



Harriniva - Five-Day Husky Safari



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group

VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 5002

DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Take part in an epic five-day dog sledding adventure through the wilds of Lapland in Harriniva, Finland. Journey through the frozen wonderland of Pallas-Ylläs National Park with a small group of like-minded travellers, spending your nights in wonderfully remote cabins. This is sure to be an unforgettable experience.

Our Opinion

“ Put simply, this is a fantastic experience. The loudest sound will be your dogs' barking and the only people you will probably see are your fellow adventurers, as you travel from cabin to cabin on this superb husky odyssey. I saw my best Northern Lights display ever as well. Magical! ”

Amy Walkington-Gray



What's included?

- **Duration:** 7 nights
- **Flights:** return flights from London Heathrow to Kittilä (via Helsinki). Direct return flights from London Gatwick are available for a supplement on certain dates. Flight routes are subject to change
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers are included
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights safari house or hotel accommodation and 4 nights in wilderness cabin accommodation (all accommodation is on a shared basis)
- **Activities:** 5-day husky safari with own team of dogs
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches*, 7 dinners
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified wilderness guides and instructors
- Dedicated Artisan Travel Company representative at Harriniva

* If you're travelling from the 27th February 2022 you will receive 6 lunches.

Trip Overview

Driving your own team of huskies through the Finnish wilderness for five days, staying in remote cabins far from civilisation, is an arctic holiday experience that will stay with you forever. The stunning Pallas-Ylläs National Park in North West Lapland is said to have the cleanest air in Europe. You will get to fill your lungs and refresh your senses speeding through the snowy forests and across frozen lakes in this untouched wilderness.

Your journey begins at the Arctic Sled Dog Centre at the renowned and respected Harriniva Wilderness Hotel.

Your team of four to six dogs comes from the 400 huskies looked after here by expert mushers. These guides will teach you how best to act and react with your dogs when out on the trail. Soon you'll be working with your team as motivational musher of your own dog sled - it's a valuable lesson in teamwork. These amazing animals very quickly understand what you want them to do and deliver it with an enthusiasm and energy reserved for this particular breed of beautiful, hard-working dog.

Depending on the group's ability and the weather conditions, you can cover daily distances of between 25 to 40 kilometres. Over this distance and five unforgettable days, you will really get to know your dogs which all live and love to run in this Arctic playground.

At the end of your holiday, you can enjoy a unique night in either a snow room at Torassieppi Winter Village or in an Aurora Dome, see the '[Personalise](#)' section of the holiday page for details.

Image credits: Antti Pietikäinen, K Chae and Visit Finland

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

FLIGHTS, ARRIVAL, INTRODUCTION

From the airport, you will be transferred to your shared accommodation for the first night of your holiday. This will vary depending on availability but could be at any of the Pietikäinen family's three hotels or a safari house located near the Harriniva Wilderness Hotel (max distance of around 5km). If you are staying in one of the hotels then you will enjoy your evening meal in the hotel restaurant; if you are staying in one of the safari houses the hotel will provide a minibus to take you to dinner. You will be provided with full information regarding your accommodation for the first and final nights of your stay upon arrival. If you would like to upgrade to a private en-suite hotel room for the start and end of your stay then please ask our Travel Experts for a quotation.

For an extra special start or end to your holiday, it is possible to upgrade to an Aurora Dome or a night in the Torassieppi Winter Village. Please see the '[Personalise](#)' section for more details.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAYS
2 TO 5

HUSKY SAFARI

After breakfast, you will meet with your guide for a full briefing and instruction session, before getting acquainted with your dog team. Then the sleds and equipment will be packed ready for the awaiting wilderness.

Your route takes you out into one of Europe's most pristine environments, with the dogs leading the way through snow-laden forests and across frozen lakes. When weather conditions and the terrain are right you can cover up to 40km per day, with the only sound being the soft rustle of the sleigh and the patter of paws on the snow. You and your team will become one, with you aiding the dogs by helping push up the hills and maintaining the speed of the sled on the downhill sections and technical bits.

