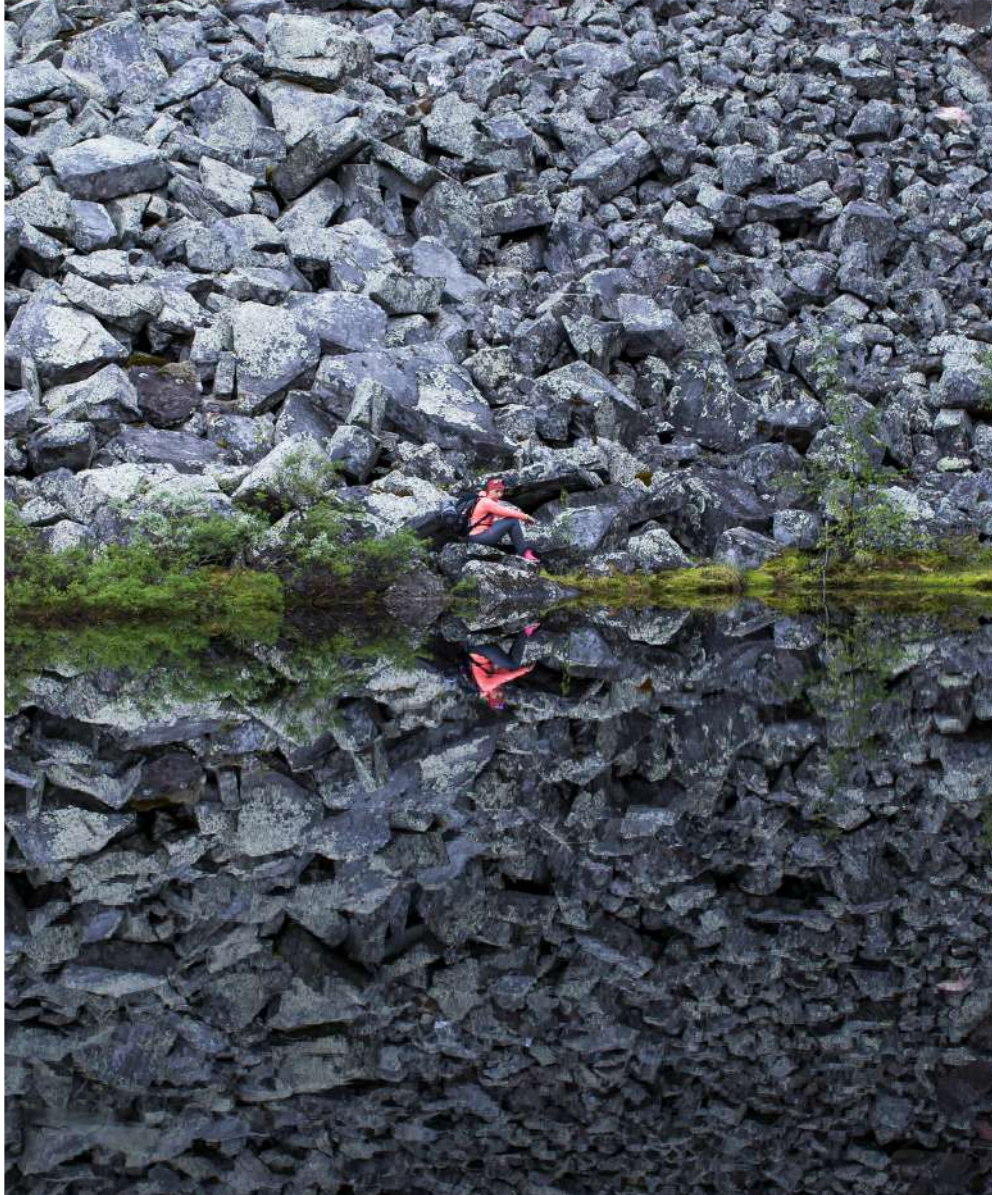


# LAPLAND - MYTHS & MAGIC





# LAPLAND - MYTHS & MAGIC

*"In Lapland, swapping the hustle and bustle of ski resorts and cities  
to the peace and quiet of the wilderness takes mere minutes!"*

