

# BEST SERVED SCANDINAVIA



WINTER 19/20 PREVIEW





## WELCOME

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Welcome to this preview edition of our 2019/20 winter brochure. Over the following pages, we've picked out a selection of unmissable holidays that really make the most of those exciting, snow-bound months.

As ever, there's plenty to excite and inspire, from stays in innovative glass igloos to nights spent in luxury treehouses hidden away in the snowy forests of Lapland.

Further highlights include an action-packed escorted tour to meet Santa in his log-cabin home, and there's our ever-popular Tromsø city break, which promises exceptional value and a host of wintery thrills under the Northern Lights. Or, how about a trip to Sweden's ICEHOTEL for the chance to experience the sheer magic and artistry of a true Scandinavian icon?

No matter what you choose, you can expect a dazzling array of optional and included activities to help enhance your stay, all

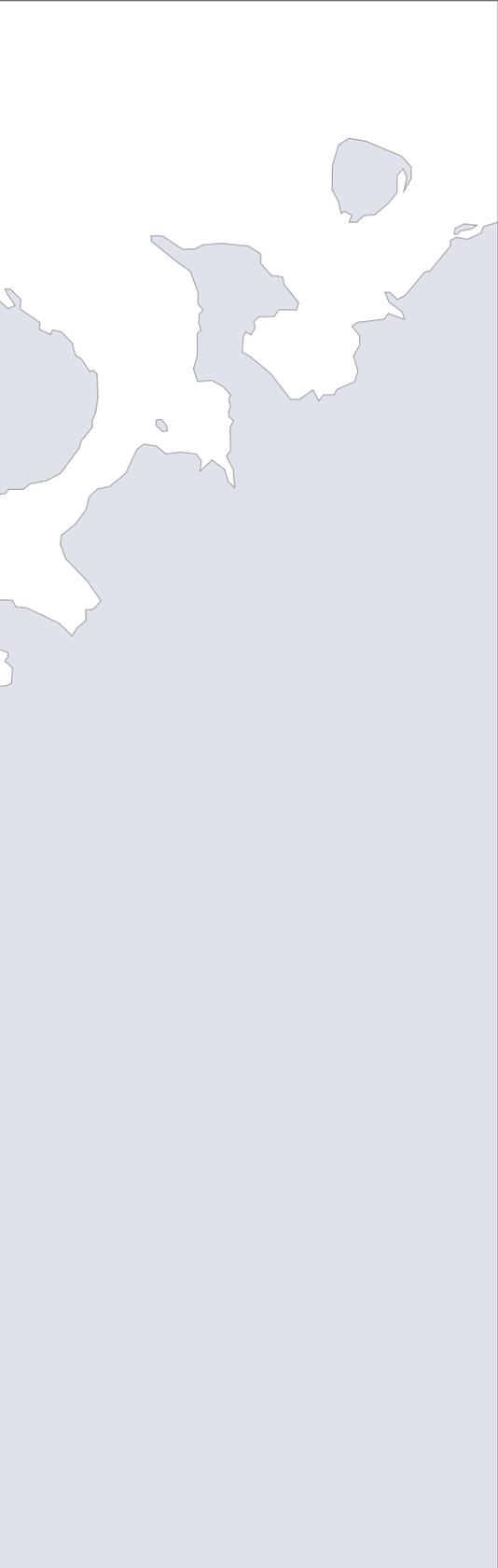
tried and tested by our specialists. Perhaps you'll mush a team of huskies across a frozen lake, drive a snowmobile along icy forest trails, try your hand at ice sculpting or catch and cook your own dinner on an ice-fishing expedition.

This curated edition contains just a small taste of the winter holidays we offer. Look out for the full brochure, complete with a section dedicated to spring, due for release at the end of April. In the mean time, visit our website – [bestserved.co.uk](http://bestserved.co.uk) – for the latest offers and even more holiday inspiration.

