

10 Days/9 Nights
Departs Dec. - Apr.



FANTASTIC FINLAND
HELSINKI - RUKA KUUSAMO - ROVANIEMI - KEMI

Discover Finland, a hidden gem tucked away in Northern Europe. An ideal destination year round, this magical place really shows off around the winter solstice when you can marvel at the dancing Northern Lights. Explore Helsinki; the vibrant seaside city offering an eclectic mix of architecture and culture. Experience Finland's pristine nature and thrilling wilderness at its best in the Ruka Kuusamo area and visit Santa Claus in Rovaniemi. Test your ice fishing skills, learn about Finnish and Sami culture with a Sauna Experience, and enjoy a typical Lappish dinner.

ACCOMMODATIONS

3 Nights Helsinki | 2 Nights Ruka Kuusamo | 2 Nights Rovaniemi
2 Nights Kemi

INCLUSIONS

- Helsinki Card 48 hours
 - Shared Ice Fishing Experience from Ruka 3 Hours 10:00am
 - Shared Blue Moment Icebreaker Cruise with Snowmobile Safari from Kemi 5 Hours 11:00am
- Private Helsinki City Walking Tour with Guide 3 Hours
 - Small Group Santa Claus Safari from Rovaniemi 6 Hours 10:00am
 - Daily Breakfast



Arguably one of the best places to live in Europe, Helsinki never ceases to impress. It is a city of architectural excellence, art galleries with modern and contemporary structures decorating the quaint streets. Helsinki reminds a lot of St Petersburg, the same architects were being commissioned by the Czar to redesign the city following their imperial standards. All of this mixed with western influences have created a unique destination with a complex heritage, worthy to explore. Choose your way of exploring the city, either by walking, biking or on a river cruise. Mix in a spirits or beer tasting session and you're up for a true Finnish experience. Last but not least, a stop by one of our saunas will give your body the necessary energy to get up tomorrow and start over.

Day 1 HELSINKI:

After arriving in Helsinki and checking into your hotel, the remainder of the day is free for relaxing or independent sightseeing. Take advantage of your Helsinki Card which allows you to experience the city's attractions with unlimited travel on public transport, and the ferry boat to/from Suomenlinna. You'll have access to many of the major museums as well as a guidebook with maps.



Private Transfer - Helsinki Airport to Helsinki Hotel

Duration: 50 min



Helsinki - Hotel Lilla Roberts - Comfort

3 Nights ★★★★★

Style: Boutique *Location:* Kaartinkaupunki District

Nearby Attractions: Museum of Finnish Architecture, Design Museum, Esplanade Park, Old Market Hall, St John's Church

Sometimes in life we come across delightful little surprises tucked away in unexpected corners. Imagine a cozy yet elegant hotel that seamlessly combines modern amenities and a trendy lifestyle approach with a quirky 1930s Art Deco interior and other throwbacks to the past. Located amid the ultra cool design district in the Kaartinkaupunki sector, Hotel Lilla Roberts is just a heartbeat away from the bustling center of Helsinki. Hotel Lilla Roberts is the home of Hygge, a Nordic philosophy that doesn't really translate to just one word. Hygge means creating a warm atmosphere and enjoying the good things in life with good people.

Day 2 HELSINKI:

After breakfast, meet your guide for your private walking tour. Some of the highlights include the new "old town" Tori Quarters (Torikorttelit) and the historical center around it, Market Square and Old Market Hall, the Design District and the architectural points of interest, and the Temppeliaukio Rock Church, just to name a few. But do your research and if there is a specific attraction you would like to include, your guide will do their best to accommodate your requests. Your guide will also entertain you with stories of local life, Finnish culture, current trends, and can even pass along a few recommendations for dinner.

(Breakfast)



Helsinki Card - 48 hours

Duration: 48 Hours *Tour Type:* City Passes and Metro Cards

The 48 hour Helsinki Card allows free access to sights, 50 museums, public transport within the city along with a variety of discounts and bonuses. Some free Helsinki City Art Museum, Helsinki Zoo, Boat transport to zoo, Stadium Tower, Botanic Garden, Finnish Parliament, Helsinki City Museum, Natural History Museum, Tram Museum, National Museum of Finland.



Private Helsinki City Walking Tour with Guide - 3 Hours

Duration: 3 Hours *Category:* City Tour *Tour Type:* Walking Tour

A 3-hour customized Helsinki city walking tour featuring your sightseeing preferences within Helsinki.

