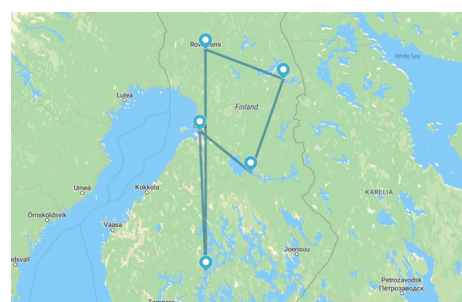


Finland, 7 Days · Tailor-made by car

Finnish Lapland Route

Many consider Finnish Lapland as the closest thing to a winter wonderland that can also be enjoyed at other times of the year such as spring and summer. A magical place that offers many experiences and activities that you can not enjoy in almost any other place on earth. Such as the phenomenon known as "The Midnight Sun" or "White Nights", about 76 days- and no nights- between May and July that replace the dark winter days, which gives you more time to enjoy the unforgettable landscapes and to discover many new things. During this spectacular adventure you will be able to admire the beauty of the Northern Lights, which can be seen between mid-August and early April, usually appearing between the hours of 10. 00 p. m. and 02. 00 a. m. . Can you picture a romantic dinner under the iridescent light of the Aurora Borealis? It's simply unforgettable! During this northern European tour of mysteries and treasures, you can become personally acquainted with none other than Father Christmas himself who, despite keeping his home a secret, has a post office in the town of Rovaniemi, the starting point of this once-in-a-lifetime Route. You can also follow in the footsteps of ancient explorers to the Arctic Circle and discover the Sami culture - considered the only indigenous people of the Old Continent - firsthand. You can sample the traditional food of these distant lands, where dishes made from the freshest ingredients and those based on reindeer meat stand out. And enjoy activities such as snowmobile safaris and sled rides pulled by huskies or reindeer, or even sail the frozen sea aboard a magnificent icebreaker. .. Or simply enjoy the peace and quiet of a place that is hard to find anywhere else on earth. In autumn you can reveal in the "ruska", the moment when the leaves change their colours becoming red, yellow and orange, a phenomenon that is more spectacular the farther north you go. Without question, the "Finnish Lapland Route" is an adventure to remember.



NATURE

FAMILIES

INFORMATION NOTE. The visits included in each stage are for guidance only. Depending on the location of your chosen hotel, you can adjust the order of the recommended visits to make the most of your travel time and enjoy your tour of northern Finland with complete flexibility.

Departure date: Departures from June 2026 till June 2027

From: Dublin, Shannon, Cork

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - OULU

Flight departure from the city of origin to Oulu. Rental car pick-up and hotel arrival. You have the rest of the day free to start enjoying the fifth largest city in Finland, founded in 1605 by King Charles IX of Sweden, and capital of the northernmost half of this Nordic land. As a matter of fact, its geographical location makes it a crossroads between the north and the south of Finland, marking the border between Lapland and the southern Lakeland region. To begin, head for the spectacular Ainola Park, the town's main hub of social and cultural life. There you can visit the science centre "Tietomaa" (Tiedekeskus Tietomaa, in Finnish), the first of its kind in Finland and an experience for all ages that needs about four hours. Young and old will be impressed by the "Water Tower", a 45-metre observation tower with an external glass elevator, exhibitions of technological devices used in different scientific fields and its panoramic cinema screen (the largest in the country). In Ainola park there is also the Northern Ostrobothnia Museum (Pohjois-Pohjanmaan museum, in Finnish), founded in 1896 and which showcases the history and culture, not only of the city, but also of the surrounding region. (Note: Check the websites for prices and schedules. Not included). The Linnanmaa district boasts the Botanical Gardens, belonging to the faculty of biology of the University of Oulu, which cover some 16 hectares containing both native plant species and those from other parts of the world. Plants from warmer climates are found in the two pyramid-shaped greenhouses called "Romeo and Juliet" that are becoming one of the iconic images of Oulu. Food & drink is one of the pretty town's strengths. There are excellent salmon dishes on offer from the area for starters, followed by the traditional "rössypottu", a local roast dish including pork, potatoes and "rössy" (a mixture of blood, beer, rye flour and spices), and "pannukakku", a thick pancake with either sweet or savoury ingredients added. If you want to make the most of the day, and evening, the neighbourhood of Torikatu is the best place for nightlife, ranging from bars with a bohemian feel to traditional Irish pubs... Even three-storey nightclubs! Overnight stay in Oulu.

