Rovaniemi - Aurora short break at the Arctic Circle Wilderness Lodge

HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 2918
DURATION: 3 nights

In Brief

The Arctic Circle Wilderness Lodge sits just 20 minutes outside of Rovaniemi, Finland but in stunning wilderness surroundings. This short break includes two evening activities to help you in your quest to see the Northern Lights. Your days have been left free for you to tailor your time with an exceptional range of activities on offer.

Our Opinion

"The accommodation choice on offer will really suit anyone. The rustic log cabins are extremely homely and will get you into the Finnish spirit whereas the Panorama Huts are a stylish option with amazing views. We loved being nestled in what felt like the heart of nature, just a short drive from the city!"

Jono Archer
What's included?

ALL THE EXPERIENCES AND SERVICES LISTED BELOW ARE INCLUDED IN THE HOLIDAY PRICE:

- **Flights:** direct return flights from London Gatwick to Rovaniemi. Regional and non-UK departures available on request (flight routes are subject to change)
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights in Stella House log cabin. Upgrade to a Panorama Hut available for extra charge
- **Meals:** 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- **The following activities and equipment are included:** Northern Lights snowmobile-pulled sleigh ride, evening snowshoe hike in the Arctic Circle wilderness (order subject to change)
- **Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay**

Trip Overview

Sitting in a pristine landscape, complete with a frozen river and dense forest, the Arctic Circle Wilderness Lodge is a true retreat, deep within nature. What’s even better, you’ll only need to travel around 20 minutes from Rovaniemi to reach your Arctic escape.

Choosing from traditional Finnish log cabin accommodation or stylish Panorama Huts (supplements apply), you’ll enjoy the quiet sounds of Lapland in this amazing Northern Lights viewing area. Fortunate guests may see Mother Nature’s great display from the comfort of their accommodation, but we have included two evening activities to help provide you with the best possible Aurora viewpoints. With expert guides leading the way, you’ll travel by sleigh and on snowshoes.

For an extra special evening, the resort also offers an optional Northern Lights flight where you can search for the Aurora from a truly unique vantage point. This is an exceptional experience and details can be found in the ‘Personalise’ section of the holiday page.

During the days we have a range of optional wilderness activities to really show off the beautiful and vast landscape. Travel like the locals as you ride your snowmobile to meet some of the country’s most-loved animals. Reindeer encounters and dog sled safaris are all possibilities here, along with a
range of other unforgettable experiences such as ice climbing. See the ‘Personalise’ section for details.

At the lodge, both the reception and the restaurant area are just a two minutes’ walk from any accommodation, offering buffet-style Lappish food with a modern touch; you can fuel up before you head out on your adventures. For those wanting to soak up some more of the Finnish culture and relax even further, head to the large riverside sauna or hot pool with views of your stunning surroundings.

This holiday delivers the charm of Lapland, excellent Northern Lights viewing potential and a wealth of optional Arctic experiences, all within just three nights! It’s an ideal short break escape.

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

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DAY 1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

Upon arrival at Rovaniemi Airport, your transfer will be ready to take you on the short drive to your accommodation, so you can start your Arctic Circle getaway immediately.

Check into either your Panorama Huts or more traditional Finnish style cabins and settle in before your 3-course set dinner. Please note that check-in time is usually 4 pm, therefore if you are arriving early today, we can arrange for lunch to be pre-booked at the lodge, or alternatively you can be dropped off at the Santa Claus Village where lunch can be arranged and you can have some free time to explore; both options will require a supplement. If either of these options interest you, please speak to one of our Travel Experts.

Depending on your flight times, you may want to use your evening to begin your search for the Northern Lights. Click our ‘Personalise’ tab to find all the activities you can do, such as the incredible experience of a Northern Lights flight, taking you high above the clouds and hopefully, to a unique viewing position to see the Aurora. We’ll also provide you with warm winter clothes for the duration of your stay.

Please note that lunches are not included in your itinerary, however, you can choose to upgrade to full board prior to departure, or you can pre-order and pay locally, but you must do this upon arrival.

**Included Meals:** Dinner
DAY 2
FREE DAY AND NORTHERN LIGHTS SLEIGH RIDE

After breakfast, you have a free day before your Northern Lights hunt begins. Click our ‘Personalise’ tab to fill your day with an amazing winter activity. Options include thrilling experiences such as dog sledding and snowmobiling.