Ruska or autumn in Finland, the perfect season for outdoor enthusiasts to explore Lapland's pristine vast wilderness and well-marked trails, and marks the beginning of spotting the elusive northern lights in the northern sky. The Arctic Tundra fells get transformed into spectacular technicolor, with the fiery reds and crimsons of the bilberry and lingonberry shrubs contrasting with the calming gold of the birches below the treeline, and the weather just perfect for all nature adventures and photography. The autumn season is also the best period for Finland's natural riches - mushrooms and lingonberries, and sampling some of the gourmet local delicacies made from seasonal flavors. The "Lapland-Myths & Magic" is an intrepid itinerary for adventurous travelers with unadulterated lappish cultural experiences and outdoor adventures such as hiking and canoeing amidst billion-year-old fells and sacred Sámi sites. The itinerary indulges in rare experiences such as Northern light expeditions, igloo stay, seasonal Lappish cuisine, traditional sauna, gold mining, husky and reindeer experiences. This vibrant trail traverses from Helsinki all the way to the northern Lapland, exploring under-the-radar Lappish gems such as the billions-of-years-old Pyhä-Luosto National Park, Tankavaara Gold Village in Sodankylä and Ivalo wilderness village in Sámi Homeland. Embark on an aurora adventure of a lifetime and embrace the Finnish ruska in all its glory!

***Why not see the autumn leaf colour and dancing auroras reflected on  
Finland's thousands of lakes?***



# OVERVIEW

- Destination: Helsinki, Pyhä-Luosto, Inari-Saariselkä
- **Starting from: 3250 €/person**
- Estimated period: Autumn (September-October)
- Duration: 13 Days/12 Nights
- Minimum group size: 6
- Themes: Aurora chasing, Culture, History, Adventure, Nature, Outdoors, Wellness
- Trip type: Semi-escorted

## WHO IS THIS FOR

The whole experience is crafted for eco-conscious discerning travelers to give them a delightful taste of Ruska, the magical autumn galore, in its most authentic form. The trail can be customized to suit specific dietary needs.



# HIGHLIGHTS

- Sleeping under the star-lit sky in Northern Lapland in an atmospheric glass igloo, and if luck permits witnessing the dancing northern lights from the coziness of your bed.
- Capturing the magic of the autumn and the spectacular "Ruska" in the ice-age sculpted Fell Lapland painting the land in vivid hues of technicolor.
- Northern light expedition in Inari - Saariselkä region in Northern Lapland, which falls directly under the auroral dome.
- Exploring the incredible two-billion-year-old history of one of the rarest destinations in the world, the Pyhä-Luosto National Park, formed by the merging of Pyhätunturi National Park, the oldest in Finland, with Luosto, making it Finland's oldest yet at the same time one of the youngest national parks.
- Hiking along the 2.5-billion-year-old Isokuru ravine, Finland's deepest gorge to the Pyhänkasteenputous Waterfall, a holy place to the indigenous Sámi people, admiring the rugged gorgeous beauty of Pyhä-Luosto National park and bog walking through rare geological formations such as the witch fell 'Noititunturi' and the bear drinking pond 'Karhunjuomalampi'.
- Hiking expedition to the Fell of gods - 'Pyhä-Nattanen', one of the six 'Nattanen' Fells, with sculpted gigantic rock tors on the top, considered as the Home of the Gods and ancient sacred sites for the forest Sámi people.
- Aurora midnight paddling adventure in the Pyhäjoki river.
- Explore the wilderness village, Nellim, on the Russian border and its historic and cultural attractions such as the Paatsjoki River boundary bridge, the Historical Rautaportti Trail, and the Orthodox Church of Saint Tryphon of Pechenga.
- Experience the 150-year old history of the Gold Rush in Lapland and trying your hand at gold panning outdoors with a chance to keep the gold you find.
- Visit the local Sami Reindeer farm experience exploring the oldest Northern tradition of reindeer herding.
- Experience the traditional art form of Joik performed by the Sámi people of Sapmi in Northern Europe, a unique cultural expression meant to reflect or evoke a person, animal, or place.
- Experience Lapland's beauty with a thrilling husky tour mushing a husky wagon in the forest.
- Different sauna experiences including the traditional wood-heated sauna and panoramic igloo saunas with outdoor jacuzzi.
- Boutique accommodation options and experiential meals in breathtakingly beautiful locations, capturing the real essence of Lappish life and nature.