KATHERINE GERSHON  
MANAGING DIRECTOR







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### LEVIN IGLUT

A night in a glass igloo is fast becoming *the* quintessential Nordic experience. At Levin Iglut, a collection of stylish heated domes – and from 2019 a luxurious suite igloo with private outdoor Jacuzzi – look out from a snowy hilltop perch to the forested wilds beyond. And, on clear nights, you might just catch an uninterrupted view of the aurora’s psychedelic disco clouds. The experience doesn’t end there, of course, as the remoteness of the resort means a twinkling hemisphere of constellations drifts gradually by as the night recedes into morning.

## 5-DAY TAILOR-MADE TOUR

1 day Levin Iglut » 4 days Levi



» PRICES FROM: £1,095 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Superior Glass Igloo HB and 3 nights Levi Panorama BB. Operates mid-Nov to end Apr.

There are many ways to see the Northern Lights, and tour companies and hotel owners across the Arctic have spent hours devising ever more exciting ways to see the aurora. And, in Finland especially, they’ve settled on a wonderfully simple solution – a glass igloo. This short break includes an stay at just such a hotel, with an unforgettable night under the glass domes of Levin Iglut followed by three days of fun-filled adventure from your base at the superb Levi Panorama.

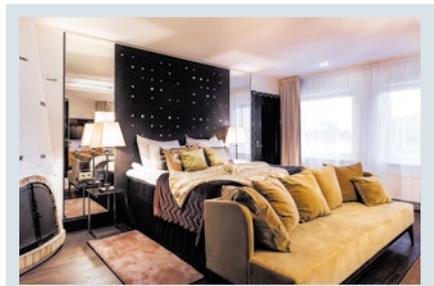
**Day 1 » Levin Iglut** Fly to Kittilä in Finnish Lapland and transfer to Levin Iglut, set deep amongst the fells and forests. Don’t be deceived by the igloo moniker: this is no ice hotel, and nor is it a faithful representation of the Inuit snow house. Instead, imagine a cabin in which walls and roof have been replaced by an insulated and heated glass dome. Settle into your surroundings and enjoy a gourmet Lappish dinner at the new Restaurant Aurora Sky before heading to bed – the show starts as soon as your head hits the pillow. **D**

**Day 2 » Levi** Wake up at leisure and enjoy breakfast in your igloo, gazing out over the winter landscape that encircles you. A transfer then takes you to the Levi Panorama hotel, perched on a fell on the outskirts of town, just minutes from some of Finland’s finest ski slopes. In fact, you’ll even enjoy complimentary gondola tickets for the full ski-in/ski-out experience. And, the hotel itself comes complete with

a cosy pub, a traditional Finnish sauna and a restaurant, which serves delicious dishes inspired by the region; expect everything from cold-smoked salmon to sautéed elk. **B**

**Days 3–4 » Levi** Enjoy 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 reindeer rides through snow-dusted forests. **B**

**Day 5 » Depart Levi** Transfer to Kittilä airport after breakfast for your return flights via Helsinki. **B**



### ARCTIC LIGHT HOTEL

Located in the centre of Rovaniemi, this contemporary hotel combines modern Finnish design with the cosiness and character of a Lappish winter retreat. Rooms and suites, with names such as Magic, Polar and the Christmas Cabin, are cleverly themed around the heritage, landscapes and wildlife of the Arctic as life-size polar bears gaze down from the walls and starlit headboards speak of nights under the northern sky. Meanwhile, the Arctic Boulevard Restaurant is a showcase for regional ingredients with game from the northern forests and fells, and fish caught fresh from Finnish Lapland lakes.

## 4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Rovaniemi



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,295 pp incl. flights, transfers, 2 nights BB Arctic Light Hotel, 1 night HB Arctic TreeHouse Hotel, husky safari and snowmobile tour with dinner. Operates Jan 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 Arctic TreeHouse hotels.

