



Menesjärvi - Aurora Wilderness Week



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group

VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 21006

DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Spend a week in Menesjärvi, where you'll receive the warmest of welcomes from your local hosts to this wild and pristine Northern Lights destination. Situated close to the Sámi heartland of Inari, this itinerary features a visit to the village, as well as plenty of opportunities to explore the wilderness - from dedicated Aurora hunts and dog sledding to winter fishing by snowmobile.

Our Opinion

“ There is something really special about Menesjärvi's ability to offer a pristine, remote wilderness yet a warm welcoming feeling from the moment you arrive. This itinerary gave me every opportunity to explore the wonderful natural surroundings both day and night, taking in the winter scenes and searching the skies for the Northern Lights. ”

Amy Hope



What's included?

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

- **Flights:** return flights from London to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Flight routes are subject to change
- **Transfers:** return group airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights twin/double hotel rooms
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- The following activities and equipment are included in the price: snow fun, Aurora workshop, Northern Lights hunt, Aurora snowmobiling, wilderness skills, husky safari, visit to the Sámi Siida Museum* and winter fishing by snowmobile (the order of activities is subject to change)
- Cold weather clothing is provided for the duration of your stay
- Free use of snowshoes, cross-country skis, kicksleds and toboggans
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners

Trip Overview

Situated just 30 minutes from Inari, the Sámi heartland of Finland, but in pristine wilderness sits Menesjärvi, your base for a week of winter experiences.

Close to Lake Menesjärvi and near the stunning Lemmenjoki National Park - the largest in Finland - you have plenty of land to explore and this itinerary offers many different opportunities to do so. From snowmobiling and dog sledding to learning wilderness skills from a local expert guide, you will get an authentic experience of Finnish nature. Pair this with a visit to the Sámi Siida Museum in Inari and you'll gain a real insight into the culture and natural surroundings.

At night, this vast wilderness area provides an ideal environment for Aurora hunting. With little light pollution and an excellent Northern Lights track record, you're in with a spectacular chance of seeing Mother Nature's greatest light show during your time here. If conditions are favourable, simply walk down to the frozen lake (or the 'nightclub' as the team here affectionally call it) and look up but we've also included two dedicated Aurora activities to increase your chances.

During the day, we have left plenty of free time to enjoy your surroundings as you please. Your base at Hotel Korpikartana provides a rustic and simple charm with an exceptionally warm welcome thanks to your hosts. In between your Arctic and Aurora adventures, take some time to enjoy the views of Lapland from the two terraces and unwind in the onsite saunas.

Image credits: Timo Halonen, Hannes Becker and Visit Finland



Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

Upon arrival at Ivalo Airport, you will be met and transferred to your base in Northern Lapland. You will have time to settle into your room at Hotel Korpikartano before enjoying dinner in the restaurant.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

SNOW FUN, NORTHERN LIGHTS WORKSHOP AND NORTHERN LIGHTS HUNT

Following breakfast, it's time to make the most of the deep and stunning snowy surroundings. Your guide will show you how to use all the snow-based equipment including toboggans, kick sledge, snowshoes and cross-country skis - then it's up to you to explore as you please. Now you know how to use the equipment, you could take them out later in the week.

After lunch in the hotel restaurant, one of the guides will sit with you in the lounge area and tell you a little about the science and myths behind the Northern Lights. The guide will also introduce you to some of their favourite Aurora Forecasting websites and tell you how to use them. Finally, they will provide some guidance and information about photographing the Northern Lights and assist anyone who needs help in programming their cameras to the correct settings.

Following dinner, you will meet with your guide and strap on a pair of snowshoes to travel into the night. You will experience the wonderful silence of the Arctic while your guide tells you all about the surrounding nature and the Northern Lights. If conditions are favourable, you'll see the green Auroras dancing above on your peaceful walk. You will be out for approximately two hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

FREE DAY AND AURORA SNOWMOBILING

Today you have a free day to enjoy as you please. You could add another Arctic activity to complete your stay, see our 'personalise' tab for more information.

