



Saariselkä - Glass Igloo Aurora Escape



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 20015
DURATION: 3 nights

In Brief

Saariselkä, Finland has a fantastic Northern Lights record and during your 3 nights here, you'll stay in a glass-roofed Aurora Cabin to give you the chance of seeing this amazing display right from your bed. There's also dedicated Aurora activities as well as an unforgettable husky safari included.

Our Opinion

“ The main thing I love about the Northern Lights Village is that its Aurora accommodation comes as standard. This means that you really do maximise your chances of seeing the lights, even outside of the dedicated Aurora hunts. When I was in my cabin, I constantly found myself gazing up at the sky above my bed for as long as I could. When I noticed a flicker of green I was overcome with excitement. I got dressed with my PJs under my winter clothing and watched with the other guests as the display became more animated. It was an unforgettable experience. ”

Katharina Rogalski



What's included?

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

- **Flights:** return from London to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Flight routes are subject to change.
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights in an Aurora Cabin
- **Meals:** 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 3 dinners
- **Activities:** Northern Lights snowshoeing, 5 km husky safari, Northern Lights snowmobiling (**the order of activities is 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
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners

Trip Overview

Saariselkä is located in the far north of Finland, high above the Arctic Circle. It is at the heart of the Aurora Zone and the winter nights ensure excellent conditions for seeking out the Northern Lights. To maximise your chances, you will spend the duration of your stay in a north-facing, glass-roofed Aurora Cabin, which is protected from the artificial light of the town. Rather than fight off sleep in order to keep an eye on the sky, make use of your free Aurora alert system inside your cabin!

The Aurora Cabins lie on the doorstep of a natural winter playground and we include evening activities, which not only focus on seeking out the Northern Lights but also provide some unforgettable Arctic experiences. You'll hunt the lights on foot using snowshoes and enjoying the silence of the wilderness. On another night, you'll take to the trails for an Aurora snowmobile safari.

The Northern Lights Village is less than 1km from the ski town of Saariselka. There are shops, restaurants and cafés to enjoy here as well as a good selection of ski slopes and cross-country skiing trails. So during one day, we give you some free time to enjoy the sights and sounds of Saariselkä or perhaps take to the downhill ski slopes there for some alpine action.

The daytime highlight, however, has to be the husky safari which we have included. This is an unforgettable ride, as you take control of a team of huskies with your partner for a thrilling dog sled trip into the Arctic wilds.

This combination of Aurora accommodation and dedicated Northern Lights hunts means you really maximise your viewing opportunities during this three-night trip. The daytime options and the husky safari provide a wonderful cherry for your short-break cake.

Credits: Markku Inkila, Robert Smith and Visit Finland, Matt Robinson & Eerikki Rundgren

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL

On arrival at Ivalo Airport, you will be transferred to your accommodation at the Northern Lights Village and can check into your Aurora Cabin.

You will receive your cold weather clothing that you will keep for the duration of your trip and your Aurora Alert will be waiting for you to use on the tablet in your cabin. Dinner will be served in the restaurant.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

FREE DAY AND NORTHERN LIGHTS SNOWSHOEING

Following breakfast, the day is yours to spend at leisure. The Northern Lights Village is approximately 1000 metres away from the ski resort town of Saariselkä and, despite been 250 km north of the Arctic Circle, Saariselkä has much to offer. There are shops, restaurants and cafés to enjoy as well as downhill ski slopes if you fancy some alpine action.

During the evening, you will venture out into the wilderness which lies on the doorstep of the Northern Lights Village for a Northern Lights snowshoe hike. This is an invigorating and peaceful way in which to hunt the Aurora and your guide will lead the way to a perfect viewpoint in the fell. Here, you will stop and build a fire and enjoy snacks and hot drinks as you watch the skies in this most incredible location. You will be out for around two and a half hours in total.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

HUSKY SAFARI AND AURORA SNOWMOBILE

After breakfast, you will enjoy a wonderful taster of the most eagerly anticipated winter activities; a 5 km dog sled safari. Huskies are synonymous with the Arctic and a husky safari is the epitome of a winter adventure.

The huskies are eager to run and you will not fail to notice their excitement as they bark and howl in anticipation, straining to get going. You might expect this to continue as the safari gets underway, but this is not the case, as the dogs are soon focused only on running. Full instruction will be provided before you take to the trails, travelling two people per sled.

