



Muotka - Arctic Family Adventure



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1987
DURATION: 4 nights

In Brief

Wilderness Hotel Muotka is a charming and secluded forest retreat located in the pristine wilderness of Finnish Lapland, it offers an authentic experience for families seeking a blend of cosy comforts and winter adventure. You will explore the Arctic landscape by dogsled and snowmobile and also have the chance to learn about the indigenous Sami culture. And no trip to the Arctic would be complete without a hunt for the majestic Northern Lights.

Our Opinion

“ Muotka is one of those places where you really feel you have stepped out of the modern world for a few blissful days. That said, this fast-paced itinerary includes all of the essential Arctic experiences, designed specifically for a family to enjoy together. Together with the environmentally sustainable practices employed by your hosts, minimising your impact on the pristine environment you are visiting, it is a winning combination for a family trip to the Arctic ”

Amy Hope



What's included?

- **Flights:** return from London to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Flight routes are subject to change.
- **Transfers:** return scheduled group shuttle airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights' accommodation in twin/double hotel rooms. (**Please note:** the hotel can usually accommodate your bed set up preference but this can't be guaranteed. Upgrades available on request.)
- **Meals:** full board
- **The following activities are included:** Aurora Camp, snowmobile safari to reindeer farm, snowshoeing 2hr, husky safari
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- Aurora alert until approximately 1 am
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners

Trip Overview

Muotka is a hidden gem. Despite its location high in the Arctic, a warm welcome awaits your family. The hotel also embraces the spirit of eco-tourism, emphasizing sustainable practices and a deep respect for the natural environment.

Lapland is known for its stunning natural beauty, with vast forests and pristine rivers. Muotka's remote location allows visitors to embrace this Northern wilderness while staying in cosy and traditional accommodation. Options range from the well-appointed standard rooms to luxurious cabins and glass roofed kota to enhance your prospects of seeing the Northern Lights – please speak to one of our Travel Experts if you would like to consider an upgraded room type.

Your itinerary here has been chosen to showcase the Arctic at its best and indulge your sense of adventure. Snowshoeing is a great way to connect with nature and enjoy the serene beauty of the snow-covered landscape. You will take a more high octane approach on your snowmobile safari and also learn about the indigenous Sami lifestyle and their co-dependence on the reindeer, one of the most famous inhabitants of the region. Many people's favourite experience in this region is dogsledding and you will get to take your

own team of willing canine athletes – there is nothing quite like the silence of making your way along a trail with the sounds of paws on snow the only thing you can hear! Lastly, we include an Aurora Camp to maximise the potential to see one of Nature's most spectacular phenomenon. Please note you will have access to an Aurora alert up until approximately 1am on all nights of your stay.

Image credits: Wilderness Hotel Muotka & Matt Robinson

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL

You will arrive at Ivalo Airport, which serves as the starting point for your adventure. Your transfer to Muotka will be waiting for you. This transfer is likely to be a scheduled group shuttle that might make stops at nearby hotels. If you prefer a private taxi transfer, you can inquire about upgrading the transfer (additional cost may apply).

After checking in, you will have dinner in the hotel restaurant – your first chance to sample the flavours of Lapland. After receiving your cold weather clothing, why not take a walk outside and keep your eyes on the skies. An Aurora display on your first night, would be the perfect way to kick off your trip.

Note about Activity Order: The order of activities mentioned in the itinerary is subject to change. The final agenda for your trip will be confirmed upon your arrival at the hotel.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

SNOWSHOEING AND AURORA CAMP

After a hearty breakfast, you will be able to immerse yourself in the snow-covered forests that surround Muotka. You'll have the opportunity to enjoy a peaceful walk through the picturesque landscapes, equipped with snowshoes and poles for ease of movement. The guide's stories and insights about Finnish nature and animals will add further depth to your experience. This activity takes approximately two hours and will be followed by lunch at the hotel.

You will have some time to yourself in the afternoon, and you can arrange to hire snowshoes whenever you wish if you want to explore the extensive trails around the hotel, but equally you may wish to spend some downtime enjoying the hotel's sauna.

After dinner this evening, you will be collected and comfortably seated in a sledge that is pulled by the guide's snowmobile. This way you can search the skies on the way to your

destination – one of Muotka's well equipped Aurora Camps. The camp will have been chosen for its clear view of the sky and minimal light pollution. As you keep watch your guide will serve warm drinks and give you information on the Northern Lights. This activity is two and a half hours in duration.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

HUSKY SAFARI

Today will surely be a memorable one as you experience a husky safari across the fells. The dogs here love nothing more than to pull a sled and their enthusiasm is a joy to witness. You will travel two people per sled with a team of four to six dogs – it is recommended that adults only drive the sleds, although the guides may allow older teenagers to do so. Younger children will ride in the sled driven by an adult in their party or with the guide. Once the dogs' initial excited barking has abated, they will pull you enthusiastically across the snow and the experience becomes an altogether tranquil one. The peacefulness of the activity will allow you to really appreciate the awe-inspiring wilderness that provides the backdrop to the experience.

