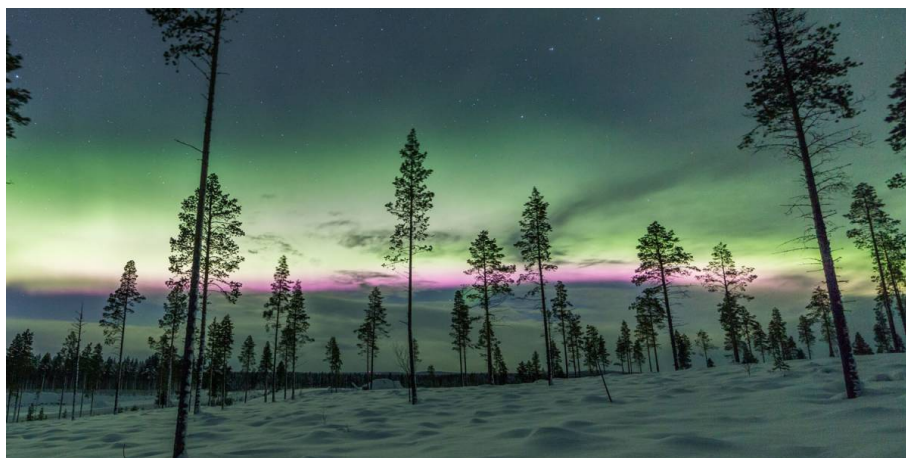


# Lapland Family Explorer

## 5 Days | Starts/Ends: Rovaniemi



*Semi-Independent Tour: Explore the untouched wilderness of Lapland on an exciting family getaway to Finland. Visit Santa's village, learn about the life of reindeer & their herders and feel the wind on your face as you travel through snow covered landscapes on a husky sled. Take a guided tour away from the lights of the city in search of the northern lights.*

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- Santa Claus Village - Meet Santa Claus and his trusted helpers and explore Santa's official post office
- Reindeer Farm - Discover a reindeer farm and meet some of these native creatures and learn about the life of the herders who live here
- Rovaniemi - Explore this beautiful Arctic town, home to Santa Claus village since 1985
- Snowmobiling - Hop on to a snowmobile and enjoy a thrilling ride through the snowy wilderness
- Northern Lights Picnic - One of the best places to view the illusive Northern Lights

is close to the Arctic Circle. Enjoy a picnic dinner whilst searching the nights sky

- Husky Sledding - Take an exciting 10km ride down snow covered tracks and through stunning scenery as your excitable huskies provide the power

#### What's Included

- 4 nights 4 star chalet in Rovaniemi
- 4 breakfasts & 1 lunch
- Visit to Santa Claus's village
- Arrival and departure airport transfers from Rovaniemi Airport on days 1 and 5
- Reindeer farm visit including a short reindeer sleigh ride
- Husky Safari with 45 minute sleigh ride and warm drinks
- Snowmobile ride including a Arctic circle ceremony
- Guided Northern Lights evening including snacks 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 : Lapland Awaits

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 : Visit Santa's Village



Discover the secrets of Santa and his helpers this morning as you meet Father Christmas himself. Stroll around Santa's village and visit his very special post office which receives thousands of letters from hopeful children around the world. After enjoying a delicious lunch we'll hop on snowmobiles and take an exhilarating ride to a reindeer farm.

At the reindeer farm we'll have the opportunity to meet the reindeer and learn more

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about their importance to the communities in Lapland. Next enjoy a short reindeer sleigh ride through the beautiful snowy landscape before taking part in a 'crossing of the arctic circle' ceremony where we'll receive a certificate. We return to the city on Snowmobiles for some free time this afternoon. **Overnight - Rovaniemi (B, L)**

## Day 3 : Northern Lights Picnic



Today you will have the option to embark on an enthralling reindeer safari. Sit back in your reindeer sled and enjoy the peaceful and stunning winter wonderland that is all around you. The sounds of the reindeer caravan will be the perfect soundtrack for this exciting ride. Returning to the reindeer farm we'll enjoy some hot drinks & snacks to warm us up while we listen to the stories of the reindeer herders life. Returning to the chalet this afternoon the rest of the day is at leisure.

Seeing the Northern Lights is a dream for many people and being close to the Arctic circle offers some of the best opportunities to do that. With our guide we'll head out of the city this evening and away from the lights, we'll enjoy a lappish picnic under the night sky and if the conditions are right you'll be able to watch the Northern Lights dancing across the sky. **Overnight - Rovaniemi (B)**

## Day 4 : Husky Sledging



This morning we'll hear the friendly barks of huskies as we visit a local farm. From the farm we'll experience the huskies get to work as we enjoy a sledge ride out into the wilderness. This thrilling experience involves teams of two taking it in turns to take the reins across the 7-10km path. Stopping en route there will be the opportunity to take photos of these beautiful creatures in their natural habitat.

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

## Day 5 : Rovaniemi

Today ends your amazing family adventure in Finland, a transfer will be provided to take you to the airport.(B)

### HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

**Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.**

### Ounasvaara Lakituvat Chalets

Just a short distance from Rovaniemi city centre, the Ounasvaara Lakituvat Chalets feel like a home away from home. Modern, two-bedroom chalets come complete with fireplaces, open-plan living rooms and fully equipped kitchens. But that's where the similarities stop. Each chalet also boasts a private sauna, to warm you up after a day of wintery adventures, and it's not uncommon to see a herd of reindeer in the chalet yard. What's more, there's also a spa, fitness centre and plenty of nature trails close by.



### 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.

On the Snowmobiling ABC tour children 0-12 years old will be seated in a sledge behind the guide's snowmobile. If children aged 13 or 14 years old are less than 140 cm and not capable of sitting safely on the snowmobile, s/he will be seated in the sledge. We highly recommend one of the parents to sit with a small child in the sledge for the child's comfort and safety. 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

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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 that 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

Unsurprisingly 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 supermarkets – 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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