

Surrounded by wilderness - Multiactivities in north of Finland

An ideal package for those who want to **experience the northern winter**, get to know **the culture**, possibly witness the dance of **the Northern Lights** and be active **surrounded by the winter wonderland**. The Wilderness lodge (no electricity/running water, situated 1km from the Russian border) and our reindeer that you'll be taking care of as part of the tour, provide **an authentic, Finnish setting for you to discover a way of life and spend an active, yet leisured holiday in the backwoods of Finland**. Snowshoehikes take place in and around the Vieremänsuo **old growth forest and marsh reserve**, roughly following the Eastern border hiking trail. Last two nights of the tour will be spent in the immediate present of the Hossa National Park.

Winter activities you have the chance to participate by this tour include **feeding our reindeer** of course, **snow-shoeing, dog-sledding trip with your own team of huskies, ice-fishing, a snow-mobile ride and snow-building**. Sleeping outside in a self made snow cave / igloo is possible. And of course you'll be daily enjoying from **the Finnish sauna, both the traditional wood-heated and electric ones**.

You'll do just fine with moderate physical condition as the walks and the challenge will be suited according to the group, thanks to the versatile possibilities of the Hossa National Park area. If you can normally walk 15km per day you'll do ok. **Families, groups of friends and individual passangers are all most welcome**. Here's your tailored proposal that can be fixed to meet your needs:

Day 1 (sunday)

Arrival to **Kuusamo, Kajaani or Oulu** airport and **transfer to Hossa**. During the transfer you'll get the idea how remote and sparsely-populated this area truly is. We'll enjoy **a welcoming dinner** at Wilderness Lodge, settle in, get familiar with the surroundings and with the reindeers of course. Depending on the schedule and the weather, we might take a short snow-shoe hike on the frozen lake located nearby in **search for the Northern Lights**. Warm wood-heated sauna in the evening welcomes you to Finland.



Day 2 (monday) 10km snowshoehike

After breakfast it's time to feed the reindeer and give them enough food so that they'll manage until Wednesday, when we return from our **exploration in the protected forests and marshes around**. We'll start the walk right from our doorstep at the Wilderness Lodge with **the total distance being around 10km before we reach our destination. Sceneries today vary from vast open marshes to dense old forests, not many people but plenty of wildlife here.** Next two nights will be spent in a farm house with modern comforts and your luggage will be waiting for you as we arrive. We will have a **picnic-lunch around open fire** on the way and before you fall asleep in your warm cozy bed, you can go in the sauna.



Day 3 (tuesday) 4 km snowshoehike, ice-fishing, snow-building

Today we'll be doing some **snow-building and walk a 4km round trip to a remote lake to try our luck with ice-fishing.** Building an igloo or a quinzee isn't just fun, it's a useful skill here in the northern wilderness. Just as ice-fishing and we'll be cooking the possible catch as part of our dinner. We'll start our day around 9am, have **lunch around the fire along the ice-fishing** and return to our cabin where we finish the igloos and enjoy the warmth of the sauna. If you feel like spending the night in the quinzee we built, feel free! Good winter sleeping bags are available. Let's hope that there's a chance for the Northern Lights later today.



Day 4 (wednesday) 8-9km snowshoehike

Today we will walk on a different route back to the Wilderness Lodge, lunch by the fire on the way and walking distance about 8-9 km. All these three walks will take us through **versatile landscapes from grand ridges covered in pine trees to spruce-dominated old forests.** Making your way through the snow, enjoying the silence and observing nature will take your mind off the everyday life for sure. After we arrive to our accommodation for the night, **we'll heat up the sauna, feed the**



reindeer and have dinner.



Day 5 (thursday) visiting a reindeer farm and the main herd

Today we say goodbye to the reindeer here in the Wilderness Lodge as we are transferred for 20 km to the heart of the Hossa village where we will stay for the last two nights of the tour. Here we will visit our



private farm where you can take a **short sleigh ride with reindeer**, a **snow-mobile ride to meet and feed our main herd of up to one hundred animals** and have **lunch around open fire in a Lavvu**.

Dinner will be served in the Hossa reindeer park where you'll get to taste a **very traditional and delicious Finnish dish**. Sauna will be heated up at the accommodation before your warm bed lulls you to sleep.

Day 6 (friday) husky-safari at one of the nearby kennels

Today after breakfast, we'll head to a **dog-sledding trip** on one of the nearby kennels. After being transferred to a local husky-farm (max.1h transfer), you'll learn the basics of dog-sledding and after **that mush your own team in pairs for app. 30 km, stopping en route to swap drivers if you wish**. If we have time after the safari, we can visit the Ruka ski resort by car, just to give you a glimpse what a rather small, Finnish skiing in the north looks like! After the safari / possible Ruka visit transfer back to the accommodation, sauna and then it's time to have the last evening dinner together.

Day 7 (saturday)

Transfer to the airport and time to say goodbye!



Season	Sunday departures:	25th December 2016 -26 th March 2017
Duration		7 days, 6 nights
Group size		2-8 persons
Price		1155€/person, children under 13 years -30%

What's included in my trip price?

2 nights at Wilderness Lodge, 4 nights in accommodation with modern comforts, all meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner), all forms of transport, equipment rentals, sauna daily, admissions and the expertise of your local guide from the booking till the farewell. Tour leader has some additional thermal clothing (boots/overalls) but basic winter clothing like mittens/gloves, woolly hats, thermal boots/isolated hiking boots and overalls can be rented at the arrival. Please ask in advance! Requests concerning special diets/allergies should be given well before the trip.

NOT INCLUDED: Flights, personal travel insurance

All the departures are meant for individual passengers and couples so anyone can participate. Families and groups of friends can also request a tailored proposal, private adventure like this is a thing you remember for a long time. Individual passengers are put together with the same sex and groups are filled in order of the bookings, defining whether it's a family/friend group or a group consisting of individual passengers. Situation with the groups/departure dates is updated on the website.

How do I pay?

After receiving the booking, you need to pay a service fee of 50€/person and it needs to be paid within 7 days to confirm you're place on the tour. This is done by a bank transfer, payment and other details will follow in a message you receive within 48 hours.

Passenger may cancel the tour without special reason as follows:

- No later than 14 days prior to departure by paying the service fee 50€
- Later than 14 days but no later than 48 hours prior to departure by paying 50% of the total price
- .- If the tour is cancelled later than 48 hours prior to departure, the tour operator has the right to charge the full price of the tour

There's separate guidelines for a cancellation due to a major occurrence, which are listed in the Consumer agency's "General term for package tours". Hossa Travel complies with these terms and conditions.