Day 3 HELSINKI:

Today is at your leisure for further exploration of this city with a plethora of options. On the beautiful Canal Route Sightseeing Cruise, you'll get to see the most beautiful shorelines in Helsinki and many fabulous sights, including the Helsinki Zoo on Korkeasaari Island, the impressive fleet of icebreakers and of course, Degero Canal. Along the way you will also hear about Helsinki's fascinating history. For sightseeing on your own, the Kiasma and Ateneum museums with their fine collections of Finnish art should not be missed. You can also take the ferry (with your Helsinki Card) to Suomenlinna, an 18th century sea fortress and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Later in the day, stop at the Loyly Sauna for a true Finnish experience. It's guaranteed to give your body a renewed sense of energy after such an invigorating day. Both the canal cruise and sauna can be booked through Avanti before departing the US. Dinner will be on your own this evening, and afterwards, perhaps take in a concert at Temppeliaukio, where you can appreciate amazing acoustics in an underground church hewn from solid rock.

(Breakfast)

Day 4 HELSINKI TO RUKA KUUSAMO:

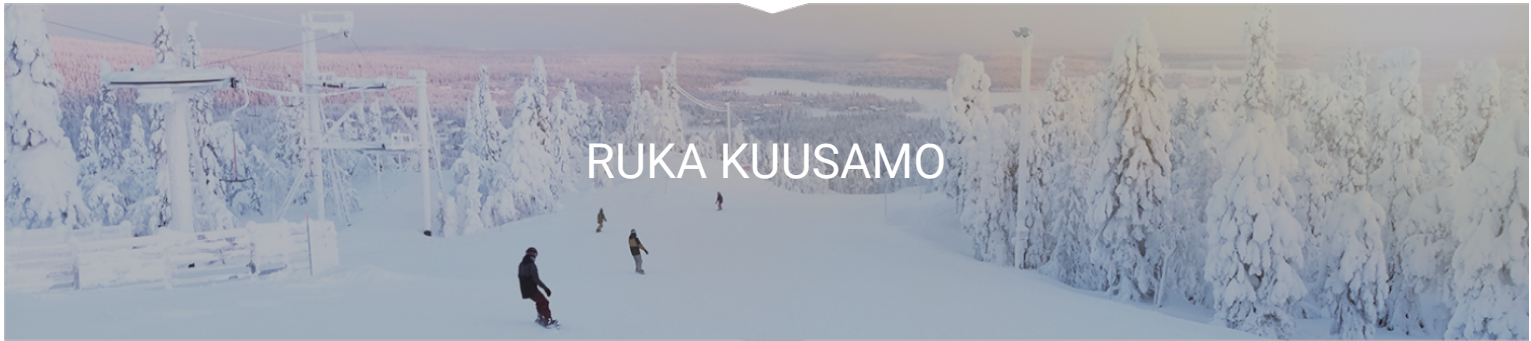
After breakfast, you'll journey to the Ruka Kuusamo region; one of Finland's major holiday destinations. This area gets the most snow in all of Finland, and is renowned for its natural beauty and untouched wilderness. After checking into your hotel, the remainder of the day is at your leisure.

(Breakfast)



Private Transfer - Helsinki Hotel to Helsinki Airport

Duration: 40 min



Ruka Kuusamo is situated in Northern Ostrobothnia, in the north east of Finland bordering Russia. The region is a well loved skiing destination and with some of the longest winters in Europe, winter activities extend well into spring here. In the summer months though, Ruka Kuusamo is covered with green. As a part of Lapland, the region has plenty of access to Sami culture and history.

Day 4 RUKA KUUSAMO:



Private Transfer - Kuusamo Airport to Kuusamo Hotel



Ruka - Safari House Hotel Rukapalvelu - Standard 2 Nights ★★ ★★

Style: Traditional *Location:* Central Ruka
Nearby Attractions: Kuru Ski Lift, Etutuoli Ski Lift, Talvijarvi, Valihissi
The Arctic Zone Apartments in Ruka are a spacious alternative to a traditional hotel room, excellent for those traveling in groups. Consisting of five fully furnished two story apartments, they will come with all of the amenities you will need for your stay.

