



8 DAYS

DISCOVER ARCTIC LAPLAND'S SPECTACULAR SCENERY AND INDIGENOUS CULTURE

Venture into arctic regions of Finnish Lapland, and discover the wild fells, rivers and lakes of the Sámi people's homeland in the far north – especially in the vast spectacular wildernesses of Finland's largest national parks: Lemmenjoki and Urho Kekkonen.

DAY 1

Enjoy hiking in the magnificent scenery of the Urho Kekkonen National Park within easy reach of good facilities.



The Saariselkä resort has everything you need, from superb ski slopes and nature trails to spas, hotels, restaurants and other services. The Urho Kekkonen National Park ① contains some of the finest fells and forest scenery in Finnish Lapland, with dozens of rolling pine-clad hills and open fells stretching off to the horizon.

Trek through this magnificent arctic fell country on

foot, finding your way to one of the park's many welcoming wilderness huts for the night. The part of the park nearest Saariselkä has many well-marked trails that are easy to explore on a single day even for inexperienced hikers. In the wilderness zones of the national park you can trek for several days, and experience stunning natural attractions, and witness fascinating cultural and historical sites



Local food: Start your journey with good, local food at the Laanila Kievari restaurant, where everything is made with pure and fresh ingredients, including many harvested in the restaurant's own grounds or from nearby lakes and forests.

www.laanilankievari.fi

Accommodation: Hotels, cabins, camping in Saariselkä

www.inarisaariselka.fi

www.inarilapland.fi

www.inari.fi

Sauna and arctic swimming: the sauna complex at Kiilopää, called Kuurakaltio, has two modern electric saunas and a traditional Finnish smoke sauna. After soaking in the sauna, take a dip in the refreshing waters of the mountain stream Kiilopuro. In wintertime the water temperature is about -1°C, while in summer it varies from + 5 to +15°C. www.kiilopaa.fi



Activities: hiking, activities, gold digging, swimming
Information: Saariselkä customer service: www.nationalparks.fi/saariselkacustomerservice
Tankavaara visitor centre: www.nationalparks.fi/tankavaaravisitorcentre

DAY 2

Discover the natural and cultural attractions of Inari village – the centre of Sámi culture in Finland

The village of Inari lies by vast and beautiful Lake Inari. Inari is the main center of the Sámi culture in Finland. Find out about the Sámi's traditional lifestyles and cultures at the Sámi Museum Siida ② – and also by visiting local handicraft stores and reindeer farms.

Hike through wild forests to the beautiful old wooden church of Pielpajärvi, or along riverside paths towards Juutua. Explore Lake Inari on a cruise or in a rented canoe. Inari is a lively village, with several accommodation options and a wide range of activities. Inari's lakes and rivers are a paradise for keen fishers. Discover the flavours, friendly people and beautiful natural settings of this unforgettable destination.



Accommodation: Hotels, cabins and camping in Inari
www.inarisaariselka.fi
www.inarilapland.fi



Activities: hiking, activities, fishing,
<http://www.inarisaariselka.fi/en/activities/>

Sauna, swimming and dinner: Hotel Inarin Kultahovi in the village of Inari, has an original log sauna with fantastic views over the River Juutua. While cooling off on the terrace you can enjoy a refreshing drink, and hear and watch the lovely river flow by. Go between the sauna and the river as often as you like to make the most of this wonderful experience.

Restaurant Aanaar in Hotel Kultahovi is famed for quality dishes made from pure local ingredients provided by local reindeer herders, fishermen, foragers and farmers.

www.hotelkultahovi.fi

Information: Northern Lapland Nature Centre Siida
www.siida.fi
www.inari.fi

DAY 3

Experience fine hiking and pan for gold in Finland's largest national park.

Lemmenjoki, Finland's largest national park ③, protects a vast area of untouched forest in Europe's last true wilderness. The park's hiking trails make it easy to discover these unique natural settings, including windswept fells, birch forests down in Lemmenjoki Valley, and ancient pine forests. There's gold in the hills of Lemmenjoki, and you can also find out about Lapland's gold rush and learn how many people still seek gold here today.



A boat trip along the beautiful River Lemmenjoki valley is an unforgettable experience. Highlights include the impressive Ravadas Falls, and the place where prospectors first struck gold here. During the summer the boat service to Ravadas Falls and Kultahamina runs daily. Climb up to the top of Joenkielinen fell, to enjoy spectacular views over Lemmenjoki Valley and the surrounding fells.

In Lemmenjoki you can also explore a traditional Sámi reindeer farm, preserved as it was in the 1800s, and see deer-trappers pits dating back thousands of years.

Food and accommodation are available in the village of Njungalaihti, where you can also find Sámi handicrafts.

Accommodation: Hotels, cabins and camping in Inari
www.inarisaariselka.fi
www.inarilapland.fi



Cabins and camping sites are also available in Lemmenjoki.

Trail from Sevetijärvi to Näätämö, the Inari trail leading towards Norway, and the Sevetijärvi – Polmak route to Nuorgam. Several marked routes start by the Skolt Sámi Heritage House ④ The Sevetijärvi area is ideal for hikers and fishermen. Accommodation and meals are available locally.



