

« Off the trails »

Join a guided snowshoeing tour through snow-white forests, over frozen lakes and along ridges in new Hossa national park.

Season 2021

On this snowshoeing tour you will get to explore the 'taiga' forests of eastern Finland. The week in the remote, silent wilderness, still safely and comfortably, is a great escape from the hustle and hassle of daily life. Our route goes mostly in Hossa national park through snow white forests, along ridges and over frozen lakes. Each night you will accommodate in a wilderness cabin, some of them without modern facilities but however with cosy atmosphere.

The daily treks of approx. 6 hours will most probably be walked in deep soft snow in varied terrain with many short up- and down hills. The difficulty of the tour is easy-moderate. No previous experience on snowshoeing is needed but a moderate physical condition is required.



Detailed program:

Day 1: Arrival

Arrival at Kuusamo airport where you will meet your local guide. Transfer (approx. 1 hour) to Hossa where we will accommodate in Jatkonsalmi cabin for first three nights. The cabin is situated on the shore of Lake Jatkonjärvi in an isolated spot in the heart of Hossa national park.

Day 2: Russian border

After a brief introductory session on snowshoeing technique it is time to set off for the first day trip which takes us to explore the Russian border area. We go the first kilometres in the narrow gorge and then mostly on the lakes until the Russian border zone. It is strictly prohibited to step on the border zone but we follow it for a couple of kilometres southwards. In the evening, after snowshoeing for hours in the cold, it is nice to relax and warm oneself in the lakeside sauna. Snowshoeing 7 km, 6 hours



Day 3: Rock paintings

Today it is time to take a glance at the history. We will first take a short car transfer and then snowshoe to the Colour Rock to see its rock paintings dating back to 4000 years. The picnic lunch will be taken in a kota in the mid-way (Lappish tepee). Coffee will be brewed on an open fire and it will be taken with sandwiches. In the afternoon we will return to the cabin to spend one more night there. Snowshoeing 7 km, 6 hours

Day 4: Snow white forests, Jatkonsalmi – Peurapirtti/Hirvastupa

Today's route goes along the top of a ridge between two frozen lakes through the beautiful snow covered pine, spruce and birch forests. It is more probable that we will meet some reindeer than human beings. After 7 km on snow shoes we will reach the northern shore of the lake Iso-Valkeinen and the cabins where we will accommodate for one night. Snowshoeing 7 km, 6 hours

Day 5: Ridges and lakes, Peurapirtti/Hirvastupa – Huosiusjärvi/likoski

After breakfast we will go on snowshoeing along the ridges and on the lakes. The surrounding forests are home for many animals like elks, wolves, lynxes and hares but unfortunately they are seldom seen. Also bears inhabit the area but in winter they hibernate. Halfway we will take the picnic lunch around an open fire at a lean-to-shelter situated near a rapid. In the afternoon we will arrive at the last cabins where we will stay in, called Huosiusjärvi and likoski situated 200 metres apart from each other.

Snowshoeing 8 km, 6,5 hours



Day 6 : End of snowshoeing and reindeer farm Huosiusjärvi/likoski – Jatkonsalmi

The last day of snowshoeing takes us back to the start point. Following ridges we will reach the Hos-sa Visitor Centre where we will have lunch and it's also possible to visit a small souvenir shop. Our snowshoeing tour will be completed on arrival at the cabin. At night we will visit a local reindeer farm where we learn about reindeer herding today and enjoy a delicious farewell dinner. Snowshoeing 5 km, 4 hours

Day 7 : Return

Breakfast and transfer to Kuusamo airport.

NOTE : We reserve all the rights to change the itinerary (route, accommodation) if the group size is 3 persons or less or if necessary due to weather/snow conditions.



Level of difficulty and route:

The difficulty of the tour is easy – moderate. The daily treks take are approx. 5–6 hours and the average speed is about one km per hour. In late January– early March the depth of the snow is normally 60–70 cm and you will usually walk in soft snow which makes the walking slow. If the track is harder it is possible to walk 3–4 km in an hour, in that case extra kilometres can be walked to make the duration longer. The duration includes also a lunch break which is about 1,5 hours. The terrain is quite variable with many short up- and down hills but there are no long climbs. The route goes in the forests, along the ridges and on the lakes. The difficulty of the tour is easy – moderate. No previous experience on snowshoeing is needed but a moderate physical condition is required.

Guaranteed departures 2020 without minimum number of participants, max. 13 persons:

17.01.-23.01.2021
24.01.-30.01.2021
31.03.-06.02.2021
07.02.-13.02.2021
14.02.-20.02.2021
21.02.-27.02.2021
28.02.-06.03.2021
07.03.-13.03.2021
14.03.-20.03.2021

Price per person: Euro 940,- / CHF 1050,-

Included in the price:

- ✓ Single-timed airport transfers from/to Kuusamo airport
- ✓ Accommodation on days 1, 2, 3 and 6 in rooms for 2–4 persons in log cabin, on days 4 and 5 in log cabins (mostly dormitory type)
- ✓ 6 x breakfast, 4 x outdoor lunch, 1 x lunch, 6 x dinner
- ✓ English speaking guiding
- ✓ Luggage transportation between the accommodations
- ✓ 5 x guided tour
- ✓ 5 x evening sauna, 3 x ice-swimming
- ✓ Bed linen and bath towels
- ✓ Sleeping bags and mummy liners (2 nights)

Supplements:

- ✓ Hire of snowshoeing equipment (snowshoes and poles): Euro 40,- / week
- ✓ Hire of winter boots: Euro 15,- / week

