



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

- **Transfers:** Return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** Minimum 3 nights in a twin or double room at Pine Bay Lodge
- **Meals:** 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners (2 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

A note on flights: while flights are not included in the holiday price, our team will happily provide a quote and arrange them for you. Simply ask one of our Travel Experts for details of the available options.

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 'Dinner on Ice'. 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 tent on the sea ice.

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

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



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 six 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



Northern Lights Aurora Photography Tour

What better souvenir to bring home from your Northern Lights holiday than a photograph you have taken of the spectacular light show.

In the company of an expert guide, you will learn the optimal camera settings to capture the Northern Lights. You can bring your own camera (one that has manual settings) and tripod or you can borrow equipment if booked in advance. You'll also learn all about the science behind the Auroras and what to look out for during a

hunt.

Duration 3 hours

Availability: 25th August to 15th March



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: Late December to 14 April

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: late December to early April on Tuesdays and Fridays (start date depends on ice conditions)

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 which 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: from 16th December until 14th April



Dinner on Ice

Whilst the title may sound fairly self-explanatory, we absolutely love the concept of 'Dinner on Ice'.

You will dine in a traditional lávvu (tent) which has been erected on the frozen sea ice and is usually reached on foot (sometimes with the help of snowshoes).

On arrival at the tent, you will be welcomed with a drink and can take a seat on one of the reindeer skin clad benches and the charming rustic tables. The menu will feature local dishes and ingredients. These may include

the likes of salmon, reindeer, elk and bilberries (you can add the cost of your drinks to your room bill).

Whilst it would be very easy to get caught up in the atmosphere of the evening we recommend regularly taking a look outside to see if the Northern Lights have appeared in the night sky. If there is

an Aurora display we can think of few places we would rather be.

Duration: 2.5 hours

Available: from 7th January until 14th April



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: late December until 14th April (start date depends 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

Image credit: Graeme Richardson



© G Richardson

Husky sledding

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



Northern Lights Snowshoe Walk

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.

A break will be had along the way where you will be taught how to get a fire going and prepare a hot drink. There is a two-hour and a three-hour version of this activity; during the latter, you will also be treated to dinner, cooked by your guide over an open fire.

Duration: 2 hours (includes a drink)

3-hour safari (includes dinner): from £115pp (on request)

©G 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.

There is a two-hour and a three-hour option for this activity. The former includes hot drinks, while the latter also includes dinner.

Duration: 2 hours (includes hot drinks)

3-hour safari (includes dinner): from £115pp

@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 7th January until the 14th April 2020



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

Available: from 7th January until 14th April 2020



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

SPECIAL NIGHTS



Arctic Bath Hotel

Situated in Northern Sweden, near the small village of Harads sits the innovative Arctic Bath Hotel.

Designed to look like floating timber down the river, as a nod to traditional transportation methods, the hotel floats on the Lule River during summer and freezes in place throughout the winter to offer a completely unique experience. What's more, its northerly position also puts you in the heart of the Aurora Zone for a memorable base in which to search for the Northern Lights.

Hotel Facilities:

- The Arctic Bath has a strong focus on wellbeing and this is best experienced in the main building with three different saunas, spa treatment room, hot bath, outdoor and indoor showers and two dressing rooms. What's more, in keeping with Nordic tradition, there is also a cold-water bath to take an icy plunge into.
- The hotel has been expertly designed to leave a minimal environmental footprint which can be seen with the use of locally sourced materials. The onsite restaurant also prides itself on its use of local, pure and sustainable ingredients.
- Unwind in the bar and lounge area or book a specialist treatment for the ultimate relaxation experience.

Room types:

Floating cabins - double room sleeps two: Situated just a short distance from the main building are the six floating cabins that freeze in place during the winter. The cabins are decorated in Scandi-style and feature a double bed, shower room, underfloor heating and an exterior wooden deck - the perfect place to search the skies for the Northern Lights. All cabins also come with a minibar/spa bar, tea and coffee making facilities, WiFi, air conditioning and pellet heating stove. One of the water cabins is disabled-friendly.

Land cabins - sleeps five: Located on the tree-lined shore, you can opt instead to stay in one of the land cabins which are ideal for larger groups. Each cabin features a spiral staircase up to the loft room, five beds, underfloor heating and bathroom with bathtubs and shower. The cabins also feature a huge glass wall, making them an ideal place to search the skies for the Northern Lights. The cabins also come with tea and coffee making facilities, WiFi, a mini bar/spa bar, air-conditioning and pellet heating stove.

Image Credits: The Arctic Bath Hotel

TRIP EXTENSIONS



Arctic Bath Hotel

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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

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>

CANCELLATION TERMS

Please note that the cancellation terms below supersede those mentioned in section 7 of our booking terms and conditions:

- More than 63 days prior to departure - Loss of deposit (including the full cost of flights or other services where paid at the time of booking)
- 63 to 43 days prior to departure - 40%
- 42 to 31 days prior to departure – 60%
- 30 or less days – 100%