

## WINTER WEEK IN ISOKENKÄISTEN KLUBI

*Isokenkäisten Klubi is located close to the Russian border, only two kilometers away from the border zone. It is remote from most places and it really requires strong attitude and brave minds of the two lovely ladies to run this place on their own, all year around. Sirpa and Katja always greet the guests with a smile and mostly guests even know their names before arriving.*

*Personal contact with the guests has always been guidelines of the service here at Isokenkäisten Klubi. The atmosphere is relaxed and warm, it is like coming to grandmother's house, with traditional decoration wooden floors... in no time guests are walking around in woolen socks indoors and snuggling up by the fire place... and feeling at home.*

*The surrounding is a stunning winter fairytale, the high and narrow trees which are typical for the area, are packed with snow and together with the hilly country side landscape they create a winter wonderland.*

## MAIN FEATURES & HIGH LIGHTS

**Coziness of Isokenkäisten Klubi:** The main building, where the restaurant and lounge are, is where you will be spending most of your indoors-time. You kick off your shoes and relax by the fireplace wearing the handmade woolen socks which you are given as a welcome gift.

**Finnish sauna:** Experience the true sauna, the smoke sauna. This type of sauna is said to be the “mother of all saunas”, the most original form of sauna. It is heated for several hours; you can observe the heating process during the day. There will be bath whisks to give you a healthy massage, turf or honey to pamper your skin and the brave ones get an ultimate flush from the dip in the ice-hole. This is wellness in Finnish; don't feel unsecure by the unfamiliar sauna traditions, Katja and Sirpa will tell you all about the sauna know-how to ensure a fantastic and pleasant sauna experience.

**Fresh air and silence:** Feel the silence, the calm and soothing feeling of pure nature. The surrounding of Isokenkäisten Klubi calls you to explore. Snowshoes are a fantastic way to get familiar with the nature. An experienced guide will take you out on your first day, so that you get familiar with the surroundings at once.

**Home gourmet:** The philosophy of cooking is very simple, tasty homemade food. No ready-made dishes from the freezer, but fresh meals prepared from start to finish in the kitchen of Isokenkäisten Klubi.

## ITINERARY

DAY 1 - Arrival, transfer from the airport

DAY 2 - The Great Outdoors, snowshoe hiking to the Russian border (4hrs incl picnic lunch)

DAY 3 - A Winter's Day Spent Fishing (2-3 hrs)

DAY 4 - City Lights & Aurora's Delights (day program 6 hrs, night time program 2-4 hrs)

DAY 5 - Kota-cooking & Smoke sauna (day program 2-3 hrs, sauna in the evening)

DAY 6 - Day at leisure, Russian Feast at dinnertime

DAY 7 - Day at leisure

DAY 8 - Departure, transfer to the airport

## DESTINATION & AIRPORT

Airport: Kuusamo (KAO)

Kuusamo is easily accessible from all main airports in Europe, via Helsinki and Riga. Finnair and Blue1 flies from Helsinki several times daily and Air Baltic offers connections via Riga.



## DAY 1 Sunday – WELCOME TO KUUSAMO

Our guide is greeting you at the airport.

Transfer by coach to Isokenkäisten Klubi.

Check-in to the rooms.

**Dinner and information** at the Klubi Restaurant. Already on your arrival evening you will notice that this is a **haven for wellbeing**, the atmosphere is very relaxed, homely and as cozy as at grandmothers house. As a **welcome gift** you will get woolen socks, you can wear them around the house during your stay and of course you will bring them home with you!



## DAY 2 Monday – SNOWSHOEING TO THE RUSSIAN BORDER

Breakfast at the Klubi Restaurant.

Klubi is located very close to the border zone between Russian and Finland. Out in the yard you will find signs telling that the border zone is near. An experienced guide will take you **snowshoe hiking to the Russian border** through the snowy forests and tell you about the peculiar nature of the area, the seasons, etc. The hike is fairly easy and goes through fairly flat terrain. Sirpa and Katja have packed picnic-lunches for us to bring to the hike. In the silent and still forest we have a nice lunch break before continuing our exciting hike.

Back at Klubi you will receive a certificate telling you were at the actual border, the eastern border of the EU.

*Duration: 4 hrs*

Dinner at Klubi Restaurant.

Possibility to enjoy the indoors (electric) sauna at the Klubi.



## DAY 3 Tuesday – A WINTER'S DAY SPENT FISHING

Breakfast at the Klubi Restaurant.

