

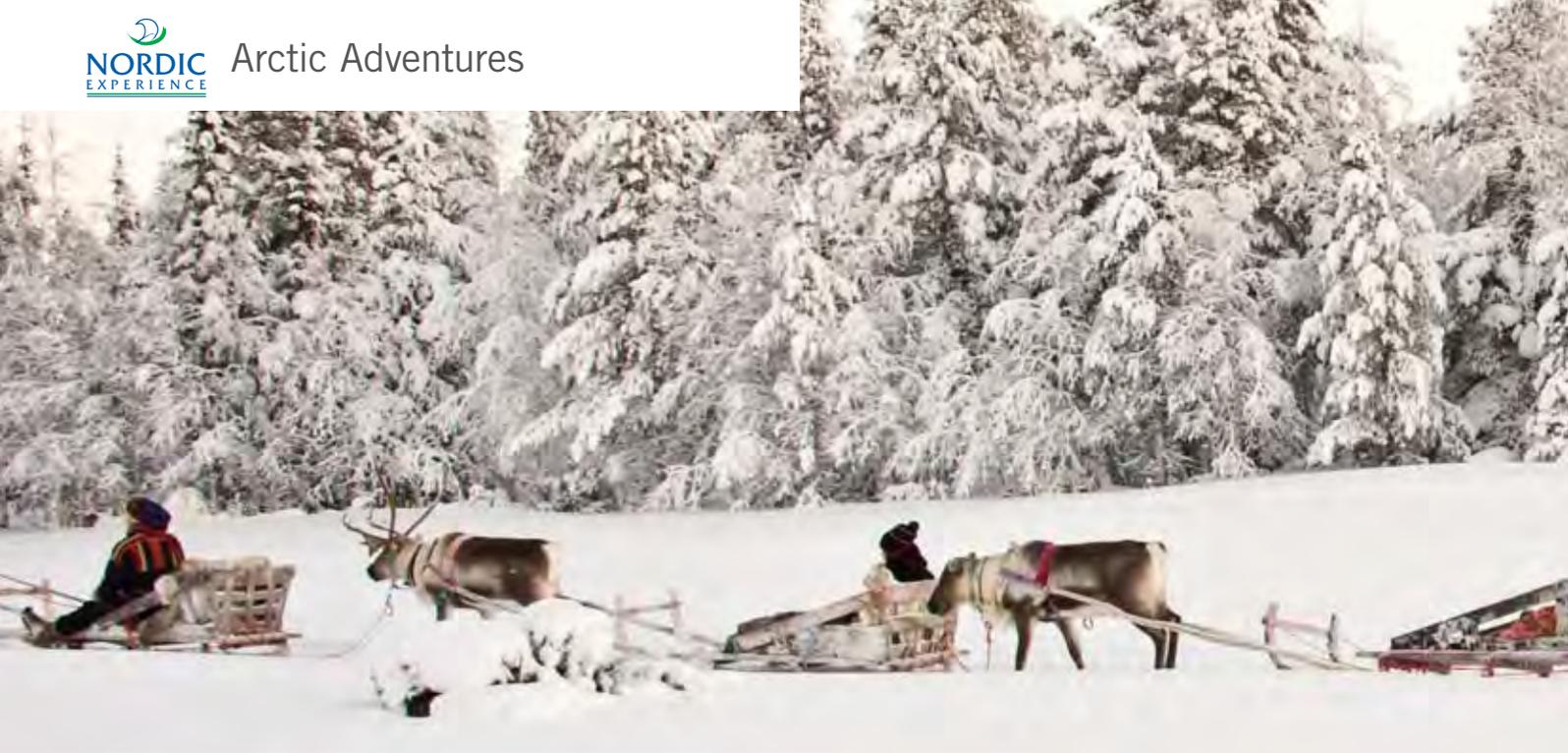


# The Scandinavia Specialist

Let the adventure begin



Northern Lights • Snowmobile Safaris • Snow Hotels • Reindeer Encounters  
Huskies • Whale Watching • Wilderness Adventures • Glaciers



## The Nordic Experience

### WHAT SETS US APART

When we say that we are specialists in the Nordic Region, what it means is that our expertise and knowledge are fundamental to everything we do. Others may dabble in this area, but for us, it is our heart and soul. We travel there regularly, we keep abreast of all new developments, and we never lose our passion for an area that makes few concessions to the mass market. The local people are individualists and expect their visitors to be the same. It is our knowledge and expertise as well as our love of the region which allow us to arrange your holiday with care and attention to detail.

### HOLIDAYS TAILORED TO SUIT YOU

Our brochure highlights what we feel is the best that any region can offer, but these itineraries should be seen as examples which can be adapted to suit your individual needs and requirements. Whether you have three weeks to spare and want to explore by train, car, boat or even on horseback, or you simply want a long weekend of luxury in one of Scandinavia's major cities, we will be happy to organise the holiday of your choice.

We are of course totally independent. When we help you choose your destination or book your hotel, excursions or tour, it is because we feel it suits your needs best, and not because we need to promote one product over another.

### REGIONAL FLIGHTS

If you prefer the convenience of flying from an airport close to home we will be happy to help. With more regional departures to Scandinavia than ever before we will be delighted to explore all options and tailor any tour to suit your personal requirements.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR ALL TASTES

We offer accommodation to suit all tastes and budgets from snow hotels, where you will sleep on a bed of ice, to tree houses, Rorbuer (traditional fishermen's huts) to boutique luxury. Stay in an abandoned radio station or view the northern lights in comfort in an 'aurora dome'. Our city hotels are chosen to be close to the centre for convenience and easy sightseeing. Although our prices are based on standard rooms we will be happy to arrange an upgrade to a suite or superior room type.

### BROCHURE PRICES

The prices in the brochure are lead-in prices designed to give you an approximate idea of the cost of your holiday. They are based on departures from London and accommodation in a standard room (unless otherwise stated). You will be given a full costing for your chosen holiday before you book.

### FINANCIAL SECURITY

When you book through us you can enjoy complete peace of mind knowing that your holiday is ATOL protected under our licence number 6558. This means that all of the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL certificate listing everything that you booked and which is protected by the scheme. This means that in the unlikely event that the company collapses whilst you are on holiday the scheme will make sure that you can finish your holiday and return home. If the company collapses before you leave the UK, the scheme will provide a full refund for your holiday. We are also members of ABTA (no. W879X).



# The Nordic Winter Experience

## ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCES

For many, the search for the northern lights is top of their ‘bucket list’, for others it’s a night in an ice or snow hotel. For many children (and their parents), the chance to meet Father Christmas is truly an unforgettable experience. Our winter holidays offer so many fabulous, unique experiences. We’re the experts in this region – you tell us what will make your holiday extra special, and we’ll come up with the perfect itinerary. Whatever we do, we always offer the best quality available, only working with trusted partners, and the insight of our many years of experience and unrivalled knowledge.

## NORDIC ADVENTURES FOR ARCTIC EXPLORERS

The Arctic adventure playground, which stretches from Norway’s Russian border westwards to Greenland, offers a wealth of different experiences – from husky mushing to snowmobiling, snowshoeing to reindeer-sledding. The climate may be harsh and weather conditions wild, so you do need to be adaptable – we’ll always put your safety first – and, after all, it’s these dramatic conditions which make your Nordic Experience so memorable. There are times when we may have to cancel or change your arrangements due to weather conditions or other factors beyond our control but we’ll always try to come up with a suitable alternative. All we ask is your patience and a flexible attitude.

For many guests our holidays are truly about the adventure. That’s why we often provide a pared-down itinerary and simply list the excursions which we offer in each location so that you can pick and choose what’s best for you. There isn’t always room to include all of the details and list all of our excursions in this brochure, so it’s a good idea to check our website for more options. Make sure you know exactly what’s included when you book. Sometimes you are picked up from your hotel, others you need to make your way to the starting point. Any transfer time will be included in the listed duration.

## FAMILY FUN

Many of our holidays are perfect for families with children, especially for those with teenagers who enjoy an active break and are searching for a bit of adventure. Some of the activities do have age restrictions, however, so do check with us before booking.

## THE NORDIC DESTINATIONS

We have listed our holidays by country and each country has a short introduction giving you an overview of what’s available. If you’re not sure where you want to visit then this is a good place to start. We have a wide choice of breaks in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Greenland, and you don’t have to limit yourself to one country!

## STOPOVERS & MULTI-CENTRE HOLIDAYS

Many flights to this region travel via capital cities, so you often have the chance to stop over for a day or so at the beginning or end of your break. Have a look at pages 6-7 for some ideas.

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## The Northern Lights

Viewing the aurora borealis, or the northern lights as it is more commonly known, is a magical experience, which is on most people's 'bucket list'. Although the aurora is always there, conditions do have to be right in order for it to be seen. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that you will see this dazzling display, but here at Nordic Experience we use our many years of experience and our vast expertise to make sure you have the best possible chance of witnessing this marvellous spectacle.

### MYTHS & LEGENDS

Nordic cultures have many different beliefs surrounding this spectacular phenomenon, which it was said could be summoned by whistling. According to Norse legend, the lights are from glinting shields of victorious Valkyrie warriors. For the Inuit, the aurora is connected to a rather sinister game of football, played by human spirits. Many Inuit would rush indoors when the lights showed, terrified that they would be called to play. In Iceland, the aurora was believed to be spirits of the departed attempting to contact their living relatives. Elsewhere, the lights were considered to be maids dancing, dressed in festive clothing to while away the long, dark nights.

### WHAT ARE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

The northern lights are created by charged solar particles being expelled from the Sun via explosions and flares. Travelling at great speed, they usually reach Earth within two or three days and are then diverted by the Earth's magnetic fields. However, some particles enter the Earth's upper atmosphere at its polar regions, colliding with atoms and molecules there. The aurora displays that can be seen with the naked eye generally occur 100-200km above the earth where the 'excited' particles collide with nitrogen to create a blue hue and oxygen turns the skies green.

### WHEN TO SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

The northern lights are best seen between the Autumn and Spring equinoxes, under a cloudless sky and during the dark Arctic winter nights. They are most active between 6pm and 2am and displays can last from a few minutes to several hours. Sightings can never be guaranteed, but you can enhance your experience by escaping any form of light pollution.

### WHERE TO SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

The aurora is most visible beneath a ring known as the aurora oval, which encircles the earth between 60° and 70° degrees of latitude. In the Nordic region this crosses parts of Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland. Most of our winter tours include some form of opportunity to search for the northern lights as well as a whole host of activities to keep you busy during daylight hours.

### HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH THE AURORA

Capturing the northern lights can be tricky. It is best to use an SLR camera that allows long exposures of 10-20 seconds and a tripod is essential. The cold kills batteries quickly, so always carry a spare. Try to find a place with some foreground to give your pictures perspective.



## What to Wear

We believe that there is no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothes. The activities on our winter tours are often outside, so it's important that you are primed for the regional temperatures. It can be as cold as minus 35°C which is fine, as long as you are prepared. It is best to wear clothing specifically designed for outdoor activities in this climate. Some activities and excursions include the provision of Arctic clothing, and sometimes you can hire it as an optional extra.

### LAYERS

We recommend wearing three thinner layers below an outer one, as multiple layers trap heat more efficiently. Your innermost layer should be thermal, have long sleeves, full length legs and can be made of wool or a synthetic material. As it is worn next to your skin, it should have the ability to take moisture away. For this reason we do not recommend cotton as this becomes very cold when wet and does not dry quickly. A material such as merino wool will stay warm even when wet or damp. Mid layers can be a material such as wool or a thin fleece. Having two of these thinner layers gives you the option of removing one if you are doing energetic sports. Your top layer should be made of a heavier material, such as a heavy fleece or a ski jacket. Make sure that it is large enough to wear over several layers.

### OUTER LAYER

This final layer should be both wind and waterproof and completed with a scarf and a hat with earflaps. Some tours offer an Arctic Clothing Pack to hire, which includes a hooded windproof, water resistant thermal suit with boots, hat and gloves. Other tours include protective clothing for the duration of your stay. If you are not sure what clothing you need or what is included in the cost of your holiday, please do ask for details.

### HANDS

Mittens keep hands warmer than gloves, but a pair of mittens worn over a pair of gloves will keep them even more comfortable. These also allow for the option of removing your mittens if you need to use your fingers. Keeping hand warmers in your pocket provides the possibility of an extra burst of heat.

### FEET

As with your innermost layer, socks should be woollen or made from a good synthetic material to prevent your feet getting wet. Three pairs of socks of increasing size and thickness should make sure that you are comfortable at low temperatures. We also recommend strong shoes or boots with a good grip. As with the top layer, make sure that you choose a larger size to accommodate the socks. The studs or spikes on ice safety overshoes, or removable ice grips attached under your shoes, make it much easier to prevent you from slipping on an icy surface.

### OTHER TIPS

The Nordic air is very dry so lip salve is a good idea to keep your lips moisturised. If you are spending a long time outside, a face mask that covers your nose and cheeks would be beneficial, or a thin layer of Vaseline on your face will help to keep it protected. Sunglasses will protect your eyes from the sun, which can be especially bright in February and March.



## Copenhagen, Denmark

Denmark has been consistently voted the happiest country on Earth and a visit to its capital, Copenhagen, is sure to bring a smile to your face with its world-renowned gastronomy and culture.

Copenhagen is home to distinct and innovative dining, from Michelin starred restaurants such as 'Noma', to informal bistros. Museums are scattered throughout the city and a visit to the tiny but iconic Little Mermaid is a must. Enjoy the laid-back atmosphere of Nyhavn and be charmed and thrilled by the 165 year-old Tivoli amusement park.

### MUST SEE MUST DO MUST TRY

- **TIVOLI GARDENS:** Historic buildings, lush gardens and thrilling rides.
- **NYHAVN:** 17th century harbour area.
- **LITTLE MERMAID:** Perhaps the most famous Dane of all.
- **STRØGET:** Longest shopping/pedestrian area in Europe.
- **NY CARLSBERG GLYPTOTEK:** Museum housing 10,000 works of art.
- **TRY:** Smørrebrød (open sandwich), Stegt flæsk & persillesovs (national dish)

### YOUR HOTELS

#### First Hotel Mayfair



Located minutes from Tivoli and Str.get, the First Hotel Mayfair is a perfect base for exploring Copenhagen. The building dates from the early 1900s, whereas the rooms boast a more contemporary, boutique flavour. Start the day with a vast buffet breakfast and end with a relaxing drink in the cosy lounge or courtyard. This is the perfect location from which to explore. Enjoy the city like a local and rent a bike from reception.

**Price from:** £79 pp

- Charming boutique-style hotel • Convenient location • Service orientated

#### 71 Nyhavn Hotel



This atmospheric hotel housed in converted warehouses is situated where Nyhavn Canal and the harbour meet. Rooms vary in size and are decorated in keeping with the style of this beautiful old warehouse. Unique works of art are proudly displayed in the reception and public areas. The inviting cellar 'Restaurant Pakhuskaelderen' has a seasonal menu with locally sourced produce.

**Price from:** £90 pp

- Nyhavn harbour location • COBRA art collection • Cellar restaurant

## Oslo, Norway

Oslo successfully combines the new with the old; stylish architecture with forest and fjord. It has undergone a transformation, which started with the opening of the new Opera House.

Oslo has over 50 museums including the world's largest collection of artwork by Munch and the Nobel Peace Centre. Alternatively, embrace the outdoors with a trip to the surrounding forests. Oslo Winter Park and Ski Centre are just minutes from the city. Aker Brygge, is now a cosmopolitan collection of harbour front bars and restaurants and an excellent place for casual dining and people watching.

### MUST SEE MUST DO MUST TRY

- **VIGELAND SCULPTURE PARK:** Outdoor park containing 121 sculptures.
- **THE VIKING SHIP, FRAM AND KON-TIKI MUSEUMS:** Maritime history.
- **OPERA HOUSE:** Waterfront home of the National Opera and Ballet.
- **AKER BRYGGE:** Cosmopolitan harbour bars and restaurants.
- **MUNCH MUSEUM:** A dedication to the Norwegian artist Edvard Munch.
- **TRY:** Vaffler (pancake style waffles), Fiskesuppe (Fish Soup).

### YOUR HOTELS

#### The Thief



Enjoying a spectacular location in a district once home to a shady criminal past, The Thief is a shining example of modern contemporary Scandinavian design. All of the rooms have hand-picked works of art and most enjoy Oslofjord views with floor to ceiling windows and private balcony. The restaurant and bar serve dishes and drinks of pure and honest flavours based on Nordic produce and traditions.

**Price from:** £125 pp

- Designer living • Waterfront location • Nespresso machines in each room

#### Clarion Collection Hotel Folketeateret



Just minutes from Karl Johansgate, the city's main thoroughfare, The Clarion Collection Hotel Folketeateret is a tranquil haven in a bustling area. The interior is typically modern Scandinavian, whilst the exterior retains the original Art Deco façade. With complimentary waffles and light evening buffet supper included, this hotel is the perfect choice for a winter break in Oslo.

**Price from:** £70 pp

- Former Opera House • Gym • Complimentary waffles & light supper



## Stockholm, Sweden

Modern meets medieval in this exciting and vibrant capital. Stockholm embraces winter as eagerly as it does summer, with residents swapping boats and bikes for skates and skis.

Grand public buildings and palaces show off an illustrious 700 year history, celebrated in the city's many museums. Visit the Vasa, dance to ABBA or admire photographic skills at Fotografiska. The winding, cobblestone streets of Stockholm's Old Town, one of the largest and best preserved in Europe, transport you back to medieval times. Elsewhere tempting aromas lure you into cafés and restaurants.

### MUST SEE MUST DO MUST TRY

- **VASA MUSEUM:** Stunning salvaged 17th century ship.
- **SKANSEN:** Fantastic views from Stockholm's open-air museum and zoo.
- **GAMLA STAN:** Stockholm's medieval Old Town.
- **STOCKHOLM PALACE:** The King's official residence.
- **ÖSTERMALMSHALLEN:** Food hall brimming with delicacies.
- **TRY:** Kanelbulle (Cinnamon bun), Räksmörgås (Shrimp sandwich)

### YOUR HOTELS

#### Nobis Hotel



This luxury, design hotel is housed in a former bank, that gained notoriety after a dramatic heist that coined the phrase 'Stockholm Syndrome'. The staid stone buildings blend seamlessly with the contemporary, mellow Scandinavian decor, presenting a calming and relaxed retreat. The bar, lounge, bistro and restaurant are all favoured by guests and locals alike, bearing testimony to their high standards.

**Price from:** £120 pp



- Timeless elegance • Central location • Attractive courtyard lounge

#### First Hotel Reisen



This first class waterfront hotel is located in the heart of the Old Town. Originally built in 1760, it is now a cosy and charming 'home from home'. Rooms have views of the Old Town alleys or waterfront, some boast jacuzzis and balconies. The bar and restaurant menu have a traditional Swedish focus and the spa is located in a historic vault which forms part of the old city wall.

**Price from:** £99 pp



- Unique location • Classic design • Award-winning bar • Spa & plunge pool



## Helsinki, Finland

Helsinki delivers a remarkable array of experiences reflecting its strategic location connecting East and West. A visit in winter reveals a snow-clad winter playground.

Helsinki's rich history is the result of periods of Swedish and Russian rule, reflected in its museums and culinary adventures. World Design Capital in 2012, you can meander through the largest concentration of Art Nouveau buildings in Northern Europe. Walk on the frozen waters of the Baltic Sea, rent cross-country skis, or take a visit to that Finnish institution – the sauna.

### MUST SEE MUST DO MUST TRY

- **DESIGN MUSEUM:** Delve into a collection of 75,000 objects and archives.
- **SENATE SQUARE & HELSINKI CATHEDRAL:** Symbols of Helsinki.
- **MARKET SQUARE & MARKET HALL:** Traditional food and handicrafts.
- **SUOMENLINNA SEA FORTRESS:** UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **TEMPELLIAUKIO:** Rock church hewn directly into solid rock.
- **TRY:** Blinnis (savoury starter), Leipäjuusto with cloudberry (Bread Cheese).

### YOUR HOTELS

#### Klaus K



Named after a character in the Finnish epic, the Kalevala, the owners wanted their property to have an equal impact on the hotel scene in Helsinki. Working alongside renowned Finnish architects, this former school now pays homage to the local contemporary art and design scene mixed with a New York SoHo vibe. Sample Italian passion in the restaurant and relax in the on-site spa after a busy day spent exploring the sights.

**Price from:** £185 pp



- Contemporary design hotel • City centre location • Choice of room styles

#### Solo Sokos Hotel Tornio



This hotel has a colourful history since it is one of the longest operating hotels in Helsinki. It offers individually designed rooms that incorporate original features such as tile stoves and Victorian style baths. Rooms on higher floors have impressive city views. There is plenty of opportunity to recharge your batteries in one of the 3 bars, one of which is on the 14th floor.

**Price from:** £65



- Landmark Hotel • Great views • Excellent location • Restaurant & 3 bars



## Our Norwegian Experiences

Welcome to an almost mystical land of shimmering fjords and towering mountains cloaked in sweeping pine and spruce forests, capped with snow, that stretch all the way northwards to Lapland in the Arctic Circle.

This majestic snow-covered landscape offers a wealth of unforgettable winter experiences. Tromsø, self-styled capital of the Arctic, is one of the best places from which to witness the spectacular northern lights. Enjoy thrilling adventures as diverse as snowshoe treks, husky mushing or a snowmobile safari. Choose to travel by Arctic cruise, by train or by the long-cherished traditional modes of transport of husky- or reindeer-sledding. Visit the world's northernmost city of Spitsbergen, or the charming islands of the Lofoten archipelago.

You may wish to stay in a luxury lodge on the scenic shores of a fjord, or overnight in the spectacular snow hotel or an aurora cabin. However you choose to spend your time in this enthralling country, travelling through its dramatic landscape brings endless possibilities and very few know it as well as we do.

Wherever you go, wherever your gaze should fall, you are rewarded with spectacular views of Norway's natural wonders. Remember that the itineraries and holidays described on the following pages are designed to give you an idea of what is possible during your stay in Norway. Our expertise and knowledge enables us to tailor a holiday to suit you. Tell us where you would like to visit, what you would like to experience and how long you would like to stay and leave the rest to us.





4 DAYS FROM  
**£599**<sup>pp</sup>  
 NOVEMBER – MARCH

# Northern Lights Experience

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

Witness the extraordinary phenomena of the northern lights from Tromsø – the self-styled ‘capital of the Arctic’. Situated in the heart of the aurora zone this destination offers the ideal combination of city comforts with a great choice of wilderness excursions. Join the search for the northern lights, steer your own husky sled, go reindeer-spotting or traverse mountain landscapes on a snowmobile safari. The city’s many attractions also include museums, award-winning restaurants, the Arctic Cathedral and Fjellheisen – a cable car journey offering superb panoramic views of the surrounding area.

## RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION

### CLARION COLLECTION HOTEL WITH

Conveniently located near the Polar Museum, Mack’s Pub and Brewery and the Arctic Cathedral. Warm Scandinavian decor and friendly staff add to the charm of this property. Complimentary afternoon waffles and light evening buffet supper included. To make the most of the waterfront location, upgrade to harbour-view rooms.

- Harbour location • 76 rooms • Bar & Restaurant

### SCANDIC ISHAVSHOTEL

The futuristic maritime-inspired design and wharf-end location offer spectacular views out over the Sound, the Arctic Cathedral and Tromsø Bridge. Modernist Nordic styling pervades throughout the hotel.

- Harbour location • 180 rooms • Recently refurbished

### THON HOTEL POLAR

The ideal hotel for those on a budget is situated in the centre of Tromsø and within easy walking distance of the airport ‘Flybus’ stop. Simple yet smart rooms all have private WC/shower and TV. A full Scandinavian breakfast is served in the adjoining Egon restaurant which also serves lunch and dinner.

- Harbour location • 180 rooms • Recently refurbished

### CLARION HOTEL THE EDGE

Newly opened in May 2014, this design-orientated hotel has already left its mark. Large contemporary rooms, many with spectacular views. Celebrity Chef Marcus Samuelsson combines New York flavours with local ingredients.

- Harbour location • 290 rooms • Tromsø’s newest hotel

## SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Tromsø** Fly direct from London Gatwick or via Oslo. Upon arrival transfer with ‘Flybussen’ from the airport to your chosen hotel.

**DAY 2 & 3 At Leisure** These days are left free for your chosen excursions (see opposite page 11). Top of the agenda has to be a northern lights search, but you will be spoilt for choice with plenty of other attractions and activities in this vibrant university city.

Try a thrilling snowmobile or husky safari; go whale watching or reindeer spotting or take a gentle harbour cruise. A stroll through the city reveals museums, cafés and a cable car that takes you to the top of Storsteinen for stunning panoramic views.

**DAY 4 UK** Enjoy a leisurely morning followed by lunch in one of the many fish restaurants (we recommend Emma’s Kitchen or Fiskekompaniet for a treat). Transfer back to the airport with Flybussen in time for your return flight.

### WHAT’S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Tromsø
- Return airport/hotel shuttle transfer
- 3 nights’ hotel accommodation in a standard twin room with private WC/shower
- Breakfast throughout. Afternoon waffles and light buffet supper when staying at the Clarion Collection Hotel With

### NORTHERN LIGHTS SEARCH

This trip offers your best possible chance of spotting the aurora. Your local guide picks you up from the centre of Tromsø and, depending on the level of cloud cover, heads north to a spot where the Atlantic is on one side of you and the Lyngen Alps on the other, or East as far as the Finnish border hunting aurora for anything up to 8 hours. During the evening you move location to provide different backdrops and to avoid light pollution. All levels of photographers are welcome and your guide is on hand to help you produce some memorable shots.

**Departs:** Daily at 18.50 **Duration:** 6-8 hrs. **Price from:** £125 pp.

### NORTHERN LIGHTS SPOTTING

Escape the city's urban lights and travel out to the Tromsø Villmarkscenter where, in between spells lying on reindeer skins staring skywards for the northern lights, you can enjoy the warmth of a Sami lavvo's open fire over which you can grill sausages and sip hot berry juice. In between aurora sightings you can also visit the centre's husky kennels and/or have an optional traditional supper of bidos (stewed reindeer/supplement applies).

**Departs:** Daily at 18.15 **Duration:** 4 hrs. **Price from:** £85 pp.

### WILDERNESS HUSKY SAFARI

Travel to Camp Tamok, a wilderness camp located a picturesque 75 minute drive from Tromsø and mush your own team of huskies, driving in pairs. Enjoy the uninhabited mountains and forests that surround this area following trails for approx. 15kms. On your return to camp, you will be served a hot meal in a Lavvu (a Sami herdsman's tent). Choose the evening safari for a chance to glimpse the northern lights.

**Departs:** Daily at 08.45 and 16.45 **Duration:** 7 hrs. **Price from:** £210 pp.

### WILDERNESS SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

Snowmobile through the Finn valley along a 15km trail from Camp Tamok to the frozen waters of Lake Tamok, where you can try your hand at ice-fishing. Driving in pairs and stopping half-way, you each get the chance to admire the contrast between tundra, lake and mogul terrain for an ultimate snowmobile experience. Hot snack served en-route and around an open fire, in typical Nomadic Sami Style.

**Departs:** Daily at 08.45 or 16.45 **Duration:** 7 hrs. **Price from:** £210 pp.

### WHALE WATCHING BY BOAT



Spend the day on board a comfortable day-cruiser in search of humpback and killer whales. As you sail into the open sea, keep a watchful eye out for sea eagles and seals that also inhabit the area. Transfer to Ersfjord or Sommarøy, English speaking guide, additional protective clothing, tea, coffee and an

Arctic Tapa's lunch included.

**Departs:** Daily Nov-Jan at 09.00 **Duration:** 3-6 hrs. **Price from:** £145 pp.

### NORTHERN LIGHTS CRUISE

Cruise offshore in the evening blackness on the fishing boat 'Havcruise', waiting for the aurora to burst out over the Sound. Homemade fish supper on board. **Departs:** Daily at 20.00 **Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £155 pp.

### WILDERNESS REINDEER SLEDDING

Reindeer sledding is the oldest form of transport in the Arctic, and an ancient part of Sami culture. This cultural journey also includes lasso-throwing and a visit to a Lavvu (a traditional Sami tent) for lunch, where you will learn about the Sami history and way of life. Daytime trips give you amazing views of the wild mountains, and evening trips will give you a good opportunity to spot the northern lights.

**Departs:** Daily at 08.45 or 16.45 **Duration:** 7 hrs. **Price from:** £199 pp.

### REINDEER FEEDING AND SAMI HISTORY



Visit a local Sami camp and reindeer corral, and take part in the daily feeding and tending of the animals whilst learning about the Sami culture and lifestyle. Enjoy coffee and snacks in a traditional Lavvu and hear the haunting sound of a traditional folk song (Joik), around the open fire.

Optional 10 minute reindeer sled ride available at a supplement.

**Departs:** Daily at 10.00 and 14.00 **Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £110 pp.

### REINDEER SLEDDING AND SAMI CULTURE

Join an authentic reindeer herding family, who originate from Kautokeino in the heart of the Norwegian Sami district. Visit a camp and learn about sledding, the art of lasso throwing and the history of the Sami. Enjoy a 30 minute reindeer sledding experience followed by Bidos (a traditional Sami broth) around an open fire.

**Departs:** Daily at 10.00 and 18.00 **Duration:** 4 hrs. **Price from:** £195 pp.

### DAY TRIP TO KVALOYA ISLAND

Witness the effect of ever-changing light and weather conditions on the picturesque landscape as you travel by road towards the Sommarøy archipelago and the island of Kvaløya, also known as 'Whale Island'. Follow every twist and turn of the glacial valleys and fjords, whilst keeping an eye out for local Arctic wildlife. Stop along the way for waffles & coffee at Tove's glassblowing studio, as well as the fishing village of Sommarøya.

**Departs:** Mon – Fri at 10.00 **Duration:** 5 hrs. **Price from:** £125 pp.

### SNOWSHOE TREK

Join a guided snowshoe trek. Mastering the art is easy. Just choose the tour most suited to your circumstances. The 'novice' grade is ideal for families including children aged 8 and up. The 'intermediate' grade is best for children aged 12 and up as well as people used to hiking in hilly terrain. In each case you will enjoy trekking through a variety of landscapes fortified by a hot drink and 'Lefse', a traditional Norwegian cake.

**Novice:** Daily at 10.00 **Duration:** 2 hrs. **Price from:** £85 pp.

**Intermediate:** Daily at 10.00 **Duration:** 4 hrs. **Price from:** £135 pp.

### CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Aimed at beginners, this introduction to cross-country skiing will teach you the basic techniques and skills of this long favoured Norwegian past-time. Your expert guide will then escort you along prepared trails just outside Tromsø. Hot drinks and 'lelse' are served.

**Departs:** Daily at 08.30 **Duration:** 3 hours or 5 hours. **Price from:** £120/£159 pp.

### WINTER ACTIVITY CAMP

Try snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, tobogganing and ice skating at a winter activity camp just 5 minutes from the city centre. Suitable for adults and children alike, no previous experience is required as a guide is on hand to show you how to use the equipment. Take a break around the bonfire and listen to the stories about living in the Arctic and, if you are lucky, the northern lights may dance above your head. Hot drinks and 'Lefse' included. Winter clothes are not included but can be rented separately.

**Departs:** Daily Jan-Mar at 18.30 **Duration:** 2½ hrs. **Price from:** £95 pp.

### TROMSØ HUSKY SAFARI

Just 30 minutes from Tromsø is one of the largest husky farms in Northern Norway, offering both daytime and evening excursions into the beautiful landscape. This family-friendly excursion offers approx. 1 hour of dog-sledding followed by a Sami meal (Bidos) with coffee and cake and a chance to get to know the huskies.

**Departs:** Daily at 09.45 and 18.15 **Duration:** 4 hours **Price from:** £185/£205pp

IT IS ADVISABLE TO PRE-BOOK EXCURSIONS. TIMES/DAYS OF OPERATION MAY VARY AND EXCURSIONS CAN BE ALTERED AT SHORT NOTICE DEPENDING ON LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS. DURATIONS INCLUDE ANY TRANSFER TIMES AND INSTRUCTION.



4 DAYS FROM  
**£1150<sup>pp</sup>**  
 DECEMBER – MARCH

## Arctic Nights to Remember

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY

Fly high up into the Arctic Circle to Tromsø and turn your stay into ‘An Arctic Night to Remember’ with two nights in the city and an overnight at Camp Tamok in the Vass valley. Mush huskies, search out moose trails, ice-fish and snowmobile across snow white tundra. Sleep under a canopy of Arctic stars in a hot spot known to deliver a better than average sightings of the aurora.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### CAMP TAMOK

Located outside of Tromsø amongst lofty mountains, fjords and the Lapland tundra Camp Tamok is a wilderness experience like no other and is an ideal setting for snowmobile, husky and ice-fishing activities. It is well away from any light pollution and known for its dry climate and clear sky, maximising your chances of seeing the northern lights. You have a choice of three types of accommodation:

**THE WILDERNESS CABIN** comprised of four bedrooms and two loft rooms accommodating up to 12 guests. The cabin is heated by a wood stove and lit by oil lamps thus offering a warm and a cosy place for a restful night's sleep.

**SAMI TENT** A traditional lavvu accommodating up to 12 people, where you will sleep in your own berth in a winter sleeping bag on top of several reindeer skins. Despite the open wood fires temperatures can drop to zero.

**AURORA CABIN** This is the most private and romantic accommodation, ideal for couples. Heated but without water or electricity, you can lie in bed gazing out of the rooftop window for a chance to view the aurora.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Tromsø
- Return airport/hotel shuttle transfers
- 2 nights' accommodation including breakfast, afternoon waffles and light buffet supper
- Overnight programme to Camp Tamok including local transfers, snowmobile & husky safaris with one night's accommodation including breakfast, lunch and dinner

### SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Tromsø** Fly direct from London Gatwick, transfer to and check-in at the Clarion Collection Hotel With. You may opt to take an additional evening excursion (see page 11) or simply enjoy the charm of the Hotel With as well as the sights and sounds of Tromsø. Light buffet supper is served until 9pm each night.



#### DAY 2 Tromsø-Camp Tamok

Breakfast at leisure. Your day is free until late afternoon when you transfer to Camp Tamok where, after a full safety briefing, you will embark on a 30km snowmobile safari. At 800m high, along the shores of a frozen lake, you will try your hand at ice-fishing, returning to the camp for supper around an open fire. Search the night sky for the aurora borealis and revel in the peace and tranquillity that the wilderness offers before retiring to your chosen accommodation.

**DAY 3 Camp Tamok-Tromsø** After a hearty breakfast you will meet your Alaskan huskies and share the driving along a 15km trail through the mountainous and forested landscape of the Vass valley. Return to camp for lunch before transferring back to the Hotel With, where a light supper awaits.

**DAY 4 UK** Breakfast at leisure, and perhaps shop for some last minute treats, before taking 'Flybussen' to the airport in time for your return flight home.



# Tromsø & Malangen Resort

5 DAYS FROM  
**£940**<sup>pp</sup>  
 DECEMBER – MARCH

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY

Just over an hour's scenic drive from Tromsø lays Malangen Resort. This fjord-side residence offers a stylish break in one of Northern Norway's northern lights hot spots. You will enjoy a night in Tromsø, the 'Capital of the Arctic', a choice of Arctic adventures including snowmobile, husky or reindeer safari, as well as two nights in elegant and comfortable accommodation.

## SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Tromsø** Fly to Tromsø. Transfer via 'Flybuss' to the Clarion Collection Hotel With, conveniently located minutes from the Arctic Cathedral, Polar Museum on the harbour. Enjoy afternoon waffles and a light evening buffet supper served until 9pm.

**DAY 2 Tromsø** Today is spent at leisure enjoying this fascinating city or taking part in one of our optional excursions featured on page 11.

**DAY 3 Malangen Resort** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before checking out and transferring to Malangen Resort. The scenic journey takes just over an hour. Spend the rest of the day relaxing or book one of the optional excursions on offer. A delicious 3-course dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant, after which you will embark on a mission to see the northern lights. Artificial light pollution is minimal here and knowledgeable guides will lead you to wherever the aurora activity seems strongest. You will head off into the wilderness, stopping to enjoy a hot snack and coffee served by an open fire. If you don't manage to see the aurora, you will retire whilst your guides continue to search, rousing you if it does appear.

**DAY 4 Malangen Resort** Choose one of our optional excursions or simply spend the day relaxing, enjoying the tranquil setting, or perhaps soaking in a hot tub. Either way you are sure to fall in love with the dramatic landscape!

**DAY 5 UK** Depending on the time of your return flight to the UK, choose whether to spend some time in Tromsø or whether to enjoy the day in the Malangen Resort before being transferred back to the airport for your flight home.

## YOUR ACCOMMODATION

### MALANGEN RESORT

This stylish residence sits majestically on the edge of a dramatic fjord, with a backdrop of snow-capped mountains, overlooking the water, just over an hour's scenic drive from Tromsø. All rooms have large panoramic windows framing spectacular views. The restaurant prides itself on producing delicious meals with locally sourced ingredients. It is a great choice for couples and families alike.

## OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

**HUSKY-SLEDDING** from £155 pp

**SNOWMOBILE SAFARI** from £155 pp

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING** from £79 pp

**SNOWSHOE TREKKING & SAMI CULTURE** from £79 pp

**FAT BIKE RENTAL** from £60 pp

Please see our website for full details.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Tromsø
- Return airport/hotel shuttle and resort transfers
- 4 nights' accommodation in twin room with private WC/shower
- Breakfast throughout
- Afternoon waffles and light buffet supper in Tromsø
- Dinner at Malangen Resort days 3&4
- Guided northern lights watch & survival kit



6 DAYS FROM  
**£1190<sub>pp</sub>**  
 OCTOBER – APRIL

## Tromsø & Hamn i Senja

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE ITINERARY

Tromsø is an excellent springboard for a two-centre stay. Contrast this exciting university city with a retreat that showcases some of Northern Norway's most dramatic coastal scenery. Tromsø offers culture and history, while Senja has been selected as one of the most spectacular landscapes in Norway, rivalling Lofoten for its dramatic scenery and wildlife. This self-drive adventure takes you on a journey of discovery.

### SUGGESTED 6 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 UK – Tromsø** Fly to Tromsø and transfer with 'Flybussen' to the Clarion Collection Hotel With for 2 nights.

**DAY 2 Tromsø** Choose from one of the many excursions (see page 11).

**DAY 3 Senja** Collect your hire car and head south for Senja. The journey will take you over high plateaux and alongside mountains that plunge into the sea. Break the journey with a snowmobile or husky safari or stop off at the Polar Park, which offers a unique opportunity to enter a wolf enclosure. On arrival at Hamn i Senja a 3-course dinner is served in the Storbrygga Restaurant.

**DAY 4-5 Senja** See opposite for an overview of the hotel's range of activities that showcase the best of the region according to the season. In January killer and humpback whales follow the herring into the fjord. RIB boat rides reveal islands ringed with coral sandy beaches and soaring sea eagles. For more details see our website.

**DAY 6 UK** After breakfast drive back to Tromsø before dropping off your hire car in time for your flight home.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### HAMN I SENJA

This hidden gem is in a tranquil setting on the shores of Senja offering superb views. Choose a stylish room or a large suite with a luxury kitchen and living room with floor to ceiling windows framing the ever-changing scenery. The restaurant offers seasonal local produce with a strong emphasis on freshly-caught seafood. Visit the 'lighthouse' to enjoy a digestif as you admire the panoramic views.

• Seafront setting • 65 Rooms • Excellent restaurant

### OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

**WHALE & WILDLIFE SAFARI** Skirt idyllic islands in a turquoise sea, whilst searching for humpback & killer whales (02 Jan – 05 Feb) sea eagles, seals, porpoises and more. **Departs:** Daily **Duration:** 2 hrs. **Price from:** £145/160 pp

**ATLANTIC BATHING OR BODYRAFTING** A special protective Arctic floating suit keeps you warm and dry as you drift in the streams maelstrom and see the world from a different perspective, or take a dip outside the hotel.

**Departs:** Mon-Wed, Fri-Sat **Duration:** 2 hrs. **Price from:** £50/160pp

**GUIDED SIGHTSEEING TO TUNGENEST** Senja's coast is one of Norway's most beautiful landscapes, with its National Tourist Route revealing long, white sandy beaches and steep mountains plunging into the ocean. Picnic lunch and hot drinks included. **Departs:** Mon, Fri **Duration:** 5 hrs **Price from:** £135pp

**SNOWSHOE SOFT ADVENTURE** Master the easy art of snowshoeing and then head out with your guide to explore the beautiful surroundings. **Departs:** Tues, Thurs, Sun **Duration:** 3-4 hrs **Price from:** £80pp

It is also possible to take part in an evening snowshoe trek to see the northern lights from £99pp. For full details of all available excursions see our website.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Tromsø
- One way airport/hotel shuttle bus transfer in Tromsø
- 5 nights' hotel accommodation as specified in the itinerary
- Breakfast, light buffet supper in Tromsø and 3 course dinner in Senja
- 4 days (4x24 hrs) Group B car hire (VW Polo or similar) including unlimited mileage, theft protection, CDW and all applicable taxes. Winter tyres are fitted. NB Road tolls and ferry charges to be paid locally.



