



Pine Bay Lodge - Tailor Made



HOLIDAY TYPE: Tailor Made
VISITING: Sweden

BROCHURE CODE: 26015
DURATION: 3 or more nights

In Brief

Not far from the frozen Bay of Bothnia, Pine Bay Lodge sits by a pretty lake, surrounded by pines – a wonderful place to tailor your holiday in Swedish Lapland. Choose from a superb selection of snow-based activities such as dog-sledding, snowmobiling and Northern Lights hunting.

Our Opinion

“ *What I particularly loved about Pine Bay Lodge was its incredibly warm and social atmosphere. When you aren't taking part in activities, I recommend spending time in the welcoming lounge area, where you can exchange tales of adventure with fellow guests and meet a great mix of people. The fact that the lodge is set in such a splendid natural area makes it just the place to tailor your own holiday.* ”

Amy Hope



What's included?

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

- **Flights:** return flights from London Heathrow to Luleå, either direct or via Stockholm, depending on departure date. Flight routes are subject to change
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers*
- **Accommodation:** Minimum 3 nights in a twin or double room at Pine Bay Lodge
- **Meals:** 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners (3 courses)
- **Activities:** choose from our extensive selection detailed in the '[Activities](#)' section of the holiday (priced individually and the order of activities you select is subject to change)
- Cold-weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- **Please note:** a mandatory meal supplement is required on 31st December
- *A transfer supplement may be required if you use indirect flights

Trip Overview

Built in a typically Scandinavian style, Pine Bay Lodge in Lulea is an excellent accommodation option, offering home comforts in a beautiful natural setting. It sits by a lake in the snowy woods, tucked away in a wilderness playground. Guests can eat and relax together in the welcoming lounge area with its large fireplace after spending a day exploring the surroundings. We have included half-board meals, so you will be well-fed during your holiday!

This holiday format lets you create your own itinerary, mixing favourite activities and experiences you have been longing to try. There are many options in our selection, which can be seen in the 'Activities' tab above. Feel the adrenaline rush of driving a husky sled through the white landscape. Amp the speed up further with a snowmobile safari through the surrounding forests or journey all the way to the island of Brändöskär and gaze at the incredible pack-ice formations all around.

You can drop the pace and take part in some activities that combine nature and culture. Try a winter skills session, learning how to start a fire and prepare hot drinks in the wilderness. Alternatively, have a go at ice fishing and pick up the art just like the locals.

Pine Bay Lodge is located inside the Aurora Zone, so it will be well worth spending your nights in search of the Northern Lights. You can relax in a snowmobile-pulled sled as your guide drives you along, or take to snowshoes and follow an expert to the best viewpoints.

Two truly unique holiday items are the hovercraft tour and the Aurora hideaway dinner. The first takes you around the local islands and is an excitingly different way of travelling. The second has you eating a delectable meal while sitting inside a cosy hut, which is taken to the best Northern Lights viewpoints via snowmobile-pulled sleigh.

However long you choose to stay, you will be given cold-weather clothing and have specialist guides to show you the way on activities.

© Tomas Jönsson

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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



Image credits: Quinten Elpers

Cross Country Ski Hire

If you'd like to have a go at independently exploring the tracks at your own pace, then this is a fantastic way to spend some free time. You should speak to the lodge to discuss routes and trail conditions before you leave. Please ensure that you take the hotel number and your mobile phone with you and leave details of your route before departure.

Duration: 1.5, 3 and 6-hour rentals are available

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Dog sledding (1 hour)

During this one hour tour, you will have the chance to meet your intrepid team of dogs before setting off into the snow-covered winter wonderland that surrounds Brändön Lodge. Your expert guide will drive the sled and you can sit back and enjoy the ride. Each sled can accommodate 4-5 people.

Image credit: Graeme Richardson



Arctic Astronomy

After an early dinner, you will have a short transfer to the nearby home of Ulf Jonsson, an amateur consultant of aviation, space and photography who has built his own small, but fantastic, observatory.

Ulf 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.

Duration: 3 hours, including transfers

Image credit: Juo Foto



Cross Country Skiing

Have some fun in the snow as you learn how to travel across the frozen wilderness just like the locals do. During this cross-country skiing activity, you'll explore the winter wonderland surroundings of the lodge and get a real back-to-nature experience of the Lappish landscape.

Your local guide will teach you all the techniques needed to use the cross-country ski equipment. Then, once you are fitted with your skis, you will follow your guide along the snowy trails.