After dinner, you’ll head out into the wilderness for your Northern Lights sleigh ride. You’ll ride through a beautiful wintery forest in your own comfortable sleigh pulled by the guide’s snowmobile. There are blankets to keep you warm as you admire the nature around you and hopefully see the Northern Lights in the sky above.

Should you wish to upgrade to an evening snowmobile safari where you will explore the forests at night and keep watch for the Aurora, then please see the ‘Personalise’ section for details or contact your Aurora Travel Expert.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 3
FREE DAY AND EVENING SNOWSHOE HIKE

Once you’ve filled up on breakfast, the winter landscape is yours to explore. Click our ‘Personalise’ tab to find an activity to suit you such as relaxing in the sauna or hot pool with stunning views.

After dinner and once the skies get darker, it’s time to put on your snowshoes and head out to try and spot the Aurora. You’ll either start your hike from the lodge this evening or be transferred to a starting point a little further away. There will be an open fire, drinks and snacks provided to keep you going on this unique Arctic hike.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4
DEPARTURE

Once you’ve had breakfast, it’s sadly time for you to take your Arctic memories back home as we transfer you to the airport. If you have an early flight, we’ll box up breakfast to take with you.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

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**Personalise this tour**

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Speak to us on 01670 785 012
bookings@theaurorazone.com
Our pick

Born to run - husky safari

A perfect way to enjoy the thrill of mushing a team of dogs, this trip is an ideal introduction to husky safaris.

You will be transferred to the husky centre and given full instruction on how to handle your team and your sled. You shall then set off on an unforgettable adventure along the forest trails. You will cover between 6-10km during the ride which will last around 45 minutes (all depending on conditions). Two adults can share a sled with two children (with one adult driving the team). Upgrades to single sleds are available on request.

After the thrilling safari you can enjoy warm drinks and cookies with your guides and ask them any questions you may have about the dogs and their working lives.

**Duration**: Approx. 3.5 hours including transfers

**Min age** 4 years old

**Available**: 01 Dec to 04 Apr 11.15am daily and 13 Dec to 05 Jan at 3pm daily

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Other options

**ACTIVITIES**
Reindeer Safari to Search for the Northern Lights

Enjoy the peace and tranquillity of a reindeer safari ride as you take off into the Arctic night and search for the Northern Lights.

Upon arrival at the local reindeer camp, you will meet with real reindeer herders who will tell you all about their fascinating life here. Then, you will wrap up warm in the sleigh and let the reindeer pull you through snowy forests as you keep an eye on the sky for a potential Aurora display.

The reindeer sleigh ride will last approximately 45 minutes and afterwards, you will head inside for warm drinks and snacks while listening to stories about the Northern Lights, reindeer and life in the Arctic.

**Duration:** Approximately 3-4 hours including transfers

**Minimum age:** 4 years old

**Available:** 01 Dec – 31 Dec at 19.30 daily, 01 Jan – 09 Mar at 19.00 daily, 10 Mar – 31 Mar at 20.00 daily

Easy snowmobile safari

This tour is an ideal introduction to snowmobiling. You will drive through the nearby forests and enjoy the stunning landscape as you follow the trails with your guide. This activity lasts around 1 hour in total (approx. 40 mins driving) and you will travel two people per snowmobile.

Please note that you must be 18 years old and hold a full driving licence to drive a snowmobile. Children will travel in a sleigh pulled by the guide’s snowmobile. Full instruction and a safety briefing will be provided.

**Duration:** Approx 1 hour including transfers

**Min age:** 4 years old

**Available:** 01 Dec – 31 March at 12 pm, 2 pm, 4 pm daily
Northern Lights Snowmobile Safari Upgrade

It is possible to upgrade your evening sleigh ride to this activity should you wish to do so. The price shown is for the upgrade.

This evening safari gives you the chance to witness the forests at night. After transfers, you will be given full instruction and a safety briefing, before setting off on the trails, travelling two people per snowmobile with the opportunity to swap drivers if you are both over 18 and hold a full driving licence (single snowmobiles available for a supplement).

You will travel away from all light pollution to a clearing where you can admire the views of the night sky, sausages will be grilled on a campfire, and hot berry juice will be served. The riding time on the snowmobiles is around 1hr 30 minutes.

You must be over 18 years old and hold a full driving license to drive a snowmobile.

Children can take part in this activity as they will travel in the sledge pulled by the guide’s snowmobile.

