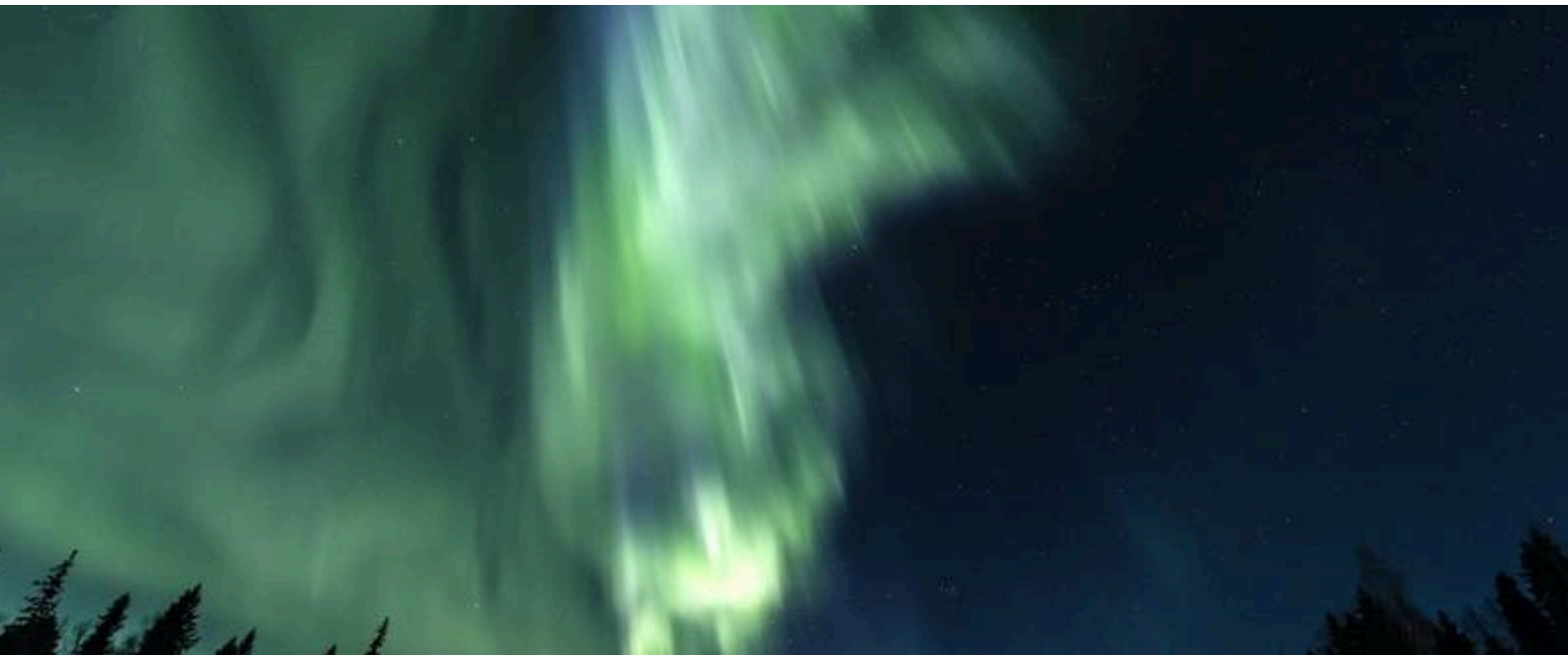




Pine Bay Lodge - Aurora Astronomy Tour



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Sweden

BROCHURE CODE: 26000
DURATION: 4 nights

In Brief

Spend 4 nights nestled in peaceful Swedish Lapland, stargazing and Aurora hunting from the homely Pine Bay Lodge and nearby observatory. Enjoy two guided evenings in the fully-equipped observatory for a spectacularly close view of the wonders in the dark Arctic sky. Your itinerary also includes a Northern Lights snowmobile-pulled sled tour as well as plenty of free time in the day to relax in this wonderfully remote setting.



What's included?

