

Arctic Adventures

NORWEGIAN LAPLAND

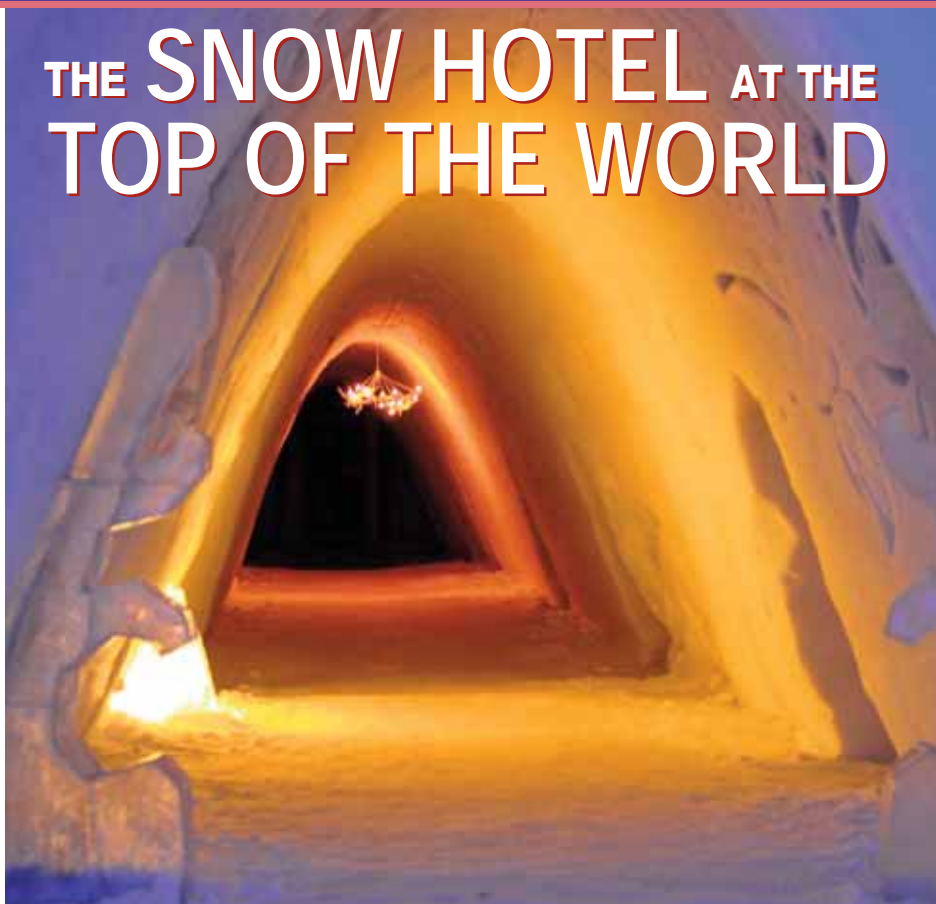
Opened in December 2006, the Kirkenes Snow Hotel is the world's newest and, at 69°N, most northerly Ice Hotel. With just 15 suites exquisitely sculpted, ice art and double beds topped with reindeer pelts, the Kirkenes Snow Hotel is – we think – destined to become the 'boutique' of the world's Ice Hotels.

Just outside Kirkenes, characterised by rather utilitarian architecture, is the awesomely stark Gabba Reindeer Park where the Kirkenes Snowhotel is just a 'kick sled' ride away. Here, as you eat your supper in a traditional Sami 'lavvo' under the arctic night, it's hard to imagine this being one of the Cold War's most incendiary flash points, which the watch towered Norwegian Russian border still bears testimony to.

Kirkenes sits 400km north of the Arctic alongside the Barents Sea at the apex of the Scandinavian peninsula where Norway meets Russia and Finland.



In the surrounding plains of Norwegian Lapland you can enjoy a cocktail of adventures: snowmobiling over the mountain ridge to observation point 247 where NATO faced down the Russian Bear for half a century; husky safaring under (hopefully) the Northern Lights and snowmobiling out over the ice to fish for Giant Crabs unique to the Barents Sea. All in all, a real 'been there – done that' experience and now with Gordon Ramsay's f factor.



THE SNOW HOTEL AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD

THE SNOW HOTEL AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD

DAY 1 UK – KIRKENES Scheduled SAS flight(s) to Kirkenes via Oslo. Transfer on arrival to safari station and then kick sled to the Gabba Reindeer Park and Kirkenes Snow Hotel. Supper in a traditional Sami 'lavvo' before retiring to your ice suite for the night – sleeping in a giant igloo at the top of the world.

DAY 2 KIRKENES & HUSKY SAFARI After breakfast in the Snow Hotel, kick sled back to Kirkenes for a guided tour of the city including a visit to Andersgotta where the local population survived one of the fiercest bombing attacks of WW2; drive up to and get 'up close and personal' with the Russian border; familiarise, yourself with Sámi Art at the Border Country Museum and learn why all those Russian trawlers are in Kirkenes. Afternoon at leisure and evening husky safari in surrounding wilderness including traditional dinner. Overnight at hotel Rica Kirkenes.

DAY 3 SNOWMOBILE SAFARI After breakfast, a day long guided snowmobile tour over the mountains and alongside the watch towered Norwegian/Russian border. Along the way stop for an open fire lunch of venison washed down with hot coffee, before continuing out to the Barents Sea. Late afternoon return to Kirkenes for some R & R in the hotel.

DAY 4 KING CRAB SAFARI Breakfast and morning at leisure before getting ready to meet up with the sub aquatic albatross of the Barents Sea: the two metre claw span King Crab. From Lars Petter Øie's place alongside the fjord you travel by snowmobile or RIB to the edge of the ice where your driver guide vanishes beneath the water, re-surfacing with a crab for you to take back to the quayside, cook & enjoy. Late afternoon return to Kirkenes.

DAY 5 KIRKENES – UK Breakfast and morning free before transfer to the airport and scheduled SAS flight(s) via Oslo to UK.



DEPARTURE DATES

Daily
7 Jan - April

Prices in £ per person

THE SNOW HOTEL AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD AA1401

DATES	TWIN
ALL	1590
OVERNIGHT OSLO AIRPORT HOTEL *	52

- Prices include return scheduled SAS flight(s) from Heathrow to Kirkenes via Oslo
- All airport departure taxes and passenger service charges
- Overnight in Snow Hotel and 3 nights at Hotel Rica in twin bedded room(s) with private wc/shower
- 4 breakfasts, 2 dinners and 2 lunches
- Kirkenes guided tour, husky safari, snowmobile safari & king crab safari
- Protective thermal clothing for all safaris
- All transfers in Kirkenes.

SNOWMOBILE SAFARI SOLE DRIVER SUPPLEMENT £80 NB *On occasions flight connections in Oslo necessitate an overnight stay there, in which case a small supplement is payable as indicated.