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MULTI-ACTIVITIES TO THE SANTA CLAUS VILLAGE

One week to discover Finland and the winter in the Great North. Located in Hossa and Rovaniemi at north of Finland in a forest and wooded mount surroundings.

In one week you will see the unmissable of the great north : The Santa Claus Village, a sled dog safari, you'll drive a snowmobile at the heart of frozen forests and discover the trapper lifestyle basics (or rudiments?).

 Region	Hossa
 Activity	Winter Winter Multi-activities
 Duration	8 days
 Group	1 to 10 people
 Code	A2FN
 Price	From €2,250
 Level	2/5
 Comfort	4/5
 Language(s)	French / 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, the staff will meet you at the restaurant for a welcoming dinner and briefing.

Accommodation: Cottage or lodge

Day 2 Dogsledding 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 Snowmobile safari



Two people per snowmobile, we head away from civilization into the heart of the National Park on a thrilling safari adventure. A lunch in the middle of the taiga forest of grilled, an exciting day flying through beautiful Finnish scenery awaits us.

Activities: 4 to 5 hours of snowmobiling

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 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



Your 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

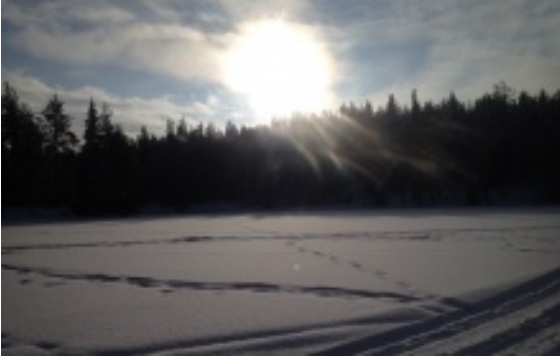
Accommodation: Cottage or lodge

Day 7 Day to the Santa Claus village



After a transfer beyond the Arctic Circle we reach the Santa Claus Village. We will discover the Christmas fairy tale and its wonderful world. We'll go back to childhood for a while to meet Santa while the rest of day we'll go exploring Rovaniemi and its famous museum about the arctic environment.

Day 8 **Transfer**



Breakfast and transfer to Kuusamo airport. The end of a lovely week filled with emotion and memories

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



[An Arctic Adventure](#): Featuring dog-sledding, ice caves and an overnight snowshoeing expedition, our carefully designed itinerary is ideal for those who want to discover the highlights of an Arctic winter in Svalbard...



[Finnish Dogsledding Adventure](#): An unforgettable 8 day dogsledding adventure in the heart of Hossa National Park. Stay in traditional huts and shelters during 3 unforgettable dog-sledding and snowshoeing safaris - a truly enchanting programme...

DATES & PRICES

Departures for French-speaking groups:

From	To	Price per person	Guaranteed	Booking
09/12/2023	16/12/2023	€2,350	Yes	
16/12/2023	23/12/2023	€2,350	Yes	
23/12/2023	30/12/2023	€3,000	Yes	
30/12/2023	06/01/2024	€3,000	Yes	
06/01/2024	13/01/2024	€2,350	Yes	
13/01/2024	20/01/2024	€2,350	Yes	
20/01/2024	27/01/2024	€2,350	Yes	
27/01/2024	03/02/2024	€2,350	Yes	
03/02/2024	10/02/2024	€2,530	Yes	
10/02/2024	17/02/2024	€2,810	Yes	
17/02/2024	24/02/2024	€2,810	Yes	
24/02/2024	02/03/2024	€2,810	Yes	
02/03/2024	09/03/2024	€2,810	Yes	
09/03/2024	16/03/2024	€2,530	Yes	
16/03/2024	23/03/2024	€2,530	Yes	
23/03/2024	30/03/2024	€2,530	Yes	
30/03/2024	06/04/2024	€2,350	Yes	
06/04/2024	13/04/2024	€2,350	Yes	
13/04/2024	20/04/2024	€2,350	No	

International departures:

No departure for now

Trip code: A2FN

Included

- Airport transfers to/from Kuusamo airport
- 7 nights lodge or cottage accommodation
- Full board from day 1 dinner to breakfast day 8 (except for diner in Rovaniemi)
- Luggage transport
- Full supervision by our experienced professional guides
- Dog-sledding
- Snowshoeing
- Winter walking

- A snowmobile adventure
- An Inuit bushcraft skills day
- All technical equipment including quality cold weather clothing

Not included

- Flights
- Diner in Rovaniemi on Day 8
- The personal expenses
- The drinks
- The renting of cold weather clothing (if you want to stay longer than the trip date)

Additional Options

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

- Reindeer farm visit: 10€
- Extra for private room at the hotel : 220€ per person (following the seasonal availabilities)
- Your cancellation/repatriation insurance: we don't offer insurance against cancellation and/or repatriation. We strongly recommend you to sign up for this kind of insurance and take a copy of your documents with you

Notes

Comfort: 4/5 Luxury

Our luxury trips include hotel accommodation with en-suite options. 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.

Minimum age: 8 (please contact us for more information)

Snowmobiles: you must be over 18 and hold a valid driver's license to drive a snowmobile

International flights

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

Inscription

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 30% 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.

Facturation

Once your booking is confirmed you will receive an invoice by e-mail. The full balance of the trip must be received at least 30 days before your departure date. Norwide reserves the right to cancel your booking, free of charge, if this deadline is not respected.

