Head to Finnish Lapland for a weekend with a difference. Cross the Arctic Circle, meet Santa Claus in Rovaniemi, visit the world’s northernmost zoo and become a reindeer driver all in five magical days.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights
- Rovaniemi - capital of Finnish Lapland
- Santa Claus Village - get to cross the Arctic Circle and meet Santa Claus in his home in Rovaniemi

What’s Included
- 4 nights 3 star hotel
- 4 breakfasts
- Return airport/railway transfers on days 1 and 5.
- City tour of Rovaniemi
- Excursion to Santa Claus Village
- Entrance into Arktikum Science Museum in Rovaniemi

What’s Not Included
- Items of a personal nature and additional meals
- International flights to/from our tour start/end points and visas

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Rovaniemi

Friday. Welcome to Lapland! Upon arrival at Rovaniemi airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Overnight - Rovaniemi

Day 2 : Santa Claus & Rovaniemi city tour

This morning after breakfast we depart for a visit to see the Rovaniemi’s most famous resident - Santa Claus. Crossing the Arctic Circle we’ll arrive at the village to meet the man himself. Spending most of his time here, Santa Claus has made his mission in life to enhance the well-being of children and the kindness of grown-ups as well as spreading the message of love and goodwill.

This afternoon we continue back to Rovaniemi for a city tour and included visit to the Arktikum museum. Arktikum provides information on Arctic issues and tells stories about Lapland. An Arktikum exhibition is an enormous information package of what’s going on today in the evolving Arctic region. It will also educate you about Lappish history, culture and nature from Rovaniemi to the further reaches of Upper Lapland. Arktikum is your source of knowledge when travelling to the North. Overnight - Rovaniemi (B)

Day 3 : Optional visit to Ranua Wildlife Park

Today is at leisure for you to take part in the many optional activities available in Rovaniemi - we recommend heading out this morning for...
Lapland Long Weekend

an excursion to Ranua Wildlife Park, the most northerly zoo in the world.

Ranua Wildlife Park offers visitors and locals the opportunity to observe arctic animals year-round, in an as authentic environment as possible. Ranua Wildlife Park is open year-round and the ever-changing seasons bring their own interesting dimensions to life in the park. The park is home to nearly 50 wild animal species and 200 individuals including polar bears, brown bears, raccoon dogs, lemmings, Arctic Foxes, mink and much more. Overnight - Rovaniemi (B)

Day 4 : Optional Reindeer Farm visit

Today there is the option to visit a Reindeer Farm. Once you arrive at the Reindeer Farm you’ll learn all about the daily life of the reindeer before taking your reindeer driving licence and heading out on the sleighs, stopping en route by a toasty bonfire near a hut for a cup of hot juice. At this traditional Lappish hut you will be baptised according to the traditional rules of the north. Afterwards you celebrate being a newly-made Lapp with a delicious supper of reindeer meat, cowberry juice, Lappish mashed potatoes, pickles, sweet dessert and juice.

In the late afternoon you have the option to learn about ‘the Secret of the Antler’ at a traditional Lappish home. There are long established traditions of using reindeer antlers. Reindeer shed their complete antlers once a year so there is no shortage of these in Lapland. You’ll get the opportunity to make your own hand-made souvenir from the reindeer antler, which has long been a precious raw material for the Lappish people, both for utility and decorative articles. They feel it important to preserve and maintain this handicraft and are happy to share this with their many visitors. Overnight - Rovaniemi (B)

Day 5 : Goodbye Lapland

Tuesday. Today marks the end of your Lapland adventure with included transfer to the airport or railway station for your onward journey. (B)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Please note
This tour is run in conjunction with Easy Travel Finland.
This itinerary should be used as a guide only and may vary from day to day depending on road & weather conditions

Visas
Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Tetanus is recommended. The medical facilities in Finland are good and available for free to European Union citizens with a valid EHIC form or its replacement ID card.

Health Requirements

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Finland from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide the water quality in Finland is excellent and tap water is always drinkable

Food & Drink

Unsurprising for a nation surrounded by water, fish plays a very prevalent role in Finnish cuisine with salmon and herring often playing a starring role. Meat is also widely eaten with delicacies including reindeer, elk and bear. More commonly found is the HK Sininen Lenkki rye bread is often the bread of choice.

Alcohol is fairly expensive in Finland (compared to continental Europe) however it is very easy to find. Local beers like Lapin Kulta, Karjala and Olvi are easily found in local supermarket – they are branded by their alcohol content though. I is the weakest and cheapest whereas IV is the strongest and no doubt the most

Currency

The official currency of Finland is the Euro. However please note the 1 and 2 cent coins are not used in Finland and everything will be rounded up to the nearest 5 cents. All major credit and debit cards are accepted in Finland. ATMs are found in every city, major town or resort and even some small villages.

Time & Voltage

Finland works on GMT + 2 hours. It observes daylight saving with clocks going forward at the end of March and back again at the end of October.

Standard voltage is 230 volts, 50 Hz. Primary sockets generally require Continental or European plugs, of the two round pin variety. We recommend that you pack a universal travel adaptor. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adaptor in order to use U.S. appliances.

Lapland Long Weekend - 5 Days

www.onthegotours.com

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.
Lapland Long Weekend

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Daylight in Finland
Due to its location in northern Europe with the Arctic Circle crossing the north of the country, parts of Finland experience both extremes when it comes to daylight. The northern quarter of the country (Lapland) that sits above the Arctic Circle has at least one day a year when the sun never sets (usually mid to the end of June) and one day when the sun doesn’t even appear (usually mid to the end of December).

Helsinki in the south has the least extreme of the daylight hours but still sees a lot more than most European capitals in the summer and a lot less in the winter. The earliest you are likely to see the sun rise in Helsinki is about 4am in the middle of June, on top of this you can enjoy up to 19 hours of daylight with the sun not setting until just before 11pm. The winter is obviously a very different story with the latest the sun rises being about 9:30am in late December, early January. The sun generally sticks around for just shy of 6 hours before setting around 3:15pm. After January the daylight increases slowly until June and then beings to decrease again until it's December again.

In Rovaniemi (the capital of Lapland) the story is a bit more intense. In June and most of July you’ll be unlikely to see much darkness. From mid July the sun rises at about 2am and doesn’t set until about 00:45am. Towards the end of December the sun doesn’t tend to rise until 11:45am and barely sticks around for an hour, setting at 12:32 in the afternoon. As with Helsinki the daylight increases moderately from January to June and then decreases again in the second half of the year.

What to Pack
For an extensive list on what to bring when travelling to Lapland see our Lapland Packing List on our Travel Guide on our website.

- Walking boots or snow boots (avoid wellies/gum boots), woollen socks (Merino if possible - avoid cotton)
- Long johns (wool or polyester - avoid cotton), jogging/sweat pants and ski trousers or waterproof trousers.
- Base layer (wool or polyester - avoid cotton), fleece shirts, woollen jumper.
- A down parka is ideal but pricey, otherwise a down shell jacket or a similar insulated jacket.
- Hat, gloves and mittens, scarf and balaclava (optional)
- Padded bag for camera
- Spare batteries and SD cards
- Swimming costume/trunks/swimming shorts if you plan to visit a sauna when you are in Finland.