checking in for an unforgettable night.

The next morning you will walk for breakfast in Hotel Inari, around 500 metres from the cabins, before continuing on with your agenda back at the hotel.

This can be arranged for any night during your stay, subject to availability. Please contact one of our travel experts for a quote*.

*Guide price is per person per night based on two sharing.

Photography by Pertti Turunen, Inari-Saariselkä Tourism Ltd

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Traditional Hotel Kultahovi (Nights: 1-4)



The Traditional Hotel Kultahovi is located in the small traditional village of Inari, in the far north of Finnish Lapland. The hotel is family-owned and run by Kaisu and Heikki, a brother and sister with Inari

Sámi roots going back centuries.

The hotel is ideally situated for guests who wish to explore this village and the small number of shops it offers. It is also just a few minutes' walk from local attractions such as the Siida Museum and the Sajos cultural centre.

The beautiful River Juutua runs along the back of the hotel and so you really get a sense of being close to nature, despite the village location.

The Traditional Hotel comprises of 29 rooms which are all in the central hotel and restaurant building. Guests can choose to upgrade to the River Hotel, which is situated in an annexe building just a short walk away,

Hotel facilities

- The hotel enjoys a deserved reputation for its Aanaar Restaurant – with a real enthusiasm for using local produce. Try their speciality of dried pike, a new twist on a classic dish!
- Breakfast will be a continental buffet of options. Lunches are typically a set one or two courses which are served in the hotel restaurant.
- Guests enjoy a set evening menu (upgrade to a la carte payable locally). This may include local treats such as Inari whitefish and reindeer. The restaurant also offers wonderful views of the river which runs behind the hotel.
- Next to the restaurant there is a relaxing lounge area in which guests can enjoy a drink by the fireplace.
- Free wireless internet is provided throughout the hotel
- The hotel has a 360° camera on the roof which takes a photo of the sky once every minute. These photos are then projected onto the TVs in the bedrooms, lounge and bar area. This allows you to keep an eye on the sky in case the lights do appear. Should a display dance above you though, heading outside is the only way to appreciate the view.
- There is a drying cupboard and a riverside sauna which are both available for guests to use during their stay.

ROOM TYPE

Double/twin rooms: The Tradition Hotel Kultahovi is true to its name, in that the comfortable rooms are decorated to reflect the long history of Finnish design, with traditional colours being incorporated into the décor and historical tales adorning the walls. Each room is en-suite and offers a radio, TV, kettle and WiFi.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

New River Hotel Kultahovi



If you prefer, you can upgrade to the River Hotel for the duration of your stay. The River Hotel has 16 rooms in total spanning over two floors so each has either a patio or balcony to enjoy views of the rushing river. The rooms are in an annexe, a very short walk from the main Traditional hotel building. The hotel's restaurant, Aanaar, is renowned for its superb food using local produce to celebrate Lapland's variety of flavours.

Room types:

Superior double or twin rooms: These modern rooms feature lovely décor and are well equipped a TV, hairdryer, drying cupboard and tea/coffee making facilities. The highlight, though, is that each has its own private sauna (with the exception of one room with disabled access) - the ideal place to relax in the evening before heading out on your Aurora hunts.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 2 and maximum 12 people (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>