

WANDERTOURS

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WanderTours
P.O. Box 16102
Seattle WA 98116

Lapland / Finland Winter Escape (co-ed)

Dates: January 23 – 30, 2027

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Cross country skiing** in pristine woodland snow
- **Dog sledding** with the opportunity to mush/drive your own sled
- Night sky viewing with the chance to see the **northern lights** during a year **predicted to be one of the best in an 11-year solar cycle!**
- **Snowshoeing** through magical scenery
- **Fat tire biking** in the snow!
- Relaxing in an **outdoor sauna and an ice swim (brrr)**

Our adventure starts with your arrival into Kittilä Airport in Finland on January 23, 2027.

If you'd like to arrive early, we can provide you with some suggestions for accommodations in Helsinki or near Kittilä. We recommend you book these on your own for the best pricing (and note that there's much more to do in Helsinki than in the Kittilä area).

We will be staying in a **large upscale lodge** where we are the only guests. Each twin room has private bathrooms and showers. Participants will share a room with one other person. Those traveling on their own will be paired up with a same-sex roommate. The lodge has a shared kitchen and common area. We'll have breakfast each morning at the lodge as well as at least one dinner. Most other meals will be out at nearby restaurants.

PLEASE NOTE: While we will do our best to stick to this itinerary, it's very possible that the order of daily activities will change based on the weather. This is something we won't know until the week prior or even the day of any activity. In short, we'll be flexing with the weather on this adventure! 😊

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Kittilä – Äkäslompola

Saturday, January 23, 2027

Meals: Dinner

Upon arrival into **Kittilä**, you'll be picked up at the airport for the start of our winter escape! It's best to **arrive no later than 2:00 PM** so that you have enough time to take part in our first activity.

Before heading to our lodge, we'll first make our way to **Snow Village**. It's here that a temporary (but HUGE) snow/ice building is created each year. Not only is it an **ice hotel** (no, we won't be overnighing), but it also contains rooms with **spectacular ice carvings** with themes that change every winter season.

We'll then make our way to the lodge, where we can get settled in, unpack and/or hop in the sauna.

In the evening, we'll have a lovely **welcome dinner** that includes local specialties prepared by our **private chef**.

After dinner, you can take advantage of the sauna or, if the skies are clear, head out for some night sky viewing that might include the Northern Lights.

Overnight near Äkäslompolo at [Villa Ahmola](#) or similar.

Day 2 – Äkäslompolo (snowshoeing)

Sunday, January 24, 2027

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After a wonderful homemade breakfast, we'll set out for a day of **snowshoeing in the pristine wilderness**. Depending on the weather conditions, we will either drive to a fell (a fell is a small mountain in Finland) or begin our adventure from the lodge. We'll snowshoe our way through a beautiful area and to a kota (a hut with a fire pit) where we'll enjoy a meal, snack and/or hot drink.



Whatever our route, we'll have **spectacular scenery and views of the surrounding area**.



We'll then return to the lodge, where you can relax in the sauna or warm up with a happy hour drink.

In the late afternoon, we'll head out to a **lumberjack cabin** and enjoy a **traditional Finnish wood-burning sauna** by a lake and have dinner at the cabin. You can even try an ice dip or two (yes, it's exactly what it sounds like!).

Overnight near Äkäslompolo at [Villa Ahmola](#) or similar.

Day 3 – Äkäslompolo (dog sledding)

Monday, January 25, 2027

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After another wonderful homemade breakfast, today we'll head out for a **half day of dog sledding!**

You'll learn how to **manage the sled on your own** and experience for yourself the solitude of the wilderness with only the sound of the excited dogs making their way through the snow. There will be two people to a sled, and each person will get a chance at **mushing**.

We'll have lunch out at a local restaurant and then a little downtime in the late afternoon.

In the early evening, we'll head out for a one-to-two mile wilderness **hike to another kota with an indoor fire pit**, where we'll cook some traditional food (sausages and cheese) for the meat eaters and some not-so-traditional foods for the vegetarians. 🍴



After dinner, you can take advantage of the sauna or, if the skies are clear, head out for some night sky viewing that might include the Northern Lights.

Overnight near Äkäslompolo at [Villa Ahmola](#) or similar.

