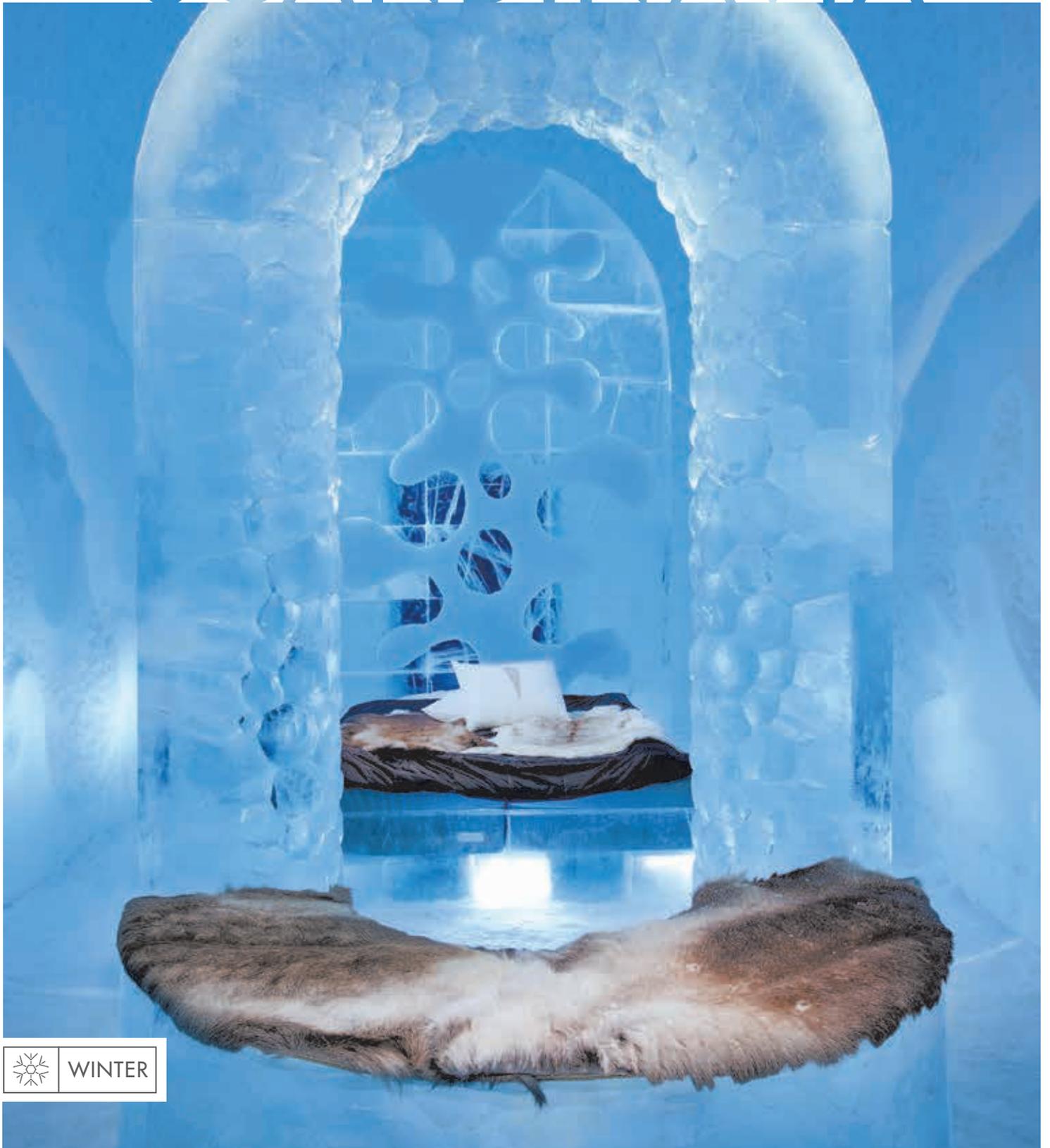


BEST SERVED SCANDINAVIA



WINTER





WELCOME

Welcome to our winter brochure. It's a showcase for the very best that Scandinavia and the Nordics have to offer, when the Northern Lights come out to play and Lapland's snowy silence is broken only by the occasional husky yap or snowmobile roar.

As you'd expect, there's no shortage of Scandi innovation. Glass igloos are perched on remote fellsides, luxury treehouses are hidden among snow-dusted forests and whole hotels are carved theatrically from great chunks of ice. Whatever you choose, it can all be tailor-made to your exact specifications by our specialists. Having travelled extensively to all our featured destinations, they'll be on hand to design your ideal trip. Whether that's taking the Polar Express train across the Arctic Circle or an action-packed break to Sweden's iconic ICEHOTEL.

With our specialists constantly returning to the region, there's also a focus on the latest and greatest. To name but a few, we've got a luxury spa getaway to the Blue Lagoon and a Northern Lights

city break to Swedish Lapland's historic Luleå. That's alongside a whole raft of excursions, from spa-boat fjord cruises and *Game of Thrones* tours of Iceland to a whole raft of adventures in the high-Arctic island of Svalbard.

Of course, there are also all the old favourites, including log-cabin escapes, visits to Santa and superb-value trips to Arctic Tromsø – Norway's Northern Lights capital. Just remember, Scandinavia is not only for winter. Get in contact to learn about our year-round itineraries, or order your complimentary summer brochure.

KATHERINE GERSHON
MANAGING DIRECTOR





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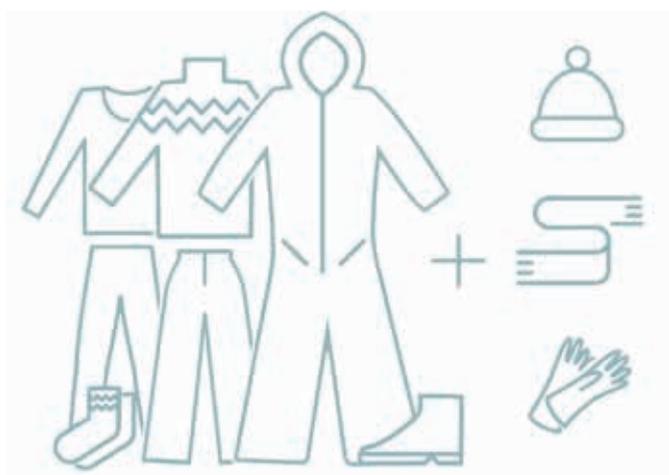
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ABOUT THIS BROCHURE



DRESSING FOR THE ARCTIC

Put away the flip-flops and sarongs, this holiday is going to be different. Arctic chic shows little skin, with a three-layer principle advised: wear thermal undergarments, complemented by jogging bottoms and a warm fleece or a woolly jumper, topped off with a weather-resistant outer layer. Cotton should be avoided as it cools when it gets wet, and don't forget your hat, gloves and scarf. Please note that some excursion suppliers do not offer warm clothing in children's sizes.



BEST FOR

Throughout this brochure you'll spot the symbols below next to our properties. These should give you a helpful hint as to the hotel's qualities and features, making sure you pick the perfect spot.



ACCOMMODATION IN THIS BROCHURE

As there is no universal system for grading hotels, we have applied our own grading to featured hotels and itineraries. They are based on the opinion of our destination specialists, usually upon first-hand experience of staying there themselves.

Standard

Clean and comfortable accommodation with reasonable facilities (typically 3 stars).

Superior

A high standard of accommodation with a good range of quality facilities, often in a good location (typically 4 stars).

Deluxe

Outstanding accommodation with excellent facilities and service, usually in a fantastic location (typically 5 stars).

MEAL INCLUSIONS

Any meals included in the price of our suggested itineraries, whether they're part of a tour, an excursion, or a hotel stay, are indicated at the end of each day's description using the following symbols:

- B** Breakfast
- L** Lunch
- D** Dinner

All prices, fares, hotels and tours described in this brochure are correct at the time of going to press (01/05/2019) and are subject to change and availability. All prices are per person based on two people travelling together sharing twin/double accommodation (unless otherwise stated). Many of the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. But ATOL protection does not apply to all holiday and travel services listed. Please ask us to confirm what protection may apply to your booking. If you do not receive an ATOL Certificate then the booking will not be ATOL protected. If you do receive an ATOL Certificate but all the parts of your holiday are not listed on it, those parts will not be ATOL protected. For more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: atol.org.uk/atolcertificate. The Best Served Scandinavia/Wexas ATOL number is 2873. Full Best Served Scandinavia booking conditions can be found at best-served.co.uk/terms-and-conditions. Front cover image: ICEHOTEL 29, Deluxe Suite Early Spring, Design Nando Alvarez and Liliya Pobornikova, Photo Asaf Kliger © ICEHOTEL.



NORTHERN LIGHTS: SCANDINAVIAN MYTHOLOGY

The Northern Lights have long played a central role in Scandinavian mythology. Indeed, many Samí people – whose ancestors have inhabited the northern reaches of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia’s Kola Peninsula for the past 5,000 years – still share the belief that the aurora borealis emanates from the souls of their departed ancestors. In Norse mythology, the Northern Lights are said to reflect the soaring trails of Valkyries as they charge across the night sky. Throughout northern European folklore, these vibrant and ghostly midnight flares have garnered great respect. Today, despite a clearer scientific explanation for these astral displays – that the auroras are a result

of the interaction of solar wind and the Earth’s magnetic field – these otherworldly displays still stun seasoned observers into awed silence and continue to inspire thousands of pilgrimages to the Arctic north each winter.

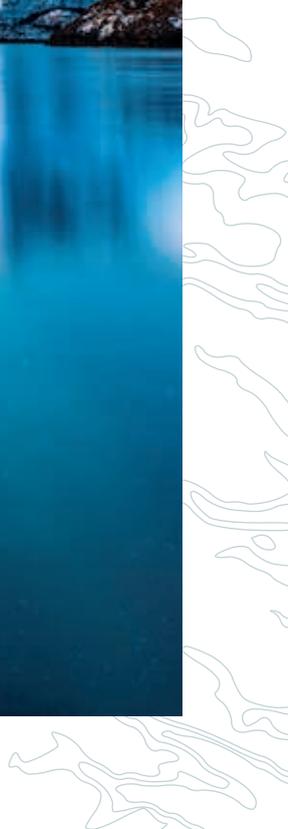
HINTS & TIPS

- Get as far from artificial light as possible
- Keep an eye on the sky at all times
- Wrap up warm – you may have to wait a while
- If you want to photograph the Lights, be sure to pack a tripod

THE AURORA ZONE

Cutting across a vast swathe of Scandinavia and the Nordics, the fabled aurora zone offers the very best chances of seeing the Northern Lights. And, as luck would have it, it’s a region blessed with a seemingly endless landscape of pristine wilderness, with few towns and even fewer cities to interrupt the views of those spectacular swirls. From Norway’s Tromsø to the far reaches of Finnish Lapland, our winter holidays are tailor-made to make the most of these ideal conditions.

68.4711° N, 13.8461° E



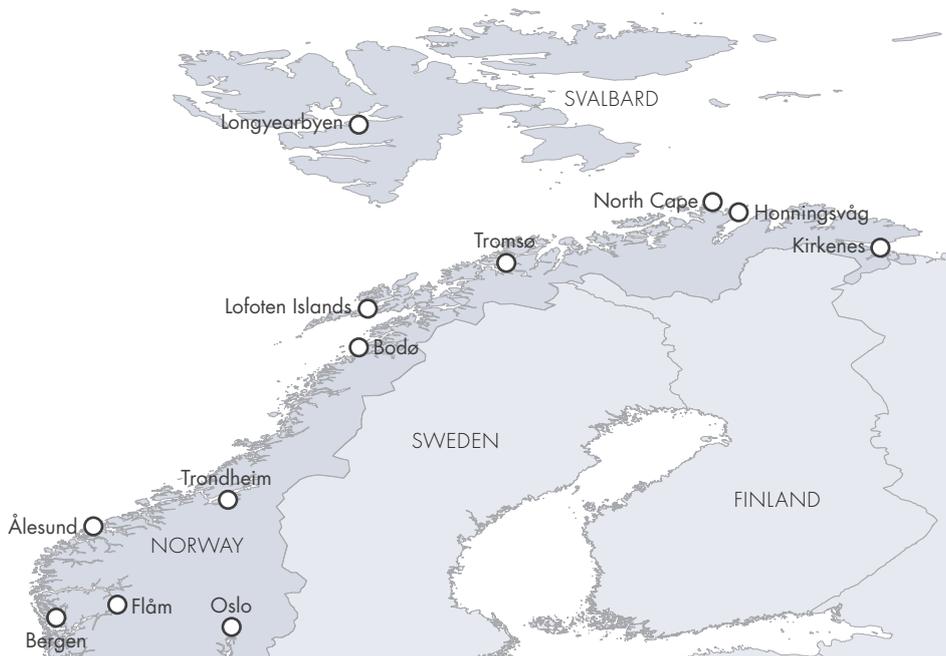
NORWAY & SVALBARD

Big and bold, snow-carpeted and spectacular, Norway in winter is a traveller's dream. From buzzing Tromsø and the majestic Lyngen Alps to the dreamy Lofoten Islands and remote North Cape, the landscapes are dizzying in both their scale and beauty. And, just a short hop from the North Pole itself, the islands of the Svalbard archipelago offer unsurpassed adventure in one of the world's last true wildernesses.

In the heart of the fabled aurora zone, 400km north of the Arctic Circle, Tromsø is one of the world's more isolated city-break destinations. But, it's not all about long weekends spent hunting the Northern Lights. A short hop from downtown, you'll find plunging fjords and islands home to a dazzling array of wildlife. It's all enjoyed alongside a superb range of wilderness accommodation, including the snow-carved rooms of Tromsø Ice Domes and the fjord-side delights of cosy Lyngen Lodge and Malangen Resort. Then, between Bergen in the south and Kirkenes in the far north, you'll encounter some of Europe's most dramatic scenery. There's the sheer beauty of Flåm and the Western Fjords, and the spectacular Lofoten Islands, whose windswept cliffs and sweeping

golden sands form an idyllic backdrop for dazzling Northern Lights displays. The region's cities are equally enticing, from the Art Nouveau treasures of Ålesund to the erstwhile capital Trondheim, its colourful warehouses all dusted in snow. Take it all in with the scenic Polar Express rail journey and a full spread of thrilling winter excursions.

Further north still, the Svalbard Archipelago is synonymous with its largest island, Spitsbergen. Hidden between the glaciers and mountains, the town of Longyearbyen serves as a comfortable base, its lively pubs and cafés adding real vibrancy to the austere surrounds. Ride out of town on a snowmobile or dogsled and even more excitement awaits in the wilderness.



01

NORTHERN LIGHTS CITY BREAK, TROMSØ



WHY WE RECOMMEND TROMSØ

- Tromsø is situated at the centre of the Northern Lights 'zone', which rings the Magnetic North Pole
- The city's location – locked between fjords and rugged mountain ranges – offers calmer weather than the coast, insulated from high winds and stormy weather
- There's a wide range of Arctic excursions on offer, all led by experienced operators
- Tromsø is easily accessible, with direct flights from London Gatwick and Luton
- It's possible to combine a stay in the city with longer trips into the surrounding region and beyond

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE CITY BREAK

4 days Tromsø



» PRICES FROM: £535 pp incl. flights, 3 nights BB accommodation, airport shuttle transfer & Northern Lights excursion. Operates Nov to Mar.

Tromsø sits at the centre of the aurora zone, and dazzling displays circle the night sky with regular abandon. There's more to this city than what goes on above, however, with an animated street scene reflecting the vibrancy of the aurora borealis. Take it all in on our popular short break, which includes a Northern Lights tour and allows ample time to add on a host of thrilling optional excursions.

Day 1 » UK/Tromsø Fly direct from Gatwick or Luton to Tromsø and take your included transfer to your hotel, situated on the south of Tromsøya Island in the heart of the city centre. Spend the rest of the day exploring the centre on foot, visiting the city's museums and galleries. The Tromsø Kunstforening, home to an exceptional collection of Norwegian contemporary art, is a five-minute walk from your chosen hotel. As is the Polaria Museum, whose cinema shows short films of the Northern Lights. Tromsø's picturesque harbour is also nearby, providing yet another visual feast. Or, you could take it all in from above with a ride on the Fjellheisen cable car. Later, head out to dinner and sample the town's best local brews at one of the many drinking holes.

Days 2-3 » Tromsø Tromsø's extreme northern location allows for a multitude

of exciting excursion opportunities, from husky and snowmobile safaris to reindeer sledding and whale watching trips (see pages 12-13). In the evening, wrap up warm and join an included aurora tour to a secluded camp for the chance to see the Northern Lights as they make their merry way across the night sky. You'll even have the chance to cook a hot snack on a roaring fire. **B**

Day 4 » Depart for UK Depending on your departure time, take the chance for one final optional excursion. And, there can be few better ways to round off your stay than with a husky safari, riding two to a sled along frozen trails with your team of dogs yapping happily up ahead. It really is among the most exciting ways of exploring Norway's Arctic north. In the afternoon, take your included transfer back to the airport for your flight home. **B**



CLARION COLLECTION HOTEL WITH

SUPERIOR



Named after former steamship captain Hans Rudolf With, this is one of our favourite Tromsø hotels. Modern, comfortable rooms are matched by a relaxation area on the top floor with a gym, sauna and steam room, which is also a great place to spot the Northern Lights on clear nights. The hotel also offers complimentary waffles between 3 and 6 pm and an included light evening meal between 6 and 9 pm. We recommend upgrading to a spacious Superior room for wonderful views across the harbour.



CLARION HOTEL THE EDGE

SUPERIOR



This ultra-modern hotel is deservedly popular, not least for its slick rooms and super central location, right by the water. The excellent facilities are another draw, not least the city's only sky bar, which serves up predictably astounding views. There's also a superb Manhattan-themed restaurant, showcasing seasonal menus created by acclaimed chef Marcus Samuelsson. And, the lively lounge bar and café are a hit with the locals, lending a vibrant edge to what has become one of the city's most fashionable meeting places.



SCANDIC ISHAVSHOTEL

SUPERIOR



This contemporary hotel has some of the finest rooms in Tromsø. Situated quayside on the east coast of Tromsøya Island, close to the city's famous wooden cathedral, the Scandic Ishavshotel's spacious, stylish and recently refurbished rooms offer exceptional views of the harbour. Roast, the hotel's restaurant, is a delight too, serving an excellent breakfast – a real theme in these parts – a variety of local lunchtime delicacies, fresh seafood, and wine by the glass – a surprising rarity in Tromsø. What's more, it's all just a stone's throw from the city centre's myriad delights.



THON HOTEL POLAR

STANDARD



A great value option, this city-centre offering pairs modern Scandinavian design with a location ideal for exploring all of Tromsø's most popular attractions. With options for couples and families alike, the Polar's en-suite rooms are comfortably furnished and come with complimentary WiFi, a mini bar and, in some cases, a Nespresso machine. The included breakfast is a delicious highlight while the next-door Egon Restaurant has an excellent pizza buffet if you don't feel like straying too far.

TROMSØ'S TOP 10 EXCURSIONS



1 CHASE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Even in today's scientific world we remain under the spell of the Northern Lights, which turn the crisp Arctic night into a dancing display of disco beams. With Tromsø just a few hours' flight from the UK, and a collection of well-placed basecamps on its snowy outskirts, these celestial charms have never been easier to find.

» PRICES FROM: £115 pp

2 DRIVE A SNOWMOBILE PAST THE LYNGEN ALPS

To the east of the city lie the Lyngen Alps, a range of sharp, snow-capped peaks that extend northwards towards the Norwegian Sea. Riding a snowmobile is the best way to view this imposing landscape, giving you the agility and power to carve your way up steep ascents and meander through thick forests.

» PRICES FROM: £190 pp

3 JOIN A HUSKY SAFARI THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

The peoples of the Arctic haven't lost the need for a well-trained pack of huskies. A mode of transport that has changed little in a thousand years, dogsledding remains the most reliable way of getting around. As you glide over the ice with the hazy wintry light filtering through the trees, you'll appreciate it's the most beautiful mode of travel too. It's all paired with an included lunch.

» PRICES FROM: £200 pp



4 TAKE A NORTHERN LIGHTS DINNER CRUISE

Chasing the Northern Lights with a trip into a wilderness with zero light pollution may well be the best way to guarantee a front row seat at the polar show, but a dinner cruise is perhaps even more special. Tucking into delicious and hearty home-cooked food, and included hot drinks, it's all accompanied by the moody lighting of the Tromsø quayside, making this tour among the best ways to view the aurora.

» PRICES FROM: £150 pp

5 VISIT THE ICE DOMES AND TUCK INTO ARCTIC STEW

A recent addition to the city's winter scene, the Tromsø Ice Domes are carved anew each year by expert artists, their shimmering sculptures and friezes lit by ethereal glows and themed on everything from the

Northern Lights to the local region's Sami culture. On this tour, you'll enjoy a drink at the ice bar, explore the domes themselves in the company of a guide, and then settle down to an included lunch of delicious soup or stew.

» PRICES FROM: £110 pp



6 ENJOY A TASTING AT THE WORLD'S NORTHERNMOST DISTILLERY

In the freezing Arctic, there's much to be said for a warming glass of the local tipple. In this case, at the world's northernmost distillery, it's vodka, aquavit, gin and whisky – all made from local herbs and berries – that form the day's tasting centrepiece, which can also be paired with an optional lunch. Spend a memorable few hours sampling the produce in the company of experts and learning about the Norse mythology surrounding the distillation of alcohol under the Northern Lights.

» PRICES FROM: £145 pp

7 TAKE A CRUISE & LUNCH ON THE VULKANA SPA BOAT

Sail out on a traditional fishing boat to take in Tromsø's Arctic scenery as you soak in the saltwater hot tub on deck. You'll also enjoy the Hammam steam room and, if you're feeling brave, perhaps even a dip in the icy ocean. Then, warm up in the wood-fired sauna as you cruise through the fjords, before tucking into a traditional soup made from just-caught fish. It's served alongside fresh bread and optional beer and wine.

» PRICES FROM: £205 pp

8 EXPLORE TROMSØ'S SEAS ON A WHALE-WATCHING CRUISE

The coastline around Tromsø is truly spectacular, its snow-dusted fjords and soaring cliffs home to all manner of seabirds, from puffins to little auks and the delightfully named yellow-billed loon. However, between the end of October and January, the whales and orcas are the star attractions. Don't worry, the fantastic fjord scenery is showcased on wildlife cruises whenever you plan to travel.

» PRICES FROM: £160 pp

9 HEAD OUT INTO THE WILDS ON A GUIDED SNOWSHOE TOUR

They've been the preferred choice of footwear among Arctic explorers for centuries. Now, you can follow in the steps of Amundsen and the rest by strapping on your very own pair of snowshoes and heading off into Tromsø's wintry surrounds. It's a trip made all the more memorable by sweeping views across Balsfjord and the chance to warm up afterwards with hot drinks by a roaring fire.

» PRICES FROM: £105 pp

10 SAMÍ CULTURE & REINDEER SLED RIDE WITH LUNCH

More closely related to the Arctic peoples of Siberia than to the Vikings, the Samí semi-nomadic pastoralists have inhabited Norway's northern regions for millennia. Masters of trapping, fishing and reindeer herding, the Samí showcase an ancient and sustainable way to live off the land. On this in-depth tour, you'll enjoy lunch by the campfire, gain an insight into their unique culture and, of course, take a spin on their trusty reindeer sleds.

» PRICES FROM: £155 pp



02

TROMSØ ICE DOMES BREAK



NEW YEAR'S EVE AT TROMSØ ICE DOMES

Treat yourself to something different this New Year with our exclusive trip to the Tromsø Ice Domes. Enjoy a guided snowshoe excursion and dinner in the wilderness before sparkling wine and a husky-friendly fireworks display sees in 2020 in style. Then, on New Year's Day, you'll be treated to a thrilling husky safari. What's more, either side of your night on ice, we've included two nights in the heart of Tromsø

» PRICES FROM: £1,345 pp incl. flights, accommodation & selected excursions. Departs 30 Dec.

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

2 days Tromsø » 2 days Tromsø Ice Domes



» PRICES FROM: £1,295 pp incl. flights, shuttle transfers, 2 nights Clarion Collection Hotel With BB, 1 night Tromsø Ice Domes with transfers, snowshoeing excursion, wilderness dinner & husky safari. Operates 20 Dec to 31 Mar.

This dazzling winter break combines Tromsø's far-flung fjordside delights, all surrounded by sugar-white mountains and almost-nightly aurora displays, with a stay at an ice dome hotel deep in the Arctic wilderness. Experience its magical setting alongside an included husky safari, snowshoeing and delicious dinners in the wilderness.

Day 1 » UK/Tromsø Fly to Tromsø and transfer to the Clarion Collection Hotel With, for quayside views of the harbour and its idyllic fishing huts, dwarfed by distant snow-dusted summits. Perhaps spend this evening taking advantage of the hotel's top-floor sauna and steam room that affords magnificent views of the Northern Lights and blanketed city below. A light meal and afternoon waffles are included with your stay.

