



# Menesjärvi - New Year Wilderness Auroras



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

**BROCHURE CODE:** 21004  
**DURATION:** 4 nights

## In Brief

Welcome in the New Year in the spectacular wilderness surroundings of Menesjärvi during this four-night break. Enjoy unforgettable experiences such as a husky safari and snowmobiling as well as night-time searches for the Northern Lights.

## Our Opinion

“ *New Year's celebrations are often overhyped, and, let's be honest, a little bit of a let-down. If this has been your experience in the past then this year why not do something a bit different? Menesjärvi is one of the most remote wilderness regions that we offer, allowing you to quite literally escape the crowds. What's more, you will spend New Year's Eve snowmobiling and New Year's Day surrounded by reindeer – wonderful!* ”

Amy Walkington-Gray



## 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). Regional and non-UK departures available on request (flight routes subject to change).
- **Transfers:** return group airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights in twin/double hotel rooms
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- **The following activities and equipment are included in the price:** snowmobile safari and ice fishing, Aurora workshop and Aurora snowshoeing, morning with a reindeer herder, New Year's Eve kota dinner, husky safari, visit to the Sámi Siida Museum, Aurora snowmobile safari **(the order of activities is subject to change)**
- Cold weather clothing is provided for the duration of your stay
- Free use of snowshoes and cross-country skis
- Services of our expert local guides

## Trip Overview

There can be few better locations for welcoming in the New Year than Menesjärvi. This is not a destination for those looking for lively nightlife but with its remote wilderness location, lakeside setting and lack of light pollution, Menesjarvi offers a wonderful sense of escapism. There is also huge potential to witness the region's own bright lights as the Aurora Borealis is a frequent guest here.

Your four nights will be spent at Hotel Korpikartano, a hotel that brims with character and offers a warm welcome to all its guests. The accommodation is simple and cosy, providing all the essentials. The staff members here are wonderful and the location is incredibly special.

As one of our active trips, this itinerary is designed to keep you busy during the day and at night. That said, you do also have some time to simply relax and tailor your four-night holiday.

Highlights of the Northern Lights trip include a snowmobile ride to go ice fishing, a morning with a traditional Sami reindeer herder and a memorable husky safari in the Arctic wilds.

Your evenings will, of course, be spent seeking out the Aurora with a snowshoe walk, Northern Lights snowmobile trip and a special New Year's Dinner in a lakeside kota all included.

We love this location because it has everything a wilderness setting should have: endless snow-covered fells and forests, the vast expanse of frozen Lake Menesjarvi and absolute silence all around. This remoteness, not only ensures that you get a fantastic sense of peace but also means that your chances of seeing the Northern Lights are excellent.

Welcoming a New Year in this unique and remarkable environment is sure to be something you will never forget.

**Image credit: Timo Halonen & Ville Heimonen**



## Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY  
1

FLIGHTS, ARRIVAL AND INTRODUCTION

After landing at the airport you will be met by your guide before being transferred to the remote and picturesque community of Menesjärvi. As you drive through the wilderness you begin to appreciate what a remarkable location this really is, miles from the nearest town.

Upon arrival at Hotel Korpikartano, you will have the chance to settle in before enjoying a welcome dinner with the group. A brief introduction will be given on the hotel facilities and the final order of your activities will be confirmed. You can also get kitted out with cold weather clothing which you will keep for the duration of your stay.

**Included Meals:** Dinner

DAY  
2

MORNING WITH A REINDEER HERDER, NEW YEAR KOTA DINNER AND FESTIVITIES

Reindeer herding is a hugely important part of life in Lapland and the Sámi herders play an essential cultural, economic and social role today as they have done for centuries.

Following breakfast, you will be transferred to meet a local reindeer herder who will explain his life

and work.

On arrival at the reindeer farm, you will travel out via a snowmobile-pulled sleigh in search of the herd. The reindeer will start to make their way through the trees, drawn by the smell of food and you will have the chance to observe them up close and to feed them. A campfire will be lit and you will enjoy hot drinks, as well as the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the herder's daily life before your return to the hotel. This experience is not for tourists, you simply join the herder on their daily work; a really fantastic opportunity.

