

Land of the Midnight Sun

5 Days | Starts/Ends: Yllasjarvi



North of the Arctic circle in Finnish Lapland you'll find a place where the summer months bring 24 hours of daylight. On this 5 day adventure you'll have the opportunity to explore the open expanse of nature on your doorstep as you hike through the flora and fauna, take a fat bike ride and visit a husky farm. Relax in the evening as you gaze over the perpetually setting sun, a truly magical sight.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Husky Farm - Visit a husky farm where you'll receive a warm welcome and learn about the life of these hard working animals
- Nature Hike - Enjoy an easy hike through the stunning natural landscape, learn about the flora & fauna en route and savour a local picnic lunch
- Fatbike Tour - Jump on a fat bike and head out on an off road adventure taking some of the sublime scenery all around
- Yllas - Explore this beautiful Arctic town and it's surrounding accessible walking trails

What's Included

- 4 nights 3 star hotel in Yllasjarvi
- 4 breakfasts & 1 lunch
- Arrival and departure airport transfers from Kittila Airport on days 1 and 5
- Husky farm visit
- Guided nature hike including Lappish lunch
- Fat bike tour through forest paths

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

Welcome to Finland, an exciting adventure in Lapland awaits you. Upon arrival at Kittila Airport you'll be met and transferred to your hotel in Yllasjarvi near Yllas Fell. 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 - Yllasjarvi (B)**

Day 2 : Husky Farm

A short drive this morning brings us to a small Husky farm where we'll receive a warm welcome from the friendly and excitable arctic dogs. We'll have the opportunity to talk to the owners of the farm and learn about their life with the dogs as well as hear some of their stories.

The rest of the day is at leisure to explore the beautiful Finnish countryside. **Overnight - Yllasjarvi (B)**

Day 3 : Nature Hike

This morning we head out into the wilderness on an easy hike through the beautiful Lapland landscape. Your guide will tell you more about the area and teach you about the flora and fauna found in the national park. This leisurely hike will take you through forests and past shimmering lakes before you enjoy a picnic lunch by the campfire.

After returning to our accommodation there will be some free time in the afternoon before you have the option to head out to a peaceful arctic lake for a floating experience. Being so far north means that during the summer months the sun does not set, even late in the day you can enjoy the sunshine outside. This evening we'll put on a float suit and immerse ourselves in the lake for a relaxing experience. Lay back and experience nature

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in a unique way as you float around the lake.

Overnight - Yllasjarvi (B)

Day 4 : Fat Bike Ride



Today we take an adventure into the wild as we jump on fat bikes and cycle through forest paths and down dirt roads. These specially designed bikes have wide tyres to give added stability and grip on the rough surfaces. Take in the breathtaking scenery as you navigate the route behind your guide. During the ride we'll take some drinks stops to make sure everyone stays hydrated. Returning to our hotel, the rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight - Yllasjarvi (B)

Day 5 : Yllasjarvi

Today marks the end of your time in Lapland under the midnight sun, a transfer will be provided to take you back to Kittila Airport.

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.



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 downloaded 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).

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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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updated on 18-07-2019 02:40:52

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