HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

“Knowing exactly the best places to see the Northern Lights invariably comes down to local knowledge and experience. Every holiday provided by The Aurora Zone has been designed in conjunction with our local partners in Finland, Sweden, Norway and Iceland to ensure that we are providing the best possible Aurora hunting experience. Similarly, during daylight hours when you are not Aurora hunting, we want you to experience the absolute best of your chosen destination. To achieve this goal, we have again engaged local experts and guides to ensure that your entire stay is an unforgettable experience.”

Ali Mclean
Key facts

Pace: Active

Suitable for:
Ages 15+. See our terms for further information

In Brief
Lapland offers so many unique experiences and this holiday includes the vast majority of them. You will take part in a snowmobile safari, husky adventure and visit a reindeer farm. You will enjoy a Northern Lights workshop, Aurora search by snowshoe and hunt the lights in a minibus with an expert guide.

Our Opinion

"Harriniva has it all really. Wonderful guides and staff, an array of exceptional activities starting from the front door, its own sled dog centre, stunning Lappish surroundings and an exceptional Northern Lights record. Our Northern Lights Quest has always taken full advantage of all of these things! This is an ideal short break for Aurora hunters."

Ali Mclean
What's included?

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

- Flights: Return flights from London to Kittilä/Rovaniemi (via Helsinki). Routings are subject to change. Non-UK and regional departures may be available on requests (supplements may apply)
- Transfers: Return airport transfers
- Accommodation: 4 nights accommodation in hotel room or Northern Lights Cabin
- Meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- The following activities and equipment are included: Snowmobile safari, Northern Lights workshop, Aurora snowshoe, husky safari, Northern Lights hunt via minibus, visit to a reindeer farm, Northern Lights snowmobile (the order of activities is subject to change)
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Services of our representative
- Aurora alert app until approximately 1am

Trip Overview

Harriniva has always been one of our most popular destinations for so many reasons. The balance that the destination offers is wonderful; warm and welcoming accommodation, great hospitality, a renowned reputation for activities, exceptional guides and of course a fabulous Northern Lights record.

Staying in either hotel rooms or cabins at Harriniva, guests will spend four nights here, enjoying the best that Lapland has to offer.

During the daytime activities include an unforgettable dog sled safari, exhilarating snowmobile trip and an informative visit to a reindeer farm. You will also be out hunting the Northern Lights during three evenings of dedicated Aurora activities, exploring on foot using snowshoes, by snowmobile and utilising a minibus to hopefully chase down the lights.

This holiday provides a wonderful balance of activities and exceptional Northern Lights opportunities.

Image credits: Antti Pietikainen
Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

**DAY 1**

**Arrival and welcome**

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be welcomed before being transferred to your accommodation at Harriniva Wilderness Hotel.

The majority of our guests will be arriving on an early evening flight, so you will have the chance to settle into your rooms before sitting down for a welcome dinner with the group.

You will then be provided with your cold weather clothing and shown the details of the Aurora alert app. We would suggest taking a walk down to the nearby River Muonio which offers a wonderful Northern Lights viewpoint should conditions be conducive to a display.

Some groups may be arriving on a later evening flight. If this is the case you will have a chilled supper on arrival and receive your introductory talk and cold weather clothing in the morning. The added bonus of a later arrival is the chance of seeing the Northern Lights during your transfer, as you travel through the wilds.

**Included Meals:** Dinner

**DAY 2**

**Snowmobile safari, Aurora workshop and Aurora snowshoe**

You will kick off your adventure today with a snowmobile safari in the stunning Lappish wilderness. Snowmobiles are an ideal method of transport in these parts as they are efficient and very versatile. The mobility they offer allows you to see a great deal in a short space of time. They also happen to be exceedingly good fun to drive.

Full instructions and a safety briefing will be provided before you head into the wilderness; crossing frozen lakes and enjoying forest trails, you will cover approximately 30km in total. You will travel two people per snowmobile and will have the chance to swap between passenger and driver (as long as you both have a full driving licence).

In the afternoon, you will gather for a Northern Lights workshop, during which you will learn a little about the science of the Aurora, the myths and legends which surround them and will be provided with some photo tips. Pancakes will also be enjoyed around a fire.

After dinner, your guide will lead you on foot, using snowshoes to help in the deep snow, as you make your inaugural foray into the wilds, in search of the Aurora. Your destination will be a local viewpoint with great views of the night sky. If conditions are favourable, you may witness your first Aurora display.

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

**DAY 3**

**Husky safari and Northern Lights minibus**
Husky safaris are often noted as being a favourite activity amongst guests, and with good reason. There is nothing which is comparable to the experience of driving a team of eager dogs across such a wonderful landscape.

