

Harriniva - New Year Northern Lights Quest



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group

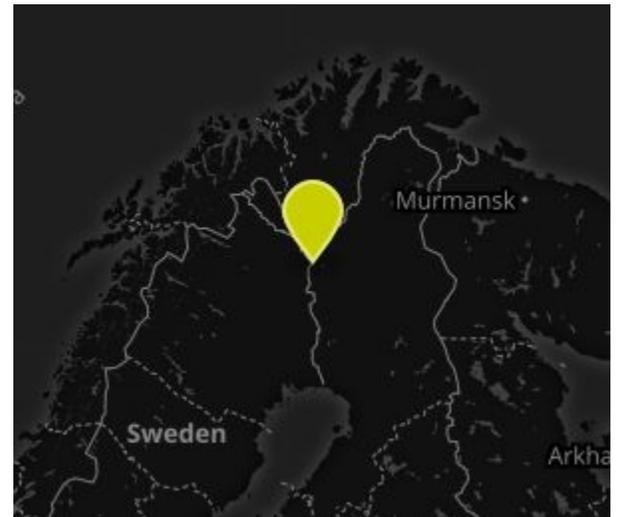
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 2005

DURATION: 4 nights

“ 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

In Brief

This four-night break to Harriniva offers an exceptional way to welcome in the New Year. From dog sledding and snowmobiling to dedicated Northern Lights hunts and memorable New Year celebrations, this is an amazing way to start your year.

Our Opinion

“Harriniva is one of my very favourite places in Finland. The guides here are so friendly and knowledgeable you feel like you get much more out of your stay than simply just trying the activities. They are always keen to pass on their experiences and will answer any questions you may have about life here above the Arctic Circle. This is the ideal trip too, as you try out all of the most popular activities – snowmobiling, dog sledding and meeting reindeer. Fingers crossed you will also see a spectacular Northern Lights display – you are in the ideal spot!”

Jono Archer



What's included?

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

- **Flights:** return flights from London Heathrow to Kittilä (via Helsinki). Flight route subject to change
- **Transfers:** return transfers are provided
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights accommodation in a double room or Northern Lights Cabin at Harriniva subject to availability
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners (inc. special New Year dinner and celebrations)
- **The following activities and equipment are included:** snowmobile safari, Northern Lights workshop, a visit to a reindeer farm, Aurora hunt by minibus, Aurora snowmobile safari, 17km husky safari and New Year celebrations **(the order of activities is subject to change; please note that you must hold a valid UK driving license in order to drive a snowmobile)**
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Services of our local representative
- Aurora alert mobile app until approximately 1 am

Trip Overview

Our New Year Northern Lights Quest is sure to make a unique and highly memorable way to welcome in the New Year.

With its picturesque wilderness backdrop, the wide range of activities and enthusiastic guides, it is always one of the most popular choices for our guests. At 230km above the Arctic Circle and 67° North, these two wonderful destinations are ideally situated within the Aurora Zone, so with any luck, the Northern Lights will be providing the icing on the cake.

This holiday is based in Harriniva, which has an extremely impressive Northern Lights record and is one of our most popular destinations. The hotel is owned by the Pietikäinen family who we have been working with for over ten years and it is renowned for its varied and exciting activities and enthusiastic guides.

Your days will be filled with activities as you try out some of the Arctic's most famous experiences. These include a snowmobile safari, which is not only thrilling but will help you to see the scale of the wilderness here. Another highlight of the trip is the 17km husky safari which is an incomparable way to travel across the snow. Furthermore, you will enjoy a visit to a reindeer farm and a sleigh ride which provides a glimpse into times gone by.

Harriniva sits at the heart of the Aurora Zone, and, with minimal light pollution, you don't necessarily have to go very far should the Northern Lights prospects be high as with any luck you will see a spectacular display from close to the hotel. To increase your chances further, though, we have included some dedicated hunts using snowmobiles and a minibus!

We love the idea of welcoming in the New Year in such a remarkable place and Harriniva hosts some delightful celebrations for guests. If the Northern Lights grace the party then there can surely be no better way to start the year.

