

Winter Adventures in Lapland

DOGSLEDS, SÁMI CULTURE, SNOWSHOEING, AND NORTHERN LIGHTS



TRIP DATES

2025

February 19-March 2, 2025

March 4-15, 2025

2026

February 11-22, 2026

February 24-March 7, 2026

March 10-21, 2026



Wilderness Travel

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Winter Adventures in Lapland

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Lapland is a wonderland in winter—and just the place for frosty fun, WT style! In Finland’s north, we’ll bring you unique outdoor experiences as we take an icebreaker into the pack ice (and you can even make an optional polar plunge, dry suit provided!), snowshoe through the forests and fells of Pyhä-Luosto National Park, ride a reindeer-powered sleigh, and race across snowscapes in a dogsled pulled by huskies. We also get an insider’s look into Lappish culture with Sámi reindeer herders, taste Finnish specialties, spend a night in glass-ceiling “igloo” cabins, and if we’re lucky, see the surreal northern lights dance across the night sky. Our hotels keep us warm and comfortable, and we can unwind in toasty Finnish saunas.



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Itinerary

DAY 1

ROVANIEMI

Arrive in Rovaniemi, capital of Lapland (and official home of Santa Claus), where the great rivers of Kemijoki and Ounasjoki converge at the Arctic Circle. We'll learn more about the great north with a visit to the Arktikum Science Center, with its exhibitions on the history and culture of Lapland. Our Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant gives us our first taste of Lappish cuisine, and we overnight at a comfortable hotel in the heart of the city. Overnight at the Arctic Light Hotel or Arctic City Hotel...D

DAY 2

KEMI / ICEBREAKER SAMPO

After a leisurely morning, we embark on the mighty Icebreaker Sampo at the local harbor. On board the ship, we navigate between ice sheets in the Gulf of Bothnia, which separates Finland and Sweden. We'll enjoy lunch on board and be able to tour the massive engine room, where we'll see what it takes to power through polar ice sheets. Conditions permitting, we can walk out on the frozen sea and even have the chance for a plunge into the polar waters (with a dry suit!). Disembark and return to Rovaniemi for overnight at hotel...BLD

Approximate Driving Time: 4 hours

DAY 3

SNOWSHOEING / PYHÄ-LUOSTO NATIONAL PARK

This morning, we stop at Santa Claus Village, the "official hometown of Father Christmas," and take a celebratory step over 66°33'45.9" north, officially crossing into the Arctic Circle! We continue on to Pyhä-Luosto National Park, where we'll strap on snowshoes to venture on park trails through arctic fells and forests full of spruce and pine. Overnight at Santa's Hotel Aurora, a cozy hotel in the resort town of Luosto...BLD

Approximate Driving Time: 4 hours, Approximate Hiking Time: 2.5 hours

DAY 4

LUOSTO / REINDEER SLEIGH RIDE

With craggy peaks and deep forests, Pyhä-Luosto National Park is a winter wonderland with a picture-postcard setting. We'll take a scenic hike, stopping for photo opportunities along the way, and ending at an amethyst mine where we can learn about the gem's local significance and perhaps try our hand at digging for amethyst. After lunch, we take part in one of the most authentic Lappish experiences: riding a sleigh pulled by reindeer! Overnight in Luosto...BLD

Approximate Hiking Time: 3 hours

DAY 5

GOLD VILLAGE OF TANKAVAARA / SAARISELKÄ / COOKING CLASS

Lapland has the largest deposits of loose gold in Europe, which we'll learn about while visiting the gold village of Tankavaara. In the village of Saariselkä, we'll experience traditional Finnish food culture with a cooking class. Much of the cuisine in Lapland is characterized by seasons. Produce and meats are



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length:	12 days
Arrive:	Rovaniemi, Finland
Depart:	Rovaniemi, Finland
Lodging:	11 nights hotels
Meals:	All meals included except 1 dinner (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity:	Cultural Adventures, Hiking / Trekking
Trip Level:	1 2 ③ 4 5 6 A mix of moderate to strenuous hiking and snowshoeing, 1-3 hours most days

HIGHLIGHTS

- Look for the elusive northern lights right from our beds in glass "igloos"
- Meet Sámi people on their remote farms, learn to mush a dogsled, ride a reindeer sleigh
- Experience Finnish and Lappish culture, enjoy relaxing saunas
- Try Nordic skiing, ice fishing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling
- Learn to cook over the fire in a Lappish kota hut

Itinerary (cont'd)



preserved by being salted, dried, or frozen for use during the winter months. Skillful preservation means summer flavors are brought to the table in the middle of winter. At our class, a local chef will show us how a Finnish dinner is prepared over an open fire, and we'll sample the results as we taste reindeer, fish, wild mushrooms, and (imagine!) pancakes flambé with cloudberry and cream. Overnight at hotel in Saariselkä...BLD
Approximate Driving Time: 3 hours

