

Your Passage through Lapland from Saariselkä to Ruka in comfort

Fully Guided Tour Classic or Skating, in 8 Days and 7 Nights

The 2024 Season

Would you like to have a winter vacation this coming season that will have unforgettable memories etched into your brain? Well that would be the majestic countryside within magic forests and frozen lakes and much more. This winter's expedition will connect three huge skiable areas in Finland: Saariselkä, Luosto, and Ruka/Kuusamo. Those will be our destinations during the week as we travel from hotel to hotel.

Our cross-country ski trails are especially chosen so that you can ski them in either style: classic or skate. You don't have to be a super expert to join us. The distances vary from 25 km to as much as 50 km each day. You decide how far you want to go. This particular vacation offering is for cross-country skiers who don't want to worry about transportation or baggage. You will know that each evening you will find all of your affairs in the next comfortable hotel, right next to the trails! These trails are part of a long-standing Finnish tradition, which includes the famous "Kotas" where you will find food when you need it. There are saunas, too. They will help you recuperate after a long day in the fresh air. And there are Finnish culinary specialties to taste, too.

The countryside that we cross between Saariselkä and Ruka distinguishes itself by its immaculate nature, with rivers, lakes, and perfectly preserved vast forests that will guarantee you an authentic vacation. Lapland exudes splendor and lights that you have never seen before.



Here is the program:

1st Day, Saturday: You will take your individual trip to get to Ivalo by plane

Fly to Ivalo, then transfer by bus from the airport to your first hotel. It only takes 30 minutes. You are already above the Arctic Circle; you will be in the farthest part of Europe. You will be surrounded by 220 km of cross-country trails, of which 36 km are well lighted. Classic and skate, of course. At the end of the first afternoon, you can even plan a quick warm-up ski, depending on what time you arrive at the airport. Or you can simply hang out in the village. It has its traditions and its atmosphere that is extremely welcoming. Cocktails will be served for everyone in the evening and we'll present all the information you need to know for the rest of the week. Your guide will explain everything in detail and then dinner will be with the group at the hotel.

2nd Day, Sunday: Your first long ski day—around Saariselkä (between 25 to 40 km)

You will start off the day just 100 meters from your hotel. You can go 25 km, 35 km, or even 50 km. It is up to you every day whether you want to take a short or long ski. That depends how you feel and what you feel like. Saariselkä is situated in a national part called Urho Kekkonen (the name one of Finland's first presidents). The countryside is typical Lapland—soft mountains and hilly terrain, called "tunturis." The highest peak is 500 meters. This first day is for all of you to feel good about your skiing. There are no major serious uphill. Along the trails you will find little chalets and hotels where you can stop for local specialties. In the afternoon, you will return to the hotel where you can just hang out or you can go to the village, have a sauna, and prepare yourself for our usual group dinner.



3rd Day, Monday: Saariselkä to Luosto (25 to 40 km) plus a bus transfer to your next hotel

Today we leave the Saariselkä region to go south. After breakfast, you will put all of your bags and personal effects in front of the reception desk. They will be taken to your next hotel in Luosto. Here the huge network of trails is perfectly signed so you cannot get lost. We will go in the direction of Killopää, then Muotka, and finally Kakslautanen. You will have a choice between a long one or a short one. Lunch is planned in the middle of the day at either Killopää or Muotka at around 20 to 25 km. In the afternoon, the time spent on your skis will be shorter so that you can catch the bus that will take us to the Luosto. The bus ride lasts about an hour and a half. At your new hotel, you will be given your rooms and then you can either take a sauna or visit the village. Dinner together.



4th Day, Tuesday: Touring around Luosto (25 to 40 km)

This place is part of a must-see for those who love Finnish Lapland. It is situated 100 km to the east of Rovaniemi, at the foot of Mount Luostotunturi, which has a peak of 514 meters. This small mountain village is hidden in a wooded valley that feels like a small paradise. Here is where you can observe the world-renowned auroras borealis. This area has 150 km of ski trails in pristine pure nature. You will be skiing part of the time in the national park of Pyhä-Luosto. Talk about communing with nature! There are, of course, authentic Lapland chalets along your route and we will find a good one for you at lunchtime.

After lunch, you will have the choice of either calling it quits for the day or skiing the rest of the afternoon; it all depends on how tired you are. Then you will be treated at your newest hotel to the superb "Amethyst Spa," with sauna and steam bath, Jacuzzi and swimming pool. Then a typical Lapland dinner at your hotel.



5th Day, Wednesday: Luosto to Ruka (25 to 40 km) plus transfer to your next hotel

Your bags will be taken to Ruka. They should be put in front of the reception desk before you leave for the day's ski. We will be leaving behind us the amethyst mines of Lampivaara. We will be skiing south. You will have two choices of trails: One that is 26 km and a longer one that is over 40 km. Then we all get on the bus and go an hour and 20 minutes to the next hotel at Ruka. Once at the Hotel Rukatontuu, dinner together.



6th Day, Thursday: Skiing around Ruka (25 to 40 km)

Here you will be surrounded by a spectacular countryside. This is really what we think of when you imagine the great outdoors of the north. That is what you will feel when you are in this area surrounding Ruka.

It is at the Polar Circle, not that far from the Russian border. This is a destination that many people choose because of the magnificent natural surroundings. It is not surprising that every year in mid-November, there is a Nordic World Cup race that takes place here.