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

- **Flights:** return flights from London to Lulea (via Stockholm)
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights at Pine Bay Lodge
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- **Activities:** 2 guided evenings in the observatory, 1 Northern Lights hunt by snowmobile pulled sleigh and 1 sauna visit (order subject to change)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay

Trip Overview

Nestled in the beautiful region of Luleå, Pine Bay Lodge offers scandi-style decor, cosy home comforts and stunning natural surroundings. The welcoming lounge area with large fireplace makes for the perfect place to retire to after some Lappish exploration. Your days here have been left free for you to tailor your time to suit you. See our '[Personalise](#)' tab to choose the Arctic activities to complete your experience. Once you have explored the expansive wilderness, you can unwind in the sauna, included in your package to relax in style.

Your nights are all about celebrating the wonderful dark skies. Of course, the Northern Lights are the main draw here and during one evening you'll hunt for the special spectacle in a cosy sled pulled by your guide's snowmobile.

For the stargazing enthusiasts or those who want to make the most of the inky black canvas, this trip offers an exclusive look into the skies with two guided evenings in the nearby observatory. You can admire the wonders overhead with the help of our local specialist, Ulf Jonsson. Ulf is very proud of the observatory he has created and developed over several years. It is around 3 metres by 2 metres so only suitable for a small, private group. It has a very impressive list of equipment which our Travel Experts will be able to provide upon request. The real draw here is Ulf with his passion, knowledge and expertise who will introduce you to constellations to the surface of the moon and if conditions are

favourable, the Northern Lights, the observatory and its fantastic equipment gives you a viewpoint that is quite literally out of this world.

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EUROPEAN UNION

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL

Upon arrival at Luleå airport, you will be met and transferred into the wilderness settings of Pine Bay Lodge.

Enjoy dinner in the restaurant tonight and settle into your new homely surroundings. Make sure you keep an eye on the sky as the Northern Lights could be here to welcome you to Lapland.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

FREE DAY AND GUIDED EVENING IN THE OBSERVATORY

This morning after breakfast you have a free day to explore the incredible pristine surroundings. You could add to your Arctic adventure with a dog sledding tour through the wilds - see our '[Personalise](#)' tab for more information.

Enjoy lunch and dinner in the restaurant before your guided observatory evening tonight. You will meet with Ulf Jonsson, a consultant of aviation, space and photography who will take you through the range of binoculars and telescopes on offer. Then, the roll-away roof will reveal the night sky and you'll get a brilliant view of the wonders overhead.

Ulf will point out constellations and explain how different cultures perceive the stars. If the moon is visible, you can track along the surface to observe the craters and mountain ranges. Of course, the real highlight in this part of the world is the Northern Lights and if conditions are favourable, you may get one of the most detailed views of this wonder. Should the Auroras appear, Ulf will also help you with your camera settings to capture this special moment. You will be out for approximately 3 hours in total including transfers.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

FREE DAY AND NORTHERN LIGHTS BY SNOWMOBILE-PULLED SLED

After breakfast, you have a free day to enjoy however you like. You could explore the Luleå Archipelago via hovercraft, a truly unique way to travel over the sea ice and only available in this part of Swedish Lapland. See our '[Personalise](#)' tab for more information.

Enjoy lunch and dinner in the restaurant ahead of tonight's adventure searching for the Northern Lights. You'll sit comfortably in a cosy sled as your guide pulls you on their snowmobile out further into the wilderness and to a prime Aurora location. You will be out for approximately 2 hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

SAUNA VISIT AND GUIDED EVENING IN THE OBSERVATORY

Enjoy breakfast before unwinding in true Lappish style with a sauna visit. The traditional wood-fired sauna is situated in the main lounge area, so you'll have easy access to this relaxing experience.

After lunch and dinner in the restaurant, it's time to meet Ulf again for another evening in the brilliant observatory. If conditions are favourable, the Northern Lights may be there to bid you farewell.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

DEPARTURE

Today after breakfast it is sadly time for your short break in Sweden to come to an end. If you have an early flight time, we will box up breakfast for you to take with you.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



The Treehotel

The Treehotel is unique and surreal. We can arrange for you to spend the night amidst the treetops of Swedish Lapland in one of the most inventive bedrooms on the planet. It is an experience, unlike any other and one that we don't feel that you should miss. Each of the seven architect-designed rooms is cutting edge.

