



Nellim - Tailor Made



HOLIDAY TYPE: Tailor Made
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 2907
DURATION: 3 or more nights

In Brief

Set your own itinerary during this tailor-made holiday to Nellim. Situated close to the shores of Lake Inari, amidst the fells and forests of North East Finland, this is an excellent location for Aurora hunting at night and enjoying Arctic activities during the day.

Our Opinion

“ *Nellim has been one of our most popular destinations for years and we have a range of wonderful itineraries available for guests to enjoy. We do, however, know that sometimes people are more restricted on time, budget or departure date than a set itinerary allows for and so the tailor made option gives people the flexibility to design their own holiday. This trip is also ideal if you are travelling with a group of people who all wish to take part in different experiences, as everyone can choose how active they would like to be.* ”

Amy Hope



What's included?

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

- **Flights:** return flights from London to Ivalo (either direct or via Helsinki) are included. Regional and non-UK departures available on request (flight routes are subject to change)
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers*
- **Accommodation:** a minimum of three nights in a twin or double room at Nellim Wilderness Hotel
- **Meals:** full board
- **Activities:** choose from our extensive range of activities (**detailed in the [activity timetable](#)**)
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- The services of our local guides and representatives

Trip Overview

Nellim has been one of our most popular destinations for over a decade, and for so many reasons. The location of the hotel is wild and wonderful, the Aurora record and viewing opportunities are exceptional and the accommodation range is fantastic. The activities on offer also showcase the absolute best of Arctic Finland.

Designing your own holiday at Nellim means that you can set the duration and pace of your trip and focus in on the key activities and experiences you would most like to enjoy.

Tailoring a holiday gives you great flexibility. Perhaps you are travelling in a group where people have different priorities, or maybe you have been to the region before and know what you want to focus on. It is also a great way to arrange your holiday if you are working to a budget – big or small. Regardless, our Aurora Travel Experts will be on hand to help you plan the ideal holiday from beginning to end, using their first-hand knowledge of this wonderful location.

You can choose the exact duration and departure date of your stay at Nellim (a minimum of three nights is required and definitely recommended) and then you simply add in the activities from the individually priced range which is detailed in the '[activities](#)' section of the holiday page. There are

wonderful experiences to be had here, during both day and night.

When it comes to Northern Lights hunting, Nellim really excels itself with a range of innovative Aurora hunting options. Guests can travel in the marvellous Aurora sleigh, spend the night in a unique Aurora Bubble or Aurora Kota, hunt the lights on foot, by car or by snowmobile, or visit one of Nellim's Aurora Camps which are all situated in prime Northern Lights viewpoints. Even if you aren't out on an Aurora activity, you have excellent Northern Lights viewing potential right next to the hotel. Just a few minutes' walk from the main hotel building, you can be standing on the vast expanse of frozen Lake Inari, gazing at the dark sky.

During the day, of course, all the key Arctic activities are available. You can choose to go dog sledding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing. You could try your hand at ice fishing or perhaps visit a local reindeer farm. The options are wonderfully varied. In between activities, you can enjoy a walk to the nearby log church, go sledging, relax in one of the saunas (a real Finnish tradition) or perhaps hire cross-country skis or snowshoes to enjoy the local trails independently.

Your Aurora Travel Expert will be happy to advise you on the best activities and accommodation options for your holiday.

If you wish to combine your stay with any of our other Wilderness Hotel destinations including Inari, Nangu or Muotka, then please simply ask one of the team to provide a tailored quote for you.

*Please note that 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.

Image credits: Markku Inkila, Cecilia Meira (client)

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL, TRANSFER AND WELCOME

Included Meals: Dinner

DAYS
2 TO 3

DESIGN YOUR OWN HOLIDAY

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

DEPART OR EXTEND YOUR STAY

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Reindeer day by snowmobile

This activity lets you experience the thrill of snowmobiling in this wild and remote landscape and also provides an insight into the traditions of Sámi culture, during a visit to a reindeer farm.

After full instruction and a safety briefing, you will travel two people per snowmobile along the local trails, to reach the reindeer herder and their animals. You may also stop along the way to visit the delightful log-built church at Nellim and the Russian border, which is only around 8km from the hotel.

At the farm, you will have the chance to feed the animals and learn about their importance to the Sámi people of Lapland and the region as a whole.

Lunch will be cooked over an open fire and warm drinks will be provided before you head back to the hotel.

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

Duration: Approximately 5-6 hours

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Gentle snowshoeing

For those who want to enjoy a gentle and peaceful walk in stunning snow-covered surroundings, look no further than snowshoeing.