This is a really hands-on holiday and, whilst on the trail, your dogs are your responsibility and they'll

be fed and watered ahead of any of their human companions. There are also an array of camp chores to be shared amongst the group and so you'll get together to prepare breakfasts and dinners and will be involved in tasks such as carrying water, preparing the dog food (frozen meat in some cases), chopping wood and setting up the dogs' resting areas. In our experience and that of our guests, this all adds to the atmosphere and really builds camaraderie amongst the group.

Your accommodation is in simple, yet cosy wilderness cabins. They are not always equipped with showers, indoor toilets or electricity and accommodation is dormitory style. A traditional Finnish sauna is normally available (depending on the route you take and the wilderness cabin you will stay in) to help you relax and steam clean after a day of adventure. Dinner will be cooked by your guide over an open fire and you'll be able to discuss the day's adventures.

A huge benefit of the wilderness locations is that there will be little or no light pollution and so you will have a great chance to see the Northern Lights if the conditions are right.

Please note: physical fitness required for this holiday

To fully enjoy this holiday you do need a good level of physical fitness. Temperatures can be anywhere between -5°C to even -45°C but the thermal clothing you are provided will keep you toasty warm whatever the conditions. You will spend long parts of your day standing on the runners of the sledge for a few hours at a time but when required you may also be needed to walk/ jog behind the sledge for a short period and help the dogs push the sledge up any short hills (which are few and far between in this part of the world). Anyone with any recent injuries or longer term medical conditions who would like to discuss the level of physical activity required are more than welcome to speak to our travel experts who have all been lucky enough to take part in husky safaris of varying lengths (and are all manner of ages and levels of fitness too!).

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
6

THE FINAL LEG

Today you will make the final leg of your journey and arrive back at the hotel. It's time to part from your husky team and take a hot shower – a real luxury after five sensational days in the wild.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
7

FREE DAY

Today is a free day for you to enjoy however you choose. The wonderful thing about Harriniva is that you have the chance to try an array of additional Arctic adventures such as snowmobiling and snowshoeing (payable locally). Alternatively, you can simply relax and unwind after a truly unforgettable adventure.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Today you will be transferred back to the airport for your return flights home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Snowmobile to Torassieppi Reindeer Farm and Winter Village

Before hitting the trails, a full safety briefing and instruction will be provided. Covering a total of 40km today you will travel past frozen lakes and forests blanketed in white, as you make your way to the Torassieppi Reindeer Farm and Winter Village on by snowmobile.

On arrival you'll visit the traditional reindeer farm, one of the oldest in Finland where you will meet and feed the reindeer, which are synonymous with this region. After

your animal encounters you will head to the nearby Winter Village, where you will enjoy lunch in the ice restaurant before heading back to Harriniva.

This trip is based on two people sharing a snowmobile but if you would like to travel with your own machine this can be arranged for a supplement so please just ask our sales team for details. You will be out for a total of around 3.5 hours.

Guides, instruction and equipment included.

Suitable for those aged 12 years and over but please note that you must be over 18 and hold a full driving licence to drive a snowmobile. Children will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile.

Activity level: Medium

Minimum group size: 2 adults

Available: Thursday and Saturday at 10 am

Image credits: Antti Pietikainen

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Local culture

The Sámi people are native to Lapland, and their culture can be found throughout the region. On this activity, you will visit a local reindeer farm and have the chance to learn about the herder's lifestyle, help feed their animals and look around the nearby museum. This farm is one of the oldest in Finland and now welcomes visitors to come and gain an insight into the very special connection between the Sámi people and their animals. A magical reindeer sleigh ride is included (approximately 3km), as is lunch in a traditional kota (tepee).

From late December, you will then enjoy a tour of the nearby Torassieppi Winter Village which features snow rooms, ice sculptures and a very cool restaurant!

You will be out for around 4 hours (including transfers).

Activity level: Low

Minimum group size: 2 adults

Available: Monday, Wednesday & Saturday at 10.20 am

Suitable for those aged 5 years and over.



Aurora Snow Train

Step inside the cosy Snow Train carriage for an Aurora hunt into the wilderness.