Harriniva is well known for its sled dog centre which is just a short walk from the hotel. After breakfast, you will meet with your team of dogs and the mushers who will provide instruction on how to handle the sled. You will cover around 17km during the safari, with the dogs pulling you enthusiastically across the snow-covered landscape. The dogs' enthusiasm for the trail can be really infectious and you are sure to take some wonderful memories away from this activity.

You will travel two people per sled with the chance to swap drivers during the safari.

After dinner back at Harriniva, your guide will collect you for your minibus Aurora hunt. They will use their expertise, the latest weather and solar activity forecasts in order to ensure that you have the best chance of witnessing the Northern Lights if conditions are favourable.

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

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**DAY 4**

**Reindeer farm, Torassieppi Winter Village and Aurora snowmobile**

Reindeer are synonymous with Lapland and an understanding of their importance is something that all guests to the region should gain. Torassieppi Reindeer Farm dates back over 100 years and provides an insight into the traditions of the local culture as well as the lives of the herders and their animals.

A tour of the farm will be given on arrival and there will be the chance to take in the displays at the on-site museum. Next on the agenda is the chance to get close to the reindeer and enjoy a short sleigh ride - an unforgettable experience.

Located adjacent to the farm, Torassieppi Winter Village is a spectacular monument to snow and ice architecture. You will have some time to explore the rooms and admire the sculptures before you enjoy dinner in a wooden kota (teepee) around the fire.

After a final meal at the hotel, you will enjoy a snowmobile safari in search of the Northern Lights. This is a very different experience to the daytime safari you experienced earlier in your holiday. Instruction will once again be provided and you will continue to travel with two people per snowmobile. If you would prefer to have your own machine then this can be arranged for a supplement. Your guide will lead the way and will take you to dark skies, far from any light pollution in the hope of witnessing the Northern Lights. Regardless of whether the lights appear, this is a spectacular way to explore the trails after dark.

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

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**DAY 5**

**Depart or extend your stay**
This morning, you will enjoy breakfast at Torassieppi before you must sadly bid farewell to Lapland and head back to the airport for your return flights home.

If you wish, we can also arrange for you to spend the night in Helsinki on your way home for a mini-break in Finland's capital. Full details can be found in the 'Personalise' section of the holiday page.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

**Included Accommodation**

Other options are available - see below for details.

**Harriniva Wilderness Hotel (Nights: 1-4)**

Ideally located in the north-west corner of Finland, high above the Arctic Circle and in the very heart of the Aurora Zone, Harriniva Wilderness Hotel serves as a perfect base for your adventure holiday.

Owned and run by the Pietikäinen family, the hotel has developed a growing reputation for its warm ambience and a large range of enjoyable activities on offer.

**Hotel facilities**

The hotel has a range of facilities that have been designed to make your stay here as enjoyable as possible.

- There is free Wi-Fi throughout for guest use, in our experience, we have found it works best in the main reception and dining area
- The hotel restaurant consists of three separate dining areas. The meals are served in a buffet style with two or three choices for each course. The food here is hearty and wholesome
- The hotel also has a pub serving a range of beers, wines and spirits - this is the perfect place to unwind and relax with your fellow guests in the evening
- Tea and coffee are available throughout the day at reception, but it is not free of charge, so we would recommend taking a travel kettle if this is of particular importance to you
- In the main reception area of the hotel, you will find a small gift shop selling a range of postcards, soft toys and handcrafted products. There is also a selection of snacks that can be purchased
A sauna is available for guest use with separate facilities for men and women. This is free of charge and is heated every evening for around three hours.

The hotel also has an Aurora Wellness Centre (situated a short walk away on the riverbank), where you can enjoy a range of therapies such as facials or massages. A real treat after a day of soaking up the pristine wilderness! During peak periods, we would strongly recommend booking therapies in advance through reception (all payable locally).

Snowshoes and cross country skis are available to hire for a small charge and there are marked trails surrounding the hotel for those with some experience. For those interested in downhill skiing, reception will be able to arrange a taxi to the nearby ski resort of Olos (payable locally).

Guest bedroom types

Double/twin rooms

Harriniva has 64 guest bedrooms which consist of twin or double rooms. Triple rooms are also available on request. Decorated in traditional Scandinavian style, all rooms have an en-suite shower room and a hairdryer.

Northern Lights cabins

The hotel has a small number of cabins available on the riverbank, which offer a more secluded accommodation option. The cabins have double or twin beds, a private sauna, an en-suite shower room, a small kitchen and a lounge area.