**Duration:** Approx. 3 hours including transfers

**Minimum age:** 4 years old

**Available:** 01 Dec to 14 March 7 pm and 15 March to 31 March 8 pm daily
Wilderness Photography Expedition

A full day out in the wilderness is an incredible experience. The itinerary today can be altered slightly to fit the preferences of the group, but typically you will travel to two destinations during the day. At each location (and en route) there will be photographic opportunities. Travelling by minibus you will then continue on foot.

You will hike through the wilds, led by an experienced guide with excellent photography skills. They know all the secret spots, far away from the crowds. They will ensure that you get to experience a broad spectrum of landscapes and nature throughout the day.

Guests will need their own photography equipment for this trip.

**Duration**: Approx. 5-6 hours including transfers  
**Minimum age**: 13 years old  
**Available**: 01 Dec to 31 March at 9 am daily

Husky safari in the deep forest

Get away from it all during and incredible dog sled adventure. After a transfer to the kennels, you will meet your dogs and be shown how to control a sled and team. You will then set off on a thrilling trip along the trails, for around 1.5 hours, taking in the stunning wilderness as you go. You’ll cover between 14 and 20km depending on conditions.

Back at the kennels, you will be served warm drinks and cookies as you hear stories and ask questions about the lives of the sled dogs.

Two adults will travel per team (one driving) and up to 2 children can also travel in the sled. Upgrades to single sleds are available on request.

**Duration**: Approx. 3 hours including transfers  
**Min age** 4 years old  
**Available**: 10 Jan to 04 Apr at 12.45pm daily
Snowmobile to Arctic Circle Forest

This tour will see you take to the trails in the forests around the Arctic Circle. It is an ideal way to explore your surroundings and you will be out on the snowmobiles for around 1.5 hrs. This is a fairly leisurely trip which means that there will be many photo opportunities along the way. You will travel two people per snowmobile and will have the chance to swap drivers (single snowmobiles available for a supplement). Children will travel in a sleigh pulled by the guide’s snowmobile. Full instruction and a safety briefing will be provided.

Please note that you must be 18 years old and hold a full driving licence to drive a snowmobile.

Duration: Approx 2 hour including transfers

Min age: 4 years old

Available: 01 Dec – 31 March at 12 pm, 2 pm, 4 pm daily

Northern Lights flight

Cloud cover can sometimes obscure the Northern Lights when hunting at ground level and this incredible and innovative activity is the perfect solution.

The Northern Lights Flight is an amazing opportunity for you to get above low-lying clouds, meaning that if the solar activity levels are favourable, you should get the most incredible views of the Aurora Borealis. You will fly aboard a small, private plane, which has a maximum capacity of seven passengers.

Duration: approx. 2 hours including transfers, with approximately 1 hour of flight time including safety briefing and procedures.

Minimum age: 4 years old

Minimum numbers: there is a minimum of 2 persons needed for the Northern Lights flight to go ahead. There are 7 seats on the plane, which will be filled on a group departure. Private flights can be requested but passengers would need to cover the cost of 7 passengers in order to guarantee no other persons are booked on the same flight.

Available: 01 Dec to 31 March at 8.30 pm daily

Please note: if reports show that cloud coverage is too high or weather conditions are unfavourable
before take-off, then the Northern Lights flights will be cancelled. However, this is a rare occurrence and all money will be refunded when a flight does not take off, or the flight will be rescheduled for another day if possible. Weather patterns can change quickly however and so in some cases, a flight may take off and the cloud base may rise, sadly this is beyond anyone’s control and no refunds will be given in this case. Please be advised that the plane can fly to an altitude of around 3000 metres.

Image Credit: Arctic Circle Wilderness Lodge

Snowmobile safari to a reindeer farm and Santa Claus Village

You’ll head out on an exciting snowmobile ride to explore the landscape around you. Taking to the forest trails, you can admire the winter wonderland and see some amazing views along the way. After this thrilling ride, you’ll head to a local reindeer farm where you’ll have a short sleigh ride. Hot drinks and snacks will be served in a traditional Finnish Kota, along with a presentation on the many myths and legends of the Arctic Circle.

Following this, you’ll have lunch at the Santa Claus Village where you’ll also have free time to explore this magical village and even meet the man in red himself.

The trip lasts approximately 6 hours and the riding time on the snowmobile is approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. You must be over 18 years old and hold a full driving license to drive a snowmobile. Two people will share a snowmobile or you can arrange for your own at an extra charge. Children can take part in this activity as they will travel in the sledge pulled by the guide’s snowmobile. You’ll also be awarded the International Reindeer Driver’s Licence and the Arctic Circle Crossing Certificate.

