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# FAMILY MULTI-ACTIVITY WINTER TRIP

A different Finnish adventure everyday! Try Nordic skiing, go dog-sledding and learn trapper bushcraft skills... this programme has been carefully designed with families in mind with time to relax and enjoy our saunas. Immerse yourselves in the wild National Park, at the edge of the polar circle, this magical winter wonderland and its frozen landscapes are an ideal location for a truly memorable family holiday.

📍 Region	Hossa
📌 Activity	Winter Multi-activities
🕒 Duration	8 days
👥 Group	4 to 10 people
🏠 Code	A8
💰 Price	From €1,290
🧑 Level	2/5
🛏 Comfort	4/5
🗣 Language(s)	English

# ITINERARY

## Day 1 Welcome to Finland



Transfer by bus or car to Hossa (about 1 hour) and time to get settled in your cottage or lodge. Tonight, our guides will meet you at the restaurant for a welcoming dinner and briefing.

*Accommodation: Cottage or lodge*

## Day 2 Dog-sledding safari



Today we head into the wild taiga on dog-sleds! In the morning we will meet our musher guides and dogs, each sled is lead by a team of 4 to 6 dogs. After a quick introduction to basic mushing techniques we will set off, two per sled, across beautiful white lakes and into the forest.

*Activities: 4 to 5 hours of dog-sledding*

*Accommodation: Cottage or lodge*

## Day 3 Skiing



After an introduction to Nordic skiing, we will spend the day exploring this winter wonderland on skis. A truly magical day; we will stop to enjoy lunch at a lovely fireplace in the forest.

*Activities: 4 to 5 hours of skiing*

*Accommodation: Cottage or lodge*

## Day 4 Inuit winter walking



Today, we experience a new kind of hiking, winter walking the Inuit way. Harnessed to a friendly husky and with a pair of snowshoes strapped to our feet, we head into Hossa National Park. With one dog per 2 travellers, we can alternate between energetic and relaxing moments and fully explore this beautiful area. The endless energy of our dogs helps us venture deep into the wild and snowy boreal forest and our relaxing solo moments allow us to take time to soak in our surroundings as we explore the wild forest, frozen lakes and ridges.

*Activities: 4 to 5 hours of winter walking*

*Accommodation: Cottage or lodge*

#### 📍 Day 5 **Trappers day**



Discover the art of the trapper lifestyle and ancient survival techniques essential for polar exploration. Learn how to set traps, follow tracks and try your hand at ice fishing - drill your own hole in the ice, arm yourself with patience and get ready to catch one of the many perch that swim in the waters here! Discover how to smoke your fish plus how to build igloos and shelters. Today we will also get the chance to visit a local reindeer farm and our faithful companions at the kennels.

*Activities: 5 hours*

*Accommodation: Cottage or lodge*

#### 📍 Day 6 **Snowshoeing and Seipiniemi Peninsula**

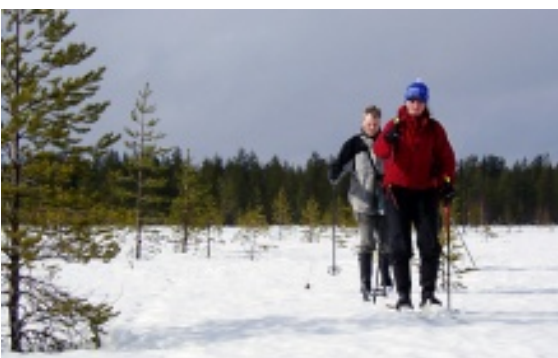


our guide, a specialist of the Arctic area, will help you fully discover the mysteries of this wild region. From April, there is an opportunity to observe many animals typical of the Far North like moose or a bears. During this trip you will have the occasion to lead the group with your map and your compass in order to get deeper into the wild taiga forest.

*Activities: 4 to 5 hours of snowshoeing*

*Accommodation: Cottage or lodge*

#### 📍 Day 7 **Free day – Optional activities**



Today is a day to relax, a day to enjoy the saunas and to have snowballs fights! Perhaps you would like to repeat one of the activities you loved during the week or perhaps you would like to try Nordic skiing... There are lots of possibilities for your last day here. For dinner we can enjoy a traditional Lappish meal all together: Kärstys, or reindeer stew with cranberries.

Optional activities : On request, only on site, and subject to availability.

Accommodation: Cottage or lodge

## Day 8 Transfer



Breakfast and transfer to Kuusamo airport.

Please note that this itinerary, including walking distances and times, is indicative. Our guides aim to provide the adventure that is best suited to the weather, your interests and the demands of the group. Please be aware that in order to achieve this, changes to the programme may be made.