Pulled along by your expert guide on a snowmobile, the Snow Train has been cunningly designed with an all-Perspex exterior to give you constant views of the night sky. As you journey further into the darkness, keep your eye out for a potential display.

You'll also stop in a prime location to enjoy hot drinks

and a snack by an open fire and continue your search. Your location will be chosen based on the local weather and Aurora forecast for the evening, giving you the best possible chance of ticking the Northern Lights off your bucket list.

Minimum group size: 2 adults

Minimum age: 5 years old

Duration: approximately 2 hours in total

Available: Tuesday and Thursday at 9pm (Jeris); Monday at 9 pm and Friday at 10 pm (Harriniva)

SPECIAL NIGHTS



Overnight at Torassieppi Winter Village

Spend a memorable night in a traditional snow igloo room within Torassieppi Winter Village. Snow structures and igloos have been used for centuries as a form of protection from the Arctic weather and whilst the outside temperatures can plummet, inside they remain more moderate.

Your bed may be made of snow and ice but your thick sleeping bags and mattresses will ensure a warm night.

Any required transfers, sleeping bag, hot drink and breakfast all included. You will enjoy your evening meal at your hotel prior to transferring to your snow igloo room in the evening at approximately 8.30/9pm. The toilet and sauna facilities are approximately 200 metres' walk away. You will check out after breakfast.

Available: Monday to Sunday at 8.30/9pm

Please note: As activity schedules can be subject to change we may be unable to confirm the exact night that you will spend at Torassieppi although every effort will be made to accommodate specific requests they cannot be guaranteed. Your final itinerary including confirmation of the date of your stay at Torassieppi will be confirmed upon arrival in Finland.

Please note: prices are based on you spending the first or last night of your holiday in this unique accommodation and not keeping your original accommodation. If you would like to do this on any other night during your holiday you will need to keep your accommodation and supplements will apply.

Please contact us for a quotation.

Image credit: Antti Pietikäinen



Night in an Aurora Dome

The remarkable Aurora Domes offer a unique experience for overnight guests. These dome-shaped tents are filled with cosy features and they're simple but warm. The domes have been designed so that one wall is see-through and therefore provides views of the night sky and, with luck, the Northern Lights.

The domes are equipped with a double bed and a wood-burning stove to keep you nice and warm. The toilet, shower and sauna facilities are located a short walk away (approximately 50-100m).

Any required transfers and breakfast are included. For December dates at Torassieppi, you will have dinner at the hotel, prior to transferring to your dome at approximately 8.30/9pm; from early January onwards, you will check-in at approximately 4 pm and have dinner at Torassieppi. If you are staying at an Aurora Dome in Jeris, check-in is approximately 4 pm throughout the season and you will have dinner at Jeris as well.

You will check-out after breakfast.

Please note: the price shown is based on your spending the first or final night of your stay in a dome and therefore not requiring a hotel room or cottage. Should you wish to spend an alternative night glamping then additional supplements will apply. Please contact one of our team for a quote.

Available: Monday - Sunday at 4 pm

Total duration: 1 night

Activity level: low

Minimum age: 12 years old

Minimum group size: 1 adult

Please note: for 2022/23, it is likely that the domes will only be operating in Torassieppi.

Image credit: Antti Pietikäinen

Included Accommodation

Harriniva Wilderness Hotel (Nights: 1,6-7)



Ideally located in the north-west corner of Finland, high above the Arctic Circle and in the very heart of the Aurora Zone, Harriniva Wilderness Hotel serves as a perfect base for your adventure holiday.

Owned and run by the Pietikäinen family, the hotel has developed a growing reputation for its warm ambience and the large range of enjoyable activities on offer.

Hotel facilities

The hotel has a range of facilities that have been designed to make your stay here as enjoyable as possible.