Day 5 RUKA KUUSAMO:

For the outdoor enthusiast, ice fishing, or as the Finnish say pilkki, is on the agenda. It's a typical winter activity that most Finns participate in at some stage. We'll travel by car to the shore of a beautiful lake with plenty of fish. You'll set off by snowshoes and walk a short distance to the frozen lake where you'll start the ice fishing process. After drilling a hole in to the lake, you'll set up your fishing jigs. For the novice fisher, a jig consists of a lead sinker with a hook molded into it and is usually covered by a soft body to attract fish. During the pilkki, it's possible to catch perch, whitefish, roach (not that kind), pike or even grayling. If luck is on your side, the guide will show you how to prepare the fish by an open fire. Coffee, tea and sweet buns will be served during the tour as well. Your equipment will be provided including snowshoes, overalls, gloves, boots, and woolen socks.

(Breakfast)



Shared Ice Fishing Experience from Ruka - 3 Hours - 10:00am

Duration: 3 Hours *Category:* Adventure/Active,Family Friendly
Ice fishing, or as the Finnish say pilkki, is indeed a Finnish hobby that almost all local people do. You will travel by car to the shore of a beautiful lake with plenty of fish. You'll set off by snowshoes and walk a short distance to the frozen lake where you'll start ice fishing. After drilling a hole in to the lake and setting up your fishing jigs {q}pilkki{/q} it is possible to catch perch, whitefish, roach, pike or even grayling. If luck is on your side, the guide will show you how to prepare the fish by an open fire.

Day 6 RUKA KUUSAMO TO ROVANIEMI:

After breakfast, meet your driver for a private transfer to Rovaniemi, the capital of Finnish Lapland. After checking into your hotel, relax or explore your surroundings. Conveniently located along the promenade, you are within walking distance to most attractions as well as cafes and shops. One option is the fascinating Arktikum, which is much more than a museum. It's also a science center and a popular culture destination, with exhibits that provide the history and culture of Lapland and Arctic life. For the children, consider a visit to the Angry Birds Activity Park, an open air playground inspired by Angry Bird figures and an easy walk from the hotel. After an afternoon of exploring, dinner is on your own this evening. And there's an array of dining options; from sampling local Lappish cuisine to bistros, pizza, and even Tex Mex.

(Breakfast)



Private Transfer - Kuusamo Hotel to Kuusamo Airport



Excitement awaits in Rovaniemi: It is the official home of Santa Claus! An ideal winter destination with a bright, festive environment that will surely awaken many great childhood memories. Right on the Arctic Circle, Rovaniemi offers many exciting adventures especially during the winter times. Hop on a snowmobile and venture out in the stunning Lapland wilderness to enjoy the Aurora Borealis. Fulfill your dream and set out on a winter safari on a husky or reindeer drawn sled and of course, make sure you stop by the Santa Claus village. After all you have to make sure all your correspondence has arrived safely.

Day 6 ROVANIEMI:



Private Transfer - Rovaniemi Airport to Rovaniemi Hotel



Rovaniemi - Lapland Hotel Ounasvaara Sky - Standard 2 Nights ★★ ★★

Style: Contemporary *Location:* Regional park outskirts of Romanieni
Nearby Attractions: Ounasvaara Ski Resort, SantaSport Center
Lapland Hotels Sky Ounasvaara is located in the middle of a landscape that opens to the horizon, snow burdened trees, rugged rocks, and the light of the nightless night. The northern world charms you as soon as you open the hotels front door the slopes of the ski center, ski tracks in the first snow, and amazing biking paths all bring you close to the nature. The rooms of the fully renewed classic hotel combine the high quality materials of Lapland and the presence of nature outside the large windows. The soft glow of a fireplace sets the atmosphere in the hotel lobby. The hotel features 71 guest rooms (half equipped with saunas), two cottage style apartments, conference rooms, a restaurant serving regional and international cuisine, a lounge bar, separate male and female saunas, and a 24 hour gift shop in the reception area. There is also a charging station for electric cars. The hotel offers equipment rental for hiking, paddling, snowshoeing, biking, and cross country skiing. The hotel is situated next to the Ounasvaara Ski Resort and SantaSport, offering easy access to a variety of outdoor activities.