## Other trips you may like



Multi-activities in Hossa: An 8 day winter multi-activity adventure including dog-sledding, snowmobiling, winter walking and snowshoeing...Discover a remote wilderness area, unspoilt and far away from everything and enjoy warm nights in our comfortable accommodation in the heart of Hossa National Park...



Finnish Family Getaway: Try your hand at Finnish bushcraft skills, learn traditional fishing techniques and uncover the fascinating history of the National Park- a real adventure designed to bring the whole family together...

## DATES & PRICES

### ***International departures:***

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No departure for now

Trip code: A8

### ***Included***

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- Airport transfers to/from Kuusamo airport
- 7 nights lodge or cottage accommodation
- Full board from day 1 dinner to breakfast day 8
- Luggage transport
- Full supervision by our experienced professional guides
- Dog-sledding
- Snowshoeing
- Winter walking
- A day skiing
- An Inuit bushcraft skills day
- All technical equipment and quality cold weather clothing provided

### ***Not included***

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- Flights

### ***Additional Options***

Please let us know if you would like to reserve any of the following optional activities/supplements:

- Reindeer farm visit: €10 + meal €40
- Nordic skiing excursion: prices vary

### ***Notes***

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#### ***Comfort: 4/5 Comfortable***

Well-equipped accommodation options like basic hotels or charming guesthouses are rated 4/5 for comfort. Please note that depending on the destination this does not necessarily guarantee private bathroom and kitchen facilities. This trip uses lodge/cottage accommodation in the heart of Hossa National Park with sauna access.

#### ***Level: 2/5 Moderate***

In general no previous experience in the specific activity is required but you should be in good physical shape and prepared to participate in 4-6 hours of activity per day. You should have a sense of adventure and a positive attitude. Please note that our difficulty ratings may vary depending on the weather and snow conditions.

### ***International flights***

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Flights are not included but this trip includes airport transfers to/from Kuusamo airport - please [contact us](#) if you require transfers to/from somewhere different.

### ***Terms and conditions***

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#### ***Booking conditions***

Booking a trip with Norwide implies acceptance of the terms and conditions of sale. Each customer is required to complete a registration form and, subject to availability at the time of registration, travellers are expected to pay a deposit of 35% of the total price to complete their booking. Payments can be made online or by bank transfer. You will receive an e-mail with your booking confirmation.

#### ***Invoice procedure***

Once your booking is confirmed you will receive an invoice by e-mail. The full balance of the trip must be received at least 35 days

before your departure date. Norwide reserve the right to cancel your booking, free of charge, if this deadline is not respected.

### ***Cancellation policy***

If for any reason you have to cancel your trip, Norwide require written confirmation of your decision. The money you have paid will then be refunded according to the following deductions:

- Cancellation received more than 30 days prior to the departure date: a sum of €50 per person will be retained
- Cancellation received 30 to 21 days before the departure date: your deposit, 30% of the total trip price will be retained
- Cancellation received 20 to 14 days before the departure date: 50% of the total trip price will be retained
- Cancellation received 13 to 7 days before the departure date: 75% of the total trip price will be retained
- Cancellation received less than 7 days before the departure date: 100% of the total trip price will be retained

### **Special cases:**

Please note that, regardless of the date of cancellation or modification if you have agreed to pay for services such as hotel reservations, flights or additional activities, these services are usually non-refundable so additional fees may apply.

- Fixed airfares: if your airline ticket was issued in advance, often done to avoid significant surcharges, you will be charged 100% of any non-refundable fees if you wish to change or cancel your flight plan.
- Fixed in-country costs: early charges for firm bookings will be charged if you cancel or modify your trip.
- Insurance costs: if you have taken out comprehensive or cancellation insurance, the cost of insurance is due and cannot be refunded.

**Please note that fees apply according to the date we receive your cancellation or modification request in writing.**

If we have to cancel a departure due to an insufficient number of participants, you will be informed no later than 21 days before departure and a full refund will be issued, you will not be entitled to further compensation. We reserve the rights to cancel departures due to exceptional circumstances which may impact the safety of participants. Such circumstances include those amounting to 'force majeure' in which case participants will receive a full refund but they will not be entitled to any compensation.

### ***Changes to travel contract***

If you wish to make a change to your booking please contact us in writing; you will be expected to pay any fee which might arise from this change. In the event of unforeseen external events, Norwide may change some aspects of the travel contract. If any changes are necessary you will be informed as quickly as possible.