- There is free Wi-Fi throughout for guest use, in our experience, we have found it works best in the main reception and dining area
- The hotel restaurant consists of three separate dining areas. The meals are served in a buffet style with two or three choices for each course. The food here is hearty and wholesome
- The hotel also has a pub serving a range of beers, wines and spirits - this is the perfect place to unwind and relax with your fellow guests in the evening
- Tea and coffee are available free of charge throughout the day in the hotel restaurant / bar area.
- In the main reception area of the hotel, you will find a small gift shop selling a range of postcards, soft toys and handcrafted products. There is also a selection of snacks that can be purchased
- A sauna is available for guest use with separate facilities for men and women. This is free of charge and is heated every evening for around three hours
- The hotel also has an Aurora Wellness Centre (situated a short walk away on the riverbank), where you can enjoy a range of therapies such as facials or massages. A real treat after a day of sapping up the pristine wilderness! During peak periods, we would strongly recommend booking therapies in advance through reception (all payable locally)
- Snowshoes and cross-country skis are available to hire for a small charge and there are marked trails surrounding the hotel for those with some experience. For those interested in downhill skiing, the reception will be able to arrange a taxi to the nearby ski resort of Olos (payable locally).

Room types

Double/twin rooms: Harriniva has 64 guest bedrooms which consist of twin or double rooms. Triple rooms are also available on request. Decorated in traditional Scandinavian style, all rooms have an en-suite shower room and a hairdryer.

Safari House: For those travelling on our longer husky or snowmobile experiences, your nights before and after setting out on your adventure you will stay either at one of the Pietikäinen family's three hotels (in a shared room) or a safari house located near the Harriniva Wilderness Hotel (max distance of around 5km). If you are staying in one of the hotels then you will enjoy your evening meal in that hotel restaurant, if you are staying in one of the safari houses the hotel will provide a minibus to take you to dinner. You will be provided with full information regarding your accommodation for the first and final nights of your stay upon arrival. If you would like to upgrade to a private en-suite hotel room for the start and end of your stay then please ask our Travel Experts for a quotation. If you are staying in one of the Safari Houses then each has sleeping facilities, a shower room, toilet, hairdryer and a sauna.

Wilderness plus rooms: These recently renovated rooms include double/twin beds and an unfolding sofa suitable for 1 adult or 2 children. Decorated in traditional Scandinavian style, all rooms have an en-suite shower room and a hairdryer, as well as a small seating area

Image Credits: Matt Robinson, Emmi Kähkönen, Harriniva Hotels & Safaris

Wilderness Cabins (Nights: 2-5)



Wilderness cabin accommodation is reserved for those people enjoying overnight safaris. There can surely be few better forms of escape from the everyday stresses (which could include laptops, mobiles and your day job) than a night in one of these cabins. Their isolation also means that the views of the night sky are incredible.

The Northern Lights could well pay you a visit should conditions be right and, if the sky is clear, you will never forget the sight of the galaxy overhead.

The title is fairly self-explanatory as the cabins are located in the wilds. The cabins that you visit are determined by the conditions of the trails you are using. They are varied in their set up but all offer the same incredible experience of complete silence in the evening (not guaranteed if you are dog sledding as the huskies do like a howl now and then!).

Some of the cabins are more basic than others, as some have no electricity or running water. Everyone will join the guide to help set up camp by collecting wood and water if needed. Participating enhances the wilderness experience.

Once the fire is lit, the food is cooked. The guides prepare your meals over an open fire and our guests always provide exceptional feedback on the meals that the guides rustle up.

Should you have specific dietary requirements, please mention these at the time of booking.

There are no showers or bathroom facilities in the cabins but this is all part of the adventure. Scandinavia is renowned for its saunas and the wilderness cabins are no exception. Once heated, you can steam clean in the sauna. The toilet facilities are normally a short walk from the cabin and are compostable. We certainly recommend a head torch for any ventures to the toilet during the night!

In most cases, the sleeping arrangements are dormitory style. You will be given your own arctic-grade sleeping bag in which to sleep and, combined with your thermals and the open fire, this should keep you lovely and warm.

You will carry with you all that you need for any stay in the cabins, so luggage is typically restricted to the essentials. Your main bag will be securely stored back at the hotel and a safe is provided for your valuables.

There is something so refreshing about realising that you can strip back your belongings and enjoy such a simple but satisfying experience.

Depending on the weather conditions you might spend the nights in cosy and warm basecamp tents at one of the wilderness camps.

Image Credits: Antti Pietikainen

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 4; maximum 7

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>