After lunch this afternoon you will have access to the snowshoes, cross-country skis, kick sleds and toboggans at the hotel so you can explore independently if you wish. We have a special guided session of cross-country skiing that you can add to your holiday. Please see the '[Personalise](#)' section for more information. Alternatively, many guests enjoy making use of the sauna facilities at the hotel which can be booked in hour long slots each day for private use.

This evening, you will gather with the other guests at the hotel to celebrate the start of a New Year in this amazing location. Dinner will be served in one of the hotel's traditional kotas (wooden teepees). You can then all head onto the nearby lake to keep watch on the sky and see if the Aurora come and join in the celebrations. There are few better places we can think of to see in a New Year.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
3

SNOWMOBILE SAFARI AND ICE FISHING, AURORA WORKSHOP AND  
AURORA SNOWSHOEING

After breakfast this morning, you will explore the area around the hotel on snowmobiles. Before setting off, you will receive a full safety briefing and instructions on how to drive the vehicles. The purpose of your journey is to locate the ideal ice fishing spot on one of the frozen lakes nearby.

Ice fishing is a much-enjoyed pastime in this corner of the world and if you are served fish at the hotel, it is likely to have been caught in one of these lakes.

The guides will show you how to drill through the thick sheet of ice to reach the water below and from there the fun is in the anticipation. If you are not lucky enough to catch anything, this is still a relaxing activity which provides the ideal opportunity to spend time enjoying the silence and the surroundings.

While snowmobiling, you will travel two people per machine with the opportunity to take it in turns to drive (providing you both have a full driving licence and are over the age of 18) or travel as a passenger. It is also possible to upgrade and drive one person per snowmobile. Details about this can be found in the '[Personalise](#)' section.

After lunch, this afternoon has been left free for you to relax or to try some additional activities. The hotel offers free use of kick sleds, snowshoes, toboggans and cross-country skiing equipment and so you can explore independently should you wish. There are maps available at reception and you should check the trail conditions and weather before setting off. Bear in mind that it will get dark in the afternoon at this time of year, so a head torch may be required.

This evening after dinner, there will be an Aurora workshop led by one of the expert local guides. They are all talented and enthusiastic Northern Lights photographers and during the workshop, they

will showcase their images and discuss some of the science behind the Aurora. They will also talk you through the camera settings required to capture a Northern Lights image before you practice outside during your first night-time excursion: Aurora snowshoeing.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
4

## HUSKY SAFARI, SÁMI SIIDA MUSEUM AND AURORA SNOWMOBILING

After breakfast this morning you will take part in an exciting husky safari into the winter wilderness. After receiving full instructions, you will head out, two people per sled, with your team of eager dogs leading the way. Traversing the land in this traditional manner is a lovely experience that allows you to really enjoy the peace and tranquillity of your surroundings. We find that it is an activity which is almost universally loved by our guests.

After your husky experience, you will then travel to the nearby village of Inari. Here you will have lunch before visiting the main focal point of the village – the Sámi Siida Museum with its array of interesting exhibitions. Here you can gain an insight into the history of the region and the Sámi culture in general through the interactive displays and presentations.

Tonight, after dinner, you will be back on the snowmobiles as you set off on an Aurora hunt, using the machines to provide you with additional mobility, which can be very helpful when seeking the Northern Lights. Your guide will give you a safety briefing and full instructions on how to drive the vehicles. The pace will be gentle as your guide leads the hunt, using their local knowledge and expertise to try and track down the Northern Lights for you. Once again, you will travel two people per snowmobile; the upgrade to travel one person per vehicle can be found in the ['Personalise'](#) section. Anybody wishing to drive must have a full driving licence and be over 18.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
5

## DEPARTURE

After breakfast, your adventure comes to an end as you are taken to the airport for your flight home.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

# Personalise this tour

## Our pick





## Cross-country skiing

Cross-country skiing is remarkably good fun and is an efficient way to travel and explore the terrain surrounding the hotel. Gliding across a frozen lake or through a snow-laden forest helps you understand why people get addicted to this pastime. Your guide will give instructions and lead you through the forest on a short ski trip. The skis will then be yours for the remainder of the day should you wish to further enhance your skills. This is an excellent option for your first full day in Lapland.

