



Ranua - Tailor Made



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 5507
DURATION: 3 nights

In Brief

Choose how you want to spend your time in Ranua, Finland during this tailor-made adventure. Combine encounters with some of the Arctic's most endangered species at a Wildlife Park with some unforgettable winter activities, all within easy reach of your fantastic apartment accommodation.

Our Opinion

“ Having visited Ranua myself, I can safely say that it is a unique destination in Lapland, offering animal encounters at the Wildlife Park which are unforgettable. Seeing the polar bears being fed is something special. The fact that this experience can be combined with the likes of husky safaris, snowmobiling and horse-drawn sleigh rides in the snow, is also rather special. I also found the accommodation really appealing and very comfortable – it is spacious, airy and modern but also retains a cosy charm. ”

Alex Charlton



What's included?

- **Flights:** either direct from London to Rovaniemi or indirect via Helsinki (depending on departure date). Flight routes are subject to change and indirect flights may require a flight supplement. Please speak to our Travel Experts for further details.
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers between Rovaniemi and Ranua
- **Accommodation:** minimum of 3 nights apartment accommodation
- **Meals:** half board (full board upgrade available for a supplement after 10th January)
- **Activities:** choose from our extensive range which is detailed in the '[Activities](#)' section of the holiday page (activities are all priced individually). The order of activities you select is subject to change
- Unlimited access to Ranua Wildlife Park
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified wilderness guides and instructors for any activities

Trip Overview

Ranua offers a tantalising combination of excellent accommodation, a range of exceptional activities and some truly unique opportunities at Ranua Wildlife Park.

Ranua Wildlife Park is the main base for all activities here and it is just a short walk from the accommodation. All of the key winter activity options are possible and as this is a tailor-made holiday option, you can pick and choose from the activities listed in the '[Activities](#)' section of the holiday page. You can snowmobile, dog sled, enjoy reindeer encounters and horse-drawn sleigh rides, try snowshoeing or cross-country skiing all within easy reach of your delightful accommodation. You will also receive unlimited access to the park throughout your stay too.

The main thing, however, which helps Ranua stand out from other destinations, is Ranua Wildlife Park. Home to some of the Arctic's, if not the world's, most endangered animals it is a place that adds a lot of unique experiences to your winter escape. Here you can see wolves, brown bears, wolverine, wild boar, lynx and even polar bears amongst an array of over 50 species that live at the park. The park is dedicated to the conservation of these endangered animals as well as the protection of their natural habitats. The park also takes in a range of injured or orphaned animals to either rehabilitate and

release them or care for them if that is not an option.

Ranua is an ideal destination for a tailor-made holiday as there is simply so much on offer. So, whether you are looking for an active holiday or are to take things at a more leisurely pace, there is something for you. The spacious, modern and well-equipped apartments have their own private saunas and are a fabulous base to return to. From December through to 10th January, we will not be offering a full board upgrade to include lunch, but guests can arrange and pay for this locally. In our experience, the restaurant can become busy during the festive lunchtimes, with outside visitors to the park, and we have found that most guests prefer to make their own lunch arrangements in their wonderfully equipped apartment kitchens. Breakfast and dinner are included in all our holidays.

This tailor-made holiday is based on a minimum of three nights at Ranua. The package includes return flights from London to Rovaniemi (either direct or via Helsinki) as well as half-board accommodation, airport transfers and cold-weather clothing for the duration of your stay. You can then add in additional nights and the activities that you would like from the full range listed in the ['activities'](#) section of this holiday page.

Please note: Activity schedules are subject to change. Duration of activity includes transfer times and breaks, and all distances are approximate. Some activities require a minimum number of participants to operate and are subject to availability.

