



# Muotka - Autumn Auroras



**HOLIDAY TYPE:** Small Group

**VISITING:** Finland

**BROCHURE CODE:** 20013

**DURATION:** 4 nights

## In Brief

Autumn brings striking colours to both the land and skies of Muotka as the landscape starts to change from summer to winter and the Aurora season begins. During your 4-night break, you'll go on dedicated Northern Lights hunts and explore the culture and traditions of the region as you visit the Sami capital of Inari.

## Our Opinion

“ Muotka is a beautiful region and perhaps the most picturesque area of Lapland. The autumn brings simply stunning colours and to witness the Northern Lights dance above the vibrant landscape was a memorable and magical experience. The Siida Museum was also a highlight, providing a unique opportunity to gain insight into the traditions of the Sámi who have thrived in harsh winter conditions for generations. ”

Amy Walkington-Gray



## 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
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights accommodation in twin/double hotel rooms. Log suite with Sauna and Cabin upgrades available (supplements apply)
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** Northern Lights presentation and Aurora stake-out, visit to Inari\*, Aurora Camp, nature walk and Aurora hunt by car (the order of activities is subject to change)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities

## Trip Overview

Muotka is located deep within the forest in Northern Lapland. The setting is perfect for an autumn getaway, particularly as the nights grow darker and the Aurora Borealis returns to the northern skies. There is very little light pollution in the area and the hotel is very close to Urho Kekkonen National Park, which becomes a spectacle of vibrant colours during the short autumn season known as 'Ruska'.

Autumn hails the beginning of the Aurora season when the night sky grows dark enough for the lights to be visible and this trip will allow you plenty of opportunities to seek out the Northern Lights. A presentation will give you an insight into the science behind the Aurora from a knowledgeable, local guide. You will then visit a nearby Aurora Camp which provides unobstructed views of the night sky. Once here, you can keep warm by the fire and enjoy listening to your guide's stories as you keep a lookout for any flickers of light in the sky above. You will also hunt the lights via car or minibus. This will hopefully enable you to outrun any localised cloud cover as your guide seeks out the best spots for potential Aurora activity.

The autumn season in Lapland brings vibrant, colourful landscapes and a guided nature walk is the perfect introduction. Wildlife is more active at this time of year, so you may be lucky enough to spot reindeer and various species of bird. Your guide will also point out edible berries which are in season

and give you an insight into the forest's flora. In November, you may witness the first snow of winter and in this case, you may swap your hiking boots for snowshoes.

Muotka itself is close to Inari which is the heart of Sámi culture. A visit to the Siida Museum offers an engaging insight into this ancient indigenous culture and how the local people have adapted to the changeable seasons north of the Arctic Circle. A Northern Lights photography presentation set to music is also played throughout the day.

In short, autumn is both colourful and peaceful as you are travelling ahead of the winter crowds. Some of the best Northern Lights displays can be witnessed at this time of year and the scenery is spectacular.

**Interreg**  
**Nord**

European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

Image credits: Wilderness Hotel Muotka, Markku Inkila, Tarja Manninen & Inari-Saariselkä Tourism Ltd

## Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY  
1

ARRIVAL

After arriving into Finland's most northerly airport you will be transferred\* to the stunning region of Muotka, which is a true Lappish wilderness location. Following check in you will enjoy an evening meal whilst settling into your picturesque surroundings.

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

**Included Meals:** Dinner

DAY  
2

NORTHERN LIGHTS PRESENTATION AND AURORA STAKE OUT

Following breakfast, the morning will be yours to spend at your leisure. Settle into your new surroundings with a walk amidst the stunning terrain or relax in the hotel sauna. Alternatively, if you would like to enjoy an authentic Lappish experience then an optional visit to a husky farm is available. Please see the ['personalise'](#) tab for details.

Following a delicious dinner, you will be given an introduction to the science behind the Northern Lights in addition to some of the local legends associated with the Aurora Borealis. You will then venture to a specially created Aurora Camp amidst the beautiful autumn nature. The camp locations have been carefully selected to provide unobstructed views of the night sky with minimal artificial light. You will spend time at the camp (warm drinks and fire provided) and hopefully, you will get your first sighting of the majestic and unforgettable Northern Lights.