# Tromsø, Whales, Huskies and the Aurora on Sommarøy

4 DAYS FROM  
**£1270<sup>pp</sup>**  
 NOVEMBER – MARCH

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY

Combine a night in the self-styled capital of the northern lights, Tromsø, with the tranquil and peaceful island of Sommarøy, just one hour away. Well known for its stunning white coral beaches and beautiful panoramic views, the island is a mecca for whales. Experience a snap-shot of life in this tiny coastal community whilst getting close to killer and humpback whales, mushing your own team of huskies and hunting for the northern lights.

## SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Tromsø** Fly to Tromsø and transfer by airport shuttle bus to the Clarion Collection Hotel Aurora, located in the heart of this vibrant city. Complimentary coffee and waffles are served in the afternoon with a light buffet supper available until 9pm. Enjoy the roof-top hot tubs or have a stroll around the city.

**DAY 2 Husky Safari, Northern Lights Search and the Island of Sommarøy** After a classic Scandinavian breakfast, check out and transfer to a local husky farm, where after instruction, you will head out into the surrounding white wilderness. Driving in pairs, you will take it in turns to mush and sit in the sled, as you watch the stunning scenery unfold in front of you.

Return to the hotel, where your luggage will have been stored, to be taken by minibus to the island of Sommarøy, just an hour's scenic drive from Tromsø, in time for lunch and an afternoon at leisure to absorb the views. After a 3-course dinner, embark on a guided northern lights hunt with a local expert.

**DAY 3 Whale Watching/Sea Safari** This morning you will join a 2-hour sea safari to see eagles, seals and the humpback and killer whales which follow the spawning herring off the coast between November and January. Return to the Sommarøy Arctic Hotel for lunch and an afternoon at leisure to explore the island, with its local museum and the legendary Kaillkraå, where the men of the village each have their own hook from where to hang their coffee cups. Enjoy a 3-course dinner in the hotel's restaurant.

**DAY 4 UK** After breakfast, return to Tromsø for some last minute sightseeing or head straight to the airport in time for your return flight home.

## YOUR ACCOMMODATION

### SOMMARØY ARCTIC HOTEL

The Sommarøy Arctic Hotel is a charming hidden gem, tucked away on the beautiful island of Sommarøy famed for its white coral beaches and panoramic mountain and seascape vistas. Enjoy the on-site restaurant, bar, library and gym.

- Beautiful seafront location • 20 rooms • Bikes or walking poles available



### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Tromsø
- Return airport/hotel shuttle transfers and local transfers
- 3 nights' accommodation in a standard double/twin room with private WC/shower
- Breakfast throughout; light buffet supper on day 1, lunch and 3-course dinner on days 2 & 3
- Excursions as described in itinerary



5 DAYS FROM  
**£995<sup>pp</sup>**  
 NOVEMBER – APRIL

## Arctic Circle Explorer

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY

This show-stopping journey transports you from Tromsø in Northern Norway, across the frozen tundra and mountain plateaus to Narvik, where you board The Arctic Train to Kiruna in Sweden. The tour ends with a spectacular stay at the ICEHOTEL. This flexible trip is in the heart of the aurora zone and allows you ample time to add Arctic excursions such as a northern lights hunt or husky, snowmobile and reindeer safaris. You can also extend your stay in any of the destinations featured.

### SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Tromsø** Fly to Tromsø and transfer with 'Flybuss' to the Clarion Collection Hotel With for 2 nights. See page 10 for details.

**DAY 2 Tromsø** Tailor-make your stay in the 'Capital of the North' selecting from excursions featured on page 11. You will have plenty of time for an Arctic adventure. A snowmobile safari and husky mushing are always popular choices. The evening can be spent in pursuit of the northern lights.

**DAY 3 Narvik** Enjoy a plentiful breakfast before taking the early morning bus south to Narvik. The scenic 4-hour journey meanders through the glacial valleys and fjords of the Troms region. On arrival check in to the Scandic Narvik and sample its designer delights. The rest of the day is at leisure. We recommend the Ofoten Museum, which chronicles the construction of the railway and the WWII battles for the control of Narvik's harbour and its all-important iron ore. Alternatively, take the cable car to the top of Narvikfjellet for panoramic views of Ofotfjord. Fine dining can be enjoyed at the Linken Restaurant. Since you are 250 miles north of the Arctic Circle, there is every chance of spotting the northern lights.

**DAY 4 The Arctic Train & ICEHOTEL** Board the Ofoten Line and Arctic Circle train for one of the most northern railway journeys in the world. The 3-hour journey initially hugs the shores of the Ofotfjord before ascending to its highest point at the Swedish border crossing of Riksangransen. There are no customs as you continue onwards crossing Abisko National Park before arriving at the former mining town of Kiruna. On arrival you will be met and transferred to the ICEHOTEL. Your accommodation for the night is a bed of ice, covered with reindeer skins topped with the warmest of sleeping bags. A whole host of activities await (see page 41) but first raise a toast to your journey in the ICEBAR whilst appreciating the fine ice carvings hewn by award-winning ice artists.

**DAY 5 UK** Enjoy a warming hot berry juice and rejuvenating sauna before breakfast. Afterwards you will transfer to Kiruna Airport in time for your flight home to the UK (via Stockholm).



### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Tromsø, then Kiruna to London (via Stockholm)
- 3 nights' hotel accommodation as described in the itinerary in twin room with private WC/shower
- 1 night in an ice room at the ICEHOTEL, Kiruna (shared facilities)
- Breakfast throughout; afternoon waffles and light buffet supper in Tromsø
- Local bus from Tromsø to Narvik
- Journey on the Ofoten railway from Narvik to Kiruna
- Airport/hotel transfers and local transfers in Kiruna



4 DAYS FROM  
**£1515** pp  
 DECEMBER – APRIL

## Alta & the Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY

Fly to Alta in Northern Norway, Tromsø's quieter neighbour, and discover the intimate charm and intricate ice architecture of the Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel. You can snowmobile across the frozen tundra and delight in the chase for the aurora borealis, before the amazing experience of 'sleeping on ice'. You will enjoy gourmet dining at Sorrisniva's wonderful restaurant and have the opportunity to take part in a wealth of optional excursions to make the most of this unique landscape.

### SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Alta & Northern Lights Search** Fly to Alta (via Oslo). On arrival make your own way to the Scandic Hotel Alta. The hotel is situated opposite the titanium-clad Northern Lights Cathedral which, when lit up, forms a stunning backdrop against the Arctic skies. This evening you will leave behind the city lights in search of the aurora borealis. Your guide will travel along the coast, fjords and inland in search of clear skies and a glimpse of the dancing ribbons that flicker across the heavens.

**DAY 2 At leisure** Today is free for you to take an optional excursion.

**DAY 3 Snowmobile Safari and Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel** After breakfast you will be transferred to the Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel. The day continues with an exciting snowmobile safari where you will follow a former trading route, across the vast snow covered plateau. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure. Dinner is at Laksestua, a wooden building shaped like a traditional Sami lavvu, complete with open fire, where you will enjoy a delicious 3-course meal – Nordic cuisine at its best – before retiring to your snow room.

**DAY 4 UK** Enjoy a warming morning shower and sauna before a delicious breakfast. A transfer is provided back to the Scandic Hotel Alta, where you have a little time before heading to the airport in time for your early afternoon flight back to the UK (via Oslo)

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### SORRISNIVA IGLOO HOTEL

The building of the Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel begins as soon as the first snow falls. The temperature inside the igloo remains constant (between -4°C and -7°C) but the natural reindeer hides, mattresses and sleeping bags will keep you warm – although we recommend wearing thermals and a woolly hat. This is an intimate experience as the hotel has just 30 rooms. Enjoy a drink in the atmospheric ice bar and admire the spectacular art sculptures.

- 30 rooms • Ice lounge & bar • Themed sculpture gallery & chapel

### OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

There is a wide range of excursions available including 'fatbiking' on bikes with over-sized tyres to cope with the snowy terrain, snowshoeing, ice-fishing and, of course, the ever popular dog-sledding, with the local veteran musher, Eirik, who will be only too pleased to teach you his craft. Alternatively, take a boat safari on the Alta Fjord, where you may catch sight of eagles and small whales or enjoy an encounter with reindeer and the local Sami culture. Expert guides will accompany you throughout and delight in introducing you to the local culture, skills and landscape.

**HUSKY-SLEDDING** from £130 pp

**BOAT SAFARI** from £255 pp

**FAT BIKING** from £105 pp

**SNOWSHOE TREKKING** from £140 pp

For a full list of excursions together with prices and days of operation, visit our website.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Alta (via Oslo)
- 2 nights' accommodation in a standard twin/double with private WC/shower
- 1 night at the Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel in an ice room (shared facilities)
- Breakfast throughout, wilderness lunch on day 3, dinner on day 3
- Return transfers from Scandic Hotel Alta to Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel
- 1 x 4 hour snowmobile safari, northern lights search



6 DAYS FROM  
**£1690<sup>pp</sup>**  
 NOVEMBER – MARCH

# Luxurious Lyngen Lodge

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY

Lyngen Lodge offers a luxurious combination of deluxe accommodation and first class hospitality in an exceptional location. This stylish escape is nestled along the scenic shores of the Lyngen Fjord in the heart of the Alps. There is an assortment of seasonal activities on offer and of course, the chance to spot the northern lights literally on your doorstep. This is the ideal choice for those who want to get away from it all without compromising on comfort.

## SUGGESTED 6 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Tromsø** On arrival transfer to the Clarion Collection Hotel With. Enjoy a light evening buffet supper (served until 9pm).

**DAY 2 Tromsø** Today is at leisure. Choose from a wide range of excursions. Our favourites are featured on page 11.

**DAY 3 Lyngen Lodge** After a leisurely breakfast, a private transfer will take you on the 2 ¾ hour journey through the Arctic wilderness, arriving at Lyngen Lodge in time for afternoon tea. Settle into your surroundings, then marvel at the changing colours of the Arctic sky and watch for the northern lights. Evening meal served at the Lodge.

Lyngen Lodge offers free lectures on the origins of the aurora and additional photography lessons are available (on request and at a supplement) to enable you to capture this natural phenomenon. Please enquire at time of booking.

**DAY 4-5 Lyngen Lodge** At leisure. Lyngen Lodge is the perfect place to relax, unwind and rejuvenate your soul. Choose to spend your time resting and soaking up the ambience or take one of the optional excursions on offer. For full details see our website.

**DAY 6 UK** Return to Tromsø in time for your flight home.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Tromsø
- One way airport/hotel shuttle and private resort transfers
- 2 nights in Tromsø in superior twin room with private WC/shower on half board
- 3 nights in Lyngen in standard twin room with private WC/shower on a full board basis

## YOUR ACCOMMODATION

### LYNGEN LODGE

Lyngen Lodge is the brainchild of Graham Austick, who discovered this setting when out skiing and whose vision was to create a tranquil haven without the need to compromise on quality or comfort. Lyngen Lodge now provides a sanctuary for up to 18 people accommodated in 8 en suite fjord-facing rooms. Large panoramic windows frame commanding views over the Lyngen Alps, with the soft pastel colours of the interior complementing the natural surroundings. The open stone fireplace contributes to the warm and welcoming ambience. Guests are catered for on a full board basis. Delicious menus reflect Norwegian coastal culture and are prepared from the finest local produce. Amenities include a fully licensed bar, dining room, lounge, library, sauna and outdoor jacuzzi and the services of the lodge manager.

## OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

**SNOWSHOE NATURE TRAIL** A guided tour into the wilderness.

**Duration:** 2 or 4 hrs. **Price from:** £85/135 pp

**DOG-SLEDDING** Following expert tuition mush your own team of husky dogs.

**Duration:** 5 hrs. Lunch included. **Price from:** £300 pp

**WINTER SEA SAFARI** Board the 'Spirit of Lyngen' for a cultural and wildlife adventure. **Duration:** 4 hrs. **Price from:** £300 pp (min. 4 people)

**HIGH FROZEN LAKE ADVENTURE** Be a passenger on a snowmobile into the high mountain terrain and try ice-fishing. **Duration:** 5 hrs. **Price from:** £300 pp (min. 4 people)

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKI** Learn the art on tracks that are home to the National Norwegian Team. **Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £170 pp



## Northern Lights at the Top of the World

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1885<sup>pp</sup>**  
 JANUARY – MARCH

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY INCLUDING A CRUISE

Sail around the top of the Norwegian peninsula for a special adventure. As your journey is entirely inside the Arctic Circle you maximise your chances of seeing the northern lights. Navigate the fjords of the Norwegian coast, journey to Nordkapp, the most northerly point of mainland Europe, snowmobile across Arctic tundra and sleep on ice in the world's most northerly snow hotel. Mush huskies or fish for king crabs, cook reindeer over an open fire in a Sami Lavvu and much more besides.

### SUGGESTED 6 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Tromsø** Fly to Tromsø, the self-styled 'Capital of the Northern Lights'. Transfer by 'Flybuss' and overnight at the Clarion Collection Hotel With (see page 10). Light buffet supper served until 9pm. Depending on your arrival time we have a number of additional excursions that can be taken this evening or tomorrow morning. Please refer to page 11 for your options.

**DAY 2 Tromsø & Hurtigruten** Day at leisure in this vibrant town. The Arctic and Polaria museums showcase the exploits of Polar Explorers Nansen & Amundsen and the Fjellheisen cable car to Mount Storsteinen offers a superb panoramic view of the surrounding landscape.

Board your Hurtigruten ship for the late afternoon departure. Sail north along the fjord-indented coast towards Honningsvåg whilst enjoying a dinner sourced from Norway's natural coastal kitchen. Overnight on board.

**DAY 3 Honningsvåg, North Cape and Mehamn** On your arrival at Honningsvåg you disembark, travelling by bus, crossing the 71st parallel to the vertical cliffs of the North Cape. Labelled Europe's northernmost point (even though it isn't), the sheer rock face rises over 300m from the depths of the Arctic Ocean. There is time for photographic opportunities and a visit to the North Cape Hall, where you can enjoy a bite to eat.

Return to Honningsvåg to rejoin the ship in order to sail across Kjøllefjord where you disembark for a snowmobile safari across the Nordkyn peninsula. Remember to take a small overnight bag as you will be staying overnight in the tiny fishing village of Mehamn. Supper, sauna and overnight in a fjord-side Rorbu in the world's most northerly fishing village.

**DAY 4 Kirkenes** You will have time to savour this uniquely remote and rugged spot overlooking the Barents Sea before rejoining the Hurtigruten boat and cruising onwards to Kirkenes on the Norwegian/Russian border. Overnight on board.

**DAY 5 SnowHotel Kirkenes** Disembark and transfer to the SnowHotel Kirkenes (see page 20). After donning your protective thermal suits, you will be taken by snowmobile sledge to the edge of the frozen sea. Your driver/guide will help you draw up the pods containing the king crabs complete with their impressive 2-metre wide claw span. You will return to the quayside to cook and enjoy this delicacy. A welcome drink waits back at the SnowHotel before a 3-course supper. With luck you will catch the northern lights before retiring to your snow suite.

**DAY 6 UK** Warm up with a sauna before breakfast and transfer to the airport in time for your flight back to the UK.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Tromsø returning from Kirkenes
- 1 night's accommodation in a twin room with private WC/shower
- 1 night's accommodation in a Mehamn Rorbu with private WC/shower
- 2 nights' unspecified inside cabin on board Hurtigruten with private WC/shower
- 1 night's accommodation in a snow suite at SnowHotel Kirkenes
- Breakfast throughout, 1 x lunch and 5 x dinner.
- Excursions as described in itinerary
- Return airport/hotel shuttle and local transfers



# The SnowHotel at the Top of the World

5 DAYS FROM  
**£1530<sub>pp</sub>**  
DECEMBER – MAY

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY

Perched at the 'top of the world' is the SnowHotel Kirkenes, a firm favourite with our guests. An enthusiastic welcome starts with 110 howling huskies; the resident reindeer are a little more nonchalant, but no less friendly. Savour a cocktail of adventures: catch a king crab, ice-fish with the experts, dash across frozen fjords or go in search of the northern lights, enjoying delicious local cuisine before retiring to your snow room or designer aurora cabin.

## YOUR ACCOMMODATION

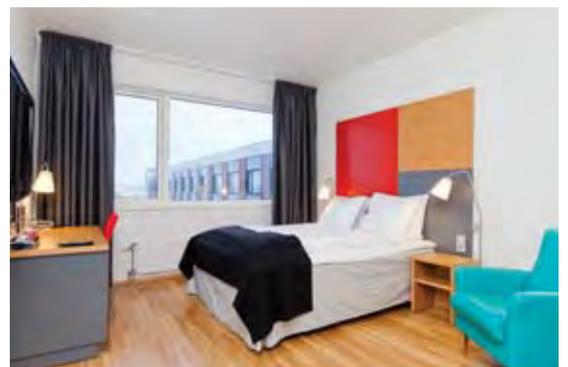
### SNOWHOTEL KIRKENES

At 69°N, the SnowHotel Kirkenes is the world's most northerly snow hotel. Located alongside the Langfjorden, 400km north of the Arctic Circle, it is at the apex of Scandinavia where Norway meets Russia and Finland. The resort boasts a wealth of facilities including a restaurant in a beautifully renovated barn, a bar and sauna. It has just 20 ice suites, ensuring an intimate, boutique ambience.

Intricately carved ice art designed by sculptors from the Chinese city of Harbin (home of the renowned Ice & Snow Festival) illuminates and adorns the public areas. Each ice room is a small treasure, which features double frame beds surrounded by ice blocks topped with thermal insulation and reindeer pelts.

The SnowHotel Kirkenes also offers 'Gamme Cabins' loosely based on the traditional Sami hunting and fishing huts that can be found in the wilderness. Developed in conjunction with Swiss architects, these strikingly simple private cabins offer under-floor heating, en suite Villeroy & Bosch bathrooms, and a separate seating area with aurora panoramic window. Ideal for romantics and those wanting an alternative to the cold accommodation.

See opposite for details of some of the excursions which are available whilst staying at the SnowHotel, or for a full list visit our website. There are plenty of opportunities to search for the northern lights and a wealth of traditional Arctic pursuits for you to try such as snowshoeing, ice-fishing and cross-country skiing. Make your stay extra special by arranging to arrive at the hotel in style, being transferred from the airport by husky sled.





## SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Oslo** Fly to Oslo and stay overnight at the Comfort Hotel Runway, Gardermoen Airport.

**DAY 2 SnowHotel Kirkenes & Husky Safari.** An early morning flight ensures you arrive in Kirkenes with a full day ahead. Upon arrival you will be transferred to the SnowHotel. You will be given your protective thermal clothing, which you will keep for the duration of your stay.

It is then time to meet the huskies for your afternoon husky safari. As you approach, the enthusiastic barking signals the dogs' eagerness to get out on the trail, but first you will be taught the basics of handling your team. Heading out into the surrounding wilderness you will be driving two to a sled, taking it in turns to mush. This 4-5 hour experience includes a wilderness lunch in a traditional Lavvu.

Returning to the SnowHotel you will be given a guided tour of your surroundings and a welcome drink. A delicious 3-course dinner comprised of the best local ingredients is served in the newly converted barn, complete with wonderful views of the surrounding landscape. Take time to pop outside and perhaps catch the northern lights before retiring to your ice suite and a night sleeping in a giant igloo at the very top of the world.

**DAY 3 King Crab Safari** Enjoy breakfast and a warm-up sauna before your transfer to the Thon Hotel Kirkenes for the next 2 nights. The remainder of the morning is at leisure. In the afternoon prepare for sightings of the sub aquatic albatross of the Barents Sea, a king crab resplendent with a 2-metre claw span.

You will be picked up by bus from the hotel. From Namndalen you will travel by snowmobile sledge to the edge of the ice. Your driver/guide helps you cut a hole in the frozen ocean and draw up the crab pods. You will transport your catch back to the quayside to cook and enjoy in a local fisherman's hut.

Return to the Thon Hotel late in the afternoon, with the remainder of your time at leisure.

**DAY 4 Snowmobile Safari** Enjoy a hearty breakfast before embarking on a 4-5 hour guided snowmobile tour. Driving in pairs, you will each have plenty of opportunity to steer and take photos along the way. A small picnic meal will be served en route. On returning to the hotel there is time for some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

**DAY 5 UK** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and morning before your transfer to the airport in time for your flight home.

## OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

**HUSKY TRANSFER FROM THE AIRPORT** Start your adventure at the airport and have your own team of huskies waiting to take you directly to the SnowHotel Kirkenes. Pre-booking required.

**Duration:** 45 mins. **Price from:** £320 pp

**HUNTING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS BY HUSKY A** 5-hour journey across frozen tundra taking you far away from light pollution in your hunt for the magical aurora borealis. There are plenty of stops for polar sky photo opportunities along the way, as well as a wilderness picnic dinner.

**Departs:** 17.00 **Duration:** 5 hrs. **Price from:** £210 pp

**NORTHERN LIGHTS BY SNOWMOBILE** Full instruction is given on handling your snowmobile before you head off into the surrounding hills, where the darkness increases the chances of catching the aurora.

**Departs:** 21.00 **Duration:** 2 hrs. **Price from:** £189 pp

**NORTHERN LIGHTS BY AURORA EXPRESS BUS** A knowledgeable guide will check the latest aurora forecast and decide where to head for the best possible chance of spotting the lights.

**Departs:** 21.00 **Duration:** 2½ hrs. **Price from:** £79 pp

**SNOWSHOEING WITH GUIDE** Don a pair of snowshoes and head out with your guide into the surrounding nature for some wonderful photo opportunities. Warm clothes and equipment included.

**Departs:** 13.00 **Duration:** 2 hrs. **Price from:** £105 pp

**ICE-FISHING** An expert guide will transport you by snowmobile sled to a popular fishing site and demonstrate the skills required before you try.

**Departs:** 13.00 & 15.00 **Duration:** 2 hrs. **Price from:** £165 pp

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING** Great for all ages - your guide will give you technique tips and take you to some of the best tracks. **Duration:** 2 hrs. **Price from:** £99 pp

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Kirkenes (via Oslo)
- 3 nights' accommodation in twin rooms with private WC/shower
- 1 night's accommodation in an ice suite at the SnowHotel Kirkenes
- Breakfast throughout; 3-course dinner at the SnowHotel Kirkenes
- Excursions as described in itinerary
- Return local and airport/hotel transfers in Kirkenes



6 DAYS FROM  
**£1430<sup>pp</sup>**  
 NOVEMBER – FEBRUARY  
 SELECTED DATES

## Lofoten & the Aurora

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY INCLUDING A CRUISE

Lofoten has justifiably been described as one of the most scenic archipelagos in the world and in winter it can certainly be one of the most dramatic. It boasts spectacular glacial rock formations, which dominate the seascape, its clustered burgundy and white fishing hamlets clinging to the coastline. A long and rich cultural heritage dates back to the Vikings who settled in the region. It was also here that Joanna Lumley was filmed fulfilling her lifelong dream of witnessing the dancing hues of the aurora borealis. You will enjoy the opportunity to explore this beautiful region by land and sea.

### SUGGESTED 6 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 UK – Tromsø** Fly to Tromsø in the heart of the aurora zone. Transfer with the 'Flybuss' to the Clarion Collection Hotel With for 1 night.

**DAY 2 Huskies and Hurtigruten** Explore the Arctic capital, taking in cultural attractions such as the Polar Museum, Polaria and the spectacular Arctic Cathedral. You may wish to try a Macks Brewery tour, lunch in one of the myriad of fish restaurants or indulge in an afternoon tea of hot waffles and brown cheese. Later venture into the snow-covered wilderness for a husky safari and a first opportunity to see the northern lights. A light snack is served in a traditional Lavvu. Returning to Tromsø there is just enough time for a late night drink before catching the southbound Hurtigruten at 23.45. Overnight on board.

**DAY 3 Lofoten** The ship traverses the coast, passing sheltered bays and glorious mountain landscapes. There is a short stop at Stokmarknes, before continuing through the Raftsund, a picturesque and narrow channel between the Vesterålen and Lofoten islands. Disembark in Svolvaer where it is just a short transfer to Svinoya Rorbuer. Overnight in this quaint accommodation, on the shore's edge. Dine in the atmospheric 'Børsen Spiseri' a quayside warehouse dating back to 1828.

**DAY 4-5 Lofoten** During the day you will have plenty of free time for you to choose from the optional excursions on offer. Each evening we have included a guided northern lights search where you will be taken to the best locations for the best chance of spotting this amazing natural phenomenon.

**DAY 6 UK** A final leisurely breakfast before departing for your return flight to the UK (via Bodø & Oslo)

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### SVINOYA RORBUER

Svinoya Rorbuer is located on an island in the heart of Svolvaer Harbour, linked by a bridge such that a short 10-15 minute walk brings you into the heart of the town. The accommodation is comprised of 30 renovated or newly built Rorbu cabins with various internal configurations. These cabins are reminiscent of the original fishermen's homes but with bathrooms, shower/WC, kitchenette and sitting room. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in Børsen Spiseri, an atmospheric converted quayside warehouse offering unique fresh, local ingredients.

- Beautiful setting • Authentic accommodation • 30 cabins

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights London - Tromsø & then Svolvaer - London (via Bodø & Oslo)
- Return airport/hotel and port transfers Tromsø & Svolvaer
- 1 night accommodation at the Clarion Collection Hotel With
- 1 night on board Hurtigruten in inside cabin
- 3 nights' at Svinoya Rorbuer
- Accommodation in twin room/cabin/rorbuer with private WC/shower
- Breakfast throughout, dinner on day 3
- Excursions as described in itinerary

## LOFOTEN PANORAMA

Explore the dramatic coastline and historical villages that make up this archipelago by bus. There will be a number of photo stops along the way so you can capture the breathtaking views. A traditional fisherman's lunch is included.

**Departs:** Tues, Fri at 10.00 **Duration:** 4 hrs. **Price from:** £110 pp



## SEA EAGLE RIB SAFARI

Join a winter RIB safari adventure along Trollfjord to see the local nature hotspots and, if you are lucky, to enjoy a close encounter with the white-tailed sea eagle.

**Departs:** Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat at 11.30 **Duration:** 2 hrs. **Price from:** £90 pp

## LOFOTEN NATURE SAFARI

Learn more about the marine life in Lofoten starting with a lecture and presentation on the local flora and fauna before boarding the safari boat in search of the real thing in its natural habitat. Lunch on board.

**Departs:** Selected dates at 09.00 **Duration:** 4 hrs. **Price from:** £130 pp



## SNOWSHOE HIKE

Don snowshoes and hike into the surrounding nature with a local guide to explore the dramatic landscape and enjoy spectacular views. Transfer to and from a suitable location included.

**Departs:** Daily at 10.00 **Duration:** 3 hrs **Price from:** £99 pp



## WINTER SEA KAYAKING

Kayak along the fjords and coastline of this incredible landscape with a fully qualified guide. Equipment & transfers included. Lunch extra.

**Departs:** Daily at 10.00 **Duration:** 4 hrs or 7 hrs. **Price from:** £115/175 pp

## FISHING VILLAGE WALK

This fascinating, guided, fishing village walk on Svinøya in Svolvær offers you the opportunity to experience the atmosphere of a vibrant fishing village and learn all about local life. You will hear stories of the history of Svinøya, with the chance to ask questions; taste the local stockfish, and visit the painter, Gunnar Berg's, gallery.

**Departs:** Daily at 18.30 **Duration:** 1½ hrs. **Price from:** £40 pp

## LOFOTEN ON HORSEBACK

This is a remarkable back-to-nature experience for both beginners and experienced riders. You will ride along sandy beaches, past ancient remnants from the Viking age and along ridges with beautiful views towards Gimsøy. You will also have the opportunity to ride by the racks of stockfish and further out to the picturesque fishing harbour of Hovsund. The riding tour is suitable for both families and groups. This tour also has an evening departure for those hoping to spot the beautiful aurora borealis.

**Departs:** Daily at 10.00 or 20.30 **Duration:** 4 hrs **Price from:** £75/105 pp

## ORCA SAFARI IN ANDENES

This tour gives you a very good chance of getting close to the spectacular orcas in Andenes. The tour starts in the morning with a 3 hour drive by minibus from Svolvær to Andenes. It is from Andenes and the Orca Basecamp that the orca safari itself departs. Travelling in a large RIB boat, you will spend an exciting time on the water, lasting up to 3 hours. Although you will be given windproof survival suits it is important to bring your own warm clothes, suitable footwear, headgear and gloves. This tour has a minimum of 2 passengers.

**Departs:** Dec-Feb Thurs, Sun at 06.45 **Duration:** 10 hrs. **Price from:** £285 pp

## THE AURORA JAGER

This tour is an exclusive northern lights hunt by Svinøya's renowned Aurora Jager, Odd-Petter Tanken Jenssen. He is an excellent aurora hunter who never gives up and finds the aurora almost every time, so long as the weather permits. He will take you to his secret spots and will go to extreme lengths to hunt out the fascinating lights for you every night.

**Departs:** Daily at 21.00 **Duration:** 3½ or 6 hrs. (weather dependent)

**Price from:** £165 pp

IT IS ADVISABLE TO PRE-BOOK EXCURSIONS. TIMES/DAYS OF OPERATION MAY VARY AND EXCURSIONS CAN BE ALTERED AT SHORT NOTICE DEPENDING ON LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS. DURATIONS INCLUDE ANY TRANSFER TIMES AND INSTRUCTION.



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1585<sup>pp</sup>**  
 SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER  
 SELECTED DATES

## Autumn Aurora and Wildlife Encounter

### GUIDED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURE

The Vesterålen archipelago is off the beaten track, tucked between the Northern Light heavyweights of Tromsø and Lofoten. However, this undiscovered gem is an Arctic wildlife and aurora magnet. What makes this small group adventure extra special is your guides, self-confessed aurora addicts, Chris and Becki, who left their home in England with their 4 children to follow their passion for the northern lights. No group will have more than 8 guests and the tour is suitable for families and couples.

### SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 To Sortland** Fly to Evenes (via Oslo). Those on the earlier flight will pay locally for a transfer, or arrive late evening to be met at the airport. Arrive earlier for dinner at your chosen accommodation.

**DAY 2 Andøya and Spaceship Aurora** Enjoy breakfast, before meeting Chris, your local guide, and driving along the picturesque west coast of Andøya, an area of outstanding natural beauty, where you may see eagles, reindeer, moose, whales and dolphins. On arrival in Andenes, visit Spaceship Aurora, an educational and activity centre showcasing the history and science behind the northern lights. Return to Sortland for dinner and prepare for your first aurora chase. Chris is on hand to give you tips on photographing this natural phenomenon.

**DAY 3 Wildlife Safari** After breakfast, head out along the coast to meet with a local wildlife and photography expert. Board his boat and sail into the heart of the archipelago amongst the fjords in search of the magnificent white-tailed eagle and other wildlife. Returning to the tiny harbour, enjoy a delicious lunch of the locally renowned fish. Relax before dinner and tonight's aurora quest.

**DAY 4 Sami Culture and Reindeer Encounter** Enjoy a visit to a traditional working reindeer farm, run by the Inga family, who have a 150 year tradition of raising reindeer, and will share some of the myths and magic that surrounds the Sami culture. A hearty lunch will be served at the farm, gathered around an open campfire, in a traditional Lavvu. Afternoon at leisure before dinner and your final aurora encounter.

**DAY 5 UK** Return to the UK. Early flights include a return transfer, of if you prefer a later departure you can take a local bus (payable locally).

### RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION

#### VESTERÅLEN SJOHUS

This collection of seven fisherman style cabins located on the shoreline enjoys marvellous views across the fjord and snow-capped mountains beyond. Each of Marit Asbjørnen's simple cabins has two bedrooms, one bathroom, living room and kitchenette. Breakfast is delivered and taken in the cabin and delicious homemade dinners are served in the casual Sjøhus Restaurant, just a few steps away.

- Authentic cabins • Great views • Outdoor hot tubs/ sauna (extra charge)

#### SORTLAND HOTEL

Surrounded by the Langøya fjords and mountains, this hotel has welcomed guests for over 100 years. Rooms have been recently refurbished and offer a warm refuge with typical Scandinavian décor, complemented by flat-screen TVs and an original work by renowned local artist Tove Hov Jacobsen. The hotel's restaurant offers a menu based on locally sourced seasonal produce.

- Beautiful setting • Recently refurbished • Free Wi-Fi, tea, coffee and cakes

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Evenes (via Oslo)
- Return airport/hotel transfers where applicable
- 4 nights' accommodation in twin/double room or at Vesteralen Sjøhus, 4 people sharing a Fisherman's cabin.
- Breakfast and dinner throughout
- Excursions as described in itinerary, including 3 guided aurora chases (4-6 hours each) depending on conditions



# Whales, Wildlife and Aurora Adventures

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1835<sup>pp</sup>**  
 JANUARY  
 SELECTED DATES

## GUIDED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURE

This exciting small group adventure is set in the remote Vesterålen archipelago and once again is hosted (as is the tour on page 24) by aurora addict, Chris, with his unstoppable enthusiasm for his subject, and for introducing his guests to the culture and wildlife of this stunning region. He and his wife Becki have even played host to Professor Brian Cox, so you will be in safe hands. Suitable for families, couples and groups of friends.

## SUGGESTED 6 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 To Sortland** Fly to Evenes (via Oslo). Those on the earlier flight will pay locally for a transfer, or arrive late evening to be met at the airport. Transfer your chosen accommodation.

**DAY 2 Andøya and Spaceship Aurora and Whale Watching Adventure** Enjoy breakfast before meeting Chris, your local guide to drive along the picturesque west coast of Andøya, an area of outstanding natural beauty, where you may see eagles, reindeer, moose, whales and dolphins. On arrival in Andenes, enjoy a short presentation about the local sea-life before receiving a safety briefing and appropriate clothing for your RIB boat trip to the herring spawning grounds where the whales gather. Pilot, minke, humpback and sperm whales are all regular visitors. A simple soup and bread lunch is served on your return to land. In the afternoon, visit Spaceship Aurora, an educational and activity centre showcasing the history and science behind the northern lights. Return to Sortland for dinner and prepare for the first of three aurora chases. Chris will guide you and give you tips on how to capture this natural phenomenon on your camera.

**DAY 3 Dog-Sledding or Carting** After breakfast depart on a 1 hour scenic drive to a local Husky Farm. Here you will meet both owners and trainers and, after a safety briefing you get to meet your four-legged friends, all eager to go on their morning half hour run. Snow permitting (normally October – March) you will travel in pairs around the mountain foothills, accompanied by stunning scenery and just the sound of the panting dogs. Relax before dinner and tonight's aurora quest.

**DAY 4 Eagle and Wildlife Safari** After breakfast, head out along the coast to meet with a local wildlife and photography expert. Board his boat and sail into

the heart of the archipelago amongst the fjords in search of the magnificent white-tailed eagle and other wildlife. Returning to the tiny harbour, enjoy a delicious lunch of the locally renowned fish. Relax before dinner and tonight's aurora quest.

**DAY 5 Sami Culture and Reindeer Encounter** Enjoy a visit to a traditional working reindeer farm, run by the Inga family, who have a 150 year tradition of raising reindeer, and will share some of the myths and magic that surrounds the Sami culture. A hearty lunch will be served at the farm, gathered around an open campfire, in a traditional Lavvu. Afternoon at leisure before dinner and your final aurora encounter.

**DAY 6 UK** Return to the UK. Early flights include a return transfer, or if you prefer a later departure you can take a local bus (payable locally).

Please see our website for further details and departure dates.

For details of our choice of recommended accommodation please see page 24.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Evenes (via Oslo)
- Return airport/hotel transfers, where applicable
- 5 nights' accommodation at your chosen hotel in a twin/double room or at Vesterålen Sjøhus, 4 people sharing a fisherman's cabin
- Breakfast and dinner throughout (except first night)
- Excursions as described in itinerary, including 4 guided aurora chases (4-6 hours each) depending on conditions



6 DAYS FROM  
**£650**<sup>pp</sup>  
 OCTOBER – APRIL

## The Røros Railway – A Train to Trondheim

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY BY RAIL

The Røros Railway first opened to the public in 1877, connecting Oslo in the South of Norway with Trondheim in the North. The 383 km track passes through some of Norway's most picturesque landscapes and links centuries of history. This is a cultural journey that can be enjoyed year-round and winter casts a magical spell over the capital Oslo, the UNESCO World Heritage Town of Røros (inspiration for the Disney film 'Frozen') as well as Trondheim, the celebrated Viking capital.

### SUGGESTED 6 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 To Oslo** Fly to Gardermoen Airport, Oslo where the airport express train transports you into the capital within 20 minutes. Check in and enjoy a complimentary light buffet supper, served between 18.00 to 21.00.

**DAY 2 Day at Leisure in Oslo** Enjoy a typical Scandinavian buffet breakfast before heading out into the city to explore Oslo's many treasures.

**DAY 3 Rørosbanen to Røros** Make the most of your day and take the early morning train to Røros. Change at Hamar, where you will observe the changing landscape as you follow the Glomma River through one of the largest wilderness areas in Scandinavia. The 5-hour journey is peppered with many charming old stations, now considered to be architectural gems as well as vast forests, which are home to the magnificent Norwegian Elk. Arrive in Røros in time to check in. Restaurants here pride themselves on locally sourced and produced menus and you will be spoilt for choice.

**DAY 4 To Trondheim** The onward train to Trondheim does not leave until just after 15.30, so there is lots of time to further explore Røros, which during the winter snows, has a permanent festive feel and inspired Disney's 'Frozen'. Once on the train, it is a scenic 2½ hour journey towards the coastal town of Trondheim, where you will check in to your chosen hotel.

**DAY 5 Trondheim at leisure** Today is free for you to explore Trondheim at your leisure. Norway's former Viking capital is home to over 1,000 years of history. Marvel at Nidaros, the world's northernmost medieval cathedral or walk through Baklandet, a charming district of colourful wooden houses and wharfs, home to some of Trondheim's vibrant café culture.

**DAY 6 UK** Enjoy breakfast, before heading to the airport in time for your return flight home.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### ERZSCHEIDERGÅRDEN HOTEL, RØROS

This small, family-run hotel is in the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage town of Røros, and just metres from the landmark Røros Church. Some parts of the building date back to the 17th century and each cosy room is unique with antique furnishings adding to the authentic feel. Modern touches include free Wi-Fi and flat screen TVs. There is a breakfast room, inviting bar and comfy lounge, as well as complimentary kicksleds outside, for those wishing to try traditional transport.

- 16 double and 6 family rooms • Historic building • Free Wi-Fi

#### SCANDIC NIDELVEN, TRONDHEIM

The Scandic Hotel Nidelven's is located in Solsiden, one of Trondheim's most popular districts, in walking distance of all the most popular tourist attractions including Baklandet and the Nidaros Cathedral. There is a wealth of restaurants, cafes and shops nearby. All rooms have private WC/shower and you can upgrade to a superior room for tea/coffee-making facilities, minibar and bathrobes. The hotel is famed for its breakfast – having been voted the best in Norway for over a decade.

- Central location • Restaurant, bar, gym • Excellent breakfast

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Oslo and Trondheim to London.
- 5 nights' hotel accommodation sharing a standard double/twin room with private WC/shower in Oslo, Røros and Trondheim.
- Breakfast throughout, light buffet supper on days 1 and 2.
- 2nd class train journey from Oslo to Trondheim.



# A Winter Rail Odyssey in Fjord Norway

6 DAYS FROM  
**£850**<sup>pp</sup>  
 OCTOBER – APRIL

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY BY RAIL

Europe's highest railway, the Bergensbahnen, links Oslo and Bergen, climbing to 4000 feet across a barren snowclad Hardangervidda mountain plateau and descending through steep valleys, mirrored in the fjords below. This has been designated as one of the great railway journeys of the world and the spectacular views are just as dramatic in the winter months. A stop-off in the fjordside village of Flåm, away from the summer crowds, reveals a sleepy hamlet of a bygone era.

## SUGGESTED 6 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 To Oslo** Fly to Oslo and make your own way to your chosen hotel for two nights.

**DAY 2 Oslo – Day at leisure** Enjoy a day in Oslo, perhaps viewing the world's largest collection of artwork by Munch or visiting the Nobel Peace Centre. Alternatively, embrace the outdoors with a trip to the surrounding forests.

