



Jeris and Harriniva - Winter Adventure



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group

VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 5035

DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

This 7-night holiday includes Arctic activities such as a thrilling snowmobile adventure and an unforgettable overnight dog sledding experience in a wilderness cabin. You can choose to stay at either Hotel Jeris, next to the frozen lake Jerisjärvi or Hotel Harriniva, on the banks of the Muonio river.

Our Opinion

“ For me, this is certainly a favourite itinerary, primarily because of the fact that the itinerary offers some exceptional activities alongside free time to spend as you wish. The epic snowmobile safari is thrilling but the overnight husky safari is something that will remain in the memory for a very long time ”

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:** 6 nights hotel room and 1 night in wilderness cabin accommodation (choose between Hotel Jeris or Harriniva)
- **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 of activities 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

*If you're travelling between 02/01/22 - 26/02/22 7 lunches will be included.

Trip Overview

This winter holiday in Finland has been one of our most popular trips for over a decade and a quick look at the activities we include highlights why.

Firstly, guests enjoy a cultural experience at an historic reindeer farm, where a reindeer-pulled sleigh ride is a wonderful introduction to Lapland and the small museum provides details of the local culture and times gone by.

A thrilling snowmobile safari is next on the list and gives the chance to explore further afield and gain a sense of the scale of Finland's wilderness environment. This is not a short taster session – you will cover between 60 and 80km during the day!

The true highlight for many people, however, is the overnight husky safari to wilderness cabin which

covers two days of the holiday. This is an unforgettable experience for all who take part and is a real adventure.

Staying at either Hotel Jeris or Harriniva, we also leave time for you to tailor your holiday and relax or enjoy additional activities such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and ice fishing. We can also arrange for you to spend your final night in a winter village or in a spectacular Aurora dome at nearby Torassieppi.

Image credits: VisitFinland, Antti Pietikäinen

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 directly to your hotel where you will check into your room. Upgrade options are available at both Jeris and Harriniva for a supplement, depending upon availability.

Once you have settled in, a welcome dinner will be served and you will meet with your guide to discuss the adventures ahead. Your cold weather clothing will be provided and is yours for the duration of your stay (if you arrive on a late flight, this will take place the following morning).

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

REINDEER FARM AND SAFARI

Reindeer and Lapland are synonymous with each other and today you will gain an insight into the daily life of a reindeer herder as you visit a nearby reindeer farm. The farm is also home to a small museum that showcases the customs of reindeer husbandry and its ties to the culture and economy of the region.

You will be shown how to throw a lasso and will then enjoy a delightful 7km reindeer-pulled sleigh ride. This is a magical experience and lunch will be served around an open fire.

This afternoon you will head back to the hotel where you can relax and unwind.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

Snowmobiles are a common mode of transport in Lapland and are used to travel between remote communities. They are also exceptionally good fun and offer guests the chance to travel further afield to explore the landscapes of Lapland.

You will be given a full safety briefing and instructions before you head out on the trail, travelling two people per machine, for a safari that will cover between 60 and 80km of pristine landscapes. You will travel through snow-laden forests and across frozen lakes and rivers as you delve into the heart of the wilderness.

You can swap drivers during your safari (providing you both hold a full driving licence).

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

OVERNIGHT HUSKY SAFARI

There is nothing that can quite compare to the sense of adventure you feel as you drive your own team of huskies through the wilds of the Arctic (one person per sled). This holiday takes things a step further than most as you enjoy an overnight adventure with your team and stay in a wilderness cabin.

After checking out of your hotel room (your luggage will be securely stored for you at the hotel), you will meet your own team of between 4 – 6 huskies at a nearby sled dog centre and will help to harness them under the expert tuition of your musher guide. When the sleds are loaded there will be a full safety briefing provided before your guide leads you off to start your adventure.

You will be sure to notice the dogs' enthusiasm for the trail; their excitement is infectious and their happy howls and barks highlight their desire to get going. Once you have released the brake on the sled the dogs fall silent and focus on the task at hand.

You will drive your team and cover around 25km today (depending on conditions) and lunch will be served around a campfire en route.

Your destination is a wilderness cabin in a remote corner of this stunning landscape. Upon arrival at your base, the group will all work together to collect wood and water as needed. Your guide will prepare the evening meal, light the fire and get the wood-fired sauna on (saunas are basically mandatory in Finland, even in the wilderness). Your priority will then be to feed and settle your team of dogs for the night.

The cabin you sleep in will be determined by the route and the conditions. Most do not have running water, electricity or indoor toilet facilities and accommodation will be dormitory style. This is a rustic experience but you will be cosy in your arctic grade sleeping bag and, once the fire is blazing, the sauna is warm and your dinner is served this is sure to be an unforgettable overnight.

Another bonus is that this remote location is far from any light pollution and so provides an ideal

place from which to view the Northern Lights should conditions be favourable.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

HUSKY SAFARI BACK TO THE HOTEL

You will awake this morning to what sounds like a pack of wolves outside, fear not, it's just the dogs eager to get going once again! You will enjoy a warming breakfast before setting off with the team again.