Safari House

For those travelling on our longer husky or snowmobile experiences, your nights at the hotel will be spent in shared accommodation in one of Harriniva’s Safari Houses. Each has sleeping facilities, a shower room, toilet and a sauna. Some safari houses are on site, whereas others are located 3km from the hotel. If you are staying off-site, you will be transferred to and from the hotel for meals.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Harriniva Northern Lights Cabins
Subject to availability you may wish to upgrade to a Northern Lights Cabin throughout your stay. The cabins are located right on the edge of the river and have a small kitchenette, their own private sauna and en suite shower room. As they are located slightly away from the main building and also facing the frozen river, there is minimal light pollution, so if the Northern Lights do appear during your stay you will be able to witness a stunning display from just outside your cabin door.

The Specifics

Holiday group size

For all departures except 26th December the minimum group size for this holiday is 8 and the maximum is 24. Please note that activities are not private and you will be joined by others. The 26th December departure has a minimum group size of 10 and a maximum of 24.

Group Size

As a requirement the majority of our holidays must reach a minimum number of participants to go ahead, minimum numbers can be found on each individual holiday's page however they are always approximate numbers. Tailor made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities. Unless you have discussed and agreed specific private activities whilst on a Private Departure booking you might be joined by other guests on an activity. So that you are aware you will be informed at the time of booking if your selected date has not yet reached minimum numbers. In the unlikely event that your chosen date has not reached the required minimum numbers nine weeks before your scheduled departure date we will contact you and discuss the various options available to you.

We will always do all we can to operate a holiday and in some cases we may be able to operate the holiday by combining your itinerary with that of other guests for some activities (this may mean that the maximum group size is increased for some activities but this will be discussed in full with you).

You will be offered the chance to transfer to an alternative holiday or date (subject to availability) if we are unable to operate the holiday. If the alternative is more expensive you will be asked to pay the difference, if it is cheaper then you will be reimbursed. You will also be offered the option to cancel and receive a full refund of all monies paid.

Guides & Safety

When partaking in any activity it is imperative that everyone in your group listens very closely to the instructions provided by the guide and that they are abided by. Our guides are experts in their field and no one knows the environment better than these highly knowledgeable and experienced activity providers.

Please make it clear to our guides prior to starting any activity if you are unsure of anything mentioned during the safety briefing.

Our guides will always take local conditions into account when considering the suitability of an activity to go ahead. This is why your itinerary is subject to change at short notice this rarely happens however if it does we will always endeavor to go ahead the activity on the day when conditions change or if time allows, to provide the activity on another day during your holiday. If the activity cannot be carried out during your stay due to adverse conditions you
will be refunded on your return home. Our guides’ word on activities is always final and your safety is their principal concern at all times, please respect their decisions. By following their instructions, your safety and enjoyment during each activity will be greatly enhanced.

Minimum and maximum age

You can find the minimum age for any of our holidays in the key facts. Whilst we will never provide a holiday to the age stated, it is possible that on occasion there may be younger participants travelling with the local suppliers. There is no maximum age for our holidays but please note our sections on fitness and pre notification of any medical issues or disabilities

Booking activities locally

Additional activities can be booked locally in almost all of our destinations, however, please note that we cannot be held responsible for any injury or loss that occurs through any activities that are booked at your destination (see our terms and conditions for further details).

When arranging any such activity please always ensure that your safety is your primary concern.

Medical History and Advice

If you or any member of your party is pregnant or has any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday or has any special requirements as a result of any medical condition or disability (including any which affect the booking process) you must inform us at the time of booking.

You must also promptly advise us if you become pregnant or any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday develops after your booking has been confirmed. It is imperative that you do this as we cannot be held accountable for any situation which may arise out of your failure to disclose any such information.

Experience and Fitness

All of our activities that are included in your itinerary have been designed for beginners who have no prior experience and are of all age ranges and fitness levels. Our guides provide expert advice, tuition and instructions prior to any activity going ahead. If you are unsure as to whether your fitness levels match our highlighted level of fitness on certain itineraries please get in touch and talk to one of our experts.

If you or any member of your party is pregnant or has any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday or has any special requirements as a result of any medical condition or disability (including any which affect the booking process) you must inform us at the time of booking.

You must also promptly advise us if you become pregnant or any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday develops after your booking has been confirmed. It is imperative that you do this as we cannot be held accountable for any situation which may arise out of your failure to disclose any such information.

Snowmobile Safety
We are extremely proud of our safety record and believe this is entirely due to the excellence of our activity providers.

It is absolutely essential when partaking in any activity that you listen very closely to, and abide by, the instructions provided. Nobody knows the environment better than our activity providers who work here almost every day. Consequently, their knowledge and experience are unsurpassed.

