



# Saariselkä - A Window to the Northern Lights at New Year



**HOLIDAY TYPE:** Small Group  
**VISITING:** Finland

**BROCHURE CODE:** 20019  
**DURATION:** 4 nights

## In Brief

Kick start your New Year with an Aurora hunting holiday in Saariselkä, Finnish Lapland. During this four-night break, you'll stay in an amazing glass-roofed Aurora Cabin and take part in two dedicated Aurora hunts. There are also brilliant daytime experiences such as dog sledding and snowmobiling included.

## Our Opinion

*“ There is something about New Year, people either loathe it or love it. Whichever camp you are in, this holiday is sure to delight you as it provides an escape from the normal New Year; either allowing a new perspective on the event or providing a fabulous new way in which to spend it. The Northern Lights Village is the only destination where Aurora accommodation is included as standard and the guides here have an incredible passion for hunting down light shows. So, if you want to try and witness the Northern Lights at New Year, this four-night holiday is a great option. ”*

Ali Mclean



## What's included?

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

- **Flights:** return indirect flights from London Heathrow to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Regional and non-UK departures available on request (flight routes subject to change)
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights in an Aurora Cabin
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners
- **Activities:** snowmobile and ice fishing tour, reindeer experience, Aurora workshop, Aurora camp by the lake, husky safari and Northern Lights snowshoeing (**order subject to change**)
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Aurora alert service which you can set to alert you throughout the night or end at a specific time
- Services of our expert local guides and Aurora Zone representative

## Trip Overview

The Northern Lights Village sits on the outskirts of Saariselka in North-East Finland. Sheltered from the light pollution of the town and tucked amongst the trees, the village is an ideal base for those wanting to spend New Year looking for the Northern Lights.

The Aurora Cabins will be your base for the whole of your stay and these partially glass-roofed structures allow you to watch the northern skies from the comfort of your very own bed. Couple this Aurora accommodation with two dedicated Northern Lights hunts and you have the makings of a fabulous Aurora adventure.

In the company of experts, you will spend two evenings in search of the lights. The included Aurora workshop will give you a grounding in Aurora science; the guides here are keen photographers and so hints and tips on how to capture the Northern Lights on camera will also be provided. Please note that you will need to bring your own equipment (camera, ideally SLR, and a tripod).

During the day, the blue light of deep winter offers a unique perspective on the landscape and you

will enjoy some traditional Arctic activities. At this time of year, the sun does not appear above the horizon and so the dusky light during the middle of the day provides around four hours of light (please note that some activities may start/end after dark as a result).

Meeting a reindeer herder and their animals is a real pleasure and a sleigh ride is always memorable. Next on the agenda is a snowmobile and ice fishing tour which introduces some of the most popular local activities. For many people though, the highlight will be the dog sled safari which offers a taste of this incredible mode of transport.

On New Year's Eve, there will be some wonderful celebrations at the Northern Lights Village and if the Aurora are dancing overhead when the clock strikes Midnight, it will be an unforgettable way to see in the New Year.

Credit: Markku Inkila, Eerikki Rundgren, Matt Robinson

# Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY  
1

## ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

You will arrive at Ivalo Airport today and a driver will be waiting to transfer you to the Northern Lights Village. Your Aurora accommodation will be ready for you to settle into. Dinner will be served at the restaurant this evening.

**Please note:** the agenda shown is simply an example order for the activities and your final agenda will be provided on arrival in Saariselkä.

**Included Meals:** Dinner

DAY  
2

## SNOWMOBILE AND ICE FISHING TOUR AND NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES

After breakfast today, you are in for a real treat. Your guide will be leading you on an activity which combines two of the most popular pastimes in Lapland – snowmobiling and ice fishing.

After full instruction and a safety briefing, you will ride your snowmobiles through the forest and out to a nearby frozen lake. Travelling two per machine, you can swap drivers should you wish at the halfway point (you must be over 18 and hold a full driving licence to drive a snowmobile).

At the lake, your guide will help you drill a hole through the thick ice and you will drop your line into the icy water below. This can be a game of patience but if you are lucky you might land a perch or perhaps a local Inari whitefish.

Whilst you focus on the fishing, your guide will build a fire and you will enjoy lunch in the wilds (weather permitting) before heading back on the snowmobiles. You will be out for around four hours in total today.

