Finland Winter Activity Week

Trip Code: WAF

Version:

WINTER	GUIDED GROUP	3 LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Try husky sledding, Nordic skiing, and igloo building on this multi-activity Finnish winter week
- Enjoy an overnight snowshoeing expedition, sleeping in a remote wilderness cabin
- Hunt for the magical Northern Lights and relax in a traditional Finnish sauna each night
- Explore the peaceful, snow-covered wilderness of eastern Finland, home to reindeer, elk and lynx

AT A GLANCE

- 5 days winter activities
- Join at Oulu/Kuusamo (depending on departure)

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

This winter activity holiday offers a true taste of winter and an introduction to a variety of thrilling snow-based pastimes, right in the heart of East Finland's frozen wonderland. Our base consists of a series of small, cosy wooden cabins in a little-visited area close to the border with Russia and just south of the Arctic Circle. Throughout the winter months, this area of Finland is almost completely snowbound, but our comfortable cabins and their sauna ensure that we stay warm and comfortable.

The holiday begins with an introduction to cross-country skiing and a chance to explore the area surrounding our accommodation, a magical white wilderness of snow-blanketed spruce and pine forest, ridges, and frozen lakes. Over the next two days, we venture out on an exciting mini snowshoe expedition with an overnight wilderness experience at a remote, candle-lit cabin featuring a traditional wood-fired sauna.

At this remote cabin, where there is no electricity and little light pollution, we may be lucky enough to see the northern lights illuminating the night sky. During the week, we will also spend a day practicing winter survival skills and building our own igloos. We conclude with a day getting to grips with perhaps the most exciting method of Arctic transport–the husky sled. We will spend a day at a husky farm learning how to drive the sleds, getting to know our own team of husky dogs, and learning about how they are cared for. This multi-activity holiday also includes a free day when we can make use of the cabin's snowshoe and cross-country ski equipment, hire fat bikes, or take advantage of some of the optional winter activities available in the area, such as snowmobiling.

Is this holiday for you?

This multi-activity winter holiday in Finland is perfect for those looking to try out a range of winter sports, and no previous experience is necessary; instruction and equipment are provided. Certain activities may take a little while to get used to, so a sense of balance, humor, and adventure are helpful! A reasonable level of fitness is essential, especially for the overnight snowshoe adventure, where we can expect to be snowshoeing off-trail through wonderful soft, powdery snow–which is more physically tiring than walking, especially if you are at the front helping to break the trail. The day-to-day order of activities during the week may change; any changes will be communicated to you by the guide on the morning of Day 2. You will experience low temperatures outside on this holiday (special thermal clothing and footwear can be hired), but our cabin accommodation will always be warm and cozy.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional and qualified tour leader
- All equipment necessary for included activities
- Single timed airport transfers on arrival & departure
- All accommodation as described
- All meals
- All land transport required by the itinerary
- All activities/excursions/entrance fees mentioned except where specified as ‘optional’

What's not Included

- Travel Insurance
- Optional extra activities
- Tips
- Miscellaneous expenses - souvenirs and drinks etc.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will transfer together from Kuusamo Airport to our cabin accommodation on the evening of Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary.

The transfer is timed to coincide with the arrival of the Finnair flight from London Heathrow Airport.

On the last day of the Land Only itinerary, there will be a single transfer back to Kuusamo Airport only. This will be timed for the check in of the early afternoon return Finnair flight to London.

Additional group transfers are available for those arriving on select direct UK flights.

Anyone may join the group transfers by prior arrangement. Travelling as a group or on public transport saves energy.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All meals are included in the holiday price.

Food & Water

Breakfast is usually served around 8am and will be taken at the cabins and will consist of bread, jam (expect local jams like cloudberry and lingonberry), cheese, ham, porridge, muesli, yoghurt, coffee and tea. Lunches and dinners on most days will be served at the restaurant at the cabins. Lunch will be taken around midday and will unsually be a warm and hearty soup or stew with bread. Tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits etc... will also be offer. On a couple of days we will enjoy a packed lunch, where we will eat outside seated around a fireplace. Dinner is the main meal of the day and will be served around 6.30/ 7pm. There is usually meat (such as reindeer) or fish (salmon, pike and perch are common), vegetables, fresh salad, bread and a dessert. You will be able to make your own hot drinks at the cabins. Beer and wine is available to purchase. Special meals are available on request. Please inform any your dietary requirements at the time of booking. Meals are carefully planned ahead of time and it is possible to cater for most dietary requirements if informed in advance.