If there is anything that you are unsure of during a safety briefing, or that you would like to clarify with the guides, please make this clear to them immediately.

Please always respect any decisions made by our guides. Your safety is their principal concern at all times. By following their instructions, your safety and enjoyment during each activity will be greatly enhanced.

If you or any member of your party is pregnant, or has any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday, or has any special requirements as a result of any medical condition or disability (including any which affect the booking process), please tell us before you confirm your booking so that we can assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and notify us if any change in the condition or disability occurs. You must also promptly advise us if you become pregnant or if any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday develops after your booking has been confirmed.

There may be rare occasions when our guides consider local conditions unsuitable for a certain activity, e.g. if temperatures drop below -25°C some activities will not be operated. Hence, your itinerary may be subject to change at short notice but we will always endeavour to, firstly find a replacement on the day and, secondly, to provide the cancelled activity later in your stay whenever possible. Very occasionally it proves impossible to provide the activity, in which case you will be refunded when you return home.

**Snowmobiles**

Driving a snowmobile should be considered the same as driving a hire car. The owner of the vehicle will have third party motor liability cover in place which complies with the local legislation and extends to include hire and reward. If you (as the hirer of the snowmobile during any safari) injure someone or damage someone else’s property, then the owner’s third party liability cover will cover such risks.

Any damage to the snowmobile you are riding will also be covered under the owner’s motor insurance policy; however you as the driver will have to cover the policy excess. In most cases this will be somewhere between £400 - £1200 (the equivalent in local currency) but it can vary in each destination. Please ask the local activity provider for their own individual excess before taking part in any snowmobile safaris.

Drivers of snowmobiles should be in possession of a full driving licence. The minimum age for driving a snowmobile varies but, for insurance purposes, you generally need to be 18 years old to drive a snowmobile. You must ensure that the snowmobile driver(s) takes a valid driving licence (either the old paper licence or the photo card licence). This is not necessarily to show your instructors or guides but for spot checks by police which occur regularly. There are strict rules governing snowmobiles and alcohol consumption and therefore, alcohol should not be consumed at all before participating in a safari.

**Snowmobile safety briefings**

Snowmobile accidents are rare but the driver should take extra care throughout. You will be provided with a full briefing on how to use a snowmobile. If you are unsure of any instructions or aspect of operating the machine then you must inform a guide immediately and get clarification.

In some cases children under the age of 16 will travel in a sled pulled by the guide’s snowmobile. If sleds are unavailable, as is the case with some safaris, children over a certain height will ride as pillion passengers.
opinion children under the age of 12 are typically too young to travel on the back of a snowmobile. Discretion may be applied in resort by our expert guides based on the individual child.

Almost all of our snowmobile safaris are based on two people sharing a snowmobile. There is usually the opportunity to swap drivers during the safari, assuming that both people have a valid driving license.

If you are a single traveller or if there is an odd number of people in your party, then in the majority of destinations (excluding Luosto where an obligatory single snowmobile supplement will apply), you will be paired up locally with either another person taking part in the activity or you will ride pillion with the guide. As this all depends on the number of people doing the activity on the day this will be decided locally. The only way to avoid this is by paying a single snowmobile supplement which guarantees you your own machine.

By agreeing to share with another member of the group you are acknowledging that you are responsible for alerting the driver and the guide if at any time during the activity you feel unsafe either as a driver or passenger.

Your guide will provide a comprehensive safety briefing before every activity including hand signals to attract attention – you must use these during the activity if you are unhappy at any point and the guide will answer any questions you have or do anything within their power to make the activity more enjoyable for you.

Insurance

As the rider or passenger of the snowmobile, you must take out adequate travel insurance to cover yourself for medical costs in the event you sustain an injury requiring medical treatment overseas. If you are a UK resident travelling in the EU you should also ensure that you carry with you your EHIC card (European Health Insurance Card). Please see our insurance documents for further details. Drivers of snowmobiles should be in possession of a full driving licence. The minimum age for driving a snowmobile varies but for insurance purposes you generally need to be 18 years old to drive a snowmobile.

To our knowledge (and we have searched extensively) there is no travel insurance policy which can be purchased in advance of travel that will cover you for the snowmobile excess. Some of our local partners offer an excess waiver cover which can be arranged locally and if you choose to partake in this, it is a direct agreement between yourself and the activity provider so please ensure you read all information very carefully.

Unscheduled activities in your free time

In some of our destinations you are able to borrow or hire equipment such as cross country skis and snowshoes for use in your free time. Participation in these activities is entirely at your own risk. You must ensure that you are properly prepared, have the necessary maps of the trails and ensure that you stay on the marked trails. We recommend discussing your route with the local guides who will be able to advise on the most suitable routes based on your level of fitness and the amount of time you wish to be out exploring.

