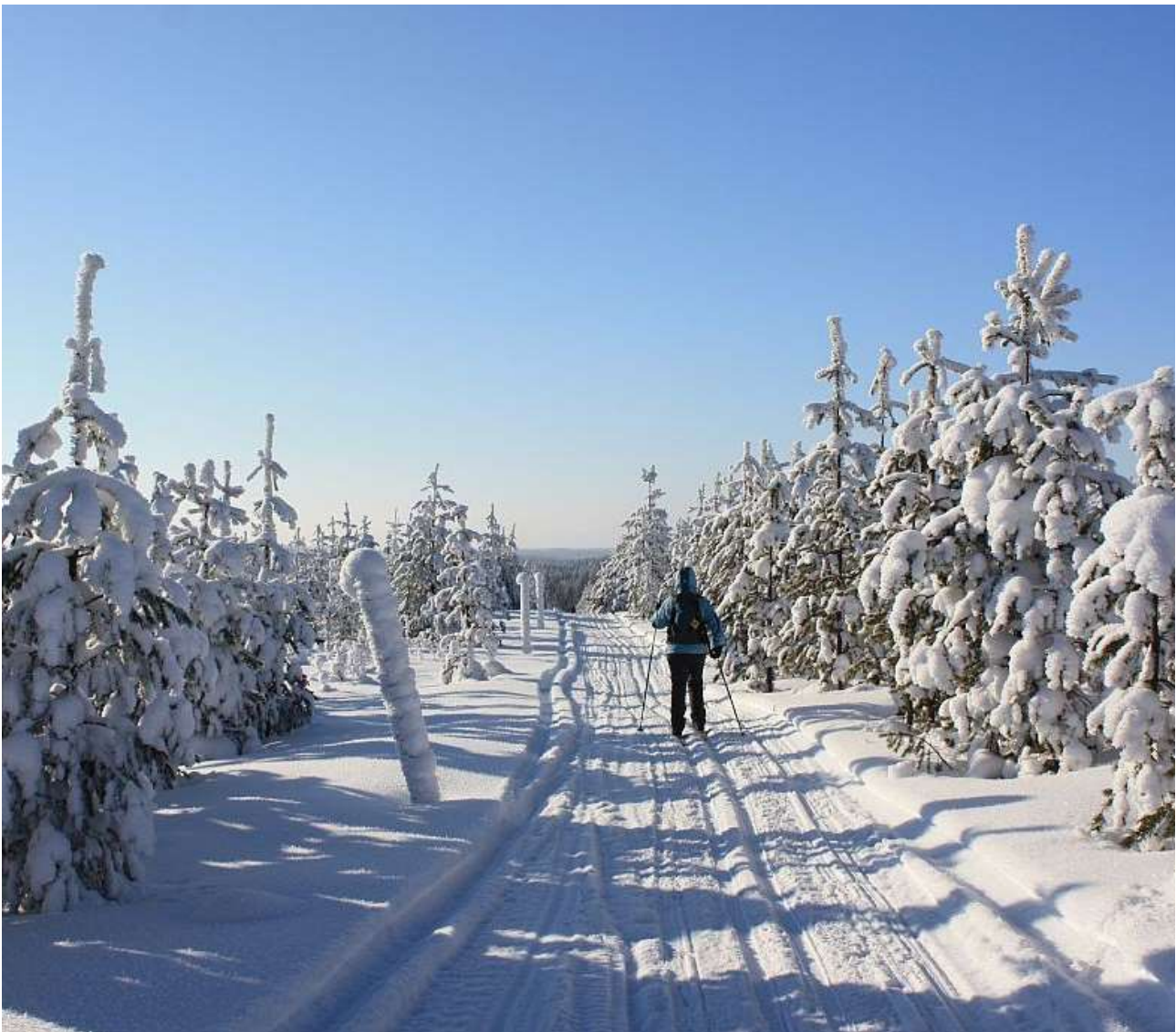


Kalevala Ski Tour On the Russian Border

Guided cross-country skiing tour, 100 km in five days

Season 2022

This guided cross-country skiing tour takes you to beautiful Hossa national park and to remote Finnish-Russian border area. You will ski through a wilderness of pristine untouched nature on the trails where you hardly encounter any other skiers. To give you the best experience, the maximum group size is 12 skiers, plus an expert tour leader. If you are lucky, and conditions are right, you might witness the Northern Lights' dancing in the night sky to top off your skiing week!



