

Winter wonders in Samiland

Experience the arctic nature and life in Utsjoki

Your host is a Sámi family with long tradition in many generations in Utsjoki. During the week you will learn a lot of Sámi culture and history, about reindeer and reindeer herding and also about the life nowadays. You will visit the home of your Sámi hosts and have a traditional lunch in their living room. You will feed and harness the reindeer and experience the traditional way of moving on the safari in the reindeer pulled sledges in this amazing beautiful landscape on the top of Europe. During your stay you have also time for exploring the arctic nature on a cross-country skiing trip or on a snowshoe tour or you may try your luck in ice-fishing. In the evenings you may have the possibility to admire the magic **Aurora Borealis, the Norther Lights**. You have enough time to relax and enjoy the peace and beauty of the area. During the meals you will taste the delicious food made from local ingredients such as reindeer, elk, salmon, white fish, arctic charr, mushrooms and wild berries from the area.

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 Sámi culture, as well as the old tradition, is alive everywhere.

The Land of the Sámi has the lengthiest periods of polar night as well as the Midnight Sun. In winter the Northern lights, the starry heavens and the moon lend a mystical twilight which hangs suspended above the landscape. 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 the safaris and treks you may see the ptarmigan, which is the world's northernmost arctic fowl. Elks, wolfs, lynxes, wolverines, foxes, eagles and the great grey owl live also here.

Programme:

Day 01

Arrival to Ivalo (or Kirkenes) airport. Transfer to Utsjoki (170 km – ca. 2 hours driving time). Arrival to Utsjoki and 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 get the warm winter clothes. Your host will show you the area and tells you about the history. You can try skiing with the skis used by the Sámi people long ago. You will also try the bride and long forest skis which were used for skiing in forests and areas where there are no ready made tracks. Finally you will be teached to ski with the modern skis and you will do a short and easy skiing trip with your guide. After lunch your guide will take you by car to the village, which is situated 2 km from the holiday camp. You will hear about the history of the village and your guide shows you the places. Then you have free time to walk around in the village. Transfer by car back to your camp or you can walk back. Free time to go to sauna. Dinner will be served in the living room.

Day 03

Today you will take part in outdoor activities close to the premises, where you also find a traditonal kota. Depending on the time when you arrive you have the opprtunity to learn an old fishing method for burbot. Together with your guide you put the hooks under the ice and during next days you will go and look after the catch from which you will make together a delicious burbot soup. Today you will also learn how to make the fire and you will make coffee by open fire in the way the local people do it. Traditional lunch will be served in kota. In the afternoon you can try the snowshoes and go for a short trip, or if you prefer skiing that is also possible. After the day's activities the warm sauna is waiting for you. Dinner will be served in the living room.



Day 04

After breakfast you will have a unique possibility to visit the home of your Sámi host. A short transfer takes you to the reindeer farm, where you can go to the fench and breed the reindeer. Then your host takes you to his home and you will hear and see, how the Sámi people live today. You will have a traditional lunch with the family in their living room. After lunch a short transfer back. The rest of the day is free for your own activities: you can go skiing or do a snowshoe tour or take a walk to the village or just relax and enjoy the peace and the clean nature. Optional programme: If you want your host can take you to a short ride to the fell area in a big sledge pulled by snowmobile. You can even take the skis with and do skiing during this trip - duration of the trip is 1-2 hours. Sauna and dinner.

**Day 05**

Today you will get to know the reindeer which are very important to Sámi culture and history. Your host will tell you about the reindeer and reindeer husbandry. You will do a reindeer safari to the highlands, 1-2 persons in the sledge. The route takes 1-2 hours in one direction, depending on the time you arrive to Utsjoki, and will bring you the "laavvus". The reindeer will rest during the time your hosts are telling you about reindeer and the life of the Sámi people. You can breed the reindeer and try the Lappish lasso throwing. A delicious traditional lunch will be served by campfire in the laavvu. After the lunch you will start the safari back to your camp. Sauna and dinner.

**Day 06**

After breakfast your host will take you to the ancient "church houses" close to the village, in the Valley Utsjokilaakso, by the famous Teno river. This area is named to a cultural history heritage of Finland. These small houses were used as overnight places in old times when the people came to the church or to a market place, as the distances were very long. During winter time the people used to travel in the reindeer sledges and during summer time by river boats. The "church houses" are mainly from 18th century, some of them from 17th century.

After the visit we return to our camp, where a local Sámi lady is waiting for us. We will have lunch together. After lunch she will present us the beautiful Sámi dresses, costumes and handicrafts. She will tell us about the history and meaning of these and how they are made and used before. Finally we can make a small handicraft under her supervision and we can take this with us as souvenir from this special week we have been here and have learned a lot of the life of a Sámi – before and now. The delicious traditional farewell dinner will be served in Kota nearby and during the evening you can listen the Joiku singing and your host will tell about the meaning of Joiku.

**Day 07**

After breakfast your host will say you "mana dearvan". During your stay you have learned to answer "báze dearvan". Check-out and transfer to Ivalo airport (or to Kirkenes).

We keep the right to make changes in the daily programmes due to weather conditions.



Duration: 7 days / 6 nights
Dates 2012: 29.01.-04.02. / 12.02.-18.02. / 26.02.-03.03. / 11.03.-17.03.
25.03.-31.03. (or other dates on request when at least 4 persons)
Group size: 2-10 persons
Rates: 1480 €/ adult; 1190 €/ child 5-14 years

Extra day incl. half board:
115 €/ adult; 78 €/ child 5-14 years

Services included:

Transfer from Ivalo or from Kirkenes airport to Utsjoki and back, 6 nights accommodation in cozy twin rooms or in log cabins for 2-4 persons including linen and towels (one set per person), full board made from local ingredients (from dinner on day 01 until breakfast on day 07), warm winter clothes for the whole stay (warm overalls, socks, boots, mittens, hats), all necessary equipment for the outdoor activities (snowshoes, skis, fishing gear, toboggans), programme as mentioned in the itinerary, english speaking guides and hosts.

Accommodation:

The small family-owned holiday camp by the famous Teno river consists of main building with a reception, 4 cozy twin rooms, dining area with kitchenette and fire place, living room with wonderful view to the Teno river and the opposite fells, two wc's, sauna and shower. Further there are 6 cozy wooden cabins, each with two bed rooms, living room with kitchenette and fire place, sauna/shower/wc.

Optional activities for extra days:

1/ A full day excursion to Nesseby by the Varangerfjord in Norway. Nesseby is a community of coastal Sámi people, on the inland banks of the Varangerfjord in East Finnmark. In Nesseby we meet a fisherman who will take us to a boat trip in his boat. We can try our luck in deep sea fishing, if we want. A picnic lunch will be served during the boat trip. After the boat trip we visit the Varanger Sámi Museum. This museum exhibits the past and present of Sámi, with focus on the Coastal Sámi culture. After the visit we start our way back to Utsjoki. Duration of this excursion is ca. 8 hours and the total driving distance ca. 180 km.

Rate: Eur 220 / person – min. 4 persons

2/ From the end of February a full day ice fishing trip to the amazing beautiful fjell area. You will be transferred in the big sledge pulled by snowmobile to the fjell lake for excellent ice fishing. The distance to the fjell lake is ca. 15 km, which means that the transfers to the lake and back take ca. 3 hours. The catch might be arctic charr, grayling or white fish. Picnic lunch will be served during the trip.

Rate: Eur 195 / person – min. 4 persons

Booking & Information:

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