Day 2 » Tromsø With a free day to explore the Arctic capital of Tromsø, stroll around the historic Skansen area or hike the boundless mountain trails that encircle the city. It all culminates with a nighttime cable car ride, bookable locally, which offers splendid views of the city and its surrounding peaks. Alternatively, perhaps explore Tromsø's buzzing pub scene, or join an optional tour into the wild remotes in search of the aurora borealis. **B**

Day 3 » Snowshoeing & Ice Domes Today you'll transfer to the Tromsø Ice

Domes – seven intricate and newly carved suites nestled in the Tamok Valley. With its astonishing ice art and rooms lit to perfection, it's an idyllic base from which to chase the aurora. An included snowshoe hike will see you explore ice-slicked forests framed by misty crags before you tuck into a wilderness dinner made from local ingredients and cooked by your guide on an open fire. Then, on return to the domes, it's time to bunk down in your private ice suite, complete with sleeping bag and reindeer skins to keep out the chill. **BLD**

Day 4 » Husky sledding/UK After a typical Norwegian breakfast, you'll be introduced to your eager team of huskies for a thrilling safari through the dramatic Arctic interior. End your trip in style with a delicious lunch, before taking your included transfer to Tromsø Airport for your evening flight home. **BL**

03

NORWAY'S FJORDS & NORTHERN LIGHTS

NEW



7-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

1 day Oslo » 1 day Flåm » 2 days Bergen » 3 days Tromsø



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,095 pp incl. flights, 6 nights BB accommodation, Northern Lights excursion in Tromsø & Norway in a Nutshell tour. Operates from 27 Oct to 27 Mar.

This curated itinerary combines urban charm with Norway's natural wonders. Indeed, alongside stays in Oslo and Bergen, you'll explore on scenic cruises and train rides through the fjord network before flying up to Tromsø in Norway's Arctic north. Here, you might want to add snowmobiling and dogsledding to your included Northern Lights excursion.

Day 1 » UK/Oslo Flying out to the Norwegian capital, make your way to your Art Deco hotel. Along with a complimentary light evening meal, it offers easy access to both Oslo's neoclassical heritage and ultra-modernist present.

Days 2-3 » Norway in a Nutshell tour It's time to set off on your included Norway in a Nutshell tour. And, although your first train ride over the high mountain plateau to Myrdal is delightfully scenic, the trip on the Flåm Railway is an undisputed highlight, mapping rivers and waterfall gorges to arrive at your accommodation in the quiet fjord-side village of Flåm. Perhaps explore

with some fjord-side snowshoeing. Your tour continues the next day as you depart Flåm on a fjord cruise, taking in the UNESCO-listed Nærøysfjord before a scenic bus and train ride sees you on to Bergen for a stay at one of its finest hotels – a delight of marbled rooms and ionic columns, all wrapped up in a 19th-century bank. 

Day 4 » Bergen

You'll have plenty of time to explore Bergen today, perhaps centering on the World-Heritage timber wharf before taking the funicular up to fantastic views out over the city and its fjord backdrop. 

Days 5-7 » Tromsø/UK

Flying up to Tromsø, you'll take in its Arctic setting with an included Northern Lights chase. Further optional excursions range from dogsledding and whale safaris to snowmobiling and cable-car trips up to giant -mountain views. You'll also stay right on the harbour, in a charming wood-clad hotel that serves up complimentary light evening meals. Fly home on day seven. 

04

ARCTIC CIRCLE EXPLORER:
TROMSØ & ICEHOTEL



5-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

2 days Tromsø » 1 day Narvik » 2 days ICEHOTEL



» **PRICES FROM:** £840 pp incl. flights, 2 nights Clarion Collection Hotel With BB, 1 night Scandic Narvik BB, 1 night ICEHOTEL Ice Room BB, bus from Tromsø to Narvik, train from Narvik to Kiruna, airport transfers & local transfers between Kiruna and ICEHOTEL. Operates mid-Nov to mid-Apr.

This is an unmissable chance to combine two Scandinavian icons, and two countries, on one unforgettable trip. Beginning with the dazzling disco-light displays over Norway's Northern Lights capital, you'll then travel east, stopping for a night in the remote town of Narvik before heading on, via the Arctic Circle train to Kiruna for a stay at Sweden's classic ICEHOTEL.

Day 1 » UK/Tromsø Fly to Tromsø and take the airport shuttle to the city centre, then check into your hotel. We've recommended the Clarion Collection Hotel With for its wonderful harbour views and top-floor relaxation area, perfect for views of the Northern Lights. Stays here



also include afternoon waffles and a light evening meal, on the house. The rest of the day is free to explore, and there's plenty to discover, whether it's the informative Polaria Museum, itself a fabulous guide



ICEHOTEL: SURVIVING A NIGHT ON ICE

A stay at Sweden's ICEHOTEL is a true bucketlist experience. But for some, sleeping on a bed of ice is a daunting proposition. Here are a few handy tips for surviving, and enjoying, your night on ice:

- » **Dress for the conditions** It's cold in those rooms, but you'll go a long way to ensuring a comfy night if you dress for the occasion. Pull on some long johns, a long-sleeved top, thick socks and a hat, then let your Arctic sleeping bag do the rest!
- » **Grab a sleeping bag** As part of your stay, you'll be provided with a sleeping bag. It's guaranteed to keep the chill out to temperatures as low as -30°C, so the ICEHOTEL's constant -5°C will feel comfortable in comparison.
- » **Make the most of a morning sauna** After a good night's sleep, you'll be greeted in your room or suite with a warm glass of lingonberry juice and the chance of a morning sauna. Take it – it's a wonderful way to relax and start the day.
- » **Book a Deluxe Suite** If the idea of a full night in an icy room is still a little daunting, consider an upgrade to a Deluxe Suite. Based at the permanent ICEHOTEL 365, each one comes with a heated en-suite bathroom and sauna.

to the frozen north, or the many excellent restaurants and seemingly limitless supply of pubs that dot this lively city.

Day 2 » Tromsø excursions While Tromsø itself is full of bustling charm, the region's real highlights lie beyond the city limits. You'll have the chance to take in some of its many delights today with a choice of optional excursions (see pages 12–13 for our favourites). There's everything from husky-sled rides and snowmobile trips through the wilderness to Northern Lights dinner cruises and distillery tastings. And, in the evening, be sure to book onto an aurora safari to catch the light show in all its ethereal splendour – weather permitting, of course. **B**

Day 3 » Bus to Narvik Your trans-Scandinavian adventure begins in earnest today as you board the bus to Narvik. Grab a seat by the window for the best view of snow-dusted crags and icy fjords. On arrival, check into the Scandic Narvik whose contemporary rooms and 15th-floor sky bar look out across the mountainous surrounds. If you've time, take the chance for a cable car ride to the summit of Narvikfjellet. **B**

Day 4 » Journey to ICEHOTEL Today you'll board the Arctic Circle Train for a memorable cross-border journey into Swedish Lapland. Along the way, you'll race past the snowy mountain resort of Björkliden and Abisko National Park

before sweeping into Kiruna for the short transfer to ICEHOTEL. Enjoy a tour of the hotel on arrival before checking into your freshly sculpted Ice Room. Art Suite upgrades are also available – speak to our specialists for more details. The rest of the day is left free for optional adventures; snowmobiling, ice carving and Northern Lights tours compete for your attention alongside the likes of ice-carving classes and multi-course gourmet dining experiences. **B**

Day 5 » Depart for UK Wake from your night on ice with a warm glass of lingonberry juice and a sauna. Then, after breakfast, you'll transfer back to Kiruna for your flight home. **B**



05 TROMSØ & MALANGEN RESORT



MALANGEN RESORT

Ten stylish Standard and Superior rooms line the top floor of Malangen Resort's central building, all with wooden floors and panoramic windows to welcome in views of the snowy surrounds. Even better, however, are the Sea View Cabins, located right on the rocks by the water, gazing straight out over the spectacular Malangenfjord. These rooms are utterly enchanting, with either private balconies or large windows looking out from comfortable lounges. And, in the deluxe versions, both, to make even more of the fabulous setting. Away from the rooms, the restaurant serves delicious, French-inspired food created from the region's fresh, seasonal bounty.

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

1 day Tromsø » 3 days Malangen Resort



» PRICES FROM: £865 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Clarion Collection Hotel With BB, Tromsø, 2 nights Malangen Resort HB & a Northern Lights watch with aurora alarm. Operates Dec to Mar.

Malangen Resort is, in many ways, the ideal winter escape. Cosy and secluded, it's tucked away on the shores a beautiful fjord, a 90-minute transfer from Tromsø, where you'll spend your first night. At Malangen, a full spread of optional winter activities, and an included Northern Lights watch, will bring you deep into Norway's Arctic wilderness.

Day 1 » UK/Tromsø Depart Gatwick on a direct flight to Tromsø where you'll take the airport shuttle transfer to the city centre. Then, having checked into your hotel, where you'll be treated to complimentary afternoon waffles and a light evening meal, you'll have some free time to get acquainted with Norway's Arctic capital, perhaps joining a late-night excursion in search of the Northern Lights.

Days 2-3 » Malangen Resort & Camp Nikka Enjoy more free time in and around Tromsø, taking the chance to explore with an optional excursion. There's everything from snowmobiling to husky safaris and trips out to the world's northernmost distillery, hidden amid the Lyngen Alps. Then, in the late afternoon, take your included transfer to Malangen Resort for a memorable two-night stay. As well as the classic Arctic adventures, there's also the

chance to take to the snow on specially adapted 'fat bikes', head into the forests on cross-country skiing trips, or follow in the footsteps of the great Norwegian explorers on a snowshoe hike. Or, if you prefer, simply relax with a sauna or take in the views from one of Malangen's hot tubs. What's more, after dinner on day two, you'll be invited out to Camp Nikka for an included Northern Lights watch. Walking out some 20 minutes from the resort, far from any light pollution, you'll gather around a roaring fire inside a cosy *lavvu* tent as you wait for the aurora to appear. And, if you fall asleep, a Northern Lights alarm will sound a traditional Sami song, ensuring you don't miss a thing. **B D**

Day 4 » Depart for UK After breakfast at the resort, an included transfer will see you back to Tromsø airport in time for your flight home. **B**

MALANGEN RESORT EXCURSIONS

The escapist and expansive Malangen Resort offers thrilling adventures in a fabulous fjord-side setting. Hiking trails lead from the hotel into the region's wild interior and, in the winter months, Malangen excels at Northern Lights excursions, dog sledding and snowmobile safaris. Our four favourite options are detailed below.



NORTHERN LIGHTS AT CAMP NIKKA

Camp Nikka is Malangen Resort's very own wilderness camp. With no electricity, it's the perfect place to view the aurora, unobstructed by artificial light. Wrap up warm beneath reindeer skin rugs and sip coffee brewed on an open fire while you wait for the Northern Lights to make their riotous appearance.

» PRICES FROM: £155 pp incl. aurora presentation, warm clothes, snack & hot drinks. Duration: 4 hrs. Operates 1 Dec to 31 Mar.



SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

Explore Norway's Arctic interior as you speed across mountain plateaus, lakeshores and snow-white peninsulas. You'll travel in pairs and have the chance to change drivers at the halfway point – provided you remembered to bring a valid driving licence. A hot meal provides the ideal end to an exhilarating afternoon.

» PRICES FROM: £180 pp incl. transfers, warm clothes, light snack & hot drinks. Duration: 6 hrs. Operates 1 Dec to 31 Mar.



HUSKY SAFARI

Don thermals, thick socks, woolly hats and snow boots and head out into the frozen wilds around Camp Nikka, towed by a pack of huskies. You'll be introduced to the sled dogs by an expert guide, learn how to drive and enjoy a snack and hot drink on your return to camp.

» PRICES FROM: £165 pp incl. warm clothes, light snack & hot drinks. Duration: 3.5 hrs. Operates 1 Dec to 31 Mar.



SNOWSHOEING

Norway has produced some of the world's most celebrated explorers, many of whom earned their stripes adventuring across the country's Arctic north. Pull on a pair of snowshoes and follow in their footsteps, stepping through frozen forests before huddling around an open campfire for a well-earned break.

» PRICES FROM: £85 pp incl. warm winter clothes, light snack & hot drinks. Duration: 4 hrs. Operates 1 Dec to 31 Mar.

06

LYNGEN LODGE & THE NORTHERN LIGHTS



LYNGEN LODGE

One of our favourite Norway hotels, fjord-side Lyngen Lodge is located to the east of Tromsø, lost among the snowy peaks of the majestic Lyngen Alps. Traditionally constructed with Norwegian timber frames, it blends into the local environment, the interiors suitably dressed in pastel shades and furnished to complement the surrounding nature. The feeling of isolation is heightened by the hotel's size – just 18 guests stay at any one time – and the views, showcased by large panoramic windows, are truly spectacular.

5-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

1 day Tromsø » 4 days Lyngen Lodge



» PRICES FROM: £1,955 pp incl. return flights, 1 night Clarion Collection Hotel With BB, return transfers to Lyngen Lodge, 3 nights Lyngen Lodge FB, husky sledding excursion, snowmobiling & Northern Lights presentation with photography tips. Selected departures Nov to Mar. Please note, on certain dates Lyngen Lodge operates a four-night stay. Ask our specialists for details and prices.

Lyngen Lodge is an intimate adult-only wilderness retreat two-and-a-half hours' drive east of Tromsø. Overlooking a beautiful fjord and in the shadow of the Lyngen Alps, it's a wonderfully scenic base from which to explore northern Norway's awesome Arctic landscapes. An included husky safari and snowmobile excursion help bring your Arctic adventure to life.

Day 1 » UK/Tromsø Fly to Tromsø and transfer to the Clarion Collection Hotel With, ideally situated right by the harbour. You'll even be treated to complimentary afternoon waffles and a light evening meal. Spend the rest of the day exploring at your own pace, perhaps visiting the city's museums and art galleries before dining out at one of Tromsø's celebrated restaurants – we recommend Emmas Drømmekjøkken or seafood specialists Fiskekompaniet. To round off your first day in style, be sure to add on a Northern Lights hunt, bringing you out to a series of aurora basecamps deep into the snow-covered wilderness.

Day 2 » Lyngen Lodge After a morning at leisure, set out for Lyngen Lodge. Catering for just 18 guests, Lyngen features a sauna and outdoor Jacuzzi among its facilities, as well as a delightful lounge complete with an open fire and views across the adjacent fjord. Then, in the evening, after the first of your included dinners, you'll join a Northern Lights presentation complete with photography tips before heading

outside to hopefully put your newfound knowledge to use. **B L D**

Days 3-4 » Lyngen Lodge Spend two days exploring Lyngen Alps, with snowmobiling and husky trips included in the price. On your snowmobile excursion, you'll join an expert guide on a thrilling ride through snow-laden birch forests to arrive on a mountain plateau where you'll try your hand at ice fishing. After drilling holes through the lake's frozen surface, you'll gather around a fire to cook and eat your catch. There's even time to explore further on your snowmobiles between fishing stops. The next day you'll head to the Reisa Valley on a husky safari, learning how to mush a team of eager dogs. Again, a wilderness lunch is included, before your return journey brings you between open valleys and jagged peaks back to the comforts of the lodge. **B L D**

Day 5 » Depart for UK After a final delicious breakfast, take your included transfer back to Tromsø Airport for your flight home. **E**

07

LYNGEN EXPERIENCE: WHALES,
HUSKIES & NORTHERN LIGHTS

NEW

NORTHERN LIGHTS
PREMIUM PACKAGE

Join the 'Aurora Chaser', Kjetil Skogli, for a unique Northern Lights experience. Best known for guiding Joanna Lumley on her acclaimed BBC documentary, *In the Land of the Northern Lights*, Kjetil is a true aurora expert. This premium break includes transfers, three nights full board at Lyngen Experience Lodge, dogsledding and snowmobiling activities as well as guided Northern Lights tours and photography workshops in the company of Kjetil.

» PRICES FROM: £3,275 pp

5-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

1 day Tromsø » 4 days Lyngen Experience Lodge



» PRICES FROM: £1,870 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Clarion Hotel The Edge BB, 3 nights Lyngen Experience Lodge FB, whale-watching cruise, dogsledding & Northern Lights experience. Operates Nov to Mar.

Get away to the Lyngen region's newest lodge – a remote, nine-room Arctic retreat where you'll pair fjord-side wilderness with a touch of indulgence. Indeed, alongside Jacuzzi soaks under the Northern Lights and chef's-choice dining, you'll also be treated to a full spread of included excursions, from dogsledding and whale watching to snowshoeing an aurora evening in a wilderness camp. It's all knitted together by included transfers and a night in Arctic-capital Tromsø.

Day 1 » UK/Tromsø Flying out to the high Arctic, an included shuttle transfer will see you to your chic, spa accommodation on Tromsø's harbour. You'll have the rest of the day to enjoy the fine restaurants, heritage architecture and possibility even the Northern Lights.

Day 2 » Tromsø to Lyngen Experience Lodge An included afternoon transfer and scenic fjord ferry will see you to your lodge in the Lyngen Alps. With floor-to-ceiling windows facing north towards the fjord, it's perfect for spotting both porpoises and the Northern Lights. You can also warm up with the roaring fire, sauna and outdoor Jacuzzi. Your included three-course, chef's-table dining is equally fantastic, reflecting locally sourced produce with lamb and fish among the highlights. **BLD**

Day 3 » Whale watching & Northern Lights excursion Although between November and January your included wildlife-watching cruise will focus on mighty whales, whenever you travel you'll

be treated to everything from sea eagles and grey seals to gorgeous fjord scenery and stops at remote fishing villages. Then, after dinner, you'll strap on snowshoes to head out in search of the Northern Lights, settling into a wilderness tent as your guide builds a toasty campfire. **BLD**

Day 4 » Husky sledding Today is given over to an included dogsledding excursion through the winter wonderland. Returning for lunch at the lodge, you'll also have the option of kicksledding, snowmobiling, ice climbing and reindeer sled rides. Alternatively, just relax with the views. **BLD**

Day 5 » Depart for UK After breakfast, an included transfer will see you to Tromsø Airport for your flight home. **B**

08

THE POLAR EXPRESS,
TRØNDELAG & THE ARCTIC



6-DAY TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY

1 day Trondheim » 1 day Bodø
» 2 days Lofoten Islands » 2 days Bodø



» PRICES FROM: £870 pp incl. flights, select transfers, 1 night Thon Hotel Nidaros BB, 2 nights Clarion Collection Grand Bodo BB, 2 nights Svinøya Rorbuer BB & Polar Express Train. Operates Sep to Apr.

This epic journey encapsulates Norway’s Trøndelag region at its scenic best. After exploring the thousand-year-old history of third-city, Trondheim, you’ll take the Polar Express into the Arctic Circle, winding past mighty fjords and snow-clad forests. Included flight hops will then see you to the Lofoten Islands, where you’ll stay in a stilted fishermen’s cabin and explore the archipelago under the Northern Lights.

Day 1 » UK/Trondheim Fly direct to Trondheim to check into your central accommodation – a contemporary gem housed in a century-old stone building. You’ll have all of Trondheim’s heritage on your doorstep, from its colourful old town to the thousand-year-old Nidaros Cathedral. There’s also the complimentary light evening meal at your hotel.

Day 2 » Polar Express to Bodø Boarding the Nordland Railway, you’ll spend ten hours winding through Norway’s wild mountains, enjoying stunning views of the fjords, forests and lochs along the way to the Arctic-Circle town of Bodø. Your

accommodation is housed in a historic 19th-century building, where you’ll be treated to a light evening meal. **B**

Days 3–4 » Lofoten Islands After a flight hop, you’ll be met at the airport and brought to your traditional cabin, stilted out over a remote bay in the Lofoten Islands. From here, you’ll explore this otherworldly archipelago of sharp peaks, dramatic coastlines and pretty fishing villages. There’s everything from snowshoe hikes to kayaking and RIB boat rides, all made that bit prettier by the Northern Lights. **B**

Day 5 » Bodø An included transfer will see you to the airport and your flight back to Bodø. Here, you’ll spend a final night, again with a complimentary light evening meal. Perhaps take in the town’s burgeoning crafts scene or explore its remote islands, spotting the world’s densest population of white-tailed sea eagles.

Day 6 » Depart for UK On the final day, make your way to the airport for your flight home. **B**

09

HURTIGRUTEN: CLASSIC VOYAGE NORTH



8-DAY STAY & CRUISE

2 days Bergen » 1 day Ålesund » 1 day
Trondheim » 1 day Lofoten Islands
» 1 day Tromsø » 1 day Honningsvåg
» 1 day Kirkenes



» PRICES FROM: £995 pp incl. flights,
1 night Opus XVI, Bergen BB & 6 nights
inside cabin Hurtigruten FB. Selected
departures Oct to Mar.

Hurtigruten's ships have plied Norway's coasts since the late 19th century. On this cruise, you'll explore some of Norway's best-loved coastal towns, navigate world-famous fjords and strike out on optional adventures, including snowmobiling (from December) and Samí cultural tours, as you sail north from Bergen to Kirkenes.

Days 1–2 » UK/Bergen Fly to Bergen and head for your hotel, located near the famous Hanseatic wharf. Take in the city's wonderful fjord setting before embarking on your voyage north the next day.

Day 3 » Ålesund Having sailed overnight, you'll call in at Ålesund, home to a rare concentration of Art Nouveau buildings. Be sure to take in the stunning views of the city and its surroundings from the top of Mount Aksla. **ELD**

Day 4 » Trondheim Arriving in Norway's snow-dusted former capital, you'll have time to visit its colourful wharves and warehouse along with its impressive 14th-century cathedral. **ELD**

Day 5 » Lofoten Islands Cross the Arctic Circle to reach the Lofoten Islands where you'll have the chance to join a Lofotr Viking feast and explore the fishing port of Svolvær. It's all framed by cragged peaks and golden sweeps of sand that invite leisurely strolls in the day, and at night, are bathed in the glow of the aurora borealis.

ELD

Day 6 » Tromsø Get a taste for Arctic city life in Tromsø, Norway's Northern Lights capital. Explore the city on foot, or head into the wilds on an optional guided husky safari. **ELD**

Day 7 » Honningsvåg Arrive in Honningsvåg, gateway to the North Cape, mainland Europe's most northerly point. This evening you'll call at the pretty port town of Kjøllefjord. **ELD**

Day 8 » Kirkenes/UK Disembark for your flight home. Or, perhaps extend your holiday, taking the opportunity for some further Arctic activities and a stay at the Kirkenes Snowhotel. **E**

10

LOFOTEN
AURORA BREAK



SVINØYA RORBUER

If you're looking for a traditional Lofoten-style stay coupled with an enviable location right on the waterfront, the Svinøya Rorbuer ticks all the boxes. Choose from an authentic *rorbu* fisherman's cabin built on stilts over the sea, or suites, apartments and houses scattered around the village. The 30 original *rorbuer* and the larger Rorbusuites are each kitted out with a modern bathroom and a well-equipped kitchen. And, if you don't feel like cooking, they're all catered to by the excellent Børsen Spiseri – a converted quayside warehouse serving up fresh regional delicacies with an emphasis on locally caught seafood. What's more, it's all just a short stroll from central Svolvær.

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Lofoten Islands



» **PRICES FROM:** £995 pp incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights Svolvær HB & two Northern Lights excursions. Operates Sep to Mar.

This is an unforgettable winter break to Norway's majestic Lofoten Islands – one of the world's most scenic archipelagos. Between cosy nights in a traditional fisherman's cabin, you'll have the chance to explore remote landscapes by RIB boat and kayak. And, at nighttime, two included photographic tours will see you hone your camera skills as you chase the magical Northern Lights.

Day 1 » UK/Svolvær Fly out, via Oslo and Bodø, to Svolvær, where you'll be greeted with an included transfer to your emblematic *rorbu* cottages flanked by colossal, snow-dusted mountains – your introduction to the spectacular Lofoten archipelago. Make like a local with a stay in your own red-painted fishing cabin, all white timber beams and log walls, before enjoying a three-course dinner featuring the likes of reindeer and signature stockfish. **D**

Days 2–3 » Svolvær After cossetting nights in your cosy cabin, explore this stunning share of the Lofoten archipelago with a range of optional excursions. Perhaps you'll get up close to majestic sea eagles on a RIB boat safari, or go one further with a sea kayak adventure on the islands' serene waters. There's also the likes of snowshoe hikes among icy forests and horse rides along sandy bays and past the islands' ubiquitous stockfish racks.

What's more, on both evenings, we've included an aurora hunt in the company of a local photographer, who'll show you the best locations and introduce you to the necessary skills for capturing the Northern Lights on camera – make sure you pack your tripod! End each day with included dinners at the hotel's atmospheric restaurant. **B D**

Day 4 » Depart for UK After breakfast, transfer to Svolvær airport in time for your return flight, again via Bodø and Oslo, to the UK. **B**

LOFOTEN ISLANDS EXCURSIONS

The landscapes of the Lofoten Islands are perhaps Norway's most impressive. And, while winter invites the likes of Northern Lights hunts and nights in cosy cabins, there's a whole host of excursions to fill adventurous days. Here are just four of our favourites:



FISHING VILLAGE WALK

Life in the Lofoten Islands has revolved around cod fishing for more than 100 years, and its vibrant communities still exude a palpable sense of history. Stroll through the quaint village of Svinøya for views of traditional ochre-red huts and iconic fish racks – ending with a taste of locally dried and cured stockfish.

» PRICES FROM: £45 pp incl. guided walk & stockfish tasting. Duration 1.5 hrs. Operates daily Sep to Apr.



WINTER SEA KAYAKING

Winter sees the Lofotens at their spectacular best – all snow-covered crags shadowing remote coastlines, peppered with frozen inlets. The islands' jagged frame is a spectacular backdrop for sea kayaking among dramatic fjords and hidden bays, looking out for passing wildlife such as harbour porpoises and seals.