**Duration:** 1 – 1.5 hrs (ski hire for the day)

## Other options

### ACTIVITIES



## Additional Aurora snowshoe session

Wandering around on snowshoes is a classic way of getting around in Lapland, taking you into some truly quiet natural spaces. Why not add another to your holiday for an extra session of therapeutic walking, looking out to see if the Aurora are dancing in the skies above?

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Image credit:** Timo Halonen



## Riding one person per snowmobile

Driving a snowmobile over the open whiteness is utterly electrifying, so it is well worth upgrading to drive your own snowmobile for the whole activity, rather than going two per vehicle.

# Included Accommodation

## Hotel Korpikartano (Nights: 1-4)



Hotel Korpikartano is a very special place in a breath-taking location in Finnish Lapland. Its situation could not be more idyllic, with a fantastic outlook over Lake Menesjärvi and the remote wilderness beyond. The lack of artificial light in the area ensures that if the Aurora appears, then you can enjoy amazing displays from very close to the hotel.

Hotel Korpikartano was originally a boarding school for those growing up in this remote part of the world and is, therefore, full of quirks, character and charm. The welcome provided by the owners, Anne and Timo (Timo is retired but still makes regular appearances to take Aurora photos here), creates a wonderful atmosphere and their passion for the region is infectious.

The staff and guides have a huge passion for this landscape and for providing guests with a truly memorable stay.

The hotel comprises of two main buildings. The first houses the dining room and a number of bedrooms. A separate annexe building (a very short walk away) houses the majority of the guest accommodation.

It is a place with great soul and which offers guests the chance to completely switch off from the everyday and relax in a wild and beautiful environment. You are likely to leave feeling very privileged to have experienced this wonderful place.

## Hotel facilities

- Traditional home cooking is the order of the day in the hotel's dining room. The food can be described as 'simple, tasty and hearty' and is very much designed to fuel you up for your outdoor adventures. In many cases, the evening's set menu will contain local ingredients such as fresh fish that Timo has caught, berries Anne has foraged, or meat purchased from the local reindeer herders. The set meals are all self-service. Breakfast is a buffet of breads, meat, cheese and fish with the addition of porridge and fruit. Lunch and evening meals start with a salad and bread, a set main and then a pudding which is often a local speciality. Please let us

know at the time of booking if you have any dietary requirements so these can be accommodated.

- You can also purchase a range of wine, beer and spirits to accompany your meal.
- Obviously, saunas are a pre-requisite in these parts and there are two, one in each building. They can each be booked privately by guests each day in hour long slots.
- There is an outdoor wood-burning sauna and rustic hot tub. Should you request the use of the outdoor sauna (a local charge will apply), don't forget that a dip in the lake (in autumn) or a roll in the snow (in winter) is almost obligatory (as long as you are in a good physical condition).
- The simple lounge (near the reception) provides tea and coffee making facilities. Consider this to be the perfect spot to relax by the stove with a book but remember to keep your eyes peeled for the Northern Lights as the windows face north!
- There is free Wi-Fi for guests to use throughout both buildings and there is a PC available at reception.
- Books and games are also available to borrow from reception.
- If you are travelling in the winter then the hotel offers free use of snowshoes, cross-country skis, kick sleds and toboggans so there is also something for those who love the great outdoors and want to explore independently between activities. There are marked trails across the stunning frozen lake and maps are available at reception.
- If you want to send a memento home, then there are postcards available to purchase and some of Timo's Aurora photography is for sale. Anne also knits cosy woollen socks for charity and these can usually be purchased at reception.
- There is a lakeside Kota (wooden tepee) which is open for all guests during the evening. Here you can light a fire and warm up in between forays out onto the lake in search of the Northern Lights.

## Room types

The 28 guest bedrooms vary in size and shape as you may expect from a former school. They are cosy, comfortable and decorated with locally-sourced wood. Some of the furnishings have been crafted by Timo's own hand.

All guest bedrooms have an en-suite bathroom with shower and a hairdryer. Cups and kettles are provided in each bedroom and a variety of teas and coffee is available in each building for you to take to your room.

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**Image credit: Timo Halonen, Matt Robinson (please note: The images depicted show the hotel during both the winter and autumn months)**

## 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](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>