



# Muotka - Search for the Northern Lights



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

**BROCHURE CODE:** 20004  
**DURATION:** 7 nights

## In Brief

Muotka is one of our most scenic locations, tucked away in the fells and forests of Northern Finland. This 7-night stay offers a balanced itinerary to showcase some of the best landscapes and experiences in Lapland during the day, and exceptional Northern Lights excursions as night falls.

## Our Opinion

*“ This is a unique destination recently bought by the same wonderful family who own Nellim, one of our most successful Northern Lights destinations. This has a different feel to Nellim being located amongst the fells to the south of Ivalo. The forest destination and absence of artificial light pollution mean this wonderful wilderness destination gives you a very high chance of seeing the Northern Lights in this area. The hotel has the same welcoming staff and expert guides many will have experienced at its sister hotel and I predict it will be extremely popular with our guests. ”*

Amy Hope



## What's included?

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

- **Flights:** return flights between London and Ivalo (via Helsinki). Flight routes are subject to change.
- **Transfers:** return scheduled group shuttle airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights accommodation in twin/double hotel rooms
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- **The following activities and equipment are included:** Aurora workshop, cross-country skiing, two Aurora Camp visits, snowshoe hike, minibus search for the Northern Lights, snowmobile safari to reindeer farm, Aurora snowshoe, husky safari **(the order of activities is subject to change)**
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners
- Aurora alert until approximately 1 am

## Trip Overview

Muotkan Maja Wilderness Hotel has become a stand-out favourite amongst our guests. This accommodation charms guests with its hospitality, Nordic décor and fantastic guides.

Muotka's location is delightful, surrounded by trees and next to a small stream. Muotka is tucked away in its own little winter world, a retreat from the modern world. Residing amongst the forested fells of North East Finland and far from the nearest town, the hotel offers a wonderfully secluded base for your adventure in prime Aurora territory. The minimal light pollution here, means, that if conditions are right, there is great potential for viewing the Aurora just outside the hotel.

During the winter, this region receives some of the highest levels of snowfall in Lapland and we really exploit this during this holiday.

Guests will enjoy snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, allowing you to get close to this stunning

landscape and hopefully some of the wildlife that lives here. There are also snowmobile and dog sled safaris included; two exceptional experiences which give you a sense of the scale of the wilderness in the region.

Of course, you are here to search for the Northern Lights and this is done in serious style at Muotka. The evening hunts are varied and you will take part in Aurora searches using snowshoes, a snowmobile-pulled sleigh and a minibus. Each activity is designed to maximise your Aurora viewing potential and all activities are led by expert guides with a wealth of invaluable local knowledge, essential when Aurora hunting.

If you would like to really go all out on the Aurora front then we can also arrange for you to spend all or part of your stay in the magnificent Aurora Kotas here. These cabin/glass tepee combinations offer guests many added comforts and nights filled with Northern Lights opportunities.

We have loved Muotka from the beginning and it offers a sense of escapism that can only be found when you know you are somewhere very special and enjoying incredible experiences on a daily basis. The fact that it offers guests the most wonderful chance of seeing the Northern Lights is the icing on the cake!

Please note: If you are travelling over Christmas or New Year, you will enjoy a festive dinner and celebrations on the 24th or the 31st of December (traditionally in Finland, Christmas is celebrated on Christmas Eve).

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*©Wilderness Hotel Muotka, Matt Robinson & Markku Inkila*

# Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY  
1

## FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS

You will be met on arrival at the airport and transferred\* to your accommodation at Muotkan Maja Wilderness Hotel, your new home for the next seven nights.

You will have a meal this evening and we would suggest casting your eyes up to the night sky – the Northern Lights often welcome guests to Lapland in spectacular fashion.

\* Transfers are based on a scheduled group shuttle that sometimes stops at a few nearby hotels. If you would prefer to upgrade to private taxi transfers please ask our Travel Experts for a quotation.

**Included Meals:** Dinner

DAY  
2

## AURORA WORKSHOP, CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AND AURORA CAMP

Your adventure at Muotka will begin with an Aurora workshop led by one of the knowledgeable guides. The guide will provide information on the science behind this natural phenomenon and advise you on what you should be looking out for during your Aurora hunts. They will also advise on the optimal camera settings that should help you capture any display on film.