» PRICES FROM: £145 pp incl. guide, transfers, sea kayak & equipment. Duration 4 hrs. Operates daily Sep to Apr.



EAGLE RIB SAFARI

A fifth of the world's white-tailed eagles fly among the Lofotens' ice-slicked crags – and a RIB boat is a spectacular way to witness their splendour, winding past abandoned Viking settlements and white-sand beaches. But it's up above that impresses most, where these majestic birds of prey soar just a few feet away.

» PRICES FROM: £100 pp incl. thermal suits, life vests, goggles, skipper & guide. Duration 2 hrs. Operates daily year-round.



SNOWSHOE HIKE

In the Arctic, snowshoeing has long been a favourite mode of transport, and it makes exploring the Lofoten Islands' glistening landscapes all the more magical. Take in the beauty of it all as you head out with a local guide through snow-dusted firs and remote mountain trails edged by sugar-white peaks.

» PRICES FROM: £125 pp incl. guided transfer, snowshoes & walking poles. Duration 3 hrs. Operates daily Dec to Apr.



Up for some
small city charm?
And breathtaking fjords?

Fly directly* from **Liverpool to Bergen Mondays and Fridays.**
Connections to Tromsø and other destinations in Norway.

*The Flight operates between 16 August 2019 and 11 May 2020.

11

WINTER BREAK TO
BERGEN & THE FJORDS

NEW



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Bergen



» **PRICES FROM:** £535 incl. flights, 3 nights at Thon Hotel Orion BB & Norway in a Nutshell tour with journeys on the Bergen and Flåm railways & a fjord cruise. Operates 1 Oct to 30 Apr.

While Bergen might be best known as a summer destination, in winter it's just as magical. As well as those famous fjords, expect everything from Christmas markets to the world's largest gingerbread town. You'll explore it all on this short break, which includes three nights in the city and a Norway in a Nutshell tour, complete with fjord cruise and a journey on the ultra-scenic Flåm Railway.

Day 1 » UK/Bergen Fly out to Bergen and take the airport shuttle to the city centre, where you'll check into your contemporary hotel. Located just a short stroll from the historic fish market and UNESCO-listed Bryggen Quay, and with a delightful park next door, it's the ideal base for exploring Bergen's urban delights. You'll even get a light evening meal included in the price. Once you've settled in, perhaps take a stroll to the waterfront, or jump on the funicular to the summit of Fløyen Mountain for sweeping views of the city and its pretty surrounds.

Day 2 » Norway in a Nutshell Today is a real trip highlight as you head out of Bergen on the iconic Norway in a Nutshell tour. It all begins at the city's main railway station, where you'll embark on a scenic trip along the Bergen Railway – the highest in Northern Europe – to Myrdal, passing shimmering lakes and mountains dusted with snow. You'll then hop across platforms to join the Flåm Railway – the

world's steepest standard gauge track – for the spectacular descent to the shores of Aurlandsfjord. With some free time in Flåm itself, perhaps enjoy a beer-paired lunch at the excellent Ægir brewpub before cruising the World Heritage-listed Nærøyfjord. Finally, take the bus to the mountain station in Voss and rejoin the railway back to Bergen. **B**

Day 3 » Optional excursions We've left today free for optional excursions. And, there are plenty to choose from, including further fjord adventures to Mostraumen and Hardangerfjord or, between November to 22nd December, festive days out at Bergen's colourful Christmas market. Here, alongside the Ferris wheels and food stalls, you'll find Pepperkakebyen – the world's largest gingerbread town. **B**

Day 4 » Depart for UK After breakfast, take the bus to the airport in time for your flight home. **B**

12

POLAR NIGHT: NORTHERN LIGHTS BREAK IN SVALBARD



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Longyearbyen



» **PRICES FROM:** £995 pp incl. flights, 3 nights Funken Lodge BB, Northern Lights by Snowcat excursion & Northern Lights Evening at Camp Barentz incl. dinner, wine & beer. Operates Nov to Feb.

The frozen islands of Svalbard provide the setting for what is perhaps the ultimate winter adventure. From the polar bears that outnumber people to spectacular displays of the Northern Lights, it's a place of intoxicating beauty, of nature writ large. This unforgettable trip explores it all, with a stay in its most luxurious accommodation joined by a pair of included excursions. You'll hunt for the aurora on trips to wilderness camps and in a specially adapted Snowcat.

Day 1 » UK/Longyearbyen After your flight to Svalbard, make your way to Longyearbyen – the archipelago's only permanently inhabited town – and the ever-so-stylish Funken Lodge. With its interiors dressed in the finest in contemporary Scandi chic, this delightful hotel sits perched atop a snow-dusted hillside, affording spectacular views over the Lars Glacier's colossal expanse. If time permits, take the chance to borrow a kicksled for a play in the snow before heading to the hotel's superb restaurant, Funktionærmessen, where tables look out to the majestic Hiorfjellet mountains.

Day 2 » Northern Lights by Snowcat Today, you'll have the chance to explore Longyearbyen's frontier-town heritage or enjoy a range of optional excursions. There's everything from dogsledding to snowmobiling, detailed in full overleaf. Whatever you choose, this evening you'll traverse the mountain plains in an all-terrain Snowcat, heading out in search of the Northern Lights. **B**

Day 3 » Northern Lights evening at Camp Barentz Options today range from visits to the superb Svalbard museum to tastings at the world's northernmost brewery. You might even want to explore ice caves and secret mines. Then, this evening you'll be brought on an included excursion to a wilderness camp where you'll hear stories of the science and myth surrounding the Northern Lights. It's all accompanied by a hearty dinner, paired with complimentary wine and beer, along with, luck permitting, the aurora borealis itself. **B D**

Day 4 » Depart for UK After a final breakfast at your hotel, transfer to the airport for your flight home. **B**



BASECAMP HOTEL

SUPERIOR



Basecamp Hotel is an atmospheric homage to the Arctic days of yore, with its walls showcasing trophies from the centuries of trapping and whaling activity on Svalbard. The hotel, located in the heart of Longyearbyen, bursts with character and provides a cosy and intimate base, offering 16 rooms with private bathrooms and WiFi, all with extraordinary views across the Longyeardalen Valley.

FUNKEN LODGE

SUPERIOR



This design-conscious luxury lodge combines 21st-century good looks with one of the most historic hotel experiences in Svalbard. Found on a hillside just ten minutes' snowmobile ride from the centre of Longyearbyen, the hotel has an enviable location, with fabulous views over the town and the Lars Glacier. And there's much to enjoy indoors too, with a stylish lounge, a celebrated champagne cellar and Longyearbyen's best restaurant all on site.



RADISSON BLU POLAR HOTEL

SUPERIOR



One of the finest hotels in town, the Radisson Blu Polar offers a collection of traditional hotel rooms and stylish new suites. Luxury modern amenities, which include outdoor hot tubs, line up alongside more timeless comforts such as a traditional sauna room and a roaring fire in the recently renovated lobby. In turn, Restaurant Nansen serves up a range of delicious Arctic fare with an Asian twist.



SVALBARD'S TOP 10 EXCURSIONS



1 VIEW THE NORTHERN LIGHTS AT REMOTE CAMP BARENTZ

This unique excursion will bring you far away from any light pollution for an evening in a remote log cabin, offering a superb opportunity to spot the aurora borealis. You'll also be treated to a hearty dinner, drinks by the fire and talks on the myths and science surrounding the lights.

» PRICES FROM: £120 pp

2 HUNT THE AURORA ON A SNOWMOBILE

Combine the adventure thrill of a snowmobile trip with the awesome wonder of the Northern Lights. Saddling up, you'll strike out into the snow-clad wilderness, pausing for hot drinks and to look out for reindeer and Arctic fox, illuminated by the moonlight, stars and, hopefully, the spectacular aurora ballet.

» PRICES FROM: £185 pp

3 GO DOGSLEDDING IN BOLTERDALEN

For many, the only way to explore the high Arctic is by dogsled. Following in the tracks of adventurers past, you'll meet the impossibly excited dogs and their puppies before taking the reins to mush out into the snowy wilds. You'll trace the frozen river into the valley of Bolterdalen, admiring mountains and glaciers before ending with hot drinks and snacks in a heated log cabin.

» PRICES FROM: £155 pp

4 VISIT A REMOTE ICE CAVE BY SNOWCAT

Take the trail less travelled with this unique trip in a specially adapted, all-terrain snowcat. You'll be brought out onto the mighty Longyear Glacier itself. Here, you'll strap on ice spikes and a headtorch to head right into its meltwater channels, admiring the spectacular frozen formations as your expert guide leads you through the meandering network. The return leg is just as scenic.

» PRICES FROM: £95 pp



5 EXPLORE LONGYEARBYEN IN A NUTSHELL

This is the perfect introduction to both the Svalbard capital and its immediate surrounds. Your driver-guide will bring the town's rich frontier heritage to life before turning out into the icy wilds of

the spectacular Longyear Valley. Here, you'll have a good chance of spotting herds of local reindeer as you pause at Adventdalen's mines and visit the Global Seed Vault – a striking reserve buried safely into a mountainside.

» PRICES FROM: £40 pp



6 FOLLOW IN A TRAPPER'S FOOTSTEPS

Heading out into the Svalbard wilderness, you'll experience what life was like for the hardy animal trappers that carved a living in this most inhospitable of settings. You'll strap on snowshoes to strike out to a traditional Sami tent. Here, over hot drinks, your expert host will tell you a little of their experiences in the high Arctic, showcasing what it was like to live as a trapper in these wild and wintry remotes.

» PRICES FROM: £50 pp

7 JOIN A SNOWMOBILE SAFARI TO ELVENESET

This is the perfect introduction to both snowmobiling and Svalbard's dramatic scenery. After some expert tuition, you'll head out through the winding, snow-clad Helvetiadalen, aiming for Elveneset. It's the spectacular point where the valley opens into Sassenfjorden, offering commanding views over Templet Mountain across the water. Enjoy a hot drinks as you take in the view before returning to Longyearbyen.

» PRICES FROM: £205 pp

8 INDULGE WITH A CHAMPAGNE TASTING IN LONGYEARBYEN

This excursion adds an extra touch of sparkle to the harsh Svalbard wilderness. Not only will you be guided through a varied menu of rare vintage champagnes, but you'll be treated to thoughtfully paired canapés and a talk on your historic setting. Indeed, it's all taken in the "det gamle Nordpolet" store, where miners and administrative staff once came to collect their ration of alcohol.

» PRICES FROM: £55 pp

9 EXPERIENCE THE LIFE OF A MINER

Having been founded as a remote mining settlement, this is your chance to uncover Longyearbyen's hardy past. After a short tour of the town itself, you'll don a hard hat and headlamp to head right down into Mine Number 3. Exploring its network of winding shafts and tunnels, you'll unearth forgotten anvils and coal wagons as you learn about the miners' tough, everyday life.

» PRICES FROM: £75 pp

10 GO ON AN OVERNIGHT DOGSLEDDING ADVENTURE

Channel your inner adventurer on this two-day expedition, which sees you mush out over glaciers and discover secret ice caves. Your end goal is the cosy Foxdalen cabin, where hearty food, a crackling fire and, hopefully, views of the Northern Lights await. It's also the chance to really bond with the oh-so-eager huskies and enjoy an excellent opportunity to spot roaming polar bears.

» PRICES FROM: £735 pp







ICE & SNOW HOTELS

Ever since the first ice hotel opened in Sweden in 1989, hunkering down on a bed of ice surrounded by frozen furniture, art and décor has been a rite of passage for the winter traveller. Now, scattered throughout Scandinavia's frozen north, a collection of ice and snow hotels are bringing a mix of impossibly intricate sculptures, thrilling excursions, the finest regional food and a warm wintertime welcome to some of the Northern Hemisphere's most beautiful and remote regions. Our favourites are featured over the following pages.

Each year, ICEHOTEL pulls out all the stops to piece together a wildly ambitious and impressive hotel from huge blocks harvested from the frozen Torne River, styled by an endlessly creative team of architects and artists. In its fleeting existence, the hotel has established an unparalleled variety of exciting adventures to keep you enthralled. Add to that the likes of gourmet tasting menus and ICEHOTEL 365's stunning Deluxe Suites, which come with private heated bathrooms and saunas, this Scandinavian icon has raised the bar once more.

But, while it might be the original, ICEHOTEL is not the only one of its kind. Across the border in Norway, Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel is more intimate, but no less impressive. There's a superb restaurant to enjoy in the evenings, while days are filled with husky sledding and snowmobile rides. Also in Norway, the Snowhotel at Kirkenes is looking forward to its fourteenth successful season. Close to the Finnish and Russian borders, this is the remotest snow hotel of them all. And, we mustn't forget the Tromsø Ice Domes (see page 14 in the Norway section), which brings the very best in frozen art and frosty nights to Norway's Northern Lights capital.

Then there's Finland's Snow Village, with its Ice Restaurant and subterranean warm rooms, all surrounded by the rugged beauty of the Finnish fells. Finally, just outside Rovaniemi, the Arctic SnowHotel, and its neighbouring glass igloos (see page 76 in the Glass Igloos section), are taking the ice hotel concept to the very heart of Santa's Lapland.

13

CLASSIC
ICEHOTEL BREAK



ICEHOTEL

Now entering its 30th year, the ICEHOTEL is a true Scandinavian icon. Painstakingly carved from ice harvested from the next-door River Torne at Jukkasjärvi in Sweden's Arctic north, its rooms, suites, ceremony hall and ICEBAR are nothing short of a work of art. Choose between a stay at the original winter hotel, or ramp up the luxury at its ICEHOTEL 365 cousin. Here, alongside the famous ICEBAR, you'll find a stunning collection of Art Suites and Deluxe Suites, the latter of which come complete with heated en-suite bathrooms and saunas. And, don't forget the exciting array of excursions, which range from snowmobiling and ice carving to gourmet dining experiences.

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days ICEHOTEL



» PRICES FROM: £625 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Ice Room BB, 2 nights Arctic Chalet BB, thermal clothing & morning sauna. Operates 13 Dec to 14 Apr.

This is a classic short break combining a one-night stay in a freshly built Ice Room and two nights' warm accommodation with a choice of Lapland adventure activities. There's everything from reindeer encounters and dogsled rides to Northern Lights hunts by snowmobile. See overleaf for details.

Day 1 » UK/ICEHOTEL Fly to Kiruna via Stockholm and take your included transfer to the ICEHOTEL, perhaps upgrading to a husky sled ride for a fittingly wintry arrival. Once there, you'll be handed thermal clothing and shown around the hotel and its facilities. Grab a cocktail at the ICEBAR and a tasty meal at one of the hotel's three restaurants, keeping an occasional eye on the sky for Northern Lights apparitions before settling into your Arctic sleeping bag for a snug night in your private ice cave.

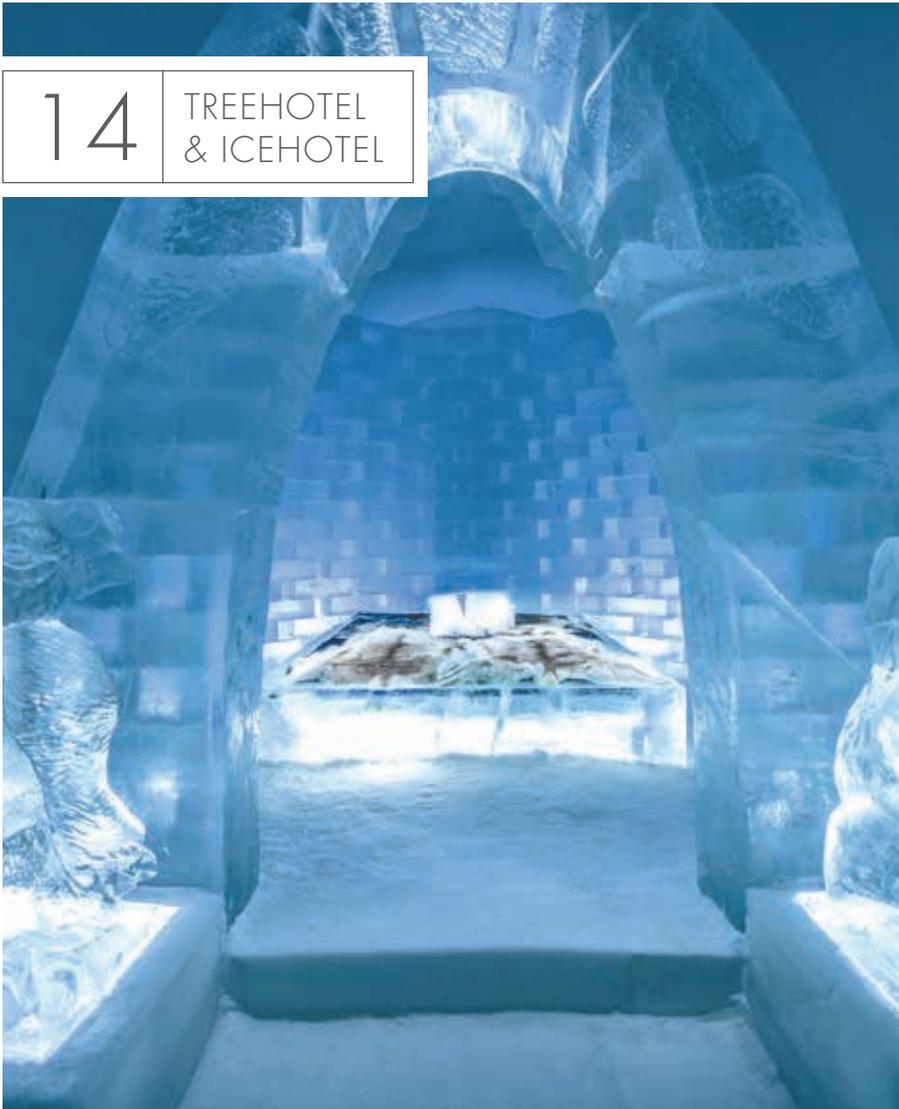
Days 2-3 » ICEHOTEL After a wake-up cup of hot lingonberry juice, a morning sauna will chase away any lingering icicles, before a hearty breakfast sets you up for two days of outdoor adventure. You might choose to try your hand at dogsledding, or to venture out into the surrounding forest in search of reindeer

and other wild animals. Alternatively, why not dine under the stars on a wilderness dinner experience, or ask our specialists about a snap course in ice sculpture using traditional tools? To help you decide, we've included our ten favourite ICEHOTEL excursions overleaf. For these two nights, you'll toast in the comforts of a warm Scandinavian chalet. **B**

Day 4 » Depart for UK After breakfast, take your included transfer to Kiruna for your return flight home via Stockholm. **B**

ICEHOTEL WINTER OPENING

Be the first to experience the ICEHOTEL's 30th iteration with our special winter opening package. For a full itinerary and price, visit best-served.co.uk/150598.



14 TREEHOTEL & ICEHOTEL

5-DAY TAILOR MADE JOURNEY
2 days Treehotel >> 3 days ICEHOTEL



>> PRICES FROM: £1,430 pp incl. flights, transfers, train, 2 nights Treehotel HB, 2 nights ICEHOTEL BB with a guided tour. Operates 13 Dec to 14 Apr.

Stay at two of Scandinavia's most iconic and celebrated hotels on a memorable tour of Swedish Lapland, including a scenic train ride from Luleå to Kiruna and a fabulous choice of winter escapades deep within the Arctic Circle.

Days 1–2 >> UK/Treehotel Fly to Luleå and transfer to the Treehotel in the pine forests near Harads. Your accommodation for the night will be in one of seven treetop rooms; there's everything from UFOs and birds' nests to mirrored cubes which blend seamlessly into the forest. The next day, choose from a range of optional excursions, including dogsledding, horse-and-sleigh rides, a cultural tour to a nearby Samí village or an afternoon spent skiing at nearby Storklinten. What's more, your included half-board dinners feature haute hunter-gatherer dishes and local delicacies. Think reindeer or moose meat and fish from the local river. **EB**

Day 3 >> ICEHOTEL After breakfast, travel by train from Luleå to Kiruna and transfer to the world-famous ICEHOTEL, your home for the next two nights. Take a tour of the hotel before checking into an Ice



TREEHOTEL

Beautifully set in a rugged, attractive forest in Harads, just south of the Arctic Circle, Sweden's Treehotel is the original grown-up treehouse, setting the standard for cool treetop dens and demonstrating that even adults can enjoy life among the branches. The unique accommodation experience may be lo-fi but the location and the extraordinary design of these chic Scandinavian rooms, perched at the top of floating walkways or suspended high in the pines, make the Treehotel an incredible, romantic, once-in-a-lifetime stay. Meals, all delicious and seasonal, can be enjoyed at the homely Brittas Restaurant, or in the privacy of your treetop cabin.

Room where you'll spend your first night. Upgrades to the hotel's stunning Art Suites are also available. **B**

Day 4 >> ICEHOTEL Wake to a warm glass of lingonberry juice before enjoying a delicious buffet breakfast. A morning sauna is a great way to start the day before you set off on an optional husky or snowmobile safari, ice sculpting class or reindeer encounter. Perhaps round things off with a traditional Lappish dinner – there's everything from hearty steaks to 12-course tasting menus – or an optional adventure in search of the Northern Lights. This second night at ICEHOTEL will be in a warm room. **B**

Day 5 >> Depart for UK After breakfast, check out and transfer to the airport for your return flight via Stockholm. **B**

ICEHOTEL'S TOP 10 EXCURSIONS



1 DINE IN THE WILDERNESS

Heading out to a forest wilderness camp, you'll be treated to a warming pre-dinner drink in a tipi-style Sami tent. Here, you'll learn about the Northern Lights and wild animals of the region. A three-course dinner of local dishes is then served with thoughtfully paired drinks, taken around a fire in the rustic cabin.

» PRICES FROM: £235 pp

2 EXPLORE THE WINTER WONDERLAND BY DOGSLED

A team of huskies pulls you across the pristine landscape around Jukkasjärvi, taking you close to nature like never before. Settle into a seat in the sled and enjoy the enthusiasm of the dogs yapping and howling in expectation, followed by silence all around as you journey deep into the snowy surrounds.

» PRICES FROM: £150 pp

3 MEET THE LOCAL REINDEER AND ENJOY A SLED RIDE

A local Sami guide invites you to a remote camp to meet their impossibly cute reindeer. As well as a short sled ride, you'll have the chance to feed the calves by hand and learn about the Sami's hardy indigenous culture. It all finishes with a cup of steaming coffee and a signature dish of *souvas* – dry-salted and smoked reindeer meat, prepared over open flames.

» PRICES FROM: £200 pp

4 PAIR A SNOWMOBILE SAFARI WITH SWEDISH *FIKA*

Sweeping out over frozen rivers and icy lakes, this super-scenic snowmobiling excursion showcases the ICEHOTEL's dramatic setting at its snow-clad best. You'll also be treated to traditional Swedish *fika* – the concept of enjoying hot coffee and pastries by an open fire. It's the perfect blend of adventure thrill and blissful silence, enjoyed among the wilderness-still of the boreal forest.

» PRICES FROM: £125 pp



5 DINE OUT IN STYLE AT THE CHEF'S TABLE AT THE VERANDA

At the Chef's Table at the Veranda, degustation delights are served up not just in spite of the ICEHOTEL's remote setting, but because of it. Over a dozen courses, everything from reindeer tartare to

sumptuous king crab is paired with curated beverages and prepared right in front of you by expert chefs. It all begins like any Swedish dinner party, with guests taking off their shoes and mingling over a drink on the cosy verandah.

» PRICES FROM: £245 pp



7 CHASE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS BY SNOWMOBILE

Combining two of Lapland's great thrills, this excursion pairs the excitement of nighttime snowmobiling with the wonders of the Northern Lights. You'll even be accompanied by experts from the Swedish Institute of Space Physics, who'll explain the facts and myths surrounding the celestial phenomenon. A rustic supper is served at a wilderness camp, and there are plentiful photo opportunities right through the evening.

» PRICES FROM: £190 pp

8 GO CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING IN THE POIKKIJÄRVI WOODS

This is your chance to both explore the ICEHOTEL's winter-wonderland surrounds and enjoy what is a most Scandinavian activity. After being brought out across the Torne River by snowmobile, you'll strap on your skis to head into the forest surrounding Poikkijärvi village. Your expert guide will also provide you with coffee and hot dogs, taken around a log fire. You'll then be able to borrow the skis for the rest of the day.

» PRICES FROM: £80 pp

6 COMBINE A DOGSLED ADVENTURE WITH A NIGHT AT A WILDERNESS CABIN

Live out your explorers' fantasy by mushing out your own team of sled dogs into the Lapland remotes to spend a night in a wilderness camp. Having steered your pack over frozen rivers and along icy forest trails, you'll warm yourself with hot drinks, a hearty dinner and the use of a traditional sauna, keeping your eyes skywards for the ethereal appearance of the Northern Lights. Then, feeling refreshed, your eager companions will then see you retrace your sled tracks back the next day.

» PRICES FROM: £700 pp

9 SEARCH FOR MOOSE ON A HORSEBACK ADVENTURE

Saddling up on oh-so-adorable Icelandic horses, head out in search of the "King of the Swedish forest" – the mighty moose. A network of snow-clad trails will see you wind through the woodland before opening out into the foothills of Kebnekaise, Sweden's highest mountain. The included lunch and gorgeous scenery are almost as delightful as the moose sightings, their antlers silhouetted against the snow.

