



Northern Lights Village Saariselkä – Activity Pick and Mix



HOLIDAY TYPE: Pick and Mix
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1489
DURATION: 3 or more nights

In Brief

The Northern Lights Village is a rarity in that your accommodation for the entire holiday is in glass-roofed Aurora Cabins. There is an astonishing range of fully-guided winter activities available and almost all of them start on site so you can avoid having to shepherd your children from one place to the next. The setting is like a scene from Narnia and is bound to capture the imaginations of the children as they glide over the snow on a husky-pulled sleigh or meet a herd of reindeer.

Our Opinion

“Saariselkä was all that I envisioned from a family holiday in Lapland. I was immediately filled with an overwhelming desire to explore. The Northern Lights Village offers a fantastic range of winter activities designed to capture the imaginations of all family members. I fulfilled a lifelong dream and met a team of huskies before embarking on a thrilling safari across the snow. I’m not sure who found the activity most exciting, the dogs, the kids or me.....probably me!”

Ali Mclean



What's included?

- **Flights:** return from London to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Flight routes are subject to change.
- **Transfers:** return group airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** a minimum of three nights in a glass-roofed Aurora Cabin
- **Meals:** half board
- Aurora alert service which you can set to alert you throughout the night or end at a specific time
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners

TAILOR YOUR TRIP

A selection of winter activities can be added to your trip at an additional cost. Once you have chosen when you want to travel and for how long (we recommend a minimum stay of three nights) you can select as many or as few activities as you wish from the extensive range on the "[Activities](#)" tab and tailor your trip as required. All activities are individually priced and our Travel Experts can assist you with your selection and will then provide a personalised itinerary quotation for you.

Trip Overview

Saariselkä is ideally located at the edge of an idyllic winter wonderland in Northern Finland. It is a particularly outstanding destination for families as the town is only a short walk from the accommodation, so despite being north of the Arctic Circle, you have a comforting mixture of modern convenience and serene winter wilderness. This family-based activity pick and mix trip is specifically designed for you to select your favourite activities and create life-lasting memories.

The beauty of this holiday is that you can choose the activities you would like to take part in, as well as having the option to add on extra nights. The majority of activities start on-site and are fully guided by knowledgeable, local experts who are there to ensure that you enjoy the experience safely. Explore the fells via snowmobile or laugh at dad as he attempts to learn how to cross-country ski. Glide over the pristine snow to the gentle sounds of pattering paws with a pack of eager huskies, or unravel the mysteries behind the silent, winter forest during a guided snowshoe walk.

Activities are not restricted to the daytime with long winter nights offering fantastic opportunities to seek out the Northern Lights. A night-time adventure is particularly captivating for children who simply love being allowed to stay up later than usual, but imagine then witnessing flickers of dancing colours before the Aurora becomes more pronounced and lights up the sky.

Very few places offer the chance to stay in an Aurora cabin for the duration of your trip. The cosy, glass-roofed cabins lie on the outskirts of the village with an outlook of deep winter snow. What's more, come bedtime, you can keep an eye out for the Northern Lights

from the comfort of your bed. How cool is that?

The village itself is only 1000 metres away from the town which offers an array of amenities, including shops and restaurants.

Simply put, Saariselkä is a special destination and an ideal base for families looking to discover the mysteries of the Lappish wilderness. The 'Narnia-esque' terrain is bound to capture the imaginations of both adults and children alike and any Auroral displays will leave you with memories to last a lifetime.

White outline Interreg Nord

Photography by Markku Inkila, Visit Finland - Robert Smith, Lapland Safaris, Inari-Saariselkä Tourism

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL, TRANSFER AND WELCOME

Included Meals: Dinner

DAYS
2 TO 3

DESIGN YOUR OWN HOLIDAY

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
4

DEPART OR EXTEND YOUR STAY

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Snowshoe hike in the fells

When you are faced with a mysterious world of snow-covered forest and gently rolling fells, it is almost impossible to fight the urge to explore. Perhaps one of the best ways to do this is with snowshoes. Children will enjoy the sense of adventure as they are able to walk on the deeper snow. Your guide will introduce the local flora and fauna found north of the Arctic as you make your way through the forest and to the fells. During the tour, you will stop for warm drinks around an open fire.

Duration: approximately 2 hours

Availability: Monday to Sunday at 10 am, 1 pm and 3 pm. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season.