**Day 1 » 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 & snowmobiles** Driving 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 yaps 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. Then, 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 ever-so-chic Arctic Treehouse Hotel. Here, a collection of architect-designed suites look north from floor-to-ceiling windows to views of a magical snow-covered canopy and, if conditions are right, the aurora's kaleidoscopic lightshow. 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 » Rovaniemi** Transfer back to Rovaniemi to board your flight home. **B**



## ICEHOTEL

### SUPERIOR



The original of its kind, the **ICEHOTEL** is set 200 km within the Arctic Circle and is lovingly and painstakingly constructed each winter using ice and snow from one of Europe's wildest and purest rivers. Designers and artists from all creative disciplines join forces to create an imaginative, and icy, experience.

The ICEHOTEL – celebrating its 30th anniversary this coming winter – has been a wild success story since its first iteration in 1989. With each reincarnation, blocks of ice are harvested from the River Torne at Jukkasjärvi in the far north of Sweden, and crafted by architects, sculptors and ice experts into rooms, suites, hallways, galleries, a bar and even a small ceremony hall for weddings. Artworks and sculptures throughout the hotel are thrown into stunning iridescence by judicious lighting, lending further sparkle to proceedings. And, since its 2016 opening, ICEHOTEL 365 has brought a year-round permanence to what

was once the most ephemeral of retreats. They've also ramped up the luxury, with higher ceilings than its winter-only cousin setting the scene for even more extravagant ice carvings. It's all showcased in a stunning collection of Art Suites and Deluxe Suites, the latter of which come complete with heated en-suite bathrooms and saunas. There's also an ice gallery, and even an ice bar on site for added indulgence.

Back at the classic ICEHOTEL, accommodation ranges from simple but spacious Ice Rooms, each featuring a raised ice bed covered in thermal sleeping bags and reindeer skins, and themed Art Suites. For obvious reasons, running water and heating are kept to a minimum around the rest of the hotel, but you can always warm yourself at the 24-hour sauna and the relaxation area with its roaring fire.

The ICEBAR too, takes on a new guise each winter, with bespoke cocktails inspired by the latest hotel themes. It's a lovely place to chill out, with all drinks served in glasses made of ice. There's also fun to be had in testing out your slipperiest moves on the snowy dance floor.

The hotel's main restaurant is in a heated building nearby, and serves up its own inventive takes on such local delicacies as reindeer, moose, Arctic char, Lapland flatbread and berries. Elsewhere, the delightfully cosy Jukkasjärvi Homestead features roaring fires and chargrilled steaks, while, for something really special, the Chef's Table on the Veranda offers 12-course gourmet dining, all inspired by the flavours of Sweden and perfectly paired with a selection of fine wines from around the world.



## CLASSIC ICEHOTEL BREAK



### 4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days ICEHOTEL



» **PRICES FROM:** £625 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Ice Room BB, 2 nights warm room BB, thermal clothing & morning sauna. Operates 13 Dec to 10 Apr.

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 including reindeer encounters, dogsled rides and a thrilling Northern Lights hunt by snowmobile.

**Day 1 » ICEHOTEL** Fly to Kiruna via Stockholm and make your way to the ICEHOTEL, perhaps upgrading your transfer to a husky sled ride for a fittingly wintry arrival. Once there, you'll be handed thermal clothing and shown around the hotel. Grab a cocktail at the ICEBAR and a slap-up meal at the hotel restaurant, 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 can choose between the likes of dogsledding, encounters with reindeer and other wild animals

of the region, a wilderness dinner, Northern Lights snowmobiling – or ask our specialists about a snap course in ice sculpture using traditional tools, a nighttime Northern Lights horseback ride, or a leisurely day of Nordic skiing in the spectacular Poikkijarvi woods. For these two nights, you'll toast in the hotel-style comforts of a bright and airy modern-Scandinavian chalet. 