**DAY 3 Norway in a Nutshell to Flåm** First thing in the morning, depart on the famous Oslo to Bergen railway, travelling through rolling farmlands and eventually arriving at the mountain station of Myrdal, where you change for Flåmsbana. The Flåm Railway is one of the steepest tracks in the world. The descent offers panoramic views, passes frozen waterfalls and goes through 20 tunnels terminating in the fjord-side sleepy hamlet of Flåm, situated in the innermost reaches of Aurlandsfjord, an arm of Sognefjord. Check in to your chosen hotel.

**DAY 4 Stegastein, Naeroyfjord and Bergen** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before taking an excursion to Stegastein. It is a dramatic drive up to this spectacular viewpoint, located 650m above the fjord. Returning to Flåm, be ready to board the 15.00 ferry, for your onward journey. The ferry sails down the UNESCO World Heritage Naeroyfjord, surrounded by steep snow-covered mountain tops. On arrival in Gudvangen, board the bus to Voss, then rejoin the train bound for Bergen, where you will make your way to your chosen hotel.

**DAY 5 Bergen** Today is free for you to explore Bergen. A treasure trove of delights await including the UNESCO World Heritage site of Bryggen, Fløyen, the funicular railway and museums, including Troidhaugen, home of composer Edvard Grieg.

**DAY 6 UK** There remains ample time today to continue with your exploration of this delightful Hanseatic town before heading to the airport in time for your return flight home.

## RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION

### CLARION COLLECTION HOTEL BASTION

Set in central Oslo, rooms at this charming boutique style hotel all have a Scandinavian twist and some boast views of the Opera House and harbour. Complimentary afternoon waffles and a light evening buffet supper are served daily.

- Excellent location • Free Wi-Fi • Good value

### FLÅMSBRYGGA HOTEL

The Flåmsbrygga Hotel is located right on the edge of the Aurlandsfjord and is bursting with local character. It has just 41 rooms, 38 of which have a fjord view and balcony. The Flåmstova Restaurant is a warm, rustic retreat serving the best of locally sourced products. Adjacent is the Aegir Brewery, with its locally brewed beer.

- Delightful location • Excellent fjord views tea/coffee-making facilities in rooms

### THON HOTEL ROSENKRANTZ

This newly renovated central property is very popular and boasts well-equipped comfortable, modern rooms. An extensive Scandinavian buffet breakfast is included. Superior rooms have Nespresso machines, slippers & robes.

- Excellent value in a prime location • Parking next to hotel (charge)

## WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights London to Oslo, Bergen to London
- 5 nights' accommodation as per itinerary in twin room with private WC/Shower
- Buffet breakfast throughout and dinner in Flam
- Excursion to Stegastein
- Internal travel by rail (2nd class), ferry, and/or bus according to itinerary



6 DAYS FROM  
**£1065<sup>pp</sup>**  
 DECEMBER – APRIL

## Fjell & Fjord Winter Activity Taster

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY

This twin-centre break combines the best of winter Fjell and Fjord activities and can be tailored to suit independently-minded families, friends and couples alike. Begin with a stay in colourful Bergen, famed for its maritime history and commanding position as gateway of the fjords, before taking the short scenic rail journey to the mountain resort of Geilo, which offers an all-round winter experience including skiing, husky-sledding and romantic horse-sled rides.

### SUGGESTED 6 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Bergen** Fly to Flesland Airport, Bergen and transfer to your chosen hotel. We recommend the newly refurbished Thon Hotel Rosenkrantz for its convenient location adjacent to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Bryggen. The remainder of the day is at your leisure.

**DAY 2 Norway in a Nutshell** Enjoy a hearty Scandinavian breakfast, before taking one of Norway's most renowned rail journeys into the heart of the fjords. Head to the mountain village of Voss by rail and transfer by bus to the tiny hamlet of Gudvangen, before boarding the new star of the Naerøyfjord for a cruise along this spectacularly narrow fjord, to Flåm (pop. 400), located at the far reaches of Sognefjord. Here you can enjoy the railway museum and walk around the village, before joining the world-famous Flåm Railway. The 20km, 2 hour journey takes you through some of Norway's most spectacular scenery. Change stations at Myrdal, before heading back to Bergen by rail.

**DAY 3 Geilo** We recommend taking the midday train for the 3 hour journey to Geilo, which is located high in the mountains on the edge of two national parks. As a ski resort, it is particularly popular with families and beginners and many lifts are located close to the town centre. It also boasts Norway's longest toboggan run. It is just a short transfer to our recommended hotel, the Bardøla Høyfjellshotell.

**DAY 4 Husky Safari and Sleigh Horse Ride** Enjoy a bracing 30 minute walk or a 5 minute taxi ride to a local husky farm, where you will meet your four-legged friends, learn how to mush, then set off (driving in pairs) with your own team of dogs for a thrilling 10km ride through the stunning landscape. Lunch at leisure, before taking a romantic, leisurely tour of the town by horse-drawn sleigh. Dinner at the Bardøla Høyfjellshotell.

**DAY 5 Skiing** Spend the day on the ski slopes surrounding Geilo. We have included a ski rental package which includes a day pass, hire of skis, helmet

boots and poles, which can all be fitted and collected from our supplier at the base of the ski slope. We can also arrange taster sessions for beginners. Lunch at leisure and dinner is included at the Bardøla Høyfjellshotell.

**DAY 6 UK** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before taking the noon train back to Bergen and heading to the airport in time for your return flight home.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

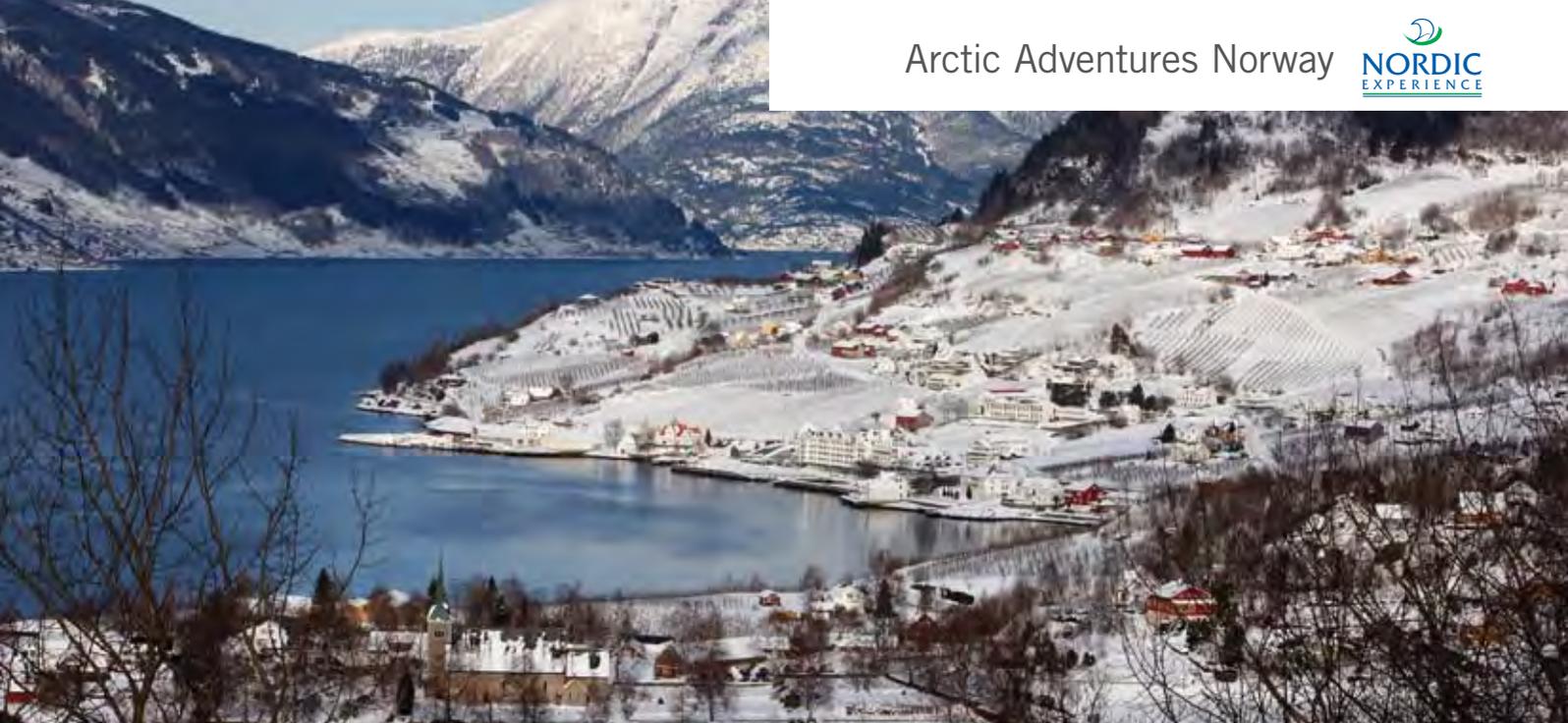
#### BARDØLA HØYFJELLSHOTELL, GEILO

This privately-owned mountain retreat is perfectly situated, just a 15 minute walk from Geilo town centre. Offering a mixture of warm hotel rooms, junior suites and suites as well as nearly 30 traditional style winter cabins (available at a supplement) there is a wealth of options for couples and families alike. Facilities include a swimming pool (including a special children's pool), gym and wellness area, a children's play area as well as a peaceful fireside retreat. In the main restaurant you can enjoy traditional Norwegian fare combined with international favourites. Children are also well catered for. Sofias Café and Bar has a more casual menu as well as tapas. This popular property is an absolute gem. There are complimentary bus services for the short transfers between the hotel and the ski lifts.

- Great for families • Convenient location • Swimming pool

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Bergen
- 5 nights' in a standard twin with private WC/shower
- Breakfast throughout, evening dinner on days 3,4 and 5
- Return train travel from Bergen to Geilo
- Transfer from Geilo Station to Bardøla Høyfjellshotell.
- Excursions as described in itinerary



## Bergen & the Frosty Fjords

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1140<sup>pp</sup>**  
 OCTOBER – APRIL

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE ITINERARY

Your holiday starts in the charming, Hanseatic town of Bergen, where mountain meets fjord in impressive style. It offers a fascinating array of activities, museums, culture and cuisine. Just a stone's throw from Bergen is your next destination: Hardangerfjord, Norway's second longest fjord. On its banks nestles the magnificent Ullensvang Hotel, commanding stunning views of snow-capped mountains, a standard of service fit for royalty and extensive spa facilities.

### SUGGESTED 6 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Bergen** Fly direct to Bergen from London and make your own way to your chosen hotel. We recommend the Clarion Collection Hotel Havnekontoret, located on the harbour front just a few steps from the UNESCO World Heritage site of Bryggen.

**DAY 2 Bergen at leisure** After breakfast explore Bergen. Take the funicular railway to the top of Mount Fløyen for some wonderful views and easy hiking trails. Visit Troidhaugen, home of Edvard Grieg or explore the narrow alleyways of Bryggen. Bergen's museums include impressive art collections by Munch, Pablo Picasso, Paul Klee and Nikolai Astrup.

**DAY 3 Hardangerfjord and Ullensvang** Collect your hire car, fitted with mandatory winter tyres, for the drive to Hardangerfjord. Drive via Voss, passing the popular Steindalsfossen waterfall along the way or take the twisting National Tourist Route via Norheimsund. Both routes are well used, usually open year-round and cross the Hardanger Bridge, one of the largest suspension bridges in the world.

On arrival at the Ullensvang Hotel, we have arranged for you to enjoy a fjord view room, most have a balcony and all have simply spectacular views across the fjord. Dinner is served in the buffet restaurant.

**DAY 4-5 Hardangerfjord and Ullensvang** Choose to relax and enjoy the views and the hotel's impressive facilities, or visit the attractions of the surrounding area such as the Hardanger Folk Museum in Utne, the impressive Norwegian Museum of Hydro Power & Industry in Odda and the Flåm Railway. Depending on the time of year (and weather), there are plentiful hiking trails, as well as the ski centre at Røldal.

**DAY 6 UK** Take a leisurely drive to Flesland, Bergen airport, where you will return your hire car before your flight home.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### ULLENSVANG HOTEL

The historic Hotel Ullensvang sits proudly on the shores of the Hardangerfjord, commanding spectacular views of snow-capped mountains and a glistening fjord. Originally a modest boathouse built in 1846, it has now expanded into a 168 room resort boasting extensive leisure facilities, including a heated outdoor 88m swimming channel leading to an infinity pool.

The property has now been in the Utne family for 150 years. The attention to detail and exacting service standards bestowed upon their guests has earned them some famous visitors including the composer Edvard Grieg and H.M Queen Sonja, who regularly returns to hike a trail named in her honour. Other facilities include a fine dining restaurant, an award-winning buffet restaurant, a bar with live music each night and an array of indoor and outdoor space, where you can simply curl up, read a book or soak up the silence of the surrounding fjords.

- Exquisite fjord-side residence
- Heated outdoor pool
- Outstanding service

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Bergen
- 5 nights' in a twin/ double room (with fjord view and use of leisure facilities at the Ullensvang Hotel)
- 4 days (4x24hrs) Group B car hire inclusive of unlimited mileage, theft protection, CDW and winter tyres
- Breakfast throughout; complimentary waffles and light buffet supper at the Clarion Collection Hotel Havnekontoret in Bergen; 3-course buffet dinner at the Ullensvang Hotel, Lofthus



9 DAYS FROM  
**£2050<sup>pp</sup>**  
 JANUARY – MARCH  
 SELECTED DATES

## Around the Cape & Northern Lights

### LOCALLY GUIDED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURE

Join this small group tour, with a maximum of 20 people escorted by an English-speaking guide. Since the entire trip takes place above the Arctic Circle it presents an excellent opportunity to view the northern lights. Journey around the North Cape combining a wide range of places and experiences, including a night in the SnowHotel and a coastal voyage on board Hurtigruten, and have the opportunity to add optional excursions to tailor-make your trip.

### SUGGESTED 9 DAY ITINERARY

**Day 1 Oslo Fly to Oslo.** Make your way to your chosen hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure.

**DAY 2 Kirkenes** Fly to Kirkenes high above the Arctic Circle and make your own way to your 4\* hotel accommodation. At the welcome meeting you will meet your guide and fellow like-minded travellers. This is followed by the first northern lights safari, heading away from the city by coach.

**DAY 3 Kirkenes SnowHotel** After breakfast today, you will transfer the short distance to the SnowHotel Kirkenes to visit this delightful hotel, built anew each year when the snow falls. Choose from a range of optional excursions, or even spend the night on a bed of ice (supplement applies). Otherwise return to Kirkenes for a day of leisure and overnight. See pages 20-21.

**DAY 4 Hammerfest** The morning is at leisure, before transferring to the quay to board the Hurtigruten ship for your journey around the Cape to Hammerfest. The ship traverses the coast, stopping off at remote villages delivering post and supplies to these isolated communities. Enjoy an aperitif in the bar, before dining in the buffet or a-la carte restaurant (pay locally).

**DAY 5 Alta and Northern Lights Safari** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before arriving in Hammerfest. After disembarking, you will have time to visit the Royal and Ancient Polar Bear Society Museum, before boarding your coach for a 2 hour drive across the Sennalandet Highlands to Alta.

After checking-in to your 4\* hotel, the remainder of the day is at leisure. Take a stroll around the titanium clad Northern Lights Cathedral before preparing for your evening's group quest for the northern lights.

**DAY 6 Alta at leisure** Enjoy breakfast before heading to the Alta Museum. Here are samples of ancient rock carvings dating back to 4000BC, that were

found in the area. The remainder of your time in Alta is at leisure. See page 17 for an overview of the optional excursions available, with more details on our website.

**DAY 7 To Tromsø** Today your group and guide will travel by coach to Tromsø. This 6 hour journey takes you across frozen plains and hugs the shorelines of numerous fjords and lakes. After checking in to your hotel, there is some free time to familiarise yourself with your surroundings before heading out on a final northern lights quest to the island of Kvaløya.

**DAY 8 At leisure in Tromsø** Today is at leisure to enjoy the many delights of Tromsø. See page 11 for details of the optional excursions available.

**DAY 9 UK** Head to the airport via airport shuttle transfer in time for your flight back to the UK.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Kirkenes, then Tromsø to London
- 7 nights' 4\* equivalent hotel accommodation based on 2 sharing standard twin/double room with private WC/shower
- 1 night on board Hurtigruten in an unspecified twin cabin with private WC/shower
- Services of English-speaking experienced guide from PM on day 2 to AM on day 8
- Breakfast throughout
- 3 x northern light safaris as specified
- Coach transfer from Hammerfest to Alta and Alta to Tromsø
- One-way hotel to airport shuttle transfer in Tromsø



## Our Svalbard Experiences

The archipelago of Svalbard borders the Arctic Ocean, the Norwegian Sea and the Greenland Sea in the far north of Norway, lying just 800 miles from the North Pole. Its largest island is Spitsbergen, Norway's largest island, which is the only permanently populated island in the archipelago. It offers a wealth of Arctic wilderness experiences, in the midst of an awe-inspiring natural landscape, far from civilisation as we know it.

First settled as a whaling base in the 17th and 18th centuries, Spitsbergen was later abandoned, until the coal-miners arrived at the end of the 19th century. Until recently there was a sizeable mining community, and the island is still home to a significant Arctic research centre. Its main settlement is the town of Longyearbyen, which has a frontier feel, which is unsurprising as Svalbard is the world's northernmost airport. There are no roads linking the settlements, and instead transport is via snowmobile, boat and the traditional means of husky sled and snowshoe.

The island and the surrounding seas are home to a vast selection of Arctic wildlife. Whales, dolphins, seals and walrus can all be spotted, and other inhabitants of the region include polar bear, reindeer and Arctic fox. It is also home to a wealth of seabirds, many of which are migratory. The landscape is characterised by mountains, fjords and glaciers forming a vast Arctic wilderness, as bleak as it is beautiful. You can explore the ice caves or visit the abandoned Russian mining town of Pyramiden, with its stark Soviet era architecture.

A trip to Spitsbergen is the perfect Arctic adventure, whether you are travelling as a family with children, as a couple or with friends. Learn the art of husky mushing, snowmobile into the wilderness or venture out by snowshoe – however you spend your time you are sure to have a unique experience.

If you are not sure which holiday is for you, then please do call our friendly experts who will be happy to advise you on the perfect adventure for you.





# Spitsbergen Winter Adventure

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1065<sup>pp</sup>**  
 NOVEMBER – MAY

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ADVENTURE

The island of Spitsbergen, Norway's largest, offers you an authentic Arctic experience in the realm of the polar bear. Participate in exciting excursions in spectacular surroundings. Harness dogs and mush into the wilderness, track the northern lights by snowcat, snowmobile or husky, delve in ice caves under the frozen glacier. The fact that the streets have no names and it is customary to check your gun in at the door (along with your shoes) just adds to the frontier feel of the world's northernmost city.

### SUGGESTED 6 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Oslo** Fly to Oslo and spend the night at the Comfort Hotel Runway, just 7 minutes from the airport. Central Oslo is just 20 minutes by airport train, should you wish to explore the capital.

**DAY 2 Svalbard** Take the early morning flight from Oslo to Longyearbyen which, within 3 hours, transports you to the world's northernmost airport. Make your own way to your hotel for 4 nights. The remainder of your day is at leisure. We do recommend a visit to the Svalbard Museum where you can learn more about the fascinating history of this Arctic outpost.

**DAY 3-5 Longyearbyen** These 3 days are free for you to choose the optional excursions which will form your Spitsbergen Adventure. For a selection see the opposite page 33 or visit our website. The mystical polar nights (when the sun does not rise above the horizon) last until mid-Feb. Residents consider this a special time, when the only light is from streetlamps, the reflections of the moon on the glistening snow or from the northern lights, which can show at any time of the day. By mid-March the archipelago is enjoying 12 hours of daylight, by mid-April the sun does not set.

**DAY 6 UK** Make your own way to Longyearbyen airport for your return flight to the UK.

**WHAT'S INCLUDED:**

- Return flights to Longyearbyen via Oslo
- 5 nights' accommodation at your chosen hotels in twin room with private WC/shower
- Breakfasts throughout

### RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION



#### BASECAMP HOTEL

Built with reclaimed driftwood in a traditional, rustic trapper's style and furnished with Arctic bric-a-brac, the Basecamp 'Trappers Lodge' hotel is a warm and welcoming retreat. All rooms have private WC/shower and are adorned with driftwood, sealskins and slate. In keeping with the trappers' style there are no

TVs in the rooms. There is a well-stocked library of books to borrow and the Cognac lounge offers the opportunity to view the northern lights through the panoramic windows. Complimentary tea/coffee and small snacks are available in the lobby all day. Breakfast is served in the adjoining restaurant.

- 16 rooms • rustic & cosy • Cognac Lounge for northern lights viewing



#### RADISSON BLU POLAR HOTEL

This hotel was originally built for the Lillehammer Olympics and then transported to Svalbard, where it has become the world's northernmost full service hotel. The hotel offers a wide variety of rooms including standard and superior rooms, as well as a choice of junior suites and suites. Restaurant Nansen

features a la carte Arctic specialities and has panoramic windows looking out to Isfjord and Hiorthfjellet. Barentz Pub & Spiseri is a relaxed and informal meeting place for locals and visitors and offers a light menu. There is also a sauna for warming up after a day of activities.

- 95 rooms • Arctic dining with panoramic windows • Informal atmosphere

The mystical polar nights (when the sun does not rise above the horizon) last until mid-Feb. Residents consider this a special time, when the only light is from streetlamps, the reflections of the moon on the glistening snow or from the northern lights, which can show at any time of the day. By mid-March the archipelago is enjoying 12 hours of daylight, by mid-April the sun does not set.

## SIGHTSEEING IN LONGYEARBYEN

This tour will give you an insight to the history of Longyearbyen and its important international position. You will first be taken to the Longyear Valley and explore the town, before heading out to Adventdalen and Mine 7. This is followed by the airport district and Hotellneset.

**Departs:** All year **Duration:** 2 hrs. **Price from:** £40 pp

## NORTHERN LIGHTS EVENING

The northern lights can be seen 24 hours a day during the polar night. Escape any light pollution and head to Camp Barentz, where you will enjoy an aurora borealis presentation, as well as a delicious dinner and drinks.

**Departs:** Sun & Tues 15 Oct-15 Feb **Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £120 pp

## HUNTING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

This tour takes you deep into the Advent Valley, near to the Mine 7 Mountain. Here you can see the EISCAT antennae, used to study the Earth's atmosphere. Continue to keep a watchful eye out for the aurora as you head to Camp Barentz for hot drinks and snacks on your way home.

**Departs:** 15 Oct-15 Feb **Duration:** 3-4 hrs. **Price from:** £80 pp

## ARCTIC WILDERNESS EVENING

Enjoy an atmospheric evening in the wilderness. You will be driven to Camp Barentz in the Advent Valley, 10km from Longyearbyen. During supper, your hosts entertain you with stories from Spitsbergen and a presentation on polar bears. This is followed by coffee & cake.

**Departs:** Selected dates in Sept, Oct, Mar **Duration:** 3 hrs.  
**Price from:** £120 pp

## NORTHERN LIGHTS SNOWCAT SAFARI

Join an exciting trip into the wilderness hunting for the aurora borealis. You will be picked up in an impressive red SnowCat, and then driven out into the darkness across the snow-clad Advent Valley. Frequent stops are made en route to the long-closed mining town of Hiorthhamn in order to look for the northern lights. The guides share their stories whilst you enjoy a hot drink and stunning vistas.

**Departs:** 27 Nov – 12 Feb **Duration:** 2 hrs. **Price from:** £79 pp

## ICE-CAVING FROZEN ADVENTURE



This trip starts with a 1 ½ hour snowshoe hike to the Lars Glacier, where, equipped with headlamps, helmets, harnesses and crampons you will descend into a fascinating world below the ice. Walk along glistening crystal passages formed by the melting waters under the glacier where you, will see mesmerising shapes formed of ice and stones. You need to have a good level of physical fitness to participate and may have to crawl in some places. **Departs:** 1 Nov-1 Feb **Duration:** 5 hrs. **Price from:** £85 pp From 01 Feb this tour is operated by SnowCat, which takes you to an ice-cave in the Longyearbyen Glacier. This excursion

requires an average level of fitness and is not suitable for those suffering from claustrophobia or restricted movement. Helmets, headlamps and ice-spikes supplied.

**Departs:** 1 Feb-17 May **Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £85/95 pp

## SNOWMOBILE SAFARI TO CAMP BARENTZ

Following a full briefing, drive, (in pairs) deep into the Advent Valley. Travelling at a relaxed pace, you will stop to swap drivers and to hear about the region that you are driving through. Steeped in history there are old mines, WWII sites and early scientific sites to be found. Keep an eye out for the Svalbard reindeer, which is common in the area. Stopping at Camp Barentz, you are served warm drinks in the wooden cabin, before heading back towards Longyearbyen.

**Departs:** 11 Feb – 17 May **Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £185 pp. **Passenger only from:** £100 pp

## NORTHERN LIGHTS SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

During the polar nights the sun never shines on Spitsbergen. In additional there are days where the moon is a constant presence or disappears completely. Experience the unique 'blue light' and atmosphere on a Snowmobile safari across the frozen landscape. With only the glistening snow to light your way you have every chance of seeing the northern lights, whatever time of day.

**Departs:** 27 Nov-14 Feb **Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £220 pp. **Passenger only from:** £100 pp

## TEMPLEFJORD SNOWMOBILE SAFARI



After instruction and accompanied by a guide, head off on a snowmobile adventure towards Tempelfjorden. Driving in pairs, and taking one of two routes, you will drive up towards the ragged glacier face of the Tuna and Von Post glacier, which is trapped in the ice-covered sea. A 'survival' lunch is served before heading home via an alternative route (weather permitting).

**Departs:** 13 Feb-17 May **Duration:** 7 hrs. **Price from:** £325 pp. **Passenger only from:** £175 pp

## DOG-SLEDDING IN BOLTERDALEN

Dog-sledding has long been a part of life on Svalbard, and this is your chance to experience a slice of day-to-day living with these remarkable animals. After receiving an introduction to mushing, help to harness the huskies. Then, driving in pairs and swapping half-way, follow river beds and reindeer tracks, as you head out into the varied Arctic wilderness. On your return to the camp, meet the latest additions to the pack.

**Departs:** 11 Feb-25 May **Duration:** 4 hrs. **Price from:** £145 pp

## NORTHERN LIGHTS DOG SLEDDING SAFARI

Help to harness the dogs and lead a thrilling husky sled excursion into the wilderness. Travelling under the starry skies, dancing aurora or shimmering moonlight, take turns to mush and enjoy the scenery from the sled. Despite the darkness it is astonishing how much you can see during this time.

**Departs:** 1 Nov-10 Feb **Duration:** 4 hrs. **Price from:** £145 pp

## SNOWSHOE SILENCE

The art of snowshoeing is quick to master and before long you are heading into territory not normally accessible by other means. Regardless of the destination chosen (dependent on weather, snow and wind conditions of the day), you are assured of an enthralling encounter in this Arctic desert.

**Departs:** 1 Oct-31 Jan **Duration:** 5 hrs. **Price from:** £99 pp

## CHAMPAGNE TASTING

This champagne tasting evening is housed in the 'Nordpolet' cellar store, where the miners and administration staff came to collect their quota of alcohol. Knowledgeable waiters will share the history and guide you through the tasting of three champagnes accompanied by specially prepared canapés. Minimum of 4 people.

**Departs:** All year **Duration:** 1 hr. **Price from:** £56 pp

IT IS ADVISABLE TO PRE-BOOK EXCURSIONS. TIMES/DAYS OF OPERATION MAY VARY AND EXCURSIONS CAN BE ALTERED AT SHORT NOTICE DEPENDING ON LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS. DURATIONS INCLUDE ANY TRANSFER TIMES AND INSTRUCTION.



6 DAYS FROM  
**£2395<sub>pp</sub>**  
 FEBRUARY – MAY  
 SELECTED DATES

## Spitsbergen Cabins & Canines

**INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY WITH LOCAL SMALL GROUP ADVENTURE**

This break will give you a unique Arctic experience. Fly to Svalbard, the northernmost airport in the world serviced by a scheduled airline, collect your husky dogs and head off with your guide for a three day mushing expedition into the polar wilderness. Days are spent immersed in this wild landscape that is home to the polar bear and previously the domain of hunters and trappers. Nights are spent in a comfortable, modern cabin as far away from civilisation as you can imagine.

### SUGGESTED 6 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Oslo** Fly to Oslo. Overnight Comfort Hotel Runway Gardermoen, Oslo Airport.

**DAY 2 Longyearbyen** After breakfast take the morning flight to Longyearbyen. Make your own way to the Radisson Blu Hotel Polar for one night. The hotel is situated in the centre of this Arctic outpost and within easy walking distance of the Svalbard Museum. Choose to relax or book one of the optional excursions featured on page 33.

**DAY 3 Cabin & Canines** After an early breakfast you will be driven to the husky home in Bolterdalen. Here you will be given your protective clothing for the trip and an introduction to dog-sledding. Help harness the dogs and prepare the sleds (2 people per sled). The dogs will be eager to depart. When you do, the only sound will be the panting of the huskies and the scraping of the sled skis against the snow. Heading inland, the wide, beautiful Adventdalen grows narrower and the mountains come closer as you follow the riverbed into the valley. You will pay a visit to the ice cave in the Scott Turner Glacier and have lunch in the snow igloo, as the dogs rest. After lunch, don helmets and headlamps and descend into the ice cave. Here, melting ice water has created swirling channels and sparkling crystal formations running deep into the glacier which are now frozen in time - simply mesmerising! The Arctic adventure continues with a thrilling downhill mush before arriving at the simple, cosy cabin in Foxdalen. By now you will know your dogs by name, have an insight to their personalities and appreciate their quiet strength and endurance. Settle the dogs for the evening and help prepare the fire and dinner, before an evening in the company of your fellow human explorers. The dogs and guides keep an eye out for any passing bear and depending on when you travel, you could witness the northern lights or the midnight sun overhead.

**DAY 4 Cabin & Canines** Today you will head with your team of huskies towards Jasonhaugen and its varied terrain, towards the Spitsbergen Expedition Lodge. This cosy, well-equipped cabin has 4 bedrooms (sleeping 10 on comfortable bunks), a simple bathroom and gas cooking facilities in the kitchen. It even has a sauna, complete with a window from which to view the aurora or midnight sun. After unharnessing and feeding the dogs it will be time to relax and unwind beside the roaring fireplace. It will be impossible not to be seduced by the magical light and landscape. A sound night's sleep is assured!

**DAY 5 Longyearbyen** After breakfast you will head back towards Longyearbyen, taking a different return route. A light lunch will be served before returning your canine friends to their home. You will head back to the Radisson Blu Polar Hotel to reflect on your amazing experience.

**DAY 6 UK** After breakfast make your own way back to the airport in time for your return flight home.

No previous experience of husky mushing is necessary but a reasonable level of fitness and a love of dogs is essential.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flight to Longyearbyen (via Oslo)
- 3 nights' hotel accommodation as per the itinerary
- 2 nights' in the wilderness cabins, including breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Breakfast throughout
- 2 night husky expedition programme as described accompanied by experienced guide who is equipped with all necessary safety equipment, as well as search and rescue insurance. Outdoor clothing such as mittens, face mask/ balaclava, thick hat, goggles, winter shoes and thermal suit and shared equipment are provided.



# Spitsbergen Snowmobile Spectacular

6 DAYS FROM  
**£2815<sup>pp</sup>**  
 FEBRUARY – MAY  
 SELECTED DATES

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY WITH LOCAL SMALL GROUP ADVENTURE

This trip allows you to follow in the footsteps of hunters and explorers on a three day snowmobile adventure into the Arctic wilderness, north of Longyearbyen, which is as far north as you can travel by commercial plane. You will visit the abandoned Russian mining town of Pyramiden and stay in the world's northernmost cabin, the comfortable Nordenskiöld Lodge, which boasts an incredible view of the Nordenskiöld Glacier, where your only visitors may be the odd passing polar bear.

## SUGGESTED 6 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Oslo** Fly to Oslo Gardermoen airport and overnight at the Comfort Hotel Runway.

**DAY 2 Longyearbyen** Return to the airport for your flight to Longyearbyen. On arrival make your own way to the Basecamp Hotel (see page 32). Spend your day at leisure or book one of the additional excursions listed on page 33.

**DAY 3 Snowmobile adventure to Nordenskiöld** Enjoy breakfast before meeting your guide and fellow snowmobilers for an expedition briefing and snowmobile instruction. Driving in pairs, you will travel through the vast wilderness and unspoiled nature that is Spitsbergen. An expedition lunch is served en route, before crossing the frozen Tempelfjorden towards the mighty Temple Mountain. Heading further north, see the glaciers in Olav V land, before arriving at the Nordenskiöld Lodge. Dinner will be prepared as you take time to appreciate your remote location and stunning scenery. A watch is kept at all times for any passing polar bear and, depending on the time of travel, you could see the northern lights or the midnight sun!

**DAY 4 Pyramiden** After breakfast head out on your snowmobile to explore glaciers, mountains and frozen fjords, miles from civilization. Weather and ice conditions permitting, you will head out to the 'ghost town', the former Russian mining town of Pyramiden, abandoned in 1998. An expedition lunch is served on the way and on returning to Nordenskiöld Lodge, the sauna will be fired up and a tasty dinner prepared.

**DAY 5 Longyearbyen** After breakfast, it is time to check out of your cabin and return to Longyearbyen. A last lunch will be served en route as you soak up the silence and peruse the horizon for signs of Arctic wildlife. Overnight at the Basecamp Hotel.

**DAY 6 UK** Make your way back to the airport in time for your return flight to the UK.

## YOUR ACCOMMODATION

### NORDENSKIÖLD LODGE

Nordenskiöld Lodge lies on the rock-strewn shore of Billefjorden, next to the mighty Nordenskiöld Glacier. It is the farthest north you can reach by motorized vehicle in Spitsbergen – any further north and it's either skis or dog sled. There is no running water or electricity; wood is used to heat the cabin and drinking water is harvested from the melting glacier. There is no TV or Wi-Fi, just unparalleled Arctic views. 5 comfortable bedrooms also come with a communal sitting room, kitchenette and indoor toilet. Warm up in the wood sauna after a long day's snowmobiling and, as night descends, take in the heavenly view of the blue glacier, wrapped up in your warm duvet.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Longyearbyen (via Oslo)
- 3 nights' in twin/double room with private WC/shower as per the itinerary
- 2 nights' at Nordenskiöld Lodge in standard twin/double room with shared facilities
- Breakfast throughout; lunch on days 3,4,5. dinner on days 3,4
- 3 day guided snowmobile safari as described, equipment including outer thermal clothing and search and rescue insurance
- Not included: CO2 investment of NOK 250; insurance NOK 175 per day.

*To take part in this trip you must be 18 or over, in good health and have a full driver's licence. It is not suitable for anyone who is pregnant or suffers from back pains. Weather conditions can change quickly and may necessitate changes to your holiday.*



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1115<sup>pp</sup>**  
 OCTOBER – JANUARY

# Spitsbergen Winter Family Adventure

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY WITH LOCAL SMALL GROUP ADVENTURE

This remarkable trip is the ultimate adventure for thrill-seeking families. Fly to the world’s northernmost city and spend 4 nights in the realm of the polar bear. Experience 24-hour darkness, an overnight stay in a wilderness camp and meet 90 Alaskan huskies. Explore the frozen shores and glacier in the Arctic outpost of Spitsbergen, just 800 miles from the North Pole. This tour is recommended for children aged 6 and over, but it is always best to check suitability for your family with our experts.

### SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Oslo** Fly to Gardermoen airport, Oslo and make your own way to the Comfort Hotel Runway, located just 7 minutes from the terminal.

**DAY 2 Longyearbyen and Trappers’ Station** After breakfast return to the airport for the morning 3 hour flight to Longyearbyen. On arrival, take the airport shuttle bus transfer the short distance to Basecamp Hotel. Enjoy some free time and maybe visit the Svalbard museum, a family-friendly introduction to Arctic life. At 7pm meet your guide and fellow travellers for a briefing. Head to the Trappers’ Station, around 10km from the town, where you will be served a 2-course meal, and hear some exciting and entertaining stories about local history and way of life. Home for the night is the wooden tepee, where the beds are made of reindeer skins and an open fire will keep you warm. This is shared accommodation with no shower and an ‘eco toilet’. If you are lucky, the northern lights will make an appearance. Meanwhile, 90 huskies and your guide will be on polar bear watch as you settle down for the night.

**DAY 3 Huskies and Longyearbyen** Breakfast will be prepared in the tepee, then the whole family will help with the day-to day chores of looking after the huskies. Feed and socialise with the dogs and play with the puppies in the snow, before a wilderness lunch is served around the campfire. Returning to Longyearbyen, check-in to your cosy and rustic family accommodation at the Basecamp Hotel. The remainder of the day and evening is spent at leisure.

**DAY 4 Shore hike** Donning headlamps you will walk along the seashore whilst on the look-out for fossils and treasures that have been exposed and washed up by the sea. Your experienced guide will give you an insight in to how these gems came to be here, and will point out the tiny creatures that manage to survive in this harsh environment. A wilderness lunch is served around a campfire on the

beach. Return to Longyearbyen and the Basecamp Hotel, where the remainder of the day is at your leisure.

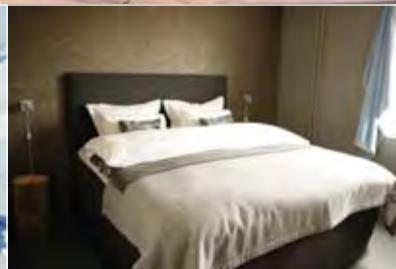
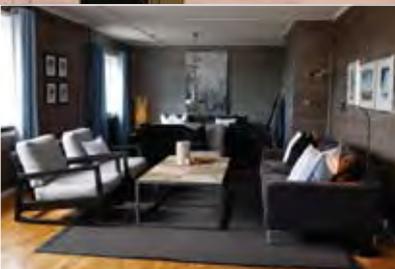
**DAY 5 Return to the UK** Enjoy breakfast and perhaps some last minute shopping before returning to the airport in time for your flight back to the UK.

For more information about the Basecamp Hotel see page 32.



#### WHAT’S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Longyearbyen (via Oslo)
- 3 nights’ accommodation in a family room with private facilities
- 1 x overnight expedition experience including shared accommodation at Trappers’ Station, breakfast, trappers’ lunch and wilderness dinner
- Breakfast throughout
- Any necessary equipment and clothing for excursions
- Price based on sharing excursions with other families; exclusive experience available at a supplement



## Isfjord Radio and the West Coast

6 DAYS FROM  
**£2925<sup>pp</sup>**  
 MARCH – APRIL  
 SELECTED DATES

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY WITH LOCAL SMALL GROUP ADVENTURE

A snowmobile expedition into the Arctic wilderness of Spitsbergen does not have to be accompanied by nights in a tent or a trapper's cabin. This trip offers a 3 day snowmobile extravaganza to what has to be the world's northernmost boutique hotel complete with one of the best kitchens on the island. Days are spent exploring the incredible terrain, scenery and wildlife that Spitsbergen offers, whilst evenings are spent in splendid isolation in the cosy retreat that is Isfjord Radio.

### SUGGESTED 6 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Oslo** Fly to Oslo Gardermoen airport and overnight at the Comfort Hotel Runway.

**DAY 2 Longyearbyen** Return to the airport for your flight to Longyearbyen and make your way to the Basecamp Hotel (see page 32 for details). Spend the rest of the day at leisure or book one of the additional excursions listed on page 33.

**DAY 3 Snowmobile Adventure to Isfjord Radio** Enjoy breakfast before meeting your guide and fellow adventurers in reception for your briefing and snowmobile instruction. Head out towards Kapp Line and Isfjord Radio, driving in pairs. The guide tows a sled behind his snowmobile packed with all supplies and provisions and is fully equipped for emergencies. An expedition lunch is served along the way. A warm welcome awaits at Isfjord Radio, as well as a delicious 3-course dinner. Relax in the sauna and for the really brave, take a quick swim in the Arctic Ocean.

**DAY 4 Fritof Glacier** Depending on weather conditions, head south into the wilderness and towards the Fritof Glacier exploring the vast, white landscape, enjoying an expedition lunch, served in the field, before returning to Isfjord Radio with time to warm up and relax before another delicious dinner.

**DAY 5 Barentsburg & Longyearbyen** After breakfast, it will be time to check out of the lodge and snowmobile back to Longyearbyen. If conditions are favourable there is the chance to visit the isolated Russian mining town of Barentsburg, with a population of just 300.