Duration: Approx. 6 hours including lunch and transfers

Minimum age: 4 years old

Available: 01 Dec to 31 March at 9 am daily
Visit to the frozen waterfalls in Korouoma National Park

Korouoma is a beautifully rugged destination where a long crack in the bedrock has led to the formation of many waterfalls, which freeze in the winter months. They are situated around 1.5 hrs drive from Rovaniemi, but they are well worth the travel. The ice falls here are up to 60 metres high and a real sight to behold. You will enjoy a moderate hike around the area covering around 5km in varied terrain. You can take pictures of these huge ice formations before having a picnic lunch by an open fire.

**Duration:** approx: 5 and a half hours including transfers

**Min age:** 8 years old

**Available:** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 am from 1 Dec to 15 April

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**Snowshoeing**

Snowshoes help you walk across the thick snow with ease, giving you access to some incredible trails. You’ll either start your hike from the lodge today or be transferred to a starting point a little further away. Please note that it is possible that it will be the same route as your evening snowshoe hike. You will then head out into the wilderness with your guide, where you’ll easily get to grips using your snowshoes. Here, you’ll walk among the snowy forest and take in the full beauty of your surroundings. There will be a break around the fire to enjoy a warming hot drink and snack.

**Duration:** 2.5 hours

**Min age:** 8 years old

**Available:** 1 Dec to 31 March at 12 pm daily
Reindeer safari through the deep forest

You’ll travel to a nearby reindeer farm just outside of Rovaniemi where you’ll meet real reindeer herders who will tell you all about their way of life. The main event, however, will be riding along a 3.5km trail through the forest in a reindeer-pulled sleigh. You’ll also have time to feed the animals with their favourite food.

Warm drinks and a pastry will be served during the activity as you enjoy tales about life in Lapland and the history of herding.

**Duration:** approx. 2.5 hours including transfers

**Min age:** 4 years old

**Available:** 01 Dec to 31 Dec at 9 am and 12 pm daily, 01 Jan to 31 March 10 am and 2 pm daily

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Ice fishing

Get an insight into Lappish culture by trying your hand at ice fishing. You’ll be taken by car to one of the many frozen lakes or ponds in the area where you’ll then learn how to ice fish. You’ll keep warm with sausages and hot drinks by the campfire as you wait in the tranquil surroundings for your catch of the day.

**Duration:** 3 Hours

**Available:** 01 Dec - 31 March at 11 am
Northern Lights Photography

We not only want to give you the best possible chance of seeing the Northern Lights with your own eyes, but we also want to help you capture them on camera too. Night-time photography can be a little tricky which is why we have an expert photographer on hand to help you with your camera settings. Locations are chosen based on the best weather conditions and our guides use their local knowledge to find the best photographic spots and you will travel by minivan in search of the Aurora. Guests will need to bring their own DSLR camera.

**Included**: Return transfers, all described activities, hot drinks and snacks, walking/snowshoe trip to reach perfect location, use of thermal clothing, guidance in English but other languages available on request

**Duration**: approximately 4-5 hours including transfers

**Minimum age**: 13 years old

**Available**: 01 Dec to 18 March at 8 pm and 19 March to 31 March at 10 pm
Sauna

Saunas are a Finnish tradition where locals go to unwind with friends and family. You can have your own relaxing experience in the large riverside sauna.

The sauna is usually for 1-4 people but you can also reserve for larger groups (supplements will apply).

Contact us for a quotation.

**Duration**: 45 minutes

**Price**: £40 per booking (1-4 people)

**Charge for additional people**: £12 per person

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Hot tub

Unwind even further and soak in your surroundings in the Hot Tub with spectacular views of the natural landscape.

**Duration**: 1-3 hours

**Price**: £333 per booking

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Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Arctic Circle Wilderness Lodge (Nights: 1-3)
Overlooking the rapids of River Raudanjoki, the Arctic Circle Wilderness Lodge offers a variety of amazing accommodation options at its peaceful riverside setting. Only a short transfer from Rovaniemi airport, the resort is hidden amongst the forest with fantastic views of the river and out to the wilderness beyond. A perfect spot for Aurora hunting in the Arctic Circle.