DAY 2 · OULU - KAJAANI

Start the day driving to the nearby town of Oulu, which is just 11 kilometres south along the coast of the Gulf of Bothnia. There you can board one of the many free ferries that in just 25 minutes take you from the mainland to the picturesque island of Hailuoto, the Bothnia's largest with an area of 196.56 km². Except during winter months when this service is "replaced" by an ice road with a maximum speed limit of 50 km/h. On the west coast of Hailuoto is the fishing village of Marjaniemi, one of its main attractions, which is home to the lighthouse that has become the symbol of the island. Its harbour is a real experience as its wharves blend the traditional past with the modern present, with its windmill that generates more than half of the island's electricity consumption. To the south of the village you can enjoy fine sand beaches with impressive dunes that seem to have been imported from afar, since the island is the part of Finland that enjoys the most days of sun throughout the year. On your return to Oulu, and depending on the time given there are still 185 kilometres to Kajaani, you can continue to enjoy its charms. Such as the Art Museum (Oulun Taidemuseum, in Finnish) which displays on its two floors a wide variety of modern art (Kasarmintie, 7), and Oulu Cathedral (Oulun tuomiokirkko, in Finnish), dating from 1777 and built as a tribute to Gustav III of Sweden. (Note: Check the websites for prices and schedules. Not included). As both are located in the city centre, we recommend that you also visit the market and its many food stalls to try some of its local dishes, such as "muikku", which is a dish of fried vendace (a similar fish to salmon). The Route continues alongside the course of the Oulujoki River towards Kajaani along national road 22, which will give you the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful views offered by the Kainuu region, a land covered in lakes, hills and huge boreal forests of pine, fir and birch. On the southeast shore of Lake Oulujärvi, the fifth largest in the country, stands the city of Kajaani, site of some of the most important episodes in Finnish history, such as the Great Northern War of the 18th century against Russia that ended with its castle in ruins. The remains of the fortress, also part of the city's coat of arms, are located on Ämmäkoski island and during your free visit, which lasts about 20 minutes, you can learn more about its history and importance through the numerous multi-lingual information boards. Kajaani's attractions do not end there. There is also the Museum of Art (Kajaanin taidemuseo, in Finnish), which not only exhibits a wide variety of art in different media, from photography or video to modern sculpture, but also hosts a large number of activities such as conferences and performances. Kajaani Church is a beautiful example of late 19th-century NeoGothic style that bears the hallmarks of the famous architect Jac Ahrenberg. It stands out for its timber construction and its slender bell tower, as well as its Gothic style interior that is reflected in engravings and other decorative elements. This church replaces the original one that was also destroyed during the aforementioned Russian-Swedish conflict in 1716. There is a wide range of dining options with restaurants that offer Finnish food, as well as Spanish and Chinese, along streets like Välikatu and Brahenkatu, just to name a couple. Nor does it lack for nightlife, since Kajaani has many bars and pubs, many with live music such as those on Linnankatu Street, and even discos if you want to party well into the night. Overnight stay in Kajaani.

