



Jeris Winter Adventure at Christmas or New Year



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group

VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 5047

DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Travel to Jeris in Finland over Christmas or New Year for a fabulous winter cottage retreat in a picture postcard landscape. Over 7 nights, you'll experience the best the Arctic has to offer including snowmobiling and an unforgettable overnight dog sledding adventure where you will stay in a wilderness cabin.

Our Opinion

“ With charming winter cottages and Arctic experiences, Jeris is the perfect location for a winter retreat. Pair this with a visit over Christmas or New Year and you're in for a truly memorable festive celebration. ”

Jono Archer



What's included?

- **Flights:** return direct flights from London Gatwick to Kittilä. Flight routes are subject to change
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers are included
- **Accommodation:** 6 nights in a winter cottage and 1 night in wilderness cabin accommodation
- **The following activities and equipment are included:** reindeer farm and safari, snowmobile safari, overnight husky safari, cross-country ski or snowshoe equipment hire for one day (order subject to change)
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified wilderness guides and instructors
- Dedicated Artisan Travel Company representative

Trip Overview

This winter holiday in Finland encompasses all the highlights of the wonderful region, and we can think of no better way to celebrate Christmas or New Year.

During a visit to a historic reindeer farm, you will gain an authentic introduction into the traditional culture of this region and enjoy a reindeer-pulled sleigh ride.

There's also the Arctic favourite of dog sledding with the truly memorable adventure of an overnight stay in a wilderness cabin. This is an unforgettable experience which will see you and your loyal team of sled dogs ride through the wilds to reach a completely remote, yet welcoming cabin.

During snowmobiling, the adventure continues as you travel between 60 and 80km, exploring more of the frozen landscape and appreciating the sheer scale of the wilderness.

We have also left plenty of free time for you to enjoy the festive period however you like. A day of cross-country ski or snowshoe equipment rental is included in your stay, and you could even spend your final night in a special accommodation option. Choose from the nearby winter village or the extremely popular Aurora domes at Torassieppi, see the Personalise section for further information or talk to our Artisan Travel Experts for a quotation.

Please note that the order of activities within your itinerary is subject to change and the agenda below should be used as a guide only. The exact order of your agenda will be confirmed upon arrival at the hotel.

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND INTRODUCTION

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be transferred to Jeris where you will check into your winter cottage accommodation.

Tonight you will enjoy a welcome dinner where you will meet your guide and discuss the winter activities that await.

Please note that the order of activities within your itinerary is subject to change and the agenda below should be used as a guide only. The exact order of your agenda will be confirmed upon arrival at the hotel.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

REINDEER FARM AND SAFARI

A visit to Lapland wouldn't be complete without seeing some reindeer, particularly if you are travelling over the festive period. It's also a fascinating way to gain an insight into the local culture, as reindeer herding has been of significant importance to the region for many years.

You will hear some of the history of one of the oldest reindeer farms in Lapland. The farm houses a small museum so you can learn more about the history and customs of reindeer husbandry from your local guide and a reindeer herder.

The herder will show you how to throw a traditional lasso and you will then enjoy a 7km reindeer-pulled sleigh ride. This is a wonderful experience to start your winter adventure and you will also enjoy lunch around an open fire.

This afternoon, you will have some leisurely time at the hotel. You could unwind in a sauna or book onto another activity, found in our 'Personalise' tab.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

Snowmobiles are a vital form of transport in Lapland but during your holiday, they provide a thrilling and fun way to travel into the surrounding wilderness.

After a full safety briefing and instructions, you will head out on the trail, covering a distance of between 60 and 80km. You will travel two per snowmobile as you pass snow-covered forests, frozen lakes and snowy landscapes. There is the option to swap drivers during the safari but you must hold a full valid driving licence and be at least 18 years old to drive a snowmobile. You will be out for approximately five hours today, including lunch around an open fire.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

OVERNIGHT HUSKY SAFARI

A dog sledding safari is something you simply must experience during a visit to Lapland and this holiday adds an extra element of adventure with an overnight stay in a wilderness cabin.

After checking out of your cottage (your luggage will be securely stored for you at the hotel), you will meet your dog sled team of 4-6 huskies and help your expert guide harness them up ahead of taking to the trails. Once the sleds are loaded, you will be given a full safety briefing before following your guide into the wilderness. You'll notice that the dogs are very excitable beforehand but as within moments of releasing the brake, they fall silent and are focused on the trail in front of them.

You will drive one person per sled so you have your own team of loyal huskies for the full adventure. Today you will cover approximately 25km (depending on conditions) and lunch will be served around a campfire en route (weather permitting).

