



Menesjärvi Half-Term Northern Lights Adventure



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1049
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Spend a fabulous February half-term in the wilderness of Finnish Lapland with your family. Enjoy days filled with snowshoeing, snowmobiling, dog sledding, meetings with reindeer, and generally enjoying The Great Outdoors. At night, this location comes into its own as it offers exceptional Northern Lights viewing opportunities from its position deep within the Aurora Zone.

Our Opinion

“ I just love Menesjärvi, it is one of my favourite family destinations. It is quite literally in the middle of nowhere and really gives you all a chance to escape from everyday life. The team are just wonderful and for me, the hotel always feels like a second home when I come to leave. The wilderness provides active families with a playground to enjoy the activities. Ultimately, though, this holiday will allow your family to get a real feel for Lapland, its landscape and its people. ”

Dawn Kitson



What's included?

- **Flights:** Return flights from London to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Flight routes are subject to change.
- **Transfers:** return group airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights' hotel accommodation
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- **The following activities are included:** snowshoe hike, kick sleds, cross-country skiing, Aurora workshop and Northern Lights snowshoe, morning with a reindeer herder, wilderness skills, winter fishing by snowmobile, husky safari, visit to the Sámi Siida Museum and Aurora kota dinner **(the order of activities is subject to change)**
- Free use of snowshoes, skis, kick sleds and toboggans throughout your stay at Menesjärvi
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified wilderness guides and instructors
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners

Trip Overview

For the Aurora hunting family, Menesjärvi's location is ideal. You are far from any significant light pollution and deep in the Aurora Zone. Over your seven nights, you should stand a very good chance of catching a display of the Northern Lights should conditions be favourable.

Your hosts will do all they can to make sure you have an unforgettable holiday. The accommodation at Menesjärvi is warm and welcoming offering simple and cosy décor (some elements have been crafted from wood collected in the surrounding forest), and hearty home-cooked food; perfect for the winter climate.

By the end of your action-packed stay at Menesjärvi, you will have travelled by snowshoes, dog sled, kicksled, cross-country skis and snowmobile-pulled sleigh. Furthermore, you will have encountered reindeer and gained an insight into the remarkable culture of the Sámi people who make their home in this remote corner of the world.

As a family, you will learn about the Northern Lights during an Aurora Workshop with an expert guide. Each night you can all walk down to the frozen lake in front of the hotel to gaze at the sky in search of the Northern Lights and there are also optional Aurora activities you can add to your itinerary.

This is a wild location with a truly warm welcome and provides an ideal playground for any active family who wants an escape from the every day and enjoy some unforgettable shared experiences.

**Interreg
Nord**

European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

Image credits: Timo Halonen & Ville Heimonen, Steve Williamson (client), Duncan Milne (client)

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

Having left the hustle behind this morning you will land at Ivalo, deep in the heart of Finnish Lapland. The contrast could not be greater and once you are on your way to Menesjärvi, you will gain a sense of what a special wilderness this is!

A warm welcome and dinner await you at the Hotel Korpikartano this evening. You can settle into your rooms before trying out your winter clothing and perhaps heading down to the lake in front of the hotel in search of the Aurora.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

SNOWSHOES (BY DAY & NIGHT!), KICK SLEDS, CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING
AND AURORA WORKSHOP

This morning you will get your first real glimpse of where you will spend the coming week. You can look out across the stunning frozen lake and take in the views of the winter activity playground.

We want to get you out and about in the snow straight away and so you'll have a fun-filled morning trying out snowshoes, kick sleds and cross-country skis, with tuition from your guide. This equipment is available for you to use free of charge throughout your stay and so it is really key that you gain initial instruction today so you can use it at your leisure throughout the week.

After lunch, you will have the afternoon free to spend together with your family. You can try and hone your new-found skills from this morning and explore independently or you may simply like to take to the sauna and relax after your first snowy forays.