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 - 16 (approximately)

Photography by Inari-Saariselkä Tourism Ltd

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Kids' Snowmobiling

Why should it just be the grown-ups having all the fun on snowmobiles?! Let your children take the wheel (or more accurately, handlebars) during this mini snowmobiling adventure.

Riding along a 200-metre track, this is a safe environment for the little ones to try this thrilling activity and make the most of the snowy conditions.

These mini snowmobiles have been specially built for children so they'll be able to drive them with ease. In fact, it's not uncommon to see some of the younger children with better skills than most adults!

Guides will give the children instructions before they set off and then parents will supervise on the track. This is a great opportunity for children to experience this adventurous activity in a controlled way, and have a brilliant story to take back home with them!

The price includes a safety introduction from a guide and instructions on how to drive and safety equipment (including a helmet).

Please note that parents must supervise this activity and are responsible to ensure their child is following the guide's instructions safely.

Choose from a 30-minute or 60-minute session. There is no age restriction but children must be 100cm tall or above.

Prices:

30 minutes from £27 per child

60 minutes from £53 per child



Day Trip to Nellim

Nellim is said to be the meeting place of eastern, western and northern cultures and during this trip, you'll gain more of an insight into this wonderful region, visiting points of interest along the way.

Your first stop will be the Paatsjoki Bridge, which spans across the flowing, unfrozen waters of the Paatsjoki River.

Next, you will visit the beautifully constructed log church in the village to see the unique works of art

and a look into the history of the Skolt Sámi people.

You will enjoy lunch either at Nellim Wilderness hotel, or you will have a wilderness lunch outdoors, over an open fire.

Duration: around 6 hours (including transfers and lunch)

Available: Monday - Sunday at 10am from December until March. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season.

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Credit: Joanna Cheek (client)



Aurora Photography Workshop

Should the Northern Lights appear on your family holiday, you may want to capture the ultimate family photo. This workshop is a great place to learn all the tricks and skills needed to photograph the Northern Lights and take a wonderful souvenir home.

Your expert guide has a wealth of knowledge and experience in photographing the Aurora so you're in great hands as you learn all about the best camera settings for your photos and what to look out for during your search of the skies. This is a brilliant opportunity to ensure that if the Northern Lights start to shine, you'll be able to capture the moment forever.

Please note: You will need to bring your own equipment (camera, ideally SLR, and tripod)

Duration: approximately 1 hour

Minimum age: 4 years old

Availability: Monday - Sunday at 5 pm



Searching for Father Christmas

Join some of Father Christmas's elves on an enchanting festive adventure to seek out the big man in red.

Before setting out, a very friendly elf will meet you for some baking of gingerbread in a kota in the Northern Lights Village. These cookies are Father Christmas's favourites and taste delicious.

You will then be taken to meet some of Father Christmas's reindeer and will enjoy a short reindeer-sleigh ride (approximately 10 minutes).

One at a time, families will then depart with an elf for their private meeting with Father Christmas. The great man will be waiting in his cabin. It is deep in the forest and so your elf will help you in your search. You will travel in a cosy snowmobile-pulled sleigh searching for any flickers of light behind the trees.

The lights from the cosy cabin will soon be visible and you will all enjoy a private meeting with Father Christmas lasting up to 10 minutes (times will vary depending on the size of the family). You can all share your Christmas wishes and he will even provide you with a small gift as a memory of the day.

The guests who are waiting to meet Father Christmas will spend time with one of the elves at the reindeer paddock and will enjoy hot berry juice.

After all of the families have met with Father Christmas, you will return to the Northern Lights Village together.

NB: Children can write a letter to Father Christmas in advance and it can be given to the reception team at check-in so that he will already have their letter when they arrive for their meeting.

Duration: 3 hours approximately

Departs: Monday - Sunday at 8am and 6pm. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Group size: minimum 1 family; maximum 4 families (depending on the family size)



Snowmobile Safari - 4 Hours

For those who want to explore much further afield then look no further than this 4-hour snowmobile safari will take you out into the wilds beyond Saariselkä.

Full instruction will be provided along with a safety briefing from your expert guide and then you'll set off in convoy, following the marked trails and travelling two per snowmobile.

Your guide will prepare a campfire lunch for you en route.

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. As a general rule, children (13 years and under) will travel in a heated sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile. Children 4 years and under must be accompanied in the sleigh by one parent. Older children (14 years and over) may be able to travel as pillion on the snowmobile but this is at the discretion of the guide and the child must be at least 140 cm tall. Children will pay the adult price if riding on the snowmobile.