**Day 4 » ICEHOTEL** After breakfast, transfer to Kiruna for your return flights via Stockholm. 



 **NORTHERN LIGHTS CITY BREAK, TROMSØ**



**OUR PREMIUM BREAK**

While our featured 'basic' break offers superb value for money, if you'd prefer to have things sorted in advance, then our 'premium' tour could be for you. As well as flights, transfers and accommodation, we'll book you onto a thrilling Northern Lights hunt to the Aurora Basecamp, as well as an unforgettable husky safari through the beautiful Tromsø wilderness.

» **PRICES FROM** £795 pp incl. flights, return shuttle transfers to/from city centre, 3 nights BB accommodation, Northern Lights excursion & husky safari.

**4-DAY TAILOR-MADE CITY BREAK**

4 days Tromsø



» **PRICES FROM:** £495 pp incl. flights, return shuttle transfer to/from city centre & 3 nights BB accommodation.

Tromsø is at the centre of the northern aurora zone, and dazzling celestial displays circle the sky above the city with great and regular abandon. Anyone who's been to Tromsø will assure you that there's more to the city than what goes on above, with an animated street scene and creative culture reflecting the vibrant colours of the pulsating Aurora Borealis. What's more, this basic break can be upgraded to include a Northern Lights hunt and a thrilling husky safari deep into the snow-dusted wilderness. See the box for more details.

**Day 1 » Tromsø** Fly from London Gatwick to Tromsø and check in to the Thon Tromsø 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 the hotel. As is the Polaria Museum, whose fabulous cinema shows short films of the Northern Lights. Tromsø's picturesque harbour is also nearby, providing yet another visual feast. Later, head out to dinner and fall in with the city's fashionable set as you sample the town's best local brews at one of the many drinking holes. You'll be spoilt for choice – there are more pubs per capita in Tromsø than anywhere else in Norway.

**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, whale watching trips and visits

to the Tromsø Ice Domes. Then, in the evening, why not join an aurora tour for the chance to see the Northern Lights as they make their merry way across the night sky? The city and its surrounds are famous for the auroras and are among the world's best places to spot them. Speak to our specialists for all the latest options and prices, or upgrade to our premium break with selected excursions included. **E**

**Day 4 » Tromsø** Enjoy a last breakfast at your hotel and bid a final farewell to this majestic fjordside city before flying back to London Gatwick. **E**



## TROMSØ & MALANGEN RESORT



### 4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

1 day Tromsø » 3 days Malangen Resort



» **PRICES FROM:** £855 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Clarion Collection Hotel With, Tromsø, 2 nights at Malangen Resort HB & a Northern Lights excursions with aurora alarm.

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-minutes transfer from Tromsø. Here, amid the snowy surrounds, a full spread of optional winter activities brings you deep into Norway's Arctic wilderness. This tour combines three night here with a stay in Norway's Arctic capital – Tromsø.

**Day 1 » Fly to 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, 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, 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. Heading 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.  

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



ROVANIEMI & SANTA'S VILLAGE



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Rovaniemi



» PRICES FROM: £1,695 pp (adult)  
£1,095 pp (child) incl. flights, transfers,  
3 nights Ounasvaaran Lakituvat HB, visit  
to Santa's Village with lunch & meeting  
with Santa Claus, snowmobile excursion  
to a reindeer farm with a reindeer ride  
& reindeer driving licence, 2-hour husky  
excursion & Northern Lights picnic.

Stay in a cosy log cabin as you meet Santa and his elves, enjoy reindeer sleigh rides and plunge into the snowy wilds on snowmobiles and dogsleds. What's more, with a location right on the Arctic Circle, you'll be ideally positioned for spectacular Northern Lights displays.