The bedroom options include The UFO, Mirror Cube, Bird's Nest, Blue Cone and The Cabin. Each room is spectacular in its own right and totally unique and no matter which option you choose you will experience an unforgettable night. It is possible to upgrade to a night in The Dragonfly or the 7th Room - please ask if you would like a quote for this option.

Your stay includes lunch, dinner and breakfast at Britta's Guesthouse which is approximately a 10-minute walk from the tree rooms. This is a characterful and quirky place to dine, in contrast with the ultra modern Treehotel, with old world charm and hearty home cooking.

This is exclusive accommodation as there are only seven rooms, so we recommend booking as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

In the morning after your breakfast, your transfers will be arranged to take you back to the airport for your return flights home.

Please contact us for a full quotation based on your transfer and rooming requirements.

Image Credits: Graeme Richardson

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Nordic Winter Skills

Having learned how to fasten snowshoes, you will be taken by a guide on a three-hour trek over the nearby trails. They will share their knowledge about the local flora and fauna and also show you different animal tracks in the snow. Making a stop, you will be taught how to set up a small fire and prepare a hot drink in the wilderness. You will have a break at a 'kota' (teepee) and enjoy a delicious lunch which will be cooked by your guide on an open fire.

Duration: 3 hours



Husky Sledding - Self Drive

Riding a husky sled is definitely one of the most popular activities in Swedish Lapland. Having been transferred to a local husky farm, you will meet the enthusiastic dogs that will pull you along before learning how to control a sled. You will then head off following your guide, travelling two people per sled.

Duration: 2 hours

© G Richardson



Ice fishing

Ice fishing is an incredibly popular activity in the Nordic Countries. You will be led to a fishing spot in a snowmobile-pulled sled.

Your guide will demonstrate how to drill through the ice and set up a fishing line.

It will then be a test of patience and luck to see if you make a catch – perch are commonly caught in the waters here. As you wait, you can sit back with a hot drink and sweet snack.

Duration: 2 hours

Available: 18 Dec 2020 – 04 Apr 2021 (start date depends on ice conditions)

Image credit: Lapland Safaris



Snowmobile Forest Tour

Snowmobiling through the snowy forests of Swedish Lapland is an enchanting and fast-paced experience. Having been shown how to drive the vehicles, you will follow your guide along a trail, travelling two people per snowmobile on this two-hour safari. It is also possible to upgrade to drive your own snowmobile.

Anyone wishing to drive must be at least 18 years old and in possession of a full driving licence.

chance to swap drivers.

Duration: 2 hours

Drive your own snowmobile upgrade: add £85

Image credits: Graeme Richardson



Sámi reindeer experience

Gain an authentic insight into the Sámi culture and learn all about the significance of reindeer in the Arctic during this Sámi reindeer experience day.

You will meet with Henrik Andersson, a local Sámi man who will show you his way of life as you learn all about his culture.

Taking the short walk from Brändön Lodge to the reindeer enclosure, Henrik will talk to you about the life of these wonderful animals, the eight seasons of the region

and how nature plays a major role in life in the Arctic.

You will then walk with the reindeer into the forest and towards a Sámi tent. Here, you will sit around an open fire with a hot drink and talk more with Henrik before enjoying a lunch of fresh and traditional ingredients.

Duration 2.5 hours starting at 10am

Available: 18 Dec 2020 – 04 Apr 2021

Image Credit: Lola Akinmade Akerstrom

SPECIAL NIGHTS



A night at the ICEHOTEL®

For each of our Luleå trips you have the exciting option to add on a night in one of Sweden's most famed architectural wonders – the ICEHOTEL®. Now in its 25th year, this incredible structure of snow and ice covers over 55,000 square metres and visitors can marvel at its array of rooms as well as the ice bar and chapel. Each year, the ICEHOTEL® selects artists from across the world to envision and design its themed Art Suites and themes to expect this season include 'Forest Fairies' and 'Time'. The temperature in the cold rooms is around -5°C but you shall be kept warm with an arctic grade sleeping bag and

insulating reindeer skins, ensuring a unique and memorable night's sleep!