A last lunch will be served en route before returning to Longyearbyen to check in once again to the Basecamp Hotel.

**DAY 6 UK** Make your way to the airport in time for your return flight to the UK.

*To take part in this trip you must be 18 or over, in good health and have a full driver's licence. It is not suitable for anyone who is pregnant or suffers from back pains. Weather conditions can change quickly and may necessitate changes to your holiday.*

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### ISFJORD RADIO

As its name suggests, Isfjord Radio is a former outpost for radio operators. It was built in 1933 and is only accessible by snowmobile or husky in the winter and boat in the summer. This once purely functional building, has been transformed into a 22 room boutique hotel. The resident chef delights in crafting Arctic menus of smoked seal, whale, halibut with roe butter, and reindeer sausage, most of which has been hunted by one of the three trappers left in Spitsbergen. The rooms have sumptuous, comfortable beds and bathrobes. In addition to the dining room, there is a welcoming lounge and warming sauna. Shower and toilet facilities are shared. Incredible views come as standard and you may even glimpse a passing polar bear.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Longyearbyen (via Oslo)
- 3 nights' in twin/double room with private WC/shower as per the itinerary
- 2 nights' at Isfjord Radio Lodge in standard twin/double room with shared facilities
- Breakfast throughout; lunch on days 3,4,5. dinner on days 3,4
- 3 day guided snowmobile safari as described, equipment including outer thermal clothing and search and rescue insurance
- Not included: CO2 investment of NOK 250; insurance NOK 175 per day.



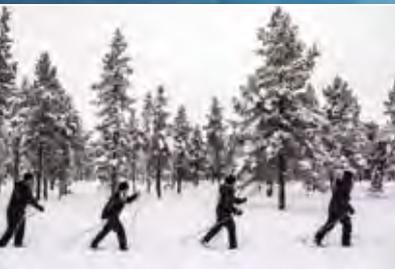
## Our Swedish Experiences

Sweden boasts an uncomplicated charm, blending warm hospitality and delicious cuisine with impressive design. Our Swedish adventures take place in Northern Sweden, where you can explore the frozen islands of Luleå or head high into Swedish Lapland, above the Arctic Circle.

Whether you wish to get back to basics, or enjoy sumptuous luxury, you will be spoilt for choice in terms of accommodation. Choose a wilderness safari camp, or stay in Sweden's world-famous ICEHOTEL with its unique sculptures. The innovative Treehotel offers a unique experience with its stunning designer cabins suspended amongst the trees in the midst of a forest.

Sweden offers a whole host of spectacular snow adventures including dog-sledding, horse-riding and moose safaris. Learn from expert photographers and find out how to capture the northern lights for posterity. Encounter local Sami culture and find out about legends of bears and reindeer, and learn traditional skills such as ice-fishing or snowshoeing. The warmth of the local people and the stunning landscapes are sure to be a highlight of your holiday.





4 DAYS FROM  
**£950**<sub>pp</sub>  
 DECEMBER – APRIL

# Classic ICEHOTEL Break

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

Experience the extraordinary, unique and glittering ICEHOTEL in the heart of Swedish Lapland. Each winter, since 1989, the surrounding snow and ice has been converted into a fully serviced snow hotel. World famous sculptors transform huge blocks of ice into dramatic art, which then adorns the hotel and its rooms. ICEHOTEL 365 is a permanent structure housing 22 art and luxury ice suites, where guests can enjoy this unique experience all year round. See opposite for a list of the many exciting activities which are available to guests.

## YOUR ACCOMMODATION

A stay at the ICEHOTEL normally involves 1 night in 'cold' accommodation after which you move to the warmer option. The beds in your cold accommodation are made out of ice blocks covered with a thick mattress and reindeer skins. Rooms are a constant -5 to -8°C no matter how cold it is outside. Dressing warmly in thermal underwear and a hat is recommended before you slide into your special Arctic sleeping bag.

### COLD ACCOMMODATION AT THE CLASSIC ICEHOTEL

**ICE Room:** Simple, spacious snow rooms with ice decor and privacy curtain.

**Winter Art Suite:** Individually themed, designed and carved by hand, the Winter Art Suites are created by hand-picked artists from around the world. Each suite is unique and has never been created before. Guests are protected by a privacy curtain.

### COLD ACCOMMODATION AT THE ICEHOTEL 365

**Art Suite 365** Each unique, individually designed and carved, suite has a door with a lock to ensure privacy as well as a private changing booth.

**Deluxe Suite 365** The largest of the suites, features a heated relaxation area with private sauna, shower and en suite bathroom. Each unique ornately carved suite comes complete with a door and lock to ensure your privacy.

### WARM ACCOMMODATION AT THE ICEHOTEL

**Kaamos Hotel Room** Airy and bright double room decorated in simple Scandinavian design

**Arctic Chalet** A charming wooden chalet with two separate bedrooms (1 single & 1 double), small dining area and living room

**Nordic Chalet** A larger chalet with two separate bedrooms (1 double & 1 with bunk beds), small dining area and living room All warm rooms have private WC/shower, TV, microwave, kettle and Wi-Fi.

## SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Jukkasjärvi** An early morning flight to Kiruna (via Stockholm) will enable you to make the most of your break. Transfer to the ICEHOTEL, where you will receive your 'survival induction.' Overnight in your chosen cold accommodation.

**DAY 2-3 ICEHOTEL** Wake up to a hot cloudberry juice, banish any chilly thoughts with a warming sauna, then breakfast in the ICEHOTEL restaurant.

The following 2 days are free for you to participate in your chosen optional excursions. See opposite for a selection of our favourites. On days 2 and 3 you will spend the night in your chosen warm accommodation.

**DAY 4 UK** There is still time after breakfast for a brief walk around the village. The Jukkarjarvi Church, with its hand painted wooden altar piece, is well worth a visit. Transfer to Kiruna airport for your return flight to the UK (via Stockholm).

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights to Kiruna (via Stockholm)
- Return airport/hotel shuttle transfers
- 1 night in an ice room & 2 nights in warm accommodation (Arctic Chalet)
- Breakfasts throughout
- Protective outer thermal clothing for the duration of your stay

## SNOWMOBILE TOUR WITH SWEDISH FIKA

A snowmobile tour that will take you into the wilderness, over frozen lakes and through beautiful arctic Taiga forests. There is a stop at a wilderness camp to enjoy coffee & the traditional Swedish 'Fika' cake over an open fire.  
**Departs:** Daily 12.30 **Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £120 pp

## NORTHERN LIGHTS BY SNOWMOBILE

In cooperation with the Swedish Institute of Space Physics, specially trained guides will take you on a snowmobile excursion that takes you in search of the northern lights. You will learn the truths and myths about this celestial phenomenon. A 3-course dinner made with local ingredients is served in a wilderness camp.  
**Departs:** Daily 19.00 **Duration:** 4 hrs. **Price from:** £189 pp

## SNOWMOBILE ARCTIC WILDLIFE SAFARI

Learn about the wild animals native to this region as you snowmobile through the wilderness with a local guide. Spot how to track moose and reindeer in this magnificent mountain scenery. Transfers and wilderness lunch included. Price based on 2 people per snowmobile.  
**Departs:** Daily 09.00 **Duration:** 6 hrs. **Price from:** £270 pp

## OVERNIGHT ADVENTURE – SNOWMOBILE TOUR & LOG CABIN



Your ultimate overnight destination is a log cabin situated on the edge of a frozen lake. After having driven your snowmobiles through the wintery landscape your guide lights the fireplace, candles and wood-fired sauna. Whilst settling into your surroundings he will cook a 3-course

dinner. The icing on the cake will be an appearance of the aurora borealis.  
**Departs:** Fri & Sat 16.00 **Duration:** 1 night (returning 10.00 the following day) **Price from:** £450 pp

## DOG-SLEDDING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Take a seat in the sled and experience the sudden silence of the howling dogs as your journey into the surrounding forest begins. Coffee and cake over a campfire included.  
**Departs:** Daily 09.30 & 13.00 **Duration:** 1½ hrs. **Price from:** £165 pp

## LUNCH WITH THE HUSKIES

Acquire an insight into the daily life of a husky musher with this excursion into the isolated wilderness. You can choose to drive your own team of dogs or join as a passenger and assist unharnessing the dogs at the end of the tour. Transfers and a traditional lunch at a wilderness camp included.  
**Departs:** Daily 11.15 **Duration:** 4 hrs. **Price from:** £325 pp Supplement to drive your own team of dogs: £105 pp

## OVERNIGHT ADVENTURE – HUSKY TOUR & LOG CABIN

Join an exciting adventure with your own team of sled dogs in search of the northern lights. The tour starts at the husky kennel where, following instruction, you will head out with your guide into the Arctic wilderness. The night is spent in a wilderness cabin. The guide prepares the sauna and dinner leaving you free to look for an appearance of the aurora borealis. Wake up to breakfast and then return to ICEHOTEL in the late morning.  
**Departs:** Daily 15.30 **Duration:** 1 night (returning 11.00 the following day) **Price from:** £670 pp

## MAKE YOUR OWN ICE SCULPTURE

Create your own unique piece of ICE art instructed by professional sculptors, Alessandro Falco and AnnaSofia Mååg.  
**Departs:** Daily 08.30 **Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £79 pp

## HUSKY AIRPORT TRANSFER

Start your visit to the ICEHOTEL with a very special and unique form of airport transfer - be greeted on arrival by your own team of huskies. You will be kitted out with protective thermal clothing before settling in your sled and enjoying your first taste of the tranquil Sami landscapes. Your luggage travels separately to the hotel.  
**Departs:** Daily on request **Duration:** 75 mins. **Price from:** £670 per transfer (up to 4 people)

## NORTHERN LIGHTS ON HORSEBACK

Ride into the Arctic night in search of the aurora borealis. Accompanied by friendly Icelandic horses you will enjoy the silence of the wilderness and dinner along with the chance to spot the northern lights.  
**Departs:** Daily 15.00 (to 29 Feb) 17.00 (to 31 Mar) **Duration:** 5 hrs. **Price from:** £215 pp



## ENCOUNTER THE REINDEER WITH RAIDU

Join a Sami guide for an encounter with the reindeer and Sami culture. Try a reindeer sled ride around a short track. Hand-feed and learn more about reindeer husbandry and the region's indigenous people. Hot coffee and tasty 'suovos' (the Sami national dish) are served in front of a roaring fire inside a traditional Sami tent.  
**Departs:** Daily 14.00 **Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £265 pp

## REINDEER-SLEDDING WITH VUOJAN

Experience the Sami's traditional mode of winter transport. Drive your own reindeer and sled through the snow-clad and pristine landscape. Enjoy a Sami lunch in a traditional Sami tent before returning to the ICEHOTEL.  
**Departs:** Mon, Tues, Fri, Sun 09.00 **Duration:** 4 hrs. **Price from:** £300 pp

## WILDERNESS DINNER

Travel in the comfort of a mini-bus to a wilderness camp, located at the edge of a frozen lake, in the heart of the forest. A warming aperitif is served whilst the guide divulges tales and myths of the northern lights and the wild animals of the region. A 3-course dinner is served in a wilderness cabin complete with flickering fire. Following dessert and coffee return to the ICEHOTEL.  
**Departs:** Daily 19.00 (to 31Mar) **Duration:** 4 hrs. **Price from:** £240 pp

## SKIING IN THE POIKKIJARVI WOODS

Your guide transports you first by snowmobile sled a short distance across the River Torne into the surrounding forest. On arrival, put on your cross-country skis and head along the snow tracks. Refuel with a welcome hot dog snack and coffee served around an open log fire, before returning to the hotel. You may use the skis for the remainder of the day.  
**Departs:** Daily 08.45 **Duration:** 2¾ hrs. **Price from:** £79 pp

IT IS ADVISABLE TO PRE-BOOK EXCURSIONS. TIMES/DAYS OF OPERATION MAY VARY AND EXCURSIONS CAN BE ALTERED AT SHORT NOTICE DEPENDING ON LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS. DURATIONS INCLUDE ANY TRANSFER TIMES AND INSTRUCTION.



# Arctic Spa & Aurora at Camp Ripan

4 DAYS FROM  
**£1385<sup>pp</sup>**  
THURSDAYS, DECEMBER – MARCH

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

Travel to Swedish Lapland for snow adventures and a fantastic chance to see the northern lights. The areas surrounding Camp Ripan have some of the best records for cloud-free nights and the resort's north-facing cabins afford some of the best views of the aurora when they show. Whatever your wish list of winter activities, Camp Ripan offers them all. During your days you can mush with huskies and come the evening you can head to Abisko in search of the northern lights.

## SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Kiruna** On arrival in Swedish Lapland you will be met by your local guide and transferred to Camp Ripan. Once settled, familiarise yourself with the hotel and its surroundings, before enjoying a 3-course dinner served in Restaurant Ripan. After dinner head to the northern lights room, where you can relax and unwind watching an informative slideshow – remember to take a peek outside for the real thing before you retire.

**DAY 2 Dog-sledding through the Forest and Aurora Spa** After breakfast, head out for a husky dog-sledding excursion. Driving in pairs, you will have the chance to swap and act as mushers. As the dogs stop for a rest, you enjoy a hot drink served in a traditional Sami tipi complete with roaring fire. Lunch and afternoon at leisure. Either before or after dinner take a visit to the Aurora Spa, to relax as you admire the wintry landscape through the panoramic windows. You are provided with an aurora bucket of scrubs and oils to self-minister whilst conducting the Ståvan Spa Ritual.

**DAY 3 Optional Excursions and northern lights by Snowmobile** Choose to unwind in the comfort of your cabin or take part in one of the many optional excursions on offer. Join a guided snowshoe tour, learn the art of cross-country skiing or enjoy a reindeer ride. This evening we have included a northern lights hunt by snowmobile. After full instruction, your expert guide will lead you into the polar night in search of the aurora borealis. If conditions are right, you will be rewarded with a dancing display of this incredible phenomenon. A stop is made, giving you the opportunity to swap drivers and fortify yourself with a hot drink and a snack. Returning to the hotel, dinner is served in the restaurant.

**DAY 4 UK** Morning at leisure before a short transfer back to Kiruna airport ready for your return flight back to the UK.

## YOUR ACCOMMODATION

### CAMP RIPAN

Camp Ripan, owned and run by the Lind Family, is set amongst a forested landscape on the outskirts of Kiruna. Cosy, contemporary cabins are scattered around a main reception with a welcoming open fire. An innovative restaurant showcases delicious regional menus and the Arctic spa is the perfect place to unwind with its indoor and outdoor pools, saunas and relaxation area. Panoramic windows reveal the luminous landscape at every turn, creating a perfect blend of winter and warmth.

**Giron cabins** have 2 rooms, a small twin bedroom and open-plan sitting room. Each has a WC/shower, cable TV, Wi-Fi, telephone and clothes drying cupboard.

**Kiruna cabins** have been newly refurbished and are open-plan with a double bed and a sofa bed. Each has a WC/shower, cable TV, Wi-Fi and telephone.

## OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

**NORTHERN LIGHTS ON HORSEBACK** from £180pp

**VISIT TO JUKKASJARVI & ICEHOTEL** from £130 pp

**AURORA PHOTO TOUR & DINNER AT ABISKO** from £255pp

For more details please see our website.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Kiruna (via Stockholm)
- Return airport/hotel shuttle transfers
- 3 nights' accommodation in a double or family cabin with private WC/shower
- Breakfast and 3-course dinners throughout
- Excursions as described in itinerary



## Grand Designs in Swedish Lapland

5 DAYS FROM  
**£1825<sup>pp</sup>**  
 NOVEMBER – APRIL

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY

The ICEHOTEL and Treehotel have cemented Sweden's reputation for impressive, award-winning and innovative design. The ICEHOTEL is like a sparkling diamond, flashy and flamboyant, complete with glittering ice sculptures and gourmet dining. The Treehotel, on the other hand offers perfect serenity – state of the art design combined with a beautiful forest setting, and traditional home cooking. Combine these two properties for the ultimate, unique 'designer' break.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### TREEHOTEL

Situated in Harads in the southern reaches of Swedish Lapland, the Treehotel comprises of 7 ground-breaking cabins suspended amongst trees and accessed by a variety of bridges and ladders.

Choose from the almost invisible Mirror Cube, the Bird's Nest, emulating the home of our feathered friends, or the UFO seemingly transported from another world. The Dragonfly spreads its wings amongst the branches, whereas the Blue Cone is actually a red square. The Cabin is poised high on the hillside and has dramatic views of the Lule River Valley. The 7th room is the latest addition, cleverly camouflaged with a patio of pine tree branches. Each cabin has a simple interior design (including eco WC), which only serves to emphasise and enhance the natural surroundings. Meals are served at Britta's Guest House, a traditional Swedish homestead which oozes character and boasts an unusual 1950's vibe.

For more information on the ICEHOTEL see page 40.

### OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

You can explore the surrounding countryside on Nordic skis, on snowshoes, on horseback, by dog-sled or snowmobile. Visit the nearby Storfosen Nature Reserve or take expert guidance in capturing the northern lights on camera. Enjoy a traditional 'bear dinner', encounter moose, go ice-fishing on the beautiful Lule River or even spend a night in a log cabin. Please refer to our website for more details.

### SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Kiruna** Fly to Kiruna (via Stockholm). Transfer to the ICEHOTEL and receive a 'survival induction'. The remainder of your day is free for your chosen optional additional excursions (see page 41 for details), before retiring to your ICE room.

**DAY 2 ICEHOTEL** Wake up to a hot cloudberry juice, warming sauna and breakfast. The remainder of the day is free for excursions. Stay overnight in a Kamos room.

**DAY 3 Treehotel** After breakfast, take the 3½ hour train journey across Swedish Lapland to Luleå where, on arrival, there is a privately-guided transfer to the Treehotel. First check in to Britta's Guest House, and then stroll through the forest to your tree room. A delicious home-made dinner is served at Britta's Guest House, where you may also meet the owners of this extraordinary escape.

**DAY 4 Treehotel** Breakfast at Britta's, after which the remainder of your day is free. See our website for a full listing of available excursions. Evening meal at Britta's included.

**DAY 5 UK** Transfer to Luleå airport in time for your return flight home.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights London to Kiruna, Luleå to London (via Stockholm)
- All airport/hotel transfers and resort transfers
- One-way train journey from Kiruna to Luleå (second class)
- 4 nights' accommodation at the ICEHOTEL and Treehotel
- Breakfast throughout.; 2 x 2-course dinner at the Treehotel



# Luleå and the Frozen Arctic Archipelago

4 DAYS FROM  
**£625**pp  
JANUARY – APRIL

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

Located just one hour's flight north from Stockholm, this lively town overlooks the frozen seas of the Gulf of Bothnia. When the Gulf of Bothnia freezes over, the residents carve an ice road onto the metre thick ice (complete with traffic lights) and take to all manner of transport to access the thousands of uninhabited islands of the frozen archipelago. The expanse of glistening white snow often reflects the aurora overhead and the town is surrounded by beautiful forests and mountains. Nearby is the medieval town of Gammelstad, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

## SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Luleå** Fly to Stockholm and take one of the many daily connecting flights to Luleå. As you approach you'll see a string of islands imprisoned in a frozen sea. This is going to be your playground for the next few days. An airport transfer will take you to your chosen hotel. Depending on your arrival time, you could book an evening excursion (see opposite) or just relax and familiarise yourself with your surroundings.

**DAY 2 At leisure for optional excursions** We have left today free for you to choose from our wide selection of optional excursions (see opposite and check our website for more details). Join the locals and explore the area on skis, ice skates, a kicksled, fat bike, or even a segway! Travel further afield by husky sled, snowmobile or 4x4, or even take the specially adapted hovercraft across the frozen seas.

**DAY 3 At leisure for optional excursions** We have included another day for optional excursions. Try ice-fishing or visit the beautiful medieval church town of Gammelstad. Whilst you're here you will undoubtedly want to take part in a northern lights expedition too.

**DAY 4 Biergo and UK** Before you return to the UK, visit Biergo and enjoy the Sami Story and Tasting experience. This is a chance to taste the flavoursome reindeer meat at a new Sámi owned game shop in the centre of Luleå, along with other local foods such as moose, berries and mushrooms. Accompanying your hour-long tasting experience will be stories about the reindeer and its importance to the Sami as well as a lingonberry drink. Check out and make your own way to the airport in time for your return flight home.

## RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION

### CLARION HOTEL SENSE

Located in the heart of the pedestrianised area of Luleå, this stylish modern hotel boasts an indoor pool with a panoramic view over the bay, as well as its sky bar, popular restaurant and spa.

- 4\* Luxury • Comfortable & relaxing lobby • Spa & pool with a view • Free Wi-Fi

### ELITE STADTSHOTELLET

This is one of Luleå's finest hotels dating back to 1903, overlooking the city and North Bay. A traditional façade conceals a modern re-style, which has tastefully incorporated many of the 100-year old features.

- First Class hotel in central location • Free Wi-Fi throughout • Character property

### QUALITY HOTEL LULEÅ

This well-regarded and centrally located hotel has recently been totally refurbished and now offers a selection of warmly decorated rooms in a typical Scandinavian style. Enjoy a quick dip in the hotel plunge pool, perfect after a sauna.

- Excellent value • Minutes from Luleå Cathedral • 10 minutes from the airport

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights to Luleå, via Stockholm
- 3 nights' accommodation in twin room with private WC/shower.
- Breakfast throughout
- Transfer from airport to hotel on arrival
- Biergo Sami Story and Tasting Experience (can be arranged on different day)

## WINTER FUN

Embrace the winter like a local and choose from a wide range of guided outdoor activities designed to help you explore the Luleå peninsula and the surrounding frozen seas. Choose from a 2-hour taster session up to a full day and even an overnight experiences.

**Activities available:** December – March **Included:** Qualified guide and snack

<b>Nordic Ski Touring</b>	<b>Duration:</b> from 2 hours	<b>Price from:</b> £95 pp
<b>Cross-country</b>		
<b>Ice Skating Tour</b>	<b>Duration:</b> From 2 hours	<b>Price from:</b> £95 pp
<b>Kicksled Tour</b>	<b>Duration:</b> From 2 hours	<b>Price from:</b> £95 pp
<b>Fat Bike Tour</b>	<b>Duration:</b> From 2 hours	<b>Price from:</b> £120 pp
<b>Segway Tour</b>	<b>Duration:</b> From 2 hours	<b>Price from:</b> £120 pp
<b>Night Tour</b>	<b>Duration:</b> From 2 hours	<b>Price from:</b> £110 pp
<b>Overnight stay on the Ice</b>	<b>Duration:</b> Overnight	<b>Price from:</b> £350 pp

## COOKING EXPERIENCE AT KAPTEINSGÅRDEN

Kapteinsgården is a restaurant located in the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage site of the medieval Gammelstad Church Town. Chef, Johan Thingval serves traditional Swedish food, concentrating on locally sourced produce such as salmon, reindeer, ptarmigan, wild berries and the famous Kalix whitefish roe. Join Johan for an intimate 8-course tasting menu, prepared in front of you as he takes you through the sourcing and preparation of this Lappish feast.

**Departs:** Jan-Apr, Thu, Fri. **Duration:** 3 hours **Included:** Tour of Gammelstad Stone Church, 8-course tasting menu, return transfers from Luleå to Gammelstad. Wine package available at a supplement **Price from:** £165 pp



## HOVERCRAFT TOUR TO THE LULEÅ ARCHIPELAGO

This is a unique and magical way of exploring Luleå's frozen archipelago on board a specially adapted hovercraft. The tour includes a journey across the ice-covered Bothnian Bay, with free time to walk on the ice and the chance of spotting a seal or sea eagles

**Departs:** Late December – Early April, Daily **Duration:** 2½ hours **Departs from:** Brandon Lodge **Price from:** £315 pp

## DRIVE A DOG SLED

Transfer to Brandon Lodge and onwards to a local husky kennel. After meeting your team of dogs and having received a full briefing, you and your partner will take control of a husky team as you follow a marked trail in the forest and around the lake.

**Departs:** Late December – Early April, **Daily Duration:** 2 hours **Departs from:** Brandon Lodge **Price from:** £285 pp

## NORTHERN LIGHTS SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

Leaving behind any vestiges of light pollution, you'll head to a viewpoint from where, if the conditions are right, you'll have a spectacular view of the northern lights above. Drive in pairs, with the option to swap driving duties, you'll be served hot drinks and a snack as you wait for the show to start. If you prefer, daytime snowmobile excursions are also available.

**Departs:** December – April **Duration:** 3 hours **Price from:** £305 pp



## SNOWMOBILE TOUR TO THE LULEÅ ARCHIPELAGO PACK ICE

Explore the frozen islands of the Luleå archipelago by snowmobile with a qualified guide. Head to the outer reaches of the frozen archipelago and Brandoskar, a 17th century fishing village. Stop and try a little bit of ice-fishing. Lunch cooked over an open fire is included.

**Departs:** January – March **Departs from:** Brandon Lodge **Duration:** 4 hours **Price from:** £305 pp

## VISIT A SAMI FAMILY AT GORGIIM

You will be met at the hotel for a guided transfer to Flakaberg in the Råne River valley. Lars Eriksson will show you some of his reindeer and tell you about Sami life, past and present. Visit a reindeer corral and feed the reindeer. This is followed by lunch in Lar's log cabin.

**Departs:** Year round **Duration:** 4 hours **Price from:** £310 pp

## ICE-FISHING

You'll be decked out in thermal clothing and given fishing equipment before embarking on a 3-hour quest to try and catch a wild fish of the Arctic. Hot drinks and 'fika' (Swedish cake) will be served, whilst waiting for that elusive bite.

**Departs:** December – April **Duration:** 3 hours **Price from:** £179 pp

## NORTHERN LIGHTS SAFARI 4X4 OR SNOWMOBILE SLED

Spend the evening out in the forests of Swedish Lapland in search of the northern lights. The Råne River valley has a number of mountain peaks from where you can enjoy great views across the wilderness. Travel by 4X4 or snowmobile sled to a parking point in the nearby forest. You'll be equipped with head torches for a short hike to the mountain top, which can be a surreal experience in the darkness. At the peak your expert guide will light a fire and barbecue sausages. This excursion is an experience in itself and should the northern lights appear, it is just the icing on the cake.

**Departs:** December – March **Duration:** 4 hours **Price from:** £220 pp

## MOOSE SAFARI 4X4 OR SNOWMOBILE SLED

During January and February, the moose gather in the region. You'll be taken by 4X4 or snowmobile sled into the heart of the boreal forest and where after a short hike, a fire will be made to barbecue sausages. Your guide will tell you about the Arctic wildlife and life in Swedish Lapland as you wait in anticipation of seeing these normally shy beasts.

**Departs:** December – March **Duration:** 4 hours **Price from:** £220 pp

IT IS ADVISABLE TO PRE-BOOK EXCURSIONS. TIMES/DAYS OF OPERATION MAY VARY AND EXCURSIONS CAN BE ALTERED AT SHORT NOTICE DEPENDING ON LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS. DURATIONS INCLUDE ANY TRANSFER TIMES AND INSTRUCTION.



# Brändön Lodge & Arctic Archipelago

4 DAYS FROM  
**£1555<sup>pp</sup>**  
 JANUARY – MARCH

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

The first thing you see when flying into Luleå is a string of islands imprisoned in a frozen sea. In winter, boat traffic is replaced by snowmobiles, huskies and even cars driving across the metre thick ice. Brändön Lodge, a collection of 15 cottages, surveys this serene archipelago. It provides a comfortable and cosy retreat and the ideal base from which to explore the ice pack and the surrounding picturesque countryside. In this unpolluted wilderness the only street lights will be the glow of the northern lights as they dance across the sky.

### SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Luleå Fly to Luleå (via Stockholm).** You will be picked up and transferred to Brändön Lodge, where a 3-course dinner will be served in the main lodge. Enjoy a digestif in the bar whilst keeping an eye out for the northern lights.

**DAY 2 Snowmobile Pack Ice Tour** After breakfast you will explore the unique features of this region with a 4-hour snowmobile tour. Travel across glistening ice and islands of the Luleå archipelago. Your guide will tell you about life in the northern wilderness and you will get the opportunity to try ice-fishing. You will head to Brändöskär, an idyllic 17th century fishing village situated the outer reaches of the archipelago. Here pack ice and snow can form 10m high barriers. Warming drinks and lunch are cooked over an open fire. Returning to Brändön Lodge, your afternoon is at leisure before dining in the main lodge. With luck you may enjoy a panoramic aurora display whilst enjoying the lakeside sauna and bubble pool.

**DAY 3 Husky Safari** Enjoy a leisurely morning. Snowshoes are available should you wish to try a fun-filled walk before lunch.

This afternoon you will transfer to a local husky kennel. Here you will learn how to mush your own team of dogs and then, driving in pairs, you will embark on a thrilling ride through the forest and along the lakeside trail. Take it in turns to be both passenger and to mush. Return to Brändön Lodge for your final gourmet dinner.

**DAY 4 UK** Breakfast before your transfer to the airport in time for your return flight home.

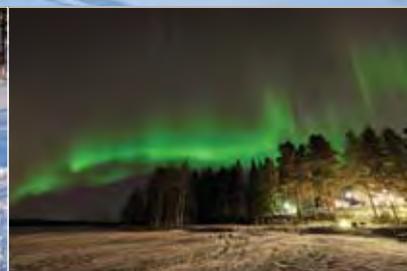
### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

The cottages at Brändön Lodge are simple yet warm and stylish. Each cabin has 2 bedrooms, a kitchenette, lounge, bathroom and veranda overlooking the frozen sea. The main pinewood lodge houses a cosy bar and restaurant, where Head Chef, Johan Hedenström designs imaginative menus based on locally-sourced produce. Johan is equally at home cooking in the kitchen as he is over an open fire in the Arctic wilderness. The facilities on hand are topped off by a lake-side sauna and bubble pool.



### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London or Manchester to Luleå via Stockholm
- Guided return airport/hotel transfers
- 3 nights' accommodation in a 2-bedroomed cabin
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner throughout
- Excursions and sauna access as described in itinerary
- Protective outer thermal clothing for the duration of your stay



## Family Half Term Heaven at Brändön Lodge

5 DAYS FROM  
**£1845<sup>pp</sup>**  
 FEBRUARY

### LOCALLY GUIDED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURE

Brändön Lodge is an ideal setting for a family Arctic Adventure and February half-term is the perfect time to visit. Stay in welcoming cabins overlooking the frozen archipelago, which has been transformed into a perfect winter playground. This exclusive holiday has been tailored to suit the whole family although it can also be enjoyed by couples. Learn new wilderness skills and experience unique thrills on the frozen sea and surrounding area. Morning excursions give way to afternoons at leisure and to enjoy the kicksleds, toboggans and ice hockey sticks that are always on offer.

### SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**Day 1 Luleå** On arrival in Luleå, transfer to Brändön Lodge. Settle into your cabin and enjoy a 2-course dinner in the main lodge.

**Day 2 Snowshoeing** Today's adventure begins after breakfast where you will be coached in the ancient art of snowshoeing. Snowshoes have been a preferred form of transport in the region for thousands of years. It is an ideal way of traversing across deep snow and allows you to explore otherwise inaccessible terrain. Easy to master, you will soon be following your expert guide into the surrounding Brando forest. A rest stop and wilderness lunch is taken in a Sami tent, sitting on reindeer skins around an open fire. Return to the lodge where the remainder of the day is at leisure. Dinner is served in the lodge.

**Day 3 Snowmobile Safari** Today's adventure is a 2 hour snowmobile safari through the snow covered forests. Adults drive in pairs with children drawn on a sled behind the guide. Stop half way for hot drinks where you can take in the tranquillity of the forest and admire some stunning views. Dinner is served in the lodge.

**Day 4 Husky & Northern Lights Adventure** Visit a nearby husky kennel. Learn to mush a team of dogs, and then drive 2 per sled on an exciting ride through a forest. Lunch at the lodge. This evening enjoy a northern lights snowshoe walk with hot drinks served as you look out for the aurora.

**Day 5 UK** Free time for some last minute snow fun before a return transfer to Luleå airport in time for your flight back to the UK.

*Additional excursions are available including a hovercraft ride on the frozen sea. Please see page 45 or refer to our website for more details. Ask our experts to find out which are best suited to your family.*



### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Luleå (via Stockholm)
- 4 nights' accommodation in 2 bedroom sea-facing cabin
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner throughout
- Return airport/hotel transfers
- Thermal Arctic clothing for duration of stay
- Excursions as described in itinerary



4 DAYS FROM  
**£2085<sup>pp</sup>**  
 DECEMBER – APRIL

# Sörbyn Lodge & Aurora Safari Camp

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY

The small village of Sörbyn sits on the edge of a forest lake and nestling on its shores is Sörbyn Lodge offering a collection of warm, cosy cabins, hotel rooms and some of the best cuisine in Swedish Lapland. The surrounding frozen pine forests and ice-covered lakes turn the area into a perfect stage for your winter activities and northern lights adventures which includes a night at the Aurora Safari Camp.

## SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Swedish Lapland** Fly from London Heathrow, Gatwick or Manchester to Luleå (via Stockholm) and transfer to Sörbyn Lodge. Familiarise yourself with your snowy surroundings before dinner in Restaurant Kallkällan. You will be served Swedish specialities such as reindeer, arctic char, forest fruits and fungi with continental classics in this regionally renowned establishment. Later you may be able to further feast your eyes on a display of the aurora in this northern lights hot spot.

**DAY 2 Snowmobile & Aurora Safari Camp** After breakfast you will head out on a 3-hour snowmobile safari. Driving in pairs you follow the frozen Råne River and thick snow covered pine forest to Gumberget Mountain where you are rewarded by spectacular views over the valley. Lunch back at the hotel and make your preparations for a magical night under canvas at the Aurora Safari Camp. northern lights spotting and a wilderness dinner are both on the menu in this natural establishment in the heart of the forest.

**DAY 3 Husky & northern lights Safari** A 1½ hour dog-sled safari follows breakfast. Led by the Swedish family that rear pure Siberian huskies, this highly personal experience enables you to bond with the hounds, then sit in a sled as they mush you and a team of dogs through the surrounding wilderness. Return to Sörbyn Lodge for lunch and dinner. Later that evening you will go in search of the northern lights. Your guide drives his 4x4 as far as the road allows. It is then an easy short hike to the mountain peak and wonderful clear views over the vast forest landscape. Sausages are cooked and hot drinks served by an open fire as you wait for the aurora to show.

**DAY 4 UK** Enjoy your final breakfast in Sörbyn before transferring back to Luleå in time for your return flight home.

## YOUR ACCOMMODATION

### SÖRBYN LODGE

This lakeside property is just 1 hour from Luleå airport and offers a tranquil retreat with a choice of accommodation. Simply furnished pine cabins all overlook the lake and have living/dining and kitchen areas as well as private bathrooms. The newly added hotel rooms are typically stylish and reflect modern Scandinavian design. Relax in the cosy lounge area complete with bar and fireplace or inhale the fresh outdoors on the terrace. The crowning glory is the highly rated Restaurant Kallkällan which serves a delicious array of organic and regional specialities.

### AURORA SAFARI CAMP

The Aurora Safari Camp is a collection of 5 Lavvu tents. Each has a comfortable bed, arctic sleeping bag and chairs. Whereas the outside temperature can be anything from -5°C to -35°C, inside the wood burning stove keeps the tents warm and snug. There are shared washrooms & eco WC on site. The Aurora Safari Camp is the brainchild of celebrated photographer Frederick Broman who has succeeded in creating a comfortable, authentic wilderness experience in superb surroundings.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London or Manchester to Luleå (via Stockholm)
- Return airport/hotel and local transfers
- 2 nights' accommodation at Sörbyn Lodge in twin room with private WC/shower
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner throughout
- Overnight programme at Aurora Safari Camp and other excursions as described



## Aurora Weekend at Aurora Mountain Lodge

4 DAYS FROM  
**£1125<sup>pp</sup>**  
 DECEMBER – JANUARY

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

Aurora Mountain Lodge is situated in Lannavaara, close to the mountains of Swedish Lapland, surrounded by a pristine white wilderness steeped in strong Sami culture. It has just 6 hotel rooms and 14 cabins, providing personal service, quality and authentic experiences. The owners have a passion for huskies, lovingly training their own pack of nearly 100 dogs. Snowmobiling, reindeer experiences and even horse-riding are also on the menu – along with the thrill of seeing the northern lights.

### SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Kiruna** Fly to Kiruna (via Stockholm), and transfer to the Aurora Mountain Lodge, just 1½ hours away. After a delicious 2-course home-made dinner served in the informal restaurant, you'll get a first taste of the Arctic with a 3-hour Aurora Mountain snowmobile safari. If the conditions are right, you will be rewarded by a swirling dancing display in the polar sky.

**DAY 2 Husky Safari and Sami Culture** Enjoy breakfast before meeting some of Johan and Sara's pack of huskies. Taking it in turns to mush, you'll follow marked tracks through the surrounding Arctic wilderness. Hot drinks are served and there are plenty of chances to stop for photos before returning to the Aurora Mountain Lodge where lunch is served. The afternoon is spent in the company of a local Sami reindeer herder and some of her herd. Travel there by kicksled, feed the reindeer and get an insight into the Sami culture past and present. You may even be honoured with a Joik (a traditional Sami song). Dinner is served back at the Aurora Mountain Lodge. If you wish you can spend the evening looking for the northern lights on an optional snowshoe tour (supplement applies)

**DAY 3 At leisure with a choice of optional excursions** You can choose to relax or participate in another Arctic activity. Arctic horseback riding and reindeer-sledding are on offer and there is even a Lapland Handicraft class. (See our website for more details) Lunch and dinner are served at the Aurora Mountain Lodge. This evening join in a northern lights Lavvu walk in a bid to view the northern lights one last time.

**DAY 4 UK** You will be taken back to the airport in time for your return flight back to the UK.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### AURORA MOUNTAIN LODGE

The owners, Johan and Sarah, opened their first lodge in the tiny village Särkimukka, 150km north of the Arctic Circle. Their success led them to open a second, The Aurora Mountain Lodge 100km further north in Lannavaara, maintaining their reputation for high quality and authentic experiences. Their managers Katarina and Sandro, and their guides continue to uphold this high quality service tradition. The 6 hotel rooms and 14 cabins have all been recently refurbished. The style is simple yet cosy. All have private WC and shower. The semi-detached cabins accommodate 2-6 persons and are located about 100m from the main lodge. All the cabins have en suite facilities, wood burning stoves, small kitchen, minibar and Wi-Fi. There is a sauna and delightful informal restaurant, serving delicious home-cooked local food.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights to Kiruna (via Stockholm)
- Return airport/hotel shared transfers
- 3 nights' accommodation in a double room at Aurora Mountain Lodge
- Full board (breakfast lunch, 2-course dinners, water, juice coffee and tea)
- Cookies, fruit and tapenade are included once per day
- Excursions as described in the itinerary





## Our Finnish Experiences

Finnish Lapland is the ultimate winter wonderland offering serene snowy landscapes, and cosy accommodation in the midst of wild nature. The mountains here, known as tunturi, reach heights of up to 800 metres, rising above the plains with their peaks above the tree-line, and picturesque pine forests and vast frozen lakes below.

Finnish Lapland is one of the best places to witness the stunning phenomenon of the northern lights, which appear on more than two hundred nights of the year, delighting and enchanting with their breath-taking display. Choose to witness them by trekking into the midst of the countryside, by an open fire, or view them in the comfort of your own glass igloo, aurora cabin or pod, tucked up in the warmth of a cosy bed.

The wealth of outdoor activities includes snowshoeing and skiing, as well as driving a husky sledge, being pulled along by reindeer or sitting astride a snowmobile. The Finns consider a sauna to be a daily necessity, and it is a wonderful way to warm up and relax after a busy day having fun in the snow.

Finnish Lapland is steeped in the mysticism and legends of the indigenous Sami people, who have their own parliament of Inari. You will enjoy plenty of opportunities to meet them and learn about their culture and traditional skills.

Finnish Lapland is also recognised as the home of Father Christmas and his helpers, the elves. See pages 86-92 for details of our popular Father Christmas experiences and festive holidays.





6 DAYS FROM  
**£2125<sup>pp</sup>**  
 NOVEMBER – APRIL

# Northern Lights Adventure by Lake Inari

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

Lake Inari is one of Finland’s largest, covering over 1000 square kilometres, and is home to over 3000 islands. It is infused with the spirituality and mysticism of the Sami. At its very heart lies Nellim Wilderness Lodge. It is here that owners, Jouko and Mari, have painstakingly converted a former school house into an authentically crafted hotel reflecting the local culture. In this tranquil setting, guests are often lucky enough to see the northern lights swirling above the pine forest. Relax in the warm and magical atmosphere and enjoy snowmobile and husky safaris, get to know a reindeer herder and practise ancient Sami arts.