It is time to try your luck in **ice-fishing**. This is the favorite pastime of many locals, when you sit there midst the beautiful scenery, there are **no hurries or worries in the world**. You use a rod and jig leisurely from time to time sipping on some hot berry juice. Our guide is an **experienced fisherman** and during the fishing experience you will get the possibility to use hooks, jigs and nets – and **the catch is prepared by the campfire**. It is a contradictive feeling to watch a **camp fire burn on top of the ice** of a frozen lake...

*Duration: 2-3 hrs*

We return back to Klubi for lunchtime.

Dinner at Klubi Restaurant.

Possibility to enjoy the indoors (electric) sauna at the Klubi.





## DAY 4 Wednesday – CITY LIGHTS & AURORA DELIGHTS

Breakfast at the Klubi Restaurant.

We start off to **explore the area by car** with a local guide. First stop is the busy ski resort of Ruka, we then continue to visit the vivid town of Kuusamo. You will be given time for individual exploring and **a map with the best spots to visit**. And you can ask your guide for some local tips at any time.

Lunch can be enjoyed during the day (not included in the program)

*Duration: 5 hrs*

Dinner at the Klubi Restaurant.

Possibility to enjoy the indoors (electric) sauna at the Klubi.

One of the desired highlights of all Lapland travelers **is to see the Northern Lights**. These amazing color formations that brighten up the northern skies are connected to many myths and stories but also interesting facts about the space. We cannot guarantee you the Northern Lights, but we can offer the best possible conditions and a lot of fun while searching for the Northern Lights.

You take off from Klubi **by kick-sledges**. You get a lantern to provide some light and some **hot chocolate** to enjoy hopefully when watching a beautifully colored sky. We go to a place where no artificial lights are “disturbing” the visibility and where the northern sky is open above us. Our guide tells about the myths and beliefs as we enjoy the hot chocolate and hopefully watch nature's own show.

*Duration: 2-4 hrs (departing from Klubi around 22.00)*



## DAY 5 Thursday – KOTA-COOKING & SMOKE SAUNA

Breakfast at the Klubi Restaurant.

Today we will spend the whole day with Sirpa and Katja. We will explore the area of Klubi a bit, there are many buildings, all in the typical and peculiar style of Klubi. One place of interest is the Kota. **Kota is a Lappish tee-pee style hut, resembling the dwellings of the Sámi people** as they still lived as nomads. In the Kota the central thing is the open fireplace in the middle. Together **we will cook a delicious lunch by the fire** and learn a lot about local cuisine in between. Sirpa is happy to share some of her recipes with you and has written down some for you to bring home. You are able to cook a taste-memory of Lapland and Isokenkäisten Klubi at home!

Salmon is a tasty fish and even tastier it gets when prepared slowly by the fire. Together **we will put a large salmon on the fire** and leave it there to cook and now we know what is **for dinner tonight**... The salmon requires time and careful monitoring, a few strokes of butter and water.

Something else that takes a while to prepare is the smoke sauna





The smoke sauna of Isokenkäisten Klubi is the pride and joy of family Kämäräinen. **The smoke sauna has been awarded with seven stars** and offers aromatic heat and wellbeing for its visitors.

Make sure to watch how the smoke sauna is heated, you will for sure have time, as **it takes up to 8 hours to heat**.

When it is time for sauna, **you will get some turf and honey to pamper your skin** with and **a plunge into the ice hole** will for sure get your adrenalin to rush!

After sauna dinner is served, and the tasty salmon has the leading role in tonight's dinner table.



## DAY 6 Friday – DAY AT LEISURE & RUSSIAN FEAST

Breakfast at the Klubi Restaurant.

Optional safari (min 4 persons):

Today you will transfer by car to Ruka, from there your safari begins. We start off by snowmobiles, after safety and driving instructions. Our goal is a local husky and reindeer farm.

The barking huskies are waiting to get on the track. After the husky ride you will be offered a cup of campfire coffee and a snack (fried sausage). The reindeer with their sledges are waiting for drivers, taking you on a short ride in traditional mode. Afterwards it's time to go back to Ruka by snowmobiles.

*Duration: 4-5 hrs, safari total 3 hrs.*

eur 165 / person (including transfers, commissionable)

Lunch & dinner at Klubi Restaurant.

Possibility to enjoy the indoors (electric) sauna at the Klubi.