There will be time to further your mushing skills as you travel around 25km and head back towards the sled dog centre.

It's sure to be a sad moment when you part from your team but, back at your hotel, you will enjoy a delicious meal and hot shower which will hopefully provide some consolation.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
6

FREE DAY OR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

We have left today free to spend your way, whether just relaxing in these peaceful surroundings, taking advantage of one of the saunas or enjoying [additional activities](#).

There are plenty of options on offer including additional snowmobile safaris, Northern Lights hunts and ice fishing. These can be booked in advance through us or can be booked and paid for locally (subject to availability). 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 wintery landscape to give one of these a try (some prior experience of cross-country skiing is recommended).

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
7

FREE DAY OR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Today has also been left free so that you can try [additional activities](#) or make use of the free cross-country skiing equipment and snowshoes and explore the area further.

Tonight you will enjoy a special farewell dinner, reliving the highlights of your stay with your fellow guests.

If you want to spend the night in true style then we can also arrange for you to upgrade to a snow room at Torassieppi Winter Village or to one of the spectacular Aurora domes (please see the ['Personalise'](#) section for details).

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Today you will say farewell to the delights of Lapland and you will be transferred back for your return flight home.

Alternatively, we can arrange for you to explore the bright lights of Finland's capital with a stop off in Helsinki en route back home. Details of all of the extensions can be found in the 'Personalise' section of the holiday page.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



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

Other options

ACTIVITIES



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.

Duration: approximately 2 hours in total

Available: Tuesday and Thursday at 9pm (Jeris)



Optional Winter Activities

There will be the option for you to arrange additional activities locally during your holiday. Your guide will discuss the possibilities with the group as the available options can change and the order of the main itinerary is also subject to amends.

If, however, you know that there is an activity which you would like to try and include before you travel then please let our travel experts know at the time of booking

and we will do our best to try and secure this for you in advance (subject to availability).

LITTLE EXTRAS



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.

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.

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

Minimum age: 4 years old

Duration: approximately 3 hours

Available: every day at 1pm (Jeris); Tuesdays and Saturdays at 3:30pm (Harriniva, includes transfers)

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

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

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



Hotel Jeris occupies an enviable location which is 20 kilometres from the nearest town and is located directly on the shores of Lake Jerisjärvi. It is this remote position that makes the hotel an enchanting forest retreat, with the amazing backdrops of the forested fells and frozen water.

The hotel is owned and run by the Pietikäinen family, who also manage the neighbouring sister hotels of Harriniva, Kittila, and Torassieppi.

Their hotels are some of our most popular accommodation options in Finland, having received high praise for their knowledgeable guides and exciting activity options.

The hotel consists of a central building and 32 winter cottages in the adjacent forest.

Hotel facilities

- Your meals will be served in the hotel restaurant, which offers a rustic menu of traditional and local Finnish dishes. Meals are served buffet-style with one or two options for each course. Guests can enjoy local delicacies, such as salmon and reindeer. The hearty food here is ideal for setting you up for your adventures in the snow.
- There is a small lounge area where guests can relax in the evening and take advantage of the hotel's free Wi-Fi.
- Tea and coffee are available free of charge throughout the day in the hotel restaurant / bar area.
- The Arctic Elements Sauna World is a very popular feature and can be found on the lakeshore, a short walk from the main hotel building. Renovated for winter 2019/20 and the first of its kind in Finland, the spa has strong eco-credentials thanks to using entirely renewable electricity and geothermal heating generated from the Jerisjärvi lake. There are four saunas, each meticulously designed to incorporate the four elements; earth, air, fire and water and named after Finnish gods and goddesses. There are four saunas, each representing one of the four elements; earth, air, fire and water. A special fifth Northern Lights sauna is also available as an upgrade option. For those who wish to experience a Finnish tradition, there is also an ice pool to take a dip in following the sauna (you do need to be in good physical shape). Guests staying in either the cabins or the hotel rooms normally have one spa entry per holiday included. If you wish to visit more than once then this can be arranged and paid for locally with reception.
- A small selection of souvenirs is available for guests to purchase (including postcards and local handicrafts and snacks) in the reception area.

Guest bedroom types

Double/twin rooms: In the main hotel building at Jeris there are 27 comfortable traditional bedrooms. All guest bedrooms have an en-suite shower room, a drying cupboard and television.

Please note: A limited amount of hairdryers are available from reception.

Image credits: Emmi Kähkönen - Harriniva Hotel and Safaris

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

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Harriniva Wilderness Hotel



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 minibuss 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

Jeris Winter Cottage Type A



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

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 (although we recommend just one extra adult). They are all privately-owned and so the décor and style can vary, but each has a 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.

Hairdryers are not provided as standard, but a limited number are available from reception.

Jeris 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) 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 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.

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.

Hairdryers are not provided as standard, but a limited number are available from reception.

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.

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.

Hairdryers are not provided as standard, but a limited number are available from reception.

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>