» PRICES FROM: £220 pp

10 PHOTOGRAPH THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Although it's possible to see the aurora from the ICEHOTEL itself, many want to maximise their chances with a trip into the wilderness. Leaving the light pollution behind, your guide will bring you out to a secluded spot, keeping you informed of the science behind this natural phenomenon and offering some expert, hands-on guidance on how best to photograph it. The included hot drinks are a nice touch.

» PRICES FROM: £190 pp



15 CLASSIC KIRKENES SNOWHOTEL BREAK



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

4 days Kirkenes Snowhotel



» PRICES FROM: £1,625 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Snow Room HB, Northern Lights by snowmobile excursion, tour of Snowhotel, morning sauna and 2 nights in Gamme Cabins HB. Operates 20 Dec to 20 Apr.

The Norwegian frontier town of Kirkenes, near the Finnish and Russian borders, is home to the spectacular and remote Kirkenes Snowhotel. And, with its spectacular frozen rooms, designer Gamme Cabins and range of adventurous pursuits, it's become something of a client favourite. Our featured itinerary includes a Northern Lights by snowmobile excursion and plenty of free time for further optional activities.

Day 1 » UK/Snowhotel Fly to Kirkenes via Oslo and transfer to the Snowhotel. A welcome drink at the Ice Bar and tour of the hotel are followed by a three-course dinner, served by the open fire, before you retire for an unforgettable night – snug within thermal clothing and sleeping bag – in one of the freshly sculpted ice suites. The rooms here are truly spectacular, all ethereally lit and surrounded by stunning frozen furniture and intricately carved ice art. **D**

Days 2-3 » Optional excursions & Northern Lights by snowmobile For the next two nights, you'll stay in a cosy Gamme Cabin, designed by Swiss architects in the style of traditional Sami hunting and fishing huts but with tall, one-way glass windows from which to gaze out onto the night sky. A thrilling nighttime Northern Lights by snowmobile tour is included in the price, and your days can be filled with a fabulous choice of optional excursions, the best of which are highlighted opposite. **B D**

Day 4 » Depart for UK After a final breakfast, check out and transfer to the airport for your return flight. **E**



KIRKENES GAMME CABINS

Inspired by the Norwegian Arctic's traditional hunting and fishing huts, these cabins provide a warm alternative for those staying longer at Kirkenes Snowhotel. Designed by Swiss architects, each cabin is designed and built using locally sourced materials, all very Scandinavian and all very stylish. Each comes with underfloor heating and large windows for cosy views of the Northern Lights.

KIRKENES EXCURSIONS

Deep within the Arctic Circle, winter activities in Kirkenes are wild and varied. From the Snowhotel you can safari by snowmobile or husky-drawn sled, meet the locals at a Samí camp or learn ancient techniques of fishing through thick ice. Winter darkness descends from late November to late January at this northernmost point of Europe, while the plentiful Russian signage is a reminder you've also ventured far, far east.



HUSKY SAFARI

Handle your own husky team as you enjoy an exhilarating adventure over a snow-covered frozen lake. Warm clothing is provided to keep chills at bay, and you'll feel like top dog as you're awarded your husky driving licence at the end of the day.

» PRICES FROM: £205 pp incl. instruction, guide & warm clothes. Duration 2 hrs. Operates 1 Dec to 20 Apr.



SNOWSHOEING IN THE WILDERNESS

Strap on a pair of snowshoes and join an expert guide for an adventure into the hills above Kirkenes Snowhotel. Keep a look out for animal tracks as you head for the summit, where you'll be rewarded with spectacular views across the frozen valley below.

» PRICES FROM: £110 pp incl. warm clothes, snowshoe instruction & a snack. Duration 2 hrs. Operates 1 Dec to 20 Apr.



ARCTIC SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

A memorable journey awaits as you learn to handle a snowmobile. Two people share each vehicle, with the chance to switch drivers at photo stops. Longer tours, complete with a wilderness picnic, are also available.

» PRICES FROM: £225 pp incl. instruction, guide & warm clothes. Duration 2 hrs. Operates 1 Dec to 20 Apr.



KING CRAB SAFARI

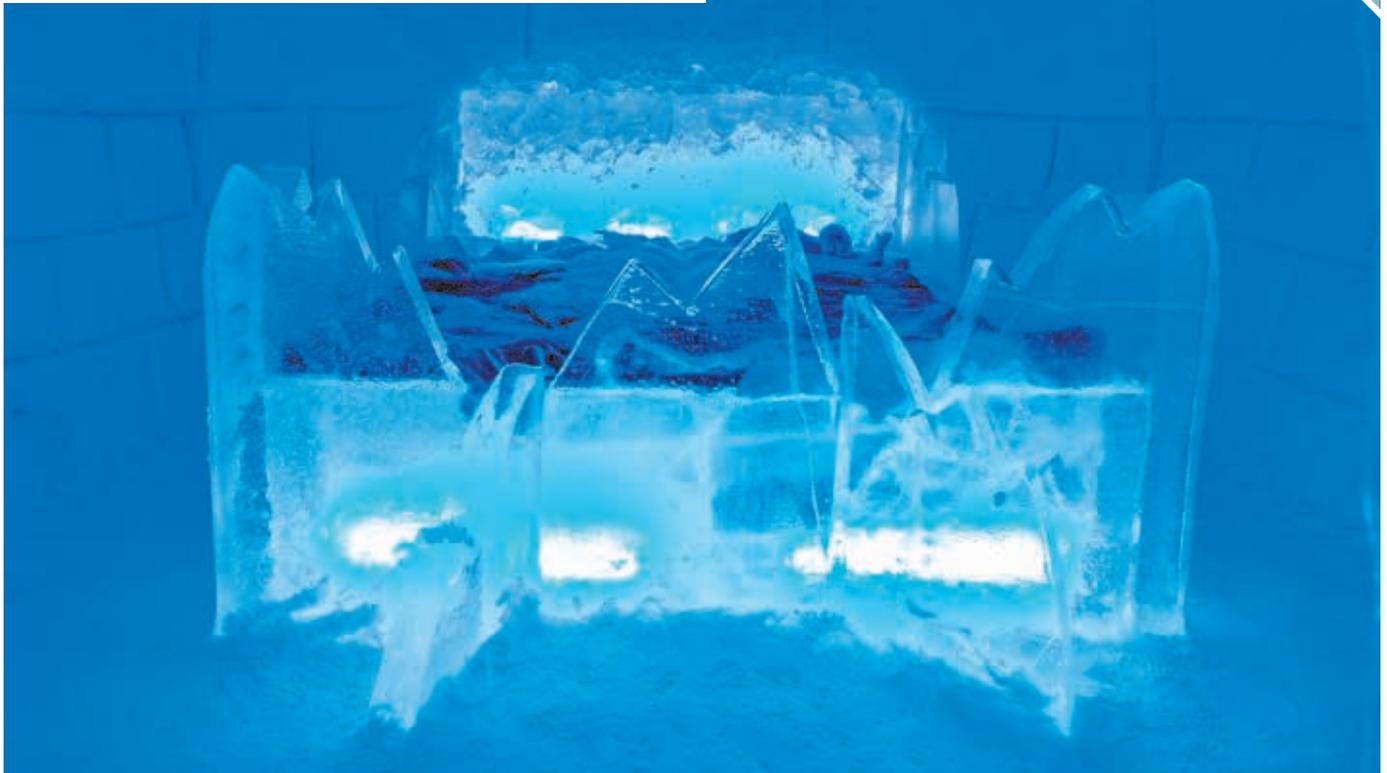
Head out on sleighs pulled by snowmobiles to fish for king crabs which, with few natural predators, can grow to up to six feet wide and weigh up to 25 pounds. Your tasty catch will then be cooked and served for lunch at a local fisherman's home.

» PRICES FROM: £205 pp incl. lunch, warm clothing & transfers. Duration 4 hrs. Operates 1 Dec to 20 Apr.

NEW

16

SORRISNIVA IGLOO HOTEL & NORTHERN LIGHTS CRUISE



7-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

1 day Alta » 1 day Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel
3 days Northern Lights cruise » 2 days Tromsø



» PRICES FROM: £2,895 pp incl. flights, selected transfers, 1 night Thon Hotel Alta BB, 1 night Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel HB, 3-night cruise FB with selected excursions & 1 night Clarion Collection Hotel With BB. Operates selected dates Feb to Apr.

Experience the very best of the Norwegian Arctic on this unique itinerary, which combines a stay at the world's northernmost ice hotel with an expedition cruise and a stay in Norway's Northern Lights capital.

Day 1 » UK/Alta Fly to Alta and transfer to your hotel. You'll then have the rest of the day to explore, perhaps taking in the fascinating indoor exhibits at the UNESCO-listed Alta Museum, or visiting the modernist Northern Lights Cathedral.

Day 2 » Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel With a free morning, perhaps enjoy an optional husky or snowmobile excursion out through the stunning Finnmark mountain plateau. Then, an included transfer will see you to the Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel. Explore its beautifully carved rooms and halls, and call into the ice bar for a frozen cocktail, before heading to the restaurant for an included three-course feast based on local culinary traditions. It's then time to settle in for your night on ice, so grab your sleeping bag

and bunk down on your frozen bed for an experience you'll never forget. **B/D**

Days 3-5 » Northern Lights cruise Transfer back to Alta in time for your expedition cruise. A programme of excursions will ensure a truly unique experience, as you call into the town of Hamnnes, one of Norway's remotest coastal communities; taste Arctic whisky at the Bivrost Distillery; and witness the power of nature at the vast Jøkel Glacier. You'll even have a chance to give something back to the environment with an afternoon spent cleaning one of the region's beaches. And, as you sail towards Tromsø, via a landscape of Arctic fjords and the snow-dusted Lyngen Alps. remember to keep an eye out for passing wildlife and signs of the Northern Lights. **BLD**

Days 6-7 » Tromsø/UK Disembark in Tromsø for a day of optional activities, ranging from snowmobiling to ultra-scenic trips on the Fjellheisen cable car. Fly home on day seven. **B**

17

SNOW VILLAGE
& LEVI

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY

1 day Lainio Snow Village » 3 days Levi



» **PRICES FROM:** £920 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Snow Village HB & 2 nights Levi Panorama BB. Operates 28 Dec to 5 Apr.

Spend a night in an igloo-style room at Snow Village followed by two action-packed days of winter sports and activities from your base at Levi Panorama, a unique hillside hotel with views across the hills and plains of Finnish Lapland.

Day 1 » UK/Snow Village Fly to Kittilä and transfer to Lainio Snow Village, a magical world in the western corner of Finnish Lapland that changes shape, size and design each winter. The rooms and suites are complemented by a warm subterranean area with bathroom facilities,

a large fireplace, an Ice Restaurant, Ice Cocktail Bar, chapel, and striking frozen art. Enjoy a welcome drink and a village tour before a three-course meal of Lappish delicacies in the spectacular Ice Restaurant. Finally, snuggle into your warm sleeping bag on your icy bed. **D**

Day 2 » Levi Wake up to hot berry juice and a buffet breakfast at the cosy Log Restaurant before transferring to Levi, 170 km above the Arctic Circle. It's the largest ski resort in Finland. The alpine-



HUSKY SAFARI

Kitted out in suitable Arctic attire, transfer out to a husky camp to meet the dogs, then venture into the Lappish wilderness for a 10 km safari with your eager companions. After the ride, sharing a sled with your partner, relax with a hot berry juice while you're regaled with stories about the pack.

» **PRICES FROM:** £175 pp. Duration 3 hrs. Operates Tues– Fri from Dec to Apr & Sat from 1 Jan.



SNOWMOBILES & REINDEER

Follow the snowmobile track through the powdery drifts to a local reindeer farm where the owner presents a select group of reindeer trained for sleigh pulling and racing. The herders will demonstrate how to drive a reindeer sleigh, before you take the reins for a bracing ride through the wilderness.

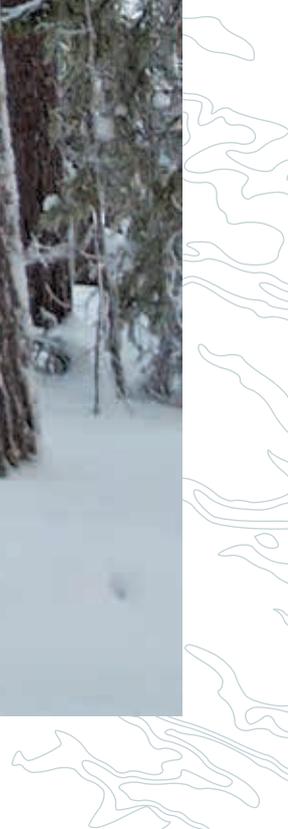
» **PRICES FROM:** £150 pp incl. warm clothing, hot drinks & transfers. Duration 2.5 hrs. Operates 1 Dec to 15 Apr.

style Hotel Levi Panorama, centrally located within the resort, is well known for its sweeping Lapland views and close proximity to the slopes. **B**

Day 3 » Levi Fill your day with a choice of optional excursions, perhaps combining morning cross-country skiing with a Husky Safari (below) or a Snowmobiles & Reindeer Tour (above). Or, enjoy an evening snowmobile quest for the Northern Lights through snow-covered forests and over frozen lakes. **B**

Day 4 » Depart for UK After breakfast, transfer to Kittilä for your return flight. **B**

66.0728° N, 20.9796° E



SWEDEN

Straddling the Arctic Circle, Swedish Lapland is one of the world's last untouched wildernesses. A place of roaring rivers, frozen over by winter's chill, and snow-draped fells framed by ancient boreal forests, home to roaming moose and reindeer and prowling packs of wolves. It's the spectacular setting for a whole host of magical winter experiences, from stays in mirrored treehouses and private wood-cabin hideaways to the sub-zero wonders of the world's first ice hotel.

In Luleå's surrounding archipelago, delightful pine-clad lodges peer out from their tree-shrouded seclusion to the frozen Gulf of Bothnia. The vast icy swathes create the perfect winter playground, where guests can spend thrilling days exploring by husky sled and snowmobile, join guided ice fishing trips or strap on snowshoes for silent hikes through the woods. It's all a thrilling counterpoint to cosy evenings spent around open fires, dining on the region's bounty and warming the cockles in steaming saunas and bubbling hot tubs. Be sure to step outside once more to catch sight of the Northern Lights painting vibrant shades of green and gold across the inky Arctic sky.

Heading north from Luleå, log-cabin traditions make way for the very best in Scandinavian innovation. Nowhere is this

showcased better than at Treehotel – a collection of architect-designed rooms hidden in the forest canopy near Harads. Choose between UFOs, birds' nests and blue-cone hideaways which are actually red before checking out the surroundings on everything from fat bike tours and Sami cultural experiences to moose safaris and aurora photography excursions led by expert guides. It's the perfect pairing for that other Swedish icon – ICEHOTEL (page 34), whose immaculately carved rooms and suites, created anew each year by the world's leading ice artists, are just a scenic train hop away across the Arctic Circle.

Then, at the border with Norway, the Abisko Sky Station offers incredible aurora viewing from high up on Mount Nuolja. And, in nearby Björkliden, you'll find some of Sweden's finest downhill skiing.



18

NORTHERN LIGHTS
BREAK IN LULEÅ

NEW



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE CITY BREAK

4 days Luleå



» **PRICES FROM:** £495 pp (Elite Stadshotellet) or £560 pp (Clarion Hotel Sense) incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights B&B accommodation & Northern Lights excursion incl. hot drinks & snacks. Operates from Jan to Mar.

Luleå offers the perfect combination of a city break and the winter charms of Swedish Lapland's Arctic wilds. Staying in a hand-picked central hotel, you'll have all of its historic charms, innovative restaurant scene and UNESCO old town to hand. And, while there's a

chance to spot the aurora each night, we've included a Northern Lights tour. Optionally, there's also everything from snowmobiles to husky sledding.

Day 1 » UK/Luleå Flying out to Luleå, an included transfer will see you to either the Elite Stadshotellet – a grand redbrick landmark – or the spa facilities and contemporary chic of the Clarion Hotel Sense. Its top-floor bar offers spectacular harbour views. Be sure to also explore the city's Gothic cathedral and art galleries before tasting your way through its superb dining scene, from cocktail grills to seafood bistros.

Day 2 » Northern Lights excursion Today, you'll have the option of taking in Swedish Lapland's winter wonderland on a dogsled or snowmobile, sweeping through snow-clad forests and heading to

remote islands on frozen ice trails. Then, come the evening, you'll be treated to an included Northern Lights tour. After consulting the forecast, your photography expert will bring you out to a specially chosen location, keeping you warm with hot drinks and snacks. **B**

Day 3 » Optional excursions Along with all the winter fun, we highly recommend visiting Gammelstad. Just outside of Luleå, this UNESCO-listed treasure is the best-preserved example of a 15th-century Scandinavian church village. It's a vision of winding laneways and over 400 wooden houses, all painted in an iconic red. Then, returning to the city, be sure to keep your eyes out for the Northern Lights. **B**

Day 4 » Depart for UK After a final breakfast, an included transfer will see you to the airport for your flight home. **B**

LULEÅ EXCURSIONS

Each winter, Luleå's archipelago islands freeze over into a winter wonderland of ice trails. It's custom-built for exploration, with snowmobiles, dogsleds and snowshoes all bringing you among Lapland's snow-clad forests. We also highly recommend getting away from the city's lights to both hunt for the aurora and explore the nearby village of Gammelstad – a World Heritage treasure.



GAMMELSTAD WORLD HERITAGE TOUR

The UNESCO-listed Gammelstad is the finest surviving example of a medieval Scandinavian village. On this tour, you'll be led along winding laneways between 14th-century cottages and churches, all painted in the region's iconic red and white.

» PRICES FROM: £95 pp incl. guide & transfers. Duration 2 hrs. Operates Jan to Mar.



SNOWMOBILE NATURE TOUR

Striking out into the Lapland wilderness, this guided snowmobile adventure is designed to showcase Lapland wildlife and environment at their hardy best. You'll keep warm with winter clothing, coffee and local cakes, taken among the scenic remotes.

» PRICES FROM: £135 pp incl. guide, transfers, winter clothing, hot drinks & snack. Duration 2 hrs. Operates Jan to Mar.



NORTHERN LIGHTS DINNER AT BRÄNDÖN LODGE

Get away from the city lights to a cosy log cabin on the frozen sea, perfectly poised for spectacular aurora viewing. Alongside a hearty two-course dinner, you'll head out in search of the Lights, keeping warm by the open fires of wilderness teepees.

» PRICES FROM: £135 pp incl. guide, transfers, winter clothing & transfers. Duration 3.5 hrs. Operates Jan to Mar.



DOGSLEDDING

Travelling into snow-clad forests and along frozen rivers, this is your chance to both experience an ancient method of transport and see Lapland at its wintry best. Of course, your guides will give you plenty of opportunities to meet the friendly huskies

» PRICES FROM: £135 pp incl. guide, transfers & winter clothing. Duration 1.5–2 hrs. Operates Jan to Mar.



BRÄNDÖN LODGE

Overlooking the icy Gulf of Bothnia and the Luleå Archipelago, the cabins at Brändön Lodge form the perfect base for exploring a region where islands outnumber people by quite some distance. Perfect for families, each cabin features two bedrooms and a private bathroom, and views out across the surrounding wilderness. A large lodge provides comfortable communal spaces, including a cosy restaurant and a lounge lit up by a roaring fire. There's also a soothing sauna situated by the water's edge, the ideal retreat after long days of outdoor exploration.

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Brändön Lodge



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,215 pp (adult) £860 (child) incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights Brändön Lodge HB, thermal clothing, husky safari & wilderness skills course with lunch. Operates Dec to Mar.

Overlooking the snow-dusted islands of the Luleå Archipelago, Brändön Lodge is the ideal base for a family winter adventure. Here, guests young and old can experience an array of seasonal excursions from husky sledding and guided snowmobiling to hovercraft trips, ice fishing and snowshoe hikes. This four-day break includes two such adventures – a snowshoeing wilderness skills course and a husky safari along frozen forest trails.

Day 1 » UK/Luleå Fly to Luleå via Stockholm and transfer to Brändön Lodge for a three-night stay. You'll be provided with warm winter clothing on arrival, before enjoying an afternoon of sauna relaxation followed by the first of your included three-course dinners. Menus are inspired by the region's seasonal produce, and prepared to perfection by the lodge's talented chef. Then, in the evening, keep an eye on the sky for the chance to see the Northern Lights, conditions permitting, of course. **D**

Day 2 » Nordic winter skills After breakfast, it's time to set out on the first of your included excursions. Changing into the warm clothing provided, you'll strap on a pair of snowshoes and head out into the wilds where your expert guide will show you how to make a fire in the snow and brew hot drinks in the great outdoors. You'll also be regaled with stories of life in the frozen north, before taking a welcome break in a traditional teepee where you'll help prepare and eat a delicious wilderness lunch. **BLD**

Day 3 » Husky safari Today's adventure sees you heading out to a local husky farm to begin a thrilling husky safari through Brändön's snow-dusted surrounds. With the chance to mush your own team, or sit back and enjoy the view, it's an utterly enchanting way to take in forest and lake trails that carve through the Luleå region. Tonight, you'll return for a final delicious dinner and one last chance to see the aurora in the clear night sky. **BD**

Day 4 » Depart for UK Tuck into a final hearty Brändön Lodge breakfast before your included transfer back to the airport and your flight home. **B**



20 WINTER ESCAPE TO PINE BAY LODGE

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Pine Bay Lodge



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,330 pp incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights Pine Bay Lodge FB, husky sledding & snowmobiling. Operates Jan to Mar.

This curated short break perfectly showcases the best of Sweden's Luleå Archipelago. You'll enjoy a stay in arguably the region's cosiest lodge, embark on a series of extraordinary winter adventures and tuck into a full-board spread of locally sourced, seasonal food. It's all set against the backdrop of one of Swedish Lapland's most beautiful regions – a landscape of frozen islands and snow-dusted forests on the edge of the Baltic Sea.

Day 1 » UK/Luleå Fly to Luleå, gateway to the forested islands of the Luleå Archipelago and your ever-so-cosy log-cabin home. An included transfer will see you to your accommodation where a free afternoon will allow time to settle to your new wintry surroundings – a spellbinding wonderland of snow-clad pines and an endless expanse of frozen sea. To help you acclimatise, the first of your included three-course dinners will introduce you to some of the flavours of the Arctic, from smoked reindeer to freshly caught salmon. And, don't forget to watch out for a possible glimpse of the Northern Lights. 

Days 2 » Snowmobiling After breakfast, it's time to begin your programme of included excursions, starting with a thrilling snowmobile adventure. In the company of your expert guide, you'll speed off across the thick sea ice, winding along forest trails and passing remote fishing villages cloaked in winter's chill. You'll also pause for hot drinks and a hearty lunch, all the while keeping an eye peeled for any



PINE BAY LODGE

This classic Swedish lodge is located on the remote Lappish archipelago of Luleå, in the heart of the snowy Arctic forests through which you can speed snowmobiles, mush huskies and indulge in other sub-polar fun. Just nine rooms, all en suite and pine clad, create an intimate atmosphere. The lodge is particularly proud of its cuisine, with a menu that features such local favourites as moose, reindeer steak and Arctic char with cloudberries. It's a dining experience made all the more memorable when each dish is paired with glass or two of well-matched wine.

passing wildlife and learning a little of the region's history and culture. Then, back at base, enjoy a lazy afternoon by the fire.



Day 3 » Husky safari Today's adventure is a true Arctic classic – a dogsledding trip. The kennels near Pine Bay Lodge are home to 60 huskies, and you'll have the chance to meet them before heading out on your own sled, taking turns with your partner to drive or simply enjoy the view. Along the way, you'll have the chance to learn more about the life of a husky musher in the frozen north, before heading back to base for your included lunch. Then, in the evening, why not pick from a range of optional activities? There's everything from Northern Lights snowshoeing and hovercraft tours to photography workshops and gourmet dinners at the lodge's own Aurora Hideaway. 

Day 4 » Depart for UK After a final breakfast, take a taxi transfer back to Luleå Airport in time for your flight home. 

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HIGHLIGHTS OF SWEDISH LAPLAND



Swedish Lapland's inspiring landscape lends itself to thrilling bespoke experiences. And, this tour has them all, including nights spent at the iconic Treehotel and ICEHOTEL, as well as optional husky sledding or reindeer tours through Scandinavia's most fascinating national parks. You'll also visit the Abisko Sky Station which, during the winter months, is one of the world's best places to view the Northern Lights.

across the Arctic Circle to Kiruna and transferring to the world-famous ICEHOTEL. You'll spend your first night in an Ice Room, wrapped in a thermal sleeping bag beneath a tactile cover of reindeer skin rugs. The hotel, which is built from scratch each year, is a sightseeing spectacle itself, so take a tour, sip a drink at the ICEBAR, or join one of many activities on offer (see pages 36–37). You'll spend your second night in a warm room, which offers conventional cosy beds. **E**

7-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

1 day Treehotel » 2 days ICEHOTEL
» 3 days Björkliden » 1 day Kiruna



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,455 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Treehotel HB, trains, 2 nights ICEHOTEL BB, 3 nights Hotel Fjället BB & Aurora Sky Station excursion. Operates 1 Dec to mid-Apr.