# INCLUSIONS

- Four nights accommodation in a deluxe room in a premium lakeside wilderness lodge in Pyhätunturi.
- Three nights accommodation in a comfort twin room in a B&B inn in the Tankavaara Gold Village.
- Four nights accommodation in premium Glass Igloos in Ivalo.
- One night in a deluxe room (twin-sharing basis) in a 5-star hotel in Helsinki city.
- 12 breakfasts.
- Six dinners including traditional Lappish cuisines with reindeer, seasonal berries and mushrooms.
- One Lappish-themed lunch in the Gold Prospector's restaurant.
- One sauna session in a Finnish traditional wood-heated barrel sauna.
- One sauna session in an atmospheric igloo sauna with outdoor jacuzzi access.
- Reindeer experience in the local Sami reindeer farm exploring the ways of reindeer life, herding.
- Sámi cultural experiences such as Joik music performances by Sámi reindeer herder.
- Guided hike up the Pyhä-Nattanen fells in Sompiö overlooking the Urho-Kekkonen national park, an ancient sacred Sámi site.
- Guided hiking from the Isokuru ravine, Finland's deepest gorge to the Pyhänkasteenputous waterfall, through the rugged beauty of Pyhä-Luosto national park.
- Guided aurora evening canoeing in Pyhäjoki river (including guiding, transfers, Canoes, equipment, safety helmet, life jacket, and hot drinks).
- Experience the golden era of Gold prospecting in the Tankavaara Gold Village, including learning the unique culture of gold panning outdoors where you would get to keep the gold you find and entrance to the Gold museum to learn about gold prospecting in Finland and around the world.





# INCLUSIONS

- Guided private aurora expedition with a professional aurora hunter in Inari-Saariselkä region and the Russian border.
- Visit to the husky farm and mushing a husky-driven wagon through the forest.
- Private transfers between Helsinki airport and city accommodation.
- Private transfer from Rovaniemi airport and Pyhä-Luosto.
- Private transfer from Pyhä-Luosto and Tankavaara Gold Village.
- Private transfer from Tankavaara and Ivalo igloo village.
- Private transfer from the igloo village and Ivalo airport.

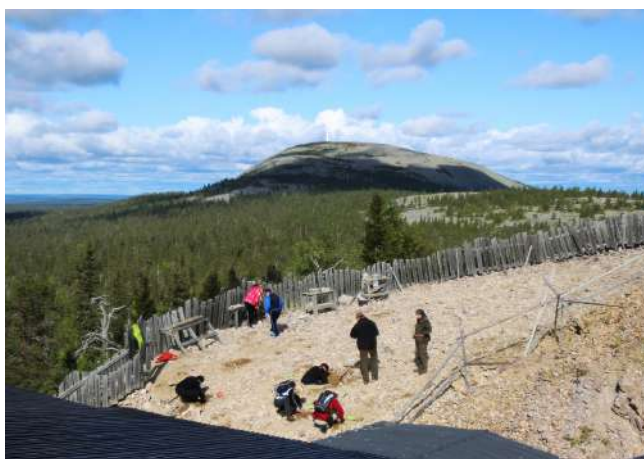
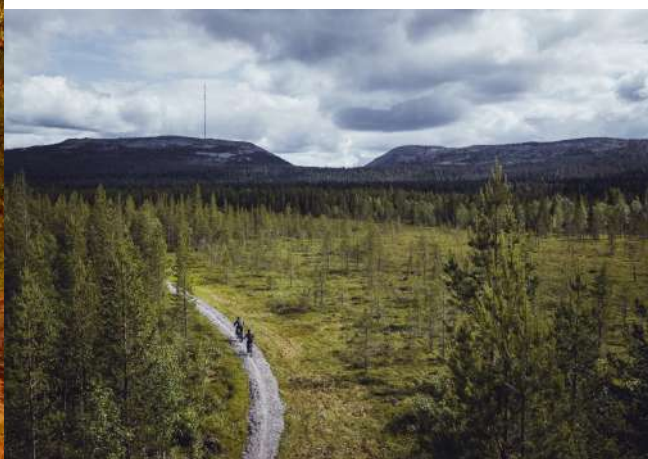
# EXCLUSIONS

- International and domestic flights.
- Schengen visa.
- Travel insurance.
- Anything not mentioned explicitly in the Inclusions.



