



Nellim - Aurora in the Wild



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 2904
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Spend a week at Nellim Wilderness Hotel in Finland and enjoy a wealth of activities. At night, you'll go on four dedicated Aurora activities with our expert local guides. During the day, you will encounter reindeer, take a snowmobile trip into the wilds, snowshoe and go dog-sledding.

Our Opinion

“ *Nellim is one of my absolute favourite places in Finland but it can be hard for me to pinpoint exactly why. It could be the endless star-filled sky that you can gaze at as you lie back on a reindeer skin on Lake Inari. It could be the warm glow of the hotel with its knowledgeable guides, delicious hearty meals and laid back lounge area. Perhaps, though, it is the Aurora potential – Nellim, with its almost total lack of light pollution and remote location, is one of the best places in the world to see the Northern Lights and with a trip of this duration, your chances are incredibly high!* ”

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 (either direct or via Helsinki depending on departure date). Regional and non-UK departures available on request (flight routes subject to change)
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers are included
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights' accommodation in twin/double hotel rooms. Upgrades can be arranged, subject to availability and supplements
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- **The following activities and equipment are included:** cross-country skiing, Aurora workshop, Northern Lights snowshoe, wilderness snowmobile safari, snowshoe trek, Aurora Camp, visit to a reindeer farm, Aurora camp, husky safari, minibus hunt for the Northern Lights (order subject to change)
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Services of our expert local guide and representative
- Aurora alert until approximately 1 am

Trip Overview

As you would expect from the name, our Aurora in the Wild trip is an exciting adventure in the wilderness of North-East Finland. It provides a busy mix of activities by day in combination with Aurora hunting at night.

Wilderness Hotel Nellim is a small family-run hotel close to the shores of Lake Inari and just nine kilometres from the Russian border. This remote location, in combination with the almost total lack of light pollution, makes it the ideal spot for a potential Aurora viewing.

The hotel has always been ahead of the game when it comes to innovation and certainly makes the most of this when it comes to Aurora activities. Firstly, they have created several Aurora Camps in spectacular spots from which to view the Northern Lights, offering unobstructed views of the night sky. They are wonderful locations in which to sit around a campfire and wait for the sky to light up.

Just a short walk from the main hotel building you will also find a fantastic selection of Aurora Bubbles and Aurora Kotas which you can upgrade to for a night during your stay. Inside you can lie back on the bed and gaze directly through the glass roof into the Arctic sky above you. We can also offer guests the chance to enjoy a Northern Lights snowmobile safari. These are in addition to the evening activities which are scheduled during this wonderful week. Details can be found in the '[Personalise](#)' section of the holiday page.

There are many highlights in the array of activities offered on this trip. A wilderness snowmobile safari and the chance to try dog sledding are amongst the favourites with our guests. You will also spend time with a reindeer herder and gain an insight into the traditional techniques that are still utilised today.

We love Nellim for many reasons – it's huge Northern Lights potential, its welcoming staff, and its exciting variety of activities. One of the most wonderful things about it, however, is that it is the perfect antidote to a busy life and work schedule. Here you will re-discover what it is to experience true silence and you will be able to understand that there are some parts of our world which are truly unspoilt.

Please note that the activities outlined will all be included in your holiday, however, the order of activities listed here is for guidance only, and your final timetable will be confirmed on arrival.

Image credits: Markku Inkila

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY 1	ARRIVAL
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Upon arrival at the airport, you will be welcomed and transferred* to Wilderness Hotel Nellim, your accommodation for the next 7 nights. You will then enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

After your meal we strongly recommend taking a walk down to the lake shore (a few minutes away) where the views of the night sky are exceptional; an ideal place for an Aurora stake-out.

On one of your nights you may choose to upgrade your accommodation to a spectacular Aurora Bubble or Aurora Kota at Nellim – see the '[Personalise](#)' section for full details.

Please note that the order of activities within your itinerary is subject to change and the agenda below should be used as a guide only. The exact order of your agenda will be confirmed upon arrival at the hotel.

