

Aurora & Glass Igloo Explorer

5 Days | Starts/Ends: Rovaniemi



Spend an exciting 5 days exploring the beautiful scenery of Lapland as you take a reindeer ride through frozen forests and encounter hard working huskies on a sleigh ride. Also enjoy a night in a glass igloo with uninterrupted views of the night sky above, a perfect place to watch out for the illusive Northern Lights.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Reindeer Sleigh Ride - Discover the life of the Reindeer & their herders as you embark on a sleigh ride through the snowy wilderness
- Husky Sledding - Enjoy a pulsating adventure on the back of a husky sled, your energetic dogs will whisk you through stunning scenery
- Rovaniemi - Explore this beautiful Arctic town, home to Santa Claus village since 1985
- Glass Igloo - Spend a night under the stars, and hopefully the northern lights too, in a comfortable and cosy glass igloo

What's Included

- 3 nights 4 star hotel & 1 night Glass Igloo in Rovaniemi
- 4 breakfasts & 1 three course dinner at the Ice Restaurant
- Arrival and departure airport transfers from Rovaniemi Airport on days 1 and 5
- Reindeer farm visit including a 1 hour reindeer sleigh ride
- Husky Safari with 90 minute sleigh ride and warm drinks

What's Not Included

- Items of a personal nature and additional meals
- International flights to/from our tour start/end points and visas
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Optional Excursions

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Rovaniemi

Welcome to Finland, an exciting adventure in Lapland awaits you. Upon arrival at Rovaniemi Airport you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. You might wish to head outside this evening in an attempt to spot the elusive but dazzling Northern Lights, being close to the arctic circle gives you a great chance of spotting them, provided the weather is clear and the conditions are right. **Overnight - Rovaniemi**

Day 2 : Reindeer Sleigh Ride



This morning we make our way to a Reindeer farm where we join a sleigh ride through the beautiful winter wonderland. Our journey will take us through magical landscapes and snow covered forest whilst the noise of the reindeer caravan will be the only soundtrack in this peaceful setting. Sit back and breath in the fresh air as the reindeer gently pulls us back to the farm. Back at the farm we'll enjoy a warming drink while listening to stories from the reindeer herders life. Returning to the hotel this afternoon, the rest of the day is at leisure. **Overnight - Rovaniemi (B)**

Day 3 : Optional Snowmobile Safari & Ice Lake Floating

You'll have the option to head out on an exhilarating ride through the wilds of Lapland today. We jump on snowmobiles and take off into the Arctic wilderness. Your guide will lead the way as you pass frozen trees and head down tracks which bring you to some of the incredible natural landscapes of this

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 AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com
 NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038
 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

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region. Stopping for lunch, you can expect a delicious warming soup prepared by an open fire. With a bit of luck and the right weather conditions we'll get the change to drive across pure, untouched powder snow. For more information please click here.

This evening you'll have the option to travel to a frozen lake, where, after getting wrapped up in a thick rescue suit, you'll ease in and enjoy a relaxing float. Whilst it might sound a little different, the high quality rescue suit will keep off the cold and let your mind rest as you relax under the night sky. Hopefully we will witness a mystical display from the Northern Lights. **Overnight - Rovaniemi (B)**

Day 4 : Husky Sleigh Ride



We head out on an exciting journey today as we start with a visit to a husky farm before being whisked away on sleighs pulled by our furry friends. Making our way across the pristine winter forest close to the Arctic Circle, each sled will have 2 riders who will take it in turns to control the reins. Passing through beautiful scenery we'll witness the power of these incredible animals before we return to their home where we have the opportunity to learn more about the life of a husky and enjoy a hot drink to warm us up.

Returning to Rovaniemi you'll be transferred to your special overnight spot, a glass igloo with fantastic views of the sky above. Before you settle in to your cosy surroundings you'll enjoy a sumptuous 3 course dinner in the incredible ice restaurant. Wrap up warm as everything is made from ice. **Overnight - Rovaniemi (B, D)**

Day 5 : Rovaniemi

A departure transfer will be provided today to take you back to Rovaniemi Airport. (B)

HOTELS

The hotels listed below are ones which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard when necessary.

Arctic Light Hotel

Situated in the heart of Rovaniemi, this family-owned hotel has been converted from the former city hall. Each room has been individually decorated and offers free WiFi among many other amenities. The hotel offers a spacious, cosy lounge and a restaurant which is known for its delicious breakfasts created by Finnish-American TV chef Sara La Fountain. There's also the Plan B bar, where you can enjoy live music and some of the best cocktails in town.



Glass Igloos at Arctic Snow Hotel

In a field surrounded by pine trees sit the magnificent glass igloos of the the Snow Hotel. These cosy pods are complete with comfortable beds and en suite facilities. If the night sky is clear and conditions are right then a breathtaking display of northern lights can be seen. What is really special about these igloos is that they are complete with an aurora alarm which can be set to wake you up if they appear in the night sky when you are sleeping.