Single snowmobiles: All snowmobile safaris are based on two people sharing. If this is not possible in your party, then you will be paired with someone else taking part in the activity. If you wish to guarantee your own snowmobile you must pay a single snowmobile supplement - please ask our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Image credits: Gulo Gulo Holiday Village

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY 1	ARRIVAL
Included Meals: Dinner	
DAYS 2 TO 3	DESIGN YOUR OWN HOLIDAY
Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner	
DAY 4	DEPARTURE

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Finn Horse Sleigh Ride

Meet genuine Finnhorses (the national horse breed of Finland) and enjoy a relaxing sleigh ride amidst the pristine snowy wilderness surrounding Ranua. Your journey will take you through the beautiful forest which resides next to the Wildlife Park and provides a stunning backdrop with snow-covered trees adding to the splendour. Travelling in this way feels a little like being in Narnia!

Duration: approximately 45-60 minutes in total

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Lappish Workshop Arts and Crafts With Ms. Paula

Join local handicraft artist Ms. Paula in her workshop, where you'll make a traditional Lappish souvenir to take home with you. You can choose between different sessions depending on the item you want to make. From genuine reindeer leather shoulder bags and pouches to a unique piece of Lappish jewellery, the choice is yours! Children can also take part by making a red-nosed reindeer using a variety of materials.



Snowshoe Walk in the National Park

Experience the traditional way of travelling over thick snow (without sinking up to your waist!). This walk is led by a guide who will take you into the Korouoma National Park area, renowned for its spectacular scenery and beautiful views. Lunch is included and will be enjoyed in one of the parks wilderness huts. Duration: approximately 6 hours in total (including lunch)



Snowmobile Safari to the Finn Horse Farm

Following driving instructions, you will set out on snowmobiles towards Ranua Villages only horse stables.

Here you can get to know the stable's five Finnish horses, before enjoying a short Finn horse sled ride (approximately 15 minutes).

Back at the stables, you will enjoy a hot snack and learn more about these peaceful animals. The activity will end with a snowmobile trip back to the hotel.

Duration: approximately 2 hours

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. Children will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile on selected safaris where this is offered. Older children may be able to travel as pillion on the snowmobile but this is at the discretion of the guide. Single driver supplement applies.



Cross-Country Skis, Snowshoe and Fat Bike Rentals

If you enjoy cross-country skiing, snowshoeing or cycling, you can rent the equipment for some independent exploration. Talk to the staff at the hotel for trail guides and best locations.

Rental:

Snowshoes and Cross-Country Skis: £25 per person per

day

Fatbikes: £55 per person day



Sleigh Ride to Finnish Horse Farm

Starting at Ranua Wildlife Park, you will take a relaxing horse-drawn sleigh ride into the village of Ranua and visit the Finnish horse farm. You will get to know the stable's 5 Finnish horses and other animals on the farm, such as Northern Finncattle, chickens and rabbits.

Duration: approximately 2 hours



Aurora Borealis Trip to Lappish Hut by Snowmobile

Lake Ranuanjarvi is one of the best locations in the area in terms of Northern Lights' potential, away from any light pollution and offering unobstructed views across the frozen water. Even better, you can make the most of this natural vantage point from a cosy lavvu, a traditional Sami tent built on the shore where snacks and warm drinks are served whilst you keep an eye on the skies above. To reach the lavvu you will travel through the snow-blanketed forest on snowmobiles, with just your

headlights picking out your path through the trees – a very atmospheric experience!

Duration: approximately 3 hours

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence.



Northern Lights Safari with Finn Horses

Go on the hunt for the Northern Lights during a horse-drawn sleigh ride (6-8 people per sleigh) with Finn horses. You'll be wrapped up warm in your sleigh as you listen to stories about Lapland. Take in the magic of the wintry surroundings at night and if conditions are favourable, the magic will extend into the skies as the Northern Lights make their appearances.

Duration: approximately 2 hours in total

©Jari Romppainen



Snowmobile Safaris

Perhaps one of the most thrilling ways in which to explore Ranua's surrounding wilderness is via snowmobile. Enjoy the landscapes of Lapland as you pass through snow-covered forests and along trails that cut across frozen waterways. Your guide will give you full instructions before departure and a full safety briefing. You will travel two people per snowmobile throughout.

