

Arctic Adventure



Duration: 5 days

The perfect antidote to a cold, wet British winter is a cold, dry Arctic adventure! Away from the crowds, enjoy mesmerisingly peaceful scenes of frozen lakes and snow-covered pine and spruce forests as we explore the silent wilderness.

We'll be snow-shoeing to a remote overnight cabin, pushing ourselves in this harsh but compelling environment, and we'll also try cross-country skiing and husky-sledding. Staying in traditional log cabins in the woods, we can relax in Finnish saunas and enjoy the incredible night skies. If we're lucky we'll also see the captivating dance of the Northern Lights.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Fly London to Kijaani/Kuusamo

Fly to Finland (Kijaani or Kuusamo) and drive through the seemingly endless snow-covered landscapes to our comfortable cabin near Hossa in north-eastern Finland. After settling in, we will have an evening meal before heading off to bed. Night cabin.

Drive approx. 1-2 hours

Day 2: Snowshoeing

We have a full in-country briefing about the activities ahead and then kit up thoroughly. After an introduction to snowshoeing, where we quickly get the hang of this non-technical walking activity, we leave our cabin behind for our overnight adventure! Our route takes us through beautiful, silent woodland; the landscapes are magical, and the silence of our surroundings, broken only by the crunch of the snow and our laughter, adds to the atmosphere. We break for a picnic lunch around an open fire, then continue our invigorating journey to our cosy wilderness cabin, complete with traditional lake-side sauna. Staying here is a remote experience and you will feel like the early pioneers! Night cabin.

Snowshoe approx. 5-6 hours

Day 3: Snowshoeing

Returning by snowshoe, we explore the ridges and frozen lakes on our way back. Elk, wolves, lynxes and hares live in the woods, though are very seldom seen; we may be lucky enough to spot tracks in the snow. Returning to our main log cabin, we have time to relax any aching muscles in the sauna and settle for an evening of watching out for the magical Northern Lights. Night cabin.

Snowshoe approx. 5-6 hours

DETAILED ITINERARY (cont.)

Day 4: Husky-Sledding & Cross-Country Skiing

Husky-sledding is usually one of the highlights of the trip! We drive to our husky farm and meet our intelligent, enthusiastic and very photogenic teams of huskies! After learning a little about the dogs from our 'musher,' we have an introduction to sled-driving and set off! Pairing up, we take it in turns to drive while our sled-buddy enjoys the ride. The dogs will be excited when they sense a run, but when everybody is ready to go they suddenly go quiet as they set off through the frozen wilderness. The trail takes us through snow-white forests and frozen lakes; a truly memorable highlight of our adventure.

After lunch we also have time for an introduction to cross-country skiing – one of the most popular winter hobbies in Finland. A relatively short tour through the flat pine forest and frozen lakes tests what we've learned; it's not uncommon to see reindeer here, so keep your eyes peeled! Due to the number of husky teams available, we split the group so that half goes cross-country skiing while the other half goes sled-driving; the groups will then swap. Late afternoon we gather together to celebrate our Arctic achievements. Night cabin.

Sledding/Skiing approx. 5-6 hours

NB: The order of activities may change depending on local conditions and logistics.

Day 5: Fly Kijaani/Kuusamo to London

Early start for the drive to the airport for our journey home.

Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.

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CHALLENGE GRADING

Trips are graded Yellow, Orange or Red, in increasing level of challenge. This trip lies within the **Yellow** range.

The grade is determined by factors such as terrain, distance, climate, altitude, etc. Each colour grade has a **spectrum** which reflects the difficulty of these factors; trip duration, accommodation and living conditions are also taken into account.

The Challenge Factor icon shows the most challenging aspect – the cold conditions, which adds to the difficulty of the activities.

The grade reflects the overall trip; some sections will feel more challenging than others. Unusual weather conditions also have a significant impact, and not all people are tested by the same aspects