Always let the reception desk know where you are planning to go and take a torch and mobile phone (with the hotel phone number stored) so you are able to call them should you get lost. It is also a good idea to leave your contact number and the time you expect to return to the hotel should the hotel need to contact you.

Please also read the section in our terms and conditions which refers to booking activities locally.

What to take

Standard Packing List
For each and every one of our holidays we will provide you with a list of items that you need to take with you when you travel. These will vary depending on the country you are visiting and the time of year. Country specific packing information can be found below. This information will also be uploaded into your online account at the time of booking.

There are however some items which, irrelevant of your holiday, you need to make sure that you pack.

Speak to one of our travel experts, call us on 01670 785012, or email info@theaurorazone.com

- Passport and visas: Please see our passport and visa section for more information.
- Final travel letter: This contains vital information and your emergency contact numbers.
- Airline tickets: Approximately two weeks prior to your departure your tickets will be uploaded into your online account for you to print and download (if we are arranging your air travel).
- Trip dossier: This contains vital information. The order of all itineraries is subject to change however and you will be provided with your final itinerary upon arrival at your destination.
- Travel insurance: This is a pre-requisite to travelling with us. Please see our section on Travel Insurance for further details.
- Full driving licence: If you are hiring a car or wanting to drive a snowmobile then please ensure that you take your licence with you. You either need to take your old paper licence or the photocard part of the new licence.
- Money or credit cards: Most major credit cards are accepted in our destinations. However, we would recommend you avoid depending on American Express or Diners Club as these are less widely accepted. Cash points are not generally available in our destinations. It is worth advising your bank that you are travelling overseas to ensure that you do not have issues using your cards abroad.
- Glasses/Contact Lenses if required: You are going to see some spectacular places and it would be a shame to miss any of it!
- First aid kit and medication: You should always carry a first aid kit with you when you travel and ensure that any medication you require is carried in your hand luggage. You will need to ensure that you have the relevant accompanying documentation for any medication and that it complies with all of the rules and regulations regarding items that you are allowed to carry on board an aircraft.
- Toiletries: Although some accommodation may provide the basics this is not the norm and so you should take all that you need with you.
- Chargers for cameras and phones
- Travel plug adapters: Suitable for the country you are visiting.
- Luggage: Please see your flight confirmation for your luggage allowance. Suitcases are fine for travelling, but if your trip includes an overnight safari you will need to pack your belongings into a soft large backpack or bag that can be easily transported on a sled. On such trips luggage should be kept to a minimum as space in the wilderness cabins is limited. Any items that you do not wish to take with you can be stored at the hotel.

Additional items for Finland

Clothing – the essentials

What to travel in: You should travel in comfortable clothes and sensible shoes with a good grip. If you have access to a hat and gloves in your hand luggage this is advisable. We recommend dressing for a cold winter day in the UK and having a warm jacket available to you on arrival. Generally, you only need to cross from the airport terminal to the transfer vehicle but you should be prepared.

Autumn Holidays
During the autumn in Finland, the weather varies drastically even within a few hours and should the weather conditions be on the chilly side all of the below cold weather clothing will be available to you. Please just ask your guide if you would like access to any of the specialised winter clothing during your holiday.

We recommend bringing lots of warm and comfortable clothing with you including plenty of layers and indeed the majority of the winter packing list will be applicable in clothing terms. You will also need to bring with you outer wind and waterproof clothing under which you can fit layers to keep warm. Finally walking boots or shoes with a good sturdy sole and a good grip are a must during the autumn months.

**Winter Holidays**

There is no need to invest lots of money in specialised winter equipment as the below items will all be provided for the duration of your stay. Below this you will find a list of clothing and equipment to bring with you which will make your stay more comfortable and help you get maximum enjoyment out of your time in Finland.

* **Thermal overalls:** These overalls are the ultimate in insulated outdoor gear. They are big, cosy and designed specifically for the Arctic. You will be given either a one-piece suit or a two piece set to wear. This is your outer clothing under which all your additional layers will go so they tend to be fairly loose fitting.

* **Winter boots:** The boots are large, well insulated and very sturdy. They are generally worn slightly larger than normal as you need to allow air to move around the boots as well as needing ample room for thick socks.

* **Mittens or gloves:** Our partners have large, warm gloves available for you to borrow for the activities. Generally, these are mittens as they keep your hands warmer than finger gloves.

* **Hat:** Although in many cases clients like to take their own hats they are available for you to borrow should you wish.