Snowmobiling

Please note the following information for all snowmobiling activities: Each person driving a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving license(B). Please remember to take your driving license with you as unfortunately you will not be able to drive a snowmobile without it. There will be two persons per snowmobile. For groups of uneven passengers (3,5,7 etc) a supplement of €75 will be applicable as a single driver supplement.

The Snowmobile driver is held liable for any damages caused to the vehicle. Personal self-liability is max. €900 /person/snowmobile/case of accident. You will have the option to purchase a 15 € self-liability insurance before the start of the safari, this will reduce your liability down to maximum of €150 / person/snowmobile/case of accident. Self-liability insurance is personal and valid for one snowmobile safari only.

This activity is not suitable for children less than 12 years old. If a child over 140 cm wishes to sit in a snowmobile as a passenger, a full adult price will be charged (according to availability).

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 3 months from your planned date of departure from Finland, has at least two blank pages and has been issued within the last 10 years.

UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA passport holders do not require a visa for a stay of less than 90 days.

Finland is part of the borderless region known as the Schengen Area and South African residents require a Schengen visa in order to enter Finland. This schengen visa must be submitted at least 15 days before their intended departure for the Schengen member

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states. Visa forms can be down loaded at <http://formin.finland.fi/Public/default.aspx?>

Currency

The official currency of Finland is the Euro. However please note the 1 and 2 cent coins are not used in Finland and everything will be rounded up to the nearest 5 cents. All major credit and debit cards are accepted in Finland. ATMs are found in every city, major town or resort and even some small villages.

Time & Voltage

Finland works on GMT + 2 hours. It observes daylight saving with clocks going forward at the end of March and back again at the end of October.

Standard voltage is 230 volts, 50 Hz. Primary sockets generally require Continental or European plugs, of the two round pin variety. We recommend that you pack a universal travel adaptor. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adaptor in order to use U.S. appliances.

Health Requirements

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Finland from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Tetanus is recommended. The medical facilities in Finland are good and available for free to European Union citizens with a valid EHIC form or its replacement ID card.

The water quality in Finland is excellent and tap water is always drinkable

Food & Drink

Unsurprising for a nation surrounded by water, fish plays a very prevalent role in Finnish cuisine with salmon and herring often playing a starring role. Meat is also widely eaten with delicacies including reindeer, elk and bear. More commonly found is the HK Sininen Lenkki sausage. Many main meals are served with potatoes, berry sauce and gherkins/pickles and rye bread is often the bread of choice.

Alcohol is fairly expensive in Finland (compared to continental Europe) however it is very easy to find. Local beers like Lapin

Kulta, Karjala and Olvi are easily found in local supermarket – they are branded by their alcohol content though. I is the weakest and cheapest whereas IV is the strongest and no doubt the most expensive. Anything harder than beer needs to be bought at Alko – a government run chain of supermarkets. They hold the monopoly on where you can buy anything pretty much over 4.7% in Finland.

Daylight in Finland

Due to its location in northern Europe with the Arctic Circle crossing the north of the country, parts of Finland experience both extremes when it comes to daylight. The northern part of the country (Lapland) that sits above the Arctic Circle has at least one day a year when the sun never sets (usually mid to the end of June) and one day when the sun doesn't even appear (usually mid to the end of December).

Helsinki in the south has the least extreme of the daylight hours but still sees a lot more than most European capitals in the summer and a lot less in the winter. The earliest you are likely to see the sun rise in Helsinki is about 4am in the middle of June, on top of this you can enjoy up to 19 hours of daylight with the sun not setting until just before 11pm. The winter is obviously a very different story with the latest the sun rises being about 9:30am in late December, early January. The sun generally sticks around for just shy of 6 hours before setting around 3:15pm. After January the daylight increases slowly until June and then begins to decrease again until it's December again.

In Rovaniemi (the capital of Lapland) the story is a bit more intense. In June and most of July you'll be unlikely to see much darkness. From mid July the sun rises at about 2am and doesn't set until about 00:45am. Towards the end of December the sun doesn't tend to rise until 11:45am and barely sticks around for an hour, setting at 12:32 in the afternoon. As with Helsinki the daylight increases moderately from January to June and then decreases again in the second half of the year.

What to Pack

For an extensive list on what to bring when travelling to Finland during winter see our

Lapland Packing List on our Travel Guide on our website.

- Walking boots or snow boots (avoid wellies/gum boots), woollen socks (Merino if possible - avoid cotton)
- Long johns (wool or polyester - avoid cotton), jogging/sweat pants and ski trousers or waterproof trousers.
- Base layer (wool or polyester - avoid cotton), fleece shirts, woollen jumper.
- A down parka is ideal but pricey, otherwise a down shell jacket or a similar insulated jacket.
- Hat, gloves and mittens, scarf and balaclava (optional)
- Padded bag for camera
- Spare batteries and SD cards
- Swimming costume/trunks/swimming shorts if you plan to visit a sauna when you are in Finland

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