



# Nellim - Wilderness Weekend



**HOLIDAY TYPE:** Small Group  
**VISITING:** Finland

**BROCHURE CODE:** 2909  
**DURATION:** 3 nights

## In Brief

This 3-night break features a Northern Lights-focused itinerary in Nellim, Finland and is perfect for those Aurora hunters who are short on time but still want to maximise their chances. Expert guides will take you on dedicated hunts and help provide you with the best possible Northern Lights sighting opportunities.

## Our Opinion

*“ Time and time again, Nellim is praised by our clients and is a true favourite here at The Aurora Zone. This weekend break, with direct flights on most dates, allows those short on time to maximise their Aurora hunting over just three nights. Our guests get three nights in prime aurora viewing territory to hopefully see the Northern Lights, utilising the skills of the local guides to maximise viewing potential. There are also two full days which can be totally tailored so you can be as active or as relaxed as you like. ”*

Amy Walkington-Gray



## 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 subject to change.
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights' accommodation in twin/double hotel rooms. Upgrades can be arranged, subject to availability and supplements
- **Meals:** 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** Aurora Camp and Aurora hunt by minibus **(the order of activities is subject to change)**
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Services of our expert guides and Aurora Zone representative
- Aurora Alert until approximately 1 am

## Trip Overview

When enjoying a weekend Aurora hunting mini-break, it is always essential to maximise your chances of seeing the Northern Lights. Based at Nellim, one of our most popular destinations, this wonderful wilderness weekend includes two dedicated Aurora hunts which will really improve your chances of seeing the lights if conditions are favourable.

In the company of expert guides, you will be led out away from all light pollution and into prime Northern Lights viewing locations which only the locals know about.

Your first activity is a visit to one of the area's famed Aurora Camps which you will reach travelling in a snowmobile-pulled sleigh. Each camp has a spectacular location with views of the Northern skies and your guide will choose the best option for the conditions. With warm drinks and great company to pass the time, your stake-out will hopefully be rewarded with a display.

Your second activity will use the mobility provided by either a minibus or a car to try and outrun any localised cloud cover. Your destination will be determined by the forecasts but in this region, if

conditions are right, you are unlikely to have to venture too far in order to catch a display. Please note that the order of activities is subject to change and that your Aurora hunting activities may be switched around.

Your days have been left free for you to tailor your itinerary to suit your preferences. You can choose from a number of activities that we have on offer, detailed in the '[Personalise](#)' tab on the holiday page. There are some incredible options, including snowmobile safaris, dog sled trips and snowshoeing experiences.

During this short break, you will spend three nights at Nellim Wilderness Hotel, which is one of our best-selling destinations. It offers a wide range of accommodation options including rooms, suites and cabins.

Nellim is also home to the original Aurora Bubbles we highly recommend upgrading a night of your stay to one of these glass-domed rooms.

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.

©Markku Inkila and Anthony Oberlin

# Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY  
1

ARRIVAL, TRANSFERS AND WELCOME

After you touch down at Ivalo Airport, you will be transferred\* to Nellim Wilderness Hotel.

On arrival, you will check in to your accommodation and head for a hearty dinner in the hotel's restaurant.

Later in the evening you will be issued with your cold weather clothing and have a welcome meeting with one of the local guides. Once you have it, we recommend testing your cold weather clothing by taking a walk down on to the small frozen lake behind the hotel. It is a great Aurora viewing spot (at least 5 members of our office staff have seen the Northern Lights from this point) and gives you chance to check all of your equipment fits correctly and is comfortable for the next few days.

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

*\*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  
2

## FREE DAY AND AURORA CAMP

After breakfast, your day is free for you to tailor your time. The wide range of options that we have can all be found, in the '[Personalise](#)' tab on the holiday page.

You may wish to spend time simply exploring the landscape and wilderness in your own time, or you can book an activity and have a guided tour of the surrounding fells. Why not spend the day combining a snowmobile safari and a reindeer experience, as you take a fast-paced ride to the reindeer farm? Once you arrive, you can meet and feed the reindeer and enjoy lunch by an open fire. Or, explore on foot during a guided snowshoe trip, walking over thick blankets of snow into parts of the wilderness that would be unreachable with normal footwear.

Your lunches will be served in the hotel restaurant (unless you book activities which include a meal)

After dinner, it is time for your inaugural Aurora activity– travelling in a sleigh that will be pulled by your guide's snowmobile. You will sit back and relax as you glide over the snow, beneath hopefully clear skies. Nellim has several Aurora Camps in prime Northern Lights viewpoints, so you will be taken to the most suitable location for the conditions.

Overall, you will be out for around 2.5 hours. Warm drinks will be served as you admire the view and, with any luck, the Northern Lights will dance and shimmer across the sky.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, DinnerDAY  
3

## FREE DAY AND NORTHERN LIGHTS HUNT BY MINIBUS

Once more your day is completely free so you can choose to pass your time however you wish. Choose from the many options that we have detailed in the '[Personalise](#)' tab and you can find yourself snowmobiling on Lake Inari, ice fishing, cross-country skiing or meeting and feeding reindeer.

Depending on which activities you book, both lunch and dinner will be served at the hotel.

Your final evening will be filled with a motorised Aurora hunt as you use the mobility provided by a car/minibus to hunt the Aurora with your guide. The route will be selected based on the Aurora activity levels and the weather forecasts. When you arrive at your destination, you can enjoy warm drinks as you watch the sky for the first signs of a display. The activity will last for around 3 hours in total.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, DinnerDAY  
4

## DEPARTURE

Today your short break comes to an end and you must say farewell to Nellim and take your transfer to the airport in time for your flight home. If you are on an early flight this morning, you will be provided with coffee and a packed breakfast to enjoy on your journey to the airport or while you are waiting for your flight. If you are on a later flight, you can enjoy your breakfast in the restaurant.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Personalise this tour

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### Our pick



### 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 18m<sup>2</sup> 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 m<sup>2</sup>.

**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.

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## Other options

### ACTIVITIES





## 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 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)



## 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



## 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



## 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

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**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





## 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 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



fresh fish may even be on the menu.

**Duration:** Approximately 4 hours



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,

## 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



## 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)**



## 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**



## 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

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**Image credit:** Markku Inkila

### 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

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**Image credit:** Markku Inkila

### SPECIAL NIGHTS





## 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.

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**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.

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Image credit: Markku Inkila

## 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 33m<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.activitiesabroad.com).

## Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

## Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.theaurorazone.com/booking-conditions>