



# Utsjoki - New Year Twice



**HOLIDAY TYPE:** Small Group

**VISITING:** Finland

**BROCHURE CODE:** 5526

**DURATION:** 7 nights

## In Brief

Celebrate the New Year twice – once in Finland and then again in Norway on this brilliant seven-night trip to Utsjoki. Immerse yourself in the local Sámi culture and take part in some amazing activities including dog sledding, reindeer sleigh ride and cross-country skiing.

## Our Opinion

*“ Utsjoki is the northernmost municipality of Finland, and this is really evident in the tranquillity of the place and the perfection of its nature and landscape. The majority Sámi population here means you are completely integrated with their vibrant and unique society, making the activities unforgettable. For me, the most special thing about this trip is the opportunity to celebrate the New Year twice in one night, which is a once in a lifetime experience, and promises to be great fun! ”*

Ali Mclean



## What's included?

- **Flights:** direct return flights from London Gatwick to Ivalo
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights' in a standard double or twin hotel room. Cabin upgrades can be arranged on request and subject to a supplement
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- **The following activities are included:** snowshoeing, husky safari, reindeer sleigh ride, Northern Lights by snowmobile-pulled sleigh and Northern Lights snowshoe walk (order subject to change)
- Cold weather clothing provided for the duration of the trip
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities

## Trip Overview

If you have dreamt of spending New Year's Eve, in a unique way, in beautiful winter surroundings, this trip is perfect for you; you can celebrate not only once, but twice!

Your week will be spent taking part in some thrilling activities. You will find yourself speeding over the fells on a husky sleigh, taking in the enchanting winter forest as reindeer pull you through the snow and taking a nature tour on snowshoes. You have free time available for when you want to relax or add extra activities to your holiday (details can be found in the '[Personalise](#)' section). There are plenty of opportunities to learn about the Sámi culture during this trip, and your Sámi wilderness guide will teach you everything there is to know about the Sámi lifestyle, as well as give you the opportunity to experience it for yourself.

In the peaceful town of Utsjoki, where your hotel room overlooks the breathtaking Teno River and the Norwegian Fells, you will end the week with a traditional Finnish dinner and party, counting down to the New Year, then rewinding the evening as you cross the border to Norway and celebrate the last hour all over again.

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# Interreg

## Nord

European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

# Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY  
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

Upon arrival into Ivalo, you will be greeted at the airport and transferred to Holiday Village Valle Hotel which will take approximately two hours.

A delicious evening meal will follow your arrival, after which you can relax and settle into your new surroundings.

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

SNOWSHOEING IN THE SACRED VALLEY AND NORTHERN LIGHTS  
SNOWSHOE WALK

After breakfast, your fun begins immediately as you are given an introduction to a traditional Finnish pastime – snowshoeing.

During the tour, your guide will give you an introduction to snowshoeing before teaching you about the surrounding nature and wildlife, as well as how to read animal footprints, as it is often possible to see tracks from the likes of willow grouse, hares or reindeer along the way. You will then learn how to start a fire, which will act as your warming campfire that you can sit beside while you enjoy coffee, a snack and the surrounding landscape. You will be out for approximately two to three hours before returning to the hotel for lunch.

During the evening, your search for the Aurora will begin with an invigorating walk amidst the pristine winter landscape. Before setting off your guide will give you an introduction to the lights before instructing you on how to capture this natural phenomenon on camera which is vital for producing stunning pictures of the Aurora (you will need your own camera equipment). Hot drinks will be served as you walk beneath the dark skies and enjoy the beautiful and tranquil surroundings of this remote wilderness. Tonight's snowshoeing will last between two to three hours.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
3

## HUSKY SAFARI IN TANA

Once you have finished breakfast, you will be transferred to the husky farm in Tana. This farm actually lies on the Norwegian side of the River Teno, so you will be spending your morning in Norway.

Your friendly and loyal huskies will be waiting excitedly for your arrival, and you will have the pleasure of meeting them and playing with them before you begin. After meeting your musher and receiving instruction and a safety briefing, you will set off on your exhilarating safari with two people per sleigh, riding for around two hours over the beautiful, snow-covered fell landscape.

On your return, you will enjoy hot drinks and snacks by a toasty campfire, while you listen to stories and interesting facts about these Arctic family members. Following this, it is time to say goodbye to the huskies before returning to Utsjoki for lunch at the hotel.