During your free time this afternoon, you may like to include additional activities which can be found in the '[Personalise](#)' section of the holiday page.

Tonight is, of course, New Year's Eve and the Northern Lights Village will host a special evening meal with some local specialities. Fingers crossed, the Northern Lights may join in the fun.

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

DAY  
3

REINDEER EXPERIENCE, AURORA WORKSHOP AND AURORA CAMP BY THE LAKE

Reindeer are synonymous with Lapland and an encounter with them is practically mandatory. Your guide will introduce you to the animals and shall provide an insight into how the reindeer and their herders survive the long winters and keep this age-old way of life alive.

The reindeer paddock is situated in the village and here you will see the animals up close and will be able to feed them. There will then be the chance for you to enjoy a one-hour reindeer-pulled sleigh ride as part of the experience. Lunch will be served in a warm kota (traditional teepee) at the Northern Lights Village and with this included, the activity will last around three hours.

This afternoon, you will enjoy a one-hour Aurora Workshop with an expert guide. Your host will give you hints and tips on how to capture the Northern Lights on camera. Please note that you will need to bring your own equipment (camera, ideally SLR, and a tripod).

After dinner at the hotel tonight, it's time for an evening of Aurora hunting. Lasting around three hours in total, it begins with a bus journey north to Lake Inari. The guides have a selection of camps set up on the lakeshore and each is in a prime Aurora viewpoint. At the chosen camp, a fire will be lit, and warm drinks and snacks will be shared as you commence your Aurora stake-out. With a little luck and the right conditions, your patience will hopefully be rewarded with a display.

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

DAY  
4

HUSKY SAFARI AND NORTHERN LIGHTS SNOWSHOEING

A dog sled safari is often a highlight for guests in Lapland and today you will have the chance to experience it for yourself.

When you meet the dogs they will demonstrate their enthusiasm for the trail with a pretty deafening display of howling and barks – they just love to run and their excitement overflows when guests get ready to take them out. You will, however, notice that when the sleds' runners begin to move, all the dogs will fall silent and focus on the task at hand.

We include an excursion which is around two hours in total and includes around one to one and a half hours of dog sledding depending on the conditions. You shall cover around 10km during the safari. You can, however, upgrade to a longer experience should you wish to do so and the details of the options available can be found in the '[Personalise](#)' section of the holiday page.

All safaris are two people per sled as standard and full instruction will be provided before you take control of the teams. You can switch drivers should you wish to do so.

After your adventurous morning, lunch will be served at the restaurant back at the Northern Lights Village. Your afternoon is your own and so you may wish to include additional activities or perhaps explore the town of Saariselkä which is within walking distance. There are plenty of shops to keep you busy and downhill skiing is also an option.

Your final Aurora hunting activity is a snowshoe hike. You will venture out into the wilderness to a great Northern Lights vantage point. Enjoy a hot drink around the fire and with any luck, the Northern Lights will appear. You will be out for approximately two and a half hours tonight.

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

DAY 5	DEPARTURE
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Following breakfast, it will be time to leave the Northern Lights Village behind. If you are departing on an early flight, a packed breakfast will be provided for you to take with you on your transfer.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Personalise this tour

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### Our pick





## Snowmobile safari - 2 hours

We know that for some people the thought of snowmobiling may be a little daunting so this short 2 hour (approximate) safari provides the ideal introduction.

Full instruction will be provided along with a safety briefing from your expert guide and then you'll set off in convoy, following the well-marked trails and travelling two people per machine.

Snowmobiles offer the chance to explore further afield and offer the passenger (you can swap drivers) the

chance to fully enjoy the sights of Lapland.

There will be a break for you to enjoy warm drinks and snacks along the way.

**Please note:** Snowmobile drivers must be 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence.

**Group size:** 1-24 (approximately)

**Available:** Monday - Sunday at 10 am & 1 pm from December until mid-April. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season.

**Duration:** 2 hours (approximately)

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## Other options

### ACTIVITIES



## Snowshoe hike in the fells

The beauty of snowshoeing is that it provides the chance for wildlife encounters, as the local flora and fauna will not be scared off by the noise of engines or the sound of sleds. So, for nature lovers, this is an ideal choice as your local guide will provide information on the wildlife and its natural environment. You may have the chance to witness Siberian Jay, willow grouse or a herd of roaming reindeer.