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

DAY  
3

## SÁMI SIIDA MUSEUM AND AURORA CAMP

After breakfast, you will join a local guide and visit Inari which is the capital of Sámi culture in Finnish Lapland. In Inari, you will visit the Sámi Siida Museum, which will give you a fascinating insight into the culture of the indigenous people who reside north of the Arctic Circle. The museum has a Northern Lights photo presentation and there is a small gift shop displaying a range of Sámi handicrafts made by the local people which are ideal for those looking to pick up some authentic souvenirs.

Following your trip to the museum, you will be driven back to Muotka where you can enjoy an evening meal before heading out once more in search of the Aurora. You will once again visit an Aurora camp away from artificial light. Keep an eye out for any flickers of colour as you enjoy the warmth of an open fire.

**\*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

## NATURE HIKE AND AURORA HUNT

Following breakfast, you will have an opportunity to explore the vibrant autumn landscapes surrounding Muotka. Your expert guide will lead you through pine forest and over sweeping fields highlighting any edible berries and giving you an insight into the local flora and fauna. You may encounter wildlife as they are generally more active at this time of year.

For those travelling in November, you may arrive just in time to witness the first snow of an Arctic winter. In this case, you will swap your hiking boots for snowshoes.

After returning from your walk, you will enjoy a delicious meal before heading out for your final Aurora hunt. On this occasion, you will travel via mini bus or car which will enable you to venture further into the wilderness, hopefully outrunning any cloud cover. In addition, the use of a vehicle allows you to

reach some of the best spots for potentially spotting the Northern Lights.

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

DAY  
5

DEPARTURE

Following breakfast, unfortunately, it will be time to leave this stunning region and you will be transferred back to the airport in preparation for your flight. Alternatively, you may wish to extend your stay or enjoy a city break in Helsinki. Please speak to one of our Travel Experts for more details

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Personalise this tour

### Our pick



### A night in an Aurora Cabin

As ever, Muotka leads the way in Aurora viewing innovation and we are therefore proud to offer our guests the chance to spend the night in one of the magnificent Aurora Cabins. These stunning, part-cabin, part-glass tepee buildings, offer guests an exceptional overnight Aurora hunting experience.

Guests get the space and feel of a cabin during the day and the Aurora viewing benefits of a glass igloo at night, as you sleep under a glass tepee. This means that you are provided with the most wonderful views of the night sky

from the comfort of your bed.

These part-cabin and part-glass tepee buildings, are self-contained and situated a short distance from the hotel, next to the annexe. They combine the space and atmosphere of a cosy cabin with a glass roof above the bed. Each cabin faces north so ideal for guests to gaze upon the night sky every night of their holiday, from the comfort of their duvet. The cabins are all 25m<sup>2</sup> with their own private sauna, double bed and en-suite bathroom, making them an excellent base.

Please note an additional supplement will apply on our Christmas and New Year departures and that all prices are based on guests spending their final night in a cabin and checking out of their hotel room the day before departure.

**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.

Credit: Anthony Oberlin and Minttu Mantynen

## Other options

### ACTIVITIES



### Husky farm visit

The autumn months are quiet and peaceful in Muotka but the huskies are always eager for visitors. A tour to a nearby husky farm is a fantastic way in which to meet these lovable dogs whilst also learning about their importance to the culture of this region. Your guide will explain the history behind the husky whilst also giving you an insight into his life during the long winters. Following this, you will meet the dogs yourself before enjoying a 1km ride on a sled with wheels. You may even get to cuddle some puppies.

### TRIP EXTENSIONS



## Helsinki city break

With our destinations being so remote, the majority of flights to Finnish Lapland are operated by Finnair and therefore involve connecting through Helsinki Airport. Many of our guests choose to extend this stop and spend some time in the Finnish capital, either at the start or end of their holiday.

We can arrange a wide variety of city centre hotel accommodation for guests to choose from and some options closer to the airport should you prefer. We know that everyone tends to be looking for something different

so please contact our Travel Experts for their opinion on the hotels which may best suit you and your party.

Located on the peninsula of the Baltic Sea, Helsinki enjoys a charming coastal location and has much to offer its guests. This thriving city has a rich culture and arts scene with many museums and galleries to enjoy alongside the exciting gastronomy.

Despite its cool urbanism and a reputation for cutting-edge design, Helsinki also retains its charm and visitors will enjoy this city's very friendly atmosphere.

