



Utsjoki - The Top of Finland



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 5025
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Spending seven nights in wild Lapland, in a charming and modern hotel run by a Sámi family, you will leave Utsjoki with a deep connection to the area. Learn stories and secrets of the culture and take part in must-do activities such as snowshoeing, a reindeer sleigh ride and dog sledding.

Our Opinion

“ Wild, traditional, remote and almost mystical, Utsjoki is situated in the northernmost corner of Finnish Lapland. Life here is slower and far simpler and at night, when both darkness and silence falls over the fells and the Aurora shimmers in the pitch black sky, you can very well understand why the Sámi people consider this area to be of sacred significance. ”

Ali Mclean



What's included?

- **Flights:** Return from London to Ivalo (either direct or via Helsinki depending on departure date). Flight routes are subject to change.
- **Transfers:** Return group airport transfers*
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights' in a standard double or twin hotel room
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- **Activities:** Snowshoeing in the sacred valley, reindeer sleigh ride and local culture, husky safari, traditional dinner in a Sámi hut, Snowmobile tour, free use of cross-country skis and snowshoes. Aurora Search by car or snowshoe (depends on weather conditions), Village tour by car. **(order subject to change)**
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified wilderness guides and instructors during activities

*Transfers will stop in the town of Inari and then carry on to Utsjoki.

Trip Overview

Staying in cosy, comfortable accommodation run by a friendly Sámi family, guests will leave feeling like friends, knowing some of these stories and secrets of this fascinating culture. Your hotel accommodation (around 2km from Utsjoki town) has great views north across the Teno River and into Norway. You are in prime Northern Lights territory here, with frequent and spectacular displays which even still stop the locals in their tracks. Evening safaris are available during your stay - please see the [Personalise tab](#) for further details. They are not part of the Artisan holiday because Utsjoki has such great views of the Aurora when they occur that an inclusive trip may be surplus to requirements!

Around Utsjoki, dramatic peaks rise from snow-covered fells above the tree-line and the frozen river lies in front of the hotel, sealed with a layer of thick ice and snow. This winter landscape at the northern tip of Finnish Lapland is the perfect place to experience a variety of incredible winter activities, such as a snowshoe hike in the Sacred Valley and a reindeer farm visit with a sleigh ride, where you will learn about the Sámi culture, which is so predominant in this area. You'll also get to enjoy a husky safari in Norway, where you can meet the dogs before sledding off across the snow. To add to this, you'll spend one night dining on a traditional dinner in a warming Sámi hut, as you listen

to an enchanting Sámi yoik (song) performance.

We've made sure to include plenty of free time so that you can savour the stunning surroundings of Arctic Finland and make the most of your time away in this remote and breath-taking part of Lapland. Extra activities, such as a tour to the Arctic Ocean, a scenic snowmobile-pulled sleigh safari, or cross-country skiing in the surrounding wilderness can be added to your trip if you would like to experience all that Utsjoki has to offer.

Today the population density of Utsjoki is 0.25 people per square kilometre. Compare this to London where it is 4,978 people per square kilometre and you have some idea of the remote beauty you may expect. Nothing, however, can prepare you for the reality of this stunning environment where snow covers the ground for six months of the year and the reindeer outnumber the people.

Image credits: Holiday Village Valle and Klaus Peter Kappest

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Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

FLIGHTS, TRANSFERS, WELCOME

Following your flight into Ivalo, you will be transferred to your accommodation in Utsjoki, which is around two hours' drive away, including a stop at the small town of Inari. The northern skies are visible all the way to your destination and many a transfer has witnessed a display of the Aurora – what a way to be welcomed! Depending on when your flight lands, you will either have a packed dinner during the journey or dinner in the restaurant on arrival.

Your Sámi hosts will greet you at your accommodation. You can head to your hotel bedroom (Aurora permitting) to enjoy your first peaceful night in the very north of Finland.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

REINDEER SLEIGH RIDE AND LOCAL CULTURE

Your hosts are Sámi reindeer herders, so it is fitting that after breakfast you should learn more about

these animals which are so central to Sámi culture. You will travel by car to the nearby reindeer farm. Here you will enjoy a short reindeer-pulled sleigh ride.

Over a warming drink, you will learn about the lives of the herders and the way in which the reindeer are central to the culture and traditions of this region. Lunch will be back at the holiday village restaurant. This morning's activity will last for approximately 2 hours.

This afternoon we have left free for you to enjoy your local surroundings at your leisure before dinner in the restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

SNOWSHOEING IN THE SACRED VALLEY

Today you will enjoy a snowshoeing tour in the fascinating Sacred Valley, which has been an important part of Sámi history for thousands of years.