## OPTIONALS/ADD-ONS

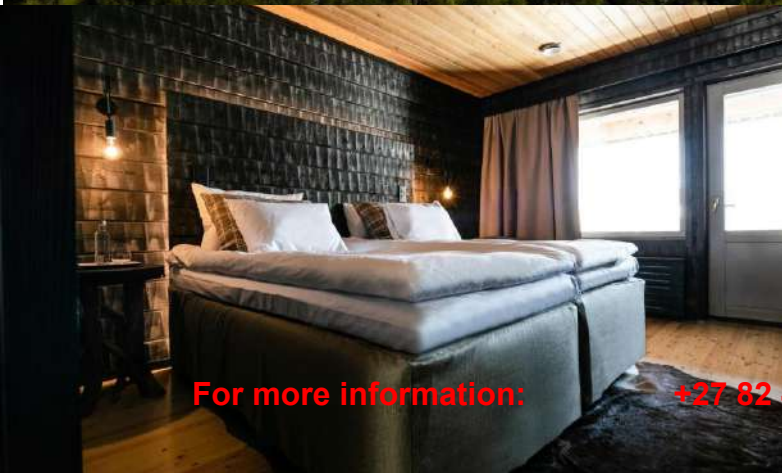
- Full-time local guide for the itinerary.
- Half-board and Full-board meal plan can be customized on request.
- Guided hiking and paddling adventure in the Urho-Kekkonen national park.
- More auroral expeditions.
- Guided mushroom and berry picking in the forest.
- Visit to the Sami museum in Inari.
- E-fatbiking to the Lampivaara amethyst mine.
- Fishing trip to the wilderness lake Taimenjärvi.
- Rafting in Ivalojoiki.





# ACCOMMODATION

- The given accommodations are a premium Glass Igloo, village B&B inn, wilderness lakeside resort and a five-star city hotel.
- The accommodation options can be finalized only after confirming the group size, the exact date of booking, and availability. The prices are dependent on the exact dates of booking.
- The given images should be used only as standard references.



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# DETAILED ITINERARY

## DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN HELSINKI

- Arrival in the International airport of Helsinki, the Finnish Capital city.
- Pick-up and private transfer to the centrally-located urban hotel.
- Evening at leisure to explore the city known as the Daughter of the Baltic.

**Meal Plan: -**

## DAY 2: THE NORTH CALLS.....

- Breakfast and check-out.
- Transfer to the airport and domestic transfer to Rovaniemi.
- Pickup and transfer from Rovaniemi to Pyhä-Luosto, the first carbon-neutral ski resort in Finland. 2.5 billion-year-old valleys and deep gorges slicing through ancient rugged hills, old-growth forests which whisper the stories of forest Sami history and windswept treeless fell-tops, the Pyhä-Luosto Fell region is truly one of the rarest destinations in the world.
- Check-in to the atmospheric wilderness lakeside resort with the backdrop of the fell scenery of Pyhä-Luosto National Park, the oldest national park in Finland.

**Meal Plan: Breakfast**



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# DETAILED ITINERARY

## DAY 3: REINDEER EXPERIENCE

- Breakfast.
- In the morning, you have time at leisure to explore the Naava Visitor and Cultural Centre and the popular village cafe-restaurant, Loimu famous for its seasonal delicacies.
- Set off to get up, close and personal about one the oldest traditions of North - reindeer husbandry. Reindeer herding is a way of life in Lapland, and in its current traditions dates back to atleast 500 years old. Have you ever wondered how the reindeer can survive through winters and where the reindeers get their food? In this tour, we will see reindeer, visiting some reindeer husbandry places in the in the wilderness.
- We will visit a family-run reindeer farm, hear about teh reindeer herder's life and enjoy an experiential Kota dinner while listening to the enthralling Joik performance by our Sámi hostess.

