

“New Year in Kemi, Lapland”

December 30, 2009 – January 02, 2010



Day 01, December 30: Welcome to Lapland! Dinner at Meripirtti Lodge

Arrival at Kemi Airport. Transfer to Hotel Merihovi or Hotel Cumulus Kemi. Tonight's **dinner** is a special event, being served in **Meripirtti Lodge**, a private restaurant and family home situated near Kemi, just 20 minutes by coach. Those who wish have the opportunity to experience a genuine Finnish wood-heated sauna – and take a dip through a "hole in the ice" according to true Finnish fashion. Dinner features glowfried salmon prepared on open fire. **Overnight** in Kemi.

Day 02, December 31: Excursion to Rovaniemi, New Year Eve Celebration

Finnish **buffet breakfast** is served in the hotel. Today a trip to the Arctic Circle is on the agenda. The coach ride from Kemi takes ca. 1,5 hours through Lapland's countryside. A visit will be made to **Santa Claus Village** where you'll have a chance to meet the famous man himself, in his Office, and you'll have free time to browse through the shopping gallery. **Lunch** is served in a local restaurant in Rovaniemi. Back to Kemi in late afternoon. En route say hello to reindeer and their herders at a local reindeer farm – this is where you'll learn about reindeer husbandry and Lappish culture. You'll also take a ride in a reindeer-pulled sleigh, thus earning your very own international "reindeer driving permit", and attend a special Lappish ceremony of Crossing the Arctic Circle.

Tonight's New Year's Eve, and it will be celebrated in style! A **festive dinner** is served in Restaurant Merihovi. Before dinner you will join a 'glögg' party and get a short introduction to the typical New Year traditions and different ways of fortune telling in Finland. After dinner, it's time to prepare for the welcoming of New Year by attending **special outdoor festivities** in the nearby **Winter Park**. So get dressed in your 'safari gear' and enter the private Winter Park area which is 'dressed up' to bid adieu to year 2009 and wish Year 2010 welcome. There are campfires and cosy Lapp 'kota teepees', live music and dancing. You will participate in the traditional '**Tin ceremony**' - the melting of small pieces of an alloy of tin over a fire, before dropping it into cold water, and then "reading" the shape produced to forecast what will happen in the New Year. Casting originates in ancient Greece where the future was predicted in this way thousands of years ago. And finally, at midnight, when the clock strikes 12, you'll raise a toast of Finnish sparkling wine in celebration. After midnight, dancing on snow covered 'dance floor' while admiring the fireworks in the Northern sky. **Overnight** in Kemi.

Day 03, January 01: Snowmobile Safari with Ice Fishing and Lunch, Ulla's Husky Safari

A Finnish **buffet breakfast** is served in the hotel. Today's the day that everyone has been waiting for: it's time to learn to **drive a snowmobile**, the Laplanders' favourite method of travel. Equipped head to toe in winter gear and wearing a driving helmet and goggles, you'll get acquainted with the machine as your local guides give you a thorough briefing on technical and safety issues. Sooner than you'll know you're seated on your vehicle – "tandem"-style as two persons share one snowmobile, taking turns in driving and sitting as a passenger behind the driver – and the snowmobile convoy takes off. Your destination: a Lapp Camp in the snow-clad nature. En route your guides will teach you the secrets of **ice fishing**: how to drill a hole and how to hook the bait – and you just might catch a perch! An **outdoor lunch** is served in a "kota" teepee.

Later in the day a trip is made to a local **Husky Farm** where Mrs. Ulla and her daughter Mrs. Paula with her family live – together with their Siberian huskies. You'll hear about the training and life of Siberian huskies and get to try your hand at dogsledding: after learning about sled control you'll take off on a ride, two persons sharing one dog team, taking turns as a "musher". **Dinner** is served in the hotel restaurant. **Overnight** in Kemi.

Day 04, January 02: Departure

A final **breakfast** is served in the hotel. Then it's time to say goodbye to Kemi and transfer to the airport.

OPTION S: Spend an extra night in Kemi and participate in a unique winter adventure: a voyage through the ice! Transfer by coach to the Port of Kemi where **Icebreaker Sampo** is waiting for you. During the 4-hour voyage on board this famous vessel you'll tour the entire ship from top to bottom and enjoy lunch in the ship's cozy restaurant. Adults participate in an arctic swim dressed in special survival suits, and kids explore the ship with the help of the crew. The Captain hands a diploma to all passengers at the end of the cruise. Back at the hotel in late afternoon.

Snowmobiling is Laplanders' favourite outdoor activity and you can book an additional snowmobile trip with us on an extra day or in the evening. Advance reservations are necessary for all optional activities.