Duration: approximately 4 hours in total including lunch

Availability: Monday – Sunday at 10 am. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Minimum age: 4 Years and over

Group size: 1 -24 (approximately)

Photography by Markku Inkila



Snowmobiles and Ice Fishing

After a full safety briefing and tuition, you will drive two per snowmobile (with children enjoying the comfort of a snowmobile-pulled sled) into the winter wonderland of Finnish Lapland. Stopping at a remote lake, your guide will introduce you to ice fishing and you will have the chance to try your hand at this popular Lappish pastime. Your guide will build a campfire and lunch will be served.

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. As a general rule, children (13 years and under) will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile. Children 4 years and under must be accompanied in the sleigh by one parent. Older children (14 years and over) may be able to travel as pillion on the snowmobile but this is at the discretion of the guide and the child must be at least 140 cm tall. Children will pay the adult price if riding on the snowmobile.

Duration: approximately 4 hours in total including lunch

Availability: Monday – Sunday at 10 am. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 - 24 (approximately)

Photography by Visit Finland and Juho Kuva



Snowmobile Safari - 2 Hours

This activity has been designed for those who would like to try snowmobiling but for a shorter duration.

During this two-hour excursion, you will be given expert tuition on how to handle your snowmobile and you can test your skills as you drive across the snow. Travelling two adults per snowmobile, you will stop for hot drinks along the way.

Children will enjoy the winter wonderland from the comfort of a sled.

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. As a general rule, children (13 years and under) will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile. Children 4 years and under must be accompanied in the sleigh by one parent. Older children (14 years and over) may be able to travel as pillion on the snowmobile but this is at the discretion of the guide and the child must be at least 140 cm tall. Children will pay the adult price if riding on the snowmobile.

Duration: approximately 2 hours in total

Availability: Monday – Sunday at 10am 1pm and 3pm. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 - 24 approximately

Photography by Markku Inkila



Aurora Camp by the Lake

Venturing out into a dark wilderness in search of the Aurora is an enticing prospect. You will travel via bus with a sense of anticipation and excitement. The hunt in itself is an experience, but the captivating landscapes are ethereal and enchanting during the night hours. Your guide will build a fire by the shore of the frozen lake, where you can enjoy some hot drinks and snacks whilst gazing up at the night sky. Keep an eye out for flickers of colour, for if the 'Green Lady' appears then you are likely to be treated to a spectacular

dance.

Duration: approximately 3 hours

Availability: Monday - Sunday at 8pm (please note that the time may vary throughout the season)

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 - 24 approximately

Photography by Markku Inkila



Cross-country skiing school

Cross-country skiing is incredibly popular in Lapland and a fun way for you and your family to explore the stunning winter wonderland. This guided lesson is a fantastic way in which to learn and it is also the perfect opportunity to watch dad fall over repeatedly. Your expert instructor will show you the correct techniques as you attempt to navigate your way along the local skiing tracks. This is a great activity to try near the start of your holiday as equipment can be hired locally if you would like to hit the trails independently later on in

your stay.

Duration: approximately 2 hours

Availability: Monday to Sunday at 10 am, 1 pm and 3 pm. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season.

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 - 16 (approximately)

Photography by Inari-Saariselkä Tourism Ltd



Visit the Sámi Siida Museum

Sámi culture and heritage are integral to Lapland and if you would like to learn about their fascinating way of life and the history behind it, a trip to the Sámi Siida museum is the place to do it. Along the way, you will stop at the third largest lake in Finland – Lake Inari. You will learn a huge amount about living in the harsh winter region and the culture which underpins Sami traditions to this day. There is also a wonderful short film including

imagery taken in the local area and some spectacular Northern Lights imagery. The end of your tour will include a visit to the colourful and attention-grabbing handicraft shop where you can pick up souvenirs.

Duration: approximately 6 hours including lunch

Availability: Tuesday to Sunday at 10 am (closed on Mondays). Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 - 50

Photography by Inari-Saariselkä Tourism Ltd



Reindeer Day

Meeting the reindeer is a particular highlight for children and the whole family can enjoy meeting these majestic animals and learning about herding as a way of life. This excursion is both insightful and fun, with the opportunity to feed the animals proving to be particularly enjoyable, as well as a one-hour sleigh ride. The activity will include lunch which will be served in a teepee next to the reindeer paddock or in the main restaurant.