Later there will be a presentation on the Northern Lights and some hints and tips from your local guides on how to capture the Aurora on camera (an excellent family portrait!). You will then take a walk down onto the lake on snowshoes to watch the skies together and see if you can track down a display. You will be out for around two hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

VISIT TO A REINDEER FARM

Reindeer are synonymous with Lapland – its indigenous Sámi culture, traditions and people and a genuine reindeer encounter is a 'must' when in the region.

Today you will be transferred to a local reindeer farm where you will meet with your Sámi host who will give you an insight into the lives of the herders and their animals. From the farm, you will then travel by snowmobile-pulled sleigh to meet the reindeer, feed them, and enjoy a warm drink by an open fire; a great experience for all the family. The activity will last for around two to two and a half hours in total.

After lunch, you have a free afternoon to spend however you would like. As you have free use of the snowshoes, skis, kick sleds and toboggans throughout your stay, you could rent some equipment and explore more of the stunning surroundings.

Dinner will be served tonight in the hotel restaurant. If you would like to spend your night Aurora hunting, see our '[Personalise](#)' section for your options. The activity will last for around two to two and a half hours in total.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

WILDERNESS SKILLS

Having some basic wilderness skills is a vital part of any Lappish upbringing so today your Finnish 'Ray Mears' will take you into the forest on snowshoes to teach you how to navigate using a GPS and traditional compass.

You will do some map reading, learn how to identify animals from their footprints, as well as how to light a fire and safely put a wood knife to good use (under supervision). Lunch

will be enjoyed in a Lappish hut around an open fire: a true wilderness experience!

You will have a free afternoon before enjoying dinner in the hotel restaurant this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

SNOWMOBILE SAFARI AND WINTER FISHING

Fill up on breakfast because today, you will join a local guide for a thrilling snowmobiling safari. Following a full safety briefing, you will head out on the trails to experience the immense scale of the wilderness. Please note that you must be 18 years old and over, and have a full driving licence to drive a snowmobile. Typically, adults will travel two people per machine and children will generally travel together in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile.

You will drive to a location on frozen Lake Menesjärvi where you will try the popular pastime of ice fishing. The guide will help you drill a hole through the thick, thick ice in order to reach the water below. Then all you have to do is drop your line and wait for a fish to take a bite. Make sure you spend some time admiring your surroundings during this peaceful activity. You will be out for around two hours in total.

After lunch, you can enjoy using the cross-country skis, snowshoes or toboggan equipment independently.

This evening it is possible to add an optional search for the Northern Lights. Please see the '[Personalise](#)' section for details. Dinner will be served at the hotel restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
6

DOG SLED SAFARI, SÁMI SIIDA MUSEUM, AURORA KOTA DINNER

After breakfast, you will enjoy a dog sled safari, which in our opinion, is a key element to any winter holiday. After full tuition, you will get to take control of a team of dogs and explore the trails. This is one of those family experiences that you will never forget. You will typically travel with two people per sled, with the adults in control and the children either riding as passengers or travelling in a larger sled which will be driven by the guide. This activity will last for around two and a half hours in total.

You will then head to the village of Inari to enjoy lunch before visiting the colourful Sámi Siida Museum. We know that the word museum strikes fear into the hearts of many children, but this place offers so much. You'll learn about the fascinating Sámi people, as well as the local wildlife and the Northern Lights. There's also a great gift shop for some souvenir shopping.

Tonight's special dinner will be enjoyed in the hotel's Aurora Kota restaurant, which is a great experience for all the family.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
7

FREE DAY

Today has been left completely free for you to decide how to spend your time as a family. You could make use of the snowshoes and skis on site or you could choose another activity, see our 'Personalise' tab for more details.

Dinner will be served at the hotel tonight and afterwards, you may wish to head down to the lake one last time and search the skies for the Northern Lights.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Unfortunately, it is time for your half-term adventure to come to an end. You will be transferred to the airport this morning for your return flights home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Aurora Hunt via snowmobile

This thrilling safari will take you out via snowmobile across the vast frozen expanse of Lake Menesjärvi. Your guide will lead the way to the most likely spot to witness the Aurora, far from any light pollution and where you can enjoy unobstructed views of the night sky.