DAY 3 · KAJAANI - VUOKATTI - KUHMO - (HOSSA) - KUUSAMO

We suggest leaving Kajaani at a reasonable hour for Vuokatti, since you have a busy day ahead with lots of attractions to enjoy. Take motorway 6 eastbound and, after driving 34 kilometres around Lake Nuasjärvi, you will reach Vuokatti, a well-known mecca for those in search of tourism devoted to health and relaxation, among other things, thanks to the peace provided by its impressive natural environment, and the famous spa-resort of the Holiday Club Katinkulta. (Note: Check the websites for prices and schedules. Not included). The town's outstanding nature makes it one of Finland's main centres for outdoor activities and sports such as hiking, climbing, husky sledding trips, skiing, snowboarding and much much more. If you are travelling with children, the Angry Birds Park (Linturinteenkatu, 1) has just opened whose fun and crazy characters will delight young... and old alike. (Note: Not included). The next stop is just 68 kilometres east of Vuokatti along the national road 76 at a small village immersed in an idyllic setting in the Karelian region and close to the Russian border. Surrounded by the majestic lakes of Ontojärvi, Lammasjärvi and Lentua, Kuhmo is the perfect place to start discovering one of the great treasures of the Kainuu region: the impressive Hidenportti National Park with its Visitor Centre "Petola" (Lentiirantie, 342), home to species such as the brown bear, the wolf and the lynx. It is a great visit if you're travelling as a family! It should be noted that "Petola", the starting point for guided tours of the park (not included), is open from the beginning of May to the end of October. In addition, Kuhmo is a very popular city in Finland for its role in protecting the culture of Karelia and the main focus of the "Kalevala", the Finnish national epic that compiles local folktales and legends, a famous work by Elias Lönnrot dating from the 19th century. Firstly, we recommend that you go to the Information Centre of Karelia Culture "Juminkeko" (Kontionkatu, 25), where you can discover the secrets of the Baltic-Finnish people from the area that has its own language, and then visit the themed village that recreates the "Kalevala". The shortest route from Kuhmo to Kuusamo, your last destination of the day, is the national road E63 heading north, a journey of 262 kilometres that takes about three and a quarter hours. However, if you have opted for this Route outside the summer months, we recommend the national road 912 that passes through the National Park of Hossa, a beautiful landscape with forests, lakes, hills and cliffs and the ferocious Ogre Gorge "Julma-Ölkky". You must bear in mind that this option requires you to drive some 276 kilometres- more than three and a half hours behind the wheel. When you arrive in Kuusamo, you can have dinner at one of the restaurants located on Kylpyläntie Street, where local specialties are offered such as "Leipäjuusto", a fresh cheese that is also known as as "Finnish squeaky cheese" due to the sound you make when you chew it, and "Poronkäristys", a dish of sauteed reindeer. Overnight stay in Kuusamo.

DAY 4 · KUUSAMO - RANUA - ROVANIEMI (OPTIONAL VISIT TO RUKA)

Kuusamo is known as the pearl of Finnish nature. That's why one of Finland's most famous photographers, Hannu Hautala, moved to this beautiful town to open his Nature Photography Centre (Torangintaival, 2), the first in the country, which exhibits spectacular images of the natural environment of Kuusamo and also provides plenty of information about the tourist attractions in the city and its surroundings. About 20 kilometres to the north of Kuusamo is Ruka, one of Finland's top ski resorts and also where you can enjoy adventure sports such as rafting, off-road tours or "husky" sledding. Hiking is also one of its highlights, as the eighty-kilometre-long Karhunkierros (aka the Bear's Trail) trek - the most famous in Finland - starts out from Ruka and runs through the two beautiful natural parks of Oulanka and Näränkä. There are also shorter versions, such as the "Pieni Karhunkierros" (aka the Bear Cub's Trail), which only covers twelve kilometres of the original route.

(Note. Activities in Ruka not included). Continue to the city of Rovaniemi, where you will spend the night, passing through the town of Ranua, 176 kilometres west on the E63 motorway. In Ranua you can visit the wonderful Arctic Zoo, the most northerly zoo in the world where you can see more than fifty species of arctic animals throughout the year, such as the majestic polar bear and the elusive white fox. You only have about eighty kilometres to drive north on the national road 78 until you reach Rovaniemi, where you will arrive late evening. This town offers you a wide selection of restaurants, from fine dining to informal eateries. You shouldn't miss the "Lappi à la carte" or the "RovaniemiMenu", authentic culinary trips into a world of local flavours.

Overnight stay in Rovaniemi.

● DAY 5 · ROVANIEMI AND SURROUNDINGS

Don't waste any time in setting off to meet one of the most famous and loved people on the planet. We're talking about none other than Father Christmas! In 1985, this beloved character decided to open a post office in this Finnish town so that children and adults could personally deliver, throughout the year, their Christmas letters. Since then, more than half a million tourists visit the fairy tale village that's home to the post office every year. (Note: You will find it just 3 kilometres (2 miles) from the airport and 8 kilometres (5 miles) north of Rovaniemi, taking the N4 motorway in the direction of Ivalo). Take advantage of the visit to "cross" the border into the Arctic Circle: for many, this is considered the point beyond which there is no more rush or stress. You can even be awarded a certificate to verify your feat... as well as an unforgettable image for your memory, making a leap across the line on the ground that represents the border with the Arctic. But that's not all: you can also cross into the Arctic via an underground route, thanks to the Grotto of Father Christmas, where, once again, you receive a certificate.

