



# Iso-Syöte - Winter Adventure Taster Week



**HOLIDAY TYPE:** Small Group

**VISITING:** Finland

**BROCHURE CODE:** 5033

**DURATION:** 7 nights

## In Brief

Experience winter at its best during a seven-night stay in Iso-Syöte in the Finnish fells. Explore the awe-inspiring surroundings by snowmobile, dog sled and snowshoes. Delve into Lappish traditions during a reindeer safari and an ice fishing trip, all included and together, make for a fantastic week.

## Our Opinion

“ I took part in the most fun and exciting activities this Finnish fell region has to offer! The most memorable experience for me was when I drove over a frozen lake in the evening and saw the magical Northern Lights. Our group stopped – we couldn't take our eyes off them while they were dancing in the sky. Even our guide said that the Northern Lights that night were the best he had ever seen! A very special moment. ”

Katharina Rogalski



## What's included?

- **Flights:** return flights from London to Kuusamo, either direct or via Helsinki depending on departure date. Flight routes are subject to change.
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights in a standard double/twin hotel room (cabin and suite upgrades available subject to availability and supplement)
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 7 dinners
- **The following activities and equipment are included:** scenic snowmobile safari, husky safari, snowshoe walk, reindeer safari and ice-fishing **(the order of activities is subject to change)**
- All equipment, tuition and supervision from fully qualified guides during activities
- Cold weather clothing (you will get your cold-weather clothing on your second day and can keep it for the rest of your stay)

## Trip Overview

A holiday in Finnish Lapland is like being in a winter wonderland. As Iso-Syöte gets some of the highest snowfall in the region, it is one of the best places to appreciate this. During this week-long holiday, you can experience the most popular and unique things that this magical part of the world has to offer.

Ride with huskies through the breathtaking landscape, sit on a sleigh pulled by a reindeer, cross a frozen lake by snowmobile and explore the surroundings on snowshoes. All the activities are included in the holiday price and make for a trip you will never forget.

If the solar activity is high, you might see a spectacular Aurora Borealis display, adding another highlight to your Finland visit!

Based at Hotel Iso-Syöte, which enjoys incredible panoramic views of the snowy scenery, you will stay in comfortable hotel rooms. You can choose to upgrade to cabin, or suite accommodation if you wish to do so. For a real Arctic adventure, you can even stay overnight in a snow igloo – a very special accommodation choice!

With facilities including a sauna and hot tub to enjoy at the hotel as well as the activities, this holiday offers a balance between free time and real Finnish Lapland winter experiences.

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# Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY  
1

## FLIGHTS, ARRIVAL AND TRANSFER

After your arrival at Kuusamo Airport, you will be transferred to your accommodation, the Iso-Syöte Hotel. As you make your way up to the fell, through this winter wonderland, you might see some reindeer meandering between the trees as you ascend.

At the hotel, you will have some time to settle into your rooms before your dinner in the hotel restaurant. If you are arriving on a later flight, there will be a snack provided on arrival, instead of a dinner.

Of course, guests can also take the opportunity to upgrade their accommodation and spend the week in a cosy log cabin, or perhaps one of the hotel's suites. Details can be found in the 'Accommodation' section of the holiday page.

**Included Meals:** Dinner

DAY  
2

## SCENIC SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

This morning you will enjoy your breakfast in the hotel restaurant and will get to glimpse panoramic views of the stunning fell scenery.

After breakfast, you will be provided with your cold weather clothing in time for your first activity in the afternoon: a snowmobile safari.

After a safety briefing, you will travel over the fells and through varied terrain that ranges from snow-covered forests to frozen lakes. The route has been designed to offer you the chance to get to know the region and enjoy the landscape. There will be a stop en-route where you can have a coffee around a campfire and switch drivers before you head back to the hotel. You will travel with two people per snowmobile (the driver must have a full driving licence and be over the age of 18). The activity lasts around three hours.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY  
3

FREE DAY

After breakfast, today has been left free for you to set your own itinerary and spend your day how you wish.

You may like to relax in the sauna or in one of the hot tubs and enjoy the ambience of the snow-covered surroundings. If you wish to be a bit more active, you can try an additional activity such as a snowmobile and husky safari or a kick sledge tour.

After dinner, why not enjoy a Northern Lights hunt by snowmobile and put your new-found driving skills to good use.

Details of all of the optional activities available can be found in the ['Personalise'](#) section of the holiday page.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY  
4

HUSKY SAFARI

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the husky farm, where the huskies will be eagerly waiting for you.