The dinner is a true feast tonight. **The Russian style of dining is plentiful, long and enjoyed with vodka!** The Zakuskas play the leading role in the menu. This is exactly how a Russian Feast is served at Restaurant Klubi. Sirpa and Katja will tell you about **life and the food traditions by the border zone**. And alongside the delicious food you will experience the authentic Russian-inspired atmosphere and enjoy a few sips of Vodka.

Russian Feast of 4 courses, starting with a glass of sparkling wine

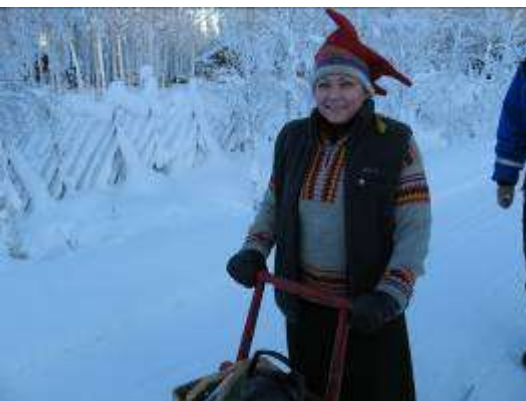
Zakuska plate: wonderful mouth-watering appetizers of fish, meat, vegetables

Borsch soup: red beetroot soup, so tender and full of colour

Stroganoff a la maison: a generous dish of beef

Charlotte Russe: a sweet ending

Coffee / Russian style tea





## DAY 7 Saturday – DAY AT LEISURE

Breakfast, lunch and dinner at the Klubi Restaurant.

Optional safaris (min 4 persons):

**Santa Claus:** The most famous inhabitant of Lapland is without a doubt Santa Claus. Everyone knows that he lives at Korvatunturi, a secret location in the fjells of Lapland. You can meet him at the famous Santa Claus Village at the Arctic Circle daily, but even Santa Claus needs his peace and quiet. From time to time he retreats to his cottage that is located in Kuusamo, very close to Isokenkäisten Klubi. Santa always takes Mrs Claus along to the cottage, as she bakes the best gingerbread cookies and buns in the world... Visit Santa and Mrs Claus at their cottage today! The red cottage is located in a stunning countryside landscape, smoke is coming from the chimney and the great man himself is greeting us as we step in. All the questions you had about Santa, how he travels around the world in one day, how come some rumors say he lives on Greenland and many more are answered today. Mrs Claus will teach you how to bake the gingerbread cookies and buns just the way she does and we will also send a thought home to someone we wish would be here to share this moment with us all by sending them a self made postcard, signed by Santa Claus. Here, the atmosphere is so relaxed that you will have time for a one-on-one chat with Santa...

eur 60 / person (commissionable)

**Winter Rally in Everyman's Class:** Finns are known for their passion for fast cars. Not everyone has the possibility to drive a Ferrari, Porsche or any other fancy car and they would not be very practical in these harsh winter conditions. Rally in Everyman's Class is a beloved motorsport among the Finns. The cars are old, often Starlets or similar, but tuned to be equivalent to rally cars. An icy track with many curves and bends is all we need in addition to the cars. We have a race and the best results end up on the top ten of Klubi – and stay there until someone is better.

eur 120 / person (commissionable)



## DAY 8 Sunday – DEPARTURE

Breakfast at the Klubi Restaurant.

Transfer to the airport

**Thank you for visiting us! Have a safe trip back home and see you next time!**

## PRICES

- all prices are net and include VAT

**eur 1155 / adult in twin or double**

## SUPPLEMENTS

Single room supplement:	eur 30 / night
Bathrobe, rent for the week:	eur 12 / bathrobe
Extra set of towels:	eur 7,50 / set

### Child rates:

Child rates are applicable for children 4-11 years, sharing a room with two full paying adults (extra bed).

Children under 4 yrs free of charge.

Accommodation:	-50% of the given adult rates
Meals:	-40% of the given adult rates
Arrangement:	-40% of the given adult rates

We reserve the right to change prices according to changes in number of travelers, supplied services and unexpected matters.

## AVAILABILITY

15<sup>th</sup> Jan – 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan – 29<sup>th</sup> Jan  
 5<sup>th</sup> Feb – 12<sup>th</sup> Feb  
 19<sup>th</sup> Feb – 26<sup>th</sup> Feb  
 26<sup>th</sup> Feb – 4<sup>th</sup> Mar  
 4<sup>th</sup> Mar – 11<sup>th</sup> Mar

## BOOKINGS&INQUIRES

Please contact [info@stlapland.fi](mailto:info@stlapland.fi)