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BACK COUNTRY SKIING ALONG THE RUSSIAN BORDER

This exceptional back-country skiing trek in Kainuu region, along the Russian border, will make you discover a wild area of frozen lakes and beautiful taiga in one of the most remote area of Finland which counts more bears than inhabitants (though they hibernate at that time).

This trek makes you get your fill of fresh air and offers a great view on Lappish nature with its snowy trees with magical forms. Full autonomy for 6 days: you will be away from everything and everyone. For more adventure feeling, you will be sleeping in a wide tent heated with a stove. An unforgettable and demanding adventure to feel the thrill provided by Great North.

 Region	Hossa
 Activity	Hiking Skiing Winter
 Duration	8 days
 Group	3 to 8 people
 Code	S1
 Price	From €1,990
 Level	3/5
 Comfort	3/5
 Language(s)	French / English

ITINERARY

Day 1 Journey and welcoming dinner



Transfer by bus or by car to Hossa (about 1 hour), at the gates of the park. Settle down in your log cottage or in your hotel room. First night, the team greet you at the restaurant upon a welcoming dinner.

Accommodation: Cottage or hotel

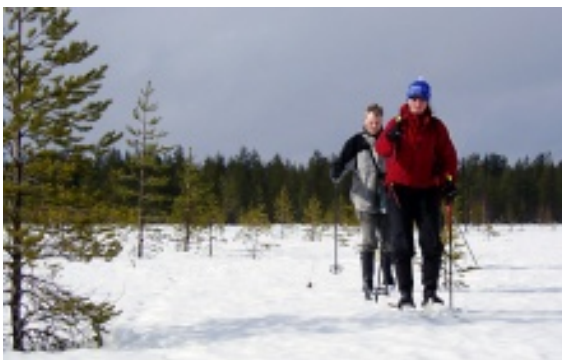
Day 2 Hossa's frozen lakes crossings



Here we are already on our way back after an expedition full of adventure and discovery! This morning we take our ski one last time to make the crossing of the lakes back to the base camp. A last glimpse of its vast white emptiness and silence before getting back to civilization.

Accommodation: Cottage or hotel

Day 3 Start of the ski expedition



The first morning is dedicated to the equipment preparation that you carefully organize with your guide. After a short car transfer, we start our trek. We leave for six days in absolute autonomy with back-country skis, throughout Lappish taiga. We have 15km daily stages, which are designed in order to discover all ecosystems. Every night we sleep in a solid MESS tent with wood-stove. This type of accommodation enables us to be even deeper in the Finnish wilderness and to enjoy the best aurora borealis (quite frequent in the heart of arctic winter).

Accommodation: tent

Day 4 Kovavaraa hill



Today we move closer to the Russian border, sometimes through passages of underbrush, sometimes on crossings petrified lakes. We end the day with the ascension of Kovavaara's hill allowing us to get a little height in order to contemplate the vastness of the Finnish taiga.

Accommodation: tent

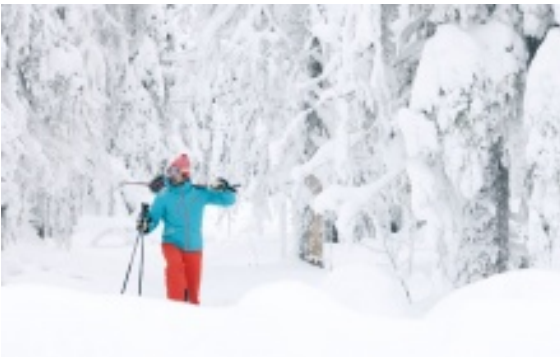
📍 Day 5 **Along the Russian Border until Vieremajärvi lake**



Today we ski along the Russian border much of the day. Soon, we plunge into the deep taiga and it will take some effort to make our mark and open the tracks. Advancing silently away from beaten tracks, we will may have the chance to observe the local wildlife: black grouse, ptarmigan, hare, fox ...