Accommodation

We will spend 6 nights in comfortable, cosy, lakeside cabins at Kylmaluoma Outdoor Centre. Each cabin has two bunk beds/4 berths, but will be shared by just 2 people. The cabins have electricity, heating, refrigerator, kitchenette, tv, shower and toilet. Meals will be taken in the restaurant at the outdoor centre, which is a 300m walk from the cabins, on a path through the beautiful illuminated forest.

During our 2 day expedition we will stay spend 1 night at a wilderness cabin, with no electricity and heated by wood stoves. At the wilderness cabin we will sleep in non-segregated bunked rooms of up to 4 people. The toilets are in a separate building. Though showers are not available at the wilderness cabins (all water must be fetched from the well!), it will be possible to wash in the sauna. Though the bathroom facilities can appear basic, overnighting in the heart of the wilderness and staying in a traditional forest cabin, more than makes up for the lack of hotel facilities.

Accommodation at the Kylmaluoma cabins is based on twin share. If you are travelling by yourself you will be paired up with another traveller of the same sex. It is possible to arrange exclusive use of a cabin for a supplementary cost. If you are planning to extend your holiday, additional nights are also available on request.

FINNISH SAUNA
Saunas are a way of life in Finland. The sauna is considered to be a holy place where both body and soul are washed. We will have the opportunity to enjoy a sauna every evening during the tour, except on arrival night.

At the cabin base we will have use of a separate electric sauna, one for men and one for women, shared with another nearby cabin. At the wilderness cabin there is a small wood-fired sauna, which we can use in shifts. The guide will arrange 'sauna shifts', with separate times for male/female. Depending on demand it may be possible to arrange shorter private sauna sessions / washing time.

Finnish people traditionally don't sauna in mixed groups or wearing towels/swimming suits. As we will have exclusive use of the sauna during our designated shifts, if you would prefer not to fully embrace this tradition, it will be acceptable to wear swimwear or a towel.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by a professional and qualified tour leader.

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Spending Money

Approximately €100 per person should be allowed for tips, soft drinks, and miscellaneous expenses. There is no currency exchange or ATM at Kuusamo Airport and there will be no possibility to withdraw/ exchange money on leaving Kuusamo. You should have the opportunity to exchange money if transitting through Helsinki Airport. There is little opportunity for spending money on this tour and all meals are included. There is a small souvenir shops at the Kylmaluoma Outdoor Centre which accepts credit cards, cash will only be needed for tips and for soft drinks/alcohol, snacks etc... beer and wine is available to purchase at the Outdoor Centre's restaurant. If you intend to book optional additional activities on the free day then you will need to budget accordingly, see Optional Activities section for further information. Optional activities can be paid for by credit card.

Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is the accepted way of saying ‘thank you’ to your leader. Tipping is entirely voluntary and should be dependent on good service. We recommend that you decide levels of tipping and give any tips as a group rather than from individual group members.

Tipping is the accepted way of saying ‘thank you’ to your leader. Tipping is entirely voluntary and should be dependent on good service. We recommend that you decide levels of tipping and give any tips as a group rather than from individual group members.

Optional Activities

This is an example of the additional activities on offer from the Kylmäluoma Outdoor Centre and the price in Euros. These are subject to availability and itineraries and prices may vary.

FAT BIKE HIRE

Fat bikes can be hired from the centre. **Price: 25** € per person for 3 hours. 50 € for the day. **Price Includes:** Bike hire and helmet

SHORT HUSKY SAFARI

Before setting off for the safari you are given some safety and driving instructions. Everybody drives their own sled dog team. **Place:** Kylmäluoma husky farm **Duration:** 2-3 hours, 12 km **Price:** 140 €/person **Persons:** Min. 1. **Price includes:** an English speaking guide

LONG HUSKY SAFARI INCLUDING LUNCH

Before setting off for the safari you are given some safety and driving instructions. Everybody drives their own sled dog team. Lunch is included and will be enjoyed during the safari around an open fire. **Place:** Kylmäluoma husky farm. **Duration:** 4-6 hours, 30 km **Price:** 180 €/person. **Persons:** Min. 1 **Price includes:** an English speaking guide, lunch

SHORT SNOWMOBILE SAFARI (APPROX. 30 KM)