DAY 6

SAARISELKÄ / SNOWSHOEING / ICE FISHING

We snowshoe-hike up to the top of Iisakkipaa Mountain, with a 360-degree view over the snowy landscape stretching to the nearby fells of Urho Kekkonen National Park. Tonight, we try ice fishing, a unique experience, and then end our day the Finnish way, enjoying a soak in an outdoor traditional wood-fired hot tub and relaxing in a Finnish sauna. Overnight at hotel in Saariselkä...BLD
Approximate Hiking Time: 3 hours

DAY 7

NORDIC SKIING / SAARISELKÄ

Finland is known for its Nordic skiers, who have dominated the sport for years. Today, we'll learn the basics of Nordic skiing and try our hand (or feet, rather) at this fun adventure. The afternoon is free for you to explore the village, take snowmobile rides, or simply enjoy the tranquil scenery. Dinner is on your own (the Trip Leader can make restaurant recommendations depending on your interest). Overnight at hotel in Saariselkä...BL
Approximate Skiing Time: 1.5 hours

DAY 8

INARI / SÁMI MUSEUM / BRIDGE HIKE

This morning we drive to the village of Inari and visit the National Museum of the Finnish Sámi, a chance to learn more about the history and culture of the Sámi and the cycle of nature in northernmost Lapland. Afterwards, we stretch



our legs with a walk across a suspension bridge on the roaring River Juutua, a fly-fishing haven in summer. Overnight in the riverside Wilderness Hotel Juutua in Inari...BLD

Approximate Driving Time: 1.5 hours

Approximate Hiking Time: 2.5 hours

DAY 9

INARI / SÁMI CULTURE

As the only indigenous population of Finland, the Sámi people embrace their traditional way of life, from reindeer husbandry to dogsledding, and we have the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the culture as we spend the day with Tuula, a local woman who lives on a remote farm along Mutus Lake. We'll learn about her way of life and get a real insider's perspective about the thriving Sámi culture. Weather permitting, we'll take a walk along a frozen lake and enjoy the peacefulness of the setting. Overnight in Inari...BLD

Approximate Driving Time: 40 minutes

Approximate Hiking Time: 1.5 hours

DAY 10

SNOWMOBILE RIDE / KAKSLAUTTANEN / NORTHERN LIGHT SLEIGH RIDE

Our day starts with a 1-hour snowmobile ride around Inari Lake and the surrounding forest. During the winter months, snowmobiling is the locals' preferred means of transportation in the region, and they are even used by the Sami in herding reindeer. We then head to Kakslauttanen, our final Lappish destination. We overnight here in glass "igloos" that offer a planetarium feeling right from our beds, perfect for viewing the Northern Lights. Tonight, we search for the Northern Lights (Revontulet in Finnish) during an evening sleigh ride pulled by reindeer. Legend has it that the Northern Lights were created by a fox running across the fell, sweeping the snow with its tail and sending sparks into the sky...BLD

Approximate Driving Time: 1.5 hours

DAY 11

HUSKY SAFARI / ROVANIEMI

In the morning, we embark on a husky safari before traveling back to Rovaniemi. En route, we'll stop by a local café that serves delicious cakes and warm drinks. Upon arrival in Rovaniemi, we'll have time to relax before we gather for our Farewell Dinner...BLD

Approximate Driving Time: 3.5 hours, Approximate Husky Safari Time: 2 hours

DAY 12

DEPART

Depart from Rovaniemi. If you wish to continue your travels, Finland is a great jumping off point for a cruise or train to St. Petersburg, Russia, a ferry to Tallinn, Estonia, or a ferry to Stockholm, Sweden...B



Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

TRIP COST

2025

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy

\$10,595 (10-12 members)

\$10,995 (6-9 members)

Single supplement: \$2,525

Please call for future years' pricing

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations
- All meals included except 1 dinner
- Land transportation, boating excursions, sightseeing as noted

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, transfers for independent arrival or departure, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors, expenses such as medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, laundry, etc.).

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: \$250 per person

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

If you have booked extra services before or after the trip, an Extra Services Confirmation will be sent with your Final Documents.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Rovaniemi, Finland

Suggested Airport: Rovaniemi Airport (RVN)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, by 1:00 pm

Meeting Place: You will meet your Trip Leader in the lobby of the hotel in Rovaniemi at 2:00 pm on Day 1.

Trip Members are responsible for their transfer from Rovaniemi Airport to the hotel. It is a 15 minute taxi ride to the hotel, costs about €25, and credit cards are preferred. There is also an Airport Bus available to and from the airport that picks up/drops off directly across from the hotel. The cost is €7 per person, and both credit cards and cash are accepted.

DEPARTURE

Rovaniemi, Finland

Suggested Airport: Rovaniemi Airport (RVN)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 12, anytime

Trip Members are responsible for their transfer from the hotel to Rovaniemi Airport. It is a 15-minute taxi ride to the airport. You can also pre-arrange a private car at www.airporttaxi.fi.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Finland.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

Accommodations



HOTELS IN ROVANIEMI

Rovaniemi, Finland

Days 1 to 2 (2 nights), Day 11 (1 night)

In Rovaniemi, we stay at one of the following properties:

ARCTIC LIGHT HOTEL

Set in the historic building that was once Rovaniemi's city hall after World War II, the family-owned Arctic Light Hotel is an elegant homage to the enchanting arctic realm. A welcoming lobby has plush velvet furniture, and guestrooms combine modern and traditional touches, with backlit headboards resembling a starry sky and chic bathrooms with black marble. All rooms have individually-controlled heating and nice views of the city. You'll also notice photos of polar bears in each room—the hotel is a World Wildlife Fund partner that is raising awareness about the threat of global warming and the polar bear habitat.