*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: DinnerDAY
2CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING, AURORA WORKSHOP AND NORTHERN LIGHTS
SNOWSHOE SAFARI

Following breakfast this morning you will strap on some cross-country skis and set out to explore the hotel's surroundings. Cross-country skiing is one of Scandinavia's most beloved activities and something that we find our guests keen to try out. We assume no prior experience so you will be given full instruction before heading out for an easy paced lesson. The guided activity will last around two hours in total and the skis will then be yours for the afternoon if you would like to explore independently.

Before your first foray into the Arctic darkness tonight, you will be given an Aurora presentation by an expert local guide. They will discuss with you the science and legends behind the phenomenon and what to look for when you are gazing into the sky on your snowshoe walk. They will also detail the camera settings you will need when trying to photograph the Northern Lights.

On tonight's Aurora snowshoe, the guide will lead you to a local vantage point from which you can keep an eye on the sky for a potential Aurora sighting. This is a lovely way to see the landscape in a completely different light and walking under a star-filled sky is a very special experience (weather conditions permitting). You will be out for around two and a half hours tonight.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, DinnerDAY
3

WILDERNESS SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

By now you are sure to have realised that you are in an exceptionally beautiful corner of the world with wonderful landscapes to explore. One of the most exciting ways to do this is via snowmobile as, in addition to allowing you to cover great distances quickly; they are also exceptionally good fun. Snowmobiles have been utilised in this region since the 60s and have proved to be hugely important in helping to maintain links between remote communities.

Today you will travel two people to a snowmobile and cover around 40 to 60km, traversing frozen lakes and forested fells. Providing you both carry a full driving licence and are over 18, you will have the chance to swap seats and each take a turn at driving the vehicle. You will also enjoy a campfire lunch prepared by your guide. Your snowmobiling tour will last for approximately four hours.

To give you some time to relax after your snowmobile safari there is no planned activity for tonight as you may just wish to relax by the fire and reminisce with your fellow guests about your day. However, you do have the option this evening of spending the night in an Aurora Bubble or Aurora Kota. See the '[Personalise](#)' section for further details and price information.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

SNOWSHOE TREK AND VISIT TO AURORA CAMP

Today is your opportunity to try out a very traditional way of transport again, as you put on snowshoes and head out into the forest to explore areas of deep snow around the hotel.

Compared to snowmobiling and husky sledding, snowshoeing may not seem like the most exciting of activities, but rest assured, it is a remarkably fun and memorable way to explore the wilderness. Your guide will lead you through the forest, helping you get to know the area and search for signs of wildlife. You will be out for around four hours in total and will enjoy a campfire lunch and hot drinks during your trek (weather permitting).

Tonight a visit to one of the Aurora Camps is included. Nellim has several at its disposal and they are excellent spots either on the edge of Lake Inari or in a forest clearing. All offer a warming campfire, hot drinks and spectacular views of the night sky. The Aurora Camp activity will last for around two and a half hours tonight.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

TIME AT LEISURE

Today we have given you a free day to relax and take in all that you have seen so far.

For those who wish to keep the activities going the hotel will have a range of options available. Alternatively, you may wish to hire some snowshoes or cross country skis and utilise your new-found skills on one of the trails close to the hotel – you must seek maps and trail conditions from the hotel prior to planning your route.

This evening, after your meal we find that many guests gather on the frozen lake, adjacent to the hotel. Here a fire can be lit and stories shared. It also happens to be an excellent Northern Lights viewpoint, should conditions be favourable. It is also possible to add a Northern Lights snowmobile safari tonight if you'd like to head out into the wilderness once again. Please see the '[Personalise](#)' section for more information.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
6

REINDEER FARM AND AURORA CAMP

Today after breakfast, you will visit a working reindeer farm. Reindeer have been herded in this corner of the world since the Stone Age and they remain of the utmost cultural, economic and social importance to the region.

Upon arrival at the farm, you will have the chance to meet the herder who will discuss their livelihood with you and answer any questions you may have about the reindeer and their daily life. There will be

the chance to feed the reindeer and take lots of pictures before you head back to the hotel for lunch. You will be out for approximately 2 hours.

