

DESCRIPTION & OVERVIEW

Destination / resort: Ollila Cottages are located 25 km from the town of Kuusamo, 30 km from the airport of Kuusamo. Ollila Cottages is owned and run by Marjo and Tuomo Ollila, they are the second generation to run the charming little cottage village located on a beautiful peninsula, surrounded by nice lakeside views.

Accommodation: Accommodation is in traditional Finnish cottages. All cottages have a WC, wood heated sauna and shower. There is also a fireplace in all cottages. Bedlinen and final cleaning are included in the package, cleaning and change of bedlinen and towels can be booked on spot for a supplement.

Meals: Breakfast is included in the accommodation price. On the following days full board (day menus) are included: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. On Wednesday and Saturday dinner according to program is included. On arrival Sunday day dinner is included, on departure Sunday only breakfast is included.

There is a possibility to purchase snacks and light meals at the restaurant at anytime.

Activities: All activities that are included in the program are based on Ollila surroundings and local traditions and stories.

There are optional excursions available, they can be sold by the tour operator on before hand or booked on spot by the clients.

Added value: The guests have access to cross country skis, snow shoes and igloo building equipment throughout their stay in Ollila. There are maintained ski tracks in the area; from 500 m up to 25 km. Snowshoeing can be done all around the area and the surrounding forest. There is an open field within the area of Ollila where the guests can build their igloos. This will form an igloo village at the end of the winter. The use of sauna is unlimited. The guests will be shown how to heat the sauna with firewood; firewood is available and included in the package.

MAIN FEATURES & HIGH LIGHTS

Cottage accommodation: traditional, basic and still comfortable.

Local food: all food is locally produced. The fish is caught in the lake, the game, the berries and mushrooms are from the surrounding forest. Potatoes and vegetables are from local produce.

Small groups: all activities will be done in small groups, between 4 – 20 persons.

Real stories: the program is based on and inspired by local traditions, people and the surrounding nature.

Personal service: Marjo and Tuomo Ollila are taking care of their guests personally. Marjo is cooking all the meals and Tuomo is joining the guests on the outdoor activities.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION – ITINERARY

DAY 1, SUNDAY – ARRIVAL

Welcome to Kuusamo Lapland! Our guide is greeting you at the airport.

Before it is time to transfer to Ollila Cottages, you will get kitted with proper winter equipment at the dressing room at the airport. This equipment is to keep for the whole week.

Welcome drink (hot berry juice) and short information at the Ollila Restaurant.

Check-in to cottages, the host will take you to your cottage.

Dinner in Ollila Restaurant.



DAY 2, MONDAY – SNOW IS FUN!

Breakfast at the restaurant.

There are a few things over which the Finns are very proud and one is their skills in **cross country skiing**. Our guide will give you a lesson in skiing with traditional cross country skis. There are well maintained ski tracks in the area and the skis are for your use throughout the week.

Guided skiing: 1 hr

Lunch is served in the Ollila Restaurant.

After the lunch we strap on the snow shoes and continue to explore the area. **Snowshoes** are easy and fun, they take you anywhere in the snowy forests! Also the snowshoes are available for your use throughout the week.

Snowshoe and igloo program: 2-2,5 hrs

Afternoon at your leisure. Dinner in Ollila Restaurant.

You will get an **introduction to heating the sauna and the fireplace**, if needed by the host Tuomo Ollila.



DAY 3, TUESDAY – CALL OF THE REINDEER

Breakfast in the Ollila Restaurant.

We get an introduction into how to **build a simple igloo**. There are easy to handle moulds available and you will be amazed how easily you can build an igloo with your



own hands. Our guide will make sure you get started properly and that the building starts out right and becomes safe. You can return to continue building whenever you wish during your stay in Ollila.

Depending on the prevailing weather conditions, time of the year, etc. the reindeer program will be done either before or after lunch.