Program Inclusions

- 3 nights' accommodations in Hotel Cumulus Kemi or Hotel Merihovi including daily buffet breakfast
- use of hotel sauna daily in the afternoon (plus indoor swimming pool in Hotel Cumulus)
- full board from dinner on December 30 until breakfast on January 2: breakfast is a traditional Finnish buffet, lunches are 3-course meals and dinners are either 3-course buffet meals or served meals, including coffee
- round trip transfers Kemi Airport – hotel – Kemi Airport
- evening at Meripirtti Lodge on December 30, including sauna and round trip transfer
- 8-hour coach excursion to the Arctic Circle and Rovaniemi on December 31 including including a visit to Reindeer Farm for Arctic Circle Ceremony and reindeer driving test, and a visit to Santa Claus Village
- New Year Eve dinner and glögg party in Restaurant Merihovi, outdoor celebrations in Winter Park including a midnight drink and entertainment
- half-day snowmobile safari, 2 adults sharing one snowmobile, with kids in snowmobile-pulled sleighs, on January 01, including ice fishing (the snowmobile driving ca 2 hours)
- visit to Ulla's Husky Farm on January 01, including a 2-hour dogsledding trip and round trip transfer
- thermal outfit at clients' disposal during the program (overalls, boots and socks, balaclava and mittens plus helmet & goggles for the snowmobile safari)
- guiding in English during the excursions and activities
- Value Added Tax

Program Costs

Hotel Cumulus Kemi	€ 820/person in twin	Single supplement € 123/person
Hotel Merihovi	€ 825/person in twin	Single supplement € 129/person

Child (02-11 years) in extra bed in parents' room 35% discount
 Youngster (12-14 years) in extra bed in Hotel Cumulus 20% discount

Extra night on December 29 or on January 02 (incl. breakfast and dinner)	Cumulus in twin	Cumulus in single	Cumulus child
	€ 112 /person	€ 153/person	€ 56/child
	Merihovi in twin	Merihovi in single	Merihovi child
	€ 103/person	€ 146/person	€ 33/child

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Optional Activities



“EXCURSION TO RANUA WILDLIFE PARK ”

Take a trip to **Ranua Wildlife Park**, which is located 1,5 hours by coach from Kemi, the ride taking you through Lapland's countryside. Upon arrival at the wildlife park you'll enjoy a buffet lunch in the park's restaurant and then participate in a guided walking tour through the park, seeing Nordic and arctic animals, such as polar bears, brown bears, lynx and wolves, in a natural environment. You can also take a moment for shopping at the souvenir and candy shops in the park.

Cost: € 120/person
 € 100/child 02-11 years of age
 Duration: 8 hours

Cost Inclusions: Thermal clothing
Guided coach excursion to Ranua Wildlife Park including entrance to the park,
guided walk, buffet lunch with coffee
Operation: December 30 and January 02

“SAMPO ICEBREAKER BY CAR”

Experience a great winter adventure: a voyage through the ice! M/S Sampo welcomes you on board for a memorable cruise on the frozen Bothnian Sea. Our regular tour features transfer from your hotel to the Port of Kemi and back after the voyage. On board the icebreaker the program consists of ship presentation, a visit to the engine room and the bridge, lunch in the ship's cozy restaurant, and a possibility for "arctic swim" (please note: "arctic swim" for adults only!). The Captain hands the passengers an icebreaking diploma upon disembarkation.

Cost: € 280/person
€ 140/child 04-11 years of age
Duration: 4 hours voyage + transfer time from Kemi to the port and back, approx. ½ hour
Cost Inclusions: Thermal clothing
Car transfer from Kemi to Kemi Port and return
Sampo icebreaker voyage including ship program and standard lunch or dinner
Operation: According to Icebreaker Sampo timetable, on December 30 and January 02

“IN SEARCH OF AURORA BOREALIS ”

Snowmobiling in the dark is an exciting experience. You'll set off in the evening and drive out across the ice fields to look-out points for Northern Lights, this incredibly beautiful arctic phenomenon which can only be viewed in the darkness and away from the towns' artificial lights. A hot beverage is enjoyed by campfire.

Costs: € 63/person, 2 persons/snowmobile € 79/person, solo driving
Duration: 1,5 hours/max. 20 km
Cost Inclusions: Guided snowmobile safari, thermal clothing, helmets & goggles, hot beverage
Operation: December 29, 30, January 01, 02

The right is reserved for changes in the itinerary and routing of the excursions. Please note that the order of the daily visits may vary from what is stated in the day-by-day itinerary. All rates are inclusive of Value Added Tax. Please refer to our Terms and Conditions for booking, payment and cancellation policy.

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