All meals will be served in the restaurant as usual before your Northern Lights adventure this evening. You will meet the guide who will give you full instructions and a safety briefing on how to drive a snowmobile before driving out to explore the frozen landscape. With a bit of luck, you'll see the Auroras on your journey. You will travel two people per snowmobile with the chance to take turns (providing you both have full licences and are 18 years or over). You will be out for approximately 2 hours tonight.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

WILDERNESS SKILLS AND FREE EVENING

Following breakfast, you will learn all about the Finnish nature with some practical wilderness skills. First, you will meet with your guide who will take you snowshoeing through the forest and to the lake area. You will learn how to use a compass, GPS, read a map and what to look out for in the nature around you. You'll also learn how to make a fire and identify animal footprints. You'll travel to a Lappish hut to enjoy lunch by an open fire. This activity will last around three and a half to four hours in total including lunch.

You will have a free afternoon and evening to enjoy as you please.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

HUSKY SAFARI AND VISIT SÁMI SIIDA MUSEUM AND LAPLAND NATURE CENTRE IN INARI

Following breakfast, it's time to enjoy one of the most sought-after Arctic experiences; dog sledding. You will meet with the expert musher and hear all about the life of these wonderful sled dogs. After a full safety briefing and instructions, you will head out into the wilderness with your loyal team of dogs. You will ride two people per sled, one driving and one as a passenger in the sled with the option to swap halfway. The activity will last around two and a half hours in total.

This afternoon you will visit the village of Inari with the brilliant Sámi Siida Museum* for a wonderful insight into the rich culture here. This is a great museum with a great permanent exhibition about the seasons in this remote area of Lapland and how the Sami people have adapted and survived the extreme conditions throughout history. There is also a video presentation about the Northern Lights and several other interesting exhibitions to view. There is also a great gift shop selling local Artisan products – very popular for picking up some souvenirs! You will also make a stop at the Lapland

Nature centre to learn more about the flora and fauna indigenous to the region.

You will then transfer back to the hotel to enjoy dinner in the restaurant. Tonight is free to enjoy as you please. If the Northern Lights conditions are favourable, simply walk to the frozen lake to enjoy a display.

***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
6

WINTER FISHING BY SNOWMOBILE AND FREE EVENING

Enjoy breakfast in the restaurant ahead of a true Arctic experience when you go winter fishing by snowmobile.

You will receive full instructions and a safety briefing on how to drive a snowmobile and you can choose whether to be the driver, passenger or tucked up in the sledge pulled by the guide's snowmobile. You will travel two people per snowmobile with the chance to take turns (providing you both have full licences and are 18 years or over). Your destination is Lake Menesjärvi where you will learn all about winter fishing and wait in hopes of a catch. You will be out for approximately two hours and upon return, you have the rest of the day free, with lunch and dinner served in the restaurant as usual. You could put your new winter skills to the test and take out cross-country skis or snowshoes for some independent exploration. This evening, keep an eye on the Aurora forecast.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
7

FREE DAY

Today has been left completely free for you to enjoy however you like. See our 'personalise' tab for optional activities you could add to your itinerary, or simply relax around the hotel. As usual, all meals will be served in the restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Today it is sadly time for your winter week to come to an end. Enjoy breakfast in the restaurant before

departing or if you have an early flight time, we'll box up breakfast for you to take with you.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Aurora Snowshoe

Tonight you will strap on a pair of snowshoes and follow your guide into the wintery nature on a search for the Northern Lights.

Snowshoes help you walk over the deep snow with ease, for a peaceful way to enjoy the Arctic night and if conditions are favourable the Northern Lights.

As you walk, the guide will tell you all about the surrounding nature and help you search the skies for a potential display.