After lunch, you will enjoy your first foray into the beautiful wilderness which surrounds the hotel when you head out on a cross-country ski adventure. Cross-country skiing is something of a national pastime in Finland and is enjoyed by people of all ages. There are a variety of trails which surround the hotel and your guide will lead you on one of these, allowing you to gain an appreciation of how scenic and peaceful the landscape is here. Full tuition is provided so you do not require any experience. You will be out for around two hours. As this activity can be rather addictive, there is the opportunity to hire skis from the hotel later in the week and explore independently.

Dinner will be served at Muotka tonight before your first search for the Northern Lights gets underway.

Your inaugural Aurora hunt involves heading out to an Aurora Camp on a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile. Your guide will drive you to one of the best locations in the area from which to witness an Aurora. The guides here have expert knowledge and a huge amount of experience which they utilise when choosing the best routes for the evening searches. If conditions are favourable you will hopefully, catch a glimpse of the Aurora Borealis. This activity will last for approximately two and a half hours.

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

DAY  
3SNOWMOBILE SAFARI TO A REINDEER FARM AND NORTHERN LIGHTS  
SNOWSHOEING

Snowmobiles have become essential machines in this corner of the world, keeping remote communities connected and also providing reindeer herders with an easier means of tracking down their dispersed herd. However, for visitors to this area, they are also a thrilling way to make as much of the winter landscape as possible.

After full instruction and a safety briefing, you will head out into the vast wilderness travelling two people per machine. Your destination for the morning is a reindeer farm around 20km away so there will be the chance to swap drivers (providing you both have full driving licences and are over 18) allowing you both to take control of the snowmobile and travel as a passenger, enjoying the scenery.

Upon arrival at the reindeer farm, you will be able to chat with the herder and ask them any questions you may have. Reindeer herding has been an inherent part of life in Lapland for many hundreds of years and today you will learn a little about the fascinating history of herding and its importance to the local culture. This activity lasts for around four to five hours and includes a soup lunch, as well as a short reindeer sleigh ride.

This evening you will be provided with snowshoes and your guides will lead you to a great Northern Lights vantage point. The snow-covered trees can look like unique sculptures in the beam of your headlight and the absolute silence when you stop is something you rarely get to experience. Your guide will serve warm drinks as you wait patiently for a potential Aurora. In total, this activity is approximately two and a half hours long.

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

DAY  
4

## FREE DAY AND NORTHERN LIGHTS HUNT VIA MINIBUS

Today you will have a free day to enjoy as you please. Breakfast and lunch will be served at the hotel.

After dinner, there will be another dedicated search for the Aurora as you head out in a heated minibus to try and track down a display (approximately two and a half to three hours). The mobility provided by the minibus allows your guide to utilise the weather and Aurora forecasts to determine the best route to take to avoid any potential cloud cover. Hopefully, your efforts will be rewarded with a wonderful display.

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

DAY  
5

## SNOWSHOE HIKE AND FREE AFTERNOON

This morning you will have the chance to explore on foot. The use of snowshoes dates back centuries and their performance when navigating areas of deep snow should not be underestimated. With these shoes strapped to your feet, your guide will lead you through the forest, pointing out areas of interest and hopefully highlighting some of the wildlife between the trees. You will be out for around four hours in total. Lunch will be enjoyed around the campfire.

This afternoon is left free for you to set your own agenda. You may want to book an additional activity (payable locally) or alternatively, you can take advantage of one of the saunas or enjoy a good book and some downtime.

There are no Aurora activities planned with your guide tonight, however, the skies above Muotka have produced inspiring displays of the Northern Lights and you don't necessarily have to go very far to witness a wonderful show. With any luck, the sky will be filled with a dazzling array of colours.

Guests may like to spend this evening (or any other night) in an Aurora Kota at Muotka – the ultimate Aurora hunting rooms with the chance to view a display from the comfort of your bed.

Full details can be found in the ['Personalise'](#) section of the holiday page.

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



DAY  
6

## FREE DAY

This holiday has been designed to balance activities with free time in which you can simply relax and enjoy your surroundings. Snowshoes and cross-country skis can be hired from the hotel if you wish to explore independently and there is also a selection of [additional activities](#) which can be arranged for you.