**Group size:** 1-16 (approximately)

**Available:** Monday - Sunday at 10 am, 1 pm & 3 pm from December until mid-April. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season.

**Duration:** 2 hours (approximately); a warm drink is included

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Photography by Markku Inkila

LITTLE EXTRAS



## Husky safari upgrade options

A husky safari is one of those experiences you are likely to remember for the rest of your life. Once the dogs are running and the sled enters the wilderness surrounding Saariselkä, all else is forgotten.

Whilst we do include a safari in the holiday, we know that many people like to extend this activity and so the option is listed below for you. It is based on two people per sled but if you would like your own team then this can be arranged on request for a supplement.

### Upgrade to a 20 km trip

This safari will see you cover around 20km during around 2-2.5 hours of driving.

In total, you will be away from the village for around four hours (including briefing). Lunch is included.

**Driving time:** 2 – 2.5 hrs (depending on weather and track)

Image credits: Lapland Safaris

## Included Accommodation

### Saariselkä Northern Lights Village (Nights: 1-4)



Located in North East Finland, the Northern Lights Village sits on the outskirts of the ski resort of Saariselkä. Tucked away from the town and separated from it by dense forest, the location is ideal for viewing the Northern Lights but is still within walking distance (around 1000m) of the town's amenities. The ski slopes can be accessed via a shuttle (small charge applies) or a pleasant walk of



around 40-50 minutes.

The Northern Lights Village offers accommodation in Aurora Cabins which are half-roofed with glass. The twin or double beds are situated beneath the panoramic roof and provide the chance to view the Northern Lights from your bed! It's not often that folk prefer a sleepless night but here it's not considered to be a huge inconvenience as it provides the chance to potentially witness Mother Nature's greatest light show!

There are 80 cabins in total, all of which are within a 5-10 minutes' walk of the Village's central facilities which include the restaurant where you'll enjoy breakfast and dinner.

## Facilities

- The village restaurant is an atmospheric place, inspired by traditional wooden kotas (Finnish teepees). Breakfast is a buffet of continental options and some hot dishes. Evening meals are a buffet with starters of soups and salad, a choice of local meat or fish will follow (the reindeer and white fish in this region are delicious!). Typically a cake will be served for pudding, keeping you well-fuelled for your nocturnal Aurora hunting adventures. Dietary requirements are all well-catered for as long as we are informed at the time of booking. There's also a large lobby near reception for you to relax in after your meal.
- The Northern Lights Village has an onsite reindeer paddock and all activities start in the village so there is no need for time-wasting transfers. Basically, because we want to make your holiday as uncomplicated as possible, life is made very easy here.
- Saariselkä is around a 20-25 minute walk from the Northern Lights Village (40-50 minutes to the ski slopes) which means that all of the amenities, shops, cafés and local restaurants are within easy reach.
- For all Northern Lights activities, an expert guide will provide you with photographic tuition. The guides sometimes take pictures throughout the activities which can be purchased on your return to the village, if they take any.
- For all of your provided winter clothing, simply go to the onsite Safari House where overalls, gloves, boots, skis and snowshoes are stored for easy access.
- Guests can pay extra to use the hot tub, sauna and ice pool. This can be used during public time or booked for private use.

## Aurora Cabins

The Aurora Cabins have a half-glass roof and all face north. The design is based on the traditional wooden kotas (teepees) of Finland.

Each cabin has twin beds (which can be made into a double) and a sofa bed, suitable for an additional adult. There is a shower room (with underfloor heating) and a toilet, as well as a luggage storage area (please note that hot water is limited). Tea and coffee making facilities, a hairdryer and a minibar are also included.

Importantly for duvet-based Aurora hunting, a timer switch can be used to heat the glass roof should your view be obscured by snowfall. It takes approximately 5-10 minutes to heat and melt the snow so there's no need to go and sweep the roof in your pyjamas!

Cabins are not cleaned between arrival and departure unless requested from reception. Additionally, towels can be exchanged at reception if required.

Free Wi-Fi.

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Image credits: Markku Inkila

# 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 30 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>