If you choose to add on this option you will be transferred from your accommodation in Luleå to Boden train station where you will take the train to Kiruna (a scenic journey which takes around three

hours). The ICEHOTEL® will then collect you for your overnight stay where you can choose from their range of cold rooms (subject to availability). The following morning you can enjoy breakfast at the ICEHOTEL® restaurant before your transfer to the airport.

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.

Image Credit: Paulina Holmgren & ICEHOTEL®



Arctic Bath Hotel

Complete your Swedish Lapland experience with a spectacular stay at the Arctic Bath Hotel - a wellness accommodation with an innovative touch. The structure floats on the Lulea River during the summer and freezes in place throughout the winter for a peaceful retreat amongst stunning nature.

The Arctic Bath Hotel features four saunas, a spa room with a variety of treatments on offer, a hot bath, outdoor and indoor showers and two dressing rooms. For the full Nordic experience, there is also a cold-water bath for

guests to take an icy plunge - something the locals swear by!

Guests can choose to stay in one of the six floating cabins or land-based cabins. On land, you can make use of the huge glass windows facing north to search the skies for the Auroras and in the floating cabins, you can enjoy a brilliant view from your wooden deck outside.

The Arctic Bath believes in a holistic approach and the four cornerstones of wellness; proper nutrition, regular exercise, peace of mind and care of the face and body. Nutrition is covered in the onsite restaurant which features local, pure and sustainable ingredients. Regular exercise can be achieved with the available activities such as snowshoe hiking and yoga. You will find peace of mind in the tranquil surroundings and by making use of the saunas and wellness areas. Finally, take care of your face and body with the available treatments on offer, ranging from massages to facials all using organic skincare.

Please contact us for a full quotation based on your transfer and rooming requirements.

Image Credits: The Arctic Bath Hotel

TRIP EXTENSIONS



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Image Credits: The Arctic Bath Hotel

Included Accommodation

Pine Bay Lodge (Nights: 1-4)



The lodge is located on the coastal edge of the Luleå Archipelago offering views across the frozen sea and surrounding snow-clad forests. There is minimal light pollution here, resulting in the night sky producing stunning displays of the Northern Lights if conditions are right.

The words homely and charming immediately spring to mind when describing Pine Bay Lodge (Furufjärden in Swedish). It offers a 'home from home' style of accommodation, which is comparable to that of a ski chalet.

Pine Bay is the kind of place that makes you feel like you want to curl up by the fire and relax with your slippers on; highly recommended after a day of adventures.

Our good friend Göran Widén, who owns the lodge, recently told us: "If I come into the lodge and find someone fast asleep on the sofa in front of the open fire, it is the ultimate compliment. For people to be so relaxed and comfortable in the lodge shows I have been successful in creating the atmosphere I had in mind when dreaming of how I wanted my guests to feel during their holiday."

Hotel facilities

- The lodge is centred on the main lounge area, where the open fire beckons guests to the cosy sofas
- The open plan dining area offers views of the surrounding countryside and at night the chance to keep a watchful eye out for the Northern Lights (many a meal has been interrupted here)
- The kitchen at the lodge is a real highlight and every evening a delicious menu of local produce is carefully prepared for all guests
- A sauna is available to book locally and we do encourage all guests to enjoy the traditional roll in the snow afterwards. This will help you understand the real meaning of the word refreshing!

Guest bedrooms

The lodge has only eight guest bedrooms in the main building, all with en-suite shower rooms. There is also a family suite of rooms in a small annexe adjacent to the main building. You really could describe this as an 'exclusive destination'. The rooms are very comfortable and provide a peaceful place to lay your head after a day of adventures.

Image credits: Fredrik Broman & Graeme Richardson

The Specifics

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>