

World of Travel

# Arctic Circle Holiday

*A Christmas Adventure in Lapland*

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
***Double Occupancy \$4999***  
***Single Occupancy \$5899***



**BEYOND THE BUCKET LIST** If you're looking for the ultimate Christmas holiday in an Arctic wonderland, Finnish Lapland is *the* place to visit. Surround yourself with enchanting & festive fun - Think chasing the northern lights, meeting Santa Claus and exploring snowy landscapes by reindeer sleigh & husky rides! We will spend 4 nights in Helsinki & 3 nights in the Arctic Capital of Rovaniemi.

**\*\* PASSPORT REQUIRED - MUST BE VALID FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS AFTER RETURN \*\***

### *Per Person Pricing*

Double Occupancy - \$4999.00 / Single Occupancy - \$5899.00  
*Triple/Quad/Child Prices Available Upon Request*

### *Important Information*

**Flights:** Roundtrip air from Columbus (CMH) to Helsinki is included

**Meals:** Breakfast is included daily plus two lunches & six dinners. Meals may also be provided on overnight & long-haul flights between the US & Europe.

**Entrance Fees & Gratuities:** All entry fees & tips for included activities & guides are part of your tour package.

**Optional Tours:** All optional tours must be selected & purchased for each traveler by final payment.

**World of Travel:** A Tour Manager will travel with the group for the duration of the program.

**Travel Protection:** Travel Protection is not required but is highly recommended. Our preferred travel protection partner, Travel Insured, offers comprehensive coverage for domestic & international travel. Please see the Terms & Conditions page for additional information.

**Deposit:** A deposit of \$1000 per person is due upon booking to secure your reservation.

**Final Payment:** Final payment is due on/before **September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

### *Program at a Glance (See Next Page for Full Description)*

**Day 1: Overnight flight from Columbus to Helsinki, Finland (Meals on Flight)**

**Day 2: Arrive Helsinki; Afternoon at Leisure (Breakfast on Flight, Dinner) *Overnight Helsinki, Finland***

**Day 3: Rail from Helsinki to Rovaniemi; Arrive Rovaniemi (Breakfast, Dinner) *Overnight Rovaniemi, Finland***

**Day 4: Santa Claus Village & Arctic Circle; Afternoon at Leisure; \*Optional - Aurora Borealis Picnic (Breakfast, Dinner) *Overnight Rovaniemi, Finland***

**Day 5: Vaattunki Wilderness Resort; Reindeer Sleight & Husky Ride; Afternoon at Leisure; Traditional Lappish Hut Dinner (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) *Overnight Rovaniemi, Finland***

**Day 6: Arktikum Arctic Museum; Fly to Helsinki (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) *Overnight Helsinki, Finland***

**Day 7: Day at Leisure in Helsinki; \*Optional - Day Trip to Tallinn, Estonia (Breakfast) *Overnight Helsinki, Finland***

**Day 8: Helsinki Sightseeing; Christmas Market; Farewell Dinner (Breakfast, Dinner) *Overnight Helsinki, Finland***

**Day 9: Return flight to Columbus (Breakfast at Hotel, Meals on Flight)**

## Day-by-Day in Detail

Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> - Today, we will begin our Arctic adventure and fly overnight to Helsinki, Finland. Meals will be served on our flight between the US & Europe.

Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Arrive this morning in Helsinki. We will be met by our motor coach and transferred to our city hotel, where we will check-in for a 1-night stay. The afternoon will be at your leisure before rejoining the group for a delicious Welcome Dinner.

Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> - This morning, we will take the aptly named *Santa Claus Express* from Helsinki to Rovaniemi, the real home of Santa Claus and the capital city of Lapland. On this 8-hour journey on a First Class train, you will travel through a Finnish winter wonderland, passing cities and forests with snow capped trees & landscapes. Rovaniemi is an urban city surrounded by arctic nature, where Lappish culture and a wide range of activities meet. Upon arrival, we will check into our hotel for a 3-night stay. Enjoy dinner tonight at the hotel.

Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> - Spend the morning at Santa Claus Village. According to legend, Santa Claus has made Lapland in Northern Finland his home for centuries, and the Arctic Circle is close to his heart because many Christmas secrets are rooted in this magical place. Santa Claus Village is a year-round destination with plenty to see and do for all ages. You will have plenty of free time to shop, have lunch (on your own), cross the Arctic Circle, visit Roosevelt Cottage (the first structure built on the Arctic Circle, commemorating Eleanor Roosevelt's visit to Rovaniemi in 1950), and maybe even meet the man himself, Santa Claus! This afternoon, we will return to the hotel to warm up & relax before meeting this evening for a group dinner at a local restaurant.

*\*Optional Tour - Aurora Borealis Picnic \$119/p: According to an old legend, the Northern Lights are created when a fox running through the fells of Lapland sheds sparks from its tail into the northern sky, coloring the streaks of light across the sky. The appearance of the Northern Lights at Arctic Circle latitudes requires a clear sky, suitable space weather, and of course a bit of luck. After dinner, join us on a search for an unreal natural phenomenon, Aurora Borealis! From the departure point, additional cold-weather clothes (snowsuits, wool socks, boots, mittens, balaclava/ski mask, etc) will be provided before driving about 30 minutes into the forest. Then a 5-minute walk will bring us to our picnic site - **NOTE: Although this is a short walk, it will be over uneven & snow-covered terrain, through the forest, in the dark.** A fire & teepee are set up for warmth, along with hot chocolate, tea, juice and snacks. We will spend about 2 hours watching the sky for a glimpse of magic! This experience will be approximately 3½ hours and we will return to our hotel around 11:30pm. Disclaimer: Aurora Borealis is a naturally-occurring event and viewing them during this activity is **not guaranteed.***

Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> - This morning, we will head to Vaattunki Wilderness Resort, located north of Rovaniemi. Our first activity is a relaxing 1-hr reindeer-led sleigh ride through the forest. Sit comfortably in a sleigh and lay back, take photos of the nature around you and listen to the sounds of the reindeer caravan. Following an included buffet lunch, get excited to drive (or ride in) your very own arctic dog sleigh! After, we will visit the husky kennel to pet & photograph the cute pups! We will return to the hotel this afternoon for rest & warmth. This evening, experience an authentic Lappish Hut Dinner.

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> - Following hotel check-out, visit Arktikum, a science center & Arctic museum. Then, we will enjoy a delicious lunch on our last day in the Arctic Circle. Later, we will head to the Rovaniemi airport for our nonstop flight back to Helsinki, arriving this evening. We will check into our hotel for a 3-night stay and a light dinner at the hotel will be provided.

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> - Enjoy a full day of independent exploration of Helsinki, Europe's youngest and northernmost capital city. Marvel at the city's world-renowned architecture, design, and museums. Visit the free public events, taste the clean palette of Finnish cuisine at some of the best restaurants in the country and local delicacies at picturesque cafés. And of course when in Finland, take a refreshing dip in the sea and enjoy the gentle warmth in one of the city's many public saunas. Helsinki is a safe, easy, and compact city to explore. Discover the city sustainably on foot, by bike, or via its excellent public transportation.

*\*Optional Tour - Day Trip to Tallinn, Estonia \$249/p: From Helsinki harbor, board a luxury ship for a 2-hr trip Tallinn. Sit back and enjoy - Choose between five dining options for lunch on your own, shop at one of the biggest shopping malls of the Baltic Sea or relax in quiet Lounges with comfortable sitting options. Upon arrival, we will be met by a local guide and head out on a 2-hr city tour via motor coach, ending at the Tallinn Christmas Market, crowned with the title of the best Christmas market in Europe in 2019. We will return to Helsinki this evening, via ship. Dinner will be on your own, either at the Christmas Market &/or aboard the ship.*

## *Day-by-Day in Detail (continued)*

Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> - Our final full day will start with a guided city tour of Helsinki with a local guide, including a ride on the Sky Wheel. The afternoon is spent at the Helsinki Christmas Market for all of your last-minute souvenirs & hand-crafted Holiday gifts. Tonight, we will gather together for a delicious farewell dinner and rekindle our fondest moments from this memorable and once-in-a-lifetime travel experience.

Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> - This morning, enjoy one last breakfast at the hotel before checking out. We will then head to the Helsinki airport for our return flights to Columbus, arriving later this evening.

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## *Know Before You Go - Important Information*

**Temperatures** - Early December: Helsinki highs 30-34°F & lows in the low/mid 20s; Rovaniemi highs 18-20°F & lows in the single digits.