The distance travelled will be determined by the conditions on the trail but you will be driving for around one hour with the dogs. This activity last around two hours and you will take lunch back at the hotel.

This afternoon is left free for you to set your own agenda. You may want to book an additional activity (payable locally) or alternatively, you can take advantage of one of the saunas or enjoy a good book and some downtime.

There are no guided Aurora activities planned tonight, however, the skies above Muotka have produced inspiring displays of the Northern Lights and you don't necessarily have to go very far to witness a wonderful show. With any luck, the sky will be filled with a dazzling array of colours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

SNOWMOBILE SAFARI TO REINDEER FARM

Snowmobiles have become essential machines in this corner of the world, keeping remote communities connected and also providing reindeer herders with an easier means of tracking down their dispersed herd. However, for visitors to this area, they are also a thrilling way to see as much of the winter landscape as possible.

After full instruction and a safety briefing, you will head out into the vast wilderness travelling two people per machine. Your destination for the morning is a reindeer farm around 20km away so there will be the chance to swap drivers (providing you both have full driving licences and are over 18) allowing you both to take control of the snowmobile and travel as a passenger, enjoying the scenery. Any children under 14 will travel in a sled

pulled by the guide's snowmobile.

Upon arrival at the reindeer farm, you will be able to chat with the herder and ask them any questions you may have. Reindeer herding has been an inherent part of life in Lapland for many hundreds of years and today you will learn a little about the fascinating history of herding and its importance to the local culture. This activity lasts for around four to five hours and includes a soup lunch, as well as a short reindeer sleigh ride.

You have your final evening at Muotka to spend as you wish, again you can book another activity locally or you can consider upgrading your accommodation for your last night to one of Muotka's famous glass roofed kotas to hunt the Lights in style. Please see the Accommodation page for further details.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

DEPARTURE

Today you will bid farewell to Muotka as you are transferred to the airport for your flights home. If you are departing on an early flight, you will be provided with a breakfast box.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Sleep in an Aurora Kota

Muotka is renowned as an Aurora viewing destination and so the hotel has created a selection of Aurora Kotas for guests to enjoy.

These part-cabin and part-glass tepee buildings are self-contained and situated a short distance from the hotel. The idea is that you can hopefully watch the Northern Lights from the comfort of the bed.

The Kotas are all 25m² with their own private sauna, double bed and en-suite bathroom. There is also room for two extra beds for children.

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 our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Image credit: Anthony Oberlin

Included Accommodation

Muotka Wilderness Hotel (Nights: 1-4)



Around 40km away from Ivalo Airport, and tucked neatly in the forests and fells of North East Finland, families will find Muotka Wilderness Hotel.

Owned by our friends Jouko and Mari, the hotel offers the same warm welcome as its sister property at Nellim.

The landscape around the hotel is stunning and offers families an easily accessible escape from the every day.

There are two main buildings, one contains the majority of the rooms and the other houses the reception, restaurant and the remaining cosy bedrooms. They are just moments from each other so there are no long walks for meals. There are also superior sauna rooms in separate buildings and some very special cabin options too, again, only a short distance from the hotel's main restaurant.

Hotel facilities

- All meals are served in the hotel's restaurant. Typically this is a buffet of options from which to choose. There tends to be a mix of international dishes alongside some local favourites. Dietary requirements can all be catered for as long as we are informed at the time of booking.
- There is a sauna in the main building which is heated daily for guest use. Saunas are not the reserve of grown-ups in Finland and so this can be a family affair.
- Free Wi-Fi is available in the main building
- Standard rooms do not have tea and coffee making facilities but tea and coffee are available free of charge in the restaurant area

Room types

STANDARD ROOMS

All standard rooms are en-suite with shower room, wardrobe, hairdryer and nightstand and can be made up as either a double or twin. We can request adjacent rooms for you if available.

Please note: the hotel can usually accommodate your bed set up preference but this can't be guaranteed. Upgrades available on request

Image Credit: Matt Robinson

The Specifics

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.

Specific Payment and Cancellation Terms for Nellim

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

If you are travelling between, and including, the dates of 14.12-06.01, the following cancellation terms apply:

- Prior to 25.09 - Loss of deposit (including the full cost of the flights or other services where paid at the time of booking)
- 26.09 up until departure date - 100%

For all other travel dates, the following cancellation terms apply:

- Up to balance due date (this is normally 12 weeks prior to departure however some holidays differ. If this applies to your holiday you will be advised at the time of booking) - Loss of deposit (including the full cost of flights or other services where paid at the time of booking)
- Between balance due date and 43 days prior to departure - 50%
- 42 to 15 days prior to departure - 75%

- 14 or less days - 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