Adults will travel two per snowmobile (drivers must have a full driving licence and be 18 years or over) whilst children will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile.

Fingers crossed you are successful in your search and see the Aurora in all its glory!

Duration: approximately 2 hours in total

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Aurora Hunt via snowshoe

On this evening excursion, you will strap on snowshoes and set out into the surrounding frozen wilderness around Menesjärvi in search of the Northern Lights.

Whilst the Northern Lights cannot be guaranteed, your chances are exceptionally high here with Menesjärvi having an excellent track record when it comes to the Aurora so hopefully, your family will enjoy a dazzling display! Whilst you wait patiently, the guide will be on hand to answer any

questions you may have about the Northern Lights and the beautiful surrounding nature here.

Duration: approximately 2 hours in total

Included Accommodation

Hotel Korpikartano (Nights: 1-7)



When it comes to remote locations there are few that compare to Menesjärvi. Pristine and unspoiled, it is the perfect place for an Arctic family adventure in search of the Aurora.

Menesjärvi is a traditional reindeer herding community and what was once the local school is now the Hotel Korpikartano. Locally owned, you are sure of a warm and traditional Finnish welcome and our guests often say that they leave feeling like they are part of the family.

The hotel is split into two buildings with the main building housing the dining room and reception as well as some bedroom. The annexe, which is approximately 50 metres away, houses the majority of the bedrooms.

Hotel facilities

- There are saunas available in both buildings for guests to use free of charge
- Free Wi-Fi is available throughout and there is a PC available
- Most meals will be served in the hotel dining room. The set evening meals are self-service and the food served is simple and hearty home cooking. In our experience, it has always been delicious and ideal sustenance after a day's adventuring
- A selection of games and books is also available but we find that most of our guests spend their time outdoors gazing at the skies or simply enjoying the snow
- Cross-country skis, snowshoes and kick sleds are available to use free of charge
- The hotel's Aurora Lounge offers the perfect place to relax after a day of fun in the snow with tea and coffee available for guests, as well as a small library, TV (with Finnish channels only) and cosy fireplace

Room types

Twin, double and family rooms: The hotel is anything but standardised, with no two rooms being the same shape or size. There are 27 rooms in total, all of which have en-suite shower rooms and hairdryers. There are kettles and cups provided and tea bags and coffee are available in both buildings.

The rooms are comfortable and many are decorated with locally sourced wood and pieces of furniture which have been crafted out of wood from the surrounding forests.

Varying from double and twin rooms to more family-style accommodation (sleeping up to six people) you will be allocated the most suitable room for your party at the time of booking (subject to availability).

Image credits: Timo Halonen

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 20 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 numbers required for a holiday to operate

Some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to operate (as listed in the 'Group Size' section). If your holiday departure has not yet reached the minimum number, you will be told at the time of booking. In the unlikely event that your chosen date is not guaranteed by nine weeks before your scheduled departure date, we will contact you to discuss the available options as per our booking conditions.

Minimum and maximum age

The minimum age for this holiday can be found in the 'Key Facts' section of the holiday overview.

Younger family members may be able to participate but may not be able to take part in all activities. Please contact one of our Travel Experts if you have any questions.

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.

Menesjarvi - cancellation terms

CANCELLATION TERMS:

Please note that the following cancellation terms supersede those mentioned in section 7 of our general booking terms and conditions.

More than 84 days prior to departure - Loss of deposit (including the full cost of flights or other services where paid at the time of booking)

84 to 43 days prior to arrival - 50%

42 to 32 days prior to departure - 75%

31 days or less - 100%

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.activitiesabroad.com/booking-conditions>

Please note: our payment and cancellation terms will be unique to each booking - they will be confirmed with you at the time of quotation. The terms listed above are noted as a guide only