Day 1 » UK/Treehotel Fly to Luleå and transfer to Treehotel. Each room at this award-winning hotel is unique, designed by Scandinavia's leading architects, and draped elegantly around the trees of the hotel's grounds. After settling in, explore the equally striking surroundings and later enjoy an included Swedish dinner at the hotel restaurant. Just be sure to look to the sky in case the Northern Lights decide to take a turn. **D**

Days 2–3 » ICEHOTEL Travel from one iconic hotel to another, taking the train

Days 4–6 » Björkliden Once again board the train and head north, this time to the town of Björkliden. Check into Hotel Fjället, a mountainside ski hotel and your base for exploring the great Arctic surrounds on a full range of optional winter excursions. You'll also have the chance to visit the Aurora Sky Station in Abisko National Park, a high-altitude base perfectly located for viewing the aurora. **E**

Day 7 » Depart for UK After breakfast, transfer to Kiruna for your flight home. **E**

TREEHOTEL EXCURSIONS

With its magical forest setting and doorstep access to some of Swedish Lapland's most idyllic wilderness, Treehotel is a place made for adventure. And, alongside such Arctic classics as dogsled tours and snowmobiling, there's a raft of more unusual options, from yoga classes on ice and horse-pulled skiing trips to moose safaris and fat bike rides. Below are four of our favourites, but don't hesitate to contact us for the full range of options.



HUSKY SAFARI

This dogsledding adventure brings you right out into the beautiful Harads wilderness. Warm clothing and expert instruction are provided, as you travel on a sled with your guide or, for a supplement, upgrade for the chance to mush your own pack.

» PRICES FROM: £190 pp incl. transfers, warm clothes, hot drinks & snacks. Duration 2 hrs. Operates Dec to Mar.



SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

This fully guided expedition sees you venture out through a landscape that ranges from frozen lakes to thick pine forests. Along the way, you'll break for coffee and the chance to spot any passing wildlife. Evening aurora tours are also available.

» PRICES FROM: £150 pp incl. hot drinks, snacks and warm clothes. Duration 3 hrs. Dec to Apr.



VISIT A SAMÍ FAMILY AT GORGIM

Meet Lars Eriksson and his herd of reindeer as he recounts stories about indigenous Samí life. A typical lunch, cooked by Lars' wife Anette, is served around a campfire, followed by a short, guided trip to the Arctic Circle.

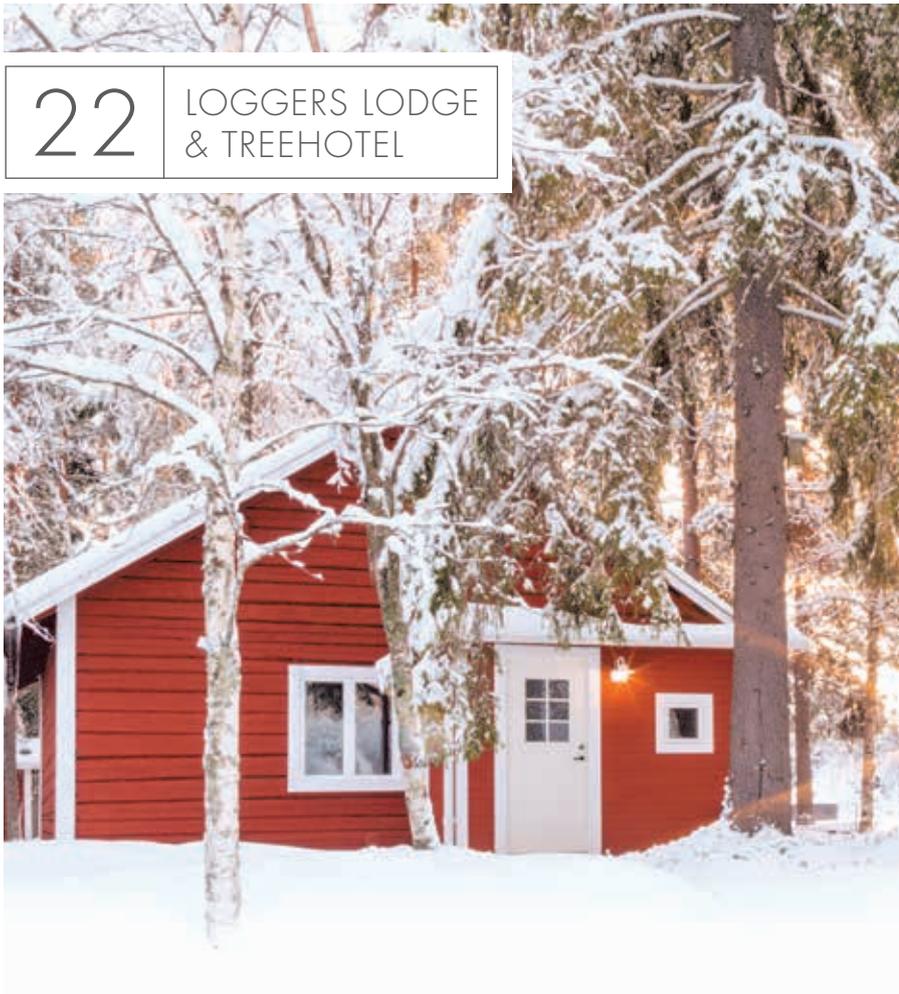
» PRICES FROM: £275 pp incl. transfers, hot drinks, lunch & Arctic Circle visit. Duration 6 hrs. Operates year round.



ICE DINING

Transfer by snowmobile to a heated teepee, where you'll settle down on reindeer skins to enjoy a delicious three-course dinner. Lit by candlelight, it's a wonderfully romantic setting, made all the more special if the Northern Lights make an appearance.

» PRICES FROM: £220 pp incl. snowmobile transfer, warm clothes & 3-course dinner. Duration 3 hrs. Operates Dec to mid-Apr.



LOGGERS LODGE

A secluded lodge for two, this is as far off the beaten track as it gets, perfectly suited to couples who want a taste of Arctic romance. The impossibly cosy cabin is packed full of original features, from the pine walls to the grand central fireplace, and a dining area where you'll be served exquisite Lappish meals, inspired by the season and prepared by a private chef. There's even a hot tub for evening soaks beneath the Arctic sky. Indeed, it's all the perfect accompaniment to active days spent exploring the Swedish Lapland's snow-dusted wilds.

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

1 day Treehotel » 3 days Loggers Lodge



» **PRICES FROM:** £2,580 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Treehotel HB & 2 nights Loggers Lodge FB with private host, outdoor Jacuzzi, open minibar, use of skis and snowshoes & husky sledding tour. Operates Dec to Apr.

This very special break begins with a night in one of Treehotel's seven designer cabins, suspended in a forest in Swedish Lapland. Then, it's on to Loggers Lodge – a seriously stylish private retreat where roaring fires invite evenings of champagne-soaked relaxation and a private outdoor hot tub looks up to the star-strewn night sky. There's also plenty of time for Arctic exploration, as you enjoy a host of optional activities and an included husky-sled tour.

Day 1 » UK/Treehotel Following your flight, you'll be met at the airport and brought to the cutting-edge modernism of Treehotel and its collection of from-the-future cabins in the canopy. While you'll choose between the likes of a mirrored cube, a bird's nest or a UFO, each features gorgeous views of the snowy pine forests of Harads. After settling in, perhaps step out into the wilds on optional husky safaris and horse-drawn sleigh rides. Then, at the end of a thrilling day, return to the delicious home-cooked food of Brittas Restaurant before settling in for your night among the branches.

Day 2 » Loggers Lodge Following breakfast, an included private transfer will see you on to Loggers Lodge. Your room here is wonderfully cossetting, and super stylish, decked out in native timber and with a huge central fireplace adding to the pervading cosiness. Settle in before a private chef arrives at your cabin to prepare local dishes ranging from melt-

in-the-mouth moose steaks to Arctic char caught fresh from the nearby rivers. Then, head to the outdoor hot tub to gaze up at star-filled skies and, if conditions are right, the Northern Lights. **B L D**

Day 3 » Dogsledding Joining your hosts on a husky-sled ride through the frosty forests, you'll have a chance to mush your own team before stopping to soak up the scenery and partake in the Swedish tradition of *fika* – strong, thick coffee served by a roaring campfire. You'll then return to the lodge for lunch before an afternoon of optional activities, ranging from snowshoeing and snowmobiling to Sami reindeer encounters and Northern Lights photography classes. In the evening, after a snowy dash to the sauna and another superb dinner, there's still time to for a short hike through the pines to see if you can spot the aurora. **B D**

Day 4 » Depart for UK Transfer back to Luleå for your flight home. **B**

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WINTER ADVENTURE
AT ARCTIC RETREAT

NEW



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Arctic Retreat



» PRICES FROM: £2,795 incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights Arctic Retreat FB, Husky sledding excursion, Northern Lights workshop & snowmobiling. Operates Dec to Apr.

This is the finest in log-cabin getaways. Hidden among Swedish Lapland's snow-clad world of frozen rivers and remote forests, you'll stay in one of just three timber lodges, complete with private hot tub, fire pit and, hopefully, floor-to-ceiling views of the aurora borealis. You'll also explore your Arctic setting with a full range of included excursions, from snowmobiling and husky sledding to an expert-led hunt for the Northern Lights. It's all joined together by included transfers.

Day 1 » UK/Luleå Flying out to Luleå, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your idyllic accommodation. Staying in a log cabin, you'll enjoy a certain secluded intimacy, combining a traditional aesthetic with floor-to-ceiling windows that invite in views of the Northern Lights. You'll also enjoy the first of your full-board meals, with sumptuous dinners ranging from hearty reindeer stews to fire-cooked salmon. Then, perhaps end the day with a sauna, a spa treatment or your cabin's very own private hot tub deck, complete with fire pit. **B**

Day 2 » Husky sledding and Northern Lights workshop Following breakfast, you'll begin your programme of included excursions with husky sledding. After an in-depth briefing and a chance to meet the friendly dogs, you'll be handed the reins to mush out over frozen rivers and along spellbinding forest trails, alternating between driving and being a passenger. Following an indulgent lunch (often taken as a picnic) and another delightful dinner,

you'll end the day with an included Northern Lights workshop. Having consulted the forecast, your guide will bring you out into the Lapland wilderness, providing photography tips, hot drinks and snacks, and a scientific background on this stunning visual phenomenon. **BLD**

Day 3 » Snowmobiling Today is given over to the thrill of snowmobiling. After full instructions, you'll set out over the frozen Råne River, passing through snow-covered pines to arrive at Gumberget Mountain. Here, you'll enjoy spectacular views over the river valley and a traditional Swedish *fika* of hot drinks and snacks. There's even a good chance of spotting reindeer and other wildlife. Then, back at base, there's also plenty of time to explore at your own pace, perhaps with snow-shoes, cross-country skiing or a moose safari. **BLD**

Day 4 » Depart for UK Following a final breakfast, an included transfer will see you to the airport for your flight home. **B**

63.4190° N, 19.0152° W



ICELAND

Iceland is extraordinary – there are no two ways about it. Where else can you snowmobile across glaciers, watch the aurora dance above volcanic peaks, see geysers shooting 30 metres into the air and watch humpback whales congregating with dolphins off black-sand beaches? And, let's not forget the colourful and cultured capital – a city host to fine cuisine a wonderfully boisterous bar scene.

In keeping with its extraordinary nature, Iceland is actually getting bigger, too. This incredible 'Land of Fire and Ice' sits atop a divergent plate boundary, so is steadily growing year on year, despite the great Atlantic swells that wear down the island's wildly frayed coastlines. Its interior is a veritable playground for outdoor enthusiasts, amateur geologists and photographers alike, drawn to its wild peninsulas and magnificent national parks. For a beginner's guide to its natural and historical treasures, head to the Golden Circle. Just a short drive from the capital Reykjavik, this is a region of giant waterfalls, explosive geysers and the world's oldest parliament, housed in a great rift valley. It's perhaps best explored by Superjeep – a 4WD vehicle perfectly suited to the country's famously rugged terrain.

Head further afield, however, and you'll be richly rewarded. The wild and windswept south coast is all black-sand bays, pretty fishing villages and glacier-dotted lagoons, while to the northwest, the stunning and remote Snæfellsnes Peninsula is a showcase of creaking glaciers and looming cliffs, bathed under the Northern Lights' vivid swirls. Then, in the far north, the delightful town of Akureyri is the ideal base for trips out to magnificent Godafoss Waterfall and Lake Mývatn's geothermal hot springs – a far-flung rival to the south's world-famous Blue Lagoon.

Over the following pages, you'll find a curated selection of itineraries, excursions and hotels. Chosen by our specialists, they perfectly showcase Iceland's drama, beauty and urban buzz.



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REYKJAVIK WINTER ADVENTURE



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Reykjavik



» PRICES FROM: £860 pp incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights Reykjavik Centrum BB, Northern Lights by Superjeep tour & entry to Blue Lagoon. Operates Sep to Mar.

So much more than just a city break, this stay in Reykjavik includes two unforgettable excursions. The first, a Superjeep tour at night, sees you chase the Northern Lights in locations far off the beaten track. Then, after free days to tailor-make your own winter adventure, you'll unwind in style with a soak in the mineral-rich waters of the world-famous Blue Lagoon.

Day 1 » UK/Reykjavik Touching down in Keflavik, head into the vibrant Icelandic capital and make for the Hotel Reykjavik Centrum in the heart of the city. Tonight, perhaps enjoy dinner at the hotel's own gourmet restaurant; the cured Arctic char and Icelandic blue mussels both come highly recommended.

Day 2 » Northern Lights by Superjeep Today is left free for optional tours. Perhaps head out on the famous Golden Circle route, taking in Thingvellir National Park, the beautiful Gullfoss waterfall and Strokkur, a geyser whose clockwork-regular outbursts reach up to 20 metres high. And, if you're feeling adventurous, there's even the chance to ride a snowmobile on a glacier. Then, as night descends, enjoy a real trip highlight as you join a Superjeep tour in search of the Northern Lights. Heading off-road to the remotest spots,



ULTIMATE SOUTHWEST ICELAND 4-day Excursion Bundle

This is the perfect bolt-on to any trip to Reykjavik, taking in all of southwest Iceland's treasures in one bundle – offering excellent savings. Alongside hunting for the Northern Lights, you'll explore the natural wonders of the Golden Circle before taking in the hidden gems of the south coast. Expect everything from ice caves and glaciers to mighty waterfalls and cute fishing villages. Throughout, you'll travel in an all-terrain Superjeep, taking you to scenic spots that others simply can't reach.

» PRICES FROM: £770 pp based on 4 sharing incl. airport transfers & three days of guided excursions. Operates Sep to Apr.

far from any artificial light, you'll have the best chance to see the aurora. And, if you don't, you'll have the opportunity to go again the next day. **B**

Day 3 » Optional excursions With another day left free for optional adventures, maybe take the chance to sail out onto the frigid Atlantic swells to spot humpbacks and minke whales. Alternatively, head south to discover black-sand beaches and glacial lagoons, or strap on a pair of crampons for a thrilling ice-caving adventure. Our top-ten winter excursions are detailed overleaf. **B**

Day 4 » Blue Lagoon/UK After breakfast, an included transfer will see to the Blue Lagoon. Shrouded in mist and ringed by volcanic rock, its geothermal waters are the perfect pre-flight tonic. After a soak, a shuttle transfer will bring you to the airport for your flight home. **B**



HOTEL REYKJAVIK CENTRUM

STANDARD



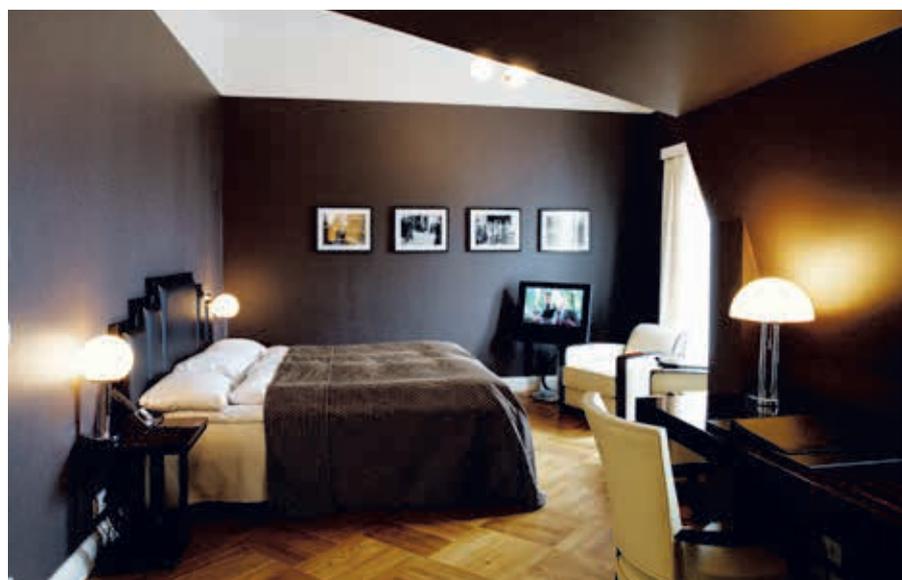
Situated on one of Reykjavik's oldest streets in one of its liveliest districts, the Reykjavik Centrum is perfectly placed for fun. Choose from Standard or Deluxe Rooms, suites or a sleek Studio Apartment, featuring a fully equipped kitchenette and living room. Fjalakötturinn, an inventive restaurant right next door, is popular with local foodies and has an à la carte menu brimming with regionally inspired dishes. There's an emphasis on fresh seafood and traditional delicacies with a modern twist.

HOTEL BORG

SUPERIOR



The best hotel in town, Hotel Borg is a Reykjavik landmark in its own right. With an arresting Art Deco style throughout, the hotel's rooms are spacious and feature leather furnishings and large, marble bathrooms. There's a spa, too, with a hot tub, steam bath, sauna and a range of treatments providing idyllic relaxation after days spent exploring the city's surrounds. The staff are renowned for their friendly attentiveness and will gladly point you in the direction of the best local restaurants.



ALDA

SUPERIOR



This smart, four-star stop on Laugavegur, Reykjavik's main shopping street, offers comfortable and modern rooms in a relaxed and friendly environment. The hotel features a fitness centre with sauna and a full range of exercise equipment, a buzzing bar serving local draught beers and champagne cocktails, a chocolate shop, a 24-hour grab-n-go snack station and in-room massages. The rooftop terrace offers excellent sea and mountain views.

REYKJAVIK'S TOP 10 EXCURSIONS



1 HUNT FOR THE NORTHERN LIGHTS BY SUPERJEEP

Simply, this is *the* best chance of spotting the Northern Lights. You'll be brought off the grid in a monster 4WD, heading to an isolated region chosen based on the forecast. Your expert guides will provide hot toddy, share their photos and help set up your camera. And, if you don't see the lights, you can rebook for free.

» PRICES FROM: £170 pp

2 ENJOY A SOAK IN THE FAMOUS BLUE LAGOON

Shrouded in mist and ringed by jagged lava rock, the Blue Lagoon's bright cerulean waters are heated by lively geothermal energy. Alongside a complimentary silica mud mask and welcome drink, this tour also includes access to natural saunas and steam rooms. Pre-booking is essential.

» PRICES FROM: £55 pp

3 WATCH WHALES OFF THE REYKJAVIK COAST

Spotting a cutesy harbour porpoise playing in your ship's wake and a giant humpback making a sweeping breach has to be one of the world's greatest wildlife-watching experiences. This excursion, led by a local naturalist, is a particular favourite for its special offer; if you don't have a sighting, you'll receive a ticket to go again, completely free of charge.

» PRICES FROM: £75 pp

4 PLAY YOUR VERY OWN GAME OF THRONES

This unique excursion will bring you between the rift valleys and medieval villages that have played a starring role in the hit TV series – *Game of Thrones*. You'll head beyond the Wall, follow in the footsteps of Arya Stark and even pass through the Bloody Gate at Thingvellir National Park in the heart of the Golden Circle. It's all brought to life by behind-the-scenes stories throughout.

» PRICES FROM: £85 pp



5 EXPLORE THE GOLDEN CIRCLE BY COACH

The Golden Circle represents a collection of some of Iceland's most spectacular scenery. On this full-day coach excursion, you'll marvel at the great torrents of Gullfoss Waterfall, set your watch by the giant

eruptions of Strokkur Geyser and explore ancient Thingvellir National Park – the rift-valley home of the world's first parliament. Alternatively, it's also possible to explore on a self-drive or private, tailor-made trip. Call us for details.

» PRICES FROM: £65 pp



6 DISCOVER THE SECRET LAGOON AND HUNT THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

This excursion combines two natural phenomena in one exciting evening. You'll begin with a dip in the geothermal hot springs of lesser-visited Gamla Laugin – also known as the "Secret Lagoon". Then, after a chance to sample a variety of Icelandic delicacies over a buffet dinner, you'll be brought out on a Northern Lights hunt. Heading deep into southwest Iceland's wilderness, your expert guides will select the very best viewing spots based on the night's forecast.

» PRICES FROM: £110 pp

7 HIKE OVER A GLACIER AND EXPLORE THE SOUTH COAST

Strapping on a pair of crampons to hike out over the lunar landscape of a glacier is Iceland at its adventurous best. As if that wasn't enough, your certified guide will also bring you to the south coast's spectacular landscape of smoking volcanoes and snow-dusted farmlands to showcase two of the country's most iconic waterfalls – rainbow-blessed Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss.

» PRICES FROM: £145 pp

8 EXPLORE THE COUNTRYSIDE ON AN ICELANDIC HORSE

First introduced in the 9th century by the Vikings, the Icelandic horse is stocky, long-fringed and oh-so-adorable. And, this is your chance to ride one. After a transfer to remote Laxnes House Farm, you'll learn a little about their history and nature before setting off through the spectacular Icelandic countryside in the company of your professional guide. All equipment is included.

» PRICES FROM: £100 pp

9 EMBARK ON A JOURNEY INTO A GLACIER

Enjoy a unique opportunity to step inside one of Iceland's most impressive geographic features. After pausing to admire lava-field waterfalls and Europe's most powerful hot spring, you'll change to an all-terrain vehicle for the journey on to the monolithic Langjökull Glacier. Donning crampons, you'll then venture into an ice-cave world of mighty crevasses and stratified layers.

» PRICES FROM: £275 pp

10 CHASE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS BY BOAT

Leaving the city lights behind, you'll cruise out along the coast to the quiet bay of Faxaflói in search of nature's greatest spectacle. The chance to see the aurora reflecting magnificently in the glittering waters is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. What's more, if the forecast is poor, you'll be treated to a guided tour of the Whales of Iceland exhibition and booked onto the next departure entirely free of charge.

» PRICES FROM: £65 pp



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HOTEL RANGA & THE GOLDEN CIRCLE



HOTEL RANGA

A stay at Hotel Ranga encapsulates the best that Iceland has to offer – warm hospitality, fabulous food and stunning nature. Rooms at the lodge are appointed in a typically minimalist style, using plenty of pinewood and furs. The restaurant is excellent, too, its menus all seasonal and the ingredients locally sourced. Most importantly, though, this is one of the best places in Iceland to see the aurora, far from any light pollution. What’s more, the geothermally heated outdoor hot tubs make perfect viewing spots.

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE TOUR

2 days Hotel Ranga » 2 days Reykjavik



» **PRICES FROM:** £660 pp incl. flights, car hire, 2 nights Hotel Ranga BB & 1 night Reykjavik BB. Operates Sep to Mar.

Few places are as exciting as Iceland, an effervescent expanse of mid-Atlantic rock that must be a geography teacher’s idea of heaven, and equally compelling for wild adventure. You’ll take in a curated selection of the country’s highlights on this itinerary, which begins with a stay at a delightful wilderness lodge complete with heated hot tubs and, with luck, spectacular aurora views. It’s then on to the Golden Circle to explore some of Iceland’s most famous natural wonders, before wrapping things up with a stay in the buzzing capital.

Day 1 » UK/Hotel Ranga Flying to Keflavik International Airport, you’ll pick up your hire car for the short drive to Iceland’s capital. We recommend a stop at the Blue Lagoon en route, a natural thermal spa whose warm cobalt waters provide a delightful contrast to the cool winds whistling above the surface. Afterwards, head east along the main coastal highway towards the town of Hella, and the nearby Hotel Ranga – your base for the next two nights.

Day 2 » Hotel Ranga The region around Hotel Ranga offers spectacularly scenic drives: on one side glacial meltwater tumbles in myriad waterfalls over and off the central plateau; on the other, black-sand beaches and hexagonal rock formations stud the shoreline. Perhaps take in this extraordinary landscape with an optional helicopter tour. Finally, back at base, end the day with a soak in the hotel’s outdoor hot tub. It’s the ultimate viewing point from which to glimpse the Northern Lights. **E**

Day 3 » Reykjavik Before heading to the capital, today is given over to exploring Iceland’s ‘Golden Circle’, which comprise, among others, the historic national park Thingvellir, home to the first Icelandic parliament, and the magnificent Gullfoss, a roaring cascade in the Hvítá River. The nearby geysers, including the now-extinct Geysir (from which the English word derives), are spectacular, especially Strokkur, which erupts violently every few minutes. Head back to Reykjavik this evening before enjoying the buzz of the city’s nightlife. Many of the restaurants are notable, and we particularly like the tasting menu at Fiskmarkaðurinn, possibly the best place to experience the impressive variety of seafood Iceland has to offer. **E**

Day 4 » Depart for UK Explore the capital’s stylish streets in the morning before returning your hire car to the airport in time for your flight home. **E**

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ROMANTIC ICELAND & THE NORTHERN LIGHTS



HOTEL GRIMSBORGIR

Just a short hop from Thingvellir National Park, this delightful hotel is ideally located in the heart of Iceland's Golden Circle. Rooms here are sleek, modern and comfortable, with wooden floors and muted tones that effortlessly mirror the landscapes outside. The Junior Suites are particularly impressive, their flowing drapes, pastel shades and private terraces lending more than a little romance. Whichever you choose, you'll be treated to superb seasonal dining at the restaurant and access to outdoor hot tubs, perfect for viewing the Northern Lights.

