



Nellim – Christmas Northern Lights over Lake Inari



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 2899
DURATION: 4 nights

In Brief

Our 4-night holiday to Nellim is one of our most popular and this special departure provides an ideal Christmas escape. Combining exciting winter activities, a remote location and dedicated night-time Aurora hunts, this is an unforgettable festive break.

Our Opinion

“ Four members of our office, travelling on different occasions, had their very first sighting of the Northern Lights at Nellim. Imagine what it would be like getting to do so during the Christmas period, all while taking part in the very best winter activities! Nellim’s Aurora Camps are perfectly placed in the wilderness, so you will have excellent chances of seeing the Northern Lights. ”

Jono Archer



What's included?

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

- **Flights:** indirect return flights from London Heathrow to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Flight routes subject to change.
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights' accommodation in twin/double hotel rooms (upgrades available)
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- **The following activities and equipment are included:** snowmobile safari, Aurora snowshoeing, 2 evenings at Aurora Camps, husky safari, reindeer farm visit (order subject to change)
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Aurora alert until approximately 1 am
- Services of our expert guides and representative

Trip Overview

The tiny village of Nellim sits in the northeast corner of Finland, tucked away in the wonderfully scenic and remote wilderness. Its location provides an ideal setting in which to spend Christmas, with winter wonderland scenery during the day and with a little luck, Auroras at night.

During two of your evenings, you will travel to Nellim's Aurora camps, all situated in locations specifically chosen to maximise your chances of seeing the Northern Lights. Here, you'll warm yourself by the fire and enjoy hot drinks as you wait for a potential display to light up the sky. On another evening, you will strap on snowshoes for a hike into the Arctic night, appreciating the silence of the surroundings as you search the sky.

Whilst this holiday is all about the Northern Lights, the days are also filled with brilliant activities to show you the best of this remarkable region. From driving a snowmobile along snowy trails, enjoying a morning with a reindeer herder and their animals, and taking on a dog sledding adventure across frozen Lake Inari, you will explore the wilderness in a variety of ways.

Your base for your four-night stay is the welcoming Wilderness Hotel Nellim, located close to the shore of frozen Lake Inari – an ideal viewing location for the Northern Lights. There is also the opportunity to upgrade to an Aurora Bubble or Aurora Kota to spend the night gazing directly at the Arctic sky from the comfort of your bed, see the '[Personalise](#)' section for full details.

Four of our Aurora Travel Experts saw their very first Northern Lights display in Nellim, all on separate occasions so it is a very special place to us. With its warm welcome, knowledgeable local guides, beautiful scenery and almost total lack of light pollution, it is an ideal destination for a Northern Lights holiday.

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.

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Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be welcomed and transferred* to Wilderness Hotel Nellim, approximately an hour away.

After checking in, enjoy dinner in the hotel's restaurant and keep an eye on the sky as you're now in prime Aurora territory! Nellim's remote location means that if conditions are favourable, you can simply walk down to the edge of Lake Inari and look up to the skies.

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final itinerary will be provided on arrival at your accommodation.

*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, CHRISTMAS EVE AND AURORA SNOWSHOEING

Fill up on breakfast because today you will enjoy a real highlight of the Arctic as you try your hand at mushing. Upon arrival at the husky kennels (just a short distance from the hotel), you will be given a safety briefing and full instructions on how to control your sled and team of dogs.

You will travel two per sled with the chance to swap places as you make your way over the surface of Lake Inari and through snow-covered forests. You will be out on the trail for around 1.5 hours*, giving you plenty of time to enjoy this brilliant mode of transport. Upon your return to the kennels, you will have time to take photos with the dogs.

Following the husky safari, you will enjoy lunch back at the hotel and this afternoon you will have some free time to either relax or perhaps explore independently by hiring some cross-country skis or snowshoes. Marked trails start from the hotel and the reception team can provide you with a map (see the 'personalise section for details). Additional activities may also be available locally.

In Finland, Christmas is traditionally celebrated on Christmas Eve and so tonight you will be served a special festive dinner, ahead of this evening's adventure back out into the wilderness. Strapping on a pair of snowshoes to help you walk through the deep snow, you will follow your guide and make your way towards a Northern Lights viewpoint. Once you arrive, you will enjoy warm drinks as you keep your eyes on the skies. If conditions are favourable, the Auroras may dance overhead. The activity lasts around two and a half hours in total.

* Please note that this safari is sometimes described locally as being 3 hrs in duration, but this duration includes lunch (which we include as standard of course).

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

SNOWMOBILE SAFARI AND AURORA CAMP

After breakfast, it's time to see what this brilliant part of the world has to offer. Today, you will try snowmobiling, following your guide along snowy trails further into the wilderness. This session is perfect for beginners or those who have never tried snowmobiling before, helping you get a hang of the exciting machines. Your guide will give you a full safety briefing and a driving lesson before you head out to see more of the frozen lakes, fells and forests blanketed in snow.

You will ride two per snowmobile and you can swap drivers during the safari if both of you hold a full driving licence (you must also be over 18 to drive a snowmobile). The activity lasts around two hours in total.

Enjoy lunch and dinner at the hotel ahead of your Northern Lights adventure this evening.

Travelling via a snowmobile-pulled sleigh, you will be taken to one of Nellim's Aurora Camps, a location carefully selected to give you magnificent views of the night sky. Upon arrival, your guide will prepare a fire and hot drinks as you watch the skies for a potential Northern Lights display. The activity lasts around two and a half hours in total.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

REINDEER FARM VISIT AND AURORA CAMP

After breakfast, you will meet with a reindeer herder at their local farm. You will have a chance to feed the animals as you hear all about the lives of the reindeer and the importance of the animals in this region.

Before heading back to the hotel for lunch, you will visit the remarkable log church in Nellim Village, which is famous throughout Lapland. This activity lasts around two hours in total.

Following dinner tonight, you will head out to your final Aurora Camp with your guide and hopefully, the Northern Lights will finish your holiday in style. The activity lasts around two and a half hours in total.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

DEPARTURE

Today you will transfer for your return flights home. If you are departing on an early flight then a boxed breakfast will be provided for you to take with you.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Aurora Snowmobile Safari

Snowmobiles offer a level of mobility that means that, should there be any localised cloud cover, your guide may be able to lead you to clearer skies.

After full instruction and a safety briefing, you will travel in pairs on the snowmobiles, with one travelling as a passenger and the other in control of the machine (you will get the chance to swap). You may choose to upgrade and drive your own snowmobile - please ask our Aurora Travel Experts for a quote.

Travelling by snowmobile at night is a thrilling experience as the headlights illuminate the forests and the snow reflects the light to create a very special atmosphere. Your guide will break at prime viewpoints, and if the Aurora appear, you will stop to admire the show, so driving distances can vary.

Please note: You must be 18 years old or over and hold a full driving licence to drive a snowmobile.

Duration: Approximately 2.5 hours

Other options

ACTIVITIES



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 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 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. 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.



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

TRIP EXTENSIONS



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: 1-4)



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, 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