**Meal Plan: Breakfast, Dinner**



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# DETAILED ITINERARY

## DAY 4: A HIKE IN THE HISTORY

- After breakfast, with the wilderness guide, we will set off for the Pyhä-Luosto National Park for a wonderful hiking expedition along the over 2.5 billion-year-old gorge Isokuru, the deepest along the lake Pyhänkasteenlampi (literally meaning 'Holy Baptism lake') until the Pyhänkasteenputous ('Holy Baptism waterfall'). As the names rightly suggest, the area holds tremendous importance to the beginnings of Christianity and the mystical beliefs of Forest Sámi tribes. It is quite an unfathomable and humbling moment to breathe into the same air and walk over the same atoms which have seen the evolution and changes of over two billion years. The guide would enlighten us with the interesting geological history of the area and Sámi culture.
- Return to the accommodation and have a chance to swim in the lake and enjoy the hotel's relaxing public sauna.

### Meal Plan: Breakfast



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# DETAILED ITINERARY

## DAY 5: AURORA PADDLING ADVENTURE

- Breakfast.
- We have the day at leisure.
- In the evening, we will set off for a different kind of paddling experience for a chance to spot auroras in the northern sky. The route for canoeing begins from the historic village of Pyhäjärvi, surrounded by beautiful fells. Its quite a surreal experience to paddle in the evening with the landscape cloaked with mist and the sky without any light pollution (Beginners can change this to day time paddling).
- Return to the transfer

### Meal Plan: Breakfast



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# DETAILED ITINERARY

## DAY 6: 'HOME OF THE GODS'

- Breakfast and checkout.
- Private transfer to Sompio nature reserve with the nature guide.
- Set off for a guided wilderness hike up the Pyhä-Nattanen Fell, one among the six 'Nattastunturit Fells', with unique sharp peaks, different from the typical rounded edges sculpted by the Ice age characteristic of the Fells. In ancient times, Sami people used it as a sacred grove. The view from up the Fell is spectacular as Mother nature has sculpted impressive large granite rock tors on the top of the fell, which was considered as the "Home of the Gods". The Pyhä-Natten also has a very interesting war history being served as the guard station of the German military soldiers during the second world war.
- Transfer to the Tankavaara Gold Village, founded by gold prospectors in Lapland in 1970, which continues to preserve and teach the culture of gold prospecting and gold mining in Lapland
- Check-in.
- In the evening, enjoy a dinner at the quirky gold-themed Old Gold Prospector saloon restaurant.

**Meal Plan: Breakfast, Dinner**



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# DETAILED ITINERARY

## DAY 7: GOLD VILLAGE

- Breakfast.
- You have the day at leisure to relax and explore at your own pace the historic Gold Village in Sompio, Sodankylä. Legend says that magic might have been behind the discovery of Sompio's gold, for the first gold was found in a dream of Aslak Peltovuoma, a Sámi reindeer herder from Sompio's Purnumukka village in the summer of 1934, when an old geezer with a white beard came to Aslak's dream and asked, "Listen mate, do you want to know where the gold is?" and apparently disclosed the exact location of the gold and the rest is history.
- This is also a great time foraging in the local forests abundant with seasonal berries.

### Meal Plan: Breakfast



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# DETAILED ITINERARY

## DAY 8: GOLD RUSH

- Breakfast.
- Now it's our turn to revive the history and become a gold prospector. Experience panning gold outdoors, with your guide carefully instructing you. You get to keep all the gold you find from your gold hunt.
- Enjoy a multicourse lunch at the Gold Prospector restaurant.
- Visit the Tankavaara Gold Museum, which proclaims to be the only international museum in the world displaying past and present traditions of gold panning and prospecting. The international section in the museum, "The Golden World", displays the gold fever history of more than twenty countries all over the World. We will also get to enjoy an extensive collection of gems and minerals which is on display in the Härkäselän Kultala, a separate log building transferred to Tankavaara in the 1970s. The building was originally built in 1924 by the legendary gold mining company - Lapin Kulta Oy, another icon definitely worth exploring.
- Evening at leisure to hang out at the Saloon, meeting other jolly prospectors and compare your "gold" stories.

**Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch**



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# DETAILED ITINERARY

## DAY 9: AURORA VILLAGE & TRADITIONAL SAUNA

- Breakfast and checkout.
- Transfer to Ivalo in the Inari-Saariselkä region, which falls right under the auroral dome with a predicted average northern lights spotting of one out of three days in a year. Ivalo is a village on the Ivalo River and is known as a gateway to Saariselkä. Bordering Ivalo is Urho Kekkonen National Park and the ear-shaped mountain Korvatunturi, which is also the folkloric original home of Santa Claus.
- Check into your Aurora glass cabins, or glass igloos, which provide a wonderful view to the Northern sky during all seasons of a year.
- In the evening, indulge in a steamy sauna bath in an atmospheric barrel sauna overlooking the river, combined with a refreshing dip in the river.

### Meal Plan: Breakfast, Dinner



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# DETAILED ITINERARY

## DAY 10: HOP ON A HUSKY ADVENTURE

- Breakfast.
- Discover the lives of Husky dogs. The husky musher will pick us up from the Aurora Village and take us to the husky farm nearby. We will get to greet the eager and lovable sled dogs and get to know details of their life. We will then be seated on a summer wagon and a team of huskies will lead us into a forest.
- The guide will make sure to stop in the midpoint for us to take some pictures in the forest with the dogs. After the wagon ride, the guide will lead us into a Lappish style hut where hot drinks are served, and the guide will answer our questions! Before leaving, we get to give the dogs the last hugs and take pictures with them.

**Meal Plan: Breakfast, Dinner**



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# DETAILED ITINERARY

## DAY 11: AURORA HUNTING & IGLOO SAUNA

- Breakfast.
- We have the day at leisure to explore the irresistibly instagrammable surrounding, accompanied by a dozen reindeer.
- Experience a different kind of sauna at the Aurora Village Panorama Sauna, a unique glass-roof sauna with a view towards the river valley. There's an outdoor jacuzzi next to the sauna where we can spot the Northern Lights, if we're lucky.
- In the evening, in order to maximise the chance of seeing the auroras, we will also have a special aurora chasing session with a professional guide. After some research on the weather forecast will take a car and drive it to places where the sky is most clear and the probability of seeing the Northern Lights is the highest. Our experienced guide, a professional Aurora Hunter has some interesting stories to tell over hot drinks and snacks.

**Meal Plan: Breakfast, Dinner**



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# DETAILED ITINERARY

## DAY 12: NELLIM TRI-CULTURAL WILDERNESS VILLAGE

- Day trip with local guide to discover the Nellim wilderness area, a unique melting point of three cultures –Finns, the Inari Sámi and the Skolt Sámi, taking a journey into the colorful past of Lapland.
- Nellim is called the meeting place for three cultures for a good reason. In the early 1900s, the original inhabitants of the area, the Inari Sámi people, were joined by Finnish loggers. After the Second World War, it received the Skolt Sámi population. The Skolt Sámi are an indigenous population of the Kola Peninsula in Russia, who lost their native lands in Petsamo as a result of the Second World War. The village of Nellim is close to the Russian border, on the south-eastern corner of Lake Inarijärvi. Your guide will take you through the village to the Russian border zone, the beautiful Paatsjoki River bridge and the Uittoränni, historic Nellimjärvi historic wood flume. Before heading back to Ivalo, we will stop at the Nellim Orthodox wilderness Church for photos and stories about the site and the Skolt Sami culture.

