

BEST SERVED SCANDINAVIA



WINTER 18/19 PREVIEW



WELCOME

Welcome to this special preview of our 2018/19 winter brochure. Over the following pages, we've picked out a selection of unmissable holidays that encompass the very best of those exciting, snow-bound months.

As you'd expect, there's no shortage of Nordic innovation, with the likes of glass igloos perched on remote fellsides and luxury treehouses hidden away in snowy Lapland forests.

There are some old favourites, too, from fun-filled family adventures to meet Santa in his log-cabin home to our ever-popular Tromsø city break, which promises wintery adventures under the Northern Lights' colourful swirls. Or, why not consider a trip out to Sweden's ICEHOTEL for the chance to experience the sheer magic and artistry of a true Scandinavian icon?

No matter which you choose, you can expect a dazzling array of optional and included activities to help make the most of 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 snowy forest trails, join an ice-sculpting class or catch and cook your own dinner on an ice-fishing expedition.

This curated edition contains just a small taste of the holidays we offer. Look out for the full brochure, complete with a new spring section, due for release at the end of April. In the mean time, visit our website – best-served.co.uk – for our latest offers and even more winter holiday inspiration.

KATHERINE GERSHON
MANAGING DIRECTOR





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 **GLASS IGLOOS & NORTHERN LIGHTS**

5-DAY TAILOR-MADE TOUR

1 day Levin Iglut » 4 days Ylläs



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,245 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Superior Glass Igloo HB and 3 nights Ylläshumina HB. 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 in nearby Ylläs.



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'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.

and a restaurant that serves delicious dishes from across the country; expect everything from succulent seafood to hearty reindeer steaks. **EBD**

Days 3–4 » Ylläs 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 dogsledding tours to reindeer rides through snow-dusted forests. **EBD**

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



 **LAPLAND IN STYLE**

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Rovaniemi



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,230 pp incl. flights, transfers, 2 nights BB Arctic Light Hotel, 1 night HB Arctic TreeHouse Hotel, 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 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,



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.

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. **EBD**

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. **EBD**

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, icy and extremely unusual experience. And, with the construction of ICEHOTEL 365 this Arctic icon once again leads the way in becoming a year-round destination for the very first time.

The ICEHOTEL has been a wild success story since it was first created in 1989. With each reincarnation, blocks of snow and 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 church. Artworks and sculptures throughout the hotel are thrown into stunning iridescence

by judicious lighting, lending further sparkle to proceedings.

Accommodation ranges from simple but spacious Ice Rooms, featuring a raised ice bed covered in thermal sleeping bags and reindeer skins, to spectacularly carved 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 adjacent 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 and

décor. 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 restaurant is in a heated building next door, and serves up its own inventive takes on such local delicacies as reindeer, moose, Arctic char, sea buckthorn, Lapland flatbread and berries. As you check out or move to a more conventional room for an additional night or two, you're presented with a diploma stating the temperature inside and outside the hotel on the night of your stay.



CLASSIC ICEHOTEL BREAK



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK
4 days ICEHOTEL



» PRICES FROM: £795 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Ice Room BB, 2 nights warm room BB, thermal clothing & morning sauna. Operates 14 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. **E**

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 night-time 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. **E**

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



NORTHERN LIGHTS
CITY BREAK, TROMSØ

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE CITY BREAK
4 days Tromsø



» PRICES FROM: £580 pp incl. flights, 3 nights BB accommodation & a guided aurora tour.

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.

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 the intricate artistry of the Tromsø Ice Domes. Speak to our specialists for all the latest options and prices. Then, in the evening, wrap up warm and join an included 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. **B**

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. **B**



WINTER BREAK AT
MALANGEN RESORT

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK
4 days Malangen Resort



» PRICES FROM: £935 pp incl. flights, return transfers from Tromsø Airport direct to Malangen Resort, 3 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-minute transfer from Tromsø. Here, amid the snowy surrounds, a full spread of optional winter activities brings you deep into Norway's Arctic wilderness.

Day 1 » Fly to Tromsø Depart Gatwick on a direct flight to Tromsø where you'll be met for a 90-minute transfer to Malangen Resort. Then, after checking into your room, you'll have the rest of the day at leisure to relax and enjoy the scenery. In the evening, head to the restaurant for the first of your included meals, designed to showcase fresh Norwegian produce from locally caught fish to reindeer and lamb from the Lyngen Alps. **D**

Days 2–3 » Malangen Resort & Camp Nikka Spend two memorable days exploring the snow-laden Arctic wilderness around Malangen Resort with optional excursions that range from snowmobiling to husky safaris. 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. **B,D**

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



ROVANIEMI & SANTA'S VILLAGE

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Rovaniemi



» PRICES FROM: £1,985 pp (adult) £1,040 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. **ELD**

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. **ED**

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



HARRINIVA SANTA BREAK

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Harriniva Hotel



» PRICES FROM: £1,590 pp (adult) £1,195 (child) incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights Harriniva Hotel FB, winter clothing and selected activities. Operates 17 Nov to 23 Dec.

Tired of waiting for Father Christmas to drop in for his annual, oh so fleeting visit? Then take the family to see him for yourself. Meet Santa, enjoy a husky safari, bake cookies, feed reindeers and more, all on this festive holiday. 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 Sadly, air traffic control prevents Santa from living near a major airport, so 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 can pierce this atmosphere with the yelps of huskies on a dogsled safari, or the more penetrative roar of a snowmobile, while quieter activities involve riding some of Santa's reindeer and baking

some special Christmas cookies. On one evening you'll make your way, on a sled, through the forest to visit Santa Claus in his log cabin. Here, an elf will greet you and lead you to meet the man himself, who will 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. **ELD**

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

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



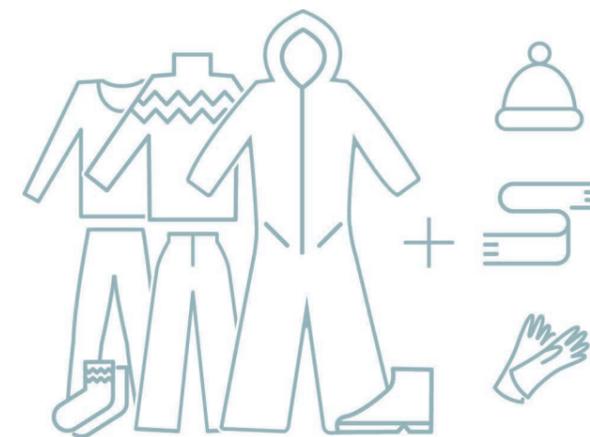
BEST FOR

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.



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.



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:



All prices, fares, hotels and tours described in this brochure are correct at the time of going to press (16/02/2018) 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 Wexas/Best Served Scandinavia ATOL number is 2873. Full Best Served Scandinavia booking conditions can be found at best-served.co.uk/terms-and-conditions.

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INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE