



Wilderness Hotel Inari - Christmas Auroras by the Lake



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 22004
DURATION: 4 nights

In Brief

If you thought Christmas in Lapland was only about Father Christmas, think again. During this four-night break to Inari, you'll experience snowy forests, frozen lakes, dog sledding, snowmobiling and with luck, pitch-black skies illuminated by swirling green Northern Lights.

Our Opinion

“ I'm so excited by the hotel's location on the idyllic shores of Lake Inari. In my opinion, Inari is as good a place as any to see the Northern Lights and is where I have had the most success over the years. What's more, the Aurora guides here are second to none and know the area like the back of their hands. If anybody can show you the Northern Lights then it's these guys. ”

Ali Mclean



What's included?

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

- **Flights:** return 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 twin/double hotel room
- **Meals:** full board
- **Clothing:** cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** Aurora Camp, dog sledding, reindeer farm visit, Aurora hunting by car or minibus, Aurora snowshoeing, snowmobile tryout, cross-country skiing (**order subject to change**)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- Aurora alert until approximately 1 am

Trip Overview

Situated just outside Inari Village in North East Finland, Wilderness Hotel Inari provides all the comforts you would expect but in a winter wonderland location.

The hotel enjoys an enviable position on the shore of Lake Inari and is perfectly positioned to take full advantage of the wilderness that surrounds it. The thick ice on the lake and the snowy forests and fells that line its banks make this the ideal winter playground and you'll be exploring it in several exciting ways.

During the day you'll be taking full advantage of the short daylight hours and what the locals call "blue time" and indulging in some of Finland's favourite winter activities including dog sledding, visiting a reindeer herder and cross-country skiing.

In December, there's no denying that the nights here are longer than the days but when you are hunting for the Aurora Borealis, darkness is your friend. Inari has a Northern Lights record to match anywhere in Europe.

This holiday is focused on the Northern Lights and we have included three Aurora hunting activities during your four-night festive stay. These include a hunt for the lights by car or minibus which will hopefully provide sufficient mobility to escape any cloud cover. You'll also be heading out on to Lake Inari and one of the Aurora camps set up by the local guides and finally, you will hunt the lights on snowshoes.

There are few places, if any, with better views of the northern skies so fingers crossed, you'll get a grandstand view of the light show.

Please note that whilst all of the activities listed here will be included in your holiday, the order of these activities will be confirmed on arrival and so the agenda is provided for guidance only.

Image credits: Wilderness Hotel Inari, Inari-Saariselkä Tourism Ltd, Markku Inkila

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND TRANSFERS

On arrival at Ivalo Airport, you will be collected for your transfer* to the hotel. As it will be quite late when you arrive your transfer will take place during prime Aurora viewing time, so make sure to keep an eye on the sky.

A chilled platter of food will be waiting for you so you can have some supper before heading to bed.

**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*

Please note that whilst all of the activities listed here will be included in your holiday, the order of these activities will be confirmed on arrival and so the agenda is provided for guidance only.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

REINDEER FARM, SNOWMOBILING, CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AND AURORA CAMP

Enjoy a hearty breakfast before getting into your cold weather gear in preparation for some good old Lapland fun. This will include visiting a reindeer farm (it is Christmas after all!) and learning a few things about the ancient art of reindeer husbandry. There will also be the chance to take a short reindeer safari. This activity will last around two and a half hours.

Next, is a full safety briefing and then a lesson on how to drive a snowmobile. Once you're

comfortable with the machines, you will set off on a wonderful snowmobile adventure, following your guide to see more of the wintery landscape. This activity will last around two hours.

You will travel two people per snowmobile and you must be 18 years and over and hold a full driving licence to drive a snowmobile.

Today is Christmas Eve and so it is time to celebrate as the Finns do, as they have their main celebration on the 24th December rather than the 25th. A delicious festive meal will be served in the restaurant this evening and you will be able to sample some traditional Finnish dishes.

After dinner, you will venture to one of Inari's famed Aurora camps. These camps have been established purely for Aurora viewing and represent the best local vantage spots. Keep your eyes peeled on the night sky while your guide gets some warm drinks on the go. If the Aurora shows, they can appear in many shapes and forms and no two displays are ever the same. This activity will last around two and a half hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

DOG SLEDDING AND AURORA HUNT BY CAR

Dog sledding is just one of those must-do bucket list items and to do it at 250km north of the Arctic Circle is simply unforgettable.

You'll be given a full safety briefing as well as tuition as to how to drive a sled pulled by a team of enthusiastic hounds before meeting your teams.

The dogs will be excited to see you as they live to pull the sleds, but don't worry, after a quick start on the trails they soon settle into a comfortable, lolling stride allowing you to relax and enjoy what is an unforgettable activity. There is absolutely nothing to compare with being pulled over the ice of Lake Inari by a team of huskies.

You will travel two people per team, with one in the sled and the other at the helm, there will be the chance to swap drivers halfway through. The activity lasts around two hours in total, including your training and some time to meet the dogs and the mushers after the trip.

The timing of your activity will be decided by the guides, so you will either enjoy lunch at the hotel before or after your memorable adventure.

Tonight, you will be heading out in a warm car or minibus to be driven by your Aurora guide into the night and in search of the Northern Lights. The beauty of motorised transport is that it means you can cover greater distances and, with luck, that will help to escape any cloud cover and reveal the Aurora in all her glory. This activity will last around two and a half hours*.

* Please note that this safari is sometimes described locally as being 3 hrs in duration, but this duration includes lunch (which we include as standard of course).

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AND AURORA SNOWSHOEING

The deep snow of wintery Lapland is begging to be explored and one of the most effective ways to do this is via cross-country skiing. After breakfast, you will try this popular pastime which allows you to travel further than you could on foot and enjoy the surroundings at a leisurely pace.

Following the guide, you will look out for local wildlife as you experience the best of the Lappish winter scenes during this two-hour trip. After working up an appetite, enjoy lunch back at the hotel.

During the evening, you will have dinner in the restaurant before your final Aurora hunt. Strapping on a pair of snowshoes makes it easier to walk across the deep snow. You'll follow your guide through the peaceful night and on the lookout for the Northern Lights.

The knowledgeable guide will take you to the best vantage points where, if conditions are favourable, you could see a spectacular Aurora display. This activity will last around two and a half hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

DEPARTURE

Unfortunately, it is time to head home but you will have hopefully had a wonderful festive period and will be returning home with memories to sustain you through the rest of winter back home (and of course, you can always come back!).

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



A night in an Aurora Kota

The Aurora Kotas combine a cabin structure with glass tepee elements, providing a large glass roof above the sleeping area, allowing guests to lose themselves in the magic of possible night-time Northern Lights displays from the comfort of their bed.

Each Kota contains a double bed and it has room for a third person on a sofa bed. 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: 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.

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Wilderness Hotel Inari (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 - Arctic Chalets



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



Wilderness Hotel Inari - Aurora Cabins

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, Matt Robinson

Wilderness Hotel Inari - Log Cabins



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

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.

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>