Accommodation: tent

📍 Day 6 **Paasovaara**



Today we move away from the Russian border and go a little further west towards the Hossa's National Park. On the way, stand a few hills but also many small and closed kettles lakes, geological relics from the Ice Age.

Accommodation: tent

📍 Day 7 **From the Peaks to Hossaari**



Today we enter into Hossa National Park. We start the day by climbing peaks (spreading for hundreds of kilometers, then we will continue our journey through various lakes and forest to the Trapper's hut of Hossaari where we will spend the night.

Accommodation: tent

📍 Day 8 **Transfer**



Breakfast and transfer back to Kuusamo airport.

DATES & PRICES

Departures for French-speaking groups:

From	To	Price per person	Guaranteed	Booking
04/01/2026	11/01/2026	€2,040	No	
11/01/2026	18/01/2026	€2,040	No	
25/01/2026	01/02/2026	€2,040	No	
08/02/2026	15/02/2026	€2,460	No	
22/02/2026	01/03/2026	€2,460	No	
01/03/2026	08/03/2026	€2,460	No	
15/03/2026	22/03/2026	€2,220	No	
22/03/2026	29/03/2026	€2,460	No	

International departures:

No departure for now

Trip code: S1

Included

- Airport transfers to/from Kuusamo airport
- 2 nights in cottage accommodation
- 1 night in trappers huts
- 4 nights in a tent
- Sauna access most evenings
- Full board from day 1 dinner to breakfast day 8
- Activities supervised by Northern Wilderness professional guides
- All technical equipment needed including cold weather clothing (see 'practical info' / 'equipment' for details)

Not included

- Flights
- Insurance

Additional Options

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

- Single room at the hotel: €220 pp.
- Visit to our kennels: free
- Local reindeer farm visit: €12

Notes

Comfort: 3/5 Various

Some of our trips involve a mixture of accommodation options. This trip includes :2 nights in cottage accommodation,1 night in trappers huts, 4 nights in a tent

Level: 4/5 Challenging

You should be in good physical shape to join our more challenging adventures. You should have a sense of adventure, a positive attitude and be prepared for a full-on action packed programme including 6+ hours of activity per day. This trip involves pulling pulkas and please note that our difficulty ratings may vary depending on the weather.

Minimum age: 14

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

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

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

Activities supervised by arctic specialist and English speaking guides. Ask for the availability of a guide who can speak your own language!

Food

Finland is not a land of gastronomy, even though some specialties are delicious! Because of weather conditions and our isolated location, fresh products are quite rare. During your stay we will offer you simple dishes which will fit your energetic needs. You will also have the opportunity to taste some Finnish specialties such as marinated or grilled salmon, salmon soup, reindeer stew or traditional cakes. A generous buffet breakfast will be served at the hotel restaurant, as well as dinners when you sleep at the hotel.

For the activity days :

- For lunch, you will enjoy a picnic with wood-fire grilled food
- For your nights in trapper cabin or tent you will prepare and share a dinner together with your guide

Accommodation

Our basecamp is located in the heart of Hossa Park, 100km away from any village or shop. Our conception of tourism has nothing to do with mass tourism hubs like Rovaniemi, Ivalo or Kittilä. No Santa Claus Village with us! There are 23 inhabitants around Hossa and most of them are reindeer farmers. Indeed, there are more bears living up there than inhabitants! We are living there in autonomy and are working in deep cooperation with the National Forest Service which runs Hossa Park development. During your stay, you will not have many opportunities to meet local people since there are very few of them. You might meet some ice fishers or Nordic skiers.

During your stay, you will be accommodated for 2 nights in our cottages, 1 night in a trapper's hut, and for 4 nights in a tent:

- Hotel and Cottages : Our hotel is ideally located beside a conserved lake. The hotel has 25 rooms (single, double and triple). All rooms are equipped with a private bathroom with shower, practical storage units, a T.V with international channels. Bed linens and towels are provided by Norwide. Nearby your room, you have free access to our sauna. After an energetic sport day, you will enjoy relaxing in this wooden piece of peace !

