

3-Day hiking trip accompanied by reindeer in the beautiful fell landscape of Utsjoki

Utsjoki, the land of the Sámi, is the northernmost municipality in Finland and the only municipality, where the majority of the 1500 inhabitants are Sámi. The Sámi culture still lives very strongly in Utsjoki and there are more than 10.000 reindeer in the area. The reindeer round-ups gather together both reindeer and their herders twice a year.

The Land of the Sámi has the lengthiest periods of polar night as well as the Midnight Sun. In the municipality there are three "Ailigas" – "holy fells", of which one raises its lofty peak in the vicinity of the village. Utsjoki offers nature-based tourism and programme services year round.

During this 3-day hiking trip accompanied by the reindeer you will learn about the amazing beautiful fell nature and animals, about reindeer and reindeer herding and also about the life of Sámi people. The programme is suitable for anyone in good physical shape. Some experience of hiking with a backpack is needed, because all participants will carry their own personal items (you don't need much things in the wilderness!). The reindeer will carry the common items, such as food for example.

Programme:

Day 01 Arrival to Ivalo airport. Transfer to Utsjoki (170 km – ca. 2 hours driving time) to holiday village Valle. Meeting with your Sámi host, who will show you the places. Accommodation in cozy twin rooms or in cabins for 2-4 persons. Information about the programme and delicious dinner in the living room of your "camp".

Day 02 After breakfast you will meet your guide. Together you will take a short walk to the reindeer farm Valle nearby, where the reindeer are already waiting for us. We start our hiking trip to Kuoppilasjärvi accompanied by the reindeer which will carry a small amount of the common things we need during our trip. Everybody will carry own personal items in own backpack. The hiking distance of the first day is ca. 15 km.

The first part of the hiking trip will be going uphill, along narrow paths in the middle of the beautiful fell birch wood. After reaching the top of the small hill "Äimäjokivaara" we have the beautiful treeless fell landscape in front of us and we can admire the wild Teno river valley. It is time for the first short stop. After resting a bit we continue hiking in the fell terrain, going uphill and downhill. We will have stops for having snacks, taking photos and enjoying the landscape. The rest of our trip today is down hill, through birch wood and cliff to the Kuoppilasjärvi canyon, where we have our "laavvu" camp. The camp is situated on the banks of the lake Kuoppilasjärvi, which is rich in fish, specially the arctic char. A small fell stream flows close to the camp and we can take the drinking water directly from the stream – certainly fresh and clean. After settling down in the camp we have delicious dinner by campfire. We will sleep in a big tent together.

Day 03 After breakfast we will get to know the nature nearby the camp. We might see the golden eagle, the wolverin and a lot of other small animals and typical vegetation. Today we learn to know the ancient deer hunting holes and get information about the old hunting methods. We learn a lot about the fell nature and animals. Of course we learn also about the reindeer and reindeer herding. We can also try our luck in fishing in the lake and the brave ones can even try swimming in the icy water. It is said that this lake



does not have the bottom at all. During the day we have picnic snack. Today we hike ca. 5-10 km. The reindeer have a resting day. Dinner will be prepared together in the camp.

Day 04 After breakfast we will pack our things and start the hiking trip back towards the Teno river valley. First we climb up the "Avzegeasoiv" and then continue the same fell terrain as on day 02. We can admire the breathtaking views in front of us. We will have stops along the way. Finally we reach the reindeer farm in the Teno river valley and say good-bye to the reindeer. Our guide will take us to the holiday village where we will have the farewell dinner and overnight. .

Day 05 After breakfast we say goodbye to our hosts and the amazing Utsjoki. Transfer to Ivalo airport.

It is also possible to lengthen your stay in the holiday village and do hiking trips by your own in the nature nearby.

Group size: Min. 4 persons – max. 12 persons

Duration: 5 days / 4 nights (3 days on the hiking trip, with 2 nights in "laavu" camp)

Operated 2012: 09.-13.08. / 16.-20.08. / 23.-27.08. / 30.08.-03.09.
(or other dates on request for min. 4 persons in August & September)

Package rate: Eur 1120 / person

Services included: Transfers from/to Ivalo airport, 2 nights in cozy cabins for 2-4 persons or in twin rooms in holiday village Valle close to Utsjoki village center, 2 nights in "laavu", in big lapp tent during the hiking trip, meals according to the programme (from dinner on day 01 until breakfast on Day 05; during the hiking trip breakfasts and dinners will be prepared together by campfire, picnic snacks during the hiking trips), programme as mentioned, english speaking local guides.

Additional day in holiday village Valle:

Eur 120 / person incl. half board in cabin for 2-4 persons or in twin room

Equipments: Participants are asked to bring their own hiking gear: solid hiking boots and water proof clothing for warm and cold days, backpack, sleeping bag, towel, camera, personal items and medicine. In this Arctic area the average summer temperature is around +9 celcius degrees, so take also warm clothes: pullover, hat, gloves and long underwear with you. There could also be really warm days when temperature may reach +20 degrees or more. Full equipment list will be given with booking confirmation or on request.

Additional information: You can come to Utsjoki also by car. The meeting point is holiday village Valle two kms from Utsjoki village, by Teno river. Rate without airport transfers on request.

Programme no 2:

Same as above, but 2 more hiking days: One day close to the village on an ancient post route and one day on the other side of Teno river, in Norway, with information about sami culture. 7 days / 6 nights; Eur 1535 / person; operated on request for min. 4 persons – max. 12 persons, in August & September