Day 7 ROVANIEMI:

As a start of the day you will be taken to a reindeer farm where you will hear more about reindeer husbandry and Lappish culture. You can take a reindeer ride and attend a special Lappish ceremony of crossing the Arctic Circle. Later, the trip continues by car to Santa Claus Village, giving you time to stroll through the village and explore handicraft and souvenir shops. You'll have an opportunity to send postcards from Santa Claus's Main Post Office. During the day you get to meet Santa Claus himself and given time to enjoy a delicious lunch in a cozy restaurant. In addition, before returning to your hotel, you'll receive a certified "Diploma" for crossing the Arctic Circle.

(Breakfast, Lunch)



Small Group Santa Claus Safari from Rovaniemi - 6 Hours - 10:00am

Duration: 6 Hours *Category:* Adventure/Active,Family Friendly *Tour Type:* Car/Bus Tour, Walking Tour
The most popular safari combines nature, culture and the spirit of Christmas. As a start of the day you will be taken to a reindeer farm where you will hear more about reindeer husbandry and Lappish culture. You can take a reindeer ride and attend a special Lappish ceremony of crossing the Arctic Circle.

Day 8 ROVANIEMI TO KEMI:

After breakfast, meet your driver for the 90 minute private transfer to the charming harbor town of Kemi known as the "Pearl of the Bothnian Sea". It's been the center of trade and services of Sea Lapland since its foundation in 1869 by the Russian Emperor Alexander II, mainly because of its proximity to a deep water harbor. At Kemi's harbor is the SnowCastle, a carved ice structure open year round located right by the sea near the city center. It also features the world's largest Snow Restaurant. Stop at the bar to have a drink of your choice out of a real "ice glass".

(Breakfast)



Private Transfer - Rovaniemi Hotel to Rovaniemi Airport



Located on Bothnian Bay in northern Finland, Kemi is home to the massive Sampo Icebreaker and the famous SnowCastle complex that is built each year with a new design. Visitors can explore Bothnian Bay National Park or enjoy a host of winter activities include skiing, snowmobiling, dog sledding, ice carving, viewing the northern lights, ice fishing, and reindeer sleigh rides.

Day 8 KEMI:



Private Transfer - Kemi to Rovaniemi

Duration: 2 hrs 30 min



**Kemi - Hotel Merihovi - Standard
2 Nights** ★★ ★

Style: Traditional *Location:* Central Kemi
Nearby Attractions: Kemi Museum, Kemi Historical Museum, Kemi Marina, SnowExperience365
Upon entering Hotel Merihovi you'll take a step back in time, to the era of the 50's and its architectural beauty. Next to the hotel reception there's a cozy lobby, and living room. From this living room you may enter to the Cafe Night Bar Ankkuri where the evening goes on until early morning.

Day 9 KEMI:

Today, a truly unique experience awaits you. This snowmobile safari begins by taking you through the beautiful frozen sea towards the majestic Icebreaker Sampo, which is anchored in the middle of the frozen sea. The thundering sound of more than 3 500 tons of steel crushing the thick ice of the Gulf of Bothnia will leave even the most seasoned seafarers awestruck. After boarding, you'll get a detailed description on how the ship functions from the captain's conning to the engine room. You'll witness how the ice that can be up to one meter thick (three and a half feet), breaks on the sides of the ship. You will also try winter swimming safely wearing special warm dry suites and have a meal in the cozy restaurant of Sampo. After the cruise, you

will continue the snowmobile safari back to Kemi. Dinner will be on your own this evening, but a fitting way to reminisce over your Finnish adventures.
(Breakfast)



Shared Blue Moment Icebreaker Cruise with Snowmobile Safari from Kemi 5 Hours 11:00am

Duration: 5 Hours *Category:* Adventure/Active *Tour Type:* Boat Tour
Book a snowmobile safari to the Icebreaker Sampo, and experience the Arctic freedom at its fullest! After changing into appropriate safari gear begins. Reaching the spectacular vessel, you will leave your snowmobile on the ice and climb aboard the Icebreaker to enjoy the full 3 hour cruise with a tour of the vessel and swimming in survival suits. After the swimming event, you will disembark the vessel and continue driving the snowmobile back to the safari house.

Day 10 DEPARTURE:

After a leisurely breakfast, time to say good-bye to this untouched wilderness and begin your next Avanti destination.
(Breakfast)



Private Transfer - Kemi to Rovaniemi

Duration: 2 hrs 30 min

*** Itinerary and inclusions are subject to change*