## SUGGESTED 6 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Nellim** Fly to Ivalo (via Helsinki) and transfer to Nellim Wilderness Lodge. Programme briefing, dinner and overnight for 5 nights.

**DAY 2 Snowmobile Safari & Aurora Camp** After breakfast receive full instructions on how to drive a snowmobile, before setting off, with your guide on a 50 km journey, which covers perfect fell scenery with forests and frozen lakes. Stop along the way for lunch around an open fire, returning to the hotel early afternoon. After dinner, depart for Nellim’s Aurora Camp. Keep a look out for the northern lights from the heated lakeside cabin, whilst hot berry juice and snacks keep you warm, inside and out.

**DAY 3 Husky Safari** Today meet Nellim’s pack of Alaskan huskies, whose kennels are just a short snowmobile sled transfer from the hotel. After instruction mush (in pairs), through the silent forest. Lunch is cooked en route over an open fire. The remainder of the day is at leisure before supper at the hotel.

**DAY 4 Snowshoeing & Aurora Evening Snowmobile** Today test your prowess for snowshoeing, followed by an evening’s snowmobile excursion to a special spot by the lake to stake out the northern lights. Dine at the lodge.

**DAY 5 A day with an Inari Reindeer Herder** Board a snowmobile sled and head into the forest to meet a reindeer herder tending and feeding his herd in the wild. Continue along the shores of Lake Inari, with a stop for lunch in the company of local fishermen before continuing back to Nellim for supper and a final night of aurora spotting.

**DAY 6 UK** Breakfast and transfer to Ivalo airport for your return flight back to London (via Helsinki).

## YOUR ACCOMMODATION

### NELLEM WILDERNESS LODGE

This warm and cosy property captures the essence of rural life in Finnish Lapland. It offers a good choice of hotel rooms, apartments and cabins, catering for families, couples and groups of friends. The hotel has a restaurant, a welcoming lounge and a bar handcrafted by Jouko himself.

### UPGRADE TO AN AURORA BUBBLE

Nellim is also home to the Aurora Bubble. Each individual, romantic pod has heating, private eco WC and a comfortable double bed from where you can view the star-lit sky. Located on the water’s edge, the north facing pods have specially formulated curved glass ceilings, which allow you to watch nature unfold.

We can incorporate a night in an aurora bubble into your stay for a supplement of £100 per person per night.

### WHAT’S INCLUDED:

- Return flights to Ivalo (via Helsinki)
- Return airport/hotel transfers
- 5 nights’ accommodation at Nellim Wilderness Lodge, in a twin room with private WC/shower
- Full board throughout
- All excursions as described in the itinerary
- Services of experienced local wilderness guides
- Protective outer clothing for the duration of your stay



## Nellim & the Sarmi Aurora Lodge

4 DAYS FROM  
**£1515<sup>pp</sup>**  
 DECEMBER – APRIL

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY

For a truly authentic experience, combine a stay at the Nellim Wilderness Lodge with a visit to one of the owners', Jouko and Mari's, other properties. The Sarmi Aurora Lodge is accessible only by snowmobile (or on foot) and provides the opportunity to stay overnight with like-minded guests in the heart of the Lappish wilderness. This is 'hygge' at its best. Despite limited electricity and no running water, there is no shortage of warmth, atmosphere or entertainment, which is provided by your guide, your fellow travellers and the lodge's stunning natural setting.

### SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Ivalo & Nellim Wilderness Lodge** Fly to Ivalo (via Helsinki) where you will be met and transferred to Nellim Wilderness Lodge, just 1 hour from the airport. Check-in to your hotel room. Dinner is served at the lodge. There is ample time to relax or participate in a northern lights snowmobile safari (supplement applies).

**DAY 2 Sarmi Aurora Lodge** Following breakfast, prepare for your overnight visit to the Sarmi Aurora Lodge. Transfer by snowmobile sled, which snakes its way through 9km of forest and frozen lakes. On arrival, the fire is lit and lunch is prepared. The afternoon is free for you to try mastering the traditional crafts of snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and if conditions allow, ice-fishing. Enjoy an early evening sauna before dinner, served in the communal dining room. After dinner, and having met your fellow guests, head to the Aurora Camp and enjoy hot drinks, and an open fire whilst searching the skies for the northern lights. Return to Sarmi Wilderness Lodge for the remainder of the evening having immersed yourself fully in this amazing environment.

**DAY 3 Nellim Wilderness Lodge** Enjoy a hearty breakfast before returning (via snowmobile sled) to the relative bustle of Nellim Wilderness Lodge. Lunch is served before you take a 5-minute snowmobile sled transfer to the local husky farm for an afternoon in the company of four-legged furry friends. After instruction you will mush your team of Alaskan huskies (in pairs) on tracks through the surrounding pine forests. This is an exhilarating experience you will not want to end. Dinner is served back at the lodge. Enjoy your final evening in this incredible setting.

**DAY 4 UK** There is time for a leisurely breakfast and a morning at leisure before your transfer to the airport in time for your return flight to the UK.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### SARMI AURORA LODGE

Located 9km from Nellim, the Sarmi Aurora Lodge delivers a wilderness experience for those not wishing to completely discard home comforts. Limited electricity means evenings lit by candlelight. Simple delicious dinners are sourced from local products and often cooked over an open fire. Warm water and a sauna are available, as is an inviting and welcoming communal dining room and lounge with roaring fire. In keeping with the lodge's environmental commitments there are eco WCs housed in a separate building. Sarmi Aurora Lodge accommodates a maximum of 12 guests, sleeping in 5 double rooms and 1 cabin. Simple furnishings adorn the cosy bedrooms and there are ample duvets and blankets to protect you from the Arctic temperatures outside.

For details of accommodation at the Nellim Wilderness Lodge or to upgrade to an Aurora Bubble see page 52.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights to Ivalo (via Helsinki)
- Return airport/hotel shuttle and resort transfers
- 2 nights' in a Hotel Room at Nellim Wilderness Lodge with private WC/shower
- 1 night in a double room Sarmi Aurora Lodge with shared facilities
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner throughout
- Overnight programme at Sarmi Aurora Lodge
- Excursions as described in itinerary



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1995<sup>pp</sup>**  
 NOVEMBER – APRIL

## Lapland Adventures under the Northern Lights

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

Huddled amongst the pine, spruce and birch trees of the Taiga forest, close to Urho Kekkonen National Park, Muotka Wilderness Lodge offers a tranquil escape from everyday life. It is the second project to have been undertaken by Jouko and Mari, who worked their magic so well at Nellim. Each window frames wild reindeer and snow-laden trees. You will find that the communal sitting room, dining room and sauna are welcome havens after your Lapland adventure under the northern lights.

### SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Ivalo** Fly to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Transfer to Muotka Wilderness Lodge. Check in and collect your protective thermal clothing, before dinner.

**DAY 2 Snowmobile & Reindeer Safari & Aurora Snowshoe** After breakfast, snowmobiles will be waiting outside and, after full instruction, you will set off through the arboreal forest to a nearby reindeer corral. Here you will learn something of reindeer husbandry, before a leisurely reindeer safari. Return to the lodge having enjoyed a wilderness lunch. After dinner, don a pair of snowshoes and head out into the surrounds, where your way may be lit by the aurora.

**DAY 3 Snowshoes and Aurora Camp** After breakfast, snowshoe through the Taiga Forest and the winter landscapes which surround the lodge. Return in time for lunch. The afternoon is at leisure. This evening's excursion is to Muotka's Aurora Camp. Transported by snowmobile sled, you will be served hot drinks and cookies as you keep watch for the northern lights dancing across the Arctic sky in this fairy-tale location.

**DAY 4 Husky Safari & northern lights by Snowmobile** Today meet a pack of Alaskan huskies, whose kennels are just a short mini-bus transfer from the lodge. During the 3-hour husky safari, you will mush in pairs along a snowcarpeted trail, the silence only interrupted by your shouted commands. Stop for lunch by an open fire, Sami style, before returning to the lodge. This evening you will drive snowmobiles to a nearby northern lights hotspot and a final chance to catch the aurora.

**DAY 5 UK** Breakfast and the morning is at leisure before your return transfer to Ivalo airport and your flight to the UK (via Helsinki).

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### MUOTKA

is ideal for families and couples, presenting a choice of hotel rooms, riverside rooms, suites and aurora cabins, offering flexible accommodation in a rustic wilderness style. Some rooms have a private sauna, and/ or a fireplace. Please see our website for details.

The restaurant and bar reflect Muotka's commitment to using local seasonal ingredients and menus are inspired by traditional Lappish cuisine. A sauna in the main building is heated daily for guests. Traditionalists can try the wood smoke sauna (charge applies) and leap into the lake after! Enjoy kicksleds and toboggans, which are on hand for children and adults alike to try.

#### UPGRADE TO AN AURORA LOG CABIN

Stay overnight in a romantic Aurora Cabin, a rustic teepee-style cabin complete with double bed, fireplace, private sauna and bathroom. View the northern lights from the comfort of your bed through the panoramic, rooftop windows. **Upgrade from £140 per person per night.**

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return scheduled flights to Ivalo (via Helsinki)
- Return airport/hotel transfers
- 4 nights' accommodation at Muotka Wilderness Lodge in twin room with private WC/shower
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner throughout
- Excursions as described in itinerary with services of experienced local wilderness guides
- Protective thermal clothing for the duration of your stay



# Snow Adventures in Kakslauttanen

5 DAYS FROM  
**£2340<sup>pp</sup>**  
 NOVEMBER – APRIL

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

Kakslauttanen captured the world's imagination, when it introduced the concept of a heated glass igloo, enabling guests to watch the northern lights from a bed in stylish comfort. Add a village of pine log houses, scattered amongst a snow-clad forest and you have a picture-perfect postcard of Finnish Lapland. Log fires and steaming saunas are on tap, as well as snowmobile, reindeer and husky safaris and, although we can't guarantee the northern lights, we will give you the best chance of seeing this magical display.

## SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Ivalo** Fly to Ivalo (via Helsinki), located in the heart of Finnish Lapland. Transfer and check-in to your private log cabin and enjoy a hearty dinner at the resort restaurant.

**DAY 2 Reindeer Safari** After breakfast, you will learn about the life of a Sami reindeer herder, then set off on a leisurely 4-hour safari with these beasts of burden. Travelling in your own sled, you will have ample time to absorb the atmosphere of the Arctic forest, as you snuggle under the warm blankets. A picnic lunch in a wilderness cabin is served, before returning back to Kakslauttanen. Dinner is at the hotel restaurant. Be sure to look out for the northern lights before returning to your cosy cottage.

**DAY 3 northern lights by Snowmobile** Today is at leisure. Try tobogganing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, or even alpine skiing in Saariselka. Early evening, you will gather to receive a snowmobile induction, before heading out (driving in pairs), to a spot on the fells, known locally as being an aurora hotspot. Return to Kakslauttanen for dinner.

**DAY 4 Husky Safari and a Night under the Stars** After breakfast today, you will enjoy a thrilling 4-hour husky safari. Travelling two to a sled, you each take it in turns to mush a six-team pack of huskies across the enchanting wilderness of the Urho Kekkonen Park. Lunch is al-fresco, around an open fire. On your return to Kakslauttanen, gather your belongings and head to your 'igloo'. Heated to 21°C and constructed with thermal glass, the star-studded night sky is always on display, should the dancing lights appear, the aurora borealis too.

**DAY 5 UK** Enjoy a sauna and breakfast before your shuttle transfer back to the airport in time for your return flight to the UK.

## YOUR ACCOMMODATION

### HOTEL KAKSLAUTTANEN

Owner, Jussi Eiramo came to Kakslauttanen as a young man for a summer's fishing and has stayed ever since. Today, his popular resort has expanded into 2 villages (East & West), each with its own restaurant, offering simple, hearty fare, and an activity centre.

This is not a luxury resort, however, the accommodation is rustic, warm and cosy. There is a wide range of accommodation to suit all party and family sizes, spread over a large area.

Choose from **Log Chalets**, sleeping up to 10 with a sauna and log fire. **Glass igloos** (larger ones have a shower cabin, smaller ones a basin and WC). **Snow igloos** with ice beds and **Kelo Glass Igloos**. These cosy hideaways combine the comforting warmth of a log cabin with the stunning views of the glass igloos and sleep up to 6 with a private sauna, fireplace and kitchenette. All guests can use shared sauna and showers in a separate building.

## OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

See website for more details of excursions including horse-riding, horse and sleigh trips, visits to Santa's home and ice-fishing.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights to Ivalo (via Helsinki)
- Return airport/hotel transfers
- 3 nights' in a small cabin and 1 night in a glass igloo in the East Village
- Breakfast and dinner throughout. 2 x lunch whilst on safari
- Excursions as described in the itinerary. Protective outer thermal clothing during excursions. Hire for the duration of the stay is available at a surcharge.



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1295<sup>pp</sup>**  
 JANUARY – APRIL  
 SELECTED DATES

## Adventures at Harriniva

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

Enjoy the informal hospitality of the Pietkainen family at one of Lapland’s oldest wilderness hotels. Harriniva lies in the beautiful rolling fells of Western Lapland, where the hills and the forests typify a landscape untouched for thousands of years. Thrill at mushing your own huskies, take an exhilarating snowmobile ride and journey in a traditional reindeer sleigh. All of these activities are set against a backdrop of a wild, rugged beauty, with a lack of light pollution.

### SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Kittila** Fly to Kittila (via Helsinki), located in the heart of Finnish Lapland. Transfer to Harriniva Wilderness Lodge, your home for the next 4 nights. Dinner served in the hotel restaurant.

**DAY 2 Husky Safari** After breakfast, walk the short distance to the husky farm to meet the baying dogs. Meet your team, who are all keen to commence their morning run. With two to a sled, you will take it in turns to mush and be a passenger on this exhilarating 17km tour through the snowclad forest, before returning to the hotel for a relaxing sauna and dinner.

**DAY 3 Leisure Time and northern lights Reindeer Safari** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before a day of independent snow fun or the opportunity to book an additional excursion (see opposite). Kicksleds and toboggans are readily available for your enjoyment. You could even take a walk and cross the border into Sweden. Later that evening, transfer a short distance by mini-bus to Torassieppi Reindeer Farm, Finland’s oldest reindeer corral. A local reindeer herder will take you on a mystical safari through the night forest. Enjoy the ever-changing colours of the Arctic sky and if you are lucky the amazing northern lights overhead.

**DAY 4 Snowmobile Safari** This morning is at leisure. Why not take an optional excursion to master the simple art of cross-country skiing or snowshoeing, as you explore the beautiful surroundings? After lunch, meet your guide for a briefing on how to drive your snowmobile. Riding in pairs and taking it in turns to drive, this 30km journey takes you through the frozen forests and mires that symbolises the perfect fell scenery of this area. Return to the hotel for a celebratory aperitif and dinner.

**DAY 5 UK** Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before your transfer back to Kittila airport for your return flight home to the UK (via Helsinki).

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### HARRINIVA WILDERNESS LODGE

Harriniva Wilderness Lodge stands alongside the frozen Muonio River, marking the border between Finnish and Swedish Lapland. Here, the Pietikainen family have offered hospitality for over 25 years to travellers, fishermen, skiers and get rid of para break.

Comfortable and versatile accommodation includes 46 pine-clad rooms, all with private WC/shower. In addition, there are 6 larger rooms with private saunas and 12 duplex, apartment-style rooms, ideal for larger families.

Close by are the latest additions to the Harriniva family: the intimate **Torassieppi Winter Village** with its **Snow Igloos** and the **Aurora Domes**, which have the cosy feel of bedouin tents, whilst affording stunning views of the skies above and the landscape.

Harriniva’s cosy bar offers a warm welcome after the day’s exertions with coffee/tea and snacks served throughout the day. The lively restaurant has a wide choice of meals, and successfully combines local specialities with international cuisine, whilst the sauna is a perfect place to relax and recharge. Harriniva is also home to the largest Siberian husky breeding kennels in Lapland.

#### WHAT’S INCLUDED:

- Return flights to Kittila (via Helsinki)
- Return airport/hotel transfers
- 4 nights’ accommodation at Harriniva Wilderness Lodge
- Lodging in a standard twin room with private WC/shower
- Breakfast and dinner throughout
- Excursions as described in itinerary
- Protective outer thermal clothing for the duration of your stay

# Harriniva Excursions & Accommodation Upgrades

## UPGRADE TO A SNOW IGLOO

Just a short transfer away, is Harriniva's Torasseippi Winter Village which also boasts a small ice restaurant and ice bar and winter activity park. Spend a night here in a traditional snow igloo, adorned with ice art. Even though it could be -30c outside, inside the temperature remains a steady -5c and the warm reindeer skins, thick sleeping bags and a drink of hot juice will ensure a comfortable and cosy stay. Privacy in the ice rooms is protected by a curtain. Shower and WC are situated in a separate block.  
**Upgrade from:** £75 pp

## AURORA GLAMPING

Take camping to another level with a stay in an Aurora Dome. These specially adapted domed tents are a unique offering by the Pietkainen family. Complete with a wood burning stove, rustic handcrafted furniture and clear panels that display the ever changing Arctic sky and, if the conditions are right, the northern lights – all from the comfort of the sumptuous bed. The romantic lakeside location is quite stunning and you will enjoy uninterrupted views across the frozen water. Communal showers and WC are just a short walk away.  
**Upgrade from:** £160 pp

## AURORA WELLNESS

Harriniva recently added two new riverside jacuzzis, saunas and a relaxation lounge. Their shoreline position is unrivalled and is, without a doubt, a highlight of this property. If you book for the hours of darkness, there is every chance, weather permitting, that you will relax to the accompaniment of the dancing aurora borealis overhead.  
**Departs** Year round on request. Pre-booking required. **Duration:** 1½ hours  
**Price from:** £90 pp



## NORTHERN LIGHTS BY SNOWMOBILE

Escaping into the surrounding wilderness, with no light pollution offers the best opportunity to view the northern lights in all their glory. This 2 hour snowmobile safari takes you to the top of nearby fell, where the starry skies and landscape stretch before you. Enjoy warm drinks as you scan the sky for the northern lights.  
**Departs:** Mon, Wed, Fri 21.00 **Duration:** 2 hours. **Price from:** £96 pp

## AURORA SNOWSHOEING

It does not take long to master the art of snowshoeing and after a little practice, you will soon be travelling through deep pristine white snow to a spot to the north of Harriniva where, if the aurora appears, you will be rewarded with some spectacular views. Hot drinks and equipment included.  
**Departs:** Mon, Fri, Sat 21.00 **Duration:** 2-3 hours **Price from:** £63 pp

## SKI LIKE A FINN

It is often said that the Finns are born with skis on their feet, and cross-country skiing is a national past-time. There are over 250km of tracks in the Harriniva area and your expert guide will teach you the basic skills required so that you can hit the trails.  
**Departs:** Tue, Thu, Sun 10.00 or 14.00 **Duration:** 2 hours **Price from:** £53 pp

## NORTHERN LIGHTS BY HUSKY

Take a short transfer to Harriniva's sister hotel, Torasseippi where eager huskies will be waiting for their evening run. After instruction, drive in pairs into the night. Even if the northern lights do not appear, this is a magical experience, as you follow the twists and turns of the tracks through the forest, silent except for the panting of the dogs and swoosh of the sled runners on the snow as it glistens in the moonlight.  
**Departs:** Wed, Sat 19.15 **Duration:** 2½ hours **Price from:** £115 pp

## NORTHERN LIGHT EXPLORER

Head out by mini-bus in search of the northern lights. Your expert guide will have checked the latest forecast and head to the nearest hotspot. The trip could take you across the border to Sweden. Hot drinks included.  
**Departs:** Tue 21.00 **Duration:** 2-3 hours **Price from:** £115 pp



## SNOWSHOEING AND ARCTIC SPA

Depart Harriniva by mini-bus and head to the Pallas Fell area, where you will don your snowshoes and head uphill for some magnificent views of the surrounding area. A wilderness picnic lunch and visit to the Pallas Nature Centre is included along the way. Afterwards soak away any aches and pains at Jeris Arctic Spa, which boasts saunas, hot tubs and the chance to take a dip in the icy lake.  
**Departs:** Wed, Fri 09.30 **Duration:** 6 hours **Price from:** £105 pp

## ICE-FISHING

The guide will give you a short introduction to winter fishing as you try your luck at catching some Arctic char. Hot drinks are provided as you patiently wait for a bite.  
**Departs:** Tue, Sat 10.00 **Duration:** 2 hours **Price from:** £34 pp



IT IS ADVISABLE TO PRE-BOOK EXCURSIONS. TIMES/DAYS OF OPERATION MAY VARY AND EXCURSIONS CAN BE ALTERED AT SHORT NOTICE DEPENDING ON LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS. DURATIONS INCLUDE ANY TRANSFER TIMES AND INSTRUCTION.



7 DAYS FROM  
**£1995**<sup>pp</sup>  
 JANUARY – APRIL  
 SELECTED DATES

## Winter Week at Jeris

### LOCALLY GUIDED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURE

There is something for everyone in this action-packed small-group adventure week in the very heart of Finnish Lapland. Hotel Jeris nestles on the shores of Lake Jerisjärvi on the edge of the Pallas-Ylläs National Park and offers a choice of cosy, rustic accommodation as well as its renowned Arctic Spa with a lake-side sauna. Only the really brave should consider a dip in the 25m illuminated open air ice-pool! Activities include snowmobiling, ice-fishing, cross-country skiing, ice-dining and a husky safari.

### SUGGESTED 7 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Kittila** Fly to Kittila (via Helsinki), where on arrival you are met by your local guide. It is then a mere 45-minute transfer to Jeris, in the heart of Finnish Lapland. Enjoy a welcome dinner in the hotel restaurant.

**DAY 2 Husky Adventure and northern lights walk** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and morning. After lunch, transfer to a local husky farm. After instruction you will head out, driving in pairs. After dinner there is a talk about the northern lights and their mythology, before joining the guide to walk to a northern lights hotspot.

**DAY 3 Cross-country skiing, Kota lunch and snowshoeing** Today's adventure starts with a cross-country skiing lesson on the tracks next to the hotel. A picnic lunch will be cooked over an open-fire in a Kota. The afternoon is spent mastering the art of snowshoeing and exploring the area.

**DAY 4 Torassieppi Winter Village and reindeers** After breakfast, it's a 10-minute bus transfer to Torassieppi Winter Village and Reindeer Farm. Visit the 100 year old Lappish farmhouse and museum; try your reindeer herding skills with lasso-throwing and enjoy a short reindeer forest safari (3km). Lunch in the snow igloo's ice restaurant, then back to Jeris for an afternoon at leisure and dinner.

**DAY 5 Ice-fishing and Snowmobile Safari** After breakfast today, you will learn the art of ice-fishing on the lake. After lunch, you will experience the thrill of a snowmobile ride through the perfect fell scenery. Return to Hotel Jeris for dinner.

**DAY 6 Day at Leisure and farewell dinner** Spend today relaxing in the hotel or venturing out to Muonio or Levi. You can opt for lunch at the hotel or a packed lunch. Visit the hotel's own Arctic Spa or perfect your cross-country and snowshoeing skills. Enjoy a farewell dinner of delicious Finnish specialities.

**DAY 7 UK** After breakfast return to Kittila airport in time for your flight home.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### HOTEL JERIS

Hotel Jeris is located in the heart of the unspoilt Lappish wilderness and is the perfect location for those wanting to experience a range of Arctic activities, whilst enjoying the region's pure, clean air. Hotel Jeris has a choice of 26 cosy hotel rooms, rustically clad in local pine with private WC/shower and TV. In addition there is a choice of 1-bedroomed cottages clustered on the sloping fell behind. Ideal for families, these are equipped with open-plan lounge/kitchenette, fireplace, sauna, TV and private WC/shower. The restaurant serves local fare including reindeer, locally caught fish, wild berries, forest mushrooms and indigenous plants and herbs. Enjoy an aperitif and keep an eye out for the northern lights in the Hideaway Bar. The real show-stopper at Hotel Jeris is the Arctic Spa. It boasts both electric and wood-fired saunas, two small, heated indoor pools and, for the very brave, a 25 metre illuminated outdoor ice-pool which sits on the shoreline overlooking Lake Jerisjärvi.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Kittila
- Return airport/hotel to hotel transfers
- 6 nights' in a standard twin/double room with private WC/shower
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner throughout
- Outer winter thermal clothing for the duration of your stay
- Excursions as described in itinerary
- A small charge applies for entry to the Arctic Spa and Wood Sauna.



# A Digital Detox in Lapland

4 DAYS FROM  
**£1495<sup>pp</sup>**  
 JANUARY – APRIL  
 SELECTED DATES

## LOCALLY GUIDED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURE

This holiday lends a new meaning to the phrase 'getting away from it all'. In the heart of Finnish Lapland, a region renowned for its pure air and natural light, in the midst of a white wilderness on the shores of a frozen lake, you can throw off the stresses of the 21st century and truly 'switch off'. Torassieppi provides the perfect setting for a digital detox, where you'll be immersed in a selection of gentle nature-based outdoor activities.

## SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Kittila** Fly to Kittila. Here you will be met by your local guide and transferred to Torassieppi Reindeer Farm, located less than an hour from the airport. Check in to your accommodation and hand over all your electronic devices before enjoying a delicious dinner of Finnish cuisine. Don't worry, your friends and family will be given an emergency number for you just in case!

**DAY 2 Local Culture and the Great Outdoors** Enjoy breakfast before meeting your local guide, who will take you on the short walk to the reindeer farm to meet the herder, learn about its history and enjoy a 3km ride through the frozen forest on a traditional reindeer sled to visit the original guest-house and museum. Lunch will be served around a roaring fire in a traditional Lappish Kota, after which you will have a cross-country skiing lesson and explore the specially marked tracks that traverse the neighbouring National Park. Head back for dinner at Torassieppi.

**DAY 3 Snowshoe Hike & northern lights Husky Safari** After breakfast, you will be strapping on snowshoes and hiking through the winter landscape. With a little effort, you will soon be in the heart of the forest in deep pristine white snow. Return for lunch at Torassieppi and an afternoon of leisure. After dinner, you will become acquainted with another four-legged form of transport by way of a pack of huskies, all eager for their evening run through the frozen forest. This is a magical ride at any time, and the dark night only emphasises the surreal nature of the landscape. If you happen to be accompanied by a clear polar sky, there is every chance that the northern lights will light the way for you.

**DAY 4 UK** It is time to leave, collecting your devices before heading to the airport in time for your flight home.

## YOUR ACCOMMODATION

### TORASSIEPPI WINTER VILLAGE

Niina Pietkainen vowed as a child that the last thing she wanted to be was a reindeer herder, so when the Pietkainen family took over Torassieppi Reindeer Farm, she set about turning it into something more: a winter village complete with the original farmstead, lakeside cottages, restaurant and Winter Village. 8 cabins are situated alongside Lake Torasjärvi. Each has two bedrooms, living room with logwood fire, kitchen facilities and private WC/shower. Selected cabins have additional clothes drying cupboards and electric sauna. There are also 8 twin rooms spread amongst 2 cabins, each with en suite WC/shower and private entrances. The kitchen in the on-site restaurant is proud to offer menus sourced from locally produced organic food.

The Aurora Domes are a new addition to Torassieppi, specially constructed tents built over a solid wooden floor, with uninterrupted views across the lake from the transparent dome. The wood-burning stove creates a cosy ambience. A short walk away are the shared showers, sauna and WC.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Kittila
- Return airport/hotel to hotel transfers
- Use of outer thermal clothing for the duration of your stay
- 3 nights' accommodation in a twin/double room with private WC/shower
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner throughout
- Excursions as described in itinerary with a qualified wilderness guide
- Complimentary use of snowshoes and cross-country skis during your stay
- Cabin upgrades are available or spend a night in the cosy and romantic Aurora Domes (supplements apply). See website for details.



5 DAYS FROM  
**£855**<sup>pp</sup>  
 JANUARY – APRIL

# Fjell Fun & Skiing at Iso-Syöte

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

Play on and around the foothills of one of Finland’s most picturesque fjells, surrounded by the dense pine of the Syöte National Park, marked in winter with snow sculptures clinging to the trees in elaborate formations. Iso-Syöte’s unique position on the southern borders of Lapland makes it the ideal ‘ski-plus’ destination, where you can mix and match all manner of ski and safari activities. Try high-speed snowmobiling or reindeer caravanning; cross-country or alpine skiing; snowshoeing or husky mushing – perfect for families and couples who love variety and crave adventure!

## SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Iso-Syöte** Fly to either Oulu, Kuusamo or Rovaniemi (via Helsinki) and transfer to Iso-Syöte. Check in to your chosen accommodation before dinner in the hotel restaurant.

**DAYS 2-4 At leisure at Iso-Syöte** During your stay here you can take in any number of snow adventures. See opposite page for our favourites. Snowmobile across fells and over frozen tundra and lakes. Mush your own team of dogs in the surrounding National Park, hunt for the elusive aurora, go ice-fishing, kicksledding or visit a reindeer farm.

Those wishing to enjoy the Iso-Syöte ski area, SnowPark and SnowWorld, can buy ski passes and rent equipment locally.

**DAY 5 UK** After breakfast, transfer back to your chosen airport for your return flight to the UK.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights to Oulu, Kuusamo or Rovaniemi
- Return airport/hotel transfer
- 4 nights' hotel accommodation at the Iso-Syöte Hotel
- Lodging in twin room with private WC/shower. Upgrades available
- Breakfast and dinner throughout
- Guide services and protective thermal clothing on chosen safaris
- Supplements apply to other accommodation types

## YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Sitting on top of Lapland’s southernmost fjell is the village of Iso-Syöte, which is cloaked throughout the winter in deep, white snow. At its heart is the Iso-Syöte Hotel, complete with panoramic restaurant, Arctic Spa and bar.

Flexible accommodation is the order of the day. Choose from simple standard twin rooms or picturesque and cosy 1-bedroomed Kelo pine cottages. The hotel also boasts modern 2-storey fjell top cottages which can sleep up to 8. Finally consider spending a night in the snow igloo or upgrade to the magnificent Eagle View Suite, where the walls and roof are made of glass allowing uninterrupted views of the surrounding hills and a chance to view the northern lights in comfort and style.

The hotel has created an ‘Arctic Spa’ complete with two spacious saunas, a swimming pool with massaging hydrojets and, for the ultimate experience, two outdoor jacuzzi’s, which enjoy uninterrupted views of the snow-covered trees and starlit sky. There is a range of Arctic Spa Body & Beauty treatments also available.

Running down the side of the hotel are no fewer than 12 illuminated ski slopes. There are also half and quarter pipes, a snowboard park, children’s slopes and sledding hill. In other words, facilities for just about every level of experience.

## SNOWMOBILE WILDERNESS SAFARI

Set off from Iso-Syöte and head downhill across frozen lakes and over heavily snow-laden trees. Stop by an open campfire for hot drinks whilst admiring the picturesque landscape. After a short break start your engines ready to drive back up the Iso-Syöte mountain.

**Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £90 pp



## SNOWMOBILE & HUSKY COMBINATION

Travel by snowmobile to a nearby husky farm and mush a team of huskies. Travelling in pairs, you take turns to drive the snowmobile and mush your eager dogs. The safari takes you through snowy forests and ice-covered swamps and enables you to appreciate the wonderful landscape and light that bathes the Syöte area.

**Duration:** 3-4 hrs. **Price from:** £160 pp

## NORTHERN LIGHTS SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

Drive your snowmobiles out into the frozen landscape in search of the northern lights. Stop by a campfire for drinks, to gaze up at the star-studded night sky, and perhaps see a colourful display of the Aurora Borealis.

**Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £110 pp

## SNOWMOBILE & ICE-FISHING

In this classic combination you will drive your snowmobile (2 per machine) through the snow-covered forest. When reaching the frozen lake, drill a hole, lower your line, and wait. A catch isn't guaranteed, but spectacular views and landscapes are.

**Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £110 pp

## SNOWMOBILE & REINDEER FARM

A 35km snowmobile safari through the forest to a reindeer farm. Here you will have a tour of the farm and an introduction in reindeer herding before heading off on your reindeer sleigh ride. Hot drinks and 'Pulla' included.

**Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £115 pp

## FULL DAY HUSKY SAFARI

Transfer to a local husky farm where the good-natured hounds eagerly await your instruction. Travelling in pairs you will take turns to mush and be a passenger whilst enjoying the journey through the snowy forests and ice-covered lakes. A sandwich lunch is provided by the campfire.

**Duration:** 4-5 hrs. **Price from:** £230 pp

## HUSKY SAFARI AND FARM VISIT

After being transferred to the husky farm you are met by a team of dogs who are eagerly waiting for visitors. After an introduction to the dogs you begin your 12km husky safari through the snowy forest and frozen lakes surrounding the farm.

**Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £140 pp

## OLD FASHIONED REINDEER SAFARI

Try this relaxing mode of traditional transport, sitting in a sled that forms part of a reindeer 'caravan'. Coffee and snack are served in a Lappish Kota.

**Duration:** 2½ hrs. **Price from:** £95 pp

## VISIT TO A REINDEER FARM

Transfer by car to Virkkunen's traditional reindeer farm. Learn more about the culture and history of the area and the art of reindeer breeding. Meet his herd and join him at home for coffee, homemade cakes and sandwiches.

**Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £65 pp

## SNOWSHOE HIKE

After personal instructions on how to use your snowshoes, set off through the deep snow covering the hilltop of Iso-Syöte. Along the hike enjoy the beautiful snow sculptures made by nature and discover marks and tracks of the arctic animals. Hot drinks and cookies are provided.

**Duration:** 2 hrs. **Price from:** £40 pp



## KICKSLED GLIDE & RIDE

Learn the art of kicksledding, an easy and convenient Finnish mode of transport enjoyed by all ages. Your efforts will be rewarded with a warming coffee and 'Pulla' served in a kota with open campfire, before returning to the hotel.

**Duration:** 2 hrs. **Price from:** £45 pp



## ICE-FISHING

Enjoy an ice-fishing trip by a beautiful frozen lake whilst admiring the snowy landscapes. Hot drinks and snack provided.

**Duration:** 2-3 hrs. **Price from:** £65 pp

All durations include any applicable transfer times. Appropriate clothing and equipment is provided on all excursions. Start times vary according to your travel date and will be reconfirmed on arrival.

IT IS ADVISABLE TO PRE-BOOK EXCURSIONS. TIMES/DAYS OF OPERATION MAY VARY AND EXCURSIONS CAN BE ALTERED AT SHORT NOTICE DEPENDING ON LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS. DURATIONS INCLUDE ANY TRANSFER TIMES AND INSTRUCTION. APPROPRIATE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT IS PROVIDED ON ALL EXCURSIONS.



5 DAYS FROM  
**£750<sup>pp</sup>**  
 DECEMBER – MID APRIL

## Winter in Luosto

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

Luosto nestles amongst the rolling hills of the Phyä-Luosto National Park, just 90 minutes from Rovaniemi Airport. It boasts a wonderful choice of accommodation combined with amazing views, clear Arctic skies and a snow-clad landscape that extends beyond the horizon. Its frozen forests are criss-crossed by a maze of husky trails, reindeer roads and cross-country ski tracks and there is even an amethyst mine to explore, as well as seven ski-slopes nearby.

### SUGGESTED 5 NIGHT ITINERARY

**DAY 1: To Finnish Lapland** Depending on your choice of airline and airport, you may be able to fly direct to Rovaniemi. On arrival, head to Luosto by airport shuttle bus, just 90 minutes away and check in to your chosen hotel. Enjoy an early dinner before an exciting hunt for the northern lights by snowshoe, accompanied by a guide. It is a delightful introduction to the region, best suited for adults and children over 12. (Alternatives are available)

**DAYS 2-5 Choose your activity** We have picked our favourite local excursions and listed them on the opposite page, so that you can choose those that best suit you and your party. Do ask for details if you would like to try alpine skiing at the nearby resort, with its seven pistes and a sledging hill. Wherever you choose to stay, you always have the option of upgrading to an Arctic View Glass Igloo for a night.

**DAY 5 UK** Enjoy an early breakfast, before taking the airport shuttle bus back to Rovaniemi in time for your return flight home.

### RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION

#### SANTA'S HOTEL AURORA

This intimate hotel prides itself on its personal service and cosy atmosphere. An easy 10 minute walk from the village centre, it offers a quiet respite after a day packed with activity. The 25 rooms all have their own sauna, TV, tea/coffee facilities and aurora alarm. The restaurant serves breakfast and dinner with a 3-course table d'hote menu each evening, as well a choice of a la carte dishes.

- Cosy family-run hotel • All rooms with own sauna and aurora alarm

#### ARCTIC VIEW GLASS IGLOOS

In the grounds of Santa's Hotel Aurora are some of the most luxurious glass igloos in Finland. They have panoramic glass walls and ceiling, allowing a 360 degree view of the Arctic skies and surrounding nature. They are fully heated and decorated in typical Scandi-style, using throws and rugs to create an inviting ambience. Each has its own en suite bathroom, shower and WC, flat screen TV, comfortable double beds and modesty curtains.

- Luxury glass igloos • Available for one night upgrade or whole stay

#### LAPLAND HOTEL LUOSTOTUNTURI

Set in the heart of the village, the hotel is a popular focal point with amenities including an indoor pool, spa, gym, lively bar, nightclub and busy restaurant. Accommodation includes log cabins sleeping 4-6 people. All rooms are en suite, with flat screen TVs, tea/coffee-making facilities, with most having a balcony or terrace. A lively property, ideal for couples and families alike.

- Over 170 rooms & 80 apartments • Indoor pool, spa, gym, bar & nightclub

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Rovaniemi
- Return airport shuttle bus transfers
- 4 nights' accommodation at Santa's Hotel Luosto, sharing a double/twin room with private facilities
- 1 x northern lights hunt by snowshoe
- Breakfast and table d'hote evening meal throughout

## SNOWMOBILE SAFARI TO REINDEER FARM

After being taught the logistics of driving a snowmobile, head out onto one of the many snowmobile tracks that surround Luosto. Drive in pairs through the snow-clad surrounds to a local reindeer farm. Here you will meet the owner, and have the chance to experience reindeer-sledging, and have a hot drink before mounting the snowmobiles for the return drive to Luosto.

**Departs:** Tue, Thu 09.30 **Duration:** 3 hours **Price from: Adult:** £90 pp  
**Child:** £65 pp

## SNOWMOBILE AND HUSKY COMBINATION

Combine a snowmobile safari with a thrilling 10km husky mushing trip. You will receive full instruction before exploring the trails and tracks of the snowy forest – first by machine, then with some four-legged friends, driving in pairs.

**Departs:** Mon, Fri 09.00 **Duration:** 4 hours **Price from: Adult:** £165 pp  
**Child:** £125 pp

## HUSKY TASTER

Enjoy a 10km husky taster session, where you will learn how to mush a team of huskies, before following the forest trails with your own team of dogs. On returning to the ranch, enjoy a hot drink and a chat with the head musher

**Departs:** Mon, Wed, Thu 13.30 **Duration:** 2½ hours **Price from:**  
**Adult:** £115 pp **Child** £90 pp

## AFTERNOON WITH THE HUSKIES

Spend the afternoon in the company of these remarkable working dogs, who just love to run. Transfer by mini-bus to a local husky farm, where you receive full instruction then embark on a 20km thrilling safari through snow-clad forests and across frozen lakes. Coffee and snacks will be served in a Lappish Kota with open fire, before your return.

**Departs:** Tue, Fri, Sat 14.00 **Duration:** 3 hours **Price from: Adult:** £190 pp  
**Child:** £125 pp

## A REINDEER SAFARI

Transfer by mini-bus to a nearby reindeer farm for a memorable reindeer sleigh ride. Snuggled under thick blankets, the reindeer train travels through the Arctic landscape at a gentle pace. Returning to the farm, you will be served hot coffee and a bun served around a roaring campfire and learn about the life of a reindeer herder.

**Departs:** Tue, Thu 14.00 **Duration:** 1 hour 45 mins (30 mins reindeer sleigh ride) **Price from: Adult:** £100 pp **Child:** £75 pp

## ICE-FISHING BY SNOWMOBILE

Driving in pairs, you will follow the snowmobile tracks into the Arctic wilderness. A suitable spot is found, where the guide will help you drill a hole in the ice and settle down. Enjoy hot drinks and a delicious bun over a campfire as you wait for the fish to take the bait. Return to Luosto by snowmobile.