Before you get the chance to explore in this time-honoured fashion, you will meet the lovely huskies and get an introduction and safety briefing on how to control a sledge.

With two adults per team, you will travel through this Narnia-like landscape of snowy forests and frozen lakes. There is also the chance to swap drivers if you wish. Lunch will be enjoyed around a campfire back at the husky farm.

This activity lasts around four to five hours in total (including transfers), afterwards, you may want to relax in the sauna or in one of the hot tubs and recall the day's fun before dinner.

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

DAY  
5

SNOWSHOE WALK

Today you will enjoy your breakfast and a leisurely morning before going on a snowshoe walk in the afternoon.

This two-hour walk will take you through the picturesque landscape and the deep snow that covers the fells of Iso-Syöte. Enjoy the stunning views and the snow sculptures that Mother Nature has made.

During this guided snowshoe walk you may also be able to discover marks and tracks of some animals

in the snow and your guide will highlight some of the local flora and fauna.

The evening is free for you to relax and enjoy a delicious dinner at the hotel. Don't forget, however, to keep an eye out for a Northern Lights display, as the Aurora can be a regular visitor to this region.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY  
6

## REINDEER SAFARI

Reindeer are synonymous with Lapland and are integral to the culture and economy of the region. Following breakfast, you will meet your guide for a delightful reindeer safari as you travel by sleigh through the snow-laden forests. You will be given an insight into the role that these animals play and will have the chance to take plenty of pictures as you sit back and enjoy the ride.

Upon your return to the hotel this afternoon, there will be time to relax and enjoy the sauna and hot tubs. You may also want to take a walk and enjoy the deep snow independently, as snowshoes can be hired locally.

Dinner will be served in the restaurant.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY  
7

## ICE FISHING

On your final full day in Finland, your guide will pack the equipment and transfer you to a beautiful frozen lake after breakfast, where you will learn the very popular art of ice fishing.

Before you can drill the hole and drop your line, you will be given full instructions and shown the best techniques for winter fishing. Then all you have to do is relax and wait for a bite!

Fishing does require patience but the rewards can be very satisfying. Even if you are unlucky in your pursuit, this remains a thoroughly enjoyable way to spend some time in the Finnish wilds. The activity will last for approximately 3 hours. You can then enjoy one last dinner and relax in the sauna.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY  
8

## DEPARTURE

Enjoy your last breakfast in the hotel's wonderful panoramic restaurant with its views over the picturesque fell scenery.

It will then be time to say farewell to Finnish Lapland as you are returned to the airport for your journey home.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Personalise this tour

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### Our pick



### Overnight in a Snow Igloo (on request)

If you want to experience something truly unique then an overnight stay in a snow igloo is certainly something to consider.

The snow igloo is built on the top of the Iso Syöte hill every year. It is like a natural shield, meaning that even if the temperatures outside drop to  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the inside of the igloo stays consistently at  $-6^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ! You will be equipped with everything you need to keep you warm during the night, including an Arctic-grade sleeping bag.

We can arrange for you to upgrade one night of your stay to spend the night in this remarkable way. You will keep your hotel room (or cabin if you choose to upgrade) so you will have warm showers awaiting you in the morning!

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## Other options

### ACTIVITIES





Arctic landscape.

Two people will share a sledge, but there will be the opportunity to change drivers and take some pictures. This is a perfect way to enjoy both of the most famous activities in Finland. Warm drinks and equipment are included. The total duration of this activity is approximately three hours.

**Available:** Tuesday at 10am



## Snowmobile and Husky Safari

This additional activity can be added to Day Three of your holiday.

Following a guide, you will travel two people per snowmobile to a husky farm. Anyone wishing to drive a snowmobile must be 18 years old and in possession of a full driving licence.

After an introduction, you will meet the huskies and set off on a short safari of around 6km. The huskies will pull your sledge through the snowy forest and the stunning,

## Kick-sledge Rides

Try another traditional Finnish way of moving around the snow-covered landscape. Kick-sledges are a lot of fun! You can slide down the hill and 'kick' them uphill again with one leg, whilst the other is on the sledge. It will be a couple of active hours but you will enjoy the snow on Iso-Syöte's hilltop. A hot drink and a pulla, a traditional Finnish sweet roll, are also included during this experience which lasts around two hours.