Muotka is just one of those places where spending the day with a good book, admiring the views and enjoying a sauna can also be a rather lovely thing to do.

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

DAY  
7

## HUSKY SAFARI AND AURORA CAMP

On your final day at Muotka, you will try an activity which is a definite bucket list experience; driving a husky team across the Arctic wilds.

Following breakfast, you will meet your team of eager dogs who will no doubt show their enthusiasm and willingness to get out on the trail. After receiving instructions you will set off, two people per sled, (one person will stand on the back of the sled controlling the brake and another will sit in the sled) for around one hour.

There will also be the opportunity to chat with the mushers who make their living here and ask them any questions you may have about their dogs and their lives north of the Arctic Circle. This activity lasts for around three hours in total (including a short transfer, briefing and time for lunch at the hotel)

After your last dinner at the hotel this evening you will head out for your final Aurora hunt. You will once again travel via snowmobile-pulled sleigh to an Aurora Camp. Fingers crossed, the Aurora will bid you farewell.

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

DAY  
8

## DEPARTURE

Today is departure day and you will be transferred back to the airport to catch your return flights. If you are on an early flight, you will be provided with a breakfast box.

If you can't quite bear to leave just yet, then we can arrange for you to enjoy a city break in Helsinki on the way home. See the ['Personalise'](#) section for details.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

# Personalise this tour

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## Our pick



## A night in an Aurora Cabin

As ever, Muotka leads the way in Aurora viewing innovation and we are therefore proud to offer our guests the chance to spend the night in one of only 20 magnificent Aurora Cabins. These stunning, part-cabin, part-glass tepee buildings, offer guests an exceptional overnight Aurora hunting experience.

Guests get the space and feel of a cabin during the day and the Aurora viewing benefits of a glass igloo at night, as you sleep under a glass tepee. This means that you are provided with the most wonderful views of the night sky

from the comfort of your bed.

These part-cabin and part-glass tepee buildings, are self-contained and situated a short distance from the hotel, next to the annexe. They combine the space and atmosphere of a cosy cabin with a glass roof above the bed. Each cabin faces north so ideal for guests to gaze upon the night sky every night of their holiday, from the comfort of their duvet. The cabins are all 25m<sup>2</sup> with double bed and en-suite bathroom, making them an excellent base (most of them have a private sauna).

**Please note:** prices are based on you spending the first or last night of your holiday in this unique accommodation and not keeping your original accommodation. If you would like to do this on any other night during your holiday you will need to keep your accommodation and supplements will apply.

Please contact our Travel Experts for a quote.

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Credit: Anthony Oberlin and Minttu Mantynen

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## Other options

### LITTLE EXTRAS



## Cross-Country Ski and Snowshoe Hire

During your free time, you might like to take advantage of the local ski and snowshoes trails. Equipment can be rented locally, and reception can provide you with the necessary maps.

If you are exploring independently, please ensure you are properly equipped and have your phone and the hotel's contact details with you just in case.

£19 per day per set of equipment and subject to availability.

### TRIP EXTENSIONS





## Helsinki city break

With our destinations being so remote, the majority of flights to Finnish Lapland are operated by Finnair and therefore involve connecting through Helsinki Airport. Many of our guests choose to extend this stop and spend some time in the Finnish capital, either at the start or end of their holiday.

We can arrange a wide variety of city centre hotel accommodation for guests to choose from and some options closer to the airport should you prefer. We know that everyone tends to be looking for something different

so please contact our travel experts for their opinion on the hotels which may best suit you and your party.

Located on the peninsula of the Baltic Sea, Helsinki enjoys a charming coastal location and has much to offer its guests. This thriving city has a rich culture and arts scene with many museums and galleries to enjoy alongside the exciting gastronomy.

Despite its cool urbanism and a reputation for cutting-edge design, Helsinki also retains its charm and visitors will enjoy this city's very friendly atmosphere.

In the city itself, Senate Square is the main feature, showcasing neoclassical architecture and offering easy access to the surrounding shops. With Helsinki once part of the duchy of Russia, it offers similar striking architecture, with wide streets and bold facades. For those looking for more of an insight into the city's past, we would suggest visiting the Ateneum Art Museum which houses over 20,000 pieces of art, or the Helsinki Design Museum which showcases the history of design in the country from traditional folklore to postmodernism.

