



Ranua - Northern Lights Short Break



HOLIDAY TYPE: Flexible Dates

VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 20033

DURATION: 3 nights

In Brief

With its excellent Aurora potential, nearby Wildlife Park and wilderness surroundings, Ranua is an exceptional base for your Northern Lights holiday. During this three-night stay, your days are left free to fill with authentic winter activities and wildlife experiences while your nights are dedicated to the Aurora.

Our Opinion

“ *This short break gives you a taster of the beautiful Finnish Lapland, offering a mix of evening activities and free days to allow you to personalise your time to suit you. Ranua boasts a fantastic Wildlife Park, with unlimited access to our guests, and welcoming apartment accommodation, which in my opinion is perfect for getting cosy after a day of adventure in the snow.* ”

Katharina Rogalski



What's included?

What's included?

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

- **Flights:** direct return flights from London to Rovaniemi or indirect flights via Helsinki depending on departure date (flight supplements may apply). Please speak to our Travel Experts for further details. Flight routes are subject to change
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers between Rovaniemi and Ranua
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights apartment accommodation
- **Meals:** half board (full board available for a supplement from 10th January)
- **The following activities and equipment are included in the price:** searching for the Aurora Borealis by snowmobile, Northern Lights search with Finnhorse, unlimited access to Ranua Wildlife Park (order subject to change)
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified wilderness guides and instructors for any activities

Trip Overview

Nestled in Finnish Lapland, just below the Arctic Circle, sits the peaceful village of Ranua. Its excellent Northern Lights track record and surrounding wilderness make a winter adventure to remember.

From snowmobiling and dog sledding to reindeer experiences and cross-country skiing, your days have been left free for you to choose the snow-based '[Personalise](#)' to suit you. Ranua is also renowned for its Wildlife Park, home to over 50 different species including wolves, lynx and polar bear. Your stay includes unlimited access to the park for you to observe all the wildlife that call this piece of Lapland home.

Due to its brilliant Aurora potential, we have included two dedicated activities to increase your chances of ticking the spellbinding show off your bucket list. Each activity takes you further out into the wilderness and darker skies. One night will see you drive across the winter landscape on a snowmobiling adventure while the next will take place in a cosy horse-drawn sleigh, for a peaceful

way to search the skies.

Your base in the apartments of Gulo Gulo Holiday Village puts you within easy access to all activities, the wildlife park and in stylish and modern accommodation. You will only be a short walk away from the restaurant where you can fill up on breakfast before a day exploring the winter wilderness and enjoy dinner ahead of your hunt for the Northern Lights. From December through to 10th January, we will not be offering a full board upgrade to include lunch, but guests can arrange and pay for this locally. In our experience, the restaurant can become busy during the festive lunchtimes, with outside visitors to the park, and we have found that most families prefer to make their own lunch arrangements in their wonderfully equipped apartment kitchens. One free taxi ride to the local supermarket is included in your stay, and reception can arrange this for you either at check-in or the following day, so you can easily stock up on supplies.

Image credits: Gulo Gulo Holiday Village, Jari Romppainen

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be transferred to Ranua where you will check into your apartment accommodation.

Once you have settled in, you can enjoy a welcome dinner in the restaurant. You will also receive your cold weather gear for the duration of your stay.

If you are on a later flight, a cold platter of food will be waiting for you in your apartment.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

FREE DAY AND SEARCHING FOR THE AURORA BOREALIS BY SNOWMOBILE

Following breakfast, the day has been left free for you to explore the winter surroundings however you like. See our '[Personalise](#)' tabs for a range of activities.

After dinner and as darkness falls, it's time to search the skies for the Northern Lights as you drive a snowmobile out into the wilderness. This effective and fun form of transport lets you cover a much greater distance to reach a prime Aurora location.

Before taking to the trails, you will receive a full safety briefing and lesson on how to drive the snowmobile. Then you will follow your guide along the dark forest trails and away from any artificial

light where you will keep an eye on the sky for the Northern Lights. On the way, you'll have breaks and enjoy a hot drink.

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. You will travel two people per snowmobile with the option to swap drivers. The tour lasts approximately three hours in total. Single driver supplement applies.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
3

FREE DAY AND NORTHERN LIGHTS SAFARI VIA HORSE-DRAWN SLEIGH

After breakfast, you have a free day to enjoy the pristine environment however you like. See our '[Personalise](#)' tab to choose an activity to fill your time.

