



Wilderness Hotel Inari – Autumn Lights Over Lake Inari



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 22010
DURATION: 4 nights

In Brief

As the dark nights return and before the deep snow rolls in, autumn at Lake Inari offers a breathtaking backdrop for Northern Lights viewing. During this 4-night break, you'll take part in dedicated Aurora activities as well as daytime excursions to explore Lapland and learn more about the culture.

Our Opinion

“ Autumn is a fabulous time to visit Northern Finland. The location of Wilderness Hotel Inari is ideal for Northern Lights hunting and lakeside situation offers unrivalled views of the Arctic sky. If winter activities are not a priority for you then I would certainly recommend autumn. You can explore the culture and the vibrant landscapes in cooler temperatures but you are not compromising on the Aurora potential. You also get to enjoy all the facilities before the winter crowds arrive. ”

Amy Hope



What's included?

- **Flights:** return from London to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Regional and non-UK departures available on request (flight routes are subject to change)
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights' accommodation in twin/double hotel rooms. Log cabin and Aurora cabin upgrades available (supplements apply)
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- **The following activities and equipment are included:** Northern Lights presentation, 2 visits to Aurora Camps, visit to Inari*, guided nature walk, Aurora hunt by minibus/car (the order of activities is subject to change)
- Cold weather clothing is provided for the duration of your stay as required
- Aurora alert service until approximately 1 am
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners

Trip Overview

Wilderness Hotel Inari in Northern Finland enjoys a stunning location on the shores of Lake Inari. It is high above the Arctic Circle and has an exceptional Northern Lights record. Autumn is a particularly special time to visit as the lake is as yet unfrozen and therefore offers the potential for you to witness the lights reflecting on the water, providing two displays in one. With scientific suggestions that there is increased solar activity around the autumnal equinox, the Northern Lights displays at this time can be equally as spectacular as those of winter.

During this 4-night autumn holiday, we include three dedicated Northern Lights activities with expert, local guides. Things kick off though with an introduction to the science of the Northern Lights and the local myths and legends associated with this natural phenomenon during an Aurora workshop. Following this, you will enjoy two visits to local Aurora camps which are in specially selected areas away from light pollution. Here you can enjoy the warmth of the fire whilst keeping an eye on the northern skies for any sign of Aurora activity. Your final hunt for the Northern Lights will be via car or minibus. This allows you to hopefully outrun any localised cloud cover using the knowledge of your local guide who will assess the weather conditions and the Aurora forecast.

Autumn in Finnish Lapland can be colourful and vibrant as the leaves turn to yellows and golds, and the locals call the peak of the autumn colours, 'Ruska'. It is also a special time to visit as it is a time of constant change, and you may witness the first snowfalls of winter.

During the days, a guided nature hike will allow you to explore the landscapes surrounding Lake Inari. A local guide will give you an insight into the local flora and fauna, including any edible berries and if you are lucky you may spot some wildlife. If there is snow on the ground, you can swap your hiking boots for snowshoes.

The indigenous people of Lapland have adapted to the long winters north of the Arctic Circle and a visit to the Sami Siida Museum in nearby Inari village will give you an insight into their way of life (please note the museum is being renovated during the Autumn of 2021 so your visit will be to the open-air exhibition outdoors).

In short, autumn is a colourful and peaceful time to travel to Lapland as you are travelling ahead of the winter crowds. The Northern Lights potential can be exceptional and there are few better locations for Aurora hunting than Wilderness Hotel Inari.

Photography by Markku Inkila and Reeta Hanninen



Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

Leaving everyday life behind, you will head to Finland's most northerly airport - Ivalo. On arrival, you will be transferred to Wilderness Hotel Inari where you will check in to your accommodation and shall be provided with your Aurora alert

Dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant this evening and you can enjoy your first evening in this prime Aurora territory. A short walk from the hotel restaurant will bring you to the water's edge and a wonderful place from which to watch the skies.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

NORTHERN LIGHTS PRESENTATION AND AURORA CAMP

After breakfast, you will have the morning to settle into your new surroundings and enjoy some leisure time.

The hotel is set on the shores of Lake Inari and the views of the surrounding wilderness are breathtaking, particularly during the colourful autumn season. Inari village is the centre of Sami culture and it is a fascinating village with a range of small Sami handicraft shops. You can walk to the village in approximately 30-40 minutes and it is well worth a visit during your free time. Alternatively, settle in with a good book by the fire in the hotel lounge area, enjoy a stroll or visit the glass-roofed sauna. Lunch will be served in the hotel restaurant for you.

After dinner this evening, you will be introduced to the science behind the Northern Lights as well as some of the local legends associated with the Aurora Borealis. You will then head to one of the specially created Aurora Camps with your expert guide.