This activity lasts around one hour in total (including instruction). We expect you to be out on the husky sledge for around 30 minutes in total. There are longer safaris if you would like to enjoy more time out on the trail. If you would like to extend and spend more time with the dogs then please see the '[Personalise](#)' section of the holiday page for more details.

Lunch will be enjoyed at the restaurant before a final Aurora hunt.

Following dinner this evening, you will go on a Northern Lights snowmobile safari lasting around three hours in total. After a full safety briefing and driving instruction, you will follow your guide, travelling two per snowmobile, in search of the Northern Lights. You'll travel into the fells and once at the top, you will keep warm by an open fire and enjoy hot drinks. Please note that the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

DEPARTURE

Today it is time to bid farewell to Lapland and you will be transferred back to Ivalo after breakfast for your return flights home. If you are on the early flight, a packed breakfast will be provided.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Snowmobile safari - 4 hours

For those who want to explore much further afield then look no further as this 4-hour snowmobile safari will take you out into the wilderness beyond Saariselkä.

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

Your guide will prepare a campfire lunch for you en route (weather permitting).

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 from December until March. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Duration: 4 hours in total (approximately)

Photography by Lapland Safaris

Other options

ACTIVITIES

Snowmobiles and ice fishing



After a full safety briefing and tuition, you will drive two per snowmobile into the winter wonderland. Stopping at a remote lake, your guide will introduce you to ice fishing and you will have the chance to try your hand at this Lappish pastime. Your guide will build a campfire and lunch will be served.

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 from December until March. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Duration: 4 hours in total including lunch (approximately)

Photography by Markku Inkila



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 9am & 1pm from December until March. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season.

Duration: 2 hours (approximately)



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. You will stop for a hot drink along the way.

Group size: 1-16 (approximately)

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

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

Photography by Markku Inkila



Reindeer day

Reindeer have played an integral role in the local economy and culture for many, many centuries. An understanding of these animals and their herders is something no visitor to the region should miss.

You will meet with a reindeer herder and hear tales from the trails as you learn about reindeer husbandry. You'll get the chance to feed the animals before enjoying a one hour (approximately) reindeer-pulled sleigh ride.

Lunch is included.

Group size: 1-24 (approximately)

Available: Monday to Sunday at 11 am from December until mid-April. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Duration: Approximately 3 hours in total including lunch and the sleigh ride lasts for approximately 1 hour

Image credits: Inari-Saariselkä Tourism Ltd



Reindeer sleigh ride

This 25 minute or 1-hour reindeer-pulled sleigh ride will take you on a journey around the reindeer paddock and the surrounding woodland, giving you the chance to see these animals from a new perspective.

You have the option of picking a 25 minute or 1-hour reindeer sleigh ride (approximate timings).

25 minutes (approximately): £64pp available from Monday - Sunday at 9.15 am and 12.45pm from December until March. Please note that the times may

vary throughout the season.

1-hour reindeer-pulled sleigh ride (approximately): £119pp available from Monday - Sunday at 2 pm from December until March. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season.

Group size: 1-24 (approximately)

LITTLE EXTRAS



Extend your husky safari

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 sleigh enters the wilderness, all else is forgotten. It is one of those activities that you don't want to end and extending your safari will prolong the adventure and allow you to venture further out into the snow-covered landscapes. The dogs will be more than willing to accommodate you. You will ride 2 people per sled.

Upgrade to 10 km safari (total duration incl. briefing is approx. two hours). We expect you to be out on the husky sledge for around one hour - from £28pp

Upgrade to 20 km safari (total duration incl. briefing and lunch is approx. four hours). We expect you to be out on the husky sledge for around two hours in total - from £77pp

If you would like to take control of your own team of huskies then we can arrange this for you. Please ask our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Credit: Inari-Saariselkä Tourism Ltd

Included Accommodation

Saariselkä Northern Lights Village (Nights: 1-3)



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.

Covid-19 Safety and Hygiene 16-step Protocol

The Northern Lights Village is committed to delivering a clean and safe environment for its guests through strict hygiene and safety protocols, in order to bring confidence to all visitors. As part of this commitment, they have introduced a 16-step protocol which includes, amongst other measures, a reduction in group sizes during activities, meal times arranged in advance to avoid overcrowding and enhanced surface and gear disinfection.

Image credits: Markku Inkila

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

This holiday requires a minimum of 1 person 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.

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>