**Available:** Tuesday at 14.30



## Search for the Northern Lights Snowmobile Safari

A night-time snowmobile safari is truly a different experience and offers a very special atmosphere. Drive under the night sky, through the snowy forest and the Arctic landscape. If the solar activity is high, you might witness the Northern Lights! There will also be a break for a warm drink around a campfire. You will travel two people per snowmobile (the driver must be 18 years old and hold a full driving licence).

This is a fairly challenging activity so we recommend that you either have some previous experience of snowmobiling or that this is not your first snowmobiling activity in your holiday. The activity lasts around three hours.

**Available:** Tuesday or Wednesday at 8 pm

Image credit: VisitFinland.com

## Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

### Hotel Iso-Syöte (Nights: 1-7)



Sitting on top of Iso-Syöte Fell, this hotel commands an ideal position with stunning views looking out across the wild beauty of Fell Lapland. The hotel and the surrounding cottages were all designed with great care to make the very most of the hotel's lofty position and there are spectacular vistas in all directions.



The downhill ski slopes are just a short walk away from the accommodation and so everything is very easily accessed here.

## Hotel facilities

- There is a panoramic view restaurant which takes maximum advantage of the spectacular setting and serves a range of local and international cuisine
- The fully licenced lobby bar is ideal for a pre-dinner drink and for after dinner there is a small nightclub downstairs, far away from the rooms, we must hastily add!
- The hotel has an indoor swimming pool with hydro jets for guest use, whether staying in the hotel or cottages. Hotel guests also have access to a sauna, Turkish steam bath and a hot tub.
- Massages and beauty treatments can also be booked locally
- Free Wi-Fi is provided throughout the main hotel building

## Room types

### HOTEL ROOMS

The hotel has 20 standard rooms each of which has two separate beds (can be pushed together). Each of the spacious rooms is en-suite (with shower). The rooms are well equipped with digital TV (although the views from the hotel should draw you away from that), and tea and coffee making facilities. Each room sleeps two people with space for one extra bed. Interconnecting rooms are available subject to availability.

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Image credits: [Visitfinland.com](http://Visitfinland.com), Iso-Syöte Hotel

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## Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

### Eagle's View Suite, Iso-Syöte



This is an exceptional way to spend your holiday here at Iso-Syöte.

Live like a ruler of the skies in the unique and luxurious Eagle's View Suite which offers two floors of warmth and luxury at the hotel's southern corner, as well as splendid panoramic views.

Panoramic windows and a glass roof allow you to take in the wonders of the surrounding landscape and hopefully gaze upon any Northern Lights displays.

Natural tones and textures of wood and stone fill the interior, with a tree growing through the centre up to the second floor. Comfortably set on its top branches is the cosy 'nest' bedroom. You will also find a private hot tub on this floor, overlooking the landscape. On the ground floor, you can relax in the living room on wicker sofas, snuggle up by the cosy fireplace and refresh yourself in the stylish bathroom.

This is one of the most spectacular bedrooms we have come across on our travels and so if you want to really push the boat out, this is the way to do it.

## Kelo Log Cottages



There are 20 Kelo log cottages up on the fell in Iso-Syöte. They are as authentic as they come and are built using whole trunks from naturally-matured pine trees. They are semi-detached and dotted around the fellside, only a few steps away from the cross-country skiing tracks which span across the fell and through the trees.

Each has one bedroom with two beds and a sofa bed, so can accommodate up to four people but we

find that they are ideally suited to a couple or two or three friends. They feature a living room with a fireplace and digital TV, a small kitchen area and shower room with private sauna.

The cottages are located between 200 and 300 metres from the hotel allowing easy access to the facilities. If you want a traditional cabin then look no further. You can even scan the snow-laden landscape with your morning coffee from your verandah.

Bed Linen and towels, as well as access to the hotel's swimming pool and saunas, is included for all cabin guests.

Image credits: Iso-Syote Hotel

## Aurora View Suites



The Iso-Syote hotel features 10 newly renovated suites which are quite special. The Aurora View Suites are set over two spacious floors and are wonderfully well-equipped. Downstairs, there is a sauna, shower and toilet; a sofa bed which can turn into an extra bed for one to two people, and a drying cabinet.

Upstairs, there is a double bed, shower and toilet, television, mini-kitchenette and mini-bar.

The pièce de résistance is the view from the suites and the glass facades really make the most of them. Each of the suites has its own private terrace with an outdoor Jacuzzi. There can be few more decadent ways to unwind after a day in outdoors than watching the night sky for a glimpse of the Aurora Borealis from the warm bubbles of your own hot tub!

Image credits: VisitFinland.com, Iso-Syote Hotel

## The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Approximately 2 - 25 people

## 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>