* **Woollen socks:** These big woollen socks provide excellent insulation and they are generally loose fitting to allow for the circulation of warm air. You may like to take your own but they will be available for you to borrow.

* **Please note:** During tours including more than one accommodation you will need to hand back the cold weather clothing when checking out of the accommodation and upon check in at your next destination new clothing will be re-issued to you then.

**What you need to take**

During the winter months, guests should take warm, comfortable clothing. We recommend taking the following items with you which will enhance the cold weather clothing provided to you upon arrival.

* **Thermal underwear:** Forget sartorial elegance and invest in some thermal long Johns and long sleeved tops to wear under your overalls. You should take more than one set if you are travelling for a week as you will wear them every day.

* **Sweaters:** Wool is the best material. We recommend wearing one or two such garments in sub-zero temperatures. They give you added flexibility should temperatures drop or rise.

* **Fleece jacket:** A fleece is an excellent addition to your winter clothing and provides excellent flexibility and warmth.

* **Tracksuit bottoms or walking trousers:** These are ideal for relaxing in the evenings and an excellent additional layer for under your overalls and over your thermals. Please do not take Denim jeans to wear during activities, they are not appropriate during the very cold temperatures.

* **Socks:** Again, wool is the best material. You should take several pairs both thin and thick.
**Mittens:** You will be provided with large mittens for activities but you may want to take your own pair. Mittens are recommended over gloves and ideally you should have access to them in your hand luggage.

**Hat:** Hats are available to borrow for activities however you may wish to take your own. You should take something that covers your ears fully and provides protection from the wind should you require it. We recommend taking one which also covers your ears to protect against any cold winds!

**Glove liners and hand warmers:** Thin glove liners can provide an excellent extra layer of warmth on really cold days as they fit easily underneath mittens. Hand warmers can be excellent for added comfort, especially during long safaris.

**Sturdy shoes or boots:** You will be provided with winter boots for activities but we recommend taking alternatives that are suitable for snowy/icy conditions. Shoes or boots with good grip are essential for the icy conditions (you may want to consider adding some additional shoe grips/crampons but these should be packed into your hold luggage). To save space you may want to travel in the boots (minus the additional grips).

Foot warmers can also be an excellent addition.

**Thermal neck warmer:** A neck warmer (fleece tube or similar) is excellent for keeping out the cold and keeping your neck and face warm.

**Balaclava:** Freshly washed balaclavas are often provided by our activity providers but you may like to consider taking your own as they can be very useful in the cold.

**Head torch:** These can be very useful especially if you want to be out Aurora hunting. If you are staying in a wilderness cabin then they are also particularly useful. Ensure you have enough battery life or spare batteries with you.

**Slippers and warm comfy clothes:** These are excellent for lounging around in after a day of winter activities. They can also be very useful in wilderness cabins after a day on the trail.

**Swimwear:** Some destinations have swimming pools so be sure to take your swimwear. Although swimwear is generally not worn in saunas in Scandinavia we find many clients like to take theirs with them to wear.

**Ski goggles:** Although not essential these are especially useful during husky safaris and if you wear glasses or contact lenses. They provide excellent protection from the cold, snow and wind should you need it. These are available to borrow for husky safaris.

**Small rucksack:** You should take a small rucksack to carry any extra clothing during activities and this is especially important during overnight safaris.

**Sunglasses:** The glare of the sun on snow can be blinding and so you should ensure that you have a good pair of sunglasses that are practical for the activities. In late December and early January, this is less of a problem as the sun is rarely above the horizon during this period.

**Sun tan lotion and lip balm:** You need to take these products with you but you should always take the advice of your guide before applying them. At very low temperatures guides will recommend the best course of protection as products may freeze and it can be dangerous to have these on the skin. High factor sun cream which is waterproof is best. Those which are designed for skiing tend to be ideal as they are designed for doing activities in cold and snowy conditions.

**Tissues:** These are very useful during safaris, as are wet wipes (although unless you keep them close to your body they will freeze!)

**Camera**
You won’t want to miss out on the photo opportunities so here are a few hints!

- ensure you have plenty of film or memory card space before you set off
- make sure you remember your battery charger and a travel adapter
- ensure you have spare batteries as there will be nowhere to charge anything once out on the trails
- batteries perform poorly in cold temperatures so take multiple batteries and store the spares in a warm place (a pocket next to your body is ideal). NiCad and Li-ion have better performance characteristics than alkaline batteries but are still affected. There are some restrictions on carrying certain Li-ion batteries onboard aircraft. Please see the IATA website for current and up to date information: http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dangerous_goods/pages/lithium_batteries.aspx

_Towel:_ (holidays including overnight safaris only): If you are travelling on overnight safaris then you will generally need to take your own towel with you – a travel towel is ideal for space saving.