Duration: approximately 3 hours in total including lunch; sleigh ride lasts approx. 1 hour

Availability: Monday - Sunday at 10am. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 - 24 (approximately)

Image credits: Inari-Saariselkä Tourism Ltd



Reindeer Sledge Ride

Reindeer are synonymous with Lapland and winter. A sleigh ride is something that will capture the imaginations of both children and adults alike. It is an experience that can be hard to comprehend until you actually do it. You generally only see such things on TV, but the reality is much more enchanting. The landscape is draped in a perfectly white blanket and the only sounds are of crunching snow. So idyllic is the landscape and so fresh is the air, that you could be forgiven for thinking you had entered some fairy-tale realm.

Duration: varies

25 minutes: £70 per adult, £35 per child.

Available Monday – Sunday at 9.15am and 12.15pm (please note that the times may vary throughout the season).

1.5 hours in total (1-hour sleigh ride - approximately): £123 per adult, £62 per child.

Available Monday – Sunday at 1:15pm (please note that the times may vary throughout the season).

The activity will last for around 1.5 hours in total

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 - 24 approximately

©Inari-Saariselkä Tourism Ltd



Husky safari

A husky safari is a favourite here with everyone at Activities Abroad. The excited yelping of the dogs as the sled is being prepared is infectious and you'll doubtless find that your family are just as eager to get going. Once the dogs get down to business and you glide over the snow-covered landscapes the yelping is replaced by the gentle pattering of paws as they focus on the road ahead. It is quite surreal when you take a moment to process what you are actually doing in comparison to your daily life.

Driving a team of dogs (2 people per sled) in a

Lappish wilderness is such a contrast, that is unless you happen to be a professional musher.

Duration: varies

5 km: £105 per adult, £53 per child.

Available from Monday - Sunday at 11.30 am and 3.30 pm.

Please note that the times may vary throughout the season. The total duration incl. briefing is approximately 1 hr. We expect you to be out on the husky sledge for around 30 minutes.

10 km: £140 per adult, £70 per child.

Available Monday - Sunday at 9 am and 1 pm.

Please note that the times may vary throughout the season. The total duration incl. briefing is approximately 2 hrs. We expect you to be out on the husky sledge for around 1 hour.

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 -16 approximately

©Inari-Saariselkä Tourism



Aurora Hunting by Heated Sleigh

A Narnia-esque winter wonderland awaits as you journey by snowmobile-pulled sleigh up into the snow-covered fells surrounding Saariselkä.

Your guide will make an open fire where you can enjoy a hot drink and snacks and listen to tales about the Aurora, before hopefully experiencing a captivating show. The lack of light pollution and the location of The Northern Lights Village at the

heart of the Aurora Zone are ideal for Auroral activity.

Duration: approximately 3 Hours

Availability: Monday - Sunday at 8:30 pm. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 - 24 approximately

Photography by Markku Inkila



Aurora Snowmobile

Following a full safety briefing and tuition, you will set off towards the fells, travelling two per snowmobile. Heading through the forest, you will search for the best spot for any potential Aurora displays. Your guide will make a fire, where you can sit down with warm drinks and snacks and listen to the wilderness silence. Strangely, you can actually hear the silence as it penetrates the cold Arctic air.

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. As a general rule, children (13 years and under) will travel in a heated sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile. Children 4 years and under must be accompanied in the sleigh by one parent. Older children (14 years and over) may be able to travel as pillion on the snowmobile but this is at the discretion of the guide and the child must be at least 140 cm tall. Children will pay the adult price if riding on the snowmobile.

If you would like to drive your own snowmobile, please contact our Travel Experts for a quote.

Duration: approximately 3 hours

Availability: Monday - Sunday at 8.30 pm. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 - 30 (approximately)

Photography by Markku Inkila



Aurora Snowshoeing

Discover the mysteries which lie within the silent forest as you seek out the Aurora on an adventurous snowshoe hike. Hearing only the sounds of crunching snow and the gentle breeze in the trees you will follow snowy tracks towards a hut away from artificial light. Here, your guide will make a fire and you can enjoy hot drinks. Your guide will regale you with enticing tales surrounding the myths and legends of the Northern Lights which you will hopefully experience during the tour.

Duration: approximately 2.5 hours

Availability: Monday to Sunday at 8.30 pm. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 - 16 (approximately)

Photography by Markku Inkila



Aurora Camp at Paatsjoki River

Our friends at the Northern Lights Village have, over the course of many years, researched the best places in the region for Aurora viewing and created Aurora Camps in their favourite spots.