This evening, you will reach a wilderness cabin in a beautifully remote location. The group will all work together to collect firewood and water. The guide will prepare the evening meal, light the fire and prepare the wood-fired sauna for you to unwind in – this is Finland after all! You will also help to feed and settle your sled dogs for the night.

Most of the wilderness camps are simple with no running water, electricity or indoor toilet facilities, but this all adds to your adventure. The accommodation will be determined by the route and conditions but all will be dormitory style. You'll have an Arctic grade sleeping bag to keep you warm through the night and because the location is so remote, you'll also be in a great position to view the Northern Lights if conditions are favourable.

Please note that you require a reasonable level of fitness for the wilderness dog sled safaris as the days can be long and strenuous in cold conditions. If you have any questions about whether you think the activity is suitable for you, then please do not hesitate to contact one of our experts, who will give you their first-hand advice.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

HUSKY SAFARI BACK TO THE HOTEL AND CHRISTMAS OR NEW YEAR'S EVE

Today your wake-up alarm will more than likely be your dog sledding team eager to get going again. After breakfast and clearing up, you'll get the excitable dogs ready and set off on a 25km mush back to the sled dog centre. Lunch will be served around a campfire during the journey home (again weather permitting).

You will arrive back at Jeris during the afternoon and although it will be sad to bid farewell to your team of dogs, back at Jeris you can unwind from your epic adventure with a hot shower.

Depending on your departure date, today is either Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve but both call for a celebration. In Finland, Christmas is traditionally celebrated on the 24th and so a special dinner will be served in the hotel tonight. If you are travelling on New Year's Eve, then you will also enjoy a festive celebration meal in the hotel. We also recommend keeping an eye on the Aurora forecast as this is prime Northern Lights territory and if conditions are favourable, you could be in for a spectacular show.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
6

FREE DAY OR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Today is free for you to spend as you please. You could relax in one of the saunas or book onto an additional activity such as a Northern Lights hunt – the full range of options will be available to choose from locally.

As part of this package, you also have free use of cross-country skiing equipment or snowshoes for one day, so why not head out into the wintry landscape to give one of these a try independently (you should ensure that you check trail conditions and carry a map).

Please note: during our 20th December departure, activities are only bookable and payable locally and only Northern Lights activities are available to add-on.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
7

FREE DAY OR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Today is free for you to enjoy your wonderful surroundings. Again, you could book onto an additional activity or make use of the cross-country skiing equipment and snowshoes.

Tonight, there will be a special farewell dinner where you can reminisce on the highlights of your

winter adventure with your fellow guests.

If you want to end your holiday in style, we can also arrange for you to upgrade to an Aurora Dome of a snow room at Torassieppi Winter Village. See our 'personalise' section for more details.

Please note: during our 20th December departure, activities are only bookable and payable locally and only Northern Lights activities are available to add-on.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Today it is, unfortunately, time to say farewell to Jeris and your wonderful winter adventure. You will be transferred back to the airport for your return flight.

Whether you spent Christmas or New Year here, you're sure to have had an unforgettable festive holiday in Lapland.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



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 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.

Duration: 1-2 hours

Available: Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday at 9pm

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Arctic Elements Sauna World

Saunas are a popular and traditional Finnish pastime. The locals use it as a space for relaxation, meditation as well as mental and physical cleanliness - and Jeris is a luxurious spa facility for you to experience this in. What's more, Jeris prides itself on its eco-friendly approach to tourism. For example, geothermal heating is generated from the Jerisjärvi lake, electricity is 100% renewable from wind, water or solar power and the shower water is from the nearby under earth fountain.

The four saunas have been carefully themed on the four elements; earth, air, fire and water, as these are found in all traditions and shamanic wellbeing rituals.

These elements combine to create a fifth, steamy löyly, the spirit of sauna. Each element is represented by Finnish gods or goddesses, as the protectors of the saunas:

Sauna of Tapio (Earth). Tapio is the antlered king of the forest and in this sauna, you will feel the earthy and forest surroundings of the Finnish wilderness. It is split into north, east, south and west, each providing a different kind of löyly.

Sauna of Ukko (Fire). Ukko is the king of all gods and master of lightning, fire and air. This smoke sauna is the most traditional, and a favourite among the Finns. The heating process carries the smoke throughout to create a dark colouring, smokey scent and if you choose, a fiery heat.

Sauna of Vellamo (Water). Vellamo is the goddess of water and the ruler of lakes and rivers. This sauna has a panoramic view over Lake Jeris, a holy place for Sámi people, offering a calming atmosphere. The soft and moist löyly means you can stay in for longer for extended relaxation.

Sauna of Ilmatar (Air). Ilmatar is the goddess of wind, and the first mother in the beginning of times. This sauna has no fire or thick walls - instead infrared heaters are situated inside a traditional kota for a soft and gentle heat. Think of this as half sauna, half relaxation room.