The network of trails goes on for 200 km. Whatever you want, you can find. You can also taste local culinary specialties. In front of you at all times will be vast virgin countryside. The first part of the day we will be going uphill (very gentle, though) for much of the ski. The afternoon will be calm and everybody can finish in the sauna at your new hotel. Dinner together.



7th Day, Friday: Ruka and the Mount Rukatunturi (25 to 40 km)

The goal of this last day will be to ski around all of Mount Rukatunturi. You will have lunch at mid-day. Then, as always, a last sauna and a festive group meal to end your great adventure in Lapland. Your last night of rest before you take your trip back home.

8th Day, Saturday: Returning home

Breakfast plus transfer by bus to Kuusamo airport, which is about 25 km away. For some of you, depending on when your flight leaves, you will be able to ski the 25 km to the airport!



Where You Are Going to Stay:

Hotel Holiday Club, Saariselkä

The Holiday Club hotel was renovated in 2018 and offers a mixture of authentic Lapland and modern elements for an all-round pleasant well-being. The hotel consists of the main building with its almost 140 hotel rooms from 18 to 22 m² and adjacent apartments. All rooms are equipped with twin beds, toilet/shower, radio, TV and WLAN internet. Sauna and a pool area are available for guests.



Hotel Lapland Luostotunturi, Luosto

This is a 4-star hotel situated directly at the base of the skiable terrain. There are 116 rooms, all equipped with modern bathroom, television with satellite reception, and a place to dry your clothes. There is a mini bar and a telephone. The Amethyst Spa has a sauna, steam bath, a Jacuzzi, and a swimming pool. There is also a fitness room. The restaurant, bar, and cafeteria are available for different meals.



Hotel Rukatonttu, Ruka

The hotel is located in the heart of Ruka, right by Lake Talvijärvi. The family-run hotel has an à la carte restaurant, a terrace with a view over the lake landscape and, of course, a classic Finnish sauna. The sauna is right by the lake: daredevils can cool off for a second sauna session by jumping into the ice hole and swimming a few strokes. The double rooms are cosy and functionally furnished with shower/bath, WC, drying cupboard and TV.



**2024 Season,
Vacation with Guide and Transportation of All Bags:**

What You Will Get:

- ✓ All transfers from the airport d'Ivalo and Kuusamo
- ✓ 2 nights in the Holiday Club Hotel at Saariselkä
- ✓ 2 nights in Luostotunturi Hotel at Luosto
- ✓ 3 nights in the Hotel Rukatontuu in Ruka
- ✓ 7 breakfasts
- ✓ 7 evening meals
- ✓ Transportation of your bags from hotel to hotel
- ✓ Detailed information about every part of your trip
- ✓ A guide during the entire time

Supplementary Items That Are Not Included in the Price:

- ✓ Your individual airplane flights
- ✓ A day extra with possibilities of snowmobiles and dogsled rides
- ✓ Rental of equipment if you let us know ahead of time
- ✓ Personal expenditures

Date:	Euro	CHF
March 23rd to March 30th 2024	Euro 1790,-	CHF 1790,-
Supplement for an individual room	Euro 490,-	CHF 490,-

Minimum Requirements:

We start each day around 10 am and we stay out until the afternoon, around 3 to 4 pm. You have to be able to ski between 20 and 25 km daily, either classic or skate. Each day there will be a choice and it is up to you to decide how long you want to go and how many rest stops you want to take. The most active skiers will ski between 40 and 45 km each day. The lunch break is organized every day at a place where you can decide how much time you need to rest before your afternoon ski.

Your Guides:

Tanja and Daniel will accompany you throughout your trip. They have been taking skiers to Lapland and Norway for 15 years. Each year, they take a group from Saariselkä to Luosto and then finish in Ruka. This trip is time tested. Tanja and Daniel will be your guides from the 23rd to 30th of March 2024.



Length of Time:

8 days/7 nights from Saturday to Saturday, with 6 days of skiing

Level of Skiing:

Lapland has a reputation of being accessible to all levels of skiers. The trip you will take with us will not have any hair-raising downhills, nor will it have any extremely difficult uphill. It is a hilly area, though, so you won't be faced with some type of flat and boring set of trails. We believe that you should be an advanced cross-country skier to fully enjoy the trip. You should be someone who is used to a minimum of 25 km of skiing each day (and we know that is not for everyone). You can always have longer ski times any day depending on how you feel. We have the same route for skaters or classic skiers and, you can change from classic to skate any day.

Lodgings:

The hotels are either 3 star or 4 star (described before)

Length of the Complete Trip:

You will go a minimum of 150 km to a maximum of 250 km.
You can choose different trail lengths each day.

Departure and Arrival:

Saariselkä and Ruka/Kuusamo

Making Sure You Get Water and Nourishment Throughout the Day:

Each one of you will take a small backpack and water bottle for each excursion. You will want to have snacks, energy bars, etc., plus an extra of long underwear (if you need to) that you can change into at lunchtime.

A Practical Guide to Finland:

- ✓ Formalities: If you are French, Swiss, or a citizen of the EU, you need a national identity card or a passport that is currently valid.
- ✓ Money used: The Euro plus credit cards.
- ✓ Time Zone: One hour later than in France and in Switzerland.
- ✓ The Climate: In winter, the climate is cold and dry. The temperatures will vary between freezing and -20° C, so not too warm and not too cold. If you decide to do other activities, such as dogsledding or snowmobiling, we will be able to get you extra-warm clothing.