The afternoon is free so you can choose how you want to spend your time. You could make use of the snowshoe or cross-country skis, which are free to use at your leisure (subject to availability).

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
4

## REINDEER SAFARI AND SAMI CULTURE

After breakfast, you will enjoy a truly authentic day, as a Sámi reindeer herder guides you through the magical experience of visiting a reindeer farm.

After a short walk to the farm, the herders will introduce you to the reindeer. You will be able to feed the animals and get to know them before they take you on your fantastic sleigh ride through the forest.

After the ride, you can relax and take a snack and a hot beverage in your guide's cosy and authentic tepee while they tell you about his life as a herder and a little more about how the reindeer are so vital to Sámi culture history and economy. You will be out for approximately two hours this morning.

Lunch will be served at the hotel and your afternoon is open for you to spend it as you wish, followed by a delicious dinner in the restaurant.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
5

## FREE DAY AND NEW YEAR TWICE

Today is left free for you to decide which activities you would like to do. You may want to spend the day relaxing or making use of the facilities on site, creating your own activities. Alternatively, you can

book an activity that is not already included in your holiday, like a scenic snowmobile experience (detailed under the 'Personalise' tab).

During the evening the anticipation of the oncoming New Year will have grown and you will be served a special New Year's dinner and a glass of sparkling wine in the Deatnu restaurant, to celebrate the arrival of New Year in Finland.

After celebrating in Holiday Village Valle, the party will pick up and move across the bridge to Norway where, due to the time difference, the New Year won't even have happened yet. The festivities will begin all over again as your countdown to the New Year for the second time.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
6

## NEW YEAR'S DAY AND NORTHERN LIGHTS BY SNOWMOBILE-PULLED SLEIGH

Following breakfast on New Year's Day, you will once again have the day to enjoy at your leisure. The stunning winter wonderland surrounding the accommodation has a number of walking trails and thus you can enjoy a relaxing stroll amidst the beautiful winter landscape. Alternatively, a number of activities are available from our 'personalise' section.

Following dinner, you will enjoy another Aurora activity as once again you venture towards the Teno River valley on a snowmobile-pulled sleigh. Enjoy the pristine surroundings during the tranquil winter evening before stopping for warm drinks and interesting tales about the Northern Lights. It's a magical experience to sit beneath a dark sky, north of the Arctic Circle, and hopefully, this will be heightened by the appearance of the spectacular natural phenomenon – the Aurora Borealis. You will be out for approximately two to three hours this evening.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
7

## FREE DAY AND TRADITIONAL DINNER IN A LAPPISH KOTA

After breakfast, you can enjoy your final day in this stunning Lappish wilderness at your leisure. With a number of [activities](#) to choose from you will have plenty of magnificent options from which to continue your exploration. Alternatively, you can simply relax and enjoy the stunning terrain.

During the evening, you will enjoy a special, traditional Finnish dinner in a 'kota', an indigenous Sámi tent, similar in shape to a teepee. You will eat by the open fire while your host tells you about life in Utsjoki, and may sing some 'Joiku' for you, a specific type of traditional Sámi song.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
8

## DEPARTURE

Today, you will say farewell to Utsjoki. You will enjoy breakfast before been transferred to Ivalo Airport in preparation for your flight home.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Personalise this tour

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### Our pick



### 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

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### Other options

ACTIVITIES



this activity to take place.

**Duration:** 4-5 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.

A minimum number of four participants is required for

## Fell scenery tour

If you want to experience something different, why not try this scenery tour? On a sleigh pulled by a guide's snowmobile, you can sit back, ride through the snow and take in the incredibly peaceful and clear fell surroundings. You will drive to a breath-taking viewpoint that offers you a fantastic vista of the River Tenö.

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

**Duration:** 2-3 hours



## Ice fishing

You will take a short, 15-minute transfer to the nearby small lake ready to try this popular Finnish pastime and number one winter sport for locals. You will learn the secrets of a successful ice fishing experience, and if you are lucky you may find yourself catching arctic trout or salmon trout. You also have the opportunity to try drilling a hole in the ice yourself with a special ice drill.

While you are busy fishing, your guide will prepare warm drinks by a campfire for you to enjoy during this activity.

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

**Duration:** 2-3 hours

## Included Accommodation

Holiday Village Valle Hotel (Nights: 1-7)



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.

# 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 24 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](http://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>