Detailed program:

Day 1: Arrival

Arrival at Kuusamo airport where your guide will welcome you. Transfer (1 hour) to Rajakartano guesthouse located in close proximity to Hossa national park.

Day 2: Day tour in Hossa, 17 km

After breakfast we start our skiing week along well-prepared tracks of Hossa national park whose nature is dominated by handsome pine heathlands, ridge-lines, small lakes and streams. We eat lunch at the Hossa Visitor Centre, and it's also possible to visit a small souvenir shop. It is said that there's nothing more Finnish than sauna and on return at the accommodation you can relax in the steaming hot, traditional Finnish sauna. The more adventurous amongst us can even try ice swimming! To finalize the active day, we will visit a local reindeer farm. Here we will enjoy a delicious dinner whilst learning about reindeer herding today.

Day 3: Day tour at Martinselkonen, 17 km

This morning we will take a short car transfer (45 min) to Martinselkonen wilderness Centre where we will accommodate for the next two nights. We start our circle tour towards north through Martinselkonen nature which has been set up to protect the Finnish wilderness, especially the swamp areas with its many birds and insects. Martinselkonen has mires, ponds and lakes, ancient forests and spruce trees draped in beard lichen. There is a picnic stop at one wilderness huts operated by the Finnish Forest and Park Service. After lunch we reach the Finnish-Russian border zone marked with yellow pointers. We follow the border zone for a couple of kilometres keeping in mind it is strictly prohibited to cross the border. The last kilometres take us back to our accommodation.

Day 4: Day tour at Martinselkonen, 23 km

Today we make another day tour in Martinselkonen area, this time heading south. We will ski over frozen lakes and swamps and through forests covered in a deep, white, snowy blanket. The quietness around us is almost tangible - only the sound of skis and poles touching the snow pierce the silence.



Day 5: Martinselkonen – Arola, 22 km

It's time to say good bye to our hosts at Martinselkonen and head north through the nature reserve. These frontier forests are home to a brown bear population, however in winter they are hibernating. Also, other Finnish large carnivores - wolves, lynxes and wolverines - inhabit the area but they are extremely timid and we may only spot their tracks in the snow. In the afternoon we will arrive at Arola guest house which is situated just a stone's throw from the Russian border.

Day 6: Day tour from Arola, 20 km

On this, our last day, we will take a day tour around Arola. At half-way we will once more enjoy hot soup and a selection of sandwiches around an open fire. In the afternoon we return to Arola to enjoy its' cozy atmosphere and the warm hospitality of our hosts. There is a chance to have a final sauna, then after that, a well-deserved farewell dinner made from local ingredients will be served in the traditional log house.

Day 7: Return

Breakfast and transport to the Kuusamo airport.

Note! All rights reserved to change the itinerary (route, accommodation) in case the group is maximum three participants.



Dates and prices 2022:

Guaranteed departures without minimum number of participants, max. 12 persons

20.02. – 26.02.2022 (Sunday – Saturday)

06.03. – 12.03.2022 (Sunday – Saturday)

13.03. – 19.03.2022 (Sunday – Saturday)

20.03. – 26.03.2022 (Sunday – Saturday)

27.03. – 02.04.2022 (Sunday – Saturday)

Other departures for groups on request.

Price per person in shared accommodation: Euro 1040,- / CHF 1200,-

Included in the price:

- ✓ 6 nights' accommodation in rooms for 2–4 persons with shared facilities (on days 3 and 4 some rooms with private facilities available)
- ✓ 6 x breakfast, 4 x outdoor lunch and 1 x lunch, 5 x dinner, snack on arrival night, 4 x afternoon coffee/tea with snack
- ✓ English speaking skiing guide
- ✓ Snowmobile guide who makes the track on days 3-6 (especially for this group) and prepares outdoor lunches
- ✓ Luggage transportation between accommodations
- ✓ Single-timed group airport transfers
- ✓ 5 x sauna, 1 x ice-swimming
- ✓ Bedlinen and bath towels

On extra cost:

- ✓ Ski equipment hire 60 € (height, weight and shoe size to be informed at the time of booking)
- ✓ The flight is not included in the price. We will be happy to book the flight from your desired departure airport for you.

