

LAPLANDS WINTER EXPERIENCE

05 Nights / 06 Days

Helsinki * Rovaniemi

Highlights:

- **Helsinki** – Half day city tour - Senate square, Esplanade, Orthodox Church, Sibelius monument, Rock Church, Finlandia Hall, Temppeliaukio Church and the Colourful Market.
- **Rovaniemi** – Santa Claus Village, Artikum House, Reindeer Farm, Snowmobile Safari & Husky Farm

Day 01 Arrive Helsinki

Arrival in Helsinki, meet and greet by our local representatives. Transfer from airport to the hotel by private car with English speaking driver. Overnight at Hotel Scandic.

Day 02 Helsinki – Rovaniemi

This morning, after breakfast, depart on a half-day city tour of Helsinki visit – Senate square, Esplanade, Orthodox Church (Uspenskij Cathedral), Sibelius monument, Rock Church, Finlandia Hall, Temppeliaukio Church and the colourful Market square. Afternoon we transfer you to the airport for your flight to Rovaniemi – self proclaimed capital of Lapland. Arrive Rovaniemi and you will first visit our local handling agent's office to pick up full body suits and gear which are required for all winter activities you will experience over the next two days. These are provided at no additional cost. Later we transfer you to **Holiday Village** in Rovaniemi. Some of the very adventurous ones should have a **dip in the freezing lake followed by the traditional Sauna** - an age-old Finnish tradition. The Sauna is a very sacred area for the Finns. In olden days, babies were born in the Sauna as it was very cold outside and when a person died his body was immediately taken to a Sauna before the last rites. The circle of life began & was completed in the Sauna. **A visit to Finland is not complete without experiencing the Sauna.** Overnight at Holiday Village.

Day 03 Rovaniemi - 'Santa Claus Village, Artikum house & Reindeer Farm'

After breakfast, we proceed for the highlight of the trip – Santa Claus Village in Rovaniemi, which was visited by over one million visitors a year. Santa Claus Village is located right on the Arctic Circle.

Santa Claus Village is the only place in the world that really feels like Christmas 365 days of the year. Santa Claus' spectacular Main Post Office is built of natural stone and logs & is truly a unique experience. At Santa Claus' Main Post Office a whole bunch of busy assistant elves are at your service, speaking different languages. Optional - you may also visit the Santa Park located close by. After the Santa Claus Village, visit the Arktikum House, which is a provisional museum of Lapland. This glass roofed Artikum centre has permanent exhibits, which focus all life history and culture of Arctic region. It also houses an Arctic science centre. We then proceed towards Reindeer Farm. The Reindeer Sledging is the highlight of this excursion. At the farm, you are initiated in Lapp culture by a Native Family. Your host will tell you all about reindeer husbandry and will also have a chance to feed the reindeers. Enjoy a traditional Lappish lunch. There is a special ceremony performed by the 'The wizard' for all who cross the Arctic Circle. The masters of Water, Fire and Earth are invited to be present in the ceremony. The masters of Water gives us long life, masters of Fire protects us from evil and the master of Earth gave us the seeds of a reindeer which ensures that we will all come back to Lapland one day. The myth goes that anyone who takes part in the ceremony can live merrily and happily because it is protected by the good elves of Lapland. Overnight at the Hotel.

Day 04 Rovaniemi – Snowmobile Safari & Visit to local Husky Farm

After breakfast, we proceed on a *Snow Mobile Safari*, you will be given instructions on the operation of the snow mobile. The drive across the vast expanses of snow lined with Pine trees on either side. The snowmobiles cut across the beautiful terrain, hills and lake. We arrive at local Husky Farm, where the lovely husky dogs welcome you heartily, get familiar with these lovely arctic animals and their daily life and training. Take a ride on the sledge hauled by a dog team. Later in the afternoon we return to the town onboard snowmobile. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 05 Rovaniemi – Helsinki

After breakfast, transfer to your hotel for your flight to Helsinki. Arrive Helsinki and transfer to your hotel. Day at leisure to further explore the city and for shopping! Overnight at the Hotel Scandic.

Day 06 :Depart

Transfer to the airport for your return flight home.