



Muotka - Fellside Auroras



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 20001
DURATION: 3 nights

In Brief

This 3-night trip allows you to experience the real highlights of the remote and spectacular Muotka, Finland. The quest for the Northern Lights leads your evenings and your days offer exceptional activities, as well as time to enjoy peaceful Lapland.

Our Opinion

“ *There is something special about turning off the main road and heading through the snow-laden forests and across the gentle fells to reach Muotka. It gives you a sense of being wonderfully removed from the outside world. This trip provides an excellent base from which to explore the beautiful scenery of this corner of Lapland, take part in truly memorable activities and search for the Northern Lights in a dedicated, yet relaxed manner.* ”

Dawn Kitson



What's included?

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

- **Flights:** return flights from London to Ivalo (either direct or via Helsinki depending on departure date). Flight routes are subject to change
- **Transfers:** return scheduled group shuttle airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights' accommodation in twin/double hotel rooms
- **Meals:** 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- **The following activities and equipment are included:** Aurora workshop, Aurora hunt in a minibus, husky safari, Aurora camp and reindeer day via snowmobile (**the order of activities is subject to change**)
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Services of our expert local guides
- Support from our dedicated regional Aurora Zone representative
- Aurora alert until approximately 1 am

Trip Overview

Muotka is simply delightful. This small and remote hotel is surrounded by the forests of North East Lapland. The region is a veritable feast for anyone looking to enjoy a comprehensive experience of Lapland whilst looking for a retreat from the every day and a more relaxed pace of life.

You will enjoy true 'bucket list' activities such as an unforgettable dog sled safari in the wilds of the Arctic and an exciting snowmobile safari to a reindeer farm.

Your evenings are dedicated to the hunt for the Aurora Borealis and these excursions typically use engines to do all of the hard work, allowing you to focus on the task at hand. During one evening you will hunt for the Northern Lights using the mobility of a minibus. Your expert local guides will use their incredible local knowledge and the latest weather forecasts to aid your search. Another Aurora evening uses a snowmobile-pulled sleigh as your method of transport as you will be heading out to one of the Aurora camps.

We can also arrange for you to upgrade to the epitome of Aurora accommodation for either part or all of your holiday and book you into one of Muotka's wonderful Aurora Kotas. Details of all of these special upgrades can be found in the 'Accommodation' and '[Personalise](#)' sections of the holiday page.

@Jouko Lappalainen, Matt Robinson & Markku Inkila

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND NORTHERN LIGHTS HUNT BY MINIBUS

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be welcomed and then transferred* to Muotkan Maja Wilderness Hotel. The hotel has a beautifully remote feel and provides the ideal base for a Lappish adventure.

On your first evening, you will be provided with your cold weather clothing and Aurora alert.

After dinner, your Northern Lights quest gets underway with your inaugural Northern Lights hunt. The guides will drive you to a potential vantage point, utilising their local knowledge, weather and solar forecasts.

* Transfers are based on a scheduled group shuttle that sometimes stops at 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

HUSKY SAFARI, NORTHERN LIGHTS WORKSHOP AND AURORA CAMP

Today, you will be trying out one of the most memorable activities in Lapland, as you participate in an exciting husky safari.

Guiding a team of huskies is almost always one of our guests' favourite activities and is a truly unique experience. Travelling in this traditional fashion gives people a wonderful connection with the Arctic environment. Once the dogs have calmed their initial excitement, it is a remarkably peaceful activity as the dogs pull you through this winter wonderland.

Before setting off, you will be given full instruction and will travel two people per sled with the opportunity to swap drivers during the activity so you can both experience the thrill of being the musher, and the joy of taking in the scenery as a passenger.

Today your guide will also introduce you to the Northern Lights and some of the myths and legends that this phenomenon has inspired over the centuries. Your guide's knowledge of the area and the

Northern Lights is exceptional.

After dinner, you will head out on another hunt for the Northern Lights. You will travel via sled pulled by your guide's snowmobile to one of the Aurora Camps, which offer excellent views of the vast night sky. If the solar conditions are favourable, and there is no cloud cover, then you will hopefully see the Northern Lights dancing overhead.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

SNOWMOBILE TO THE REINDEER FARM

This morning, you will travel two people per snowmobile and journey on an exciting tour of the wilderness and to a local reindeer farm. After a full safety briefing and instructions on how to drive and handle the snowmobile, you will head out for a snowmobile safari to the farm where you will meet the reindeer herders and learn all about the importance of reindeer in Lapland. The whole tour will last approximately four to five hours and a soup lunch is included. You will have the chance to swap seats and each take a turn at driving (the driver must hold a full driving licence).

This afternoon will be free to relax before dinner. You may wish to take advantage of one of the hotel's saunas. There may also be additional activities which can be arranged locally and snowshoes can be hired should you wish to explore independently.

After dinner, you have a free evening to spend as you please. You may want to head outside and see if the Aurora is waiting to bid you farewell.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

DEPARTURE

Today is departure day and you will be transferred back to the airport to catch your return flights. If you are on an early flight, a packed breakfast will be provided. If you depart on a later flight, you will have breakfast in the restaurant.

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 only 20 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 25m² 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

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: VisitFinland



Extend your stay in Saariselka

Following on from your holiday, we can arrange for you to extend your stay in Lapland and spend two nights in the ski village of Saariselka. This extension is ideal for those who want to combine their initial Arctic adventures with some downhill skiing or those who want some time to explore independently.

There are lots of things to see and do from your comfortable and well-equipped hotel in the village centre. We can arrange for you to add in additional activities, hire downhill or cross-country skiing equipment

or you can simply explore at your own pace and enjoy the shops and restaurants. The choice of how you spend your time here is yours, however, our Travel Experts will help you plan the perfect extension and provide a full quotation.

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Wilderness Hotel Muotka (Nights: 1-3)



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 33m² 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 Cabins



Situated not far from the main hotel, the 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 50m² and is fully equipped to make your stay cosy and comfortable. Please contact our Travel 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)

This holiday requires a minimum of 2 people to run, however, 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>