This tour leads you by snowmobile through the winter scenery around Saija Lodge in Taivalkoski, just 25km from our base. First you are provided with a helmet and instructions on the technique of snowmobile driving. After that, you can enjoy the snowmobiling in the beautiful surroundings. During a break the guide will prepare a traditional black pot coffee around an open fire. **Place:** Saija Lodge, approx. 30 km from Kylmäluoma. **Duration:** approx. 3 hours. **Prices: from 140** € / person (2 persons sharing a snowmobile) / 190 €/person (single driver). **Persons:** Min. 4. **Price includes:** an English speaking guide, coffee, transfers Kylmäluoma-Saija-Kylmäluoma

LONG SNOWMOBILE SAFARI (APPROX. 60 KM)

This tour leads you through forests, over swamps and lakes, through hilly landscape and over ridges with nice views. Lunch is served in a kota around an open fire. **Place:** Saija Lodge, approx. 30 km from Kylmäluoma. **Duration:** approx. 5 hours **Prices:** 215 €/person (2 persons sharing a snowmobile) / 265 €/person (single driver). **Persons:** Min. 4. **Price includes:** an English speaking guide, lunch, transfers Kylmäluoma-Saija-Kylmäluoma

Snowmobiling in Finland

All participants drive the snowmobiles at their own risk. If accidental damage is caused to the snowmobile, the driver is responsible for the cost of repair up to a maximum of 800€. Liability for vehicle damage will not normally be covered by travel insurance. Participants who are driving the snowmobile must be over the age of 18yrs and possess a full driving licence, which you should carry with you. Passengers on the snowmobile do not require a driving licence.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

For the night in the wilderness cabin you will not have access to your main baggage. Overnight essentials must be packed into a smaller bag, which will be taken to the cabin by snow mobile.

Group Members

We sell this holiday in conjunction with our local operator in Finland. This enables us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get the holiday up and running quickly. For this holiday the minimum age is 14 yrs, however it is unusual to have people under 16yrs.

General Information

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Preparing for your Holiday

Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience.

Climate

In January, February and March day time temperatures vary between -5°C to -20°C. Cloudy skies, sunshine, cold winds and snowfall are all possible, so you should be prepared for all eventualities.

Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through our international partner. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

Equipment Information

WSF Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the 'baggage allowance' section for further details.

YOU SHOULD BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Waterproof hiking boots / snowboots*
- Gaiters
- Trainers or similar (for evenings at the cabin)
- Warm woollen socks
- Regular socks
- Warm and windproof trousers and/or ski trousers, salopettes
- Waterproof and windproof jacket
- Daypack of approximately 20-30 litres capacity
- Thermal baselayer - leggings
- Thermal baselayer shirts - long sleeve
- T-shirts / casual shirt
- Underwear
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Warm jacket (down)
- Warm and waterproof gloves or mittens
- Head torch and batteries
- Warm Hat (also see provided items)
- Emergency whistle
- Survival blanket/bag
- Buff/Balaclava (to protect face from wind/cold)
- Sunglasses with side protection
- Daypack 30 litres
- Sun protection (including for lips)
- Water bottle (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Thermos flask
- Washbag and toiletries
- Basic First Aid Kit consisting of the following: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters, blister treatment and re-hydration salts (Dioralite). Glucose tablets and multi-vitamin tablets are also a good idea.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE OPTIONAL:

- Warm jacket e.g. down
- Ski goggles (useful if weather bad)
- Antibacterial hand wash
- Camera
- Swim wear (for ice swimming)
- Neoprene boots (for ice swimming)

- Travel towel (bath towels are provided)
- Sleeping bag liner (for use in wilderness cabins)
- Slippers (for use in the wilderness cabins)
- Pen-knife (remember to put all sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Earplugs (especially if you are not the one snoring!)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS are Provided:

- Snowshoes and Poles (if you wish to take your own walking poles, make sure that they have snow baskets fitted.)
- Bed linen at base cabin
- Sleeping bags and warm liners at wilderness cabins

NOTE:

The shoes worn for snowshoeing should be warm/waterproof, with a thick sole, and there should be enough space for you to wear woollen socks.

*Sorel/Kamik winter boots are available for hire. Please inform us your shoe size in advance, if you wish to hire boots.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Kuusamo. A single timed transfer from Kuusamo Airport to/from our cabin accommodation in Kylmäluoma is provided.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Kuusamo.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Join KE on this introduction to winter activities! Equipment for included activites is provided, as well as all meals, so you can just focus on enjoying exploring this Finnish winter wonderland, practise your new winter skills, relax in our cosy cabins and unwind in the sauna.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change