The weather and snow conditions will determine which route you will take - either along the solid-frozen sea, through the enchanting forest or gliding across the specially-carved snowmobile tracks. You will also stop to warm up with hot drinks along the way and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

Duration: 2 hours

Image credit: Quinten Elpers



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: 17 Dec 2021 – 04 Apr 2022

Image credit: Lola Akinmade Akerstrom



Icebreaker

The frozen sea is a sight to behold. A vast, thick sheet of shimmering white, stretching out far into the distance, it is hard to believe that the ocean lies below. The ship then cuts through the ice with apparent ease and suddenly the water is revealed. Shards of Ice surround the boat and you would be forgiven for wondering whether you are on an expedition to Antarctica. The title of the ship 'Arctic explorer' conjures up images of historic voyages and when you get out onto the open ocean it is difficult not to feel a sense of adventure.

You will take a 35-minute transfer to Luleå from your accommodation at Brändön Lodge or Pinebay Lodge, before picking up a second transfer from Luleå to Piteå, which takes approximately 50 minutes. Following an introduction and safety briefing by the ship's captain, the journey will begin in Pitsundskanalen, which is where the mouth of the river Piteälven meets the open sea. A mere 100 yards ahead of this point, the ocean opens out and there is a seemingly endless display of ice, which is easily broken by the 'Arctic Explorer'. The ship leaves a trail of ocean behind and this makes it possible to bathe in the freezing water.

You will be given survival suits which will provide protection from the cold and also prevents you from getting wet. Following this, you will have the opportunity to float on the water. It is an invigorating experience, and when you are lowered into the ocean you may have feelings of trepidation, but this soon replaced by delight. You can also experience walking upon the thick Ice of the frozen sea, which is a surreal experience, particularly if you imagine the contrast of a summer's day, where the water is flowing freely.

A hot drink and survival suits are included.

Duration: 2 hours cruise (5 hours total, including transfers and preparation time)

Available: 17 Dec – 04 Apr 2022 on a variety of days (start and end dates depend on ice conditions)

Please note: although children of all ages are welcome to join the cruise, due to the availability of survival suits, swimming in the frozen sea is only available for children 7 years and older, or children above the height of 125cm.

Image credit: Graeme Richardson



Aurora hideaway dinner

For an extra special evening during your holiday, we highly recommend the Aurora Hideaway Dinner which is a private dining experience. This small hideaway is one of a handful that effectively offers a completely private "restaurant". Each is moved around the archipelago by snowcat to ensure that it is in the best possible location (based on the day's wind, weather and ice conditions).

You will travel via snowmobile-pulled sleigh into the wilds, where you will soon see the glow coming from a small hut in the distance. The heat from a cosy fire will

await you inside.

Upon arrival, you will be served a drink of your choice (either wine, beer or a hot drink – any further drinks can be added to your room bill to be paid at checkout) along with a delicious soup. Your main course will then be prepared on an open fire before pudding and hot drinks are served.

We strongly recommend that between courses you pop outdoors in order to gaze at the sky, as the Northern Lights have been known to interrupt these meals! Your guide will also have snowshoes available for you should you wish to explore the surrounding area (close to the cabin) whilst your next course is being prepared.

If you are booking this activity from Pine Bay Lodge then a short car transfer will be required initially.

Duration: 3 hours (approximately)

Available: 17 Dec 2021 – 02 Apr 2022



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: 17 Dec 2021 – 04 Apr 2022 (start and end dates depend on ice conditions)

Image credit: Lapland Safaris



Hovercraft tour on the sea ice

An experience which is only available in this part of Swedish Lapland, this hovercraft tour is a genuinely unique means of exploring the Luleå Archipelago. As you are driven along, you can look for sea eagles and seals. There will also be a break to walk over the sea ice and make the most of the outstanding scenery.

Duration: 2.5 hours including lunch

Valid: 17 Dec – 04 Apr 2022 (start and end dates depend on ice conditions)

Image credit: Graeme Richardson



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: 1.5 hours

Valid: 17 Dec – 04 Apr 2022

© G Richardson



Northern Lights Snowshoe Walk with Wilderness Dinner

Snowshoes allow you to easily get over areas of deep snow. This is particularly useful when trekking to find the Northern Lights because you will be able to get to less accessible Aurora-spotting locations.

After walking through the snow-covered forest, your guide will prepare a fire and begin cooking your evening meal, as you discuss the science behind the Aurora and learn about the local area. Hot drinks will keep you nice and warm as you look to the skies in search of the Northern

Lights.

Duration: 3 hours including outdoor dinner

©G Richardson



Full Day Dog Sledding Self Drive

This tour is for adults only, so if you fancy something more active, then this full-day dog sledding tour certainly offers that.

You'll transfer to a husky farm, approximately 1 hour away, where you will be given expert guidance and tuition on how to control your team of dogs and how to drive the sled. You'll ride two people per sled, with several chances to swap drivers along the way, travelling through snow-covered forests and frozen lakes.

The tour involves approximately 4 hours of dog sledding, with breaks along the way, covering between 30-50km, depending on conditions. The tour also includes a wilderness lunch, cooked over an open fire and you will also get to spend some time with the dogs during and after the tour; a great photo opportunity!

Please note that the price does not include the cost of the transfer – please speak to one of our Travel Experts for a full quotation.

Duration: 6 hours in total (including transfers), approximately 4 hours of dog sledding (including lunch break)

Image credits: Graeme Richardson



Northern Lights Sled Tour

Enjoy a speedy search for the Northern Lights where you can relax at the same time. As you sit back on cosy reindeer pelts in a sled, your guide will pull you along with their snowmobile. Heading over the ice, you will journey between islands in your search for the Aurora. You'll make a stop for warm drinks and snacks around an open fire, as you search the skies for the Aurora

Duration: 2 hours (includes hot drinks)

@Graeme Richardson



Snowmobile Forest and Nature Tour

Snowmobiling through the snowy forests and frozen sea and lakes of Swedish Lapland is an enchanting and fast-paced experience. Have been shown how to drive the vehicles, you will follow your guide on a trail, travelling two people per snowmobile. It is also possible to upgrade to one person per vehicle.

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

There is a two-hour and a four-hour version of this activity. Stops will be made for tea and coffee along the way, with the four-hour version also featuring lunch.

Duration: 2 hours /4 hours

4-hour safari: Available from 8th January until the 4th April 2022



Snowmobile tour to the Luleå Archipelago Pack Ice

Add some speed to your adventuring with this snowmobile tour around the many islands of Luleå. Following an in-depth briefing on how to safely drive a snowmobile, you will drive behind your guide into the white land. You will travel two people per machine with the opportunity to switch driver and passenger.

You can also upgrade and go one person per snowmobile, getting the full driving experience. Anyone wishing to drive a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and in possession of a full driving licence.

The ultimate destination on this trip is Brändöskär Island, which has a tranquil fishing village that looks out over pack ice and snow (depending on the weather and snow conditions). There will be a stop along the way and lunch will be prepared over an open fire, and you will head back on snowmobiles.

Duration: 4 hours including lunch

Available: from 10 January until 04 April 2022



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

LITTLE EXTRAS



Fat Bike Hire

Fat bikes offer a great way to explore further than you may get with cross-country skis or snowshoes, whilst still being able to appreciate the peace and quiet of this winter wonderland. The fat bikes have extra-wide tyres, which provide far better grip than a traditional bike would get in the snow. This activity is not guided and therefore you must speak to the team at reception to discuss routes and conditions before you set off. Helmets will be provided.

Please ensure that you take the lodge number and your mobile phone with you and leave details of your route before departure.

Duration: 1.5, 3 and 6-hour rentals are available

Image credits: Quinten Elpers



Snowshoe Hire

Hire snowshoes to explore the trails independently at your own pace. This is a great way to spend some free time enjoying the peace and quiet of your wintery surroundings. You should always consult the lodge regarding trail conditions, maps and the weather before you leave.

Ensure you take the lodge number and your mobile phone with you and leave details of your route before departure.

Duration: 1.5, 3 and 6-hour rentals are available



Hot tub and sauna

During your stay at Brändön Lodge, you will have the option to relax in the hot tub and sauna. Both of these are just a short walk from the lodge and they sit on the edge of the frozen sea. The hot tub and sauna are rented for private use together, so you can use each of them as you like. If you would like to include this, please contact one of our Travel Experts who will be able to provide you with a full quote for your needs.

Image credit Brändön Lodge

SPECIAL NIGHTS



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



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

TRIP EXTENSIONS



Arctic Bath Hotel

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Image credits: Graeme Richardson

Included Accommodation

Pine Bay Lodge (Nights: 1-3)



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

Holiday group size (approximate)

This holiday requires a minimum of 2 people to run, however, on some dates we require a minimum of 10 people for our flight allocation. Maximum 25 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>