**Departs:** Mon, Thu, Sat 13.30 **Duration:** 3 hours **Price from: Adult:** £110 pp  
**Child:** £85 pp

## NORTHERN LIGHTS TRAIL EXPERIENCE AND INTRODUCTION TO THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Enjoy a multi-media show explaining the science, myths and legends behind the northern lights, before going out in pursuit of them. Your expert guide will have checked local conditions and lead you to a prime northern lights viewing area, with little light pollution. With cameras poised (stands available) and hot drinks boiling over the campfire, if you are lucky you will be rewarded with a dazzling overhead display. Thermal overalls are provided if required.

**Departs:** Mon 20.00 **Duration:** 3 hours. **Price from: Adult:** £60 pp  
**Child:** £45 pp

## SNOWMOBILE SAFARI TO THE AMETHYST MINES

This scenic safari takes you to the Amethyst Mine, where you are invited into one of the warm wooden houses, once used to house the workers. Enjoy a hot drink as you learn about these striking stones, formed 2000 million years ago, deep in the mountainside. You will head down into the mine and dig for your own lucky stone, before returning to Luosto by snowmobile.

**Departs:** Tue, Fri 13.30 **Duration:** 2 hours **Price from: Adult:** £100 pp  
**Child:** £75 pp

## NORTHERN LIGHTS BY SNOWMOBILE

Drive your snowmobile through the snow-covered forest and on the frozen river. Your expert guide will head towards a prime northern lights spotting location. Enjoy hot drinks and a snack by a campfire whilst you wait and learn more about the northern lights and Lapland.

**Departs:** Thu, Sat 18.00 **Duration:** 3 hours **Price from: Adult:** £110 pp  
**Child:** £85 pp

## LUOSTO SNOWMOBILE SPECIAL

After full instruction, you and your fellow snowmobilers and guide will drive around the edge of the Luosto Fell to Keski-Luosto Fell, where you will be rewarded by panoramic views. Continue Fell, where you will be rewarded by panoramic views. Continue to Orresokka, where you take a break for coffee and a bun served by a campfire. Return to Luosto by snowmobile. This safari best suits adults and children over 15.

**Departs:** Mon, Tue, Fri 10.00 **Duration:** 3 hours **Price from: Adult:** £110 pp

## SNOWMOBILE TOUR OF THE FELS

Enjoy a full day 100km snowmobile safari from Luosto to the Pyhä Fell, as well as a restaurant lunch. This safari best suits adults and children over 15.

**Departs:** Wed, Sat 09.30 **Duration:** 6 hours 30 mins **Price from:**  
**Adult:** £160 pp

## SNOWMOBILE INTO THE WILDERNESS

Learn to snowmobile along frozen swamps and through snow-clad forests with their contorted frozen trees. Enjoy beautiful views of the river from the hilltops as you take a break along the way.

**Departs:** Sun, Thu, Wed, Fri 16.30 **Duration:** 2 hours **Price from:**  
**Adult:** £90 pp **Child:** £65 pp

## CROSS-COUNTRY SKI LESSON

Let an expert guide teach you the basics of cross-country skiing and then head out onto the trails surrounding Luosto to hone your new found skill.

**Departs:** Wed, Fri 10.30 **Duration:** 2 hours **Price from: Adult:** £60 pp  
**Child:** £45 pp

## SNOWSHOE HIKE IN THE NATIONAL PARK

Snowshoeing has long been used by the Arctic community as an easy way to cross normally inaccessible regions. Your expert guide will help you master this easy art, before heading into the ancient spruce forests of Luosto. Small snacks will be enjoyed in between hiking. This excursion suits adults and children over the age of 12.

**Departs:** Sun, Thu 12.30 **Duration:** 3 hours **Price from: Adult:** £60 pp  
**Child:** £45 pp

## AMETHYST MINE BY PENDOLINO

Visit the Amethyst mine on a Pendolino 'snow train' a warm carriage pulled by a snow-cat up to the top of the mountain. This is an easy, comfortable way of travelling across the snowy forests up to Lampivaara and Amethyst Mine. Enjoy a warm berry juice on arrival, as you learn about the geology, history and nature of the region.

**Departs:** Mon - Sat 10.45 **Duration:** 2½ hours **Price from: Adult:** £70 pp  
**Child:** £35 pp

IT IS ADVISABLE TO PRE-BOOK EXCURSIONS. TIMES/DAYS OF OPERATION MAY VARY AND EXCURSIONS CAN BE ALTERED AT SHORT NOTICE DEPENDING ON LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS. DURATIONS INCLUDE ANY TRANSFER TIMES AND INSTRUCTION.



4 DAYS FROM  
**£705<sup>pp</sup>**  
DECEMBER – APRIL

## Rovaniemi – The Capital of Finnish Lapland

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

Rovaniemi has long been considered the capital of Finnish Lapland and the official home of Santa Claus. Just outside this urban oasis is an Arctic wilderness waiting to be explored and its proximity to the Arctic Circle makes it a northern lights hotspot. This is the perfect place to combine a city break with an Arctic adventure - simply choose your hotel and combine it with any of our excursions opposite.

### SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Rovaniemi** Fly direct to Rovaniemi from Gatwick or via Helsinki from a choice of UK airports. On arrival transfer to your chosen hotel and familiarise yourself with your surroundings before enjoying your first Lappish experience – a wilderness dinner and search for the northern lights.

**DAYS 2-3 Choose your activity** These days are free for you to choose your adventure. See opposite for a selection or visit our website for more details.



**DAY 4 UK** Breakfast, check out and transfer to the airport in time for your return flight home.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Rovaniemi
- 3 nights hotel accommodation at your chosen hotel
- Return airport to hotel transfers
- Breakfast throughout
- 1 x Wilderness Dinner and Northern Lights Search

### OUR RECOMMENDED HOTELS

#### ARCTIC LIGHT HOTEL

Once the City Hall of Rovaniemi, this luxury boutique hotel has preserved many of the original features. Each room has an en suite bathroom, air conditioning, espresso machine, complimentary Wi-Fi, bathrobe and slippers. Polar rooms are especially family-friendly, with a separate cosy lounge area equipped with a 40" flat screen TV and private sauna. The breakfast is legendary and the restaurants excellent.

- 57 rooms • Favourite with Nordic guests • Authentic luxury

#### ORIGINAL SOKOS HOTEL VAAKUNA

Originally built for the 1952 Olympics, the Original Sokos Hotel Vaakuna has the best location in the city. Scandinavian styled rooms with wooden floors and en suite bathrooms have air conditioning, a desk, hair-dryers and mini-bar, TV and en suite facilities. The 10th floor restaurant has a rooftop terrace boasting panoramic views.

- Great location • Suites available • Panoramic views

#### SANTA'S HOTEL SANTA CLAUS

This hotel offers excellent value in the heart of Rovaniemi. Warmly decorated Scandinavian style rooms have en suite facilities, flat screen TV, adjustable heating, tea and coffee making facilities and complimentary Wi-Fi. The four restaurants each has a menu that suits all tastes and budgets and the hotel even has its own casino area.

- Central location • Great value • Choice of restaurants

## EASY SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

This short snowmobile safari around the Arctic Circle is suitable for all ages (children are pulled on a sled behind the guide) as well as for those who have never snowmobiled before. Hotel pick-up, transfers and outer thermal clothing included.

**Departs:** Daily at 12.00 **Duration:** 1 hour **Price from: Adult:** £75 pp **Child:** £40 pp

## SNOWMOBILE SAFARI INTO THE ARCTIC CIRCLE FOREST

Enjoy a 2-hour snowmobile safari that takes you into the surrounding snow-clad forest with full instruction, safety briefing and expert guide. Hotel pick-up, transfers and outer thermal clothing included.

**Departs:** Daily at 12.00 **Duration:** 2 hrs. **Price from: Adult** £97 pp **Child** £73 pp

## SNOWMOBILE SAFARI TO A WILDERNESS LODGE WITH CAMPFIRE LUNCH

This is an extended 55-65 km, 5-hour snowmobile excursion. Head towards the Arctic Circle Wilderness Lodge, a traditional lumberjack house nestling by the river of Raudanjoki surrounded by beautiful rapids, a lush shoreline forest and pristine nature. Delicious hot soup lunch will be prepared and eaten by a campfire, before returning by snowmobile to Rovaniemi. Hotel pick-up, transfers and outer thermal clothing included.

**Departs:** Daily at 09.00 **Duration:** 5 hrs. **Price from: Adult:** £165 pp **Child:** £125 pp

## SNOW FUN COMBINATION

An all in one snow fun day offers the opportunity to try some of the most popular Lappish activities. Enjoy a short snowmobile safari, visit a local Reindeer farm with a short ride with reindeer sleigh. Continue on to a Husky farm for a husky sled ride. It is then time to take a hike in the forest with snowshoes, try out tandem skiing and have fun on a toboggan hill. Suitable for the whole family. Hotel pick-up, transfers and outer thermal clothing included.

**Departs:** Daily at 09.00 **Duration:** 4 hrs. **Price from: Adult:** £189 pp **Child:** £140 pp

## FAMILY SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

This tour is specifically aimed at families with small children and offers both adults and children the opportunity to drive a snowmobile. First head out and explore the snowy trails surrounding Rovaniemi. The adults will drive in pairs, whilst the children travel in a sleigh pulled by the guide. On returning to the camp it is then the children's turn to drive their own mini-snowmobile. A bonfire is lit as you take it in turns to grill sausages and sip hot drinks to keep out the chill. Hotel pick-up, transfers and outer thermal clothing included.

**Departs:** Daily at 14.00 **Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from: Adult:** £122 pp **Child:** £92 pp

## SNOWMOBILE SAFARI IN SEARCH OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Depart in darkness as you go in search of the northern lights by snowmobile. Driving in pairs, you will follow the tracks deep into the wilderness, far from any light pollution. When a suitable spot has been found, the guide will light a campfire. Grill sausages and sip hot berry juice as you wait in anticipation of seeing the northern lights. Hotel pick-up, transfers and outer thermal clothing included.

**Departs:** Daily at 19.00 **Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from: Adult:** £122 **Child:** £92 pp

## HUSKY SAFARI INTO THE WILDERNESS

After receiving a full safety and skills briefing, head out into the Arctic wilderness. Children can travel in the same sledge as their parents, who can take it in turns to mush. The length of the trail averages 16-22 km and takes

about 1 hour 30 minutes. On returning to the farm you will be rewarded with hot juice and cookies. Hotel pick-up, transfers and outer thermal clothing included.

**Departs:** Daily at 09.00 and 13.00 **Duration:** 4 hrs. **Price from: Adult:** £165 **Child:** £83 pp

## HUSKY SAFARI FOR NATURE LOVERS

Experience and explore the vast taiga forests of Lapland as you mush a team of dogs through the remote trails just north of Rovaniemi and the Arctic Circle., usually covering 30-40 kms. Stop for a wilderness lunch, served around a campfire, before heading back. Hotel pick-up, transfers and outer thermal clothing included.

**Departs:** Wed at 08.30 **Duration:** 7 hrs. **Price from:** 2 per sled £267 pp  
1 per sled £318 pp

## SNOWSHOEING AT THE ARCTIC CIRCLE WILDERNESS LODGE

Snowshoeing does require a little effort but is an easy art to master and fun to do, it also allows you to explore areas normally out of bounds to both huskies and snowmobiles. Traverse the snowy landscapes, follow the frozen river banks and see frozen rapids. Fortify yourself for the return journey with a wilderness lunch cooked over an open fire. Fun for all the family. Hotel pick-up, transfers and equipment hire included.

**Departs:** Daily at 13.00 **Duration:** 2½ hrs. **Price from: Adult:** £77 pp **Child:** £58 pp

## REINDEER SAFARI

Take a 3 km trip through the snowy forest in a sleigh pulled by the reindeer. You will also meet the herders who will give you an insight as to their way of life and culture. Both you and the reindeer will be fed. Humans will enjoy warm drinks and buns, and the reindeer their own special moss. Hotel pick-up and transfers included.

**Departs:** Daily at 14.00  
**Duration:** 2½ hrs. **Price from: Adult:** £129 pp **Child:** £93 pp

## VISIT THE ARCTIC SNOW HOTEL

Take a tour, enjoy dinner or even stay overnight. Pick-up and transfers included. **Departs:** Daily. Times vary according to your chosen activity.

**Tour of the Arctic Snow Hotel from:** Adult £50 pp Child £40 pp

**Dinner at the Arctic Snow Hotel from:** Adult £102 pp Child £70 pp

**Overnight at the Arctic Snow Hotel from:** Adult £70 pp Child £40 pp

For those not wishing to brave the minus temperatures, there is also the possibility of staying overnight in a heated glass igloo. **Price from: Adult** £200 pp **Child** £70 pp

## AN ICEBREAKER CRUISE

Take a trip on board one of the impressive Arctic icebreakers as it carves its way through the frozen Gulf of Bothnia. This full day excursion starts with a 2-hour bus transfer into Sweden. As the Captain manoeuvres his ship out of the harbour, you will experience first-hand splitting of the ice, which in some places can be up to 2m thick. At a suitable point in the journey, you will have the opportunity to disembark and don a survival suit and swim in the frozen sea, receiving a certificate honouring your bravery. Transfers and lunch included.

**Departs:** Selected dates December – March **Duration:** 9½ hrs. **Price from: Adult:** £345 pp

## PRIVATE VISIT TO SEE SANTA CLAUS

This visit takes you to Santa's private office. You will be greeted by a personal Elf to guide you through all the fascinating details of the Trail of Secrets, telling you unheard tales about Santa's vehicles and the Arctic Circle. The highlight of your tour will be a private meeting with Santa Claus in person.

**Departs:** on request **Price from:** £360 up to 6 persons.

IT IS ADVISABLE TO PRE-BOOK EXCURSIONS. TIMES/DAYS OF OPERATION MAY VARY AND EXCURSIONS CAN BE ALTERED AT SHORT NOTICE DEPENDING ON LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS. DURATIONS INCLUDE ANY TRANSFER TIMES AND INSTRUCTION.



5 DAYS FROM  
**£4340<sup>pp</sup>**  
 DECEMBER – APRIL

## Jävri Lodge - a Stylish Hosted Retreat

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

This luxury lodge was once the winter residence of Finland's longest serving Prime Minister, Urho Kekkonen, who so loved the beautiful landscape of this scenic area that the neighbouring national park was named after him. The lodge offers a fully hosted experience with innovative dining and exclusive excursions to introduce you to traditional Arctic activities. It is the perfect choice for those seeking a stylish sanctuary in a spectacular setting – a unique experience.

### SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1** Fly to Ivalo, located in the heart of Finnish Lapland, where you will be met by a Jävri Lodge host for the 30-minute transfer to the exclusive Jävri Lodge. Dinner will be in the company of your fellow guests for a fine dining experience.

**DAYS 2-4** Jävri Lodge's all-inclusive concept includes all meals and one guided 2-hour Arctic wilderness activity or nature experience per day.

**DAY 5 UK** A transfer to the airport is provided ensuring you arrive in good time for your return flight home.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### JÄVRI LODGE

Accommodates 18 guests in 10 rooms (8 'standard' and 2 larger suites). All rooms have private en suite facilities, custom-made beds with the finest of linen. There is an indoor heated swimming pool and two traditional Finnish saunas. Wi-Fi is available throughout the lodge. The complete experience is complemented by the in-house chefs who create delicious seasonal dishes, with locally sourced organic food.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Ivalo
- Private airport transfers to/from Jävri Lodge.
- 4 nights in a standard room with private facilities
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner throughout
- Complimentary tea/coffee served throughout the day
- 1 x wilderness/nature activity per day

### OPTIONAL WILDERNESS & NATURE EXPERIENCES

**SNOWSHOEING** Your expert guide will explain to you how to use the snowshoes, then take you through the white forests and frozen landscapes of the second largest protected natural park in Finland.

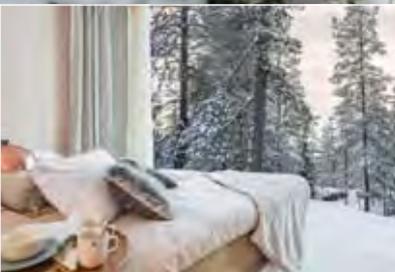
**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING SCHOOL** Here is your opportunity to learn different types of cross-country skiing. The lesson is tailored to your ability. After instruction a short skiing trip will be made to the border of the National Park and you are free to use the equipment for the rest of the day.

**HUSKY SAFARI** Enjoy a thrilling husky safari and mush your own team of dogs driving in pairs into the beautiful forest and over the frozen mires. On your return to the farm enjoy a hot drink and bun served in a Kota warmed by an open fire as the guides give you an insight to the life of a husky musher.

**REINDEER SAFARI** Visit a local reindeer farm, and enjoy a romantic reindeer ride in a traditional Lappish sleigh. On your return to the yard, enjoy a hot drink served in a warm Kota as a reindeer herder tells you stories of his life in the wilds of Lapland.

**SNOWMOBILING** Enjoy a snowmobile safari that takes you deep into your magnificent surroundings to spot reindeer and elk. Drive in pairs across the fells. Sip hot drinks and eat cake on your return to the farm.

**WALKING IN THE WILDERNESS** Take a guided walk to nearby Saariselkä town. Along the way your expert guide will point out highlights of Finnish nature. If the conditions are right, there is a good chance of seeing the magical northern lights.



4 DAYS FROM  
**£1260<sup>pp</sup>**  
 DECEMBER – APRIL

# Arctic TreeHouse Hotel

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

The brand new Arctic TreeHouse Hotel only opened in December 2016. It brings a whole new dimension to staying in Finnish Lapland, quite literally elevating it to new heights. Its cosy cabins with their panoramic windows nestle amongst the heavily snow-laden trees of the Arctic forest. The views of the surrounding wintry landscape are unparalleled and your cabin is the perfect spot from which to view the spectacular northern lights in comfort.

## SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Fly to Rovaniemi** Fly to Rovaniemi, the capital of Finnish Lapland and transfer to the Arctic TreeHouse Hotel. It may only be ten minutes to the resort, but on arrival, you will feel a million miles away from the hustle and bustle of 21st century life. Dinner is served in the adjoining Arctic TreeHouse Hotel restaurant, where you can enjoy delicious dishes and traditional Lappish cuisine as well as a panoramic Arctic view.

**DAY 2-3 Free for Optional Excursions** Rovaniemi is the capital of Finnish Lapland and has long been a popular choice for those wishing to visit the 'home' of Santa Claus. There is a wealth of winter activities on offer so you can simply choose the ones you wish to try. See page 65 for some of our favourite excursions. Take a thrilling snowmobile or husky safari, a romantic reindeer sleigh ride or head out for a day trip on an ice-breaker and swim in the frozen sea. Go in search of the northern lights or try the traditional Finnish pastimes of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Wilderness dinners and ice lunches are also on the menu and don't forget a hunt for the northern lights. Breakfast and dinner at the Arctic TreeHouse is included throughout your stay.

**DAY 4 UK** After breakfast, we have arranged a transfer to take you to the airport in time for your return flight home.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from UK to Rovaniemi
- Return airport/hotel transfers
- 3 nights' cabin accommodation at the Arctic TreeHouse with private facilities
- Breakfast and dinner throughout

## YOUR ACCOMMODATION

The cabins of the Arctic Treehouse have been meticulously furnished and the warm timber interiors are complemented with an array of throws, cushions and chairs that typify the classic modern Scandinavia style. The cabins are perfectly designed to accommodate couples seeking a romantic escape or families whose children will love their very own 'nest'.

You won't be lacking in comfort as each cabin has its own private WC and shower, flat screen TV, free Wi-Fi, espresso coffee machines, twin or double beds and of course a floor-to-ceiling panoramic window, which gives the feeling of being at one with nature. Families can book interconnecting suites complete with cosy nest beds and kitchenettes.



The restaurant is just a short walk from your cabin and it is here that breakfast and dinner is served. For those seeking a Father Christmas experience Santa Park is just across the road and open from mid-November until the first week of January.



4 DAYS FROM  
**£1850<sup>pp</sup>**  
 DECEMBER – MARCH

# Northern Lights & Sami Culture at Korpikartano

## INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

Located in a small reindeer herding village, Korpikartano is situated in the Sami heartland. Set on the edge of Lake Menesjärvi and in the stunning surrounds of Lemmonjoki National Park, this former school has been converted into a haven for those wanting an unpretentious and authentic taste of Finnish Lapland. Delve into the life of a Sami herder, visit Siida, the Sami Museum and go in search of the mighty spectacle that is the Aurora Borealis.

## SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Ivalo** Fly into Ivalo (via Helsinki). Transfer to Korpikartano, where a warm welcome awaits from your hosts, Anne and Timo, along with a hearty evening meal in the former school gym.

**DAY 2 A Day in the Life of a Reindeer Herder & Aurora Hunt** After breakfast, a local reindeer herder will take you in search of his herd via snowmobile sled. Once found, feed and observe these animals in their natural habitat. Tall tales and coffee are served in the remote surroundings around an open fire.

Return to Korpikartano for lunch. Your afternoon is free to enjoy snow fun activities such as kicksledding, snowshoeing or tobogganing. Alternatively, choose one of the additional excursions detailed opposite.

Later that afternoon there is an hour Aurora photography workshop and, after dinner, you will venture out on a guided snowshoe trek into the wilderness. Timo is on hand to offer further photography assistance in capturing the Arctic sky and hopefully the Aurora.

**DAY 3 Husky Safari, Sami & Snowmobile** Today you head to a husky homestead. After being introduced to your pack, take control of your sled. Travelling in pairs, you both have the chance to enjoy the wonderful Arctic landscape as you slip silently through the forest and across frozen lakes.

After this thrilling adventure, visit Siida, the Sami Museum, a fascinating interactive exhibition of Sami history and culture. Lunch at the museum (own expense). Later, after dinner and instruction, head out (in pairs) on a guided snowmobile mission into the Lappish nature and a final opportunity to observe the Aurora.

**DAY 4 UK** Enjoy a final hearty breakfast before returning to the airport for your flight home (via Helsinki).

## YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Korpikartano offers a selection of simple yet cosy hotel rooms and apartments. On-site is a restaurant where menus are based on local produce and using hand-picked products such as berries and mushrooms. Enjoy the lake-side Lappish kota with open fire. For a special treat try the wood burning lake-side sauna and hot tub. For the brave there is always the lake!

## OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

**GUIDED CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING** Under guidance, master the art of cross-country skiing and head out to explore the frozen landscape in traditional style. **Duration:** 1 hr. **Price from:** £59 pp

**WINTER FISHING BY SNOWMOBILE** Drive (in pairs) by snowmobile to the nearby lakes of Menesjarvi or Kuivajarvi, where you will learn the secrets of winter fishing. **Duration:** 2 hrs. **Price from:** £130 pp

## WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Ivalo and return airport/hotel transfers
- 3 nights at Korpikartano in a twin/double room with private WC/shower
- Breakfast and dinner throughout plus 1 lunch
- Excursions as per itinerary
- Electric sauna each evening & outer thermal clothing for the duration of your stay



7 DAYS FROM  
**£2335<sup>pp</sup>**  
 DECEMBER – APRIL  
 SELECTED DATES

## At Home with the Huskies

### LOCALLY GUIDED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURE

Join in this exceptional husky adventure, which introduces you to one of the oldest forms of transport in the Arctic and is the perfect way for dog-lovers to cement that special bond that exists between humans and their canine companions. During this extraordinary expedition, you'll travel through the Lappish winter wilderness, overnighing in wilderness cabins, whilst mushing and tending your very own team of huskies. This is a truly authentic Arctic adventure and the perfect way to escape the stresses of the 21st century!

### SUGGESTED 7 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Kittila** Fly to Kittila, in the heart of Finnish Lapland where you will be met by your guide and make the short 1-hour transfer to the Harriniva Wilderness Lodge. Check in to Safari House accommodation before enjoying a welcome dinner with your fellow adventurers.

**DAY 2 Husky Introduction and Discovering the Wilderness** After breakfast, you will be provided with the equipment necessary for your adventure, including outer thermal protective winter clothing. It is then time to meet Harriniva's 400-strong pack of lovingly reared huskies. You will be introduced to your own dog team, and taught how to handle the dogs and sled before heading out into the wilderness. A rest and wilderness lunch is taken en route, before arriving at the wilderness cabin, your accommodation for the night. You will work together to unharness and tend to the huskies, light the wood-fired stove and prepare dinner. The evening is spent cocooned in this convivial and cosy atmosphere.

**DAY 3 – 5 The Husky Adventure Continues** A pattern starts to emerge over the following few days. A hearty breakfast is followed by preparing your sled and team of huskies for the day's foray into the Arctic wilderness. You will fly through the beautiful forested scenery over frozen lakes. Lunch is always taken en route and over an open fire, with simple yet delicious wilderness dinners prepared on arrival at your cabin. Accommodation is in a different wilderness hut each night. Should the conditions be right, you may even be rewarded with a dancing display of the northern lights overhead. You will find yourself throwing off the stresses of 21st century life as you adapt to the traditional lifestyle of the husky musher.

**DAY 6 Return to Harriniva** Return to Harriniva where you will say goodbye to your faithful four-legged friends and share a final evening reminiscing over

dinner with your fellow travellers. You will spend your last night in the relative comfort of the Wilderness Lodge, staying in one of the Safari Houses.

**DAY 7 UK** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before taking the transfer back to Kittila airport in time for your return flight back home.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### HARRINIVA WILDERNESS LODGE AND WILDERNESS CABINS

Harriniva Wilderness Lodge provides a variety of accommodation ranging from hotel rooms to cabins. (See page 56 for more details). The first and last night of this tour will be spent in one of the Safari Houses. These comprise of twin rooms with shared facilities. Dinner is taken in Harriniva's own restaurant.

On days 2-5, you will stay in Wilderness Cabins, in a different location on each night. The wilderness cabins are simple yet cosy huts with no electricity and you will sleep in dormitory-style beds with sleeping bags. Each hut has a sauna (the traditional Finnish way of washing) and a wilderness eco-toilet. The accommodation is basic, and all part of the authentic Finnish experience, allowing you to experience life like a local.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Kittila
- Return airport to hotel transfers.
- 2 nights in the Safari House with shared facilities
- 4 nights in wilderness cabins.
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner throughout.
- Qualified English-speaking wilderness guide.



## Our Icelandic Experiences

The very name of Iceland conjures up vast, dramatic, winter landscapes of snow and ice, the ideal location for the ultimate Arctic adventure.

Straddling the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates Iceland's unique geology has resulted in weird and wonderful landscapes. Its lava plains, spouting geysers, volcanoes, spectacular waterfalls, thermal waters and black sand beaches are a living geography lesson. Its vistas present a stark, otherworldly beauty, which is truly breathtaking. It is no surprise that this dramatic backdrop is the setting for the popular series, Game of Thrones.

Iceland's capital, Reykjavik, has become a fashionable destination in its own right, a cultural hub of museums and art galleries with trendy restaurants and buzzing bars. It offers a wonderful opportunity to combine city life with outdoor pursuits. It is also renowned for its spectacular New Year's Eve celebrations - take a look at pages 91 and 92 for details of our festive breaks in Reykjavik.

Iceland is an excellent spot for viewing the northern lights, and home to many Arctic adventures, including whale-watching, exploring by Arctic truck and even visiting an ice cave, deep within a glacier. You must also make time to relax in one of the many hot springs. It is a great choice for couples and families alike, offering a wealth of diverse experiences.

Iceland's neighbour, Greenland is the world's largest island and offers a warm welcome and dramatic mountainous landscape. See pages 82 and 83 for holidays combining the two and exploring Greenland. Illulissat is 250kms north of the Arctic Circle, perched on the edge of a stunning icefjord. Its main claim to fame is its breath-taking icebergs. In fact its name means 'icebergs', and you can hear their cracking and rumbling sounds wherever you go. Almost as many sled dogs as human inhabitants live here and its rugged mountains are the perfect spot for a Nordic adventure. Cruise the fjord to see the ice bergs up close or take a trip across the frozen landscape by dog-sled or snowshoe.





4 DAYS FROM  
**£595**<sup>pp</sup>  
 SEPTEMBER – APRIL

## Brief Encounter with Reykjavik

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

It may be one of Europe's smallest capitals, but it certainly puts many others to shame with its diversity of attractions. In close proximity are geysers, caves, hot springs and glaciers and the city centre itself proffers galleries, museums, sculptures and unique architecture. Local restaurants pride themselves on crafting culinary delights from an abundance of locally sourced products. Our holidays offer complete flexibility: choose your hotel and combine with any of our excursions and adventure.

### SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Reykjavik** Fly from a wide choice of regional airports direct to Keflavik Airport. Transfer with airport shuttle bus (or upgrade to a private transfer) and check in at your chosen hotel.

**DAY 2 & 3 Optional Excursions** Take your pick from our extensive range of Reykjavik excursions. See opposite for an overview or for more details visit our website.

**DAY 4 UK** Enjoy last-minute shopping or stop off at the Blue Lagoon on the way to the airport in time for your return flight home.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return international flights from a choice of regional UK departures
- Return airport/hotel shuttle bus transfer
- 3 nights' accommodation in your chosen hotel, staying in twin room with private WC/shower
- Breakfast throughout
- Private airport transfers and Blue Lagoon visit on arrival/departure are available at a supplement

### RECOMMENDED HOTELS

#### CENTERHOTEL PLAZA

This modern, contemporary hotel is the perfect base, in a great location just minutes' walk from all the major attractions and close to bars and restaurants.

- City Centre • Lobby Bar • Breakfast Restaurant



#### CENTRUM HOTEL

A stylish modern hotel in the heart of the old city. During its construction remains of a Viking longhouse were found, and are now exhibited here.

- City Centre • Quiet location • Icelandic cuisine



#### HOTEL BORG

This elegant Art Deco hotel, dating from 1930, has quickly become one of Reykjavik's landmark properties. Award-winning chef Volundur Volundarson, presides over its kitchen.

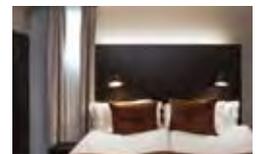
- Central location • Restaurant • Renovated



#### APOTEK HOTEL

This former pharmacy set in historic buildings in the heart of the city, offering contemporary, stylish design and casual-smart dining.

- Central Location • Boutique property



#### SKUGGI HOTEL

This new arrival to the city is perfectly located on one of Reykjavik's oldest streets, close to the attractions of Laugavegur and is simply yet stylishly furnished.

- Value and convenience • Underground parking



#### FOSSHOTEL REYKJAVIK

This is one of the largest hotels in the city, but offers no less of an experience with great views and a choice of dining experiences, showcasing the best of Icelandic cuisine.

- Upgrade to Tower Rooms for spectacular views
- Family rooms • Coffee & Tea making



### BLUE LAGOON & KEFLAVIK TRANSFER

The shuttle bus picks you up at your hotel and takes you to the Blue Lagoon where you can spend a relaxing morning luxuriating in its warm milky blue waters before heading by scheduled shuttle bus to Keflavik airport for your flight home. Entry to the Blue Lagoon included (price varies dependent on time slot booked). Luggage storage facilities available for a small fee.

**Departs:** Daily **Price from:** £70 pp

### GOLDEN CIRCLE CLASSIC

Admire the landscapes of Thingvellir National Park. Continue to Gullfoss, whose foaming, thundering waters are stunningly frozen in mid-air. Continue to the Geysir area with its spouting water and bubbling mud pots. Lunch (payable locally). Return to Reykjavik via the cathedral at Skálholt, the Kerid crater and the greenhouse community at Hveragerdi.

**Departs:** Daily **Duration:** 8 hrs. **Price from:** £65 pp

### SUPER JEEP GOLDEN CIRCLE CLASSIC

You will see Thingvellir National Park, the Geysir geothermal area and Gullfoss waterfall. Drive on to Langjökull glacier for the opportunity to take an exhilarating snowmobile ride. (Supplement applies). The tour finishes with an off-road experience before returning to Reykjavik

**Departs:** Tues, Thurs, Sat **Duration:** 8-9 hrs. **Price from:** £215 pp.

**Snowmobile Supplement:** £145pp

### NORTHERN LIGHTS HUNT BY BUS

Head out of the city and spend an evening in search of the northern lights.

**Departs:** Daily **Duration:** 3-5 hrs. **Price from:** £45 pp

### NORTHERN LIGHTS SEARCH BY SUPER JEEP

Your guide transports you away from the city lights into surrounding countryside where the modified Land Rover Defenders takes you through spectacular landscapes in search of the northern lights. If they don't appear, try another night free of charge.

**Departs:** Daily **Duration:** 3-4 hrs. **Price from:** £115 pp

### NORTHERN LIGHTS BY BOAT

Cruise offshore for one of the best chances Reykjavik offers of seeing the northern lights showing against a mountain backdrop. Waterproof clothing, hot coffee, cocoa and tea included.

**Departs:** Daily **Duration:** 2½-3 hrs. **Price from:** £65 pp

### REYKJAVIK SIGHTSEEING

An ideal introduction to the capital including the little fishing village of Hafnarfjordur. Visit the cosmic looking Perlan nestling on a hill overlooking the city; continue to Hafnarfjordur via the Presidential Residence and fish market; on to Hotoi, the Lutheran Cathedral and Hallgrim's Church.

**Departs:** Daily **Duration:** 2½ hrs. **Price from:** £40 pp

### INTO THE GLACIER

Take ice cap exploration to a new level. Explore a glacier inside and out at Europe's largest man-made ice cave. Depart Reykjavik by bus and head to Langjökull glacier, where you board an 8-wheel monster truck that takes you to the entrance of the cave. 550m long and 30m below the surface, there are 5 ice chambers to explore and more.

**Departs:** Daily **Duration:** 9 hrs. **Price from:** £220 pp

### SOUTH COAST, WATERFALLS & GLACIER HIKE

A tour showcasing the best of South Iceland's coast. Stop at the Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss waterfalls, the black sand beach and basalt columns of Reynisfjara and take an easy hike on the ancient ice of Sólheimajökull glacier.

**Departs:** Daily **Duration:** 11 hrs. **Price from:** £160 pp

### WHALE WATCHING

An educational and interactive whale-watching excursion on board 'Andrea', the biggest whale-watching boat in Iceland. She provides ample comfortable seating inside, with wide panoramic windows and extra-large viewing decks

where everyone can find a place by the railings. There is an onboard café. Protective thermal overalls are available too.

**Departs:** Daily **Duration:** 3 - 3½ hrs. **Price from:** £65 pp

### GAME OF THRONES REVISTED

Prepared in conjunction with an Icelandic extra who appeared in the 'Game of Thrones', this tour takes you 'on location' to see where it was shot including the gorge of Thingvellir, the stomping ground of the White Walkers; as well as Thjórárdalur and the "Settlement Era Viking lodge".

**Departs:** Tues, Thurs, Sat **Duration:** 6 hrs. **Price from:** £70 pp

### THE LAVA TRAIL ON HORSEBACK

This guided horse trek takes you along lava fields and hillside tracks. It is particularly suitable for novices or those with rusty equestrian skills as the Icelandic horse is famed for its even temper and unique gait which gives a particularly smooth ride. You will be supplied with riding hat, boots, waterproof outdoor wear and tack.

**Departs:** Daily **Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £60 pp

### ARCTIC TRUCK EXPERIENCE

After being introduced to the basic skills and techniques you need to tackle different off-road terrains and snow conditions in this specialised 4x4 super truck, take the wheel (with an accompanying guide) for the Hellisheidi plateau, crossing streams along the 1000 Rivers Road and on to the black sandy beaches of the South Coast before visiting a lava cave.

**Departs:** Daily **Duration:** 5 hrs. **Price from:** £255 pp (min 3 people) Fuel is extra & payable locally. Optional Helicopter tour on Hengill - £269pp

### A TASTE OF REYKJAVIK

Learn about Icelandic food traditions and take this guided tour around Reykjavik's streets & restaurants stopping off to taste some of the delicious and sometimes unusual culinary customs including beer, cheese, meat and fish.

**Departs:** Wed, Thurs, Fri **Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £90 pp

### BLACK AND BLUE SNORKELLING AND CAVING EXPERIENCE

Explore the hidden world of the lava field under the Thingvellir National Park. In the Gjábackahellir cave, you will see the geological marvels created by one of the most active volcano areas in the world, including a perfect example of an Icelandic lava tube. Lunch is followed by snorkeling in one of Iceland's best kept secrets, the Silfra fissure, famed for its deep blue colour and crystal clear water.

**Departs:** Daily **Duration:** 7 hrs. **Price from:** £195 pp

### BLUE ICE AND GLACIER HIKE

Explore the glacial tongue of Sólheimajökull, accompanied by an experienced glacier guide. You will investigate the crevasse riddled outlet glacier with its amazing ice formations, sink holes and jagged ridges and try your hand at ice-climbing. All tools provided. On the return to Reykjavik a stop is made at the iconic Skogafoss waterfall.

**Departs:** Daily **Duration:** 9-10 hrs. **Price from:** £185 pp

### SECRET LAGOON AND NORTHERN LIGHTS HUNT

The Secret Lagoon is a natural hot spring fed by mineral rich water, kept at a steady 38-40°C, perfect for bathing and relaxing. Changing rooms, showers and lockers are on hand, but do bring your own swimming costume and towel. On the way back to Reykjavik, you will hunt for the northern lights.

**Departs:** Daily **Duration:** 5-6 hrs. **Price from:** £115 pp

### ATV TWO PEAK ADVENTURE

A 15 minute transfer from Reykjavik takes you to 'Basecamp' to be kitted out for an ATV adventure. After full instruction and safety briefing, you will head across terrain that varies from asphalt and gravel roads to mountain tracks and rocky paths. Heading towards the twin peaks of Hafrafell and Úlfarsfell, you'll be rewarded with magnificent views across Reykjavik and the Reykjanes peninsula. This tour is suitable for beginners.

**Departs:** Daily **Duration:** 3-3½ hrs. **Price from:** £165 pp

IT IS ADVISABLE TO PRE-BOOK EXCURSIONS. TIMES/DAYS OF OPERATION MAY VARY AND EXCURSIONS CAN BE ALTERED AT SHORT NOTICE DEPENDING ON LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS. DURATIONS INCLUDE ANY TRANSFER TIMES AND INSTRUCTION.



5 DAYS FROM  
**£795<sup>pp</sup>**  
 OCTOBER – APRIL

## Glaciers, Waterfalls & Northern Lights

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE ITINERARY

By day soak up South Iceland's unique cocktail of sights; the falling water curtains that are the Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss waterfalls, the foam pounding on Dryrholaey's black sand beaches and Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon. By night, enjoy fine dining, soak in a hot tub under the starlit sky, where you may even see the northern lights, as you make the most of the rustic charm and countryside setting of the Hotel Range.

### SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Hella** Arrive at Keflavik airport, collect your hire car and drive to Hella and the Hotel Ranga for a 3-night stay. Celebrate your arrival with a gourmet dinner (payable locally).

**DAY 2 South Iceland and Optional Private Super Jeep Tour** Explore the area independently or opt for a Super Jeep safari where your private guide will introduce you to the key attractions of the region with off-road driving.

**DAY 3 South Iceland** After breakfast you could take a drive along the outwash plains to Jökulsárlón Lagoon, try horse riding or take the ferry to Vestmannaeyjar Islands – the Pompeii of the North.

**DAY 4 South Iceland and the Golden Circle** Drive up to the Geysir geothermal area with its bubbling mud pits, then Gullfoss and continue to Thingvellir National Park before driving on to Reykjavik, staying at the Hotel Centrum for your final night.

**DAY 5 UK** Explore the historic centre of Reykjavik or drive to the Blue Lagoon for a relaxing soak in the warm, milky blue waters before your return flight home.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return international flights from a choice of regional UK departures
- 3 nights at the Hotel Ranga and 1 night at the Hotel Centrum, staying in a standard twin room with private WC/shower
- Breakfast throughout
- 4 days (4x24hrs.) Group A car hire including unlimited mileage, theft protection, CDW and all applicable taxes.
- Free GPS navigation system and road map
- Additional car hire insurance is available including SDEW, windscreen, ash and sand protection.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### HOTEL RANGA

Set in lush meadowland against a backdrop of Mount Hekla and Eyjafallajökull in the distance is Hotel Ranga. Just under 1½ hours easy drive from Reykjavik, this ranch-style hotel is ideal for those desiring luxury, charm and comfort in the heart of the countryside.

The acclaimed gourmet restaurant prides itself on using the finest, locally sourced ingredients including fish from Iceland's finest salmon river. The cosy and amply-stocked bar is ideal for an aperitif and snug seating areas offer a place to unwind, read a book, play a board game or billiards.

A wide choice of accommodation includes standard rooms with private WC/bath and shower, larger deluxe rooms with a sofa, tea/coffee making facilities and indoor jacuzzi baths. Junior and master suites are named after the 7 continents showcasing artwork from these destinations.



All rooms have views of the river or Mt. Hekla volcano and access to the hotel's outdoor hot tubs, where you can relax under a star-lit sky, free of urban light pollution. The hotel operates a personal aurora alarm system, ensuring you are advised of sightings.