In the city itself, Senate Square is the main feature, showcasing neoclassical architecture and offering easy access to the surrounding shops. With Helsinki once part of the Duchy of Russia, it offers similar striking architecture, with wide streets and bold facades. For those looking for more of an insight into the city's past, we would suggest visiting the Ateneum Art Museum which houses over 20,000 pieces of art or the Helsinki Design Museum which showcases the history of design in the country from traditional folklore to postmodernism.

A 15-minute ferry ride from the main city is the UNESCO-listed Suomenlinna Sea Fortress which was constructed in 1748. As well as being a unique monument, it is also a lovely day trip, as the island has numerous shops and parks to explore.

Helsinki's food scene has seen a recent evolution, with a growth in street food which showcases the city's multicultural population. Helsinki is famed also for its specialist dishes of seafood and Russian cuisine so there is much to sample!

Finland is famed for its coffee consumption so you can be sure of a thriving café culture here. Be sure to include an obligatory stop for a coffee and a cinnamon roll during your explorations!

Whether you add your city break onto the start or the end of your holiday, spending a night or two in Helsinki is not something that you will regret.

Please contact our Travel Experts for a full quotation. All city breaks are subject to flight availability.

**Image credit: Visit Helsinki & Jussi Hellston**

# Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

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



Muotkan Maja Wilderness Hotel resides around 40km from the main town of Ivalo, tucked away in the corner of North-East Finland. Recently renovated and restored it is owned and run by the same couple as the popular Nellim Wilderness Hotel, Mari and Jouko Lappalainen. They run the hotel with the same hard-working ethos and it exudes the same warmth and charm for its much-welcomed guests.

The hotel boasts some wonderful scenery, tucked away in the forested-fells with roaming reindeer frequently seen amongst the trees. It consists of two main accommodation buildings, one with the majority of the bedrooms and another with hosts additional bedrooms, the main restaurant and the reception area.

## Hotel facilities

- The focal point of the main building is the restaurant which is where you will have the majority of your meals. Food will be served buffet style with a variety of continental and cooked food for breakfast and the choice of two or three options for each course at dinner. The menu has been designed with a focus on both traditional and international cuisine using fresh, locally-sourced ingredients
- There is a bar which is usually open until 1 am and serves a variety of spirits, wines and beers and a lounge area with comfortable armchairs to relax in during your free time
- There is a sauna in the main building which is heated daily for guest use
- Free Wi-Fi is available in the main building (at the bar and in the restaurant)
- In the main building, you will also find two fireplaces, games and books, which makes it a perfect place to relax
- The rooms do not have tea and coffee making facilities but tea and coffee are available free of charge and available in the restaurant area
- Hairdryers are available from the main hotel reception



## Room types

There are 12 double and twin rooms in the main building and 11 in the additional building just across the courtyard. All rooms are en-suite with shower room, wardrobe, hairdryer and nightstand and can be made up as either a double or twin. They have also been recently renovated and offer lovely Scandinavian décor and charm.

Image credits: Jouko Lappalainen, Markku Inkila

## Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

### Wilderness Hotel Muotka - Superior Sauna Rooms



Muotka Wilderness Hotel has 16 Superior Sauna rooms, located a short distance from the main hotel building. These rooms are designed to offer rustic luxury and are ideal for small families and groups or those that simply wish for more space to relax in during their stay at Muotka. The rooms are approximately 33m<sup>2</sup> and each separate building has four superior sauna rooms inside. Please contact our Aurora Experts for a quotation.

## Facilities

- All rooms will contain their own private sauna, sofa and an electric kettle to make your stay as comfortable as possible
- Each has a queen-size bed within and space for 1-2 extra beds
- All meals will be served in the hotel restaurant which is just a short walk away
- Hairdryers are available from the main hotel reception

### Wilderness Hotel Muotka - Log Cabin



Situated not far from the main hotel, the 10 log cabins at Muotka are a wonderful upgrade option for those looking for a little more space during their stay or if you are travelling as a small group or family.

Each log cabin is approximately 50m<sup>2</sup> and is fully equipped to make your stay cosy and comfortable. Please contact our Aurora Experts for a quotation.

## Log cabin facilities

- All cabins have their own log burner and private sauna - ideal for warming up after a day in the snow!
- Each has a double bed and space for 1-2 extra beds
- All cabins have a small kitchenette and a kettle
- The log cabins are equipped with large north-facing windows so you can easily keep watch for a potential Aurora display
- All meals will be served in the hotel restaurant which is just a short walk away
- Hairdryers are available from the main hotel reception

## The Specifics

### Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 2 and maximum 16 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](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>