Image credits: Manny Alsina, Antti Pietikainen

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

Arrival and Introduction

Upon arrival at Kittilä Airport, you will be transferred to Harriniva to check into your cosy rooms and enjoy a delicious dinner.

You'll need a good night's sleep tonight prior to activities commencing tomorrow, however, you must remember to keep an eye on the skies in case the Northern Lights appear overhead; this is prime Aurora territory.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

Husky Safari, Northern Lights Workshop, Aurora Snowshoe and New Year's Eve Celebrations

Today you will begin New Year's Eve with one of our guests' resounding favourite experiences. There is something about being pulled along on the snow by a team of eager dogs that leaves the traveller with a wonderful connection to the Arctic.

Harriniva has a husky centre on site, so this morning you will walk down and meet your team. The guides will give you full instructions and help you to prepare your sled before you head out on an exciting 17km safari. The dogs' enthusiasm for the trail is evident from the start and, once they have settled into a steady rhythm, you will be able to enjoy your wonderful surroundings from this fabulous vantage point. You will travel two people per sled, with one person standing on the back controlling the brake and the other person sitting in the sled. There will be the chance to swap over when you break for a hot drink en route.

After lunch, the group will participate in the Northern Lights workshop with an expert guide. You will get a brief scientific overview of the Aurora and some details of the myths and legends that this natural phenomenon has inspired over the centuries. Some photographic hints and tips will be offered in order to help you capture the Aurora on camera and pancakes will be enjoyed around a fire.

Tonight you will celebrate at the hotel, enjoying a delicious meal before some additional festivities to mark the end of the year!

Then, it's time for your first Northern Lights hunt. Your snowshoes will allow you to cover areas of deep, untouched snow as you enjoy the eerie silence of the blanketed fells. During this activity, you will stop for hot drinks at a prime Aurora viewpoint and look out for the mysterious Aurora Borealis. Hopefully, they will make a dazzling appearance and ensure that your New Year's Eve is especially memorable. Overall, the activity will last for around two and a half hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

Snowmobile Safari and Northern Lights Minibus

Snowmobiles allow you to explore the wilderness, offering the best way to navigate the landscape and get a sense of the scale of the vast Arctic wilds.

Full instruction and tuition will be provided before you set off, crossing frozen lakes and winding through forest trails. The safari will cover approximately 30km and you will travel two people per snowmobile with the chance to swap drivers (providing you both have a full driving licence and are over 18 years old).

Lunch and dinner will be served as usual today and, in the evening, your second Northern Lights hunt will take place. You will be met by your guide who will discuss the weather forecast and solar activity with you before setting off via minibus to hunt out the clearest skies in the area to give you the best possible chance of enjoying an Auroral display.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

Reindeer Farm Visit and Northern Lights Snowmobile

Today you will begin your final day of the trip with a visit to Torassieppi Reindeer Farm. This is one of the best places in Lapland to gain an insightful understanding of the connection between reindeer and this remote region, in particular, their connection to the indigenous Sámi population.

Reindeer are of vital importance to the region economically and culturally and the museum here helps to provide an understanding of this. There will also be a tour of the farm and guests will have the chance to feed the reindeer and enjoy a short, 3km reindeer-pulled sleigh ride.

Afterwards, you will enjoy a tour of Torassieppi Winter Village, followed by a special lunch in an ice restaurant, while you admire the ice sculptures that protrude elegantly from the crisp white walls

After dinner, tonight's adventure on snowmobiles is a thrilling way to hunt down the Northern Lights. Your guide will give a full safety briefing before you set off, travelling two adults per snowmobile. You will make your way to the top of a fell around 20km away from where you will enjoy warm drinks and await a potential sighting of the Aurora. Please note that you must hold a valid UK driving license in order to drive a snowmobile.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

Departure

You will be transferred to the airport for your return flights today with heads full of fantastic memories

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 the main building for guest use, in our experience, we have found it works best in the main reception and dining area
- The hotel restaurant has a lively, buzzing atmosphere as people excitedly discuss the adventures they have taken part in that day. 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 and we recommend booking in advance if possible)
- 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)

Room 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 with a hairdryer, 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.