**Day 1 » Rovaniemi** Fly out to Rovaniemi where you'll be provided with warm, winter clothing before tucking in to an included lunch. Then, a shared transfer will bring you to your delightful log-cabin home. All timber beams and roaring fires, it's an idyllic contrast to the icy wilderness outside. This being Finland, it even features a private sauna. You'll also have some time to make use of the next-door ski centre, or try out the toboggans provided in each cabins. You'll then enjoy a taste of hearty Lappish cuisine with the first of your included dinners. **LD**

**Day 2 » Rovaniemi** 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 real-life Donners and Blitzens that make Santa's yearly miracle possible, before gaining a reindeer driving licence and Arctic Circle certificate on a sleigh ride of your own. **BLD**

**Day 3 » Rovaniemi** 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. **BLD**

**Day 4 » Rovaniemi**  
Following a final, hearty breakfast, make the 15 minutes' transfer to the airport for your flight home. **B**



## HARRINIVA SANTA BREAK: EXCLUSIVE DEPARTURES



### 4-DAY ESCORTED BREAK

4 days Harriniva Hotel



» PRICES FROM: £1,630 pp (adult)  
£1,295 (child) incl. flights, transfers, 3  
nights Harriniva Hotel FB, winter clothing,  
selected activities & the services of a Best  
Served Scandinavia guide. Departs 14<sup>th</sup>,  
17<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Enjoy a husky safari, bake cookies,  
feed reindeers and meet Santa in his  
log-cabin home, all on this escorted  
festive break, led by an expert from  
Best Served Scandinavia. We've also  
included a thrilling snowmobile safari to  
help showcase the very best of Finnish  
Lapland's snow-dusted wilderness.

**Day 1 » Hotel Harriniva** With air traffic  
control preventing Santa from living near  
a major airport, you'll have to fly first  
to Helsinki before connecting onward  
to Kittilä, a remote town in the Arctic  
Circle. From here you'll be transferred to  
Hotel Harriniva, a cosy wilderness lodge  
tucked away on the Finnish border. **D**

**Days 2-3 » Hotel Harriniva** These two  
days should provide enough ho-ho-hos  
to keep all the family happy. The  
wilderness surrounding Harriniva is a  
magical expanse of fir trees, needles  
and branches hanging heavy with snow,  
a white blanket that muffles sound and  
creates an ambience unique to the Arctic.  
You'll have the chance to pierce this  
atmosphere with the yelps of huskies on a  
dogsled safari, and the more penetrative  
roar of a snowmobile, while quieter  
activities involve riding some of Santa's

reindeer, baking some special Christmas  
cookies, decorating gingerbread houses  
and toasting marshmallows over a roaring  
fire. There's even the chance to try your  
hand at snowshoeing and tobogganing.  
Then, on your last evening, you'll make  
your way on a sled through the forest to  
visit Santa Claus in his log-cabin home.  
Here, an elf will greet you and lead you to  
meet the man himself, who'll hear all your  
Christmas requests and maybe even hand  
out a few early presents to well-behaved  
guests. If you're especially good you'll be  
rewarded with a glimpse of the Northern  
Lights as you return to the hotel, where  
a very special farewell dinner awaits,  
accompanied by fun festive games and a  
final visit from the St. Nick himself. **BLD**

**Day 4 » Depart Harriniva** Say a fond  
farewell to Santa, Rudolph and the elves  
as you head home. **B**

# 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



# 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.



WILDLIFE



HONEYMOON



FAMILY



NORTHERN LIGHTS



CITY



WILDERNESS



GLASS IGLOOS



ACTIVITIES



ICE HOTELS



SANTA

## ACCOMMODATION IN THIS BROCHURE

As there is no universal system for grading hotels, we have applied our own grading system 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 (27/02/2019) 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](http://atol.org.uk/atolcertificate). The Wexas/Best Served Scandinavia ATOL number is 2873. Full Best Served Scandinavia booking conditions can be found at [bestserved.co.uk/terms-and-conditions](http://bestserved.co.uk/terms-and-conditions).

# BEST SERVED SCANDINAVIA

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IN PEOPLE