



Vuokatti - Into the Wilderness with Huskies



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 5044
DURATION: 5 nights

In Brief

The ski village of Vuokatti is located in the Lakeland region of Finland on the doorstep of a vast wilderness. Join a local guide exploring the pristine surroundings during three dog sledding adventures - one of which is at night where you'll also be on the lookout for the Northern Lights.

Our Opinion

“*Vuokatti was ideal for me as I love huskies but I also love my home comforts and so the multi-day wilderness trips were not my thing. I was so happy with the fact that we could be out during the day with the dogs, improving our mushing skills each time, and then come home to a comfortable and cosy hotel. I also felt like I was staying somewhere off the beaten trail, away from the crowds and it made it feel more exclusive as a result.*”

Amy Walkington-Gray



What's included?

- **Flights:** return flights from London to Kajaani via Helsinki (flight routes subject to change)
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 5 nights in double room. Upgrade to lake or hill view suites on request, subject to availability
- **Meals:** 5 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 5 dinners
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** 12km husky safari, Northern Lights husky safari, 30km husky safari (**the order of activities is subject to change**)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- Winter clothing for duration

Trip Overview

This holiday focuses on the delights of dog sledding. Based in a very comfortable hotel in the small ski village of Vuokatti, you will venture into the wilds of Finnish Lakeland on three safaris. We'll get you eased in with an introductory 12km tour, chasing the Northern Lights during an evening safari, and you'll end the holiday with a full-day trip into the wilderness.

Dog sledding is an unforgettable experience and it is impossible not to feel a sense of excitement and adventure as the dogs are being harnessed and leap around in eager anticipation of the trail. If the sleigh wasn't anchored to the ground at the start, they'd be off in a shot.

The first time the anchor is released on your sled will be truly memorable as there will be no hanging around, the dogs will set off at a pretty pace and it always seems remarkably quick at first. They do soon settle down into a steady pace though and you relax into the journey and their excited howls are replaced with the sound of the sled's runners on the snow.

Each of the safaris is designed to offer something different and to build on your skills. Full instruction will be provided of course and your expert guide will lead the way of each of the trips. The itinerary is designed to build your skills and confidence, culminating with your full-day adventure.

In some cases, holidays which are more focused on dog sledding involve shared accommodation and

a compromise on the comfort levels, but that is not the case here. Each night you will return to welcoming hotel accommodation where you can relax and enjoy your evening, relaxing in a sauna and dining in a very good restaurant.

Image credits: Vuokatti Safaris, Matt Robinson

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

On arrival at Kajaani Airport, you will be transferred to the ski village of Vuokatti, which is nestled amidst the forests and fells of the Finnish Lakeland.

After checking into the hotel your evening is free for you to settle in. The hotel has three saunas in which you can relax after your journey and you can then enjoy dinner in the impressive hotel restaurant.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

MEET THE HUSKIES AND 12 KM SAFARI

Following breakfast, you will be transferred to the husky kennels which are around 5km away. Your local guide will go over the itinerary for the coming days and you will be given your warm winter clothing, which you will keep for the duration of your stay.

After the briefing, you will be taken to meet the huskies, who will no doubt greet you with an assortment of excited howls. You will learn about the lives of these working sled dogs before your expert guide shows you how to harness the huskies and set up the sleds. Full instruction on how to control the team and sled will then be provided and then your adventure can begin.

The anchor on the sled will be released and you will set off on the trail, travelling two people per sled (you'll have the chance to swap drivers). The first few 100 metres always feel lightning fast, but you soon settle into a steady pace and relax into the journey.

You'll be able to enjoy the wilderness landscape in all its glory as you cover around 12km, breaking for a warm drink during the trip to soak up the atmosphere. This activity typically lasts around three hours.

Back at the hotel, the rest of your day is free for you to spend at leisure.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
3

FREE TIME AND NORTHERN LIGHTS HUSKY SAFARI

After breakfast, your day is your own. The sauna facilities and gym are at your disposal at the hotel, or we can arrange a variety of additional activities so you can experience other adventures during your stay. Snowmobiling, snowshoeing and ice fishing are all available so please see the '[Personalise](#)' section of the holiday page for more details.

As the light fades this afternoon, a completely new dog sledding experience awaits you as you head out under the cover of darkness in search of the Aurora Borealis. Travelling at night, with only the headlamps illuminating the forest is a thrilling experience.

After travelling across a frozen lake with unobstructed views of the night sky, you will stop at a yurt and keep warm by a cosy fire.

Here you will dine on a 'musher's burger' (typically a reindeer burger – vegetarian options are available) as you keep watch on the sky for any sign of the Northern Lights.