Annulation

If for any reason you have to cancel your trip, Norwide requires 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.

Modification du contrat

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.

Prix et révision des prix

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.

Cession du contrat

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

Not included

PRACTICAL INFO

Staff

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

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

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

Transportation

1 journée de chiens de traîneau, 1 journée de motoneige, 1 journée de raquettes, 1 journée trappeur, 1 journée de canirando.

Grâce à ce programme de découverte multi-activités, vous découvrez chaque jour une nouvelle discipline et un nouveau moyen de déplacement pour découvrir les étendues du Grand Nord. Cette formule « en étoile » permet une pratique sportive à la journée uniquement, avec retour au camp de base chaque soir. Les activités pratiquées ne présentent aucune difficulté technique, et sont encadrées dans un esprit d'initiation. Chacun de ces modes de déplacement ne présente donc aucune difficulté technique. Tous nos itinéraires sont tracés par notre équipe, nous en avons l'exclusivité. Nous sommes les seuls à les emprunter tout au long de l'hiver.

- **1 journée de chiens de traîneaux. 2 personnes par traîneau:**

A travers cette activité, nos mushers expérimentés partageront avec vous leur passion du Grand Nord et des chiens de traîneaux. Des duos sont formés pour la journée et les participants partagent un traîneau pour 2. Les 2 participants dirigent l'attelage commun à tour de rôle, composé de 6 à 10 chiens. Vous ferez partie d'un groupe constitué de maximum 5 traîneaux (10 participants) et un guide musher avec son traîneau. Lors de cette journée unique d'activité, un parcours simple et accessible à tous vous permet d'aborder la discipline sans aucune difficulté technique. Vous empruntez de magnifiques pistes prévues à cet effet et vous permettant d'atteindre différents lacs au cours de la journée. Un mode de déplacement tout à fait original et adapté à l'environnement qui vous entoure.

- **1 journée de motoneige. 2 personnes par motoneige:**

En duo, les participants partagent une motoneige pour 2. Les 2 participants conduisent leur machine à tour de rôle. Vous ferez partie d'un groupe constitué de maximum 10 participants et de votre guide motoneige.

Lors de cette journée unique d'activité, un parcours simple et accessible à tous vous permet d'aborder la discipline sans aucune

difficulté technique. Après une approche théorique de la pratique de la motoneige, vous empruntez de magnifiques pistes prévues à cet effet et vous permettant de rejoindre des points d'intérêts situés aux détours des forêts. En arrivant sur les lacs, vous atteignez des pics de vitesse : sensations garanties ! Les journées motoneige privilégient la découverte du milieu. Ainsi, Norwide Finland ne propose la pratique de la motoneige que dans le but précis de « voir plus loin et plus grand », aucun circuit complet n'est dédié à la seule pratique de cette activité. Notre vision de la motoneige, d'avantage pratique que pure passion mécanique, comblera aussi bien les amateurs de sensations fortes que les tempéraments plus calmes et soucieux du respect de l'environnement.

1. 1 journée raquette, 1 journée trappeur:

Le déplacement se fait en raquette à neige, environ 4 à 5 heures de marche sans dénivelé. Vous ferez partie d'un groupe constitué de maximum 12 participants et accompagné de votre guide.

Le déplacement en raquettes à neige est l'occasion de pratiquer la randonnée dans des zones fortement enneigées. Un parcours simple mais complet qui vous permet de découvrir le parc hors des sentiers battus. Cette activité reste sportive, sans pour autant vous pousser dans vos derniers retranchements: votre guide saura adapter la journée au rythme du groupe.

• 1 journée canirando :

Le déplacement se fait en raquette à neige, accompagné d'un chien harnaché à la ceinture, environ 4 à 5 heures de marche sans dénivelé. Vous ferez partie d'un groupe constitué de maximum 12 participants et accompagné de votre guide. Le nombre de chiens de traîneaux qui vous accompagnera pour la sortie sera inférieur au nombre de participants, de sorte à pouvoir effectuer un roulement et de pouvoir se reposer au cours de la journée en marchant sans aucun chien harnaché à sa ceinture.

Le déplacement en raquettes à neige accompagné d'un chien de traîneau vous permet d'aborder un autre aspect de la marche à pied, et d'y trouver une toute nouvelle énergie. Votre chien, plein de fougue, vous transmettra son enthousiasme à toutes épreuves, et vous permettra d'avancer à un rythme soutenu sans avoir l'impression de faire un effort excessif. Un mode de déplacement tout à fait original qui illustre à merveille le partage et la complicité qui peuvent s'installer entre l'homme et le chien.

• 1 journée à Rovaniemi :

Vous partez rejoindre la capitale du nord de la Finlande: Rovaniemi. Notre guide vous accompagnera toute la journée pour découvrir le village du Père Noël et visiter le musée. Les entrées sont à payer sur place

Budget & exchange

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

- Personal expenses and drinks
- Any additional activities/supplements
- Deposit for snowmobile: 2000€ / snowmobile / person (credit card)
- Deposit for other supplied equipment: 50€ for the boots, 50€ for the over suit

Supplied equipment

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

- Warm snow boots (Sorel). Please let us know if your shoe size is under 34 or above 50
- 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 snowmobiling:

- A helmet

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

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
- Driver's license for snowmobile
- Credit card for equipment deposit.

Material

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

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

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.

Passport

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

Visa

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

Aucune vaccination exigée.

Weather

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.

Topography

Area: +130502 square miles (+338,000 km²) 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

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.