- Here is another accommodation option: the cottages (on request, subject to availability) :

- The « Classical » cottage, with an only room with living room/kitchen, twin or bunked beds, private bathroom and sauna

Bed linens and towels are provided by Norwide.

- Tente mess:

For the bivouac overnight in tent, you will sleep into a MESS tent, just like a special tipi warmed up by a wooden-stove. This tent can accommodate up to 8 people.

-Trapper cabins:

These are log cabins just like mountain refuges. The comfort is basic. These accommodations consist of a single dormitory or a room for 4 to 6 people with one main living room. There is no running water or electricity. The room is heated by a wood-stove. Despite cold weather outside, the room is quickly warmed up by the stove and we easily get to fine temperatures inside. There are dry toilets outside. The cabins are all equipped with a traditional sauna. They are full of charm and that's why we love them!

Transportation

- 6 back-country skiing days, with pulka

This trip is an opportunity for you to discover all the mysteries of the wild taiga via a form of travel very adapted to the environment: back-country skis with pulka. It helps you going in extremely snow-covered areas, off the beaten path and at a relatively fast pace. 5 to 7 hours a day with back-country skis, and very low differences in elevation. The route that we offer here corresponds to a hundred kilometers to go in harsh climatic conditions. In addition, you are in complete autonomy which means

that you carry, thanks to the pulkas, all your personal belongings and the common equipment for the entire week. The tracks that we use are drawn and maintained but thanks to back country-skis you also go out of trails and make your own mark, each person successively, in the vast sceneries.

Vital equipment

- High protection sunglasses
- Mask
- Personal medicine kit
- Sun-cream (from the end of February)
- Vaseline or waterfree moisturising cream
- A headlamp
- A thermos, in order to always have some hot beverage with you while practicing the activities. For lunch, the guide will provide you with hot beverages.

- Boots (type SOREL) are issued on arrival and are yours throughout the week
- For snowmobile safaris : overalls and helmet
- For dogsledge safaris : winter jacket for extreme cold and leather mittens
- For each bivouac night spent in a trapper cabin: sleeping bag

Helpful equipment

« The three layer system » :

Extreme conditions need extrem level of protection. For your clothing, the multilayer method is the best. You will have to wear several layers of clothing. The closest layers to your body let it sweat easily. The other layers keep your body warm and protect it from extreme weather conditions.

- Base / Inner Layer Close-fitting articles of clothing: polypropylene, polyester, capilene, wool or silk baselayer thermals. .
- Insulating / Middle Layer Warm pull-over or fleece jacket. .
- Shell / Outer Layer Goretex, or a comparable ski jacket is strongly recommended for this layer for its excellent water and wind resistant properties.

You will need the following:

- Waterproof shoes, winter hiking shoes, sports shoes or snow boots (for evening wear)
- Woolen socks
- Warm winter jacket (ski jacket or down jacket)
- Ski trousers or ski overalls
- Warm pull-overs or fleece jackets
- Warm baselayer thermals : very important. Thin technical fibers as Carline or Polartec are extremely efficient.
- Expedition waterproof mitten/gloves and fitted silk gloves
- Woolen hat
- Hool, Balaclava
- Scarf
- Swimming suit (sauna)
- Microfiber towel (sauna)

Personal effects that you must bring with you:

- A sleeping bag linr for each overnight in trapper cabin (it goes into the sleeping bag that we lend you, for hygienic reasons)
- Your driving licence (compulsory when you drive a snowmobile)
- A credit card : we make a copy of it that is used as a deposit for all the equipment provided

Luggage

Your belongings must be distributed into 2 bags :

- 1- A suitcase or flexible travelling bag (max. 20kg)
- 2- A backpack (30 to 40L) for your usual belongings that you will bring with you while practicing the activities