### ***Pricing***

The prices on our website are updated regularly and all of the prices we advertise are accurate when published. We reserve the rights to make changes to any of these prices. Before you make a booking we will give you the up-to-date price of your chosen holiday including any supplements, upgrades or additional activities you may have requested. If the number of travellers is fewer than the indicated number of participants on the website, a small group surcharge may be applied. For all of our trips we include details of services, prices and what is/is not included but please be aware that changes to the prices may be necessary in accordance with exchange rates or price changes of various components of the journey.

### ***Contract transfer***

If you are unable to travel for any reason, you can transfer your booking to another person in which case our modification conditions apply. Both the transferor and transferee will be jointly and severally liable for payment of the total holiday price and other associated expenses. Some airline carriers treat name changes as cancellations and you may be required to pay for the cost of a new ticket.

### ***Insurance***

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We strongly recommend that you take out personal travel insurance for your trip with Norwide as soon as your booking is confirmed. We advise you to purchase a travel insurance policy which covers flight cancellations, luggage loss and emergency health care. Please look carefully at which activities are covered by your insurer and do not forget to bring all necessary documents and information with you (name of the company, name of the contract, insurance policy number, telephone number...)

## PRACTICAL INFO

### **Staff**

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You will be welcomed at the airport by a representative from our friendly team and accompanied for the duration of your holiday. Armed with an abundance of experience and a wealth of knowledge our professional Finland team know the country inside out. All activities are lead by our qualified guides who are English speaking outdoor practitioners with a passion for everything Finnish. It is possible that your group could be international, therefore several languages might be spoken by your guide.

### **Food**

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This trip includes full board from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 8. You will have the chance to try some traditional Finnish meals like smoked fish, salmon soup, reindeer stew and traditional cakes - please be aware that fresh fruit and vegetables are rare in our isolated northern location.

- Generous buffet style breakfasts and dinners are provided at your accommodation
- Lunches: Picnic lunches are provided on our activity days including hot food cooked on wood fires

Please let us know about any dietary requirements when you book the trip and we will work with you to cater for your needs.

### **Accommodation**

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Our basecamp is located in the heart of Hossa National Park, more than 60 miles (+100kms) away from a village or shop - no mass tourism hubs or Santa Claus Village here with us! There are 23 inhabitants in and around Hossa, most of them are reindeer farmers and yes, there are more bears here than people! We live here peacefully and we work closely with authorities to protect and preserve this stunning National Park. During your stay, you will not have many opportunities to meet local people since there are very few of them but you may cross paths with ice fishers or Nordic skiers and visit local reindeer farms.

**This trip includes 7 nights in lodge or cottage accommodation in the heart of Hossa National Park.**

The apartments: shared double or triple rooms with lake views, private bathrooms and sauna access. Sheets, blankets and bath towels are provided - we recommend that you to bring a second towel for use in the sauna

### **Budget & exchange**

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The currency in Finland is the euro. Please budget for the following:

- Personal expenses and drinks
- Any additional activities/supplements
- Deposits for supplied equipment: 50€ for the boots, 50€ for the over suit

### **Supplied equipment**

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We will provide you with the following equipment for the duration of your trip:

- Warm snow boots (Sorel)
- Bedding and towels (we recommend bringing an extra towel for the sauna)
- A warm jacket for the cold
- A warm protective oversuit
- Waterproof over mittens
- A balaclava

For skiing:

- A helmet
- Skis
- Poles
- Boots

Please be aware that upon booking you will be asked your size, height and weight in order to reserve the appropriate equipment in advance.

### **Vital equipment**

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You must bring with you:

- Sunglasses (minimum UV 400)
- A ski mask
- Any personal medication
- Good thermals - top & long johns
- Sun-cream (not water based)
- A head torch and spare batteries
- A thermos flask

## **Material**

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We prefer that you do not wear any cotton clothing, including underwear, when participating in activities. When cotton gets wet from water or sweat it ceases to insulate and it does not dry fast. The best materials for outdoor activities are fast drying materials like polyester or materials which are warm when wet like wool. The most powerful materials against the wind and rain are 'breathable' materials like Gore-Tex or Nikwax.

### **Our advice for keeping warm**

Winter in Finland can be very cold, please think carefully about what clothes you bring, although we will provide warm outer layers, the layers you wear next to your skin make the biggest difference. We recommend:

- No cotton
- Bring dry spares of everything, including underwear and gloves
- Wear multiple layers including:
  1. A warm breathable base layer
  2. A second thermal layer
  3. Wind and waterproof protective out layer (we provide a quality jacket and over trousers for activities)

## **Helpful equipment**

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We recommend packing:

- Waterproof shoes, winter hiking shoes, sports shoes or snow boots (for evening wear)
- Warm (wool) socks
- A warm wind and waterproof jacket
- Suitable warm trousers - windproof ski style, soft shell or fleece lined mountaineering trousers are ideal
- Warm jumper(s) and jacket(s)
- Warm baselayer thermals - very important! (Thin technical fibers as Carline or Polartec are extremely efficient)
- Gloves - multiple pairs for under and over
- A warm hat
- Appropriate neck wear like a warm buff
- Swim suit (sauna)
- Travel towel (sauna)

You may also consider packing:

- Wetwipes
- Blister plasters
- A camera (and suitable protective case)
- Plastic bags for wet/dirty clothing

## **Luggage**

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You may bring a hold bag (up to 20kg) as well as a cabin bag.