You will learn about the history of the area, as well as the flora and fauna of the region and how to identify the variety of animal tracks dotted across the snow. You will then head back to the hotel where your guide will light a fire in a traditional Sami hut, and you can relax with some warm drinks. This activity will last approx. 2hrs.

Your afternoon is free to relax and unwind, or perhaps you will want to make use of the cross-country skis and snowshoes, which are free for you to use all week (depending on availability).

Dinner will be served back at the holiday village restaurant with more time to watch the skies in this remote location, hoping the Northern Lights will perform their magical dance.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

AURORA SEARCH BY SNOWSHOES OR CAR

Today will be free for you to do as you wish. You might want to make use of the cross-country skis and snowshoes or add extra activities. In the evening, your guide will take you on this trip to search for the enchanting Northern Lights. Depending on the season and weather conditions, you will either walk on snowshoes to explore the surrounding nature of Holiday Village Valle, or travel by car in search of the Northern Lights.

During your tour, your guide will also tell you stories about the Northern Lights and the stars and their significance in Sami culture. You will be out this evening approx. 2-3 hrs.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

HUSKY SAFARI

Today you will have the opportunity to experience the thrill of mushing with your own husky dogs' team and enjoy the breathtaking views of rugged fells from the cold river that runs through this beautiful river valley. Here you will meet with the local musher who will show you how to handle a sled and a team of eager huskies. You will depart on a husky safari lasting around two hours, travelling two people per sled. There is nothing comparable to the thrill of travelling by dog sled. Whether you are driving or sitting in the sled, it is an exceptional experience.

Following the safari, you will enjoy some snacks and coffee around a campfire. You will have time to say goodbye to the dogs at the end of your tour and take as many pictures as you wish before you head back to Utsjoki for free time and dinner. You will be out for around 4 hours this morning, including transfers.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
6

SNOWMOBILE TOUR

Today you will be touring a nearby fell area by snowmobile accompanied by your guide. On a sleigh wrapped in warm hides and blankets, you will enjoy the peacefulness of the amazing views of the Teno River valley, and the fells of Finland and Norway. Wild reindeer might be seen on the tour, and you may be able to take photos of them in their natural habitat.

During your tour, your guide will also provide you with some hot drinks and share stories about the nature and animals of the area. In addition, he will share stories about the Sami people and their lives here in Utsjoki. You will be out this approx. 3hrs.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
7

VILLAGE TOUR & FALLEGOAHTI – TRADITIONAL SAMI DINNER

During your morning drive to Utsjoki village, you will have the opportunity to visit the old church hut open-air museum. Sami families own these log huts, and they used to live in them during church holidays. The huts are Utsjoki most valuable cultural heritage, whose construction dates to prehistoric times. After the church huts, we will visit the village house Giisa, a local gathering spot for the locals. There is also a handicraft shop in Giisa where you can purchase products made by locals and books by Sami authors. You will be out this approx. 1.5hrs

Tonight, will be a special evening where you will be invited to attend to an authentic Sami hut, goahti, where your guide will be proudly wearing the traditional Sami costumes while cooking for you a delicious dinner with local ingredients such as local mushrooms, reindeer roast, Lappish bread cheese and more. The hut lies 300 meters upstream of the Teno River from Holiday Village, away from noise

or people passing by. Around the campfire at dinner, you will hear stories about Sami culture, their traditions and you will be given a private Sami yoik performance.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Today, you will be transferred back to Ivalo Airport for your journey home. If your flight is earlier in the morning, you will be given a packed breakfast rather than having it in the holiday village restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Extend your stay

If you have a little bit more time to enjoy the wonder of the wilderness then why not extend your stay. We can arrange for you to spend an extra night in a cabin or hotel room, with half board included so that you can take advantage of some of the other activities that are available in this remote and beautiful area.

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Cross-country skiing

Cross-country skiing is one of the oldest methods of travel used by the Sámi people. Using the cross-country skiing equipment will allow you to make the most of the snow-covered landscape and explore the untouched wilderness that surrounds the area and to appreciate the beauty of this remote region. You will enjoy a real sense of silence during this activity and hopefully, encounter some of the local wildlife such as elk, hare and willow grouse. There will be a break for warm drinks en-route. This activity requires a minimum of two participants.

A minimum number of 2 participants is required for this activity to take place.