You are seated comfortably in a **sledge pulled by a snowmobile**; Tuomo will be driving the snowmobile into the forest... The last bit you will need to walk and keep your voices down... The reindeer are wild animals, half-domesticated, living in the peaceful forest and therefore they are not very fond of loud noises or fast movements. You meet a local reindeer herder, a gentle elderly man. He has a special call, with that he can **attract his reindeer to come to us**. He calls, we wait for a while. You hear bells from afar, soon you see the pristine reindeer emerge from the forest, and they can be ten, forty or even one hundred! It is an amazing sight and a wonderful encounter with nature.

There is lichen at hand, in case you are careful you might be able to **have the reindeer feeding from your hand**.

Tuomo will tell you about the reindeer, the life of a reindeer herder and you have the possibility to ask questions. We enjoy a cup of strong coffee with the reindeer herder before returning by snowmobile sledge to Ollila.

Call of reindeer: 2-2,5 hrs

Lunch and dinner are served at Ollila.

DAY 4, WEDNESDAY – DAY AT LEISURE

Breakfast in the Ollila Restaurant.

This day is yours to spend however you wish! You can chose to snowshoe or cross country ski independently, or continue building your igloo. There are also some organized excursions to attend.

Dinner: **Speciality of the house:** Fisherman's delicacy buffet

A stunning buffet with the best of the lakes! Fresh fish prepared in various ways as starters and main courses. Salads, vegetables, boiled potatoes and of course rieska-bread are complementing the fish dishes. A berry pie is served for desert.



DAY 5, THURSDAY – ICE-SKATING

Breakfast in the Ollila Restaurant.

In the olden days, children had to walk to school in the rural areas of Finland. Even if there was a school in every village, the distance to school could be several kilometers here in the sparsely populated north. In the wintertime the way to school was often shorter as one could trespass lakes and also go by cross country skis to school! Nowadays there are community organized school transports and the transfers to school might be quite long as many village schools are shut down.

Today **Tuomo will take us to his old school**, still and active school in the village. In the summertime the way to school was 4 km, but in the winter time only 800 m, as we can cross the frozen lake. At the school there is an **ice-skating rink** and now it is time to test your talents on ice.

Ice-skating: 3-4 hrs

Lunch at Ollila.

Afternoon at your leisure.

Dinner at Ollila.

DAY 6, FRIDAY – LIFE UNDERNEATH THE ICE

Breakfast in Ollila Restaurant.

The village of Sossonniemi, where Ollila Cottages is located is a **traditional fishermen's village**. There are still active fishermen here, who actually earn their living from fishing. And there are of course many hobby fishermen too, people love their fish freshly caught here.

Fishing in the wintertime is a bit more challenging than in the summer time, but also more fun! Today you will see how **nets are placed and taken up from underneath the ice** and also you will be able to do some **ice-fishing** on your own. We walk out on the ice from the shores of Ollila and hope to return with a catch!

Winter fishing: 2-3 hrs

Lunch in Ollila Restaurant.

Afternoon at your leisure.

Dinner in Ollila Restaurant.



DAY 7, SATURDAY – DAY AT YOUR LEISURE

Breakfast in Ollila Restaurant.

This day is yours to spend however you wish! You can chose to snowshoe or cross country ski independently, or continue building your igloo. There are also some organized excursions to attend.

Dinner is served in the restaurant.



DAY 8, SUNDAY – DEPARTURE

Breakfast in Ollila Restaurant.

Transfer to the airport, leaving your winter equipment there.



Thank you for visiting us! We wish you a good return back home with a lot of inspiring memories from Kuusamo Lapland!



PRICES

- all prices include VAT

This price is valid for min 2 adults / cottage and in combination of the activity and meal package.

Minimum participants / week: 4 adults. All prices are net.

Package: eur 1155 / adult, 2 adults / cabin

SUPPLEMENTS

Single cottage supplement:

eur 30 / night

Extra cleaning during the week:

eur 65 / person

Change of bedlinen and towels:

eur 20 / set

Lunch-pack:

eur 14 / person

BOOKING&INQUIRES

Please contact info@stlapland.fi