Snowshoes and poles will be provided, and your guide will then lead you on a two-hour walk through the forests which surround the hotel. It takes mere minutes for you to be deep in the heart of untouched wilderness, enjoying the silence of this remote location.

Throughout, your guide will provide information regarding local flora and fauna as you use the snowshoes to explore.

Duration: Approximately 2 hours



Explore snowmobiling

For those who are more confident with the idea of snowmobiling and want to spend longer out on the trails, this is an exceptional activity.

After a full safety briefing and instructions on how to drive and handle the snowmobile, you will head out on your adventure, travelling two people per machine (you may want to upgrade and drive your own snowmobile - please contact our Aurora Travel Experts for a quote). You will have the chance to swap drivers during the activity should you wish.

The route typically takes you along stunning forest trails, before you head towards the vast expanse of Lake Inari, which is ideal for enjoying some thrilling snowmobiling.

Your guide will make a stop for lunch, where they will cook a warming and hearty meal over an open fire, typically in a traditional kota (wooden tepee) on the edge of the lake. You will then head back to the hotel.

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

Duration: Approximately 4 hours



Reindeer farm visit

Today you will gain an insight into the traditions of Sámi culture, the lives of a herder and the importance of the reindeer to a rural economy such as Nellim when you visit a local reindeer farm. You will be transferred either by car or sledge pulled by a snowmobile. During your visit, you can ask the herder questions about the way of life this far north of the Arctic Circle. There may also be a chance to feed the reindeer. A visit to the Nellim church is also included.

Duration: Approximately 2 hours

Image credit: Kevin Owen (client)



Private Aurora sleigh ride

One of Nellim's Northern Lights innovations is the Aurora sleigh.

These sleighs have been designed with a Perspex roof so you can always look up at the night sky in hope of seeing the Northern Lights, whilst being protected from the cold outside. The sleighs are heated, and you will sit on top of comfortable sheepskins as your experienced guide pulls the sleigh using their snowmobile. You will travel around Lake Inari and will make stops at some prime viewpoints.

This is a private tour which can be operated simply as a private sleigh ride or you can choose to enjoy the experience with the addition of a dinner cooked over an open fire by your guide which increases the duration by around 30 minutes.

Duration: approximately 2.5 hours

Minimum numbers: 2 people

Private Aurora sleigh ride including dinner: from £203 per person. Please speak to our Travel Experts for a quote



Aurora hunt by car/minibus

This Aurora hunt is designed to help you outrun any localised cloud cover as your guide chooses the most suitable destination for an evening Aurora stake-out.

One of the most frequent destinations is Paatsjoki Bridge, as it has an excellent Northern Lights viewing record. The river here is fast flowing, and so there is always open water, which is ideal for photographers wanting to catch the Aurora reflecting on the water. This area affords exceptional views of the night sky and is close to the Russian border. Warm drinks will be served, and stories

told as you await a potential sighting with your guide.

Duration: Approximately 3 hours

Image credit: Markku Inkila



Snowshoe hike

Spend around four hours out in the wilds with your guide, using snowshoes to help you explore the stunning forests around Nellim and walk over the deep snow with ease.

Your guide will lead the way and will point out local flora and fauna as you go, providing information about the local environment and stopping at the most scenic spots.

You will break for lunch around an open fire and you'll have the chance to really soak in the silence of this wild place.

Duration: Approximately 4 hours

Image credit: Markku Inkila



Cross-country skiing (2 hours)

Cross-country skiing is one of the most popular Scandinavian activities and this is your chance to learn the basic skills. You will be taught the basics before exploring the trails which surround the hotel. This peaceful activity lets you appreciate the silence and beauty of this area, beware, however, it can be very addictive!

Duration: approximately 2 hours



Husky safari

A husky safari is effectively a 'must-do' activity during your stay in the Arctic.

You will meet your guide at the hotel and will be given full instruction on how to handle the sled and a safety briefing. You will then travel a short distance in a snowmobile-pulled sleigh, to the nearby husky kennels.

You will hear the dogs a long way before you will see them as they will be so excited for the trail. You will be allocated a team between two, with one person driving

and the other in the sled (you will have the chance to swap during the activity).

The anchor will be released and then you will set off on your safari. Travelling along trails and then out onto the expanse of Lake Inari on a dog sled is an experience like no other!

Depending on conditions, you will be out for around 1.5 to 2 hours with the dogs. Back at the kennels, you will have the chance to spend some time with your teams and take pictures, before heading back to the hotel for lunch.