There is a range of durations to choose from:

Approximately 1 hour - £112 per person

Approximately 2 hours - £144 per person

Approximately 6 hours - £218 per person

The distance covered on each safari will vary and will be determined by the group's ability and a snack will be provided during the 6-hour safari.

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. Single driver supplement applies.

Duration: various available



Ice Fishing via Snowmobile

Ice fishing is a real passion for the locals and during this activity, you can find out what all of the fuss is about. You will enjoy a snowmobile safari (full instruction and a safety briefing will be provided) in order to reach a nearby frozen lake. Upon arrival, your guide will help you drill a hole in the ice and you will lower your line into the dark waters below, trying your hand at this unique form of fishing.

Warm drinks will be served and, if you are lucky enough to land a catch, you can cook it there and then.

Duration: Approximately 3 hours

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. You will travel two people per snowmobile. Single driver supplement applies.



Searching for the Aurora Borealis by snowmobile

A snowmobile tour under the night sky is a truly magical experience, particularly when seeking out the Aurora Borealis. Heading out into the darkness, you will explore the wilderness with your guide leading the way along the dark forest trails. There will be breaks to enjoy a hot drink and keep a keen watch on the sky in anticipation of a potential Northern Lights display. The tour will take you deeper into the wilderness, away from the village and any artificial light.

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. You will travel two people per snowmobile. Single driver supplement applies.

Duration: approximately 3 hours in total

©Gulo Gulo Holiday Village



Snowshoeing

Perhaps one of the best ways to enjoy the tranquil, snow-covered forest neighbouring the wildlife park is to strap on a pair of snowshoes and head into the untouched, deep snow, off the beaten track. Your guide will offer lots of interesting information about the local flora and fauna and how they survive in Lapland during the winter months.

Duration: approximately 2 hours in total



Cross Country Skiing

Cross-country skiing is a hugely popular activity in Finland and the trails criss-cross the countryside pretty much wherever there is snow.

Your guide will give you instruction on how to succeed in cross-country skiing before you head onto the trails to put your skills into practice. The ski tracks begin close to Ranua Wildlife Park and you will cover around 3km in total.

Duration: Approximately 2 hours in total



Snowmobile Safari to Reindeer Farm

Following driving instructions from your guide, you will set out to snowmobile towards Laivala, a small and traditional reindeer farm, which is approximately 15km away. Here you will be welcomed by the herder and taken to see their reindeer, before enjoying a short reindeer sled ride (15 minutes).

Back at the farm you will enjoy a hot snack and learn more about the life of the reindeer herders and their long history in this region. The activity will end with a snowmobile trip back to the hotel.

Duration: approximately 3 Hours in total

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence.

You will travel two people per snowmobile. Single driver supplement applies.



Short Reindeer Sleigh Ride

Reindeer-pulled sleighs have been used throughout the centuries in Lapland. Reindeer are ideally suited to their environment and have always been central to the culture and traditions of Lapland. This short journey via reindeer-pulled sled leads you out from Ranua and into the snow-covered landscape in a peaceful way.

Duration: approximately 40 minutes in total



Day Trip to Rovaniemi

Following breakfast, your minibus will take you directly to Rovaniemi which is approximately one hour away.

Your first stop will be the Santa Claus Village on the Arctic Circle where you can immerse yourself in the festive cheer! Here you can enjoy shopping for a wide range of locally crafted souvenirs or simply admire the beautiful festive colours and atmosphere. After lunch at the Santa Claus Village, you will head towards Arktikum, a wonderful local museum exhibiting the unique culture of the Arctic. Alternatively, you can head to the city centre

and explore independently before heading back to Ranua.

Duration: approximately 7 Hours in total (transfer 2 hours)



Husky Safaris

One of the most memorable and enchanting ways in which to explore the Arctic is on a husky safari, they provide an unforgettable experience.

The huskies epitomise enthusiasm when you meet them and are always eager for the trail. Full instruction and safety instruction is always provided prior to setting off on the snowy trails, travelling two people per sled. The duration of the journey varies from 30 minutes to 5 hours, depending on your preference and after the tour, you can meet the dogs and take pictures as well as ask any

questions you may have.