You will have free time in which to relax or enjoy additional activities this afternoon.

Following dinner this evening, you will return to one of the excellent Aurora Camps for another evening with your guide in prime Aurora territory. You will be out for around 2.5 hours tonight and with a little luck and favourable conditions, the Northern Lights may appear above you.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
7

HUSKY SAFARI AND MINIBUS HUNT FOR THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

For your final day in Nellim, you will be participating in an activity which is almost universally loved by guests – dog sledding. In contrast to snowmobiling, husky sledding is an almost silent activity (once the dogs have got over their initial excitement!), with the only sound being the swishing of the sled's runners and the padding of the dogs' paws.

You will receive full instruction and tuition before enjoying a safari of around 17km. You will travel two people per sled with the chance to swap over so you can each take a turn at driving the sled. The safari will last for approximately 1.5 hours.

Tonight you will head out in a minibus on your final hunt for the Northern Lights. The advantage of the minibus is that it offers additional mobility to potentially outrun any cloud cover that may be blocking an Aurora. This, in addition to the guide's excellent local knowledge, should hopefully allow your final night to be filled with Northern Lights. You will be out for approximately 3 hours tonight.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Today you will bid farewell to Nellim as you are transferred to the airport for your return flight home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Aurora Bubble

What a concept this is! These bubbles represent the absolute pinnacle of the increasingly sophisticated search for the Northern Lights.

Essentially, the Aurora Bubble brings the Arctic wilderness and the night sky into the comfort of your own bedroom. Each bubble has a heated bedroom with a large north-facing dome window, allowing you to gaze at the firmament from the comfort of your own bed!! This is Aurora hunting in style.

The bubbles are situated in an area of minimal light pollution and all have a small compact toilet.

Of course, we can neither guarantee that the Northern Lights will appear nor can we ensure cloud-free skies because Aurora hunting will always carry an element of luck. What we do know is that the Aurora Bubbles represent a genuinely unique and memorable experience.

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. Please ask our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Image credit: Markku Inkila

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Aurora snowmobile safari

Heading out into the wilderness on a snowmobile, with only the headlights illuminating the trails, is a real adventure. This activity will see your guide lead you to some prime Aurora viewpoints. Should the conditions be favourable, and the lights start to dance overhead, you will, of course, stop and admire the show. Warm drinks will be served en-route, and the activity lasts around 2.5 hours in total (including full instruction and a safety briefing before departure). You will travel two people per

snowmobile throughout.

You must be over 18 and hold a full driving licence to drive a snowmobile.

Image credit: Anthony Oberlin



Cross country ski or snowshoe hire

Should you wish to explore independently during your stay, then both cross country ski gear and snowshoes can be rented at the hotel. Please ensure that you take a map and always follow marked trails. Ensure that you also have a mobile phone and the hotel's contact details in case either are required during your outing.

SPECIAL NIGHTS



A night in an Aurora Kota

The team at Nellim are world-experts when it comes to Northern Lights viewing, and frequently devise creative new ways to appreciate this natural phenomenon. The Aurora Kotas at Nellim and Muotka are well in keeping with such a tradition: combining a cabin structure with glass tepee elements, they provide a large glass roof above the sleeping area, allowing visitors to lose themselves in the magic of night-time Northern Lights displays.

Each Kota contains a twin/double bed and being a bit larger than an Aurora Bubble, it has room for a third person on a sofa bed. The 18m² space has simple and inviting décor, as well as pleasant lighting which illuminates the area without disrupting aurora-watching experiences. Linking to their natural setting, the majority of the Kotas do not have a shower—even so, each includes a toilet and small sink. At Nellim, there are also two Aurora Cabins which have a shower and are slightly larger at 29 m².

Please note: prices are based on you spending a night of your holiday in this unique accommodation and not keeping your original accommodation. If you would like to keep your accommodation,

supplements will apply. Prices are based on the Kotas without showers; if you would like to stay in a Kota with a shower, please speak to our Travel Experts for a full quote, as they attract a higher cost.