Following tonight's dinner, you will head out once again into the Arctic night but this time, on a peaceful horse-drawn sleigh ride (6-8 people per sleigh). You will travel through the tranquil snowy forest, all the while keeping an eye on the sky for a potential display. If conditions are favourable, you could see the colourful Auroras dance above. You will be out for around two hours in total.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
4

DEPARTURE

Today after breakfast you will bid farewell to Ranua as you're transferred to the airport for your return flight home.

If you are on a later flight, you can store your luggage and enjoy a few more hours in Lapland.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Snowmobile Safari

One of the most thrilling and effective ways to explore Ranua's vast wilderness is via snowmobile. After a full safety briefing and instructions, you will follow your guide out onto the trails, passing through snow-covered forests and frozen waterways.

You will travel two people per snowmobile throughout with the option to swap drivers. Please note, the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. Single driver supplement applies.

Duration: various available:

Approximately 30 minutes - £71 per person

Approximately 1 hour - £94 per person

Approximately 2 hours - £116 per person

Approximately 4 hours - £157 per person

Approximately 6 hours - £201 per person

The distance covered on each safari will vary and will be determined by the group's ability and a snack will be provided during the 4 and 6-hour safaris.

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Husky Safaris

Discover why dog sledding is one of the most sought-after Arctic experiences during a husky safari through Ranua's surrounding wilderness.

As soon as you arrive to meet the huskies, you'll hear how excited they are to get going on the trails. After full instructions and a safety briefing, you will set off to explore the snowy landscape, travelling two people per sled. The dogs will soon quieten down to concentrate on the job at hand as you watch the winter landscape unfold around you.

The length of the journey varies from 3km to 45km depending on your preference. After the tour, you will have time to meet the dogs and take pictures with them.

Duration: Various available:

Around 3km (approx. 15 mins) - £37 per person

Around 5km (approx. 20-30 mins) - £57 per person

Around 10 km (approx. 50-60 mins) - £88 per person

Around 20 km (approx. 1.5 - 2 hours) - £117 per person

Around 35-45km (approx. 4 - 5.5 hours) - £193 per person



Snowmobile safari to a reindeer farm

Get a true insight into life in Lapland when you snowmobile to a local reindeer farm and learn all about the herder and their animals.

The tour starts with a safety briefing and full instructions from your guide before you set off (2 people per snowmobile) on the trails towards Laivala, a traditional reindeer farm, which is approximately 15km away.

Here, you will meet the herder and their animals before enjoying a short reindeer sleigh ride (approximately 300 metres). During your time at the farm, you will learn all about the life of the reindeer herder and their long history in the region. Hot snacks will also be served before you snowmobile back to the hotel.

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. Single driver supplement applies.

Duration: 3 hours



Snowmobile Safari to Wolfdog Land

Snowmobile to Susimaa where you will meet the wolfdog pack who live on the self-sufficient farm. The tour starts with a safety briefing and full instructions before taking to the trails (2 people per snowmobile).

Upon arrival at Susimaa, Sarah and Harald will greet you and tell you all about life on the farm with their loyal wolfdogs. Everything grows wildly here and the dogs run free. You will get to meet the friendly wolfdogs as well as enjoy soup and warm drinks by the bonfire.

Please note, you must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence to drive a snowmobile. Single driver supplement applies.

Duration: 4 hours



Ice Fishing Safari

Ice fishing is hugely popular with the locals and during this activity, you'll see why it is so loved. The tour starts with full instructions and a safety briefing before a snowmobile safari to reach a nearby frozen lake.

Upon arrival, you will help your guide drill a hole in the thick ice. Now you can lower your line and wait for a fish to take a bite.

Warm drinks and snacks will also be served as you enjoy the peaceful activity.

Please note, you must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence to drive a snowmobile. You will travel two people per snowmobile. Single driver supplement applies.

Duration: approximately 3 hours (around 30km in total)



Reindeer Safari (3km)

Reindeers have played a significant role in Lapland for centuries. These much-loved animals are central to the culture and traditions here and during this activity, you will get to meet the reindeer as well as enjoy a short sleigh ride (3 km approximately) into the snow-covered landscape.

Duration: approximately 40 minutes



Snowshoeing

One of the most peaceful ways to enjoy the tranquil and pristine snowy landscape is via snowshoes, a pastime the locals love just as much as visitors.

Your guide will help fit you with a pair of snowshoes before you head out onto the untouched snow, off the beaten track. Your guide will share information about the flora and fauna, and tell you all about life in Lapland.