Image credits Emmi Kähkönen - Harriniva Hotels & Safaris

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Harriniva Riverside Cabins - Brand New for 2018



Just built this summer, we are unable to provide winter images of these lovely riverside cabins, but once the first snow of winter falls in Harriniva, they will make the perfect cosy winter escape.

Set in a picturesque, riverside location and ranging from 39m² to 47m², Harriniva's Riverside Cabins are ideal for larger groups, or those wanting a little more space and privacy during their trip. Each cabin sleeps five people in total, with a main bedroom for two people, a loft area (accessible by a steep ladder) sleeping a further two people and a pull out sofa bed in the lounge. Fully-equipped with kitchen facilities, including a stove, dishwasher and fridge, and with a cosy living room, you can relax and enjoy your own space in complete comfort. Each cabin even has its own private sauna, perfect for keeping warm after a long day out in the cold.

Upgrade to a Riverside Cabin: from £199 per cabin

Credit: Antti Pietikainen

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 10 persons, maximum 24

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 group size 2; maximum 22 (approximately)

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](#).

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 at all times. Our guides are experts in their field and no one knows the environment better than these highly knowledgeable and experienced providers.

Prior to starting any activity, please make it clear to your guide if there is any element of the safety briefing you are unsure of or would like to clarify before you set off.

Our guides will always take local conditions into account when considering whether an activity can go ahead. This is, in part, why your itinerary is subject to change at short notice. This rarely happens, however, if it does, we will always endeavour to reschedule the activity for later in your holiday. If this is not possible then the cost of the activity will be refunded to you when you 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.

NB: In order to participate in our holidays, all guests must be able to understand instructions given in English. These instructions may be delivered verbally or in writing and will include vital safety information and ongoing instruction during activities.

Minimum and maximum age

The minimum age for this holiday can be found in the dates and prices section of the holiday page, under 'Terms'.

For some activities and transfers, you may be joined by other guests and this may include some of a younger age than stated. Any younger participants will be fully supervised, and the guides will ensure that their participation takes place only if the activities will be unaffected.

Very few hotels have a minimum age and there may be families staying at them with younger children, especially during the holiday periods. We do have some itineraries and destinations which are guaranteed to be adult-only, so if this is important to you please speak to one of our Travel Experts.

Booking Activities Locally

Additional activities can be booked locally in almost all our destinations. However, as per our booking conditions, we cannot be held responsible for any injury or loss incurred through participation in activities which are booked at your destination outside of our holiday itinerary (see our 'Terms and Conditions' for further details).

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

In some of our destinations, you can borrow or hire equipment for use in your free time. You do so entirely at your own risk. You must ensure that you are properly prepared, have the necessary equipment and knowledge (maps, etc) and ensure that where applicable, you follow marked routes. We recommend discussing your plans with the local teams who will be able to advise on the most suitable options for you.

Always let the reception/guide know where you are planning to go and take a torch and mobile phone (with the hotel/guide's phone number stored). 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.

Medical History and Advice

We want our holidays to be accessible as they can be and will do our best to accommodate any special requests and requirements where possible. We have a wide range of holidays and destinations and so our travel experts will help find the best holiday for you.

In order to give us the best possible chance to do this we ask that if you or any member of your party has any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday or has any special requirements, that you tell us at the time of enquiry or booking. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday develops after your booking has been confirmed. You may need to provide a doctor's note and proof of insurance in some cases as the health and safety of our clients is absolutely paramount.

In providing this information you are allowing us to work with our expert local partners to ensure that your whole party can enjoy the holiday. By letting us know in advance we can discreetly work with you to adapt any part of the holiday which may potentially be challenging. Being able to prepare for this in advance makes an incredible difference to what we can offer and minimises any impact on your party and the rest of the group.

Unfortunately, if you choose not to share this information with us in advance then it may limit some or all of the itinerary you have booked, and we cannot be held accountable for any additional costs or missed activities resulting from this.