Activities: hiking, fishing, gold digging
Tourist information: www.inari.fi

DAY 4

Skolt Sámi culture and superb hiking country

Sevetijärvi is the most important centre for Finland's Skolt Sámi people. Many Skolt Sámi people were resettled in Sevetijärvi from the Soviet Union in 1949. Here you can discover their rich culture and traditions. Don't miss the Orthodox Church and its picturesque cemetery, or the Skolt Sámi Heritage house and handicraft exhibition (summer only).

This region's landscapes, including lovely rocky lakeshores, were largely shaped during the Ice Age. Inviting trekking trails include the Sámi



Accommodation: Hotels, cabins and camping in Inari

www.inarisaariselka.fi
www.inarilapland.fi

Cabins and camping sites are also available in Sevetijärvi.

Activities: hiking, fishing, cultural sights
Tourist information: www.inarisaariselka.fi
www.inarilapland.fi

DAY 5

Slow down in a Sámi village and listen to the peaceful sounds of nature



In Utsjoki people fish all year round right in the heart of the village. The River Tenojoki is famous for its salmon, catchable from its banks or rowing boats. Trout and arctic char also lure many fishermen to nearby lakes, rivers and streams. Visit Utsjoki's historic church, vicarage and church cottages, St. Ulrika's sacristy and the old cemetery, and stroll by the shores of Lake Mantojärvi. Enjoy the local atmosphere in Giisä village hall, where local people gather to chat in the café. Local handicrafts are also sold here. The wilderness calls out to you to relax. Several inviting nature trails and hiking routes start in or near the centre of Utsjoki village ⑤. You can walk through the area's pristine natural settings for just a couple of hours, or enjoy a more epic trek taking a couple of days.

Accommodation: Hotels, cabins and campsites in Inari
www.inarisaariselka.fi
www.inarilapland.fi



Cabins, campsites, hotels and B&B are also available in Utsjoki

www.saamivillage.fi

Sauna and family activities: To end the day in local style, try a sauna resort especially suitable for families near Inari. Vasatokka lakeside sauna is located amid beautiful scenery by Lake Muddusjärvi. Before your sauna let the kids go wild on the "Fox track" trail, in an outdoor playground, or on an indoor climbing wall. The swimming and the fishing are good here too. In the winter people bathe in a hole cut into the ice covering the lake.

www.vasatokka.fi

Activities: hiking, fishing, cultural sights

Tourist information: www.saamivillage.fi

www.inarisaariselka.fi

www.inarilapland.fi

DAY 6

The crossroads of three languages and cultures deep inside the Sámi homeland

Sámi, Finnish and Norwegian cultures meet at Karigasniemi, the crossroads of three languages and cultures in the heart of the Sámi homeland of Lapland. Karigasniemi has the busiest nightlife in the Tenojoki Valley.

The River Inari enters the salmon-rich River Teno here, so there are great opportunities for fly-fishing and other kinds of fishing.

Karigasniemi is surrounded by pristine nature, including Paistunturi fell to the east and Muotkatunturi to the south-west. The famous Kevo Trail runs for 65 km through the

breathtakingly gorgeous scenery of the Kevo Strict Nature Reserve ⑥, including birch forests, open fells, pine forests, and the spectacular Kevo Canyon. The silence of the fells soothes your soul. At Sulaaja, signs alongside a 2-km nature trail tell visitors about a holy spring. The Skalonjuovčan Trail offers panoramic views over Karasjok and the valleys of the Inari and Teno rivers.



Accommodation: Hotels, cabins and campsites in Inari www.inarisaariselka.fi
www.inarilapland.fi
 Cabins, campsites, hotels and B&B are also available in Karigasniemi www.saamivillage.fi



Activities: hiking, fishing, cultural sights
Tourist information: www.saamivillage.fi
www.inarisaariselka.fi
www.inarilapland.fi

Karigasniemi is right by the Norwegian border. Karasjok, the nearest village on the Norwegian side, is just 18 km away. Here you can visit the Karasjok Sámi Museum, the Sámi Centre for Arts, and the Sápmi Cultural Park. The Arctic Ocean is also quite nearby. Karigasniemi is within easy reach of Porsanger Fjord and Norway's famous North Cape, where cold arctic winds meet towering cliffs.

DAY 7

Take a break by the shores of the Arctic Ocean

Enjoy this unique chance to see the Arctic Ocean after travelling through the spectacular scenery of Northern Norway, past high mountains and raging arctic rivers. Head north-east from Inari through Sevettijärvi to Neiden on the Finnish-Norwegian border. Then drive along the shores of the Arctic



Ocean, taking a break at the picturesque fjord-side village of Bugøyenes, to Varangerbotn ⑦ Leaving the Arctic Ocean, head west to the banks of the River Tana and then southwards back into Finland through Nuorgam, the EU's northernmost village, and on into the Utsjoki Valley, famed for its lovely landscapes.

Tourist information: Norway www.northernnorway.com
 Finland www.saamivillage.fi
www.inarisaariselka.fi
www.inarilapland.fi

DAY 8

Back to airport



Accommodation: hotels, cabins, camping
 Inari www.inarisaariselka.fi
www.inarilapland.fi



For more information: Northern Lapland Nature Centre Siida, Inarintie 46, FI-99870 Inari
 siida@metsa.fi
www.nationalparks.fi/northernlaplandnaturecentre

Nationalparks.fi
 Up-to-date information about Finnish national parks and their facilities
 VisitFinland.com
 The official travel guide of Finland
 Outdoorsfinland.com
 Find the best hiking, cycling and canoeing trails in Finland

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