Duration: approximately 2 hours



Cross-Country Skiing

Find out why the Finnish love this mode of transport when you take to the trails on cross-country skis.

You don't need any prior skiing experience as your guide will provide full instructions before setting off on your exploration.

The ski tracks begin close to Ranua Wildlife Park and you will cover approximately 3km.

Duration: Approximately 2 hours



Meet the Polar Bear

This is an opportunity of a lifetime to get close to the majestic polar bears in their natural habitat.

You will meet with your guide who will take you to the polar bear enclosure where you will get to see these wonderful Arctic animals just on the other side of the fence. You will learn all about how the polar bear survives in Lapland as you admire them from just a few metres away. This is truly an experience not to be missed.

Duration: approximately 45 minutes



Day Trip to Rovaniemi

Following breakfast, you will transfer in a minibus to the vibrant and modern city of Rovaniemi, approximately an hour away.

As this is the official hometown of Father Christmas, you will stop at the Santa Claus Village where you can get into the festive spirit as well as cross the Arctic Circle line. This is also a brilliant opportunity to pick up locally crafted souvenirs for your loved ones.

After lunch at the Santa Claus Village, you will visit Arktikum, a local museum featuring exhibits of the unique culture of the Arctic. Alternatively, you can go to the city centre and explore independently before transferring back to Ranua.

Duration: 7 hours (transfer 2 hours)

Image credit: Visit Rovaniemi (Rovaniemi Tourism & Marketing Ltd)

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Gulo Gulo Holiday Village (Nights: 1-3)



Situated just 4km from the small village of Ranua, but in prime Northern Lights territory, the Gulo Gulo Holiday Village offers modern and comfortable self-contained apartments to return to after a day exploring Lapland.

Guests will have unlimited access to the nearby Ranua Wildlife Park for the duration of their stay. The

restaurant is also situated here, serving buffet-style meals which offer a mix of traditional Finnish foods as well as more continental dishes. Drinks are available for purchase with meals.

You will also be driven to the local supermarket to stock up on any supplies that you may like to have back in the apartments.

Room types

APARTMENTS

Whether you're returning after a day exploring the Arctic or you're coming in from a night of Aurora hunting, these spacious and modern apartments are a wonderfully relaxing space to return to.

There are thirty holiday apartments at Gulo Gulo, housed within ten semi-detached buildings which back onto the stunning snowy forest. You will be within easy walking distance of the Wildlife Park and restaurant, just across the road.

The ground floor accommodation features an open-plan living room with a flat-screen TV, dining area and a kitchen equipped with a stove, microwave, dishwasher, fridge, coffee maker and kettle (you may want to bring your own tea and coffee to enjoy in your apartment, or you can pick them up at the local supermarket). The apartments offer hairdryers, ironing facilities and all linen and towels are provided.

Downstairs, you'll find one twin bedroom and the bathroom which includes a shower, toilet and drying cabinet for clothes. You can also enjoy the private sauna, perfect for relaxing after a day of adventure in the wilderness.

There is a second twin bedroom on the first floor as well as an open loft area with two smaller beds, suitable for children, and a shower and toilet.

The apartments have their own decking area which is an ideal spot for searching for the Northern Lights.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Arctic Fox Igloo



Continue your Northern Lights hunt from the comfort of your bed when you stay in the stunningly designed Glass Igloos.

Set in a peaceful lakeside location and with glass walls for constant views of the night sky, staying in an Arctic Fox Igloo is the perfect way to complete your memorable Northern Lights holiday.

Usually, you will transfer to the Arctic Fox Igloos after your evening meal to spend your night looking for the Auroras. In the morning, you will be picked up in time for breakfast back at the main restaurant.

Facilities

- There are 20 igloos in total (10 twin igloos and 10 family/lakeside igloos), located around 8km from Ranua Wildlife Park.
- All igloos come equipped with a small kitchenette, bathroom and private sauna.

Guest bedroom types

TWIN ROOM: Each igloo has a twin bed and limited lake view.

FAMILY/LAKESIDE ROOM: Each igloo has got the same facilities as the twin igloos but is equipped with a double bed and space for two small extra beds for children (4-14 years old) and offers a lake view. Please note that the maximum occupancy is 2 adults and 2 children (4-14 years old).

Image Credits: Jari Romppainenn & Marko Juntilla

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. The Maximum group size varies for activities.

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>