5-DAY TAILOR-MADE TOUR

3 days Hotel Grimsborgir » 2 days Reykjavik



» PRICES FROM: £1,220 pp incl. flights, 4WD car hire, 3 nights Hotel Grimsborgir BB and 1 night Reykjavik BB. Operates Sep to Mar.

Iceland – all creaking glaciers and smouldering volcanoes – serves up scenery on the grandest scale. From self-drives between the epic waterfalls and otherworldly geysers of the Golden Circle to Blue-Lagoon soaks and aurora viewing from private hot tubs, this winter break blends action and adventure with a stay at the ever-so-romantic Hotel Grimsborgir.

Day 1 » UK/Hotel Grimsborgir After flying to Keflavik airport, collect your hire car and head along the scenic south coast road, taking in roaring waterfalls, looming peaks and lava fields before arriving at the luxury, Scandi-chic Hotel Grimsborgir. It's all whitewashed wooden walls and contemporary furnishings. Tonight you'll tuck into the likes of Icelandic cod and mountain lamb among the open fireplaces of the restaurant before taking advantage of your private deck, hopefully to spot the Northern Lights.

Day 2 » Golden Circle After breakfast today's drive takes in the iconic sights of the Golden Circle, starting with the immense power of Strokkur geyser and Geysir's boiling mud pools. Gullfoss waterfall is next, glistening in rippling waves of ice interspersed with spouting, inky sprays. End your day at UNESCO World Heritage-listed Thingvellir National Park, where further epic scenes are on offer in an eerie expanse of rock-flecked wilderness, all dusted in snow. **B**

Day 3 » Iceland's south coast Wind along the blustery roads of the south coast, edged by moss-covered boulders and sheer, snow-dusted crags, before arriving at the 60-metre-high drop of Skógafoss, a waterfall swelled by two enormous glaciers. You'll then head on to Seljalandsfoss's raging torrents, found among soaring silvery cliffs. The black sand beaches of Vik are a final unmissable stop. End the day with a soak in one of the hotel's hot tubs, each one a magical vantage point for viewing the aurora. **B**

Days 4-5 » Reykjavik/UK Head to the capital and the ever-so-hip Hotel Reykjavik Centrum. With a day at leisure, perhaps climb the tower at Hallgrímskirkja for panoramic views, get a sense of the city's past at the National Museum or venture out from the harbour on a whale-watching tour. Tonight, why not let someone else do the driving as you go on a final quest for those psychedelic disco lights in the sky? On day five, drop your hire car off at the airport in time for your flight home. **B**

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ULTIMATE ICELAND & THE RETREAT AT BLUE LAGOON

NEW



THE RETREAT AT BLUE LAGOON

Far from the madding crowd, this modernist masterpiece offers an altogether more exclusive experience, as you settle into gourmet dining and indulgent spa rituals, all matched by spectacular views over the snowy surroundings. Choose between a Moss Suite, for an elevated view of the lava field, or splash out on a Lagoon Suite for direct, private access to those famous healing waters. Whatever you decide, you'll be treated to complimentary minibar drinks, yoga sessions and Blue Lagoon skin care throughout your stay.



See Iceland's wonders in ultimate luxury, staying in its finest accommodation and exploring with private Superjeep tours. From mighty waterfalls and geysers to lava fields and hot springs, you'll take in both the famous Golden Circle and the lesser-visited Reykjanes Peninsula. It all centres on a stay at The Retreat at Blue Lagoon, where you'll enjoy the likes of a complimentary mini bar, yoga classes and privileged access to its exclusive spa.

Day 3 » Superjeep tour: Reykjanes Peninsula/Reykjavik On a private 4WD Superjeep tour, you'll showcase the lesser-known charms of Iceland's remote southwest, from hot springs and lava fields to bird cliffs and bubbling mud pools. You'll then be brought on to stay at The Borg – an Art Deco landmark and Reykjavik's most luxurious hotel. What's more, it has all the Icelandic capital's colourful history and glass-and-steel modernity on its doorstep. **B**

5-DAY TAILOR MADE JOURNEY

2 days Blue Lagoon » 3 days Reykjavik



» **PRICES FROM:** £3,215 pp incl. flights, private transfers, 4 nights luxury B&B accommodation, Blue Lagoon exclusive access incl. complimentary minibar in room, & private Superjeep tours of Reykjanes Peninsula & the Golden Circle. Operates year-round.

Days 1-2 » UK/The Retreat at the Blue Lagoon Flying out to Iceland, a private transfer will see you to your minimalist-chic accommodation, enjoying views of the Blue Lagoon itself – best enjoyed on your private terrace with a glass of wine or beer from the complimentary minibar. There's also a Michelin-recommended restaurant and your privileged access to the Blue Lagoon, which includes its own exclusive section, skincare rituals and spa, complete with steam caves and lava-spring showers. There's even complimentary yoga and guided hikes. **B**

Day 4 » Superjeep tour: the Golden Circle Your next private Superjeep tour will see you take in the world-famous Golden Circle. There's explosive Strokkur geyser, the ruins of Thingvellir rift valley's world-first parliament and one of Iceland's most spectacular waterfalls – Gullfoss. **B**

Day 5 » Depart for UK After breakfast, a private driver will see you to the airport for your flight home. **B**

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AKUREYRI AURORA
ESCAPE

NEW

**4-DAY TAILOR MADE BREAK**

4 days Akureyri



» **PRICES FROM:** £905 incl. flights, shuttle transfers, 3 nights Icelandair Hotel Akureyri BB, Lake Mývatn classic day tour & guided Northern Lights hunt. Operates Sep to Mar.

This tailor-made getaway takes advantage of brand-new flight routes, beating the crowds and swapping the bustle of Reykjavik for the small-town charms and geographic drama of Akureyri. Think bubbling mud pools, endless lava fields, great continental divides and the Northern Lights all showcased on in-depth included tours. There's also plenty of time at your own pace, with your chic hotel, perfectly positioned to take in the town's art scene and surrounding fjords.

Day 1 » UK/Akureyri After flying out to Reykjavik and bypassing a long drive with an internal connection, you'll arrive in Akureyri and the Icelandic north. With your transfer waiting, you'll soon be at your Nordic-chic hotel. Not only does it feature gorgeous views of the surrounding fjord and mountains – best taken in from the outdoor fireplace – but it's also just a short wander into town. Here, Iceland's 'second city' delights with a small-town buzz of boutique cafés and art galleries. The ultra-modernist Lutheran church is a special highlight, as is the geothermal swimming pool next to your hotel.

Day 2 » Lake Mývatn and the Northern Lights Today, you'll head off on a small-group tour, crossing over the dramatic Eyjafjörður Fjord to arrive at Goðafoss. Spanning 30 metres, it's one of Iceland's most impressive waterfalls. Your next stops then range from wetland craters and steaming mud pools to mountain views and giant lava fields. There's even Grjótagjá – the great continental rift. Cap

it all off with an included soak in Lake Mývatn's thermal pools – a more relaxed alternative to Reykjavik's Blue Lagoon. Lastly, come the evening, you'll set off in search of the Northern Lights, leaving the light pollution behind to experience one of the highlights of world travel. And, if you miss them, you'll get a complimentary tour on the next departure. **B**

Day 3 » Optional activities You'll have today to explore. And, as Iceland's most geographically diverse region, there's plenty to choose from, whether it's a simple hike or a thrilling snowmobile safari. For something a little different, look into a microbrewery tasting or a beer spa, where fine brews are paired with innovative treatments. There's also whale watching, Superjeep 4WD tours and lava-cave trips, where naturally formed ice sculptures glitter under the glow of head-torches. **B**

Day 4 » Depart for UK After breakfast, take your included transfer to the airport in time for your flight home. **B**

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ICELAND'S NORTHERN LIGHTS & WINTER WONDERS



5-DAY ESCORTED TOUR

1 day Reykjavik » 1 day Golden Circle
» 1 day Jökulsárlón » 2 days Reykjavik



» **PRICES FROM:** £970 pp incl. flights, transfers, 3-day escorted tour, 2 nights Hotel Klettur BB, 2 nights Hotel Katla BB, Northern Lights Hunt at Hotel Katla, entrance to Eyjafjallajökull Visitor Centre, Blue Lagoon & visit to Icelandic farm and stables. Operates Oct to Mar.

Iceland's attractions cover every angle; there are chic bars and award-winning restaurants in sleek contrast to its active volcanoes and iceberg-packed glacial lagoons. Along with ample opportunities to view the Northern Lights, this five-day escorted tour of the island nation's southern coast takes in the whole range of these spectacular highlights, all easily accessible from Reykjavik.

Day 1 » UK/Reykjavik Arrive in Reykjavik and transfer to Hotel Klettur, located in the heart of Iceland's capital. Consider dining out at one of Reykjavik's celebrated restaurants; locals rave about Grillmarkaðurinn and Fiskmarkaðurinn.

Day 2 » Golden Circle Head for the Golden Circle, home to some of Iceland's most impressive geological sites, including Thingvellir National Park, the famous hot springs at Geysir and the spectacular Gullfoss waterfall. Then, visit a local stable and meet a herd of Icelandic horses, before driving on to Hotel Katla near Vík.

As the sun goes down, look out for the Northern Lights; the hotel is situated in relative isolation, making it a great place to see the famous aurora. **B**

Day 3 » Glacier Lagoon Drive along Iceland's southern coast to the Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon, a glacial lake filled with piercing-blue icebergs, calved from a giant glacier. On your way back to Hotel Katla, you'll drive through the spectacular Vatnajökull National Park, home to one of Europe's largest glaciers. **B**

Day 4 » Reykjavik Your journey back to Reykjavik stops at the Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss waterfalls, as well as the Mýrdalsjökull Glacier, situated close the Eyjafjallajökull Ice Cap, site of the infamous 2010 eruption. Here, we've included entry to its excellent visitors centre, before a stop at the Blue Lagoon on the way back to your hotel. **B**

Day 5 » Depart for UK Transfer to Keflavík Airport for your flight home. **B**

NEW

30

WEST ICELAND: LODGE,
SPA & NORTHERN LIGHTS

5-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

2 days Reykjavik » 3 days Húsafell



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,060 pp incl. flights, car hire, 1 night Reykjavik Centrum BB, 3 nights Hotel Húsafell BB, Blue Lagoon Comfort entry & Into the Glacier excursion. Operates Sep to Mar.

Discover the geographic wonders of Iceland's western remotes with super-scenic 4x4 drives and nights spent in a National Geographic lodge, complete with glacier views and its own hot springs. Then, alongside volcanoes, lava fields and fishing villages, we've included everything from a stay in Reykjavik to a soak in the famous Blue Lagoon and a hike into a glacier. Just remember to watch out for the Northern Lights.

Day 1 » UK/Blue Lagoon & Reykjavik

Flying out to Keflavik, you'll pick up your 4WD hire car and enjoy included entrance to the Blue Lagoon. Then, after a soak in its ethereal waters, you'll continue to Reykjavik to spend the night.

Day 2 » Reykjavik to Húsafell

After some time to explore, perhaps enjoying an optional whale-watching cruise, you'll set off along the coast before turning inland to your lodge. Its rooms and innovative restaurant showcase floor-to-ceiling views of the surrounding glaciers, while its next-

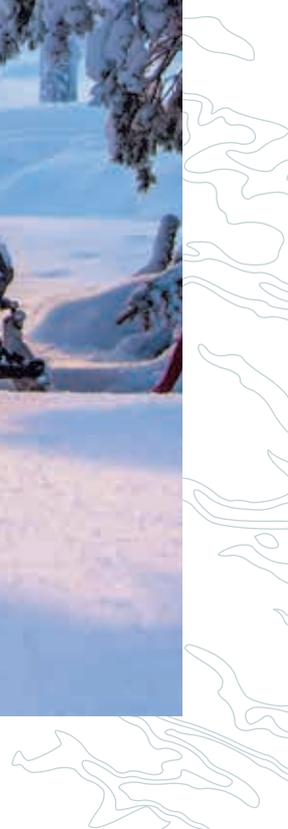
door waterfalls and private geothermal hot springs offer further relaxation. **B**

Day 3 » Into the Glacier Today's included excursion will see you onto the mighty Langjökull Glacier with a specially adapted all-terrain vehicle. Then, strapping on crampons, you'll descend into a dramatic ice cave. There's even the option of snowmobiling. **B**

Day 4 » Snæfellsnes Peninsula We highly recommend exploring the geographic wonders of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula today. Alongside the world's largest lava caves and the most powerful hot springs in Europe, there's everything from quiet fishing villages to mighty waterfalls and imposing volcanoes to discover. It's all knitted together by scenic drives, hikes and optional rides on an oh-so-lovable Icelandic horse. **B**

Day 5 » Depart for UK After a last breakfast, drive back to the airport in time for your flight home. **B**

66.6659° N, 24.9083° E



FINLAND

While it might be best known as Santa's year-round home (see page 87), there's far more to Finland in winter than gingerbread cookies and helpful elves. The country's sweeping northern reaches are unspoiled and spectacular, with frozen lakes and snow-laden forests transforming the land into an otherworldly fairytale. And, there's excitement at every turn, with the likes of snowmobiling, snowshoeing and reindeer-sled rides made all the more magical by the ephemeral dancing rays of the Northern Lights.

It's all set against a wonderfully diverse backdrop of accommodation, from traditional log cabins – both cosy and exclusive – to innovative igloos (see page 75) and glass-fronted suites idyllically perched in icy forest canopies. No matter which you choose, you'll be treated to the very best in seasonal Lappish cuisine, all locally sourced and utterly delicious, cooked to perfection in homely restaurants, private kitchens and out in the wilds over roaring fires.

And, while the aforementioned Mr Claus is busy readying for Christmas, there's all manner of adventures for adults to enjoy, with or without the kids. Beana Lapponia (page 72), for example, is strictly for

grown-ups – expect luxurious lodge-style accommodation complete with outdoor Jacuzzis, adrenaline-fuelled activities and lie-ins aplenty.

First and foremost, however, Finland is a place of exhilarating adventure, showcased in a dizzying array of excursions and experiences designed to make the most of the frosty terrain. One day you might be driving a team of huskies along pristine lakeside trails, while the next you'll be drilling holes in that same stretch of frozen water to pluck Arctic char from its icy depths. And, between traditional saunas and hot-tub soaks, there are plenty of opportunities to simply relax and take it all in.





31 LAPLAND IN STYLE



ARCTIC TREEHOUSE HOTEL
The glass-fronted modernism of Lapland’s latest wilderness retreat combines all the snugness you could want from a stay in the Arctic with the very best in Scandinavian design. Inside, it’s all blonde-wood walls, mock-fur-clad armchairs and log-burning stoves, while floor-to-ceiling windows face north from your forest canopy vantage point to make the most of Northern Lights displays. Choose between Arctic Treehouse Suites – perfect for couples – and ‘Arctic Glass Houses’, which come with private saunas and two double bedrooms – including fun, alcove bunks for the kids.

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Rovaniemi



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,230 pp incl. flights, transfers, 2 nights Arctic Light Hotel BB, 1 night Arctic TreeHouse Hotel HB, husky safari and snowmobile tour with dinner. Operates mid-Nov to end Apr.

While Rovaniemi’s pretty surrounds are perhaps best known as the year-round home of Santa Claus, the town’s stunning setting, just south of the Arctic Circle, ensures its wintry allure stretches far beyond the busy festive season. This four-day break showcases the very best in outdoor adventure with an included husky safari and snowmobiling, along with luxury stays at the Arctic Light and the Arctic TreeHouse hotels.

Day 1 » UK/Rovaniemi Fly to Rovaniemi and transfer to the Arctic Light Hotel. Your first day in Finnish Lapland is free to adjust to life at these rarified latitudes. The superb Arktikum Science Museum is a good place to start, with exhibits tracing the town’s history and the wider region’s indigenous culture. Then, head down to the Lumberjack’s Candle Bridge on the Ounasjoki River. Something of an architectural landmark, its design pays homage to Rovaniemi’s logging past. It’s also the starting point for some fine riverside walks.

Day 2 » Huskies and snowmobiles Heading out of town to a husky farm, you’ll be greeted by the sheer enthusiasm of your new furry companions. You’ll then speed off into the wilderness, with the panting of the dogs and the soft patter of paws on snow as your soundtrack. With two to a sled, you’ll stop halfway to change drivers and take some photos of the snowy landscapes before returning to Rovaniemi. Following an afternoon of relaxation, you’ll

join your guides once more to plunge into the forested surrounds, this time by snowmobile. Stopping for a fireside supper, you’ll listen as your guides share legends of the Northern Lights, all the while keeping an eye on the sky in case the aurora makes an appearance. **B D**

Day 3 » Arctic TreeHouse Hotel Today, you’ll swap town-centre convenience for a night in the wilderness and an unforgettable stay at the Arctic Treehouse Hotel, detailed above. This afternoon, choose between optional excursions that range from reindeer sled rides to relaxing lakeside spa treatments. Then, as the evening arrives, settle down to enjoy an included Lappish feast. **B D**

Day 4 » Depart for UK Transfer back to Rovaniemi Airport to board your flight home. **B**

NEW

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ROVANIEMI
CABIN BREAK**4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK**

4 days Rovaniemi



» **PRICES FROM:** £965 pp incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights accommodation HB, snowmobiling and ice-fishing & a husky sledding tour. Operates 16 Nov to 12 Apr.

With a private sauna and roaring log fire, this is a cabin getaway all grown up, complete with a full range of included excursions. Alongside exploring Finnish Lapland's snowy wilds by snowmobile and husky sled, you'll also experience ice fishing and perhaps even don a dry suit to float in a frozen lake under the Northern Lights. Lastly, with gourmet dining included, dinners are joined by magical displays of the aurora, conditions permitting.

Day 1 » UK/Rovaniemi Flying out to Finnish Lapland, you'll be met at the airport and, after an included lunch in town, brought to your gorgeous timber-panelled cabin, host to roaring fireplaces and its very own private sauna. For dinner, you can expect such local delicacies as Arctic char, smoked reindeer and roasted deer in butter-port sauce. Those travelling after the 5th January are treated to canopy-level views at the superb Sky Kitchen. **LD**

Day 2 » Snowmobiling and ice fishing Today's included excursion pairs two classic Arctic activities. Saddling up, you'll snowmobile out along frozen rivers and forest trails to a winter fishing spot, where you'll be taught how to drill a hole in the ice and cast a line. Your host will then prepare an outdoor soup lunch with, hopefully, your catch of the day. Then, in the evening, perhaps try something truly unique – an optional aurora floating excursion. It's detailed in full overleaf, along with nine of our other favourites. **ELD**

Day 3 » Husky sledding Today is given over to dogsledding. After a chance to meet your oh-so-eager team, you'll mush out along the trails, experiencing the Finnish countryside at its silent best. After dinner, you'll also want to relax with your cabin's sauna and wood burner, keeping your eyes peeled for the Northern Lights. **ED**

Day 4 » Depart for UK After a last gourmet breakfast, your included transfer will bring you back to the airport for your flight home. **B**

MUSH A TEAM OF HUSKIES TO EXPERIENCE THE COUNTRYSIDE AT ITS SILENT BEST

ROVANIEMI'S TOP 10 EXCURSIONS



1 MEET SANTA, VISIT HIS REINDEER & GO SNOWMOBILING

No festive break would be complete without Father Christmas. And, this is the ultimate experience, including a snowmobile drive and reindeer sleigh ride alongside a private audience with the man himself. You'll even enjoy a delicious lunch, send a letter from Santa's Official Post Office and receive a certificate from the 'Crossing of the Arctic Circle' ceremony.

» PRICES FROM: £185 pp

2 RIDE A REINDEER SLEIGH

Does Lapland get any more evocative than a ride in a reindeer-pulled sleigh? Striking out among the snow-dappled trails, it's the chance to sit back and enjoy the quiet of the forest. It all ends around the campfire, with the resident herder sharing stories, hot drinks and cinnamon buns.

» PRICES FROM: £130 pp

3 GO HUSKY SLEDDING THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

Friendly barks will welcome you to the local farm as you meet your team of ever-so-friendly huskies. Then, setting off into the Lapland wilderness, you'll enjoy the thrill of mushing along the snow-clad trails, swapping halfway with your partner to enjoy both the views as a passenger and the excitement of taking the reins. Don't worry, there's also plenty of time for cuddles with the pups.

» PRICES FROM: £155 pp

4 EXPLORE ON A SNOWMOBILE

The snowmobile is not only essential to life in the Arctic, but a whole lot of fun as well. After some expert tuition, you'll rev your engines and sweep out into the Lapland remotes, plunging through icy forests and along trails thick with snow. It's a wonderful opportunity to marry the winter silence of the woodland with the adrenaline excitement that comes with driving your own snowmobile.

» PRICES FROM: £90 pp



5 GO ICE FISHING ON A FROZEN LAKE

Spend the day like a local, snowmobiling out to a frozen lake for a spot of ice fishing. You'll drive along frozen rivers to a secret lake spot, where your guide will teach you how to drill a hole in the ice

and cast your line. And, as you wait for a bite, they'll also prepare a hot outdoor soup lunch on a roaring fire, hopefully accompanied by your catch of the day. Finally, another thrilling snowmobile trip sees you back to base.

» PRICES FROM: £150 pp



6 FLOAT ON WATER UNDER THE AURORA BOREALIS

Pull on a high-quality flotation suit to dip into the Arctic waters of a frozen lake as, with luck, the Northern Lights put on their spectacular show overhead. It's a truly unique experience as you float under the starry sky in sub-zero temperatures, all the while remaining toasty and warm in your suit – your own clothes dry underneath.

» PRICES FROM: £85 pp

7 PHOTOGRAPH THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

With live forecasts, plenty of background research and endless local knowledge, this excursion simply offers your best chance of spotting the aurora. So dedicated are your guides, that they're willing to go the extra 100 miles, if that's where the Lights are. And, once you've found them, and set up your camera and tripod, they'll be on hand to ensure that you get the best photos – the perfect souvenir of your holiday.

» PRICES FROM: £115 pp

8 VISIT KOROUOMA CANYON AND FROZEN WATERFALLS

This is *the* definitive winter wonderland. You'll be brought out of Rovaniemi to the Korojoki River, where 100-metre-high cliffs form a giant canyon plied by dramatically frozen waterfalls. It's simply breathtaking, and you'll take it all in from spectacularly scenic viewpoints reached via a short hike. Round things off with a light lunch prepared by the fire of a secret cabin before heading back to your Rovaniemi hotel.

» PRICES FROM: £150 pp

9 RIDE A SNOWMOBILE TO THE ARCTIC SNOWHOTEL

Combine two Lapland icons – an ice hotel and snowmobiling. After some expert tuition, it's time to saddling up and strike out into the Arctic wilderness, following the forest trails to the SnowHotel. Here, you'll be treated to a tour of this artist-carved masterpiece and an included lunch of glow-fried salmon, served by the fire in a wooden *kota* teepee. The return snowmobile leg is just as scenic.

» PRICES FROM: £180 pp

10 EXPLORE THE WILDERNESS ON A SNOWSHOE HIKE

Walk in the footsteps of explorers past by strapping on a pair of snowshoes to hike out into the Lapland wilderness. With transfers included either side, you'll be brought right into the Arctic remotes, enjoying a guided walk among the quiet beauty of the frozen forest. The hot chocolate, and marshmallows, are more than a welcome touch.

» PRICES FROM: £70 pp



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WINTER AT WILDERNESS HOTEL MUOTKA



5-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

5 days Wilderness Hotel Muotka



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,555 pp, incl. flights, transfers, 4 nights Wilderness Hotel Muotka FB, snowmobiling, reindeer farm visit, Northern Lights hunt, husky safari, snowshoeing & warm winter clothes. Operates 29 Nov to 14 Apr.

Wilderness Hotel Muotka lies way out in the depths of Finnish Lapland, a rustic hideaway in spectacular snowy woodland. Its cosy rooms, superb restaurant, two saunas and one huge open fireplace are perfect to while away warm evenings after snowy days spent outdoors. On this action-packed break you'll get to do just that, with included excursions ranging from Northern Lights tours and reindeer farm visits to husky safaris and snowshoeing making the most of Muotka's spectacular surrounds.

