

# Finland Wilderness Discovery

## 5 Days | Starts/Ends: Yllasjarvi



*Crossing the Arctic circle, discover the wildlife and stunning landscapes of Finnish Lapland. Explore the snow covered wilderness by three different methods, a Reindeer ride, Husky sledging and on a snowmobile plus visit a snow village with incredible snow and ice sculptures.*

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- Snow Village - Explore the exquisitely carved snow and ice village, with different themes and sculptures throughout
- Husky Sledding - Discover the stunning scenery of the Yllas area on this 10km husky sledding adventure.
- Yllas - Consider exploring this beautiful area further, perhaps enjoy a half day on the ski slopes
- Reindeer Sleigh Ride - Take an thrilling journey through frozen forests on a reindeer sleigh
- Snowmobile Ride - Take a 25km snowmobile journey through a winter wonderland

#### What's Included

- 4 nights 3 star hotel in Yllasjarvi

- 4 breakfasts
- Arrival and departure airport transfers from Kittila Airport on days 1 and 5
- Husky farm visit and 1 hour husky sled ride
- Reindeer safari including reindeer sleigh ride
- Snowmobile ride including warm drinks and snacks
- Snow village visit and entrance

#### 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 : Yllasjarvi

Arriving into Kittila Airport, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel in the fell of Yllas. The rest of the day is at leisure and this evening, once the sun has gone down, why not step outside in the hope of catching a glimpse of the elusive northern lights. **Overnight - Yllasjarvi**

#### Day 2 : Husky Sleigh Ride & Optional Ice Lake Floating



This morning we take a short transfer to a local husky farm. A welcoming party of friendly excitable husky dogs will be waiting as we make our way in. We'll then have a tutorial on how to ride the husky sleigh before we head off into the Arctic wilderness with these beautiful creatures powering our momentum. Your guide will lead the train of huskies and sleighs through the magnificent taiga forest and frozen marsh. It will be two people to a sleigh, with each person getting the opportunity to be in the driving position. Returning to the husky farm you'll have the opportunity to enjoy a warm drink and hear interesting stories about the huskies.

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

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keep off the cold and let your mind rest as you relax under the nights sky. Hopefully we will witness a mystical display from the Northern Lights. **Overnight - Yllasjarvi (B)**

## Day 3 : Traditional Reindeer Ride



Discover the beautiful lappish countryside this morning as we take an unforgettable reindeer ride through a snow covered forest. Once comfortable in our sleighs the reindeer will lead us on a magical journey, the noise of the reindeer caravan will be the only soundtrack in this peaceful setting. After our sleigh ride we'll warm up in a traditional tepee with hot drinks and an opportunity to ask the reindeer herder any questions.

The rest of the day is at leisure. **Overnight - Yllasjarvi (B)**

## Day 4 : Snow Village Visit

After breakfast we make our way to the magnificent snow village where we'll get to explore rooms, corridors and sculptures made entirely from snow and ice. The show pieces of the village are the restaurant and chapel which have both been built to wow. We'll enjoy a warm drink and snack whilst we take in the incredible craftsmanship. Heading back outside we'll jump on snowmobiles for an exhilarating ride back to our hotel, through frozen landscapes and past snow covered trees.

The afternoon offers free time. **Overnight - Yllasjarvi (B)**

## Day 5 : Departure Transfer

Today marks the end of your time in the arctic wilderness of lapland. A transfer will be provided to take you back to Kittila 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.

### Hotel Yllasrinne

The newly renovated Hotel Yllasrinne is perfectly located by the Pallas-Yllas National Park. Guests can enjoy stunning arctic scenery, including sightings of reindeer and the northern lights, as well as plenty of nature trails and snowmobile tracks. Each room offers views of the forest or Yllas fell, alongside modern amenities such as WiFi. There's also a stylish restaurant, serving a tasty buffet breakfast with traditional northern flavours.



### 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 €49 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 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.

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## 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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