You can also choose to upgrade to the private Northern Lights sauna. Tulikettu is the mystical firefox that lights up the sky and creates the Auroras. This two-storey panorama sauna is ideally situated under the open sky with a 180-degree view over Lake Jeris. The relaxing room on the second floor has an all-sky panoramic window for a clear view of the night sky and if conditions are favourable, the

Northern Lights. This sauna is perfect for private relaxation and comes with its own toilets, changing room and showers. Please ask our Artisan Travel Experts if you wish to include the Northern Lights sauna in your package.

The really brave (and healthy) can also take a dip in the icy lake waters - a technique the Finns swear by!

Minimum age: 5 years old

Available: Everyday at 4 pm

SPECIAL NIGHTS



Overnight 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.

Toilet, sauna and shower facilities are just a short 100m walking distance away.

Any required transfers and breakfast are included. 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.

At both locations, 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: Every day at 4 pm

Total duration: 1 night

Minimum age: 5 years old

Minimum group size: 1 adult

Image credit: Antti Pietikainen



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

Included Accommodation

Hotel Jeris Winter Cottages (Nights: 1-3,5-7)



Hotel Jeris and its winter cottages are on the shores of Lake Jerisjarvi around 20km from the nearest town. They offer an idyllic location for a holiday in the wilds of Finnish Lapland.

The hotel consists of a main building which is home to the hotel bedrooms, gift shop and restaurant. The 32 winter cottages are dotted in the surrounding forests.

Hotel facilities

- All meals are served in the main hotel restaurant. There is always a selection of options which often includes local dishes as well as more international cuisine.
- The buffet breakfast offers a wide selection of cooked and continental options; whilst lunch and dinner are usually a selection of salads, then a choice between a meat/fish main course and a vegetarian option, followed by a set dessert. During December, a special buffet menu and soft drinks are also provided for children.
- Tea and coffee are available in the main reception building throughout (free of charge).
- There is a small lounge area in the main building where guests can use the free Wi-Fi connection and there is a small shop selling souvenirs and snacks.
- Jeris is home to a lovely wellbeing area, situated on the lakeshore and just a short walk from the hotel. Here, there's a collection of saunas, including a traditional smoke sauna which is heated twice a week. There is also an illuminated ice pool if you are feeling brave (and are in good health).

Winter Cottage Type A

Type A winter cottages (30 square metres) are, on the whole, the closest to the hotel.

The cabins can vary in size but all sleep from two to four people in one spacious room with a sleeping alcove for two people (generally with a double bed) and a pull-out sofa bed for two more. They are all privately-owned and so the décor and style can vary, but each has a cosy wood-burning stove, clothes drying cupboard, kitchenette, television, shower room, toilet and a private sauna.

All meals are served in the hotel restaurant.

Cabin guests will receive a small 'starter pack' of firewood. Further wood supplies can be purchased locally for approximately 10 euros.

Winter Cottage Type B

Type B winter cottages (63 square metres) sleep from four to six people. There is a living room area with kitchenette and wood-burning stove, one bedroom for two people and a mezzanine loft area (please note that this is accessed by a steep ladder so is not suitable for small children) which can sleep up to four more.

The cottages are all privately owned and so some contents and décor may vary, but all are equipped with a clothes drying cupboard, sauna, TV, shower and toilet room.

The cosy winter cottages are located in the forests which surround Jeris; the furthest being across the quiet road and tucked in the trees around a 15-minute walk from the main building. Your luggage will be transferred for you on arrival.

Cabin guests will receive a small 'starter pack' of firewood. Further wood supplies can be purchased locally for approximately 10 euros.

All meals are served in the hotel restaurant.

Jeris Winter Cottage Type C

Type C winter cottages (70 square metres) are the largest available and sleep from four to seven people. There are two bedrooms (each for two people) downstairs and a loft sleeping area for a further two (or three if you don't mind being very cosy!) people accessed via a steep staircase.

As with all the cottages, there is a log-burning stove, clothes drying cupboard, kitchenette, sauna, TV, shower and toilet room. They can vary in layout a little and as they are privately-owned, the décor is determined by the owner's personal choice.

They are located in the forests which surround Jeris; the furthest being across the quiet road and tucked in the trees between a 10 and 20-minute walk from the main building. Your luggage will be transferred for you on arrival. All meals are served in the hotel restaurant.

Cabin guests will receive a small 'starter pack' of firewood. Further wood supplies can be purchased locally for approximately 10 euros.

Please note: a limited number of hairdryers are available to borrow from the reception desk.

Wilderness Cabins (Nights: 4)



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)

This holiday requires a minimum of 4 people to run, however, we require a minimum of 8 people for our flight allocation. Maximum 12 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>