Day 4 – Äkäslompolo (free day)

Tuesday, January 26, 2027

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

After a couple of active days, we'll have a bit of down time today. This will give you the chance to relax at the lodge or, if you like, walk into town for lunch (on your own) and do some souvenir shopping.



At the lodge, you can take advantage of the **indoor sauna**, hang out by the **fireplace**, **read**, **play games** with the group, or **nap**.

If you prefer another active day, please let us know in advance, and we can arrange for you to have **snowshoes** or a **kicksled** handy so you can explore the area a bit. The hill where the lodge is located is excellent for sledding as well!

For dinner, we'll head into the village of Äkäslompolo for a fantastic dinner at a **traditional wilderness cabin** filled with artwork. We'll enjoy homemade food prepared by locals and learn about the artists whose work we'll enjoy while we eat.

After dinner, you can take advantage of the sauna or, if the skies are clear, head out for some night sky viewing that might include the Northern Lights.

Overnight near Äkäslompolo at [Villa Ahmola](#) or similar.

Day 5 – Äkäslompolo (fat tire biking)

Wednesday, January 27, 2027

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast, we'll head out for a couple of hours of **fat tire biking**. Yes, biking in the snow!

We'll be out for a good part of the day as we bike our way on **groomed paths** in otherwise **unspoiled wilderness**. We'll either enjoy a packed lunch that we've made ourselves or have a meal at a cafe before returning to the lodge.

Tonight, we'll have another **fantastic dinner** at one of the high-quality restaurants in town.

After dinner, you can take advantage of the sauna or, if the skies are clear, head out for some night sky viewing that might include the Northern Lights.

Overnight near Äkäslompolo at [Villa Ahmola](#) or similar.



Day 6 – Äkäslompolo (reindeer farm)

Thursday, January 28, 2027

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Today, we'll get to meet some locals who have a very Finnish business – **a reindeer farm!** We'll spend a few hours here and learn all about these unique animals—and maybe even discover the secret to them being able to fly. 🦋



To give you some flexibility, lunch is not included on this day. You can be dropped off in the village to enjoy a meal on your own and some souvenir shopping if you like. Otherwise, you can return to the lodge for a snack and to relax.

After much food out all week, we'll have a **simple dinner at the lodge** this evening.

After dinner, you can take advantage of the sauna or, if the skies are clear, head out for some night sky viewing that might include the Northern Lights.

Overnight near Äkäslompolo at [Villa Ahmola](#) or similar.

Day 7 – Äkäslompolo (cross country skiing)

Friday, January 29, 2027

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

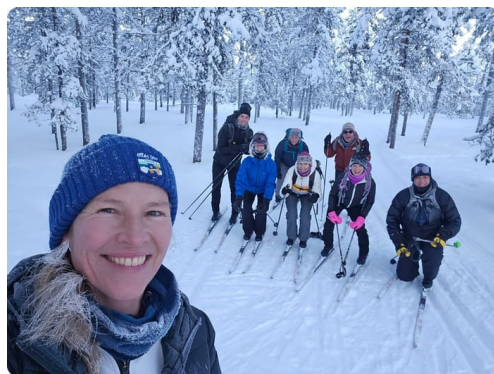
On our final full day above the Arctic Circle, we'll go **cross country skiing**. Finland has some of the most **extensive cross country ski trails** in the world. Our guide will decide which one(s) of these **regularly groomed trails** will be best for the group based on our experience as well as the weather conditions.

After two to three hours out, we'll stop at a **local restaurant for lunch**.

We'll return to the lodge in the mid- to late-afternoon and then, in the evening, we'll have a **final special dinner together** out a local restaurant.

After dinner, you can take advantage of the sauna or, if the skies are clear, head out for some night sky viewing that might include the Northern Lights.

Overnight near Äkäslompolo at [Villa Ahmola](#) or similar.



Day 8 – Äkäslompolo – Home or onward journey

Saturday, January 30, 2027

Meals: Breakfast

After breakfast at the lodge, we'll check out of the lodge at 10 AM and make our way back to Kittilä via vehicle (about a one-hour drive). We recommend you take the early afternoon flight (usually 1:40 p.m.) from Kittilä back to Helsinki and then home or to your next destination. For information on alternative flight options, please see the [Finland FAQs](#).

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