**Meal Plan: Breakfast, Dinner**

## DAY 13: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast and check-out.
- Transfer to Ivalo airport and departure

**Meal Plan: Breakfast**



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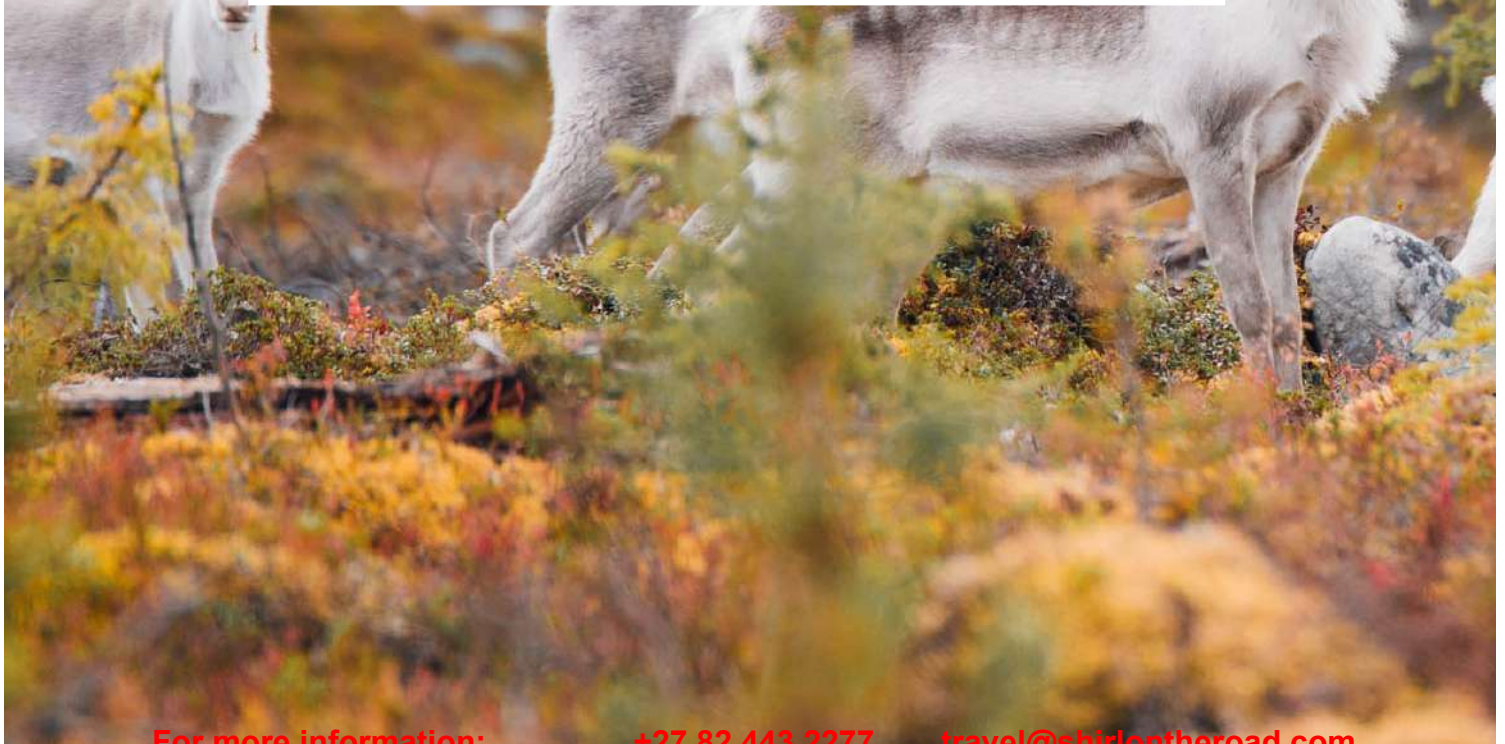


# KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

- Accommodation prices in Lapland are highly dynamic, hence final prices to be confirmed only after finalizing the dates.
- Northern lights are a natural phenomenon, so their visibility can be predicted but cannot be guaranteed.
- The usual check-in time of Finnish hotels is between 15-16:00, and on arrival before that time, you will have the provision to store the bags at reception.
- We retain the rights to make changes in the itinerary and pricing, subject to exact dates of arrival, availability, and timings of arrival and departure.
- The paddling adventure requires that the travelers know swimming, if the group are weak swimmers, the program will change to day paddling.







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