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1500**<sup>pp</sup>  
 OCTOBER – APRIL

## A Taste of Luxury under the Aurora

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE ITINERARY

Soak up some of Iceland's most iconic sights whilst enjoying the comfort of one of its most luxurious properties. The tumbling waterfalls of Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss are but a short, easy drive away, as are Dyrhólaey's black sand beaches edged by crashing, white, foaming waves. Explore the trio of sights known as the Golden Circle and catch the best view of Langjökull Glacier there is to be had from a snowmobile. By night enjoy the gastronomic delights and tranquil surroundings of your elegant abode.

### SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Grimnes** Arrive at Keflavik airport, collect your hire car and drive to Hotel Grimsborgir, lying in the shadow of Mount Hengil and your home for the following 3 nights. Dine at the hotel restaurant before retiring to look out for the northern lights on your deck or in a hot tub.

**DAY 2 South Coast** After a hearty breakfast, we suggest driving along the south coast to Dyrhólaey and on to the promontory from where you will have views of the Reynisfjall cliffs and black sand beaches. Return via Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss, two of Iceland's most picturesque waterfalls, one of which you can walk under. Continue to Eyrarbakki with its weatherboard houses and perhaps a lobster supper at Vid Fjorubordid before returning to the welcoming arms of the Hotel Grimsborgir.

**DAY 3 Golden Circle** Take a short walk around the 3,000 year old Kerid crater before heading to the Geysir area. Here Strokkur spouts impressively every 5-10 minutes and there are steaming fumaroles and hot springs bubbling alongside. On to Gullfoss where the glacial river Hvita powers down a staircase of falls eventually plummeting down a 32m drop. Fill your afternoon with some glacier snowmobiling on Langjökull or visit Thingvellir National Park, Iceland's ultimate historical, cultural and geological site.

**DAY 4 Reykjavik** After an unhurried morning drive back to Reykjavik you will have ample time to enjoy the city's museums and galleries or perhaps an evening northern lights excursion. Overnight at the Hotel Centrum.

**DAY 5 UK** Make the most of your last morning in Iceland and stop off at the Blue Lagoon for a relaxing soak in the milky blue waters, before returning your car at the airport in time for your flight home.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### HOTEL GRIMSBORGIR

Olafur Laufdal and Kristin Ketilsdóttir's homage to Nordic chic and design. Each hotel room and apartment has been individually crafted by the couple and staying here feels like being invited into their home.

Just 1½ hours' drive from Keflavik International Airport, the hotel is set in splendid isolation on the banks of the River Sog. The unassuming exterior conceals an absolute gem, which has deservedly won TripAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence three years in a row. Each designer room benefits from its own deck and has access to a number of hot tubs. Upgrade to a 2-bedroomed deluxe studio or 4-bedroomed villa and you will have your own kitchen/diner, 'grounds' and private hot tub. Where possible, Olafur even ensures that your national flag is flying outside your abode.

The restaurant menu focuses on locally sourced products including salmon, trout and cod and there is often musical entertainment that reaches through into the bar area, complete with open fireplace and wing-backed chairs.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return international flights from a choice of regional UK departures
- 4 nights' accommodation in standard twin room with private WC/ shower
- Breakfast throughout
- 4 days (4x24hrs.) Group A car hire including unlimited mileage, theft protection, CDW and all applicable taxes.
- Free GPS navigation system and road map
- Additional Additional car hire insurance is available including SDEW, windscreen, ash and sand protection.



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1060**<sub>pp</sub>  
 OCTOBER – APRIL

## Romantic Iceland

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE ITINERARY

Head for the diverse and magical landscape of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, home to the towering Snæfellsjökull Glacier, and a magnificent coastline with exceptional geological formations. This area provided the inspiration for Jules Verne's novel, 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth'. On the coast, in the very heart of the Snæfellsjökull National Park, lies the luxurious Hotel Budir, co-existing in harmony with its unique natural surroundings.

### SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Keflavik** Fly to Keflavik from a choice of regional airports and collect your hire car. Drive the short distance to the Northern Light Inn or stop off along the way at the Blue Lagoon, where a relaxing soak in the milky blue waters will be a perfect start to your romantic break. You may even spot the northern lights from the rooftop Aurora lounge at the northern lights Inn.

**DAY 2 Snæfellsbaer** After a leisurely breakfast set off for the Snæfellsnes Peninsula. It is a three hour scenic drive with plenty to see along the way so allow plenty of time. Near Organes there are lava caves and remarkable rock formations as well as natural, warm springs. See the imposing basalt columns at Gerduberg before arriving at Hotel Budir, the base for your romantic retreat. Dine in the candlelit restaurant and perhaps be treated to a dazzling display of the aurora before you retire in this haven of peace and tranquillity.

**DAY 3-4 At leisure** Your itinerary and sightseeing options will be determined by your dates of travel as well as local weather conditions. The surrounding area plays host to spectacular rock formations and lava caves, with the charming fishing village of Hellnar, set beneath the impressive Snæfellsjökull Glacier. Kirkjufell is believed to be one of the most beautiful mountains in Iceland, with its breathtaking waterfalls. In winter Kolgrafafjörður becomes a sanctuary for wildlife seeking the sustenance given by the migrating herring. Stay overnight at Hotel Budir.

**DAY 5 UK** Following breakfast depart for Keflavik airport, returning your hire car in time for your return flight home.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### HOTEL BUDIR

This beautiful countryside hotel sits in a lava field on the edge of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula in West Iceland. Offering stunning views out across the Snæfellsjökull Glacier and the Budir Estuary, the hotel offers a choice of charming deluxe and loft rooms. Each one is unique in style and décor, mixing modern essential conveniences (Wi-Fi and private en suite WC/ bathtub and shower) with an eclectic mix of rustic chic furnishings, creating the perfect ambience for a romantic break.

The hotel's kitchen has long been renowned as a 'Mecca' of Icelandic cooking with the restaurant serving up a stunning collection of fish dishes, original starters and desserts. Its warm ambience and eclectic charm make for an unforgettable stay. You are sure to enjoy the cosy sitting room with its mahogany bookcases, Chesterfield sofas, walls laden with framed pictures and authentic open fire, as well as the candle-lit restaurant serving elegantly presented food.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return international flights from a choice of regional UK departures
- 4 days (4 x 24hr) Group F (Toyota RAV4) car hire including unlimited mileage, theft protection, CDW and all applicable taxes. Free GPS navigation system and road map.
- 4 nights' accommodation in twin room with private WC/ shower
- Breakfast throughout



## Winter Magic in North Iceland

8 DAYS FROM  
**£1660**<sup>pp</sup>  
 SEPTEMBER – APRIL

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY

Enjoy a journey off the beaten track in North Iceland, a region of large contrasts and small distances. Natural adventures include hot springs, geothermal baths, amazing lava formations and Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall. Lying 300m above sea level, Mývatn enjoys auspicious conditions for the northern lights, which can illuminate the dark night sky, along with the distant red glow of Holuhraun lava field, and where winter brings its own set of pursuits.

### SUGGESTED 8 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1-2 Reykjavik** On arrival, transfer by shuttle bus to the Hotel Plaza for 2 nights. Enjoy historic Reykjavik and dine at one of the many restaurants. Choose from a wide range of excursions. (See page 73).

**DAY 3 Lake Mývatn** Self-transfer to Reykjavik domestic airport for the short flight to Akureyri, where you will be met on arrival. Your guided transfer includes a stop at Godafoss, where during the winter, frozen tentacles adorn the edge of the horseshoe-shaped falls. Check in to Sel Hotel Mývatn, before an afternoon of sightseeing, which includes the knotted tangle of the Dimmuborgir lava fields and the bubbling mud pools at Hveraleira. After dinner, keep watch for the aurora in the hotel's northern lights shelter.

**DAY 4 At leisure** Head off on an action-packed optional excursion – choose from our favourites on the right. Dine at the hotel. If the northern lights show, you can turn the street lamps off, intensifying your experience.

**DAY 5 Super Jeep tour to Dettifoss** Travel by Super Jeep to see nature at its most powerful. The Dettifoss waterfall assaults the senses. The drive also takes you to Selfoss and the basalt canyon of the river Jökulsá.

**DAY 6 At leisure** Today is free for your chosen activity. We suggest Mývatn Nature Baths, where the rich combinations of natural minerals are sure to revitalise and rejuvenate. Dine at the hotel.

**DAY 7 Reykjavik** After breakfast, return to Akureyri for the early afternoon flight back to Reykjavik. Make your own way to the Hotel Plaza for a final evening in Iceland.

**DAY 8 UK** Transfer back to Keflavik airport in time for your flight home.

### OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:

**SNOWMOBILE TOURS** Enjoy a ½ hour introductory snowmobile tour or a 1-hour snowmobile tour of the pearls surrounding Lake Mývatn.  
**Price from:** £125/£190 pp (2 people sharing)

**OFF ROAD & HIDDEN WONDERS** Super Jeep tour of the hidden gems of Mývatn including the craters of Lúdent. **Duration:** 3-4 hrs. **Price from:** £260 pp

**NORTHERN LIGHTS HUNT** Set out for an evening adventure in search of the aurora. Cake and hot chocolate included.  
**Duration:** 3 hrs. **Price from:** £150 pp

**MÝVATN NATURE BATHS** Soak in the milky aquamarine waters of this natural geothermal pool. **Duration:** 2 hrs. **Price from:** £39 pp

**HORSE RIDING WITH THE HORSEMAN OF ÁLFTAGERDI** A gentle 1-hour trek into the natural surroundings. **Duration:** 45 minutes **Price from:** £75 pp

**CULTURE TOUR** Gain insight to the Icelandic way of life. Visit a folk museum & the whale museum at Húsavik. **Duration:** 5 hrs. **Price from:** £192 pp

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING** Master the art of cross-country skiing with this 1-hour introductory lesson. **Duration:** 1 hour **Price from:** £70 pp

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return international & domestic flights from UK to Keflavik and Akureyri
- Return airport/hotel shuttle transfers from Keflavik International Airport and Mývatn
- 7 nights accommodation with breakfast throughout
- Evening meal in Mývatn
- Super Jeep excursion to Dettifoss



5 DAYS FROM  
**£2360<sub>pp</sub>**  
 NOVEMBER – APRIL

## Iceland's Ultimate Family Adventure

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

Iceland is a thrilling geological theme park and this is a tailor-made VIP visit to see the natural wonders of this vast playground. Your base is a luxury 3-bedroomed villa with outdoor hot tub in a northern lights hotspot. On hand is a Super Jeep with private driver-guide, who has a programme of bespoke tours that will fast-track you to Iceland's most iconic attractions and experiences.

### SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Selfoss** Your Super Jeep and driver/guide will be waiting for you on your arrival at Keflavik International Airport, ready to transfer you to the Grimsborgir Hotel just 90 minutes away.

Check in and make yourself at home in your villa, complete with fire-place, private hot-tub, fully equipped kitchen, patio and BBQ. There are uninterrupted views of the surrounding countryside and the villa's panoramic windows and hot-tub are ideal spots from which to keep an eye out for the northern lights. Dinner can be taken in the a la carte restaurant in the main lodge.

**DAY 2 Golden Circle** Today you will visit three of Iceland's most iconic sights: Thingvellir National Park, where the early Vikings set up the world's first parliament and where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates are clearly visible. On to the geyser area with bubbling mud pools and Strokkur, which spouts 100 ft. plumes of steam every 5-10 minutes. Finally there is the impressive Gullfoss waterfall with its unique 90° turn.

This is no ordinary excursion, you will be driving off road, crossing glaciers, splashing through rivers and experiencing Iceland's challenging terrain. There is also the opportunity for a snowmobile adventure (supplement applies). Lunch is taken en route (payable locally) alternatively packed lunches can be arranged. Dinner and overnight at the Grimsborgir.

**DAY 3 South Coast** Today's adventure takes you along the diverse landscape of the South Coast, including striking waterfalls (you can walk behind Seljalandsfoss and climb to the top of Skógafoss). Whereas the black sands at Vik allow for some exciting beach action.

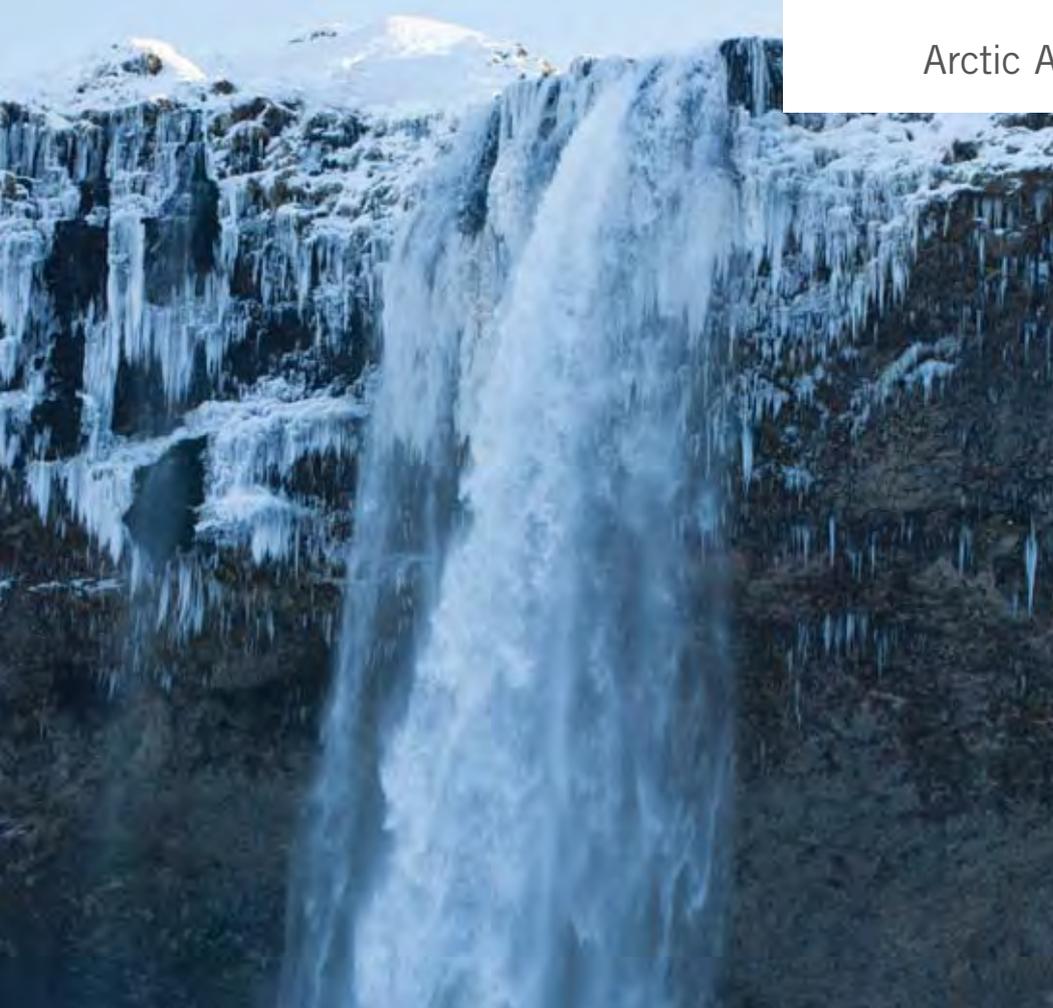
We also recommend taking a family trek on the sweet-natured Icelandic horse (supplement applies). Choose to return to the Grimsborgir for dinner or dine at a restaurant recommended by your guide.

**DAY 4 Borgarfjord & Icecave** Each day is tailored to suit you and today is no exception. This tour will take you to the hot springs of Deildartunguher, the water from which is used to heat the towns of Borgarnes and Akranes. You will also be driven to the wonderful Hraunfoss cascading falls, and visit the ice cave, man-made ice tunnels that take you deep into the glacier. Entry to the ice cave is included. This is perfect for any family who want to combine awe-inspiring scenery with plenty of action.

**DAY 5 Blue Lagoon and UK** After bidding a reluctant farewell to the Grimsborgir, head to the airport, stopping en route at the Blue Lagoon, where you can immerse yourselves in to the soothing milky blue water, ensuring a stress-free return to the UK.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return international flights from a choice of regional UK departures.
- Super Jeep and services of a private driver/guide for 5 days.
- 4 nights at the Grimsborgir Hotel in a 3-bedroomed deluxe villa
- Breakfast throughout. Half-board and lunches can be arranged at a supplement
- Entry, towels, drink and skin-care sample at the Blue Lagoon
- Supplements apply to some additional activities mentioned such as snowmobile, horse-riding and helicopter excursions.



# Aurora Nights & Iceland's Natural Wonders

5 DAYS FROM  
**£875<sup>pp</sup>**  
 OCTOBER – MARCH  
 SELECTED DATES

## LOCALLY GUIDED GROUP ADVENTURE

Sit back on this exciting guided tour and spend days discovering Iceland's legendary natural wonders and nights under a canopy of stars in search of the Aurora Borealis. Take in the geyser that gave the world the name; Gullfoss, the golden waterfall; Jökulsárlón, the iceberg lagoon and Eyjafjallajökull, which erupted with such spectacular consequences in 2010.

## SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 UK – Reykjavik** Fly direct to Keflavik from a choice of regional airports. Transfer on arrival and check in to the CenterHotel Plaza. Acquaint yourself with the historic city centre and enjoy an early dinner in one of the many local restaurants. Don't forget to sign up for the northern lights wake-up alert before retiring.

**DAY 2 Golden Circle** After breakfast you will meet your qualified, local guide and like-minded travellers, before heading to see the trio of sites known as the Golden Circle. Thingvellir National Park was the location for Iceland's first parliament and is where you can see the dramatic rift valley which caused the movement of the American and Eurasian tectonic plates. Stop at the geysir area where, amongst the bubbling fumaroles and hot springs, Strokkur spouts impressively every 5-10 minutes. Onwards to Gullfoss, the waterfall that plummets 32m before twisting and tumbling on down a steep canyon.

Along the way you will stop at a stud farm breeding the easy-going 5-gaited Icelandic horse. Alongside is a tomato farm which utilises the ample supply of geothermal water to produce tomatoes year-round. Pausing at Eyjafjallajökull Visitor Centre, you can view a short film showing the fortitude of the local farmers following the 2010 eruption, before arriving at your countryside accommodation, the Hotel Katla, your base for the next 2 nights. After dinner (pay locally) you will head out into the local surroundings in search of the northern lights.

**DAY 3 Glacier Lagoon** After breakfast you will drive further along the south-east coast across bridges fording dramatic outwash plains, interspersed with black sand beaches and lava fields, to Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon.

The luminous blue icebergs float in the lagoon for several years, gradually sculpting themselves into varying shapes before finally working their way out to sea. Return to Vik via Skaftafell National Park on the southern edge of the mighty Vatnajökull Glacier. Dinner and another chance for an aurora search at Hotel Katla, if not seen on the previous evening.

**DAY 4 Volcanos and Waterfalls** Today you will return along the south coast, stopping at two of Iceland's plunge waterfalls. Seljalandsfoss, which spills straight off the cliffs of the former coastline and Skógafoss, which often welcomes you with a rainbow. The last call of the day is the Blue Lagoon and a chance to bathe in the soothing milky blue waters before bidding farewell to your travel companions. Overnight at the CentreHotel Plaza.

**DAY 5 UK** Time to explore Reykjavik and do some last minute shopping before your transfer back to Keflavik and flight home.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return international flights from a choice of regional UK departures
- 4 nights' accommodation with private WC/ shower
- Standard room at CenterHotel Plaza and at Hotel Katla
- Breakfast throughout
- Fully escorted tour from AM on Day 2 until PM on Day 4 with services of local guide
- Entry to and bathing in the Blue Lagoon
- Return airport/hotel shuttle bus transfers
- Northern lights presentations and searches as specified on Day 2 and 3



# Northern Lights Around Iceland

8 DAYS FROM  
**£2845**<sup>pp</sup>  
SUNDAY DEPARTURES  
OCTOBER – MARCH

## LOCALLY GUIDED GROUP ADVENTURE

Join this small group escorted tour travelling to the North, East and South of Iceland in pursuit of the northern lights. Explore Akureyri, Lake Mývatn and the East Fjords. Visit Vatnajökull glacier and Jökulsárlón ice lagoon and enjoy the Golden Circle classics. Delve into hot springs, walk through volcanic landscapes and observe Arctic wildlife. Each overnight stop has been hand-picked to maximise your chances of catching a glimpse of the awesome aurora.

## SUGGESTED 8 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Reykjavik** Fly to Keflavik International Airport and transfer to the Fosshotel Baron, located in the heart of Reykjavik. The remainder of the afternoon and evening is at leisure to sample the delights of this vibrant city.

**DAY 2 Akureyri & Lake Mývatn** Meet your guide and fellow travellers, before an early transfer to Reykjavik domestic airport for the short 45-minute flight to Akureyri, the capital of North Iceland. After exploring this charming town, it is on to Goðafoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall. Next stop is Lake Mývatn, stopping off to walk through the bizarre lava formations at Dimmuborgir. Overnight and dinner is at Sel Hotel Mývatn, where the evening is spent learning about the northern lights and relaxing at Mývatn Nature Baths.

**DAY 3 East Iceland** Today's adventure starts after breakfast with a visit to the Mývatn bird museum and the hot spring area of Námaskarð, with its bubbling mud pools. East Iceland beckons as you cross the uninhabited highlands and navigate the moonlike surroundings, home to the Arctic fox and reindeer. Dinner and overnight at Hotel Hallormmstaður, located in Iceland's largest forest, a perfect setting for hunting the aurora.

**DAY 4 Meet the locals** After a walk through the arboretum, you will head to the charming sea-side village of Eskilfjörður. Here, you will visit a seaman's lodge and, if you are feeling strong, taste the locally produced shark meat, dried fish and Brennivin schnapps. Later, Ms Oskarsdottir, a local aurora specialist, will regal you with her aurora encounters and, if the conditions are favourable, lead you to her favoured northern lights spot, just outside the village. Dinner and overnight at Fosshotel Fáskrúdsfjörður.

**DAY 5 Glaciers & Ice** Today's journey winds through dramatic fjord landscapes and tiny fishing villages, before arriving at Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon, filled with sculpted floating icebergs. Continue through Vatnajökull National Park before arriving at the Fosshotel Núpár. This remote location is a renowned aurora area.

**DAY 6 South Coast** Marvel at the varied landscapes of the South Coast, including black sand beaches, mountainous cliffs and some of Iceland's most impressive waterfalls. A visit to the Eyjafjallajökull Information Centre is an enlightening experience. Overnight at the Grimsborgir Hotel, where after dinner, you can keep an eye out for an overhead dancing display of the aurora from the hotel's outdoor hot tubs.

**DAY 7 Golden Circle** Today you will visit a trio of Iceland's most iconic sights. First the geyser geothermal pools, then Gullfoss waterfall and on to Thingvellir National Park. This is followed by the highlights of Reykjavik, before overnighting at the Fosshotel Baron and dining at one of the many local restaurants (payable locally).

**DAY 8 UK** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before returning to Keflavik International Airport for your return flight home.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return international flights from a choice of regional UK departures.
- Flight from Reykjavik domestic airport to Akureyri
- Return airport/hotel shuttle transfers
- 7 nights' accommodation in a twin room with private WC/shower
- Breakfast throughout, 5 x 2-course dinners and 5 x midnight refreshments
- Entry to Mývatn Nature Baths and Bird Museum at Lake Mývatn
- Meet the locals tour and tastings



## North Iceland Aurora Challenge

8 DAYS FROM  
**£3165<sup>pp</sup>**  
 OCTOBER – MARCH  
 SELECTED DATES

### LOCALLY GUIDED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURE

This small group tour (maximum 16 people) accompanied by a local expert, enables you to visit those destinations which are not usually seen by larger groups, exploring Iceland's raw natural environment. It also maximises your chances of witnessing the northern lights, including 5 evenings of lectures, presentations and guided searches. You will take in museum visits, culinary experiences, a stay in Iceland's northernmost town, and even a snowshoe hike in a lava labyrinth.

### SUGGESTED 8 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Reykjavik** Fly from a choice of regional airports direct to Keflavik International airport, Reykjavik. Take the airport shuttle bus service to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure.

**DAY 2 Siglufjörður** After breakfast meet your guide and fellow travellers for the fascinating 400 km journey north. On the way, you will drive through mountain passes and along the shores of scenic fjords, stopping en route to climb the Grabrok volcano crater, visit a natural history and seal museum and stop at the turf church of Vidimyri. Stay overnight in Siglufjörður, one of Iceland's prettiest towns and its most northern, at the Hotel Siglo. Enjoy the evening at leisure.

**DAY 3 Explore Siglufjörður and head for Lake Myvatn** Enjoy a morning exploring this delightful harbour town, which until 1967 could only be reached by boat and its museum. Drive along Eyjafjörður, Iceland's longest fjord, explore the Tröllaskagi Peninsula and stop at a deserted fjord valley, before tasting the beer at a local microbrewery. Continue to Lake Mývatn, and the Sel Hotel, your home for the next 3 nights. Dinner and an evening lecture about the aurora followed by a search for the northern lights.

**DAY 4 Trolls & Snow adventures in Lake Myvatn** Today's highlights are a walk through the lava formations of Dimmuborgir (if snowy, a snowshoe walk) said to be inhabited by trolls. Return to the hotel for a light lunch. Afternoon at leisure. After dinner enjoy a relaxing soak at Lake Mývatn Nature Baths and a northern lights hunt.

**DAY 5 Exploring Lake Myvatn** Take an easy guided walk around Lake Mývatn, renowned for its lava formations and bird life. Visit the hot spring area of Námaskarð with its bubbling mud pools and steaming solfataras for a chance to taste traditional dark bread baked underground in the geothermal heat. After dinner, enjoy a video about the northern lights.

**DAY 6 Akureyri** Visit the bird museum and travel to Goðafoss, the waterfall of the Gods. Next stop is the Christmas Garden, a museum and shop focused on Icelandic Christmas traditions. The afternoon is free to explore Akureyri, the capital of North Iceland. Dine at leisure and depending on the conditions, there is a short excursion to hunt the Aurora Borealis.

**DAY 7 Return to Reykjavik** Return to Reykjavik via a western route over the mountains to Skagafjörður. Visit the folk museum and turf farm at Glaumbær. Enjoy a guided tour of the only tannery in Europe making fish leather. Stop for coffee and cake and learn about the Icelandic horse. Check in to the Keahotel Skuggi for your last night. Evening at leisure in Reykjavik.

**DAY 8 UK** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before taking the shuttle bus back to the airport in time for your flight home. We can arrange for you to visit the Blue Lagoon for a final Icelandic experience (supplement applies).

**NB:** You will spend an average of 3 hours on the bus each day, travelling an average of 124 miles per day.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from a choice of regional departures
- Return airport-hotel shuttle transfers
- Fully escorted 6-day bus tour with an English-speaking guide and excursions/activities as per itinerary
- 7 nights' accommodation including breakfast
- 2x light lunch, 3x 3-course dinner and 3x midnight refreshments
- Use of winter & northern lights explorer equipment: simple non-slip snow & ice gripper spikes for shoes and a flash light



## Volcanoes and Ice in Iceland and Greenland

7 DAYS FROM  
**£2725<sup>pp</sup>**  
 FEBRUARY – MARCH  
 SELECTED DATES

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY WITH LOCAL GUIDE

This spectacular two country holiday allows you to explore both Iceland and Greenland. Start in Reykjavik and visit Iceland's dramatic wonders such as her geysers, Gullfoss waterfall and dramatic Thingvellir National Park, where the tectonic plates meet. Continue your adventure in Ilulissat, on the west coast of Greenland, some 300 kms north of the Polar Circle, home to icebergs and a fascinating culture. It boasts spectacular dogsledding adventures and vivid Northern Light displays.

### SUGGESTED 7 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 To Reykjavik** Travel to Keflavik International airport from a choice of regional UK airports where, on arrival, you will take the airport shuttle bus into the capital, Reykjavik and your chosen hotel to spend the rest of the day at leisure.

**DAY 2 Golden Circle Excursion and Iceland Fish Supper** Enjoy a hearty breakfast, before joining a full day excursion around the Golden Circle, a trio of Iceland's most iconic sights. First stop is Thingvellir National Park, then on to Gullfoss waterfall with its unique 90° turn and the bubbling geyser area, where Strokkur spurts a steaming stream of water up to 40m into the air. Dinner is taken at the atmospheric Reykjavik Restaurant, just a short walk from your hotel, offering an extensive seafood buffet, showcasing the best of local produce.

**DAY 3 To Ilulissat** Take the 3 hour 11.45 flight to Ilulissat. If the skies are clear you may see from the air just how vast and remote Greenland is. On arrival you will be met by your local guide and transferred to the Hotel Arctic. After checking in, enjoy an information meeting and a guided city walk of Ilulissat, set on the breath-taking Ilulissat Icefjord. Enjoy a delicious welcome dinner with your fellow travellers at the Hotel Arctic, remembering to keep an eye out for the northern lights from the panoramic windows.

**DAY 4 Day free for Optional Excursions** See our website for details of our excursions, all designed to introduce you to the spectacular nature that surrounds Ilulissat, Greenland's third largest town. Its population is just 4,500, almost matched by the number of dogs living here. With no roads, husky sledding remains the favoured form of transport. Take a boat trip on

the Icefjord, where gigantic icebergs will take your breath away. Visit isolated settlements by snowshoeing or search for the northern lights.

**DAY 5 Day Free for Optional Excursions** Another free day for you to choose an excursion. Once again, your local guide is on hand to help. There is a farewell dinner at the Hotel Arctic.

Due to availability, we recommend that you pre-book your excursions.

**DAY 6 Return to Reykjavik** The return flight to Reykjavik leaves around noon, so there is still time to enjoy and absorb the atmosphere of this remarkable location, before transferring to the airport. Arrival back in Reykjavik is around 19.00 with the evening at leisure.

**DAY 7 UK** Board the airport shuttle bus to Keflavik International airport in good time for your return flight to the UK. If your flight timing allows we can arrange for you to visit and experience the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Blue Lagoon before continuing on to the airport. (Supplement applies).

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from a choice of regional UK airports.
- All airport to hotel transfers in Iceland and Greenland.
- 6 nights' accommodation in standard twin/double room with private WC/shower.
- Breakfast throughout. Dinner on DAY 2, 3 and 5
- Services of English speaking local guide from arrival in Ilulissat on DAY 3 to Ilulissat departure on DAY 6
- Excursions as per itinerary

For details of optional excursions in Reykjavik see page 73.  
 For optional excursions in Ilulissat see our website.



## Winter Images of Ilulissat

7 DAYS FROM  
**£2425**<sup>pp</sup>  
 NOVEMBER – MARCH  
 SELECTED DATES

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY WITH LOCAL GUIDE

Greenland is a unique destination and a winter break offers a truly memorable experience. At this time fjords and bays freeze over and everyday life adapts to the season. Boats are exchanged for huskies and snowmobiles, the Midnight Sun for northern lights. Travel to Ilulissat, 250 km north of the Arctic Circle, perched on the edge of a UNESCO World Heritage icefjord. View this breathtaking landscape and gain an insight into the lives of the Greenlandic people.

### SUGGESTED 7 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Copenhagen** Fly to Copenhagen and stay overnight at the Hilton Copenhagen Airport. There is a direct metro link from here that whizzes you into central Copenhagen in a mere 13 minutes, should you wish to sample some of the city's delights.

**DAY 2 Ilulissat** Take the morning flight to Kangerlussuaq then onwards to Ilulissat. Both flights can offer amazing views of the icy landscape and illustrate the sheer scale, barren wilderness and challenges that face the tiny population of Greenland. On arrival, meet your local guide, transfer to the Hotel Arctic, check in and attend an information meeting. In order to familiarise yourself with your surroundings there is a guided walk of the town. Return to the Hotel Arctic for a welcome dinner.

**DAY 3-5 Ilulissat** We have left these days free for optional excursions (see website for details). Activities will be dependent on ice and weather conditions, so an adaptable approach may be needed. Open water is expected until late November, but could last all winter. Snow is expected from early December. The northern lights are visible from September – March. Your local guide is on hand to assist should any pre-booked options need rescheduling. On your final night in Ilulissat there is a farewell dinner, and an opportunity to share your experiences with fellow guests.

**DAY 6 Copenhagen** After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight to Copenhagen (via Kangerlussuaq) and overnight once again at the Hilton Copenhagen Airport.

**DAY 7 UK** Breakfast and choose your return flight home to suit any further shopping or sightseeing requirements.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### HOTEL ARCTIC

The 4\* Hotel Arctic is located on a rocky headland with uninterrupted views over the town and the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Ilulissat Icefjord. Erik Bjerregaard has, over the years, extended the original property which now offers a wide choice of accommodation. The standard Puisi rooms with Philip Stark bathrooms, enjoy views of the town and harbour. Upgrade to the contemporary and elegant Umiq deluxe rooms that enjoy Bang & Olufsen TV's, original Greenlandic art work and guaranteed views of the sea and bergs. Restaurant Ulo is recognised as one of the best in the country. Café Ferdinand is a light and easy alternative offering tea/coffee, cake and what has to be the wildest 'bar menu' where even the bread incorporates seawater from the Icefjord.

### OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

**THE ICEBERGS OF SERMERMIUT** from £60pp

**HUNTERS' SETTLEMENT RODEBAY** from £205pp

**ICEBERG CRUISE BY BOAT** from £95pp

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Ilulissat (via Copenhagen and Kangerlussuaq)
- 6 nights' accommodation in standard twin room with private WC/ shower
- Breakfast throughout. Welcome & Farewell Dinner at the Hotel Arctic
- Return airport/hotel shuttle transfers in Ilulissat
- Services of a local guide in Ilulissat



## Father Christmas Experiences & Festive Breaks

Christmas is a truly magical time, and for young children, the build up can be every bit as exciting as the main event. What child hasn't dreamed of visiting Father Christmas in his snowy home in Lapland and perhaps even meeting his magical helpers, the elves? We offer a range of carefully planned, intimate Father Christmas experiences in the weeks leading up to Christmas, as well as festive breaks to celebrate Christmas or New Year in style.

These days there are many different Father Christmas visits available, but we like to keep ours small and special. Each trip hosts a maximum of just ten families so you can be sure that you will have our full attention. You will always be accompanied by an experienced local guide, and some of our holidays are accompanied from the UK. We like to keep our Father Christmas experiences as uncommercialised as possible and we make sure that children and adults have the chance to participate fully. You won't find yourself on a coach trip with hundreds of others, or waiting in a long queue. We understand that your family's visit to Santa is usually a 'once in a lifetime' experience so we think it is worth pushing the boat out and doing it properly. We offer a number of different itineraries – have a look at the following pages to see what's included. If you aren't sure then do give us a call and our expert team will be happy to advise you on the best trip for you and your family.

All of our Father Christmas experiences include an individual visit to see Father Christmas for you and your family, and we also offer a 'smuggle a present' facility, so that you can be sure that Father Christmas doesn't disappoint.

We should warn you that our Father Christmas experiences do sell out very quickly, and because we like to keep our groups small, we have a limited number of places. Dates for our trips are usually released in mid-February every year, which is when we are able to confirm flights. If you would like to register to be on our mailing list please let us know. That way you can be sure you are first in line to find out about our holidays.

We also have some wonderful Christmas and New Year holidays that will be appreciated by guests of all ages, with holidays tailored for couples and families. What about a break over the 'Twixmas' period, that lull between Christmas and New Year which can otherwise feel like an anticlimax? All of our festive breaks do tend to get booked up very quickly, so don't delay if you want to get your New Year off to a flying start!





## Dancing with Elves

SEE WEBSITE OR CALL  
FOR PRICES AND DATES

### FATHER CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

Harriniva Wilderness Lodge is set in the heart of Finnish Lapland. Nestled by the banks of the frozen Muonio River. Wrapped in a cloak of pristine white snow this informal, friendly family-run lodge welcomes you with open arms. A warming glow lights up the pine lodge and surrounding ice sculptures. This is a fairy-tale setting for a magical Santa experience.

### SAMPLE 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Leave for Lapland** Fly from London Heathrow to Kittila (via Helsinki). On arrival, transfer to Harriniva and head straight for your room, where your thermal clothing will be ready. Dinner this evening is served in the atmospheric setting of the Aurora Borealis Kota.

**DAY 2 Reindeer, Snow Fun & Santa** This morning meet some of Santa's reindeer resting at their corral. A herder welcomes you to his traditional kota, where a Shaman arrives to tell a tale from ancient folklore. There is a time-honoured 'Crossing the Arctic Circle' ceremony and you will be awarded a diploma to mark the event. In addition there is a short fairy-tale ride through the forest in a reindeer sleigh, after which you are awarded a reindeer driving license. After lunch, it's an afternoon of snow fun. Begin by toasting marshmallows, moving on to cross-country skiing and testing balancing skills whilst snowshoeing. There are mini snowmobiles for the children to try, whereas the toboggans and kicksleds runs are enjoyed by people of all ages. Try your luck at ice-fishing or start a competitive ice-hockey game. Later, each family will take a once in a lifetime journey out into the forest. Here you will meet the Old Lady of the Woods who, along with her elves, directs you along a trail marked by lanterns, to a giant log cabin where Santa lives. The rest is a secret until meet him. Whilst waiting for your sleigh to arrive, help to decorate a Christmas tree, bake traditional gingerbread cookies and make some Christmas decorations. Tonight dinner will be served in the main restaurant.

**DAY 3 Snowmobile & Huskies** Today the whole family will enjoy a thrilling snowmobile ride into the Arctic fells and forest. Adults drive in pairs whilst the children are wrapped up under reindeer skin rugs on a special sleigh behind the guide. Break half-way to play in the waist deep snow before returning to the lodge for lunch.

This afternoon you will meet the excited Harriniva huskies. This 400-strong family each have their own name and are eager to start their afternoon run. Grown-ups mush 2 per dog team, whilst children ride in sleds behind the guide. The only sounds that break the snowy silence are the panting of the dogs and enthusiastic calls of the musher. On returning to the kennels, the children get the chance to mush their own sled too.

This evening, after having tucked into a festive Finnish Christmas buffet, you hear the sound of bells jingling through the trees and discover an ancient Sami spirit has told Santa where you are. Santa then delivers a small present to children and grown-ups alike.

**DAY 4 UK** After breakfast you'll have time for a quick last toboggan or snowball fight before transferring to the airport for your return flight home.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London Heathrow to Kittila (via Helsinki)
- 3 nights' accommodation on a full board basis
- Private Father Christmas visit and 'Smuggle a present to Santa' facility
- Second Father Christmas visit with a present for all
- Excursions, reindeer driving license & 'Crossing the Arctic Circle' diploma as per itinerary
- Return airport/hotel transfers & set of outdoor protective clothing for the duration of your stay
- Services of a Nordic Experience tour guide



# Lapland Wilderness Adventure

SEE WEBSITE OR CALL  
FOR PRICES AND DATES

## FATHER CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

Enchanting and charming, Nellim is the definition of a hidden gem. Located on the shores of Lake Inari, this wilderness lodge is as quiet and beautifully remote a spot as you will find anywhere in Finnish Lapland. The owners, Jouko and Mari Lappalainen, have painstakingly converted what was once the local school into an authentically crafted home. Adding to the magical atmosphere is the chance of spotting the northern lights in this aurora hot spot and a sensational hidden Santa secret.

## SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Finnish Lapland** Depart London Heathrow for Ivalo (via Helsinki). On arrival you will meet your local guide for the 1 hour private coach transfer to the magical Nellim by Lake Inari. At the hotel make straight for your accommodation, where your thermal clothing will be ready. Then head straight out into the powdery pristine snow-covered playground before a welcoming buffet supper.

**DAY 2 Santa Surprise and Snowmobiling** This morning starts with a wilderness adventure – a safari by snowmobile. Follow your guide along a forest trail amongst the pine and spruce bordering the shoreline of Lake Inari. Grown-ups are paired together, taking it in turns to drive, whereas the children enjoy their own ride, wrapped up under warm reindeer skins in a specially built sleigh and driven by your Lapp guide. Return to the lodge for a hearty lunch. Spend the afternoon on the frozen lake with tobogganing, ice-fishing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Later, each family is given a secret undertaking. You will board a snowmobile sleigh, which will transport you and your family deep into the forest to a destination only known to your guide. Once you've arrived at this enchanted place, a friendly elf will reveal a sensational secret - Santa is waiting! Santa will listen to everyone's wishes, which both he and the Sami Spirits of Inari will try to make come true. Return to Nellim for an evening of cookie baking and dinner.