**Daylight** - Early December: Roughly 6 hours of daylight should be expected in both Helsinki & Rovaniemi. Sunrise starts around 10am and begins to set by 2pm.

**Clothing:** As you can see, it will be rather chilly and only a few hours of daylight for the majority of our time in Finland. You are expected to pack appropriate clothing to keep safe & warm - Heavy coats, thick gloves & socks, hats, earmuffs, scarves, snow boots, sweaters, etc. While additional cold-weather gear will be provided during some of the scheduled activities, you will still need to bring your own essentials.

**Language:** To a non-native Finn, Finnish can be a very difficult language to understand. Children in Finland are taught English in primary school and it is widely spoken and completely acceptable. If you are interested, a few key words & phrases are provided below:

- Hei (hay) - *Hello!*
- Terve (Ter-ru-vay) - *Hi!*
- Minä olen (mee-na o-len) - *My name is...*
- Kiltt (kil-ŧ) - *Please*
- Kiitos (kee-toe-ss) - *Thank You*
- Anteeksi (On-tex-see) - *Sorry*
- Suomi (su-a-mee) - *Finland*
- Suomalainen (su-a-maa-line-en) - *Finnish Person*
- Sauna (sow-na) - *Sauna*



## Terms & Conditions

**Deposit and Final Payment:** A deposit of \$1000 per person is due upon booking to secure your reservation. Final payment is due on or before **September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

**Travel Protection:** Travel Protection is not required but is highly recommended. Our preferred travel protection partner, Travel Insured, offers comprehensive coverage for domestic & international travel - *Please Note: Medicare & most supplement insurance policies DO NOT provide medical coverage outside of the United States.* For a quote &/or additional information on travel protection options, please contact Travel Insured directly:

- Phone: 1-800-243-3174
- Agency # **49517**
  - To finalize the purchase of travel protection, you MUST provide the above agency number to Travel Insured. Without this number, World of Travel will not receive notification of coverage.
- *Travel Protection MUST be purchased within 14 days of trip deposit*

**Cancellation Schedule:** All cancellations must be received in writing. Cancellations received before **September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, are subject to an administration fee of \$100 per person. Cancellations received after **September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, are non-refundable.

**Passport:** A valid passport is required to participate in this program. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months upon return. A copy of your passport will need to be provided to World of Travel, prior to travel.

**Travel/Health Policy:** It is required that persons needing assistance be accompanied by a companion who is capable and totally responsible for providing that assistance. Neither World of Travel nor its suppliers may assist with medications, wheelchairs, or physically lift persons onto transportation vehicles. Travelers having special needs must notify World of Travel when they make their reservations. Please note that the Americans With Disabilities Act does not apply outside the United States.

### **Not Included in Your Travel Package:**

- Airline Baggage Fees
- Meals Not Included on Itinerary
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Optional Tours
- Incidentals at Hotels
- Items and Services of a Personal Nature
- Optional Travel Protection

**Fuel Surcharges:** The transportation industry may impose a fuel or baggage surcharge prior to the departure. Since these are not included in the original pricing, these will be billed additionally to you in the event surcharges are imposed. We certainly hope this will not occur, but want you to be aware of the possibility.

**Liability/Responsibility:** World of Travel (WOT)/Local Center (LC) acts only as an agent for tour members in making arrangements of accommodations, meals, excursions, sightseeing, transportation and other services. WOT/ LC will not be held liable for any claims for errors or default by the Vendors, Suppliers or Contractors (VSC). WOT/ LC are not responsible to any person or entity for any damage or injury arising out of the conduct or failure to act of any of the VSC. Any costs involved in delays due to "Acts of God" or weather will be the responsibility of the individual passenger, not the VSC. WOT/LC are not responsible for any loss or damages of personal property or for injuries, expenses, or damages whatsoever incurred or claimed by participants including but not limited to losses due to "Acts of God." WOT/LC reserves the right to make changes in the itinerary or cancel a tour at its discretion and a refund of money paid will release WOT/LC from any further obligation. WOT/LC reserves the right to refuse passage to any participant if it is deemed that the person's health is such that it would create a problem in how the tour is conducted.

**If you have any questions, please contact World of Travel at 614-451-4882**



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