

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** where you'll follow the Russian border at times and on the beautiful **pine-covered ridges 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, driving a snow-mobile and snow-building**. Sleeping outside in a self made snow cave / igloo is possible too and of course you'll be enjoying **the Finnish sauna on a daily basis during your stay!**

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. This said, you still should be able to normally walk 15km per day! **Families, groups of friends and individual passengers are all most welcome**. Here's the program in more detail:

Day 1 (sunday) Day of arrival

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 the Wilderness Lodge, settle in and get familiar with the surroundings and how everything works in such a rustic and authentic place like this, where we carry the water ourselves and heat the bedrooms with wood. Depending on the schedule and the weather, we might take a short snowshoe hike on the frozen lake located nearby in **search for the Northern Lights**. Warm, traditional wood-heated sauna in the evening welcomes you to Finland.



Day 2 (monday) 8,5km snowshoehike, 5h

After breakfast we'll head on an **exploration in the protected forests and marshes around our basecamp**. We'll start the walk right from our doorstep at the Wilderness Lodge with **the total distance of our circular walk being around 8,5 km**. Sceneries today vary from **vast open marshes and frozen lakes to dense old forests, not many people but plenty of wildlife here**. We will have a **picnic-lunch around open fire** on the way. Dinner and sauna at the Wilderness Lodge in the evening.



Day 3 (tuesday) 9 km snowshoehike in Hossa National Park, 6h

This morning after breakfast we will make a short transfer to **Hossa National Park**, where we'll be doing another circular walk but in a very different surroundings as here the sceneries are dominated by **grand ridges covered in pine trees and old forests dominated by spruce trees covered in beard moss**. Picnic-lunch around open fire again halfway of the walk. We will return by car to a different cabin for one night, from where we will start a walk back to the Wilderness Lodge the next morning. Sauna and tasty dinner at the cabin in the evening. Let's hope that there's a chance for **the Northern Lights** later today as there is no better place to observe them than on these remote cabins with zero light pollution on sight!



Day 4 (wednesday) 8-9km snowshoehike, 6h + snow building

Today we will make our last walk and head back to the Wilderness Lodge, have lunch by the fire on the way and walking distance being about 8-9 km. During today's walk we will be following the Russian border for quite a while and in general all three of these hikes are planned so that they take you through **versatile landscapes and get you exposed to the incredible silence and stillness of this remote wilderness**. Making your way through the snow and observing nature&wildlife will take your mind off the everyday life for sure. After we arrive back to our wilderness cabin for one more night, **we'll build a snowcave/igloo, heat up the sauna and have dinner**. Sleeping in the igloo is possible, good-quality winter sleeping bags are available.



Day 5 (thursday) visiting our private reindeer farm and ice-fishing

This morning we say goodbye to the Wilderness Lodge as we are transferred 20 km to the heart of the Hossa village where we will stay in a nice cabin/apartment



with all the comforts for the last two nights of the tour so it's back to civilization! First thing in the morning we will visit our private farm where you can take a **short sleigh ride with a big male reindeer trained for the job, drive a snow-mobile to go feed our main herd of up to one hundred animals** and in general participate and learn new things about this special way of life that has been running in our family for centuries.



We will have **lunch around open fire in a Lavvu**, but before that, we'll try our luck with the fish and the possible catch will be cooked as part of our dinner. After lunch we will fish a bit more and have fun with the snowmobiles on the frozen lake, later in the afternoon you'll be taken to your accommodation close to our farm where you can enjoy the sauna and relax. Dinner will be served later in the Hossa reindeer park where you'll get to taste **reindeer meat and have a very traditional and delicious Finnish dish** in this very special restaurant.



Day 6 (friday) husky-safari 4h 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.1,5h transfer), you'll learn the basics of dog-sledding and after **that mush your own team in pairs for app. 30 km/4h, stopping en route to swap drivers if you wish**. Dog-sledding through the snowy forests is an unforgettable experience! If we have time after the safari we can visit the Ruka ski resort or some of the souvenir shops nearby in Kuusamo. After the safari / possible Ruka visit it's transfer back to the accommodation in Hossa, sauna for once more and then it's time to have the last evening dinner together.

Day 7 (saturday) Day of departure

Breakfast, transfer to the airport and time to say goodbye!

Season	Sunday departures:	7th January 2018 -25 th March 2018
Duration	7 days, 6 nights	
Group size	2-8 persons	
Price	1240€/person, children under 13 years -25%	

What's included in my trip price?

3 nights at Wilderness Lodge(sunday, monday, wednesday), 1 night in homestay farmhouse with comforts (tuesday) 2 nights in modern cabin/apartment in the Hossa village (thursday, friday), 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 for 40€/week. 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 100€/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.

BOOKINGS & QUESTIONS:

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