But Rovaniemi is much more than the magic of Christmas. It is also the awe-inspiring beauty of the Northern Lights, another of its wonderful attractions. This fascinating astral spectacle can be seen up to 200 nights a year in Finnish Lapland, between mid-August and early April, usually appearing between the hours of 10.00 pm and 02.00 am. To avoid waiting unnecessarily, Rovaniemi has an aurora borealis instant notification service, called 'Aurora Alert Realtime'. The Northern Lights can be seen from practically any point on the outskirts of the city, and even from the town itself, but the summit of Mount Ounasvaara is a great option and is only 20 minutes away by car. An hour south of Rovaniemi you can enjoy the Ranua Wildlife Park, a must-see for animal lovers, where you can observe polar bears, wolves, grizzly bears, wolverines and lynxes. Drive south another half hour to reach the amethyst mine of Lampivaara, in the beautiful village of Luosto, which is still working today and whose treasure is some two million years old. (Note: There are guided tours of the mine, which include explanations relating to geology, history, nature and, of course, the uses of amethyst. Not included).

Overnight stay in Rovaniemi.

● DAY 6 · ROVANIEMI - KEMI - OULU

Take advantage of the morning to squeeze the last drop out of Rovaniemi's charms. For culture-lovers, its town centre offers, among other things, the Provincial Museum of Lapland, the Arktikum Science Centre and Museum and the Korundi House of Culture. On the outskirts, you'll find the Forestry Museum of Lapland - an open-air museum - and the Rovaniemi Local History Museum, covering the needs of those who enjoy experiences in authentic surroundings. (Note: Check the websites for prices and schedules. Not included). At a reasonable time, head towards the northeast coast of the Gulf of Bothnia until you reach the city of Kemi, a 119-kilometre drive on the E75 motorway heading south. Founded in 1869 taking advantage of the excellent topographic conditions for the construction of a deepwater port in Lapland, Kemi is very popular in Finland as each year sees the largest snow castle in the world built in the town, with a different design every winter (Mansikkanokankatu, 15). There, even the tables and chairs of the restaurant are made out of ice! However, they are covered with reindeer skins to protect against the cold, and there are numerous activities for all ages, from art exhibitions on ice to an adventure area for the little ones. We recommend that you also visit the Evangelical Lutheran Church designed by the architect Josef Stenbäck and completed in 1902, as well as the Gemstone Gallery, which keeps treasures such as the design of the crown for the King of Finland, which was never made, and beautiful replicas of the British Imperial State Crown, the imperial scepter of the Russian Tsars, Danish orbs and Marie Antoinette's diamond necklace, among other items. And if you choose this Route in winter, do not miss any of the tours aboard the legendary icebreaker "Sampo", which takes you from the jetty of "Ajos" to the Gulf of Bothnia. (Note: Suggested activities not included). You only have 105 kilometres left to reach the finish line of this jam-packed day and starting point of the Route: the city of Oulu. Overnight stay in Oulu.

● DAY 7 · OULU - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Oulu.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Oulu.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Kajaani.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Kajaani.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Kuusamo.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Kuusamo.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Rovaniemi.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Rovaniemi.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Oulu



Kajaani



Kuusamo



Rovaniemi



Jyvaskyla



Important remarks

- Driving in Finland: 1. It is compulsory to drive vehicles with headlights on at all times, even on the brightest summer's day. 2. Road speed limits. 2. 1 Residential areas up to 30 km/h. 2. 2 Urban areas up to 50 km/h. 2. 3 Single carriageways up to 80 km/h. 2. 4 Dual carriageways (highways) and motorways up to 120 km/h. 2. 5 In winter, the general speed limit is reduced to 80 km/h. 3. In the winter months, winter tyres with or without spikes, chains or similar should be used. 4. A red warning triangle and a reflective yellow vest must always be carried in the car in the event of breakdown or accident. 5. Alcohol consumption. The legal limit is 20 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood. There are severe penalties for drivers that exceed the allowed limit. 6. There are few toll booths in Finland, almost all are automatic. All drivers, regardless of nationality, have to pay at Finnish toll booths. 7. After filling up with fuel, Finns move their cars to the side before going into the petrol station to pay.

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible.

- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.

- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.