During the tour, you can choose to either drive your own sled (2 people per team) or be driven by the guide whilst wrapped in a warm reindeer hide. The tour will last for approximately 4-5 hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
4

30 KM WILDERNESS TRAIL

Today you will need a hearty breakfast ahead of your final and most adventurous safari; a 30km full day trip into the wilderness.

By now you should be confident in handling a sled and you can focus on enjoying the experience. You will get a sense of the true scale of this landscape as you explore with your own dedicated team.

During the tour, you will stop at a traditional Mongolian yurt where warm drinks and lunch will be served by the fire. The tour will last for approximately 5-6 hours and you will return to the hotel feeling like a seasoned musher.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

FREE DAY

Today is free for you to simply relax after yesterday's adventure or enjoy other experiences in the village.

Vuokatti has a selection of ski slopes for those who may want to enjoy some downhill action and it is also well known as a cross-country skiing destination (it even offers an indoor ski tunnel!). All equipment can be hired locally.

For those looking to enjoy guided winter activities we also have a number of options listed in the '[Personalise](#)' section of the holiday page. These include sedate snowshoes, ice fishing, snowmobile tours and much more.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
6

DEPARTURE

Today you will enjoy a final breakfast in Vuokatti before being transferred back to the airport with some great stories to tell and the title of 'musher' to add to your CV.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Snowmobile safari to Vuokatti hills

Vuokatti is situated against a backdrop of snow-covered hills and there are amazing views to be had from the top. This safari will see you ascend the slopes on snowmobiles during a thrilling safari on forest trails. Once at the top, the trees disperse and a wilderness winter landscape appears before you. Hot drinks and snacks are included.

Full driving instruction will be provided and you will travel two people per snowmobile. The driver must be 18 years or older and hold a full driving license.

Duration: 2 hours (approx)

Minimum: 2 Pax

Image credits: Vuokatti Safaris

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Snow and ice snowmobile safari

This snowmobile tour showcases the very best of Vuokatti and its surroundings. You will follow your guide up into the hills which offer stunning panoramic views. This region is known for its wealth of lakes and during the winter months these freeze, forming pristine snow-covered plains on which to drive your snowmobile. You will stop for hot drinks and snacks en-route. Full driving instruction will be provided and you will travel two people per snowmobile. The driver must be 18 years or older and hold a full driving licence.

Duration: 3 hours (approx)

Minimum: 4 Pax

Image credits: Vuokatti Safaris



Ice fishing and snowmobiling

This combined tour will begin at the safari centre in Vuokatti. You will follow an experienced fishing guide on snowmobile towards the frozen lake.

Ice fishing is a hugely popular pastime locally. It is slightly more labour intensive than normal fishing though as your first task is to drill a hole in the ice in order to get to the water below! You will then drop your line and wait patiently for a fish to bite.

Following your fishing experience, you will then hop back onto the snowmobiles and make your way back towards Vuokatti. Hot drinks and snacks are included. Full driving instruction will be provided and you will travel two people per snowmobile. The driver must be at least 18 years old and hold a full driving licence.

Duration: 2 hours (approx)

Minimum: 2 Pax

Image credit: Vuokatti Safaris



Snowshoe hike

Snowshoeing is a perfect way to explore the snow-covered landscapes here as you are able to really appreciate and admire your surroundings in peace and quiet. The snowshoes also allow you to walk on deeper snow, meaning you can explore off the beaten trails with your guide. Venturing into the hills there will be spectacular landscapes to enjoy during this short hike.

Duration: 1.5 hours (approx)

Minimum: 2 Pax

Image credits: Vuokatti Safaris



Snowshoeing adventure

Explore the pristine wilderness surrounding Vuokatti during this snowshoe tour. After a transfer into the hills, you will travel deep into the forest as your guide provides details on the surrounding nature and wildlife. You'll walk in the deep snow, enjoying the silence of this winter landscape and keeping an eye out for local flora and fauna. Halfway, you will stop at a wooden cabin and assist your guide in making a fire before snacks and warm drinks are served. You will then hike back to Vuokatti.

Duration: 4 hours (approx)

Minimum: 4 Pax



Ice-bathing

For those looking to try something very Finnish then look no further than ice-bathing. The idea of jumping into a hole in a frozen lake can be quite intimidating, but it is actually really invigorating and you will be given a waterproof survival suit before you do it. It is an exhilarating feeling and the temperature in the water can actually be less cold than standing on the ice. In fact, the water is never below zero degrees as anything less than this would cause it to freeze solidly. This activity is great fun and very memorable.