Duration: 2 hours



Tour to the Arctic Ocean by car

You will be driven over the border into Norway to the magnificent Varangerfjord and the fishing village of Nesseby. A trip will be made to the nearby Sámi museum to learn more about the indigenous people of the Nordic countries, and you will also find out about contemporary life by the Arctic Ocean. Time will be made to visit a 'seita', or Sámi worship site, and there will be a picnic lunch along the way. Heading back, a stop will be made at a Sámi handicraft workshop in the village of Tana.

this activity to take place.

Duration: 4-5 hours

A minimum number of four participants is required for



Winter Fishing

In Utsjoki, Ice Fishing is perhaps the most popular winter activity for locals. Join an experienced guide and learn the secrets behind this unique form of fishing. Your trip will begin as you are transferred via snowmobile-pulled sleigh to a nearby frozen lake. Following this, your guide will then drill holes in the ice using a special drill called 'kaira' before you attempt to catch Arctic Trout or Salmon Trout from the watery abyss below. Whilst you are fishing, your guide will prepare warm drinks over a campfire.

A minimum number of two participants is required for this

activity to take place.

Duration: 3 Hours

MISC.

Snowmobile Safari in Nuorgam

£198 two people sharing snowmobile / £237 when driving an own snowmobile / £150 When sitting on a sledge.

There's no better way to get around in the snowy wilderness than with a snowmobile, and it's a lot of fun too.

During this tour, you'll drive a snowmobile on your own and learn the basics of snowmobiling. Your guide will first instruct you how to drive the snowmobile, ensure your safety, and then take you through the snowy fells and frozen lakes of Kaldoaiv wilderness.

Because these trails are not in use by the general public, they are not crowded. You will be able to visit places that local guides can only reach. During the tour, your guide will serve you hot drinks and light snacks during a short break. This activity will last approx. 2hrs including transportation to Nuorgam and return.

A minimum number of two participants is required for this activity to take place.

Aurora Reindeer Tour

During the evening, your guide will take you on a reindeer sleigh ride where is possible to spot the Aurora Lights. In your return from the sleigh ride, depending on the weather, your guide will light a fire inside or outside the traditional Sami hut after where he will serve you hot drinks and will provide you with information about reindeer herding and stories about Auroras stars and their significance in

Sami culture. This activity will last approx. 2hrs.

A minimum number of two participants is required for this activity to take place.

Handcraft workshop experience

In this workshop, you'll create your own souvenir.

In this activity, you will have the opportunity to select either reindeer horn, reindeer bone, or leather as the material, and you will be able to make different things to take home, such as reindeer horn rings or leather key chains. Moreover, you will be guided during the workshop and taught how to use the tools.

This will be another chance for your guide to share the significance of local handcrafts with you as well as their significance in Sami culture.

A minimum number of two participants is required for this activity to take place.

Arctic Sauna

You can relax in a cosy, wood-heated barrel sauna by the Teno River on a cold winter's day after an active outdoor day.

Enjoy the peaceful atmosphere surrounded by a beautiful river and natural landscape while lying in the soft heat of the sauna.

Depending on ice conditions, the Teno River is ideal for taking a dip or rolling in the snow, which is a traditional method for improving circulation and cold tolerance.

Least but not last, there's a good chance that you'll see the Northern Lights dancing above you.

Sauna and Hot Tub

Enjoy a peaceful moment together with your family or friends in a private sauna and hot tub if you wish to add some luxury to your day.

As you relax in the hot tub, you may be able to see the Northern Lights, since the sauna is located by the riverside.

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Holiday Village Valle Hotel (Nights: 1-3,5-7)



This small holiday village run by a Sámi reindeer herding family offers cosy winter cabins and a lovely hotel by the famous Teno River. The accommodation has a reception building which includes a dining room with a fireplace, a lounge and a wonderful view of the Teno and the Norwegian fells opposite.

Meals are served in the main building and include local produce and delicacies.

Guest room options

Hotel room: each room has a big window that looks out onto the River Teno and the Norwegian Fells. The rooms consist of two single beds, which can be pushed together to make a double, and two big, cosy chairs, one of which can be pulled out to form an extra bed. These rooms all have ensuite bathrooms, a drying cupboard for clothes, a kettle and a hairdryer. Wi-Fi is available throughout the whole of Village Valle premises.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Holiday Village Valle Cabins



Surrounding the main building (within 100 metres) are ten winter cabins. There are two bedrooms in each cottage, a kitchenette, living area, fireplace, toilet and sauna. These cabins are very cosy and provide guests with their own Finnish home for the duration of their stay. There is nothing nicer than coming back after a day in the wilds to a log fire and your own private heated sauna – just lovely.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

This holiday requires a minimum of 2 people to run, however, we require a minimum of 8 people for our flight allocation. Maximum 30 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