



# Nellim - Northern Lights over Lake Inari



**HOLIDAY TYPE:** Small Group

**VISITING:** Finland

**BROCHURE CODE:** 2903

**DURATION:** 4 nights

## In Brief

Our Northern Lights over Lake Inari trip is one of our most-loved 4-night holidays. With its exciting and varied winter activities, remote location and dedicated night-time Aurora hunts, it's very easy to see why.

## Our Opinion

“ If you are serious about seeing the Northern Lights then you've come to one of the best places in the world to make your dream come true. There's a certain magic at work here. During the day, the wide expanses of frozen Lake Inari and the winter forests provide a beautiful snowy playground and by night, the magic and mysticism are even more pronounced. From our Aurora Camp on Lake Inari, you can gaze upon a sky filled with stars and, conditions being favourable, the Aurora Borealis. ”

Amy Walkington-Gray



## What's included?

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

- **Flights:** return from London to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Flight routes are subject to change.
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights' accommodation in twin/double hotel rooms. Accommodation upgrades can be arranged, subject to availability and supplement
- **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
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Aurora Alert until approximately 1 am
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners

## Trip Overview

In the far northeast corner of Finland, close to the Russian border, the tiny village of Nellim's remote location ensures not only an incredibly scenic wilderness setting for your trip but also fantastic Aurora potential. The warm and welcoming Wilderness Hotel Nellim is located close to the shore of Lake Inari and the lake's frozen surface provides an ideal Aurora viewing spot. The hotel also has incredible Aurora Bubbles and Aurora Kotas on-site and guests can upgrade to spend the night in these, gazing directly at the Arctic sky from the comfort of their bed.

On two of your evenings, you will travel to one of Nellim's Aurora Camps. They have several at their disposal, all situated in locations chosen to maximise your chances of seeing the Aurora, with their clear views of the night sky. Here you can warm yourself by the fire and enjoy a hot drink as you wait for a potential Northern Lights display to light up the sky. Another of your nights will be spent on an Aurora snowshoe hike where you can really appreciate the silence and beauty of the surroundings as you walk along snowy trails and look up at the night sky.

Whilst the evening excursions are undoubtedly a highlight of this holiday, the days are also filled with

some wonderful activities which showcase this remarkable region. You will drive a snowmobile along snowy trails, enjoy a morning with a reindeer herder where you will gain an insight into the importance of these animals to this region and take on a husky safari across the lake, as you guide a team of eager dogs through this spectacular landscape.

Nellim is where four of us here at The Aurora Zone, on separate occasions, got our first glimpse of the Northern Lights and so it holds a very special place in our hearts. There is something about it, with its warm hospitality, beautiful scenery and very knowledgeable guides that make it a very special place indeed. This, in combination with its almost total lack of light pollution and array of Aurora watching locations, makes it 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.

Please note if you are travelling over Christmas or New Year, you will enjoy a festive dinner and celebrations on the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup> of December (traditionally in Finland, Christmas is celebrated on Christmas Eve).

Image credits: Markku Inkila and Anthony Oberlin



## Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| DAY<br>1 | ARRIVAL |
|----------|---------|

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be welcomed and transferred\* to Wilderness Hotel Nellim in the northeast corner of Finland, just nine kilometres from the Russian border.

You can check-in and then a hearty dinner will be served in the hotel's main restaurant.

Before heading to bed, you may want to take a wander down to the edge of Lake Inari, as this is a prime Aurora spot! The beauty of Nellim's remote location is that there is almost no light pollution, so you don't need to go far at all if the skies are clear and conditions are favourable.

On one of your nights you may choose to upgrade your accommodation to one of the spectacular Aurora Bubbles or Aurora Kotas at Nellim, or perhaps you may like to head out for an evening of searching for the Northern Lights via snowmobile – see the '[Personalise](#)' section for full details.

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

## SNOWMOBILE SAFARI AND AURORA CAMP

On your first morning at Nellim, you will see that this is a location that is not just about the Aurora and evening activities. During the day, it is a remarkably beautiful part of the world with dazzling frozen lakes, fells and forests blanketed in snow.

After breakfast this morning, you will head out with your guide into the wilderness as you explore on snowmobiles. This is an ideal snowmobile try-out session, which is a great way to get the hang of these exciting machines. Your guide will give you a full safety briefing and a driving lesson before you head out along the local trails exploring your new surroundings. 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.

Lunch will be served back at the hotel.

This evening, after dinner, you will make your first journey to one of Nellim's Aurora Camps, travelling there by a snowmobile-pulled sleigh. The camps are situated in carefully chosen spots, which offer magnificent views of the night sky.

Your guide will prepare a fire and as a group, you will gather around and enjoy hot drinks as you watch the skies for a potential Aurora display. You will be out for approximately two and a half hours tonight.

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

DAY  
3

## HUSKY SAFARI AND AURORA SNOWSHOEING

Today you will enjoy one of the highlights of any trip to Lapland as you take control of a team of eager huskies. The husky kennels are just a short distance from the hotel and before setting off your experienced musher guide will give you all a safety briefing and full instructions.

You will travel two people per sled (with the chance to swap places and each drive the dog team) as your dogs pull you over frozen lakes and through snow-covered forests. There is not much that can compare with travelling in such a time-honoured fashion. You will be out on the trail for around 1.5 hours\* and there will be time for you to take photos with the dogs on your return to the kennels. Following the husky safari, you will enjoy lunch back at the hotel.

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.

After dinner, you will head back out into the wilderness, but this time equipped with snowshoes. Snowshoes help you walk through the deep snow so you can admire the peaceful surroundings as you make your way towards an excellent Aurora viewpoint. Here you will enjoy warm drinks as you look up at the night sky where hopefully if conditions are favourable, the Northern Lights will make an appearance. You will be out for approximately two and a half hours this evening.

\* 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  
4

## REINDEER FARM VISIT AND AURORA CAMP

Today you will meet with a reindeer herder at their local farm. You will encounter the animals and discuss their importance with the herder. They will talk to you about the lives of the reindeer and you will also have a chance to feed the animals. The activity will last for around two hours.

Before heading back to the hotel for lunch, you will visit the remarkable log church in the village, which is famous all over Lapland.

Following dinner tonight, you will head out to your final Aurora Camp with your guide and hopefully, an Aurora-filled night sky will conclude your holiday. Tonight's activity will last for approximately two and a half hours.

**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



### 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 a small sink. At Nellim, there are also two Aurora Cabins that 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. Please ask our Travel Experts for a quotation.

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## Other options

### ACTIVITIES



## 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



## 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



## 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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Image credit: Markku Inkila

## 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 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>