Duration: 1 hour (approx)

Minimum: 4 people

Image credits: Vuokatti Safaris



Ice fishing

Ice fishing is a favourite pastime among locals and you'll soon see why when you're out on the peaceful frozen lake, waiting for the fish to take a bite.

Before you sit and enjoy your serene surroundings, you'll walk through the small snowy forest to meet your experienced fishing guide.

Next, it's time to cut a hole in the thick frozen ice to see if you could catch trout, perch and pike perch.

You will change fishing spots several times so you really get to grips with the activity. Hot drinks are also included.

Duration: 1.5 hours (approx)

Minimum: 4 Pax

Image credit: Vuokatti Safaris



Reindeer Sleigh Ride

Reindeer are synonymous with Lapland and herding is incredibly important in the region. During this activity, you'll learn all about reindeer herding and the lives of these wonderful animals.

After a short transfer, you will meet with a local reindeer herder who will talk about their life here in the Arctic and how herding is of cultural and economic significance in Lapland.

You will try lassoing – one of the herder's favourite tools, before enjoying a short sleigh ride (approximately 200-300m).

Afterwards, you can enjoy hot drinks and snacks around an open fire.

Duration: 2 hours (approx)

Please note: this activity is not available during Christmas and New Year

MISC.



Northern Lights chase by snowmobile

It is difficult not to feel a sense of adventure when you venture out into the dark winter night in search of the Aurora Borealis. Snowmobiling is a thrilling way to hunt the Northern Lights and, after full instruction, you will follow your guide to the trails to commence your hunt. Away from the village, there is very little light pollution and your expert guide will use their local knowledge to determine which location offers the strongest Aurora potential.

Hot drinks and snacks are included. Full driving instruction will be provided and you will travel two people per snowmobile. The driver must be 18 years or older and hold a full driving licence.

Duration: 2 hours (approx)

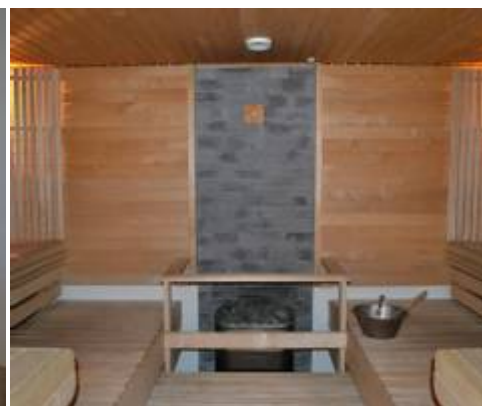
Minimum: 2 Pax

Image credit: Vuokatti Safaris

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Vuokatti Hotel and Suites (Nights: 1-5)



Hotel Vuokatti enjoys a prime location close to Lake Nuasjärvi in the Kainuu Province of Finnish Lakeland. This small boutique hotel has 18 spacious rooms and 29 modern suites which offer a high quality, peaceful environment from which to enjoy your holiday.

Within easy reach of shops and the ski slopes of Vuokatti (both around 500m), it is an ideal base. A ski bus stops at the hotel and is free of charge so getting around is nice and simple.

Hotel facilities

- You will enjoy your breakfasts and evening meals in the hotel restaurant, which has an impressive outlook over Lake Nuasjärvi. Here a range of local ingredients such as moose, pike and reindeer are served alongside some more international options
- There is also a small café and lobby bar area which serves coffees, drinks and snacks
- The hotel has numerous saunas for guests to use. There is even a large sauna with panoramic glass windows looking out onto the frozen lake. NB: the panoramic sauna is not open every day (reception will provide details) and so we cannot guarantee access to this during your holiday
- There is a small but well-equipped gym for guests to use should you wish for some indoor exercise during your stay
- Free Wi-fi is available throughout the hotel

Room Type

DOUBLE/TWIN ROOMS

The rooms at Vuokatti Hotel and Suites are well equipped, spacious and modern. All rooms are en-suite and the bathrooms have a shower as well as hairdryers. The rooms all have a flat-screen TV, a desk, safety deposit box and mini-bar.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Vuokatti Suites



TWO BEDROOM SUITES

These well-equipped, two-bedroom suites were completed in 2014 and offer a high standard of accommodation. All units have a kitchen with modern appliances (dishwasher, oven, microwave, coffee machine), a spacious living room, a bathroom and a private sauna. Each of the suites has a stunning view of either the frozen lake or the forested hills, which can be enjoyed from the terrace.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 2 people; maximum 24 people. However, on some dates, we require a minimum of 10 people for our flight allocation.

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