Travelling by minibus you'll head North East of Saariselkä towards the tiny village of Nellim on the shores of Lake Inari. You'll follow a small road past the village which will eventually bring you to the

Paatsjoki River.

At your Aurora Camp, a campfire will be made in a Lappish tepee and hot drinks and snacks will be served; hopefully, the Aurora will make an appearance for you tonight. If there is time, you may also visit Paatsjoki River Bridge, a place that features in many a glorious Aurora image.

Duration: approximately 4 hours

Available: Monday – Sunday at 8 pm. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 - 24 (approximately)

Photography by Markku Inkila

Included Accommodation

Saariselkä Northern Lights Village (Nights: 1-3)



Located in the north-east of Finland, the Northern Lights Village is the latest in a long line of innovative Aurora accommodation coming out of Finland. This one is particularly clever because you spend every night in your glass-roofed Aurora Cabin rather than just one which is normally the case. Situated close to, but distinct from, the small ski town of Saariselkä, the village's outlook is that of a pristine, snow-covered wilderness which will capture the imaginations of children and adults alike. Conveniently, however, the town itself is only 1000 metres away. This means that you will find all the amenities necessary for a relaxed family holiday, yet you are still right on the doorstep of an authentic Lappish wilderness.

The Northern Lights Village offers accommodation in Aurora Cabins which are half-roofed with glass. Imagine a cosy family evening as the Aurora appears above the panoramic windows. The cabins are unusual in that the glass is heated meaning that any view-restricting snow simply melts.

There are 80 cabins in total, all of which are within a 5-10 minutes' walk of the village's central facilities which include the restaurant where you'll enjoy breakfast and dinner. There's also the large lobby near reception for you to relax in after your meal.

Village facilities

- Enjoy wonderful family evenings as you seek out the Northern Lights from the comfort of your own cabin. The half-glass roofs are laser heated and offer unobstructed views of the northern sky. An Aurora Alert is included within each cabin.
- Visit the village of Saariselkä which has an array of shops, restaurants and cafés which are only a 20-25 minute walk from your accommodation.
- The Northern Lights Village is home to a herd of reindeer and you can watch them go about their business in the paddock.
- For all of your provided winter clothing, simply go to the onsite Safari House where overalls, gloves, boots, skis and snowshoes are stored for easy access.
- For an extra charge (booked privately) you can relax in the sauna and hot tub after your day exploring the Arctic. If you're feeling really brave, there's also the Ice Pool for you to plunge into.

Aurora Cabins

The Aurora Cabins have a half-glass roof and all face north. The design is based on the traditional wooden kotas (teepee) of Finland.

Each cabin has twin beds (which can be made into a double) and a sofa bed, suitable for an additional adult or two children. There is a shower room (with underfloor heating) and a toilet (please note that the hot water is limited in the cabins). Tea and coffee making facilities, a hairdryer and a minibar are also included.

Importantly for duvet-based Aurora hunting, a timer switch can be used to heat the glass roof should your view be obscured by snowfall. It takes approximately 5-10 minutes to melt the snow so there's no need to go out and sweep the roof in your pyjamas!

Cabins are not cleaned between arrival and departure unless requested from reception. Additionally, towels can be exchanged at reception if required.

Free Wi-Fi.

Image credits: Markku Inkila, Matt Robinson

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

This holiday requires a minimum of 2 people to run, however, on some dates we require a minimum of 10 people for our flight allocation. Maximum 30 people (approximately). Please speak to our Travel Experts for further information.

Group Size

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

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

Minimum numbers required for a holiday to operate

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

Minimum and maximum age

The minimum age for this holiday can be found in the 'Key Facts' section of the holiday overview.

Younger family members may be able to participate but may not be able to take part in all activities. Please contact one of our Travel Experts if you have any questions.

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Specific Payment and Cancellation Terms - Northern Lights Villages

Please note that the following cancellation terms supersede in part those mentioned in Section 7 of our general booking terms and conditions.

- Up to balance due date (This is normally 12 weeks prior to departure however some holidays differ. If this applies to your holiday you will be advised at the time of booking) - Loss of deposit (including the full cost of flights or other services where paid at the time of booking)
- between balance due date and 43 days prior to departure - 50%
- 42 to 15 days prior to departure - 80%
- 14 or less days - 100%

Terms and Conditions

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

Please note: our payment and cancellation terms will be unique to each booking - they will be confirmed with you at the time of quotation. The terms listed above are noted as a guide only