Pregnancy

If you are pregnant at the time of booking your holiday or you discover you are pregnant prior to your departure, firstly – congratulations! Secondly – please tell us as soon as possible. This situation does frequently arise and we are able to advise you both from our own first-hand experience and from discussing this at length with our expert local partners who have experience in this area. The more notice you can give us the better, in order to suggest any adaptations to the itinerary you have booked which will reduce the risk to both mother and baby. Please contact our customer service team at **info @ theaurorazone . com** for more information.

Experience and Fitness

Most of the activities we offer 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. Activities are designed to be enjoyed and not endured, but some, such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, do require a more basic level of fitness than, for example, riding on a snowmobile. If you have any questions, then please contact one of our Travel Experts who can provide first-hand advice.

The only holidays which are not as suitable for complete beginners are the multi-night safaris which involve several days in wilderness cabins travelling by either snowmobile or husky safari. Again, this all depends on the individual taking part, but some prior experience and understanding of these types of activities can be very helpful.

Snowmobile Safety

If your holiday includes snowmobiling or the chance for you to add on this activity, then please read this important information.

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 (including another snowmobile), 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 £500 - £1,500 (the equivalent in local currency) but it can vary.

To our knowledge (and we have searched extensively) there is no insurance policy that will cover you for this excess and it cannot be waived. In some cases, it may be possible to pay to lower this, but this is rare and always arranged locally. Ask the guides if you have any queries regarding the excess, etc.

Snowmobile accidents are rare, but the driver should take extra care throughout. You will, of course, be provided with a full briefing on how to use a snowmobile. However, if you are unsure of any instructions or any aspect of operating a snowmobile, then you must ask a guide for clarification immediately.

Whether you are driving or riding as a passenger, you must ensure that your travel insurance provides full cover for snowmobiling. This includes 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 your EHIC card (European Health Insurance Card).

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 anyone who may be required to drive a snowmobile takes a valid driving licence on holiday (either the old paper licence or the new 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.

If you are unable to drive a snowmobile, then you may not be able to take part in a safari, however, you may be offered the chance to travel as a pillion passenger on another machine if you agree to do so. If this option is not

available, then in some cases the guide may be able to arrange for a sled to be pulled for you behind their own machine.

Those under the age of 16 will normally travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile. If sleds are unavailable, as is the case with some safaris, older children may be able to ride as pillion passengers. Discretion may be applied in resort by our expert guides based on the individual child. Please note for Canada and the US different rules and regulations may apply.

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 to 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](mailto: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 10 days to one week 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 for 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: Not an essential, but some people find these helpful during longer safaris as they provide excellent protection from the cold, snow and wind should you need it.

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.

Suntan 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
- when photographing the Northern Lights it is recommended that you use a tripod. Some of our destinations may have tripods that our clients can use but we would recommend that you take your own.

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 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, flight availability can be exceptionally limited. 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 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 and if a request is unable to be actioned then this is not classed as a breach of contract on our part.

If your booking allows for online check-in then you should do so as early as possible to ensure you are allocated seats next to your travelling companions. Details regarding this will be provided in your final travel documents which will be provided approximately one week prior to travel.

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 a doctor.

Domestic flights and those within Europe, 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. You may want to consider bringing your own food to guarantee there will be something you will be able to eat. This is the approach our staff with dietary requirements take when flying within Europe.

Flight schedule changes and connecting transportation

On your 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 then we will contact you to discuss this. Please see our booking conditions for 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 confirmed travel times when your final travel documents are issued. 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.

Booking your own flights - cancellation disclaimer

If you have chosen to book your own flights, then you will need to wait until we confirm to you that the holiday departure has met the minimum numbers required to run (if applicable to your chosen holiday). Once the holiday is guaranteed to run, you will be informed and you can then make your arrangements.

If transfers are included in your holiday, please ensure that any potential flights will be met by our standard transfers (speak to one of our Travel Experts for advice) otherwise private transfer supplements may be applicable. Once your flights are booked, please send us a copy of your detailed flight itinerary.

Please be aware that most tickets are non-refundable in the case of cancellation. For this reason, we strongly advise you check the rules of the ticket and check the limitations of your cancellation insurance before booking. We cannot be held liable, in the unlikely eventuality that we should be forced to cancel or amend your trip, for losses incurred relating to any flight booking you have made.