Day 1 » UK/Wilderness Hotel Muotka

Depart the UK for Helsinki, where you'll connect with your onward flight to Ivalo, one of Finland's northernmost towns. From here you are transferred straight to your lodge – a delightful collection of traditional log chalets and glass-domed Aurora Cabins host to crackling fires and Finnish saunas. Spend your first evening getting acquainted with the local food as you tuck into the first of your included meals – a delicious dinner based on fresh, local ingredients. **D**

Day 2 » Snowmobiles, reindeer farm & aurora camp

The first activity begins after breakfast and combines modern technology with an ancient tradition. Drive a snowmobile through the long frozen forest trails to a remote reindeer farm, where you'll enjoy a soup lunch before meeting the herders and learning a few of their husbandry skills, including how to throw a lasso and ride a sleigh. Upon return to the lodge, have dinner and venture to a remote camp to hunt for the Northern Lights. **B L D**

Day 3 » Husky sledding

Yesterday reindeer, today another symbolic animal of the north: the husky. Your guide will take you to a nearby kennel where you'll meet these intelligent dogs, learn how to handle them and then jump straight onto the trail. Set off into the wilderness, enjoying the thrill of the ride, the Arctic scenery and a lunch cooked over a fire, before returning to the lodge for the evening. **B L D**

Day 4 » Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing

There's a whole snowy expanse to discover around the lodge, so strap on a pair of snowshoes and spend the morning hiking, swapping them for cross-country skis in the afternoon. After a day in the snow, warm up in the sauna before dinner. **B L D**

Day 5 » Depart for UK

Breakfast, and take your included transfer to the airport for your return flight. **B**

34

NORTHERN LIGHTS
AT NELLIM

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

4 days Wilderness Hotel Nellim



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,365 pp incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights Wilderness Hotel Nellim FB, snowmobiling, husky sledding, aurora camp, aurora snowshoeing & warm winter clothes. Operates 6 Dec to 14 Apr.

Situated miles away from any light pollution, high up in the Arctic, Wilderness Hotel Nellim is one of the best spots from which to see the Northern Lights. In between a full programme of included excursions, from snowmobiling and snowshoeing to dogsledding and a trip out to a remote aurora camp, all the traditional delights of an old-fashioned log cabin holiday await.

Day 1 >> UK/Northern Lights hunt
Fly to Finnish Lapland and the town of

Ivalo from where you'll transfer to your cosy lodge at the Wilderness Hotel Nellim. Enjoy some free time to settle in before tucking into the first of your included dinners – a celebration of fresh, locally sourced produce. Then, it's time to meet your expert guide for an evening expedition that brings you out into the snowy wilderness to hunt for the aurora. **D**

Day 2 >> Dog sledding and aurora snowshoeing Today is the day to practise your dogsledding skills, as you'll spend three hours mushing across Lake Inari – all frozen over into icy splendour. After enjoying the thrills of this timeless mode of transport, head back to the hotel for lunch and a relaxing afternoon. Activities then resume with an evening snowshoeing excursion in search of the Northern Lights. **E L L D**

Day 3 >> Snowmobiling and aurora camp Swap the dogs for an engine – this morning's activities involve a guided snowmobile safari, taking you far out into



AURORA BUBBLES

Handily located within walking distance of the main lodge, Nellim's north-facing Aurora Bubbles offer private views of Finnish Lapland's star-filled Arctic skies. Cosy double beds and central heating provide homely comforts, but a stay in one of these glass-domed cabins is all about watching the Northern Lights. Practicalities are taken care of with an en-suite eco toilet, while sinks, showers and a traditional Finnish sauna are handily located in a separate building nearby. It's even possible to hire an aurora alarm for a nominal cost.

the wilderness to showcase the beauty of the winter landscape and its inhabitants. Speeding along snow-laden forest trails, it's a truly exhilarating experience. Then, return to the hotel where you'll catch a sleigh to another secluded camp for a fantastic final chance to view the aurora in all its magical glory. **E L L D**

Day 4 >> Depart for UK Transfer to the airport in Ivalo for your return flight. **B**

MUSH HUSKIES ACROSS LAKE
INARI – ALL FROZEN INTO ICY
SPLENDOUR

35

BEANA LAPONIA
LUXURY BREAK



5-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

5 days Beana Laponia



» PRICES FROM: £2,080 pp incl. flights, transfers, 4 nights at Beana Laponia (Beana Room) FB, snowshoeing, Northern Lights hunt, husky safari, snowmobiling, reindeer farm visit, use of cross-country skis & toboggans, winter clothing throughout your stay & daily sauna. Operates 1 Dec to 30 Apr.

It's time to call in the babysitters as you head to Finnish Lapland without the kids on this luxury, adults-only break. Flying out to Rovaniemi, you'll look forward to five memorable days of snow-bound adventure, indulgent relaxation and, with luck, Northern Lights viewing as included excursions, steaming saunas and gourmet dining introduce you to the very best of this stunningly beautiful corner of Scandinavia.

Day 1 » UK/Rovaniemi Fly to Rovaniemi, where an included transfer will see you to your wilderness boutique hotel – Beana Laponia. Strictly adults only, it's a romantic base for exploring your snow-laden surrounds. Settle into your stylish room before a private evening sauna or a dip in the outdoor Jacuzzi. Then, head to the restaurant, where the finest local ingredients are showcased in a world-spanning range of gastronomic styles. **D**

Day 2 » Snowshoes and Northern Lights Kickstart your day with a delicious breakfast before the first of your included excursions – snowshoeing. Stepping out into the wilderness, your guide will bring you along pristine forest trails as you keep your eyes peeled for local wildlife. Return to the lodge for lunch and a free afternoon, perhaps making use of the complimentary toboggans and cross-country skis. Then, after dinner, you'll walk through the woods to a *lavvu* tent, where campfire stories will keep you entertained as you wait for the Northern Lights. **BLD**

Day 3 » Dogsledding With 26 years' experience, Beana Laponia's husky safaris are among the best in the region. Heading out to the hotel's own farm, you'll be greeted by your enthusiastic new companions before setting off on a thrilling, five-hour adventure along the lodge's own private trails. You'll also stop along the way to enjoy a delicious wilderness lunch. **BLD**

Day 4 » Snowmobiles and reindeer Your final full day begins with a three-hour snowmobile excursion. Then, swap horsepower for hoof power on an afternoon visit to a reindeer farm, complete with sled ride, before a final dinner back at the lodge. **BLD**

Day 5 » Depart for UK After breakfast, take your included transfer to Rovaniemi for your flight home. **B**

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ARCTIC ESCAPE TO
WILDERNESS HOTEL NANGU

WILDERNESS HOTEL NANGU

This boutique hotel is the latest offering from wilderness lodge purveyors Nellim – a special favourite among our clients for their considered blend of comfort and authenticity. Although beautifully poised on the southern shores of Lake Inari in the depths of Finnish Lapland, Wilderness Hotel Nangu is just a short flight away. Expect cosy respite combined with a full spread of adventure activities under the Northern Lights. And, while it's open to all for summer fun, the hotel is adults-only over the winter months, making it an ideal retreat for couples or groups of friends.

5-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

5 days Wilderness Hotel Nangu



>> **PRICES FROM:** £1,795 pp incl. flights, transfers, 4 nights Wilderness Hotel Nangu (Wilderness Room) FB, husky sledding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, aurora camp visit & winter clothing throughout your stay. Operates 6 Dec to 14 Apr.

Experience the rustic chic of Wilderness Hotel Nangu. Flying to Finnish Lapland, you'll arrive on the frozen shores of Lake Inari, just a short hop from the Russian border, for five fully inclusive days of wonderful food, warm Finnish hospitality and thrilling Arctic adventure. The included fun ranges from snowmobiling and dogsledding to snowshoeing to evenings spent in aurora camps.

Day 1 >> UK/Wilderness Hotel Nangu

Fly to Ivalo, where you'll be met for the 30-minute transfer to Wilderness Hotel Nangu on the southern shores of Lake Inari. Then, once you've settled into your stylish, log-cabin surrounds, you'll head to the restaurant for the first of your included dinners. The menu changes daily, so you might be treated to anything from a hearty stew to locally caught salmon. **D**

Day 2 >> Snowmobiling and aurora camp

Tuck into a delicious buffet breakfast, fuel for today's snowmobile adventure. After some expert instruction, you'll drive out into the wilderness, pausing for lunch and hot drinks by an open fire. Then, after dinner back at base, it's time to head out again, this time to a remote aurora camp where more fireside refreshments will keep you warm as you gaze upwards to the star-filled sky and, with luck, the Northern Lights. **BLD**

Day 3 >> **Husky sledding** A highlight of any trip to Finnish Lapland, today sees you

transfer across to Nellim for a husky safari. You'll be shown how to mush your eager team, before setting off along frozen trails, the yaps of the huskies replaced by the silence of the snow-laden forest. Return for a delicious lunch at Wilderness Hotel Nellim before a transfer back to Nangu where, apart from another delicious dinner, you'll have the rest of the day free. **BLD**

Day 4 >> **Snowshoeing** Today's activity is at an altogether slower pace, allowing a true appreciation of the beauty of Nangu's wilderness surroundings. Strapping on a pair of snowshoes, you'll head out on foot, your guide leading you through the wintry wonderland while regaling you with tales of the Arctic and sharing fascinating insights about the local nature. You'll even stop along the way for lunch, cooked on a campfire. Head back to base in the afternoon for one last dinner and a final chance to spot the aurora. **BLD**

Day 5 >> **Depart for UK** Transfer to the airport for your flight home. **B**





GLASS IGLOOS

Having long been at the forefront of innovative design, it's perhaps no surprise that Finland is leading the way in terms of inventive accommodation too. And, while its Nordic neighbours might have been first past the post with snow hotels and art-installation treehouses, it's perhaps the recent explosion of Finnish glass igloos that is most intriguing.

Combining an ancient architectural form with the best in modernist materials, they've become something of an icon for Nordic design. But, while they're all glass-and-steel thrusts, an igloo stay is just as much about showcasing the natural world around you as it is indulging artsy sensibilities. Cloaked by the wintry beauty of Lapland's wild remotes, it's the skies that demand the most attention. From your very bed you'll be treated to spectacular stargazing opportunities and, fingers crossed, the Northern Lights. What's more, with heated windows, you'll enjoy perfectly unclouded views. Many even feature a motorised bed so you can get the best angle.

One of our favourite examples, Levin Iglut, will see you right into the depths of Finnish Lapland. Perfectly poised among the fells and forests, its delightfully remote setting – far from any light pollution – is ideal for catching glimpses of the aurora borealis. You'll even take your dinner in a giant glass tipi after spending your days exploring on snowmobiles and dogsleds. Otherwise, if you're looking for some skiing, or to explore the wilds on horseback, head to Kakslauttanen, whose latest invention combines glass-igloo modernity with the traditions of a log-cabin home.

Elsewhere, new kids on the block such as Arctic Fox Igloos have added in the likes of private saunas for an even more comfortable stay. Then, there's the opportunity to combine your night under glass with another of Finnish Lapland's accommodation icons at the Arctic SnowHotel & Glass Igloos.

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GLASS IGLOO &
ICE HOTEL BREAK



ARCTIC SNOWHOTEL

It's rare to find a resort that ticks off two essential Nordic experiences in one visit, but this hotel, hidden away in Finnish Lapland's frozen forests, does just that. And, while a stay in a heated glass igloo screams innovation, over at the neighbouring SnowHotel, guests can enjoy that most memorable of Scandinavian experiences – a night spent on a bed of ice. While temperatures hover between zero and minus five degrees, a combination of Arctic sleeping bags and reindeer furs are on hand to keep you warm. All the while, clever lighting brings to life the intricate carvings that are unique to each room. And, as with their glass-igloo cousins, the aurora alarm will wake you when the time is right for that most magical of phenomena.

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Rovaniemi



» **PRICES FROM:** £860 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night SnowHotel BB, 2 nights Glass Igloo BB, Arctic clothing, arrival lunch, welcome drink & guided tour of SnowHotel. Operates 20 Dec to 31 Mar.

Scandinavia is well-known for its design-driven accommodation, and this itinerary combines two of the region's finest. What's more, they're both on the same secluded site, tucked away in Finland's Arctic north. And, between nights in a magical snow hotel and under the Northern Lights in your very own glass igloo, there's plenty of time to explore Lapland's wintry delights on everything from dogsledding to ice fishing.

Day 1 » UK/SnowHotel Flying out to Finnish Lapland, an included transfer will see you the short distance north to your unique accommodation. Here, you'll be greeted by a traditional Lappish lunch in the timber *kota* tepee hut, along with a guided tour of the SnowHotel itself. You'll marvel at its perfectly carved corridors and ethereally lit sculptures before being treated to a frozen drink at the Ice Bar. Then, it's time to settle on to your transparent bed of ice under the delicately hewn ceilings, raised into intricate frescoes. Although temperatures range between zero and minus five degrees, you'll be kept warm with an Arctic sleeping bag, receiving a certificate for your troubles. **L**

Days 2–3 » Glass Igloo Following a hearty breakfast, and perhaps a visit to the sauna, you'll swap over to your glass-igloo home for a two-night stay. And what nights

they'll be, with the chance to watch the Northern Lights play out right above your head, framed by your igloo's thermally heated domed glass. There's even an aurora alarm service that can be turned on for those not wanting to miss out on any midnight colours. The rest of the days are left free for optional excursions, with such winter classics as husky sledding, ice fishing and snowmobiling making the most of your spectacular Arctic location. There's also the chance to ride a new electric snowmobile – emission-free 'eSleds', which are the first of their kind in the Nordics. Lastly, there's an excellent choice of dining, with everything from glow-fried salmon to Ice-Restaurant fineries and traditional log-cabin favourites **B**

Day 4 » Depart for UK After a last breakfast, take your included transfer to the airport for your flight home. **B**

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GLASS IGLOOS & NORTHERN LIGHTS



LEVIN IGLUT

A night in a glass igloo is fast becoming *the* quintessential Nordic experience. Leading the way is Levin Iglut, a resort at the forefront of Finland's recent glass igloo explosion. Here, a collection of stylish heated domes look out from a snowy hilltop perch to the forested wilds beyond and, on clear nights, uninterrupted views of the aurora. And, be sure to look out for the new Igluo Suites – a spacious new style of accommodation, which comes complete with a cosy lounge, en-suite bathroom, a mini bar, portage service and, best of all, a private terrace with an outdoor Jacuzzi.

5-DAY TAILOR-MADE TOUR

1 day Levin Iglut >> 4 days Levi



>> **PRICES FROM:** £990 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Superior Glass Igloo HB and 3 nights Levi Panorama BB. Operates mid-Nov to end Apr.

This short break includes a stay at one of Finland's original glass igloo hotels. And, after your night at Levin Iglut, you'll head across to nearby Levi for by three days of fun-filled adventure. With a full spread of excursion options to choose from, you'll have the chance to try everything from dogsledding and snowmobiling to reindeer rides through the snowy forests.

Day 1 >> UK/Levin Iglut Fly to Helsinki and connect with a domestic flight to Kittilä in Finnish Lapland. From here transfer to Levin Iglut, set deep amongst the fells and forests. Don't be deceived by the igloo moniker: this is no ice hotel, and nor is it a faithful representation of the Inuit snow house. Instead, imagine a cabin in which walls and roof have been replaced by an insulated and heated glass dome. Settle into your surroundings and enjoy a gourmet three-course dinner at the restaurant before heading to bed – the show starts as soon as your head hits the pillow. 

Day 2 >> Levi Wake up at leisure and enjoy breakfast in your igloo, gazing out over the winter landscape that encircles you. An included transfer then takes you to Levi Panorama, a contemporary hotel perched on a fell just minutes from some of Finland's finest ski slopes. The hotel itself comes complete with a cosy bar, a traditional Finnish sauna, a café with roaring fires and sweeping fell views, and a restaurant that serves everything from

burgers and buffalo wings to succulent sauteéd reindeer. 

Days 3–4 >> Levi With two free days for optional tours, perhaps try your hand at cross-country skiing to experience one of the most rewarding, and tiring, modes of transport in the Arctic. There are all the usual Arctic favourites, too, from thrilling snowmobiling safaris and dog-sledding tours to lazy reindeer rides through snow-dusted forests. 

Day 5 >> Depart for UK Take your included transfer to Kittilä airport after breakfast for your return flights via Helsinki. 

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KAKSLAUTTANEN
WINTER BREAK



KELO-GLASS IGLOOS

While our featured itinerary includes stays in a traditional log cabin and a glass igloo, Kakslauttanen’s stunning Kelo-Glass Igloos very handily combine both in one very special type of accommodation. Sleeping up to six guests, and featuring a fireplace, a kitchenette and a private sauna, they combine the innate cosiness of a traditional Lappish hut with the sort of spellbinding views that only a glass roof can provide. Put simply, they’re the ultimate way to experience winter in the Arctic. Speak to our specialists to upgrade your stay.

5-DAY TAILOR-MADE TOUR

5 days Hotel Kakslauttanen



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,895 pp incl. flights, return shuttle transfers, 3 nights Kakslauttanen Kelo Cottage HB. 1 night Glass Igloo HB, reindeer safari, Northern Lights tour by snowmobile & husky safari. Operates Nov to Apr.

Taking in the full Kakslauttanen experience, this break features stays in a log cabin and glass igloo alongside a full range of excursions. Explore the snowy forests on a husky sled, hunt for the Northern Lights by snowmobile and uncover the region’s traditional Sami culture with reindeer rides and village visits. It’s all set to a backdrop of warming saunas and delicious half-board dining.

Day 1 » UK/Hotel Kakslauttanen Fly to Ivalo and take the airport shuttle to Kakslauttanen. Your accommodation for the first three nights is a Kelo Cottage in Kakslauttanen’s East Village. These traditional log cabins fit perfectly with their Arctic surroundings, all delightful rusticity complete with fireplaces and saunas. Take time to settle in before making your way to the restaurant for the first of your included meals – three courses based on the traditional flavours and ingredients of Finnish Lapland. **D**

Days 2-3 » Reindeer & snowmobiles The first of your included excursions is a reindeer sled safari, perhaps the most authentic way to experience Lappish nature and culture. Decked out in thermals, you’ll have time for a quick photoshoot with your newfound furry friends before heading off into the forest. The pace is slow and the scenery is stunning as you make your way to a herder’s shelter for hot coffee and a roaring fire. You’ll also have time to explore the Sami village and even

throw a traditional lasso. Then, head back to base for a leisurely afternoon as you look forward to the next day’s activity – a thrilling safari by snowmobile. Heading out after dark, after a full day of optional Nordic skiing and horseback rides, you’ll go in search of the aurora borealis by snowmobile, riding two to a vehicle and swapping drivers half way. **B D**

Days 4-5 » Huskies & glass igloos/UK The adventures continue today as you kick things off with an included husky safari – perhaps the quintessential Arctic experience. Riding two to a sled, and taking it in turns to drive, you’ll mush your team along frozen trails beneath the forest canopy. Then, this afternoon, you’ll check into one of Kakslauttanen’s famous glass igloos, each one a wonderfully cosy base for private views of the inky skies above, hopefully painted in the vivid colours of the Northern Lights. The next morning, make the most of the sauna before taking your included transfer back to Ivalo for your flight home. **B D**

KAKSLAUTTANEN EXCURSIONS

While Kakslauttannen is rightly famed for its glass-igloo accommodation, there's far more to a stay here than merely stargazing and aurora-spotting. Instead, between nights hunting the Northern Lights, there's a full spread of Arctic excursions to choose from. Below are four of our favourite options – three of which are included on our featured itinerary opposite.



HUSKY SAFARI

Carve along the frozen trails that fan out into the forests around Kakslauttannen on a sled pulled by a team of eager huskies. Riding two to a sled, you'll take it in turns to drive, before stopping in the wilds for hot drinks and stories from your expert host.

» PRICES FROM: £175 incl. equipment & hot drinks. Duration 2 hrs. Operates Nov to Apr.



AURORA HUNTING BY SNOWMOBILE

Enjoy a thrilling nighttime ride through the pines as you speed off on snowmobiles in search of the Northern Lights. Taking it in turns to drive, you'll dash between the best viewing spots, pausing for hot drinks and photos along the way.

» PRICES FROM: £185 incl. instruction, shared snowmobile, hot drinks & warm clothes. Duration 3 hrs. Operates Nov to Apr.



REINDEER SAFARI & SAMI CULTURE

Reindeer have long been used as transport by the indigenous Samí people. On this tour, you'll experience not only a sleigh ride through the wilds – itself an unforgettable experience – but also visit a local Samí village where you'll try your hand at lassoing.

» PRICES FROM: £155 incl. winter equipment, coffee and a sweet treat. Duration 2 hrs. Operates Nov to Apr.



HORSEBACK RIDE

Finnhorses are Finland's national breed. Known for their calmness, they're a joy to ride, something you'll discover on this peaceful horseback tour through the wilderness, which departs from Kakslauttannen's very own stables. Suitable for beginners.

» PRICES FROM: £160 pp incl. winter equipment, helmet, hot drink & treat. Duration 2 hrs. Operates Nov to Apr.

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GLASS IGLOO BREAK
IN LUOSTO



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Santa's Hotel Aurora



» PRICES FROM: £1,365 pp incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights Santa's Hotel Aurora (2 nights hotel room, 1 night glass igloo), husky safari, wilderness dinner & snowshoe hike. Operates 1 Dec to 12 Apr.

This thrilling trip offers spectacular Arctic landscapes right on your hotel's doorstep, taken in with included husky safaris, snowshoe hikes and hunts for the Northern Lights. The star of the show is your luxury aurora igloo on the edge of the Pyhä-Luosto National Park, where star-spangled skies and pine-tree forests frame some of the oldest fells on Earth.

Day 1 » UK/Rovaniemi After your flight from the UK to Rovaniemi, take an included transfer to Santa's Hotel Aurora, where your pine-clad room offers panoramic views of snow-dusted firs. Then, head to the delightfully cosy onsite restaurant, all wood-panelled walls and oversized windows looking out across the forest. Here, included half-board menus showcase delicious ingredients plucked directly from Finland's northern wilds, all complemented by a comprehensive wine list. **D**

Days 2-3 » Pyhä-Luosto National Park Spend two memorable days exploring your national-park surrounds, beginning with a husky farm visit – a friendly introduction to your four-legged mushing team. Then, an ultra-scenic safari awaits as your eager crew wind along frozen trails, past snow-sculpted trees and vast

frozen lakes, the silence only broken by enthusiastic yelps and the steady pitter-patter of paws on snow. Warm up with a hot berry juice by the fire before an evening walk leads you to your dinner destination, a snug forest *kota* where you'll tuck into local delicacies and watch the sky for the aurora. The next day, we've included a guided snowshoe hike, spotting everything from ambling elks to swooping Siberian jays as you trek among the spruce trees and past the gorges which carve through the ancient icy fells. Finally, head back to the hotel to sleep in a stylishly appointed glass igloo. As you settle in for the evening, look forward to private views of the northern sky and, luck depending, the Northern Lights. **B D**

Day 4 » Depart for UK

After breakfast, transfer to Rovaniemi for your flight back to the UK. **E**

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LEVI & THE NORTHERN LIGHTS RANCH



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

2 days Levi » 2 days Northern Lights Ranch



» **PRICES FROM:** £985 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Break Sokos Hotel Levi BB & 2 nights Northern Lights Ranch in a standard Skyview Cabin HB. Operates Nov to Apr.

On this short break you'll visit two of Finnish Lapland's aurora hotspots. Kick things off with a stay at Levi's Break Sokos Hotel – the ideal base for winter activities including husky sledding and reindeer safaris – before heading on to enjoy two memorable nights at the ultra-stylish Northern Lights Ranch.

Day 1 » UK/Kittilä Board a flight out to Kittilä and take your included transfer to the Break Sokos Hotel. Here, alongside a superb Lappish restaurant and coffee house, you'll find a traditional Finnish sauna and Jacuzzi, that together provide a wonderfully relaxing antidote to action-packed days spent exploring the wild surroundings.

Day 2 » Levi & Northern Lights Ranch Feeling well rested, you'll head down for a hearty breakfast before embarking on a day of optional activities. There are all the winter classics, including reindeer and husky safaris, snowmobiling and snowshoeing, as well as some excellent alpine and cross-country skiing on the miles of perfectly groomed pistes and acres of pristine backcountry trails. Then, as evening approaches, you'll transfer out to Köngäs for two nights at the Northern



NORTHERN LIGHTS RANCH

As its name suggests, the Northern Lights Ranch is all about the aurora borealis. Tucked away in the heart of Finnish Lapland, well within the Arctic Circle and far from any light pollution, there are few better places for spotting the world's greatest visual phenomenon. It's all taken in from the ranch's sky-view cabins, whose glass roofs and motorised tilting beds ensure uninterrupted views of the stars-spangled heavens. There's also a full spread of delightful dining experiences and all of those must-do winter activities that make holidaying in this part of the world so exciting. And, after days spent tearing through the wilderness on snowmobiles and husky sleds, there's time to kick back with private saunas and outdoor hot-tub soaks.

Lights Ranch. Far from any light pollution, it's the ideal place for spotting the aurora, with your glass-roofed Sky View Cabin complete with tilting bed and, in one case, a private hot tub. 

Day 3 » Northern Lights Ranch With a full day free, you'll have time to head out from the ranch to explore its glorious surroundings. Gripped by winter's chill, the region's forests are dusted with snow, making for wonderfully scenic views as you take to the frozen trails on optional reindeer sled rides and husky safaris deep into the wilderness. Then, as night descends again, you'll return to the ranch to enjoy a delicious dinner of Nordic delicacies as you wait for the Lights to appear. 

Day 4 » Depart for UK Transfer back to Kittilä in time for your flight home. 

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NORTHERN LIGHTS AT APUKKA RESORT



APUKKA AURORA BOREALIS RESORT

This wilderness retreat, just a short hop from Rovaniemi, Santa’s Village and the Arctic Circle, is the latest in a recent line of innovative hotels to spring up in this wild and beautiful corner of Finnish Lapland. But what makes this latest offering unique? Along with a full spread of accommodation options – ice cabins, aurora domes and the all-new and ultra-stylish Komsio rooms, pictured above, there’s an equally impressive programme of excursions, ranging from Arctic Circle snowshoe hikes to a sauna on skis.