**DAY 3 Husky Safari & Reindeer Farm** After breakfast it is time to embark on a husky safari. After greeting the excited howling hounds, adults take charge of a sled and mush in pairs. Children have their own special ride. Lunch is served back in the hotel, before travelling to the local reindeer

farm to meet some of Santa's hard working herd. On your return to Nellim you will decorate a Christmas tree before a traditional Sami Christmas buffet supper. Later you hear the distant sound of Nellim's school children calling in the wind amongst the trees and discover they have told Santa where you are. Santa has returned to deliver a small present to grown-ups and children alike.

**DAY 4 UK** After breakfast, time at leisure for last minute tobogganing and snowshoeing at the lake's shore before transferring to Ivalo for your return flight to London Heathrow.

Supplements apply for apartments/cabin/log suite.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London Heathrow to Ivalo (via Helsinki)
- 3 nights' accommodation in a hotel room/apartment/cabin with private WC/ shower
- Full Board
- Individual family snowmobile sleigh ride to visit Father Christmas
- Evening visit from Father Christmas
- Exclusive 'Smuggle Santa your own present' facility
- Small present for everyone (children and adults)
- Safari excursions as per itinerary
- Complete set of protective thermal clothing provided throughout
- Services of Nordic Experience and local guide



## Fjell Fun with Father Christmas

SEE WEBSITE OR CALL  
FOR PRICES AND DATES

### FATHER CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

The mountain-top village of Iso-Syöte is cloaked throughout winter in deep white snow and has breathtaking views of a landscape littered with snow-laden conifers and frozen mires. At the village's heart is the Iso-Syöte Hotel with its panoramic view restaurant, Arctic spa, outdoor hot tubs, swimming pool, sauna and bar. Your adventure include snowmobiles, huskies and reindeer plus a very special encounter with Father Christmas.

### SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Iso-Syöte** Leave from London Heathrow on a scheduled flight to Oulu (via Helsinki) located on the edge of the Arctic Circle. On arrival travel by private coach to Iso-Syöte, a snow-clad fjell on the edge of the Syöte National Park. On arrival head straight for your cottage, specially decorated for your arrival (we have also arranged for a small welcome pack of tea, coffee, hot chocolate, sugar and 1 litre of milk for your use). Head to the hotel restaurant for a buffet supper remembering to look out for the northern lights through the panoramic windows.

**DAY 2 Father Christmas & Huskies** After breakfast, your guide will give you instruction and safety briefing on how to drive a snowmobile. Adults will drive in pairs, taking it in turns to steer through the surrounding landscape. The children are wrapped up beneath reindeer skin rugs and pulled on a special sleigh behind the Lapp guide. Wind down the fjell across frozen mires and lakes to a clearing in the forest and a Kota with a welcoming open wood fire. On arrival meet and make friends with a pack of excitedly barking huskies. Mush your way along a trail marked out on a pure white blanket of snow, with only the sound of the sleigh's runners to break the silence. A welcoming lunch is served in the Kota and the afternoon filled with snow fun games set up in the surrounding wilderness. There is the simple art of kicksledding and snowshoeing to master, as well as mini-snowmobile rides for the children. During this time each family will make a secret pilgrimage along a candle lit track to a cabin – barely visible in the woods. A knock on the door reveals Santa's secret hideaway, as well as the man himself. The rest is hush-hush until you meet him, but it will be a magical encounter. Return to Iso-Syöte by snowmobile; take a sauna or splash in the hotel pool before a traditional buffet supper in the restaurant.

**DAY 3 Reindeer and a Shaman's Magic** Today's snowmobile safari takes you to a nearby reindeer corral. The Sami herder greets you and tells of his life raising reindeer. Introduce yourself to Santa's herd, afterwards taking the reins of a sleigh for a short ride and sit your reindeer driving exam.

Celebrate your success over a mug of warming coffee in a traditional Kota where you will catch the sound of drum beat breaking through the frosted air. This announces the arrival of the Shaman who formally greets you with a demonstration of his centuries old mystical powers, the details of which are a carefully coveted secret.

Snowmobile to a local restaurant for lunch before returning to your cabin. Help the children find a Christmas tree to decorate and bake cookies before a traditional festive buffet dinner where you are joined by a very special visitor.

**DAY 4 UK** The morning is at leisure and ideal for some quick last minute tobogganing. A light lunch is served\* before transferring to Oulu airport in time for your scheduled flights back to the UK.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London Heathrow to Kittila (via Helsinki)
- 3 nights' accommodation on full board basis
- Private Father Christmas visit and 'Smuggle a present to Santa' facility
- Second Father Christmas visit with a present for all
- Excursions, reindeer driving license & 'Crossing the Arctic Circle' diploma as per itinerary
- Return airport/hotel transfers & set of outdoor protective clothing for the duration of your stay
- Services of a Nordic Experience tour guide

# Christmas in Harriniva

SEE WEBSITE OR CALL FOR PRICES AND DATES

## FATHER CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

Enchanting and charming, Nellim is the definition of a hidden gem. Located on the shores of Lake Inari, this wilderness lodge is as quiet and beautifully remote a spot as you will find anywhere in Finnish Lapland.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR 6 DAY ITINERARY

This 6 day Christmas adventure is spent at the Harriniva Wilderness Lodge enjoying a range of winter adventures and activities in the snowy landscape. Highlights will include a once in a lifetime journey to meet Father Christmas. Each family will head out into the forest and along a secret trail marked by lanterns hanging in the trees. In the heart of the forest you discover the Old Lady of the Woods, sheltering in her teepee with some of Santa's Elves. They greet and guide you to a giant log cabin where Santa lives - the rest is a secret until you meet him. Whilst waiting for your sleigh to arrive for the return journey you help to decorate a Christmas tree, bake traditional gingerbread cookies, make a gingerbread house and enjoy some traditional Christmas crafts.

During your stay there will be an opportunity to visit a reindeer farm, take a reindeer drive and even be granted your own reindeer licence. You will also take part in a special ceremony and be awarded a diploma for 'Crossing the Arctic Circle'. On Christmas Eve there will be a special visit by Father Christmas. During the evening you will hear the distant sound of sleigh bells followed by a knock on the door – an ancient Sami spirit has told Santa where you are! Led by a herder in traditional Sami costume, Santa delivers a small present to everyone, grown-ups and children alike.

On Christmas Day itself you will have the opportunity to take place in a husky safari and enjoy an afternoon of snow fun, trying your hand at cross-country skiing, tandem-skiing or snowshoeing, enjoying the thrill of a toboggan ride or kicksledding. Children can have a go on the mini skidoos. Boxing day will start with a snowmobile safari through the frozen landscape, before stopping to play in the deep snow.



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London Heathrow to Lapland (Via Helsinki)
- Airport/Hotel return transfers
- 5 nights' hotel accommodation with private WC/Shower on full board basis
- Evening visit from Father Christmas
- Exclusive 'Smuggle Santa your own present' facility
- Excursions as per itinerary
- Complete set of protective thermal clothing provided throughout

# Christmas by Lake Inari

SEE WEBSITE OR CALL FOR PRICES AND DATES

## SMALL GROUP FESTIVE EXPERIENCE

The wilderness lodge of Nellim lies on the shores of Lake Inari. This tranquil setting is the perfect place to enjoy Christmas in a warm and magical ambience with roaring log fires, twinkling fairy-lights, starry skies and plenty of winter activities.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR 5 DAY ITINERARY

This 5 day Christmas adventure is spent at the Nellim wilderness lodge in the heart of Finnish Lapland. It is the perfect place to relax and enjoy a wealth of traditional winter activities for an unforgettable Christmas.

On Christmas Eve you will meet Nellim's pack of Alaskan huskies, whose kennels are a short snowmobile sled ride away. Meet your team, then with adults driving in pairs, head off along a snow-carpeted trail into the Arctic wilderness for a morning exploring the snowy landscape. Christmas Eve dinner is a festive Finnish affair, with the distinct possibility of a VIP visitor.

Christmas Day itself starts with a wilderness adventure – a safari by snowmobile. Follow your guide along a forest trail hidden amongst the pine and spruce bordering the shoreline of Lake Inari. Adults are paired together, taking it in turns to drive through this magical landscape. After your traditional Sami evening dinner you will travel by snowmobile sled to Nellim's Aurora Camp. Here you can look out for the northern lights from the comfort of a heated cabin, whilst hot drinks are served to keep you warm.

On Boxing Day you will learn the traditional art of snowshoeing, taking a trek with your guide into the forest traversing deep virgin snow with ease. The evening will see your final quest for the Aurora Borealis. This time (after full instruction) you will be heading out on a snowmobile (driving in pairs) to a special spot by the lake to stake out the northern lights. If the conditions are right, a dancing performance of the aurora will make a fitting finale to this magical Christmas break.

You could choose to make your stay even more special by overnighing in one of Nellim's romantic Aurora Bubbles. Here you can view the Arctic sky through a specially treated glass ceiling and from the comfort of a double bed (supplement applies).



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London Heathrow to Ivalo (via Helsinki)
- Return airport/hotel transfers
- 4 nights' accommodation at Nellim Wilderness Lodge on a full board basis
- Excursions and activities as per itinerary
- Outer protective clothing for the duration of your stay

# Santa's Festive Fun

SEE WEBSITE OR CALL FOR PRICES AND DATES

## FATHER CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

Keep the festive magic alive by taking one of our 'Twixmas' family breaks to fill the lull in-between Christmas and New Year. Stay in the cosy, family-run Wilderness Lodge at Harriniva and enjoy a wealth of Arctic fun and a private visit with Father Christmas.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR 4 DAY ITINERARY

This fun family break takes place in the quiet period between Christmas and New Year, allowing you and your family to enjoy an action-packed holiday to make the most of the festive period.

Your holiday includes a visit to the traditional Toressieppi reindeer where you will even gain your reindeer driving licence. You will also take part in a ceremony to mark your crossing of the Arctic Circle. You will enjoy lunch in the unique Ice Restaurant of Toressieppi's small igloo hotel, complete with its sculpted bar and ice rooms. There will also be an opportunity to take part in toboggan rides, kicksledding and mini skidoos for the children to try.

A high point of the holiday is sure to be your family's individual visit to Santa. You will make your way into the forest and along a secret trail marked by lanterns hanging in the trees. Discover the Old Lady of the Woods, sheltering in her teepee with some of Santa's elves. They will guide you to a giant log cabin where Santa lives - the rest is a secret until you meet him. Whilst waiting for your sleigh to arrive for the return journey you help to decorate a gingerbread houses, bake traditional gingerbread cookies and enjoy some traditional Christmas crafts.

You will also enjoy an exciting snowmobile journey through the frozen landscape with adults driving in pairs and children wrapped up under reindeer skin rugs on a special sleigh behind the guide. A further delight will be meeting the 400-strong pack of Harriniva Huskies for a husky safari. The grown-ups will mush 2 per dog team, whilst children ride separately in husky sleds behind an experienced Lapp guide. On the return the children also have the opportunity to be a musher, should they so wish.



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London Heathrow to Kittila
- 3 nights' hotel accommodation with private WC/shower.
- Full Board
- Individual family snowmobile sleigh ride to visit Father Christmas.
- Evening visit from Father Christmas.
- Exclusive 'Smuggle Santa your own present' facility.
- Small present for everyone (children and adults).
- Safari excursions as per itinerary
- Reindeer driving licence or memento and 'Crossing the Arctic Circle' certificate
- Complete set of thermal clothing throughout

# Twixmas Festive Break at Nellim

SEE WEBSITE OR CALL FOR PRICES AND DATES

## SMALL GROUP FESTIVE EXPERIENCE

This restful break is the ideal way to spend the quiet period between Christmas and New Year. You will be cocooned in the Nellim Wilderness Lodge, in the heart of Finnish Lapland, enjoying cosy log fires, surrounded by pristine white snow.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR 4 DAY ITINERARY

This peaceful spot provides numerous opportunities for you to see a display of the enchanting northern lights. On arrival in Ivalo you will be met by your local guide who will transport you the short one hour drive to Nellim, a charming wilderness lodge in the heart of Finnish Lapland. On your first night you will be provided with warm thermal clothing and your first opportunity to head out and see if the northern lights will make an appearance.

One of the highlights of your stay will be your snowmobile safari into the wilderness. You will follow your guide along a forest trail hidden amongst the pine and spruce bordering the shoreline of Lake Inari. Adults are paired together, taking it in turns to drive through this magical landscape. After an authentic Sami dinner, you will head out again by snowmobile sled to Nellim's Aurora Camp to look out for the northern lights from the comfort of a heated cabin, whilst hot drinks are served to keep you warm.

You are sure to enjoy meeting Nellim's pack of Alaskan huskies, whose kennels are a short snowmobile sled ride away. You will have the opportunity to drive in pairs, heading off along a snow-carpeted trail into the Arctic wilderness.

An evening's snowshoeing expedition gives you another opportunity to search for the Aurora Borealis. After a quick lesson, you will soon be heading out with your guide and effortlessly navigating the surrounding Finnish forest.

*You could choose to make your stay even more special by spending a night in one of Nellim's romantic Aurora Bubbles. Here you can view the Arctic sky through a specially treated glass ceiling and from the comfort of a double bed (supplement applies)*



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London Heathrow to Ivalo (via Helsinki)
- Return airport/hotel transfers
- 3 nights' accommodation at Nellim Wilderness Lodge on a full board basis
- Excursions and activities as per itinerary
- Outer protective clothing for the duration of your stay
- Spend a night in a Nellim Aurora Bubble at a supplement of £75 per person (based on 2 people sharing)

# New Year in Harriniva

SEE WEBSITE OR CALL FOR PRICES AND DATES

## SMALL GROUP FESTIVE EXPERIENCE

Harriniva provides the perfect setting for a fun-filled New Year's break in the midst of an endless snowy playground. A visit to Finland's oldest reindeer corral kicks off the New Year celebrations, which include a gala dinner and fireworks.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR 5 DAY BREAK

This relaxed and intimate lodge is the ideal spot to celebrate New Year's Eve. After lunch, embark on an exciting snowmobile journey through the frozen landscape. Head back to the lodge where afternoon drinks and pastries will be served. Welcome in the New Year with a gala dinner complete with Lappish delicacies. This is followed by fortune-telling, fireworks and a complimentary glass of wine at midnight to welcome in the New Year after which the revelry continues.

You will start the New Year by meeting the 400-strong Harriniva husky family, who live just a short walk from the lodge. After instruction, you will mush a team of dogs, all eager for their morning run. After New Year's Day lunch, served in the main restaurant, you will head out by snowshoe for a walk into the wilderness.

Another highlight of your trip will be the visit to Torassieppi reindeer farm, where you can learn about the Sami reindeer herders, visit the old house and museum, master the art of lasso throwing and feed the reindeer. You will also be taken on a short reindeer drive and receive a reindeer driving license. You will then depart for the winter village to view the Ice Hotel with its sculpted bar and ice rooms and enjoy lunch in the unique ice restaurant. You will also enjoy a visit to Jeris Spa, the perfect place to relax. The brave can go ice swimming, you can warm up in an electrically heated sauna or test the real Lappish wood heated smoke sauna.

If you wish you can upgrade your final night's accommodation to a night in the Igloo hotel or in an Aurora Dome at Torassieppi (supplement applies.)



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London Heathrow to Kittila (via Helsinki)
- 4 nights' accommodation at Harriniva Wilderness Lodge in twin/family room/apartment with private WC/shower
- Full Board for the duration of your stay
- Safari excursions & New Year celebrations as per itinerary
- Complete set of protective outer clothing for the duration of your stay

# New Year & Northern Lights at Nellim Wilderness Lodge

SEE WEBSITE OR CALL FOR PRICES AND DATES

## SMALL GROUP FESTIVE EXPERIENCE

Spend New Year at Nellim, located in a tranquil setting in the heart of an aurora hotspot. This warm, cosy retreat boasts snowmobiling, snow shoeing and a husky safari, as well as a New Year's Eve visit from the Sami Spirit.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR 5 DAY BREAK

This holiday offers plenty of opportunities to view the magical northern lights – the perfect start to your New Year! New Year's Eve is a traditional Finnish affair, ensuring you celebrate in style. Your day will start with a visit to Nellim's pack of Alaskan huskies, whose kennels are a short snowmobile sled ride away. You can hear their eager howling as you approach. Meet your team, then with adults driving in pairs, head off along a snow-carpeted trail into the Arctic wilderness. Lunch is served back at the lodge and the afternoon is at leisure. This evening's dinner offers traditional dishes complete with traditional New Year's Eve celebrations.

New Year's Day brings a snowshoe adventure and a chance to search for the northern lights by snowmobile. Your guide will teach you the basics of the art of snowshoeing and with a little effort you and your guide will take a trek into the forest, traversing deep virgin snow with ease.

After dinner, after full instruction, you will head out on a snowmobile (driving in pairs) to a special spot by the lake to stake out the northern lights. If the conditions are right, a dancing performance of the aurora will be a fitting finish to the first day of the year. You will also have a chance to snowmobile by day along a forest trail hidden amongst the pine and spruce bordering the shoreline of Lake Inari.

You could choose to make your stay even more special by spending a night in one of Nellim's romantic Aurora Bubbles. Here you can view the Arctic sky through a specially treated glass ceiling and from the comfort of a double bed (supplement applies).



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London Heathrow to Ivalo (via Helsinki)
- Return airport/hotel transfers
- 4 nights' accommodation at Nellim Wilderness Lodge on a full board basis
- Excursions and activities as per itinerary
- Outer protective clothing for the duration of your stay
- Spend a night in a Nellim Aurora Bubble at a supplement of £75 per person



## Reykjavik New Year Fire & Ice

SEE WEBSITE OR CALL  
FOR PRICES AND DATES

### INDEPENDENT TAILOR-MADE STAY

Celebrate New Year in spectacular style. Travel to Iceland's capital, Reykjavik, and ring in the New Year in the land of Fire & Ice. The Icelandic celebration attracts visitors from around the world, not least because of the 500 tons of fireworks unleashed by the capital's population into the dark night sky. Before joining the party at the Grand Hotel experience the history, culture and geographical phenomena that this island has to offer.

### SUGGESTED 4 DAY ITINERARY

**29 Dec Reykjavik** Board your flight to Keflavik. Transfer via airport shuttle bus to the Grand Hotel in Reykjavik for 4 nights.

**30 Dec At leisure** Today is free for your choice of adventure. Please see page 74 for a selection of excursions. Take a Super Jeep tour across ice fields, visit the Golden Circle (a trio of iconic Icelandic sights), snowmobile across glaciers or take a thrilling helicopter ride. An evening aurora cruise and northern lights search takes you away from the city landscape and light pollution. Alternatively, you may simply wish enjoy the abundance of museums, galleries and restaurants that this vibrant city offers.

**31 Dec New Year's Eve** Icelanders have developed a legendary reputation for enjoying themselves on this special night. You have plenty of time to prepare and the evening will unfold as follows:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>19.00</b> | Gather for a sparkling wine and strawberry reception.  |
| <b>19.30</b> | Enjoy a 4-course dinner accompanied by Icelandic folk entertainment.   |
| <b>23.45</b> | Ascend to the hotel's 4th floor balcony, which has one of the city's best views for watching the firework displays and midnight countdown. |
| <b>00.30</b> | Continue the party with dancing and live music in the hotel's Gullteigur Festive Hall  |
| <b>02.00</b> | Retire to bed or continue the celebrations in the hotel bar.   |

**01 Jan At leisure** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast. The remainder of the day is free for further activities and sightseeing (see page 51).

**02 Jan UK** Time for some last-minute shopping before your transfer back to the airport for your return flight home. You could also choose to sweep away any excesses with a soothing bathe in the milky waters of the Blue Lagoon. Supplement applies and pre-booking is essential.

### UPGRADE TO REYKJAVIK NEW YEAR FIRE & ICE DELUXE

Enjoy a VIP experience with private return airport/hotel transfers as well as a northern lights search by Super Jeep, where you depart the city lights in modified Landrover Defenders in search of the Aurora Borealis.

Also included is the New Year's Eve Deluxe Gala programme which includes a 5-course dinner with selected wines and a guided tour to one of the biggest celebratory bonfires in Iceland. Ease into the New Year with a New Year's Day Festive Evening Buffet encompassing a smorgasbord of international and local dishes and finally bathe in the milky blue waters of the Blue Lagoon, with pre-booked entry and towel, before your return flight home. **Supplement from: £400 pp**

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London Heathrow to Reykjavik
- Return airport/hotel shuttle bus transfers
- 4 nights' accommodation in executive twin room with private WC/ shower
- Breakfast throughout
- New Year's Eve Buffet Dinner and programme as per itinerary.



## New Year Northern Lights, Volcanoes & Glaciers

SEE WEBSITE OR CALL FOR PRICES AND DATES

### LOCALLY GUIDED GROUP ADVENTURE

A special New Year's trip to Iceland with a small group guided tour of the South. Discover a land of icy landscapes, smoking geysers, volcanic craters, glaciers and waterfalls and the thrilling possibility of viewing the splendid northern lights dancing above the landscape. Return to Reykjavik and celebrate New Year's Eve in true Icelandic style. This stunning holiday will ensure that you get your new year off to a flying start!

### SUGGESTED 5 DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 Reykjavik** Fly direct to Keflavik and take the airport shuttle bus to the Fosshotel Baron, Reykjavik, where you will spend one night. Explore the capital independently and dine in one of the city's many restaurants.

**DAY 2 The Golden Circle** Breakfast before meeting your tour guide and fellow travellers at 08.30. The tour starts with a short introduction to Icelandic geology including a striking film documenting the eruptions of Eyjafjallajökull and Fimmvörðuháls in 2010, as well as a chance to view pieces of pumice, ash and lava from Icelandic volcanoes. Depart for Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Iceland's prime geological, historical and cultural centre. It is also here that the tectonic plates of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge meet. The faults and fissures of the area make evident the rifting of the earth's crust. Visit the hot springs at Geysir. Strokkur bubbles away, finally exploding in a plume of water high in to the air. The next geological sensation is Gullfoss, a double waterfall that tumbles 34 metres into the Hvítá River. After settling into your simple Arhus Cottages, you will enjoy a 2-course dinner and hear about the Aurora Borealis from your tour guide. Naturally, once darkness falls, you will go out to the gardens to await the northern lights.

**DAY 3 Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon** Experience a world of glaciers, ice and icebergs. Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon is filled with floating icebergs and you may even spot seals swimming in the Arctic waters. There is time to walk on the black sandy beach, where large icebergs get stranded. Then on to Vatnajökull National Park, Europe's largest National Park. Here you will find Iceland's highest mountains and Europe's largest glacier. Tonight is spent at the Fosshotel Nupar with dinner and a film presentation about northern lights. In this remote and quiet location you may just get one more chance of seeing the northern lights shimmering and dancing across the night sky.

**DAY 4 Beaches, Waterfalls and New Year's Eve** Today begin crossing the Laki lava field to the village of Vík for a stroll on the black lava beach and along the bird cliffs at Reynisfjara beach. Passing the infamous volcano Eyjafjallajökull to Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss, two of Iceland's iconic waterfalls, you arrive back in Reykjavik in good time for a celebratory New Year's Eve dinner with your fellow travellers at Kopar restaurant. Step out at midnight and observe the sky lit up with festive fireworks to welcome in the New Year.

**DAY 5 UK** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before your transfer to the airport in time for your flight home.

This tour is a fantastic introduction to Iceland, and you are sure to have fun seeing in the New Year with your group of newly-found friends, with whom you will have shared a unique experience.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from a choice of regional UK departures
- Return shuttle bus airport/hotel transfer
- 3-day escorted tour with English speaking guide
- 4 nights' accommodation in simple tourist class hotels and cottages as described, staying in twin room(s) with private WC/shower and breakfast throughout
- 2 x 2-course dinner and 2 x midnight refreshment on Day 2 & 3
- Celebratory dinner in Reykjavik on New Year's Eve
- Excursions as specified in the itinerary and use of northern lights explorer equipment incl. simple non-slip snow grippers for shoes and flashlight for night walks.

**1. BROCHURE DESCRIPTIONS**

Itineraries and excursions have been described in good faith in accordance with the information available at the time of going to print. The descriptions of areas and hotels in this brochure have been compiled as a result of inspection by our staff or agents and checked to ensure they are accurate. However, changes may occur after the date of publication. In addition there may be occasions when accommodation owners, proprietors of facilities etc. may decide to withdraw some of the facilities. These are regrettably beyond our control and we therefore reserve the right to change the particulars at any time before we confirm your booking. Where we are made aware of any significant errors or omissions we will endeavour to inform you as soon as possible and will aim to publish these as brochure errata. We will inform you of any such change at the time of booking, or, if you have already booked, you will be contacted before your departure if there is time. Public holidays particularly Christmas, New Year and religious festivals may also affect the availability of centre and hotel facilities.

This brochure was published in January 2017 and the prices within it are valid from 1st January 2017 until the publication of any revised edition, and are subject to confirmation at the time of booking.

Holidays in this brochure operate from 1st January 2017 until 31st May 2018.

**2. MINIMUM NUMBERS**

Certain tours require a minimum number of people to enable them to operate. We will check whether these minimum numbers have been reached no later than ten weeks before the relevant tour departure date. We shall inform you immediately if the minimum number necessary has not been reached for your tour and in that event we reserve the right to cancel your holiday and refund all monies which you have paid to us.

**3. CORRESPONDENCE**

If you make your booking through a travel agent, all communications between you and Nordic Experience must be through that travel agent. If you book your tour direct with us we will send all correspondence direct to you. Please quote the reference number shown on your invoice in any communication.

**4. SPECIAL REQUESTS**

If you have any special request, (e.g. dietary requirements or a need for special assistance), please inform us. We will always do our best to meet such requests but cannot guarantee to do so, and in no circumstances will any such request be accepted by us so as to form part of our contractual agreement.

**5. ACCOMMODATION**

The nature, style and standard of accommodation we use for our tours varies according to country, location and itinerary.

We do not endorse any local star rankings since they do not, in our opinion, provide an accurate reflection of style, atmosphere or location. Please note the description double room often refers to two twin beds secured together with two separate duvets and that a shower rather than a bathtub is the norm throughout Scandinavia.

**6. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS**

Many of the tours in this brochure depend on suitable climatic and weather conditions both prior to and during operation.

Air temperature, sea state, cloud cover, rainfall and terrain conditions are just some of the factors that can affect the operation of excursions, visibility of natural phenomena and sightings of wildlife. Tour validity and excursion/safari dates are given in good faith based on our experience and that of our suppliers. However we, or our agents, may have to change itineraries or cancel excursions at any time prior to departure or during a tour. If we do so, it is with your health, safety and comfort in mind. We regret the necessity of having to point out that we do not accept any liability for compensation in respect of such changes or cancellations.

**7. TRAVEL DELAY**

Where long flight delays result in lost holiday time we are unable to offer any refunds for unused accommodation or other services as reimbursement will not be made by our suppliers in these circumstances, and hotel rooms are held for delayed arrivals and not re-let. We strongly recommend you have adequate insurance in place to cover such eventualities.

**8. CLOTHING**

Temperatures in the Nordic countries and Northern Europe can vary considerably from day to day or even in a day and conditions can change unexpectedly and rapidly; the terrain is often hazardous and ground conditions frequently difficult.

You should take suitable clothing with these conditions in mind particularly good quality wind/rain proof outerwear; strong walking shoes or boots, gloves and sufficient and varied clothes to enable you to 'layer up'. If you're in any doubt as to what to take, we're always happy to talk it through with you.

**9. YOUR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS**

We will normally send all your travel documents and itineraries to either yourself or your travel agent approximately two to three weeks before your departure.

PLEASE check them carefully. In some cases, the timings may have changed from those on your holiday confirmation, and the correct timings will appear on the tickets themselves, or on accompanying documentation. Please note that all excursion durations include any applicable transfer time.

**10. TOUR PRICES**

Prices are per person, based on two people sharing a twin/double room unless otherwise specified. Prices are 'from' and the price of your holiday will be re-costed according to your specific dates/duration and flight requirements. Full details of what is included in the price of the holiday are shown in the panel at the base of the relevant tour page. Inclusions will be reconfirmed to you at the time of booking by way of the Confirmation Invoice. Prices include all applicable taxes and mandatory charges.

**11. SNOWMOBILE HIRE**

To drive a snowmobile a full and valid driving licence is required. This will need to be presented if requested. There is a zero tolerance approach to drink driving. You are often asked to sign a Damage Waiver form and an excess is payable for damage, irrespective of severity. Safety helmets must be worn at all times. As a general rule, all children 15 and under will travel in a sleigh pulled by the guide's snowmobile. Children 12-plus can sometimes ride as a passenger behind a responsible parent/adult, however this is physically demanding and will be assessed by the local guide on the day. This is at the guide's discretion, their decision being final.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your travel insurance covers you for driving a snowmobile.

**12. INSURANCE COVER**

We have an obligation under legislation covering the travel industry to ensure your travel is covered by comprehensive travel insurance that protects your safety and travel enjoyment. If you already have such insurance, or prefer to buy it from a third party then all we ask is that you notify us of the name of your insurer when you complete your booking form. Please note that adequate travel insurance is vital. The destinations that we offer can present certain risks, particularly in the winter and you should ensure that your insurance covers all your personal requirements including medical expenses and repatriation in the event of accident or illness. Please remember to advise your insurers of any activities that you may be taking part in as part of your tour, particularly in the case of snowmobile safaris, to make sure that you are fully covered.

If you would like further information or wish to obtain cover for your trip, please feel free to contact specialist insurance brokers, Campbell Irvine, for a quote.

**13. BEHAVIOUR OF CLIENTS**

The Company reserve the right in its absolute discretion to terminate without notice the holiday arrangements of any client whose behaviour is such that it is likely in the absolute discretion of the Company to cause distress, damage, annoyance or danger to any third party. We will have no further responsibility towards such person(s) including any return travel arrangements. No refunds will be made and we will not pay any expenses or costs incurred as a result of the termination.

**14. BOOKING CONDITIONS**

Full conditions, terms and obligations can also be found on our website [www.nordicexperience.co.uk](http://www.nordicexperience.co.uk) under the heading General Information and Terms and Conditions. Obligations detailed in 'Small Print' shall be deemed to be included within these conditions. Nordic Experience is a trading name of Colchester Travel Ltd with whom your contract is and which is governed by English Law and the jurisdiction of the English courts. You may however, choose the law and jurisdiction of Scotland or Northern Ireland if you wish to do so.

**IMAGE CREDITS**

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**TRAVEL INSURANCE**

To arrange cover or get a quote online visit

[www.campbellirvinedirect.com/nordicexperience](http://www.campbellirvinedirect.com/nordicexperience)

or contact  
**Campbell Irvine**  
t: 020 7938 1734  
e: [info@campbellirvine.com](mailto:info@campbellirvine.com)

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The following Booking Conditions together with the “Small Print” and all other details contained in this brochure or on our website form the basis of your contract with Colchester Travel LTD/Nordic Experience. You are, therefore, advised to read the following carefully.

**1. Your holiday contract** When you make a booking must complete a booking form, accepting on behalf of all your party that you have the authority to accept and do accept on behalf of your party the terms of these booking conditions. This contract is made on the terms of these booking conditions, which are governed by English Law, and the jurisdiction of Scotland or Northern Ireland if you live there and wish to do so. A contract will exist as soon as we issue our confirmation invoice.

**2. Your financial protection** We provide full financial protection for our package holidays, by way of our Air Travel Organiser's Licence number 6558. When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong.

We will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where we aren't able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with the services you have bought or a suitable alternative (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable).

If we are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent (or your credit card issuer where applicable). You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme. For further information, go to [www.atol.org.uk/ATOL](http://www.atol.org.uk/ATOL) Certificate.

**3. ABTA** We are a Member of ABTA, membership number W879X. We are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by ABTA's Code of Conduct. We can also offer you ABTA's scheme for the resolution of disputes which is approved by the Chartered Trading Standards Institute. If we can't resolve your complaint, go to [www.abta.com](http://www.abta.com) to use ABTA's simple procedure. Further information on the Code and ABTA's assistance in resolving disputes can be found on [www.abta.com](http://www.abta.com).

**4. Your Holiday Price** 1) All holidays and offers advertised in our brochure and on our website are subject to availability. We operate a flexible pricing policy and we reserve the right to alter the prices of any of the holidays shown in our brochure or on the website. Date of travel, season, exchange rates and flight prices can in particular affect the price of your holiday. You will be advised of the current price of the holiday that you wish to book before your contract is confirmed.

2) When you make your booking you must pay a minimum deposit of £150 per person. A higher deposit may be requested to cover any additional cost of your airline ticket if it is issued at the time of reservation or if our supplier has imposed stringent payment terms. The exact deposit amount required will be quoted to you at the time of booking.

The balance of the price of your travel arrangements must be paid at least 10 weeks before your departure date. If the deposit and/or balance is not paid in time, we reserve the right to cancel your travel arrangements, retain the deposit and apply the cancellation charges set out in paragraph 6 below.

3) Changes in transportation costs, including the cost of fuel, dues, taxes or fees chargeable for services such as landing taxes or embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports and airports and exchange rates mean that the price of your travel arrangements may change after you have booked. However, there will be no change within 30 days of your departure. We will absorb and you will not be charged for any increase equivalent to 2% of the price of your travel arrangements, which excludes insurance premiums and any amendment charges. You will be charged for the amount over and above that, plus an administration charge of £1 per person together with an amount to cover agents' commission. If this means that you have to pay an increase of more than 10% of the price of your travel arrangements, you will have the option of accepting a change to another holiday if we are able to offer one (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value), or cancelling and receiving a full refund of all monies paid, except for any amendment charges. Should you decide to cancel: 1) you must do so within 14 days from the date on your final invoice 2) We will provide a refund of insurance premiums paid to us if you can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy. Should the price of your

holiday go down due to the changes mentioned above, by more than 2% of your holiday cost, then any refund due will be paid to you. However, please note that travel arrangements are not always purchased in local currency and some apparent changes have no impact on the price of your travel due to contractual and other protection in place.

4) If booking via a Travel Agent all monies paid to that agent are held by them on our behalf at all times.

**5. If You Change Your Booking** If, after our confirmation invoice has been issued, you wish to change your travel arrangements in any way, we will do our utmost to make these changes but it may not always be possible. Any request for changes to be made must be in writing from the person who made the booking or your travel agent. You will be asked to pay an administration charge of £25 and any further cost we incur in making this alteration. You should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and you should contact us as soon as possible. Note: Certain travel arrangements cannot be changed after a reservation has been made and any alteration will incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangement. For changes required while you are on holiday due to circumstances occurred outside of your control such as, death, illness, accident, witness summons or similar, we will do our utmost to help you get back to the UK, but no guarantees can be given. All applicable charges will have to be made with a credit card or debit card or cash locally.

**6. If You Cancel Your Holiday** You, or any member of your party, may cancel your travel arrangements at any time. Written notification from the person who made the booking or your travel agent must be received at our offices. Since we incur costs in cancelling your travel arrangements, you will have to pay cancellation charges as follows:

Period before departure in which you notify us	Cancellation charge
More than 71 days	Deposit only
Between 70-42 days	50 % of holiday cost
Within 42 days	100% of holiday cost

Note: If the reason for your cancellation is covered under the terms of your insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

**7. If We Change or Cancel Your Holiday** It is unlikely that we will have to make any changes to your arrangements, but we do plan them many months in advance. Occasionally changes do occur, but most are minor, and we will advise you or your travel agent at the earliest possible date. We do reserve the right to cancel your booking at any time.

Changes If we make a major change to your holiday, we will inform you or your travel agent as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before your departure. You will have the choice of either accepting the change of arrangements, accepting an offer of alternative travel arrangements of comparable standard from us if available (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value), or cancelling your holiday and receiving a full refund of all monies paid. In some cases we will also pay compensation (see below). These options don't apply for minor changes. Examples of minor changes include alteration of your outward/return flights by less than 12 hours, changes to aircraft type, change of accommodation to another of a similar or higher standard, changes of carriers. Please note that carriers such as airlines used in the brochure may be subject to change. We reserve the right to cancel itineraries, or to substitute alternative accommodation, if the arrangement, un-amended, would then in our opinion suffer, or be in some way impracticable.

Cancellation We will not cancel your travel arrangements less than 10 weeks before your departure date, except for reasons of force majeure or failure by you to pay the final balance. We may cancel your holiday before this date if, e.g., the minimum number of clients required for a particular travel arrangement is not reached. If your holiday is cancelled you can either have a refund of all monies paid or accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements of comparable standard from us, if available (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value). In some cases we will pay compensation (see below).

Insurance If we cancel or make a major change and you accept a refund, we will provide a full refund of your travel insurance premiums if you paid them to us and can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy.

Compensation If we cancel or make a major change we will pay compensation as detailed below except where the major change or cancellation arises due to reasons of force majeure. The compensation that we offer does not exclude you from claiming more if you are entitled to do so.

Period before departure in which we notify you	IF WE CANCEL OR MAKE A MAJOR CHANGE TO YOUR HOLIDAY	Compensation per person
More than 71 days		Nil
Between 60-22 days		£20
Between 21-8 days		£30
Between 7-0 days		£40

Force Majeure We will not pay you compensation if we have to cancel or change your travel arrangements in any way because of unusual or unforeseeable circumstances beyond our control. These can include, for example, war, riot, industrial dispute, terrorist activity and its consequences, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, adverse weather conditions, epidemics and pandemics, unavoidable technical problems with transport.

**8. If You Have A Complaint** If you have a problem during your holiday, please inform the relevant supplier (e.g. your hotelier or your excursion provider) immediately who will endeavour to put things right. If your complaint is not resolved locally, please follow this up within 28 days of your return home by writing to our Customer Services Department at Nordic Experience, 39 Crouch Street, Colchester CO3 3EN, giving your booking reference and all other relevant information. Please keep your letter concise and to the point. It is strongly recommended that you communicate any complaint to the supplier of the services in question and if possible keep a written account of having done so. If you fail to follow this simple procedure we will have been deprived of the opportunity to investigate and rectify your complaint whilst you were in resort and this may affect your rights under this contract. Please also see clause 3 above on ABTA.

**9. Our Liability to You** If the contract we have with you is not performed or is improperly performed by us or our suppliers we will pay you appropriate compensation if this has affected the enjoyment of your travel arrangements. However, we will not be liable where any failure in the performance of the contract is due to: you; or a third party unconnected with the provision of the travel arrangements and where the failure is unforeseeable or unavoidable; or unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond our control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all due care had been exercised; or an event which we or our suppliers, even with all due care, could not foresee or forestall. Our liability, except in cases involving death, injury or illness, shall be limited to a maximum of twice the cost of your travel arrangements. Our liability will also be limited in accordance with and/or in an identical manner to

- The contractual terms of the companies that provide the transportation for your travel arrangements. These terms are incorporated into this contract; and
- Any relevant international convention, for example the Montreal Convention in respect of travel by air, the Athens Convention in respect of travel by sea, the Berne Convention in respect of travel by rail and the Paris Convention in respect of the provision of accommodation, which limit the amount of compensation that you can claim for death, injury, delay to passengers and loss, damage and delay to luggage. We are to be regarded as having all benefit of any limitation of compensation contained in these or any conventions.

You can ask for copies of the transport contractual terms, or the international conventions, from Nordic Experience.

Under EU law (Regulation 261/2004) you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from your airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation or delay to flights. Full details will be publicised at EU airports and available from airlines. However, reimbursement in such cases will not automatically entitle you to a refund of your holiday cost from us. Your right to a refund and/or compensation from us is set out in clause 7. If any payments to you are due from us, any payment made to you by the airline will be deducted.

NB this clause does not apply to any separate contracts that you may enter into for excursions or activities whilst on holiday.

**10. Prompt assistance in resort** If the contract we have with you is not performed or is improperly performed as a result of failures attributable to a third party unconnected with the provision of the services, or as a result of failures due to unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond our control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all due care had been exercised, or an event which we or our suppliers, even with all due care, could not foresee or forestall, and you suffer an injury or other material loss, we will offer you such prompt assistance as is reasonable in the circumstances.

**11. Passport, Visa and Immigration Requirements** Your specific passport and visa requirements, and other immigration requirements are your responsibility and you should confirm these with the relevant Embassies and/or Consulates. We do not accept any responsibility if you cannot travel because you have not complied with any passport, visa or immigration requirements.

**12. Locally Booked Excursions** Excursions or other tours that you may choose to book locally or pay for whilst you are on holiday are not part of your package holiday provided by us, irrespective of whether the operator is one used by us or not. We are not responsible for the provision of the excursion or tour or for anything that happens during the course of its provision by the operator.

This brochure is our responsibility, as your tour operator. It is not issued on behalf of, and does not commit the airlines mentioned herein or any airline whose services are used in the course of your travel arrangements. Please note that in accordance with Air Navigation Orders in order to qualify for infant status, a child must be under 2 years of age on the date of its return flight.



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