Duration: approximately 3 hours (including lunch at the hotel)



Snowmobile safari try out

If you have never been snowmobiling before, this is the trip for you, as it introduces you to the machines as well as the scenery wonderfully well.

After a full safety briefing and instructions on how to drive and handle the snowmobile, you will head out on a safari, travelling two people per machine (you may choose to upgrade and drive your own snowmobile - please ask our Aurora Travel Experts for a quote).

Travelling along the well-marked trails, you will explore the stunning wilderness which surrounds the hotel, driving over frozen lakes and through beautiful forests.

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

Duration: approximately 2 hours



Ice fishing trip by snowmobile sleigh

This activity is ideal for those who want a day in the wild, trying one of the most favoured local pastimes.

Travelling in a sleigh pulled by your guide's snowmobile, you will head to a prime fishing spot on one of the lakes around Nellim. You will be provided with the tools you will need, drill your holes and then wait patiently for a fish to nibble on the line.

Lunch will be cooked on an open fire out in the wilderness, and if you're lucky enough to land a catch,

fresh fish may even be on the menu.

Duration: Approximately 4 hours



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



Aurora Camp

Nellim is famed for its Aurora Camps which have been built by the experienced guides in prime Northern Lights viewpoints. Your guide will take you to the most appropriate camp for the conditions and you will travel in a sleigh pulled by a snowmobile.

Warm drinks will be served and stories told, as you await a potential sighting of the Northern Lights.

Duration: Approximately 2.5 hours

Image credit: Markku Inkila



Aurora snowshoeing

Snowshoeing at night is a wonderful experience, regardless of whether the Northern Lights appear overhead.

The silence of the forests at night is just breathtaking and the landscape takes on a totally different feel at night. Your guide will lead you along the trails to one of the camp spots, where you can enjoy some hot drinks. If conditions are favourable your efforts will hopefully be rewarded with a spectacular display.

Duration: Approximately 2.5 hours

LITTLE EXTRAS



Cross-country ski & snowshoe hire

In between your activities, you may like to do some independent exploration and hire cross-country skis or snowshoes (skis are best hired following a cross-country lesson). There are numerous short trails leading directly from the hotel and maps are available from reception. Always make sure you have a fully charged phone with you and the hotel's number if exploring on your own.

Cost: £18 per person per day

Image credit: Markku Inkila



Aurora alert

An 'Aurora Alert' is an excellent addition for any keen Northern Lights hunter and can be arranged on arrival at your destination. Effectively, this is a buzzer which sounds when the lights have been spotted outside. When you hear an alert, it is time to put your cold weather clothes on and get away from any lights to watch the dark skies.

These alerts will generally operate until around 1 am but we always advise that you confirm with hotel staff as the times may vary.

The alerts are designed to be an aid to Aurora hunting and whilst every effort will be made to issue a text message to you should the weather and solar conditions seem conducive to a display, this cannot be guaranteed. The situation can change very quickly so you should keep an eye on the sky yourself and not rely solely on them.

Cost: £28 per alert for the duration of your stay

Image credit: Markku Inkila

SPECIAL NIGHTS



A night in an Aurora Bubble

Exchange your standard hotel room for an upgraded night's stay in one of the famous Aurora Bubbles at Nellim. Complete with a domed glass roof, these bubbles mean you can lie in your comfortable double bed and look up to the star-filled skies in the hope of seeing an Aurora display.

The bubbles have their own compact bathroom with a toilet and heater to keep you warm throughout the night.

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. Please speak to a Travel Expert for a quotation.



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.



Aurora Huts

Immerse yourself in the spectacular Finnish wilderness and spend an unforgettable night hunting the Northern Lights from a unique Aurora Hut.

The Aurora Huts are the very latest in Aurora accommodation, and their innovative design makes them a wonderful addition to any holiday at Nangu. They are completely mobile and can travel across ice, snow and can even float on water. The expert local team will situate them in a prime Aurora location on the edge of frozen Lake Inari, so you will be away from any artificial light

pollution.

The huts allow you to spend the night surrounded by the pristine landscape of Lapland and the floor to ceiling windows provide exceptional views of the night sky. As darkness falls, you can relax in your cosy double bed and gaze up at the Arctic firmament as you keep watch for the Northern Lights.

Because they need to be easy to move by snowmobile, the huts are compact, but they have electricity, miniature kitchenette and Wi-Fi. The clever designers have also managed to fit in a small

composting toilet for convenience. You'll only be a short distance from Nangu so you can utilise your room's shower facilities the next morning before breakfast.

Please note: the price is based on a per person per night basis.

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: 1-3)



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>