



8 Days

# Finland

## Wild Wilderness Adventure

This is definitely a winter trip with a difference. Located at the edge of the Oulanka National Park, our wilderness base is in a truly spectacular setting and perfect for this fun-filled winter adventure. With winter equipment included, discover the beautiful wilderness of Finnish Lapland through a variety of exciting activities. Round up the reindeer, hang out with the huskies before heading out on a dogsled ride through forests and across frozen lakes. All this, plus cross-country skiing and learning essential wilderness / survival techniques. If you're lucky, and the night sky is clear, you might even catch a glimpse of the magical Northern Lights!



# Recommended expedition itinerary

## Day 1

### Arrive Kuusamo

Transfer to Basecamp Oulanka, situated in a remote, wonderful, unspoiled wilderness overlooking Juuma lake and backing onto Oulanka National Park. With no light pollution to spoil the sky, Basecamp Oulanka is one of the best places in the world to see the Northern Lights, Aurora Borealis. Days are long with 18 hours of day light, We overnight in Karhunkierros huts/snowhotel. Karhunkierros was established in 1992 and is heated with fire wood with no running water. The snowhotel is built of snow, with two beds in each ice snow cave.

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## Day 2

### Huskies & Biking

This park is a natural beauty with some of the finest sloping bogs anywhere in Europe. The spruce trees covering the hillsides are clad with a thick coating of condensed frost, creating a photogenic white forest. We start with a lesson on how to ride on the sled and the importance of caring for the huskies correctly before heading off into the woods where our teams of dogs eagerly await our arrival, ready to take us on our 10km mushing adventure. Two to a sled, our route takes us deep into the National Park and up onto the surrounding fjell where we are rewarded with fantastic views. Fatbiking along the remote arctic circle trail follows—spectacular views with vast stretches of remote wilderness. Diplomas presented on completion and a trip to the Karhunkierros Visitor Centre rounds off the day. We overnight in the huts/snowhotel.

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## Day 3

### Oulanka Visitor Centre & Logging Lodge

After an early start, we transfer to the Oulanka National Park Visitor Centre. We will trek approx. 4 hours through the stunning silent frozen landscape to the Russian end lodge. Here we prepare the camp for our stay, getting the water from the river Oulanka and looking forward to all sleeping indoors or in the lean shelter. The logging Lodge is over 60 years old and is a traditional lumberjack camp. It is a private, basic camp and embodies the spirit of lodgers working & living in a traditional manner as has been for hundreds of years. Once we reach the cabin, we all pitch in to make sure everything is organised and ready for an evening in the wilderness, before settling in for dinner.

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Day  
4

## Wilderness skills & Suanavaara

Today we experience wilderness skills tuition where we will be able to learn all the essential skills to set us up for life in the Arctic, such as making a fire, how to draw water from a frozen lake and first aid skills. In addition we have a five hour trek over to Saunavaara to see the viewpoint over Lake Paanajarvi. We will overnight again at the Russian end.

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Day  
5

## Reindeer round up

Today we will walk along the Russian border zone towards the North (around three hours in total). We will be rounding up reindeer, looking at the bonzai gardens and spotting lots of wildlife as it presents. Reindeer are an essential part of Lapland's nature and one of the distinctive signs of the North. They are half tame deer which man has adopted as a domestic animal. Opportunities will be to see elks and we will be feeding Siberian Jays and Nordic Hares. Again we overnight in the Russian end.

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Day  
6

## Trek to the Logging Lodge

Waking up in the forest, we truly appreciate the stillness and beauty of the glorious landscape. The most magnificent nature sights of Kuusamo are located in the park, along with rare birds and plants. We keep motivated during the day by thinking about the steaming sauna at the Logging Lodge where we overnight.

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Day  
7

## Skiing & Firewood

This morning we will kick off the day with a cross-country skiing lesson. Heading down to the nearby lake our instructor will literally walk us through the basics of how to cross-country ski. There may be a few tumbles to start with, but in the soft snow this is half the fun. After becoming more confident on skis, we then head out onto the lake, gliding through the virgin powder. After lunch we learn how to make a fire using the natural wood available to us. With some lumberjack history to round up the day we will overnight in the logging lodge.

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Day  
8

## Fly to London

Transfer to Kuusamo for our return flight of under 6 hours, to London, following our amazing adventure!

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# Further information

## Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local expedition leader
- Parent and student expedition launch evening
- Comprehensive pre-expedition training programme
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

## What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

## Your expedition timeline



## Physical expedition rating:

● ● ● ○ ○ 3/5

Moderate physical activities are included in Grade 3 trips. Good health and reasonable fitness are important to get the most out of the trip. Trips of this grading are likely to include some walking at moderate altitude (up to 2,500m) and occasional longer/harder days may be involved, with between five and seven hours of walking on certain days. The trip may contain other activities such as cycling or rafting which also require physical effort and a reasonable level of fitness. Some steady preparation and an increase in your underlying fitness levels would help you get the most from this grade trip.

## Culture shock rating:

● ● ○ ○ ○ 2/5

Expect to find local life broadly familiar to that in the UK, however aspects of the trip are likely to be in remoter areas where differences are more profound. Whilst English may not be the native language, you can expect it to be widely spoken. There may be some cultural differences and although western palates should be well catered for there will be the opportunity to try new dishes.

# A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your expedition journey

## 1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your expedition itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

## 2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

## 3 Arrange an expedition launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the expedition with a comprehensive information evening with opportunity for questions.



**t: 01392 660056 | e: [schools@thestc.co.uk](mailto:schools@thestc.co.uk) | w: [www.thestc.co.uk](http://www.thestc.co.uk)**

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