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Apukka Aurora Borealis Resort



» PRICES FROM: £950 pp incl. flights, shared transfers, 3 nights Aurora Cabin HB & Northern Lights snowmobile excursion. Operates Nov to Apr.

Experience the very best of winter in Finnish Lapland with a stay at Apukka Resort, deep in the region’s snowy depths. Your stay includes three nights in one of the resort’s glass-roofed Aurora Domes, ideal for private views of the Northern Lights. And, between a full spread of optional activities, we’ve thrown in a nighttime snowmobile tour for a further chance to catch a glimpse of those celestial illuminations.

Day 1 » UK/Rovaniemi Departing the UK, you’ll board a flight to Rovaniemi in the heart of Finnish Lapland. On arrival, an included transfer will whisk you to your accommodation, the wonderful Apukka Aurora Borealis Resort, tucked away in the wilderness on the edge of the Arctic Circle. This new addition to Finland’s burgeoning array of innovative hotel options comes complete with everything from ice cabins to aurora domes, where you’ll spend your three-night stay. These glass-domed rooms, fully heated and with en-suite bathrooms, make the most of the location, fully showcasing the Northern Lights’ dancing displays. In the evening, head to the restaurant for the first of your included half-board dinners – a delicious medley of Nordic delights. **(D)**

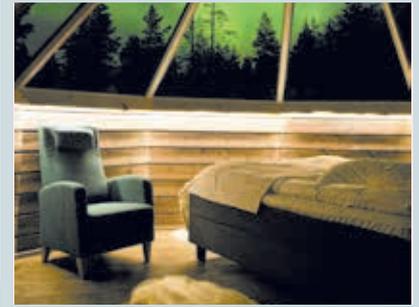
Day 2 » Optional activities & Northern Lights snowmobiling Enjoy a free day to experience some of Apukka’s optional activities, with the likes of husky safaris and ice fishing topping the bill. Then, in the evening, we’ve arranged a

Northern Lights snowmobile safari. It’s an exhilarating chance to speed out into the wilderness, driving to a location far from artificial light where your guide will set a bonfire and prepare hot drinks and snacks as you learn something of the science behind the aurora. Then, it’s time to resume the chase as you head out along frozen forest trails in the hope of seeing the Lights for yourself. **(B,D)**

Day 3 » Optional activities We’ve left today completely free for optional excursions, so perhaps take the chance to try out snowshoeing, or visit the nearby reindeer farm for a sled ride and the chance to meet the local herd. Alternatively, why not try your hand at ice carving, or embrace the resort’s eclectic spirit by taking a sauna on skis? What’s more, Santa’s Village is only 10 minutes away for the ultimate festive treat. **(B,D)**

Day 4 » Depart for UK After a final breakfast, you’ll return to the resort for your airport transfer and flight home. **(B)**

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NORTHERN LIGHTS AT
WILDERNESS HOTEL INARI

AURORA CABINS

Although maintaining a considered sense of intimacy, one of Inari's biggest draws is its range of accommodation, allowing its guests to experience many of Scandinavia's hotel highlights. Indeed, there's everything from cosy log cabins to modern hotel rooms to choose from. Among them all, the Aurora Cabins are our favourite, where sweeping glass domes offer a front-row seat for the Northern Lights. The glass is even heated to keep your views pristine throughout the night, while timber cladding adds a more traditional dimension.

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Wilderness Hotel Inari



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,495 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Aurora Cabin FB, 2 nights Wilderness Room FB, , snowmobiling, husky safari, reindeer farm visit, entrance to Samí Museum Siida, aurora camp visit, snowshoeing & winter clothing. Operates 29 Nov to 24 Apr.

Head deep into the wilds of Finnish Lapland for a stay at the ever-so-cosy Wilderness Hotel Inari. In the day, husky-sled rides, snowmobile adventures, reindeer-farm visits and ice-fishing trips will introduce you to life in the Lappish wilds. And, between included snowshoeing trips and wilderness camp visits, you'll pair the comforts of a Wilderness Room with a night in an Aurora cabin for the very best chance of catching the Northern Lights.

Day 1 » UK/Lake Inari Fly to Ivalo and take your included transfer to the Wilderness Hotel Inari, your cosy base in the snowbound heart of Finnish Lapland. On arrival, check into your glass-domed Aurora Cabin before settling down to a hearty welcome dinner of fresh, local produce. Later on, collect your cold weather gear, perhaps putting it to the test with a stroll outside to see if the Northern Lights have made an appearance. **D**

Days 2–3 » Snowmobiling, husky safari, reindeer farm and aurora snowshoeing After swapping your Aurora Cabin for a cosy Wilderness Room, you'll have two full days to explore the great outdoors. And, with a full spread of excursions included in the price, there's plenty to keep you occupied. Try your hand at snowmobiling, racing through frozen forests in the company of an expert guide, and head out on a sled pulled by huskies – a must-do activity in this part of Scandinavia. You'll even be taught how to handle your own sled before setting off on a truly

unforgettable adventure. There's also the chance to visit a reindeer farm, calling in to experience the life of a herder, and to visit the fascinating Siida Samí Museum in Inari to learn about their unique culture and traditions. In the evenings, strap on snowshoes to go in search of the Northern Lights, or visit a remote camp to watch the aurora's dancing display accompanied by hot drinks and an open fire. It's all included in your trip. **B L D**

Day 4 » Depart for UK After breakfast, transfer to the airport in time for your flight home. **B**

IN THE EVENINGS, STRAP ON
SNOWSHOES TO GO IN
SEARCH OF THE NORTHERN
LIGHTS

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AURORA DOMES AT HARRINIVA



TORASSIEPPI AURORA DOMES

Instead of a glass roof, these Aurora Domes break the mould by putting the view front and centre. No bad idea, when each one looks out to private views of beautiful Lake Torassieppi – frozen over in winter, glittering in spring and summer, and moodily atmospheric in autumn, when the Northern Lights make their first appearance in the inky skies above. Inside, log burners and large double beds provide cosy comforts, while a pair of armchairs are ideal for relaxing with a glass of wine or two as the drama unfolds outside.

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

2 days Harriniva » 2 days Torassieppi



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,385 pp incl. flights, transfers, 2 nights Hotel Harriniva FB, 1 night Torassieppi Aurora Dome FB, reindeer encounter, Northern Lights safari by snowmobile & husky safari. Operates 03 Jan to 21 Apr.

Arctic adventures abound on this action-packed short break, which includes everything from snowmobiling trips and husky safaris to tranquil reindeer rides through the wintry Lappish wilderness. You'll also have ample time for a few sessions in your hotel's own Finnish sauna. It all culminates with a stay in a heated Aurora Dome, accompanied by – luck depending – a dazzling display of that most celestial of light shows.

Day 1 » UK/Kittilä After your flight to Kittilä from the UK, transfer to the cosy wilderness lodge of Hotel Harriniva. Perched on the banks of the peaceful Muonio River, this hotel charms with traditional rooms, wilderness suites and delightful cabins overlooking the water. Later on, you'll head to the pine-clad walls of the restaurant, a cosy setting for the first of your included full-board meals. **D**

Day 2 » Reindeer ride and Northern Lights snowmobiling Finland's friendliest antlered residents await you today for a serene sled ride through blanketed fir forests, before you enjoy a fireside wilderness lunch in a traditional *kota* hut. Later, tuck into pancakes around an open fire as your guide shares the myths and legends of the aurora. It all comes into play, after dinner of course, with a snowmobile safari where you'll hunt the Northern Lights. **BLD**

Day 3 » Husky sledding and aurora dome After breakfast, you'll be introduced to another of Lapland's emblematic animals

at the on-site husky farm – take the reins as you mush your own team, or sit back and marvel at the frozen landscape hurtling past. Then, after lunch back at the hotel restaurant, indulge with optional riverside saunas and hot-tub soaks before dinner and your transfer to your Aurora Dome, idyllically set on the tranquil shores of a frozen lake. Expect fireside cosiness and uninterrupted views of the Arctic sky. **BLD**

Day 4 » Depart for UK Your adventure comes to an end with a relaxing sauna, followed by breakfast and an included transfer to the airport for your flight home. **B**

EXPECT FIRESIDE COSINESS & UNINTERRUPTED VIEWS OF THE ARCTIC SKY

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ARCTIC FOX IGLOOS
& NORTHERN LIGHTS

NEW



5-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

3 days Gulo Gulo » 2 days Arctic Fox Igloos



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,215 pp incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights Gulo Gulo Holiday Village HB, 1 night Arctic Fox Igloos HB, husky sledding excursion, Northern Lights snowmobiling excursion & snowshoe excursion. Operates mid-Nov to Apr.

Explore Finnish Lapland in style, spending nights under the Northern Lights in a glass igloo and by the fire in a log-cabin-style apartment. As well as included transfers and half-board dining, you'll be treated to a full spread of winter activities, heading out into the frozen forests on snowshoes, a husky sledding trip and an aurora hunt by snowmobile.

Day 1 » UK/Rovaniemi Flying out to Finnish Lapland, you'll be met at the airport for an included transfer to your accommodation. Staying in a gorgeous, timber-clad apartment, you'll be able to cosy up by the fire in your plush living room before enjoying that most Finnish of traditions – a private sauna. Later on, you'll also be treated to the first of your included dinners. Expect locally sourced specialities served in a snug, candle-lit restaurant. **B D**

Day 2 » Snowshoeing and Northern Lights chase by snowmobile After a hearty breakfast, you'll begin your programme of included excursions. Wrapping up in the provided winter clothing and strapping on a pair of snowshoes, your expert guide will teach you the technique as you explore the snow-laden pine forest. Then, this evening after dinner, you'll be treated to a true trip highlight – a snowmobile Northern Lights chase. **B D**

Day 3 » Husky sledding your included excursions continue with a dogsledding

adventure. Again, you'll receive expert instruction before taking the reins and heading out into Lapland's winter wonderland. Swapping halfway, you'll also have the opportunity to relax and enjoy the views. Then, with some free time, we recommend heading to the next-door Ranua Wildlife Park. Here, you can expect to spot everything from lynx and wolverine to Arctic fox and polar bears. Perhaps round off the day by renting a hot tub at your hotel. **B D**

Days 4-5 » Arctic Fox Igloos/UK You'll have a morning at leisure, perhaps to curl up by your log fire or to explore on optional activities, ranging from reindeer sled rides to ice fishing. It's then time to end your trip in style with a night in a glass igloo. Perched on a remote lake, they offer a truly sublime setting to recline on your bed and watch as the Northern Lights erupt overhead. A private sauna and a hearty restaurant dinner round off a perfect evening. Take your included transfer to the airport for your flight home on day five. **B D**





SANTA IN LAPLAND

Santa and Lapland have been synonymous for centuries. But, with a full spread of thrilling winter activities available, and some truly stunning accommodation on offer, Santa's permanent residence offers far more than just a meeting with the great man himself.

Indeed, there's also a showcase of accompanying delights to thrill children and adults alike. At Rovaniemi's SantaPark, hidden deep in the frozen forests, legions of helpful elves are on hand to introduce you and the kids to the delights of a traditional Lapland Christmas. There's a gingerbread bakery, an elf school and workshop and even Santa's official post office. And, grown-ups will find plenty of opportunities to plunge into the snowy wilderness on snowmobiles and husky sleds.

Alternatively, find Santa in his Harriniva hideaway, perched among snow-dusted firs and reached via twilight sled rides beneath the forest canopy. You can even meet real-life Rudolfs and Dashers before taking the reins and sledding through the ice-slicked wilderness. Or, you might prefer to take in the fairy-tale Arctic surrounds on snowshoeing trips and snowmobile safaris through Lapland's snowy wilds.

Whatever you choose, you'll be treated to some truly superb accommodation. There's everything from designer glass-fronted treehouses, primed for views of the Northern Lights, to traditional log-cabin hotels, with their roaring fires and authentic Lapland cuisine.

Furthermore, you'll have a choice between our tailor-made breaks, all designed to your specific requirements, and our very own escorted tours. Led by an expert from Best Served Scandinavia, these exclusive departures are packed full of our favourite festive activities, ensuring a truly magical stay.

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ROVANIEMI & SANTA'S VILLAGE



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Rovaniemi



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,595 pp (adult) £895 (child) incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights Ounasvaaran Lakituvat HB, visit to Santa's Village with lunch & meeting with Santa, snowmobile and reindeer farm visit & husky safari. Operates 13 Dec to 30 Dec.

Experience sheer magic of Christmas on this fabulously festive break. Staying in a cosy log cabin, you'll meet Santa and his elves, enjoy reindeer sleigh rides and plunge into the wilderness on snowmobiles and dogsleds. You're also ideally positioned for spectacular Northern Lights displays.

Day 1 » UK/Rovaniemi Fly to Rovaniemi where you'll have lunch before your included transfer to your delightful log cabin – Ounasvaaran Lakituvat. With timber beams and roaring fires, it's an idyllic contrast to the icy wilderness outside; cabins even feature private saunas and complimentary toboggans. You'll then enjoy your first taste of hearty Lappish cuisine at the wonderfully named Royal Reindeer. Here, regional favourites are served up in a rustic log-cabin setting, perched on a hilltop on Rovaniemi's pretty outskirts. **LD**

Day 2 » Santa, snowmobiles & reindeer farm visit Today you'll meet Santa himself at his snowy village home. Following an audience with the jolly gentleman, you'll have the opportunity to send a card back home from Santa's very own post office, staffed by postal elves of course. There's also the chance to have a look

round the workshop stores before lunch. Then, heading out on snowmobiles to a local reindeer farm, you'll get to meet the Donners and Blitzens that make Santa's yearly miracle possible, before earning a reindeer driving licence and Arctic Circle certificate on a sleigh ride of your own.

BLD

Day 3 » Husky sledding Your last full day in Finnish Lapland will see you enjoy one of the region's most iconic activities – husky sledding. Departing from a nearby farm, you'll strike out into the wilderness, driving two persons per team to give you the opportunity of both admiring the scenery and having a go at mushing yourself. **BD**

Day 4 » Depart for UK

Following a final, hearty breakfast, take your included transfer to the airport for your flight home. **E**

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HARRINIVA SANTA BREAK:
EXCLUSIVE DEPARTURES

TAILOR-MADE SANTA BREAKS

Travelling in the company of an expert from Best Served Scandinavia, our exclusive escorted tour represents just one option for enjoying the winter fun at Hotel Harriniva. Although you'll have the choice of spending as much or as little time with the group, there are plenty of departures for those that want to travel entirely independently. Get in contact about dates for Christmas, New Year's or 'Twixmas' – the magical time between the two. Whichever you choose, you can expect the best in authentic fun. After all, a visit to Santa is only part of the trip, with plenty of time to relax by the fire or make complimentary use of the toboggans and kicksleds.

4-DAY ESCORTED BREAK

4 days Hotel Harriniva



» PRICES FROM: £1,630 (adult) £1,295 (child) incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights FB accommodation, services of a Best Served Scandinavia guide & all excursions incl. reindeer ride, snowmobiling, dogsledding & Santa visit. Departs 14, 17 & 20 Dec.

This is the ultimate in festive fun. Along with a private audience with Santa, there's a full range of included activities, from dogsledding and snowmobiling to cross-country skiing and reindeer sleigh rides. Each day, you'll return to your timber-clad accommodation to enjoy full-board dining and, hopefully, the Northern Lights.

Day 1 » UK/Hotel Harriniva Flying out to the wilds of Finnish Lapland with your Best Served guide, an included transfer will see you to the log-cabin-chic of your cosy accommodation. Here, your thermal clothing is waiting, alongside a welcome drink and the first of your hearty full-board meals. As with each night, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the Northern Lights. **D**

Day 2 » Reindeer & winter fun You'll begin your included touring today, with a visit to Finland's oldest reindeer farm, where you'll be treated to lasso lessons, sled rides through the glacial forest and a traditional Finnish lunch – served by the fire in a *kota* hut. Then, on your return, you'll enjoy the complimentary use of everything from toboggans and cross-country skis to ice-hockey equipment and kids' mini snowmobiles. It's all capped off with marshmallows by the fire,

gingerbread-house-making and a festive Finnish dinner. **B L D**

Day 3 » Snowmobiling, husky safari & Santa Today begins with a thrilling snowmobile excursion, gliding 20km through the snowy forest with the children pulled on a sled behind. After lunch, you'll have a chance to meet the resident huskies before mushing out into the surrounding wilderness on your very own dogsled. Then, after cookie baking and Christmas crafts, you'll be brought out on a snowmobile sled to a secret log cabin for a private audience with Father Christmas, enjoyed with pancakes and presents. **B L D**

Day 4 » Depart for UK After a final breakfast and play in the snow, an included transfer will see you to the airport for your flight home. **B**

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LUXURY SANTA BREAK AT ARCTIC TREEHOUSE HOTEL



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Arctic TreeHouse Hotel



» PRICES FROM: £2,755 pp (adult)
£595 pp (child) incl. flights, transfers,
3 nights Arctic TreeHouse Hotel HB,
husky safari & meeting with Santa Claus,
Operates 16 Nov to 31 Dec.

This is Lapland's finest Santa break. You'll stay in a designer treehouse hidden in the forest, returning from days of wintry fun to Northern Lights displays and indulgent dinners. Alongside a husky safari, you'll be treated to a day with the elves, enjoying everything from kicksledding and fairytale forest walks to a private audience with Santa Claus himself.

Day 1 » UK/Arctic TreeHouse Hotel

Fly out to Rovaniemi and transfer to your luxurious treehouse where floor-to-ceiling windows let in views of the Northern Lights. Once you've settled in, you'll enjoy the first of your included dinners; choose from a menu of traditional Lappish delicacies prepared with a modern twist and locally sourced ingredients. For something really special, perhaps warm up at the lakeside sauna before taking your meal in private, under the stars by a roaring fire. **D**

Day 2 » Santa visit Today you'll be brought deep into the forests of Finnish Lapland for a very special private meeting with Father Christmas in Santa's Secret Forest. But, first, you'll be welcomed by one of his faithful elves who'll guide you through the legendary Elf School as you learn such crucial Christmas skills as the fine art of gingerbread decoration. Then,

after graduating with your diploma, you'll be led along the Fairytale Path, through the forest, to try your hand – or perhaps feet – at kicksledding. You'll then arrive at Santa's Secret Command Centre where you'll watch as the elves prepare for Christmas before your meeting with jolly St. Nick. **B D**

Day 3 » Husky sledding After another hearty breakfast you'll be ready to make the most of Lapland's wintry playground once more, this time with some help from man's best friend. You'll be met and brought out to a nearby farm where you'll have a chance to meet the adorably sociable huskies. Finally, board a sledge to head out into the wilderness, its quiet only disturbed by the patter of paws on snow. **B D**

Day 4 » Depart for UK Transfer to Rovaniemi for your flight home. **E**

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INARI LOG CABIN
SANTA BREAK

NEW



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Inari



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,835 pp (adult)
£1,445 (child) incl. flights, transfers,
3 nights log cabin accommodation at
Wilderness Hotel Inari FB & all excursions
incl. reindeer visit, snowmobile, aurora
hunt, husky safari & private Santa visit.
Operates 29 Nov to 04 Jan.

Getting out to the wilds of Finnish Lapland, this itinerary will see you enjoy a fully inclusive spread of winter fun, full-board dining and log-cabin cosiness. Along with a private visit from Santa, your family will explore with a range of excursions, from husky sledding and snowmobiling to reindeer sled rides and a Northern Lights hunt.

Day 1 » UK/Inari Flying out to Finnish Lapland, an included transfer will see you to your very own log cabin, where you'll settle in next to the fire and gorgeous lake views. Donning your complimentary thermal clothing, keep your eyes peeled for the Northern Lights before enjoying the first of your full-board meals. Expect hearty regional favourites informed by local produce. 

Day 2 » Reindeer sled, snowmobiling & Father Christmas You'll begin your programme of included touring with a visit to a local reindeer farm, enjoying a magical sled ride after meeting these adorable creatures. You'll also learn about the region's hardy Sami culture from the herders. Then, after lunch, you'll hop on a snowmobile to explore the surrounding wilderness before finishing the day with a private visit from Santa himself. 

Day 3 » Husky sledding & aurora hunt After meeting the oh-so-excitable dogs, today begins with a husky sled ride as you mush out into the wintery remotes. There's then some free time to enjoy the wintery fun, making complimentary use of the toboggans, kick sleds and craft workshop. This evening, you'll be brought out along a candlelit path by a resident elf, searching for a hidden treasure – a small present. It all finishes around a campfire, toasting marshmallows and looking out for the Northern Lights. 

Day 4 » Depart for UK After a final hearty breakfast, an included transfer will see you back to the airport for your flight home. 

YOUR TAILOR-MADE SPECIALISTS

All of our specialists have travelled extensively in Scandinavia and the Nordic and Baltic regions. Their recommendations are always up-to-date and their honest, informed approach to planning holidays, together with insightful suggestions based on first-hand knowledge, will ensure your Scandinavian stay is a special one.



REBECCA THERIAULT

“Taking the Polar Express train from Trondheim to Bodø in Northern Norway was a truly magical experience. Combine it with a stay at Svinøya Rorbuer in the Lofoten Islands for the ideal winter pairing.”



HENRY PRITCHARD

“Tromsø was my first experience of winter in Scandinavia. And, with its incredible array of excursions, from husky safaris to hunts for the Northern Lights, it certainly lived up to the hype.”



LISA AYLING

“Pine Bay Lodge is a cosy delight in the heart of Swedish Lapland. You can experience all the region has to offer, from husky safaris to snowmobiling on frozen lakes.”



ALICE SOMERSET

“If you’re looking for a true Arctic Adventure, it doesn’t get much better, or wilder, than Svalbard. Take a snowmobiling trip to the mining settlement of Svea for a true appreciation of the region’s history and nature.”



ANGELA PERRO

“I loved my stay at the Arctic SnowHotel. I was lucky enough to see the aurora from my glass igloo before swapping over for a night in a stunning ice room. The super food rounded off an incredible experience.”



PIPPA MCCARTHY

“A stay at Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel is a truly unforgettable experience. I was blown away by its magical ice sculptures, dazzling Ice Bar and delicious Nordic cuisine.”



NORIRE ARAKELYAN

Head to Norway during the winter and you will often have the fjords to yourself. The Ægir brewpub in Flåm is an absolute must, especially for its five-course, beer-paired Viking 'plank'.



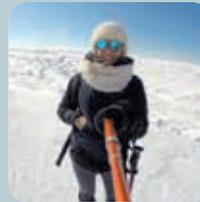
SOPHIE SADLER

Sweden's ICEHOTEL is a winter classic. Opt for one of the Deluxe Art Suites to enjoy a private bathroom and sauna. And, be sure to add on a Northern Lights snowmobile experience for some true Arctic adventure.



SAIJA KOKKONEN

Watching the aurora swirl above Norway's Malangen Resort is one of my highlights in travel. Pair that with a thrilling husky safari and waffles cooked on an open fire and you've got the ultimate winter escape.



VICTORIA JUSKO

From my first visit, I was bowled over by Iceland's dazzling array of excursions. My favourite has to be a horseback ride under the Northern Lights – a truly unique experience.



STEFF SARGEANT

There are so many amazing places to stay in Scandinavia. But, for me, Treehotel steals the show. Expect unique cabins suspended in the canopy along with a raft of superb excursions.

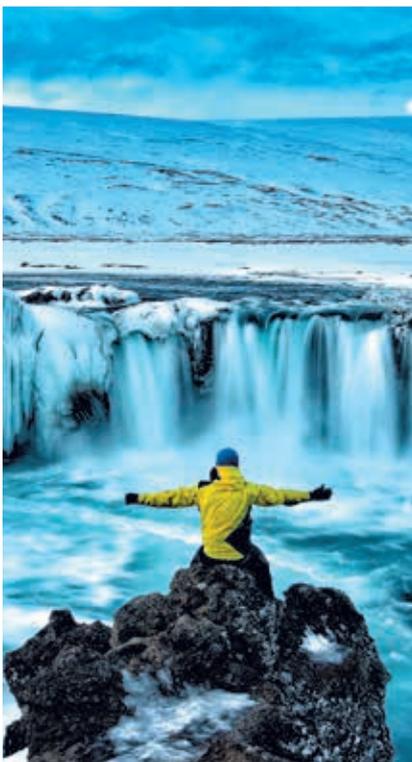


MIRANDA BERLIAND

Finland's Harriniva is right up there with my favourite winter destinations. Whether you are after a thrill-seeking adventure, or some quality family time, you'll be guaranteed a cosy stay in the Arctic wilderness.

DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF WINTER WITH BEST SERVED SCANDINAVIA

Best Served Scandinavia is an independent tour operator specialising in tailor-made holidays to Scandinavia and the Nordic and Baltic regions. Since our first trip to Tromsø in 2005, we've dedicated ourselves to all things Scandi, bringing our clients the region's latest and greatest travel innovations, from ice hotels and glass igloos to romantic log-cabin retreats and lodges hidden in the treetops. Our specialists continue to travel extensively throughout our featured regions, so you can be sure of the most up-to-date advice when planning your next winter holiday.



WHY TRAVEL WITH US...

- » Expert destination knowledge
- » Hand-picked itineraries
- » Authentic travel experiences
- » One-to-one advice
- » Exceptional service
- » ATOL Protected





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