Approximately 30 minutes - £70 per person

Approximately 1 hour 50-60 mins - £109 per person

Approximately 2 hours - £139 per person

Approximately 5 hours (includes lunch) - £248 per person

SPECIAL NIGHTS



Arctic Fox Igloo

Add a special touch to your winter holiday in Ranua with a night in a fantastic glass igloo.

Located in an idyllic lakeside setting with very little light pollution and uninterrupted views to the North, the igloos give you the incredible opportunity to hunt for the Northern Lights from your bed.

There are 20 igloos in total (10 twin igloos and 10 family/lakeside igloos) which are located around 8km from Ranua Wildlife Park.

TWIN IGLOOS

The igloos include a twin bed and have a small kitchenette and a bathroom with a private sauna for the ultimate Finnish experience.

FAMILY/LAKESIDE IGLOOS

These igloos have the same facilities as the twin igloos but have a double bed and space for two small extra beds for children (4-14 years old) and a lake view. Please note that the maximum occupancy is 2 adults and 2 children (4-14 years old).

Guests will normally be transferred to the igloos after their evening meal at Ranua and will be picked up the following morning in time for breakfast back at the main restaurant. Whilst there is no reception building at the igloo camp, all guests receive a contact number in case of any questions or issues.

Please note that the example price listed is based on guests spending the final night of their holiday in an igloo, and checking out of their apartment accommodation. If guests wish to spend any other night during their stay in a glass igloo, they must retain their apartment accommodation. Our Travel Experts will happily provide you with a quotation.

Image credit: Marko Junttila & Jari Romppainen

Included Accommodation

Gulo Gulo Holiday Village (Nights: 1-3)



Located around 4km from the small town of Ranua, the Gulo Gulo Holiday Village takes its name from the Latin word for wolverine, and the wildlife theme continues throughout due to the accommodation's proximity to the Ranua Wildlife Park which guests have unlimited access to throughout their stay.

The holiday village offers guests modern, comfortable and wonderfully equipped apartments which are self-contained and very spacious.

The simple, yet convivial restaurant at the wildlife park is where breakfasts and dinners will be served. Breakfasts are served buffet-style and evening meals consist of both Finnish dishes and more continental dishes, also served in a buffet format. Drinks are available for purchase with meals.

Room types

APARTMENTS

The apartments are modern, spacious, airy and extremely comfortable. In total, there are thirty superior holiday apartments at Gulo Gulo, which are housed within ten semi-detached buildings. All of the buildings back onto the snowy forest and are within easy walking distance of the Wildlife Park and its restaurant (it's just across the road).

The ground floor accommodation comprises an open-plan living room with flat-screen TV, kitchen and dining area. The kitchen is well equipped with a stove, microwave, dishwasher, fridge, coffee maker and kettle (you may want to take your own tea and coffee to enjoy in your apartment).

There is one twin bedroom downstairs as well as the bathroom which includes a shower, toilet and drying cabinet for clothes. There is also a private sauna which is a real treat. The accommodation also offers hairdryers and ironing facilities.

On the first floor, there is a second twin bedroom as well as an open loft area with two smaller extra beds (suitable for children) as well as a shower and toilet. All linen and towels are of course provided.

The apartments have their own decking area which can come in very handy for viewing the local wildlife or (fingers crossed!) maybe even the Northern Lights.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum numbers required for this holiday to run vary from 2 to 8 people (depending on departure date). Maximum 42 people (approximately). Please speak to our Travel Experts for further information.

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum and maximum age

If a specific minimum age applies to this holiday, it can be found in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page.

Unless otherwise stated in the in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page, the minimum age for participation in an Artisan holiday is typically 8 years old (there may be younger children in some destinations who have booked with other companies). If an adult-only environment is important to you, then please contact our Travel Experts and they will advise on the best dates and destinations for you. If you are looking for a holiday designed specifically for families then please see our sister company www.activitiesabroad.com

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions>

Minimum travellers 10, Maximum travellers 20