_Flask:_ (holidays including overnight safaris only): You may want to take a thermos flask so that you can take drinks with you on the trail if the guides suggest it.

_What to wear in the evenings:_ this depends a little on the holiday you choose but the vast majority of our destinations are very relaxed and people are there to enjoy the Great Outdoors and stay warm when outside. Typically all of the hotels are casual in their approach and guests will often dine in jeans and casual clothing. There are no dress codes to worry about.

**Flights & Transportation**

**Special requests & in-flight meals**

Due to the remote locations of our holidays, especially those above the Arctic Circle, flight availability can be exceptionally limited. In order to ensure that you can travel on the seats that we have pre allocated to a certain holiday, flight options might be restricted. Please discuss this with our Travel Sales Experts at the time of booking.

Generally we are unable to assign specific seating on flights although we can make requests on your behalf. We cannot guarantee this however and if a request is unable to be actioned then this is not classed as a breach of contract on our part.

We do recommend you check in online as soon as possible to ensure you are allocated seats next to your travelling companions.

If you require special seats or assistance at the airport due to a medical condition, reduced mobility or disability then please let us know at the time of booking (or as soon as possible prior to travel if the issue occurs after booking). You may be required to provide written confirmation of your fitness to travel from your doctor.

Flights within Europe and on domestic flights may not provide meals or snacks onboard so it is always worth remembering this if you are due to land late in the evening when opportunities to buy food may be limited.

We always forward any dietary requirements to the airlines but we cannot guarantee the availability of the chosen diet onboard so please confirm at check in. You may want to consider bringing your own food on board the plane if you do have any specific requests to guarantee there will be something you will be able to eat. This is the approach our staff with any dietary requirements take when flying within Europe.
Flight schedule changes and connecting transportation

On your confirmation documentation we will confirm your flight schedule. Sometimes the flight number, routing and timings might change prior to your departure. If the change is classed as a significant change and we will contact you as soon as possible to discuss this. Please see our terms and conditions for further details.

Flight schedule changes can impact on your pre and post-holiday travel arrangements if these have been booked separately to your holiday. We strongly recommend that you do not book transport (such as trains or transfers), car parking or non-connecting flights to the departure point for your holiday until you have received your final voucher with the confirmed travel times.

We are not responsible for the effect of any schedule change on your pre or post travel arrangements. We strongly recommend that you do not purchase non flexible or non-refundable tickets to avoid cancellation and penalty charges.

Land only prices

In some cases we are able to offer our holidays on a land only basis (i.e. not including flights). If you choose to book your holiday on a land only basis it is vital you do not finalise any arrangements until we have confirmed you are able to do so. Once your trip reaches minimum numbers of bookings it is guaranteed to run so we will write to you to confirm this. As soon as your trip is ‘guaranteed to run’ you will be free to make your flight arrangements. Before you book your flights you should check whether airport transfers are included in your trip. If they are then please ask us for the transfer times that you will be required to meet. If you do not meet the planned transfers then private transfers can be arranged for an additional cost. Once your flights are booked, please send us a copy of your detailed flight itinerary.

We cannot be held liable for losses incurred relating to any flight booking you have made yourself if in the unlikely eventuality that we should be forced to amend the itinerary or even cancel the holiday. Please be aware that most of the cheaper airline tickets available for sale on the internet or from low cost carriers are non-refundable in the case of cancellation. For this reason we strongly advise you check the rules of the ticket when you make a flight booking and check the limitations of any cancellation insurance policy you have. Should your holiday be cancelled and you no longer wish to use the flights it is important that you are able to amend or cancel your booking and receive a booking. It is with regret that we are unable to accept liability for any travel arrangements that you make (including change or cancellation costs) in the event of any change to, or cancellation of, our holiday; or for any other reason that makes you unable to use your booked travel arrangements.

Banned airlines

The list of banned airlines is available for inspection at http://europa.eu we must bring this to your attention as due to an EU Directive, (EC No 2111/2005 Article 9) some airlines are banned from operating within the EU. In accordance with European regulations we will also inform you of the carrier or carriers which will operate your flights at the time if booking. If we are unable to confirm this at the time, we will do so as soon as we are made aware of the carrier following confirmation. We will also notify you of any changes to your carrier after booking as soon as possible. If the airline then becomes subject to a ban, our terms and conditions will apply. Please see sections 8 and 19 of our booking terms for further details.