For your hold luggage please bring a soft bag like a rucksack rather than a hard cased suitcase because it is more practical. We also recommend that you pack your clothes in plastic bags inside your rucksack so that they stay dry in the event of bad weather.



Do not forget to bring a small rucksack to use as a day bag (25/30L). You can bring this as hand luggage on the plane. You will carry your lunch, water, spare layers and any personal medication with you each day in this bag.

## **Medicine**

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Your guide is trained first aider and will carry a full appropriate first aid kit. We recommend that you bring with you a small first aid kit as well as any medication you may need with you such as inhalers, plasters and painkillers.

A valid [European Health Insurance Card \(EHIC\)](#) will insure that you can access state-provided healthcare for free or at a reduced cost.

## **Passport**

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You will need a passport that is valid for at least three months after your return date.

## **Visa**

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UK passport holders do not require a VISA to visit Finland which part of the Schengen cooperation.

The [Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland](#) lists the accepted travel documents and visa requirements for every country.

## **Mandatory vaccines**

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There are no specific health risks

## **Weather**

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Winter in Finland is cold and dry, **temperatures** in Hossa can drop as low as -25°C (-13°F) but warm clothing, good food and an active lifestyle will keep you warm.

A thick layer of **snow** covers Finland from December, when it settles, to the end of April, when it melts. The dry cold preserves the snow and makes temperatures feel warmer than you might imagine.

During the winter months daytime is relatively short in Finland but thanks to the snow and the occasional displays of the dancing Northern Lights it is never completely black even in the regions where the sun does not rise at all - winter brings a beautiful blue **light** with a feeling of permanent dusk. In mid-April, the sun stays above the horizon for 14-16 hours so during March and April you can enjoy long glorious days of winter sports under a bright sun. Other winter days include 4 to 5 hours of a light called gray light, usually 10am to 2pm, with local variations.

## **The Northern Lights**

The beautiful dancing lights are most likely to appear on black nights in February-March and September-October in the North of Finland. Statistics show that most are observed in Lapland, in the region of Kilpisjärvi. When the night skies are clear, the Northern Lights can be observed three nights out of four in Kilpisjärvi, every other night in the Sodankylä region and one out of four nights near Oulu-Kuusamo.

## **Electricity**

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Finland uses the standard Europlug socket with two round prongs (50Hz/230 volts)

## **Local time**

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Finland uses Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)+2 and observes Daylight Saving Time making it GMT+3 during the summer months

## **Topography**

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Area: +130502 square miles (+338,000 km<sup>2</sup>) which consists of around 10% water, 69% forest and only 8% cultivated land

Size: It is the seventh largest country in Europe, +720 miles (1160km) North to South and +335 miles (540km) East to West

Borders: Sweden, Norway, Russia and the coast

There are said to be 187888 lakes here in Finland and 179584 islands including a concentration of islands off the South West coast which forms the largest archipelago in Europe.

## ***Sustainable tourism***

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As adventure and wilderness travel experts who run trips to some of the most remote parts of the world, we take responsible tourism very seriously.

Here in Finland we work in partnership with Metsähallitus to protect Finnish waters and forests - an exclusive agreement which enables us to use the roads of Hossa National Park. Our kennel is cleaned daily and subject to regular veterinary and we work with MyClimate to offset all carbon emissions produced by snowmobiling activities and transfers.

We respect the 'Leave No Trace' outdoor ethical code and try to explore this beautiful location whilst causing minimal environmental damage.

The Leave No Trace policy can be summarized in 7 simple steps which we hope you will follow during our trip...

1. Be prepared
2. Stick to trails and camp overnight right
3. Stash your trash and pick up waste
4. Leave it as you find it
5. Be careful with fire
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of other visitors

Over the years we have built up good relations with our local suppliers and we are keen to support local businesses as much as possible. We are a small company and we pay our local partners and suppliers directly insuring fair rates. Our small group sizes not only provide a more intimate adventure but also cause less impact on the environment and local communities.

We expect all who travel with us to support and uphold our Sustainable Tourism philosophies.