With rustic wooden beam interiors and the gentle glow and warmth from a crackling fire, the cosy atmosphere in the main hotel building is immediately welcoming and the feeling continues throughout the accommodation which is only a short walk away.

There are several room types available, with some based in large log cabins, each with a traditional design and others based in semi-detached riverside cabins. There are also the detached Panorama Huts, with floor-to-ceiling windows looking out over the beautiful surroundings. Please contact us for a quotation.

**Hotel Facilities**

- Main lodge with a cosy communal room and a large stone fireplace in the dining room, adding a warming glow to meal times. A former lumberjack’s lodge, the wooden walls are decorated with various tools of the trade
- WiFi is available in all room types and in the main hotel building. Please note that this can, of course, be disturbed by unpredictable weather and heavy snowfall
- The riverside hot tub and sauna offer relaxation with stunning, idyllic views of the rapids. These are bookable for an extra charge, based on private use. You can book these in advance, or locally
- Evening meals during peak times are typically served in a buffet style. Outside of these periods, the buffet menu is normally rearranged to a hearty set menu. In most cases, this consists of a warming soup starter, followed by a set main course (typically either meat or fish dish with vegetables and sides), and a dessert with tea and coffee. The set menu is served at the table. Please let us know at the time of booking if you have any dietary requirements
- Lunch is not included during your time here, however, this can be booked in advance if you wish, or you can arrange it locally, as long as you pre-order the night before.
- The main lodge has a small bar area, where you can purchase a range of beer, wine, spirits and soft drinks
- Stunning riverside views on your doorstep due to the hotel’s setting next to River Raudanjoki

**STELLA HOUSE**
Merely 100m from the main hotel building lies Stella House. This large log cabin has an interior inspired by traditional Finnish heritage, primarily lumberjack workers living and working in the forest and amongst the wilderness. This is clear from the cabin’s décor, as both the exterior and interior are lined with rustic logs, and the comforting smell of wood greets you as soon as you step through the door.

The house is made up of five bedrooms, all with private, ensuite bathrooms. Every room has three beds – two in the loft (accessible by steep stairs), and one on the bottom floor.

Bedrooms lead onto a communal lounge area, which is shared with guests staying in the other rooms in the cabin. The large, homely sofas and armchairs make this space perfect for an evening of reading and relaxing after a busy day out in the snow. The lounge also has a television and a mini-kitchen.

The entrance to the cabin has a small terrace for admiring the views (and maybe even the Northern Lights!) and all of the windows look out onto the snow-tipped pine trees of the forest.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Panorama Huts

The Panorama Huts are placed in the heart of nature, with a floor-to-ceiling window that makes you feel as though you are in the middle of the snow-drenched forest landscape while still being toasty warm.

The cabins showcase a modern, slick style, whilst blending in with the lodge’s natural surroundings.

Each cabin has two twin beds or one queen bed, which have been placed beside the window so that you can wake to views of the amazing forest. You never know, you may even have the chance to witness the Northern Lights from the comfort of your bed. There is space for a third bed should your group require it. On top of all of this, the cabins are complete with a private shower room and a kitchenette.

Speak to us on 01670 785 012
bookings@theaurorazone.com
Riverside Apartments

Situated on the peaceful riverside, with just the sound of the rapids splashing by, these semi-detached apartments put you in the heart of the wilderness whilst being only a short walk from the main hotel building and restaurant (250m away).

The Riverside Apartments showcase a traditional Finnish style, using wood from the local forests. Overlooking the river and snow-capped trees, the views are best enjoyed when you step outside the living room to your private terrace. Equipped with a fireplace and private sauna, the apartments are a brilliantly cosy place to come back to after a day exploring the Arctic.

Facilities

Each cabin comes with two twin bedrooms, a cosy living room with a fireplace, dining area with TV, small kitchen, toilet, private sauna with shower room and a private entrance. An extra bed is available in the living room with convertible sofa.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 2 people; maximum 30 people (approximately)

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional
activities you book.

**Minimum numbers required for a holiday to operate**

Some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to operate (as listed in the ‘Group Size’ section). If your holiday departure has not yet reached the minimum number, you will be told at the time of booking. In the unlikely event that your chosen date is not guaranteed by nine weeks before your scheduled departure date, we will contact you to discuss the available options as per our [booking conditions](https://www.theaurorazone.com/booking-conditions).

**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.

**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.

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final itinerary will be provided on arrival.

**Terms and Conditions**

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

Speak to us on 01670 785 012
bookings@theaurorazone.com