UK foreign office advice
The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) continuously updates us with travel advice which we follow 100%. Rarely they issue warnings advising not to travel to a certain country or area and if such a warning was issued we would act appropriately which might result in a cancellation, rumination or an amendment of an itinerary. Our clients' safety is paramount and such decisions will be made with this in mind. If for any reason our local partners suggest an amendment due to a situation developing locally then we may also make the decision to amend an itinerary appropriately. Safety is non-negotiable here at The Aurora Zone. In the unfortunate circumstance where we have to cancel your holiday prior to your departure you will be offered with an alternative trip (where any price variance will either be refunded to or covered by the guests) or a full refund of the monies paid. If we have to curtail a holiday then you will be refunded for any costs for the part of the holiday that we have been unable to deliver where we have been able to secure a refund from our suppliers. If we have to re-route a holiday then any basis for refund is determined on a case by case basis and dependent on whether the central holiday experience was provided or not.

Below you will find FCO advice for the country/countries that you are visiting which is applicable to British passport holders only. We always recommend that our clients access this advice themselves as the content includes details on entry requirements, embassy information, local laws and customs as well as specific safety and health advice. Most governments will issue their own travel advice for a region and, if you are resident outside of the UK, then you can find some helpful links below:

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade http://www.safetravel.govt.nz/
Canadian Consular Affairs Bureau http://voyage.gc.ca/
The U.S. Bureau of Consular Affairs http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/english.html

Finland

Entry requirements – valid for British passport holders only

Passport validity

For stays of up to three months, your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay; you do not need any additional period of validity on your passport beyond this. The Finnish authorities have confirmed they will accept British passports extended by 12 months by British Embassies and Consulates under additional measures put in place in mid-2014.

UK Emergency Travel Documents UK Emergency Travel Documents are accepted for entry, airside transit and exit from Finland. Visas are not required to enter Finland. As a British national, you can stay as a visitor for three months. After that, you should contact the local Finnish Police to register your right to live in Finland.

Local laws and customs

As in the UK, Finns take drug offences seriously and you can expect a prison sentence. Khat is illegal in Finland and those who try to import it are summarily deported.

Health

Contact your GP around eight weeks before your trip to check whether you need any vaccinations or other preventive measures. Country specific information and advice are published by the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC), and useful information about healthcare abroad, including a country-by-country guide, is available from NHS Choices. If you’re visiting Finland you should get a free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) before leaving the UK. The EHIC is not a substitute for medical and travel insurance, but it entitles you to state-provided medical treatment that may become necessary during your trip. Any treatment provided is on the same terms as Finnish
nationals. If you don't have your EHIC with you or you've lost it, you can call the Department of Health Overseas Healthcare Team (+44 191 218 1999) to get a Provisional Replacement Certificate. The EHIC won't cover medical repatriation, on-going medical treatment or non-urgent treatment, so you should make sure you have adequate travel insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment and repatriation. As a rule, organs, tissues and cells may be removed in Finland for the treatment of another person if it can be assumed that the deceased would not have objected to the measure when alive. Cards for permission/refusal to donate your organs are available from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 112 and ask for an ambulance. If you are referred to a medical facility for treatment you should contact your insurance/medical assistance company immediately.

The most up to date information can be found at the following link: https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/finland

Time Zone
Finland is 2 hours ahead of GMT so if you are in the UK count forward 2 hours.

The finer details

Financial Protection

We know that your holiday will be one of the most important investments you make in a year and we understand how important it is for you to know that you are financially protected and that your money is secure. Alongside our ATOL financial protection (ATOL 6865) you may book with confidence as we are a fully bonded member of ABTA (ABTA number Y6261) which means that you have the benefit of ABTA’s code of conduct and your money is fully protected regardless of whether we are arranging your flights for you or not. We also offer our clients our Peace of Mind Promise to really help put your mind at ease. Please see the following link for full details:

Responsible Travel

Responsible Travel is at the heart of our business and our approach is based on ensuring that our holidays are environmentally, socially and economically responsible. We work in some of the most pristine environments in the world and with suppliers who we class as friends; protecting and providing for both is central to our ethos. Full details of our responsible travel policy can be found on our website

Insurance

Insurance is not included in your holiday and so you will need to ensure that you have cover for all of the activities that you will be participating in during your holiday. Details of our preferred provider, who will cover you for all activities we offer, can be found on our website

Terms and Conditions

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: https://www.theaurorazone.com/booking-
Terms & Conditions

Terms

Minimum age

The minimum age for participation in our itinerary is 15 years old, however, for some activities and shared transfers, our guests may be joined by others and these may include those of a younger age. Any younger participants will be fully supervised by an adult and the guides will ensure that they are only able to participate if there will be no effect on the activity experience.

To drive a snowmobile you must have a full driving licence and be over 18 years old.