ARCTIC CITY HOTEL

This cozy and stylish family-owned hotel has an excellent location right in the city center close to shopping venues. Guest rooms are a bit on the small size, but are clean, warm, comfy, and nicely decorated. The hotel has two restaurants (one an American-style bar and grill) and a lounge bar.



SANTA'S HOTEL AURORA

Luosto, Finland

Days 3 to 4 (2 nights)

Situated in a perfect location near activities like reindeer sleigh rides and snow-shoeing adventures, this cozy hotel has comfortable rooms with wood detailing, a relaxing sauna, and an open dining room with large windows and a fireplace. Be sure to enjoy some hot cocoa near the hotel's grand fireplace after a day in the snow.



SANTA'S HOTEL TUNTURI

Saariselkä, Finland

Days 5 to 7 (3 nights)

Within a couple minutes' walk of Santa's Hotel Tunturi, find yourself in the Village Center and at the bottom of the cross-country ski tracks, where you'll learn this Finnish-dominated sport. The guest rooms we stay in have a private sauna and views of the slopes. If you have time, unwind with a drink by the cozy fireplace.



HOLIDAY VILLAGE INARI

Inari, Finland

Days 8 to 9 (2 nights)

Situated right by Lake Inari with a superb location to view the northern lights, the Aurora Cabins by Holiday Village are the perfect place to immerse yourself in Lappish culture. Each cabin is cozy yet spacious, with a sitting area, private bathroom with shower, and the bed is under a clear roof, where you can gaze at the night sky and search for the shimmering northern lights.



KAKSLAUTTANEN ARCTIC RESORT

Saariselkä, Finland

Day 10 (1 night)

This is truly a winter wonderland, and surely one of the most unique hotels in Lapland. We'll stay in a simple glass igloo with a durable glass ceiling so you can have the chance to view the northern lights from your bed—the perfect nightlight in Finland. The igloos include an ensuite toilet. Showers and saunas are located in a separate building, very close to the glass igloos.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Winter Adventures in Lapland* webpage and click on "Accommodations."

Trip Leader

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information about our Trip Leaders, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on “Trip Leaders”: www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/finland-lapland-winter-northern-lights-tour/



STEFANO POZZI

Originally from Italy, Stefano Pozzi has grown up with a passion for nature. He studied at the University of Milan and after graduating, took to the outdoors by riding his bike from Milan to Lisbon—and back again—by way of the Camino de Santiago pilgrim route, covering some 4,900 miles along the way. He became a resident of Norway in 2011, and studied Arctic natural history for a year on the island of Spitsbergen. Today he spends several months a year working on expedition vessels between Antarctica and Greenland, and guides trips for us in Norway, Finland, and the Alps. “I love being out in nature and being amazed by its beauty, and my hope is that I can share my knowledge with trip members, and in turn, learn something new every day from them.” When he's not at sea or leading trips for us, he enjoys rock climbing in the summer and skiing and snowboarding in the winter.

Trip Details

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

Our trip is scheduled for February and March, when there should still be plenty of snow on the ground for our activities (it usually lasts until late May!), and yet the days are getting longer and warmer. This trip involves a wide range of activities, including snowshoeing, Nordic skiing, and hiking in a variety of conditions. Other activities include ice fishing, sleigh rides, snowmobiling, and a traditional Finnish sauna. Daytime temperatures in Rovaniemi in March average 25°F, with nighttime temperatures averaging 13°F. In Saariselka and Inari, the temperatures are much cooler—around 12°F in the day and -6°F at night. Snow is always a possibility in Lapland at this time of year! We suggest you bring thermal undergarments, hiking boots that can accommodate cold conditions, gloves, and socks. A full packing list will be sent to you with your confirmation packet. It may be necessary to alter the schedule based on weather conditions, but we will do our best to do all activities as described in this itinerary. To get the most out of this trip, we recommend you make a special effort to be in good physical condition. Daily brisk walking and/or regular hiking (or using a stair-climbing machine at your gym) are excellent preparatory exercises.

WEATHER

Temperatures vary widely in Lapland and are expected to be anywhere between -20 to 25°F, a wide range since we go out on night walks! Trip members need to remain flexible in consideration of inclement weather that may require changes, such as substituting different hiking routes or canceling hikes. Water activities such as our boating excursion are also dependent on sea forecasts.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Europe Manager or email us at europa@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

TOUCAN CLUB

We're proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business! The Wilderness Travel Toucan Club was established to reward our travelers for their loyalty. For details, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club/

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Condé Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

September 27, 2024 11:37 AM