UK foreign office advice

Our clients' safety is at the centre of everything we do, and our operations team continually assesses and monitors the destinations we feature. We carry out thorough risk assessments and work closely with all of our suppliers to

continually follow best practice. For up to date travel advice the UK government offers its [Travel Aware website](#) as well as the advice detailed below.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice

We receive all updates from the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office \(FCO\)](#) with regards to travel advice and we always ensure that we follow this advice in our operations. The FCO issues travel advisories for countries based on a very wide range of factors. They may provide notification about things as simple as a football match and crowds, or they may go so far as to advise against all travel to a region. We ask all our clients to refer to the relevant [Travel Advice by Country](#) for the destinations they are visiting in order to make an informed decision on the safety of the destination based on the details provided. It also provides vital information regarding entry requirements, embassy information, local laws and customs as well as specific safety and health. Guests should take responsibility for keeping themselves up to date with this advice. Please also ensure that, if you are transiting through another country, you have read the advice and meet the entry requirements for that destination too.

The FCO travel advice is applicable to British Passport Holders. Most governments will issue their own travel advice for a region and, if you are not a UK resident 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>

If the FCO deems that there is an unacceptable level of risk for UK citizens then, together with the government, they may issue an advisory against all travel to a region or country. If such an advisory is published, then we will act accordingly, and this may require the cancellation, curtailment or amendment of a holiday itinerary. These decisions are made on the basis of ensuring our clients' safety and will affect all clients on the holiday, regardless of their nationality.

If one of our local experts suggests an amendment due to a situation which develops locally then we may also take the decision to amend an itinerary appropriately.

If we have to cancel your holiday prior to departure you will be offered the option of an alternative trip (where any price difference will either be refunded to or covered by you) 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 elements we have been unable to deliver, where we have been able to secure a refund from our suppliers. If we must reroute 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.

Passport rules for Travel to Europe after Brexit

The government have released the following guidance on passport validity for travel to Europe should the UK leave the EU without a deal. Please read the guidance on the link below carefully if you are travelling over or after the 29th March 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/passport-rules-for-travel-to-europe-after-brexit>

Finland

Below you will find the specific link for the current FCO advice for the country/countries that you are visiting which is



applicable to British passport holders only. It is vital that you read this as early as possible as the content includes details on entry requirements, embassy information, local laws and customs as well as specific safety and health advice.

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/finland>

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>

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). This 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 put your mind at ease. Please see the following link for full details:

<https://www.theaurorazone.com/about-us/financial-protection>

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, but it is a pre-requisite to travelling with us. You will need to ensure that you have cover for all the activities that you will be participating in during your holiday.

It is extremely important that you take out a suitable travel insurance policy at the time of booking. Plans do sometimes change, and you will need this policy should you need to cancel your holiday.

If you are struggling to find a suitable policy then details of our preferred provider, who will cover you for all the activities we offer, can be found on our website by [clicking here](#). Please note that this policy is available to EU residents under the age of 75 only.

Terms and Conditions

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

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities is always subject to change and guests will be provided with their final itinerary upon arrival.

The trip dossier is standard to the holiday and does not account for any amends, additions or personalisation to an itinerary. Clients should refer to their booking documents for this information.

Terms & Conditions

Terms

Aurora alerts

During your stay, you will be supplied with an Aurora alert. This is typically a mobile phone system to which the staff will send a text should the Northern Lights be sighted. The alerts generally operate until 1 am but it is best to confirm with your guide as times may vary.

The alerts are designed as an aid to Aurora hunting and, although every effort will be made to issue an alert should the conditions seem conducive to a display, things can change very quickly so you should not rely solely on them and should also keep an eye on the sky yourself.

Minimum age

The minimum age for participation in our itinerary is 12 years old, however, for some activities and transfers, you may be joined by other guests and this may include some of a younger age than stated. Any younger participants will be fully supervised and the guides will ensure that their participation takes place only if the activities will be unaffected.

Very few hotels have a minimum age and there may be families staying at them with younger children, especially during the holiday periods. We do have some itineraries and destinations which are guaranteed to be adult-only, so if this is important to you please speak to one of our Travel Experts.



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