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 Nellim (Nights: 1-7)



Wilderness Hotel Nellim is owned by our good friends Jouko and Mari Lappalainen. Nellim was their first hotel (they now also own the delights of Nangu, Muotka and Wilderness Hotel Inari) and is now renowned as an Aurora destination. It will always hold a special place in our hearts for being the first place many of us saw the Northern Lights. The hotel has been upgraded over the years and now has a wide range of accommodation options including rooms, suites, log cabins and unforgettable Aurora Cabins and Bubbles (see the 'Personalise' section for details) which are all within a short walk of the main reception and restaurant building.

A tiny village just 8km from the Russian border, Nellim is a remote spot close to the shores of Lake Inari and surrounded by incredible wilderness, providing perfectly dark skies, ideal for Aurora viewing.

Hotel facilities

- The restaurant/reception building is the focal point at Nellim. With locally-made furnishings, the atmosphere is charming. Hearty buffets of local and international favourites are served three times a day. There is usually a soup and salad selection, two choices of main meal and a pudding for evening meals
- Guests can relax next to the roaring fire and enjoy a drink from the bar in the restaurant
- A sauna is available for guests to use and can be reserved at reception in hourly slots
- There is a fully-stocked gift shop which offers a range of local produce and souvenirs for you to take home
- Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the main building for guests outside meal times
- Cross-country skis and snowshoes are available to hire from the onsite activity centre
- The small lake behind the hotel is a great spot for some independent Aurora stake outs – you can light the fire in the small wooden kota (traditional shelter) and watch the sky with a warm drink

Room types

Hotel rooms

The 54 double or twin rooms are decorated in keeping with local surroundings and culture. All have an en-suite shower room and hairdryer. Some of these rooms are located in the main building and others are situated in separate annexe buildings, a short walk from the main building. There are also two hotel rooms with private sauna which can be booked, subject to a supplement and availability.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Wilderness Hotel Nellim - Arctic Suites



Many guests like to upgrade to one of the six Arctic Suites at Nellim, all of which are situated in one of the annexe buildings across from the reception and restaurant. The suites offer guests additional room and their own space in which to relax after a day or night of activities.

Each suite varies in size and facilities. Suites are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis according to the accommodation which best suits your party.

Please note that the suites require an upgrade supplement and minimum numbers may apply. Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Please note these images display a range of the different types of suite.

Suite facilities

- The one and two-bedroom suites are all equipped with living area, bathroom (with shower and hairdryer), kitchenette and/or electric kettle and TV
- Some of the suites offer a sauna but this cannot be guaranteed, only requested
- We recommend taking supplies of your favourite tea and coffee so you can enjoy warm drinks in your suite

Image credits: Markku Inkila

Wilderness Hotel Nellim - Cabins



Nellim offers a variety of cabins which offer varying facilities and which are mainly within easy walking distance of the hotel. Cabins are allocated on a first come, first served basis, according to the accommodation which most suits your party and availability. Specific facilities cannot be guaranteed.

Price is based on two adults sharing a log cabin. Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Cabin facilities

- The standard cosy cabins are studio in style and offer a double bed, pull-out sofa bed, a small

kitchenette (with coffee maker and kettle – so you may wish to bring your favourite tea/coffee), a shower room (with hair dryer), an en-suite toilet, a fireplace and a private sauna

- Three larger log cabins situated close to the hotel are available on request, however, these require a minimum of 4 people and sleep up to 8. The lakeside log cabin is located 300-400m from the hotel

Please note these images display a range of the different types of cabins.

Wilderness Hotel Nellim - Log Suites



Located between 30-70 metres from the main building these log suites are designed to be the highest standard of accommodation Nellim offer. The suites are approximately 33m² and there are four suites in each of the separate log buildings.

Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Suite facilities

- All suites have their own private sauna, electric kettle and mini-fridge to make your stay as comfortable as possible
- The suites have a double bed downstairs as part of the open plan layout and a mezzanine level above which sleeps up to three more people
- All meals will be served in the hotel restaurant which is just a short walk from the suites
- These suites are perfect for those wishing to have more space to relax in during their downtime from activities

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