The camps' locations have been carefully selected to provide unobstructed views of the night sky with very little light pollution. Here you can keep your eyes on the sky for any potential sightings and enjoy the warmth of the campfire. The lights in autumn are particularly captivating when reflected off the water of Lake Inari. So, if you are lucky, you might get two Aurora displays for the price of one. You will be out for around 2 hours and 30 minutes in total.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

SÁMI SIIDA MUSEUM AND AURORA CAMP

Today you will be transferred into the village of Inari itself, around five minutes from the hotel. The village is the capital of Sámi culture in Finnish Lapland and so today you will gain a greater understanding of the local culture.

One of Inari's most famous locations is the excellent Siida Museum which explores Sámi life through the ever-changing seasons here in the Arctic and looks at the history of this incredible culture. The museum shows a wonderful short film of some spectacular Northern Lights images. There is also a small gift shop which sells a range of traditional handicrafts made by local people. These make fantastic souvenirs of your time in Lapland. Lunch will be served at the hotel either before or after your visit to Inari.

On arrival back at the hotel, you will have dinner before heading out to another Aurora Camp in search of the Northern Lights. Again, your expert guide will accompany you and will select the most appropriate camp for the conditions.

***Please note:** *The Sámi Siida Museum will sadly be closed for renovation for the 2021/2022 season so the main exhibitions are not accessible. Guests will be able to visit the gift shop and the open-air museum – an outdoor trail showcasing exhibits on the cultural heritage, architectural heritage and livelihoods of Finland's three Sámi cultures. Guests are also welcome to visit Sajos, an architecturally*

beautiful building in the heart of Inari which is home to the Sámi Parliament and is the centre of Sámi culture and administration. Guided tours and an informative video are offered throughout the day and there is also a shop selling Sámi handicraft, books and music.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

NATURE WALK AND AURORA HUNT

Following breakfast, today you'll be exploring the vibrant, autumn wilderness during a guided nature hike. The colours are fabulous at this time of year and hopefully you will encounter some of the local wildlife which will be preparing for the onset of winter. Your guide will highlight any of the edible berries that are in season as they always make a nice accompaniment to your evening meal.

If you are traveling in October or November, you may arrive in time to witness the first snowfall of an Arctic winter. In this case you will swap your hiking boots for snowshoes and enjoy the fresh, pristine snow before the winter crowds descend. You will be out for around 3 hours in total.

After dinner at the hotel, you will again go out in search of the Northern Lights, this time travelling by car or minibus, using the vehicle's mobility to hopefully outrun any localised cloud cover. Your guide will assess the weather forecasts and local Aurora activity to ensure that the best possible route is selected. You will be out hunting for around 3 hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

DEPARTURE

After breakfast, it is time to bid farewell to Wilderness Hotel Inari. You can choose to extend your stay however, and we can also arrange for you to enjoy the bright lights of Helsinki on the way home. See the '[Personalise](#)' section for further details or contact one of our travel experts.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



A night in an Aurora Cabin

Spend an unforgettable evening in a winter cabin with direct views of the northern skies. Each cabin is designed with a large glass roof above the sleeping area allowing visitors to potentially witness the Northern Lights from the comfort of their bed.

Your evening is made extra special with a complimentary bottle of sparkling wine provided in each cabin and you also have an electric kettle with tea and coffee making facilities.

The cabins are ensuite with a shower and toiletries and there is space for an extra bed.

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 keep your accommodation in addition to the cabin, supplements will apply. Please speak to one of our Travel Experts.

Min: 1 person

Other options

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: Visit Helsinki & Jussi Hellston

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Wilderness Hotel Inari (Autumn) (Nights: 1-4)



Situated on Lake Inari's shores, Wilderness Hotel Inari is one of the most spectacular destinations we feature. Offering excellent levels of comfort and some serious 'wow factor', it is the latest addition to the Wilderness Hotels owned by our good friends Jouko and Mari Lappalainen.

Importantly it is also slap, bang in the middle of the world's best Aurora hunting territory and the hotel has implemented some innovative Northern Lights features to help maximise your viewing potential.

Wilderness Hotel Inari is ideally located around 40 minutes' drive from Ivalo Airport and just five minutes from Inari Village, which is the centre of Sámi culture in Finland.

There is a variety of accommodation on offer here, including cabins, Aurora cabins and hotel rooms, all of which are separate to (but within very easy reach of), the central restaurant building.

The hotel provides modern accommodation with décor which combines both comfort and charm. A huge amount of thought has gone into creating this very special place to stay.