A 15-minute ferry ride from the main city is the UNESCO-listed Suomenlinna Sea Fortress which was constructed in 1748. As well as being a unique monument, it is also a lovely day trip, as the island has numerous shops and parks to explore.

Helsinki's food scene has seen a recent evolution, with a growth in street food which showcases the city's multicultural population. Helsinki is famed also for its specialist dishes of seafood and Russian cuisine so there is much to sample!

Finland is famed for its coffee consumption so you can be sure of a thriving café culture here. Be sure to include an obligatory stop for a coffee and a cinnamon roll during your explorations!

Whether you add your city break onto the start or the end of your holiday, spending a night or two in Helsinki is not something that you will regret.

Please contact our Travel Experts for a full quotation. All city breaks are subject to flight availability.

**Image credit: VisitFinland**

# Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

## Wilderness Hotel Muotka (Nights: 1-7)



Muotkan Maja Wilderness Hotel resides around 40km from the main town of Ivalo, tucked away in the corner of North-East Finland. Recently renovated and restored it is owned and run by the same couple as the popular Nellim Wilderness Hotel, Mari and Jouko Lappalainen. They run the hotel with the same hard-working ethos and it exudes the same warmth and charm for its much-welcomed guests.

The hotel boasts some wonderful scenery, tucked away in the forested-fells with roaming reindeer frequently seen amongst the trees. It consists of two main accommodation buildings, one with the majority of the bedrooms and another with hosts additional bedrooms, the main restaurant and the reception area.

## Hotel facilities

- The focal point of the main building is the restaurant which is where you will have the majority of your meals. Food will be served buffet style with a variety of continental and cooked food for breakfast and the choice of two or three options for each course at dinner. The menu has been designed with a focus on both traditional and international cuisine using fresh, locally-sourced ingredients
- There is a bar which is usually open until 1 am and serves a variety of spirits, wines and beers and a lounge area with comfortable armchairs to relax in during your free time
- There is a sauna in the main building which is heated daily for guest use
- Free Wi-Fi is available in the main building (at the bar and in the restaurant)
- In the main building, you will also find two fireplaces, games and books, which makes it a perfect place to relax
- The rooms do not have tea and coffee making facilities but tea and coffee are available free of charge and available in the restaurant area
- Hairdryers are available from the main hotel reception

## Room types

There are 12 double and twin rooms in the main building and 11 in the additional building just across the courtyard. All rooms are en-suite with shower room, wardrobe, hairdryer and nightstand and can be made up as either a double or twin. They have also been recently renovated and offer lovely Scandinavian décor and charm.

Image credits: Jouko Lappalainen, Markku Inkila

## Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

### Wilderness Hotel Muotka - Superior Sauna Rooms



Muotka Wilderness Hotel has 16 Superior Sauna rooms, located a short distance from the main hotel building. These rooms are designed to offer rustic luxury and are ideal for small families and groups or those that simply wish for more space to relax in during their stay at Muotka. The rooms are approximately 33m<sup>2</sup> and each separate building has four superior sauna rooms inside. Please contact our Aurora Experts for a quotation.

## Facilities

- All rooms will contain their own private sauna, sofa and an electric kettle to make your stay as comfortable as possible
- Each has a queen-size bed within and space for 1-2 extra beds
- All meals will be served in the hotel restaurant which is just a short walk away
- Hairdryers are available from the main hotel reception

### Wilderness Hotel Muotka - Log Cabins



Situated not far from the main hotel, the log cabins at Muotka are a wonderful upgrade option for those looking for a little more space during their stay or if you are travelling as a small group or family.

Each log cabin is approximately 50m<sup>2</sup> and is fully equipped to make your stay cosy and comfortable. Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

## Log cabin facilities

- All cabins have their own log burner and private sauna - ideal for warming up after a day in the snow!
- Each has a double bed and space for 1-2 extra beds
- All cabins have a small kitchenette and a kettle
- The log cabins are equipped with large north-facing windows so you can easily keep watch for a potential Aurora display
- All meals will be served in the hotel restaurant which is just a short walk away
- Hairdryers are available from the main hotel reception

## 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 24 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>