Duration: 2 hours in total (approximately)

Other options

ACTIVITIES



A Taste of a Reindeer Herder's Day

During this taste of a reindeer herder's day, you will be out for about 3 hours in total. After being transferred to a nearby reindeer farm, you'll head off in a snowmobile-pulled sleigh to find the reindeer herd and feed them. A fire will be lit and you can enjoy a hot drink whilst watching the reindeer. You can chat and ask the herder any questions you may have about the reindeer herd and their way of life.

Included Accommodation

Hotel Korpikartano (Nights: 1-7)



Hotel Korpikartano is a very special place in a breath-taking location in Finnish Lapland. Its situation could not be more idyllic, with a fantastic outlook over Lake Menesjärvi and the remote wilderness beyond. The lack of artificial light in the area ensures that if the Aurora appears, then you can enjoy amazing displays from very close to the hotel.

Hotel Korpikartano was originally a boarding school for those growing up in this remote part of the world and is, therefore, full of quirks, character and charm. The welcome provided by the dedicated team at the hotel, creates a wonderful atmosphere and their passion for the region is infectious.

The staff and guides have a huge passion for this landscape and for providing guests with a truly memorable stay.

The hotel comprises of two main buildings. The first houses the dining room and a number of bedrooms. A separate annexe building (a very short walk away) houses the majority of the guest accommodation.

It is a place with great soul and which offers guests the chance to completely switch off from the everyday and relax in a wild and beautiful environment. You are likely to leave feeling very privileged to have experienced this wonderful place.

Hotel facilities

- Traditional home cooking is the order of the day in the hotel's dining room. The food can be described as 'simple, tasty and hearty' and is very much designed to fuel you up for your outdoor adventures. In many cases, the evening's set menu will contain local ingredients such as fresh fish that one of the staff has caught, berries which have been foraged, or meat purchased from the local reindeer herders. The set meals are all self-service. Breakfast is a buffet of breads, meat, cheese and fish with the addition of porridge and fruit. Lunch and evening meals start with a salad and bread, a set main and then a pudding which is often a local speciality. Please let us know at the time of booking if you have any dietary requirements so these can be accommodated.
- You can also purchase a range of wine, beer and spirits to accompany your meal.
- Obviously, saunas are a pre-requisite in these parts and there are two, one in each building. They can each be booked privately by guests each day in hour long slots.
- There is an outdoor wood-burning sauna and rustic hot tub. Should you request the use of the outdoor sauna (a local charge will apply), don't forget that a dip in the lake (in autumn) or a roll in the snow (in winter) is almost obligatory (as long as you are in a good physical condition).
- The simple lounge (near the reception) provides tea and coffee making facilities. Consider this to be the perfect spot to relax by the stove with a book but remember to keep your eyes peeled for the Northern Lights as the windows face north!
- There is free Wi-Fi for guests to use throughout both buildings and there is a PC available at reception.
- Books and games are also available to borrow from reception.
- If you are travelling in the winter then the hotel offers free use of snowshoes, cross-country skis, kick sleds and toboggans so there is also something for those who love the great outdoors and want to explore independently between activities. There are marked trails across the stunning frozen lake and maps are available at reception.
- If you want to send a memento home, then there are postcards available to purchase and some local Aurora photography is for sale.
- There is a lakeside Kota (wooden tepee) which is open for all guests during the evening. Here you can light a fire and warm up in between forays out onto the lake in search of the Northern Lights.

Room types

The 28 guest bedrooms vary in size and shape as you may expect from a former school. They are cosy, comfortable and decorated with locally-sourced wood. Some of the furnishings have been crafted by the owner's own hand.

All guest bedrooms have an en-suite bathroom with shower and a hairdryer. Cups and kettles are provided in each bedroom and a variety of teas and coffee is available in each building for you to take to your room.

Image credit: Timo Halonen, Matt Robinson (please note: The images depicted show the hotel during both the winter and autumn months)

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 24 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>