Hotel Facilities

- The focal point of the hotel is the main reception, bar, lounge and restaurant building. There will be gasps of delight from the moment you walk in and are confronted with exceptional views out towards the lake.
- All meals are served in the restaurant and the quality of the food has been excellent in our experience.
- Breakfast offers a continental selection of meats, breads, cheese, fish and pastries as well as hot options including bacon and eggs. There are fresh fruit and yoghurts to compliment
- A.t lunch and evening meals, an array of fresh salads and a soup is followed by a choice of two main dishes prepared by the chefs. Options will typically include some local flavours as well as international dishes. In the evening these are accompanied by a pudding. Tea, coffee and water are included in your stay and any additional drinks can be added to your bill.
- The restaurant is beautifully decorated, with local art and woodwork creating a great atmosphere. The fantastic north facing panoramic windows running the length of the room offer views out onto Lake Inari. We certainly expect a few evening meals to be abandoned as the Aurora becomes visible during dinner (the chefs get used to it)!
- The bar area is fully stocked so you can enjoy a drink with your meal or relax in the lounge area by the roaring fire.
- Free Wi-Fi is available in the main hotel building and rooms (it is less strong in the Aurora

cabins and the log cabins but 3G reception should work on your phone).

- The crowning 'Northern Lights glory' here is the glass-roofed sauna which is housed by the lake in a modified Aurora Cabin. Guests can book the sauna at the reception in hour-long slots for private use (free of charge) and so if you strike lucky, you can witness the Northern Lights from inside, which is a very special experience.

Room Type

HOTEL BEDROOMS

The bedrooms are located in two separate buildings around 50 metres from the main building.

Each room has been decorated in a traditional Arctic style with inspiration taken from the local environment. They are around 30m² and have either a queen-sized bed or twin beds. Coffee and tea making facilities are provided in your room as well as either a comfortable sofa or two armchairs. If you can't face being detached from the "real world", the rooms also come with free Wi-Fi. Every bedroom is en-suite and comes complete with hairdryer and toiletries.

These rooms are designed for two people to share but a third person can be accommodated on a camp bed or pull-out sofa (supplements apply).

Image credits: Inari Wilderness Hotel, Matt Robinson

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Wilderness Hotel Inari - Aurora Cabins in Autumn



With the potential of seeing the Northern Lights above, you won't want to take your eyes off the Arctic sky. Luckily, with the Wilderness Hotel Inari's Aurora Cabins, you won't have to. These amazing

structures are all equipped with an expansive heated glass roof to give you unobstructed views of the northern skies at all times. Whether you want to lie back in your bed or on the sofa, you can go on the hunt for the Aurora right from the comfort of your accommodation.

These cosy cabins come with twin beds (which can be pushed together), a sofa or armchairs in the small living area and an ensuite shower room (toiletries and hairdryer are provided). You will also have coffee and tea making facilities. Some of the cabins will also accommodate an extra person on a sofa bed. The cabins are 34m² in size. The Wi-Fi signal isn't as strong in the cabins so you may need to use the main restaurant, or use the time to switch off!

The cabins are between 20 and 50 metres from the main building.

Please note that this accommodation option requires an upgrade supplement. Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Credit: Wilderness Hotel Inari

Wilderness Hotel Inari - Log Cabins (Autumn)



These cosy cabins are built in the traditional way, with walls constructed from huge logs and plenty of space inside. The ground floor covers 70m² and the loft area offers an additional 20m².

On the ground floor, you'll find a spacious dining/living room, comfy seating, and a wood-burning stove which can be turned to face where you are sitting. There is also the main bedroom with a queen-sized bed. There is also a kitchenette and dining area, although all your meals are provided in the restaurant. The cabins also provide free Wi-Fi although the signal is not strong in all of them. It can, however, be used in the lounge area of the main building if needed.

The bathroom and toilet (hairdryer and toiletries are provided) are also on the ground floor and the cabin comes with the luxury of a private sauna.

The loft area upstairs can accommodate three more single beds and, thanks to the pull-out sofa in the living area, the capacity of these cabins ranges from two to six people (although we would recommend a maximum of 4 adults). They are ideal for couples looking for a very romantic hideaway or for small groups of friends or family.

The cabins are between 15m and 100m from the main building.

Please note that this accommodation option requires an upgrade supplement. Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Image credits: Matt Robinson



Wilderness Hotel Inari - Arctic Chalets (Autumn)

These semi-detached, designer chalets, are a new addition to Inari's range of impressive accommodation options. They are designed to offer couples an air of Arctic luxury in their own holiday hideaway.

The modern interiors are sleek and beautifully designed. Each features a bedroom with an en-suite shower, private sauna room and king size bed. The separate living area is well equipped with a warming log fire, ideal following a day of adventures and the stunning landscape is framed

by full-height windows, offering views towards the lake. Each also offers a sofa bed which can sleep an additional two people, but we recommend keeping these chalets for just the two of you.

Please note that this accommodation option requires an upgrade supplement. Please contact our Aurora Experts for a quotation.

Image credits: Wilderness Hotel Inari

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 2 people and maximum 16 people (approximately).

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>