

# COUNTRYSIDE EXPEDITION

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Group: min 4 persons

Time of travel: winter 2011/12

Arrangement: program includes accommodation, full board and snowmobiling

## DAY BY DAY OVERVIEW

DAY 1: Arrival in Lapland, snowmobiling from the airport to Oivanki

DAY 2: Snowmobiling to Pohjolan Pirtti

DAY 3: Snowmobiling to Isokenkäisten Klubi

DAY 4: Snowmobiling to Ollila

DAY 5: Snowmobiling to the airport

## DESTINATION AND AIRPORT

Airport: Kuusamo (KAO)

Kuusamo Lapland is an idyllic and beloved area known for first-class services. The biggest attraction is without question the nature, the area is the last in Europe to have such vast untouched wilderness. The area has two border crossing stations from Finland to Russia giving guests the opportunity to explore the Russian Karelia with its special culture and lifestyle.

The tranquility of nature and the atmosphere of countryside, combined with the truly unique scenery of Kuusamo Lapland. Together these ingredients form a recipe for experiences you cannot get elsewhere.

## ACCOMMODATION

During this expedition you will accommodate in cozy lodges, hearty guesthouses and nice cottages - traditional, basic and very comfortable and cozy. On one of the nights you are offered the possibility to overnight in an igloo.

## MAIN FEATURES & HIGH-LIGHTS

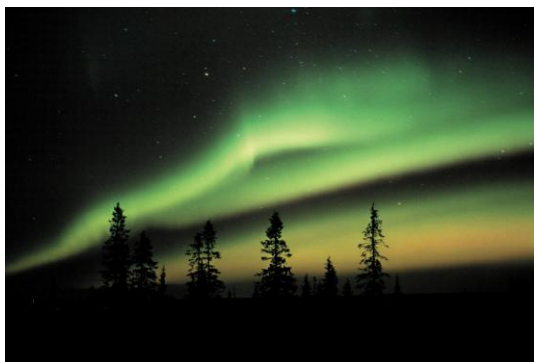
**Local food:** all food is locally home-made and the bread is home baked. For the safari days you will get a lunch pack with you and lunch is enjoyed by a camp fire every day.

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

**Personal service:** the hosts and hostesses are attending to their guests personally; you are always greeted with a smile.

**Sauna:** you have the possibility to use the electric saunas every evening, in Ollila the cottages have wood heated saunas. In Isokenkäisten Klubi there is a possibility to use the smoke sauna and in Pohjolan Pirtti the countryside sauna (see optional services).

**Igloo overnight:** in case you are looking for an extra thrill, spend a night in an igloo at Pohjolan Pirtti (see optional services).



## DAY 1- WELCOME TO KUUSAMO LAPLAND!

20:45 Finnair is arriving in Kuusamo (pls, confirm your flight schedule)

Our guide is greeting you at the airport, you will get equipped there and your snowmobiles are ready and waiting outside! Let go of your everyday and enjoy the dark forest landscape – and keep an eye out for the Northern Lights!

*Duration of the snowmobiling: 1 hr*



On arrival in Oivanki, we have a late dinner before checking in to Pikku-Junga lodge (4 bedrooms, each for 2 persons)

## DAY 2 – COUNTRYSIDE LANDSCAPES

Breakfast in Oivanki.

We aim at starting around 11.00, so you can sleep in a bit.

Today we will be driving in beautiful countryside landscapes towards Pohjolan Pirtti, an old country house with an interesting history. Lunch is enjoyed en route, by a camp fire.

*Duration of the snowmobiling: 4 hrs*



At Pohjola you are accommodating in guesthouse rooms (2-4 persons / room) with shared facilities. There is the possibility to spend this night in an igloo instead of a regular room!

Dinner is served in the main room of this extraordinary countryside house. Your guide and the host Matti, will for sure tell you about Pohjola and the very interesting history of the estate.



## DAY 3 - TO THE BORDERZONE

Breakfast in Pohjola.

We are starting at 10.00 with the goal of reaching Isokenkäisten Klubi by the Russian border by tonight. The border to Russia is well guarded and trespassing is allowed only with a visa. We will conquer Kuntivaara Hill by snowmobiles and look over to the Russian side while having lunch up on top of the hill. Amazing views - make sure to have your camera close by! We will also make a stop at a village shop, a rarity in today's countryside. There used to be this kind of shops in every village in the olden days, but urbanization and supermarkets have extinguished the livelihood for this kind of shops.



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At the village shop you will find everything: from milk to tools, even gasoline is sold here! We enjoy the feeling and have a cup of warming coffee, as this functions as a kind of cafeteria too!

*Duration of the snowmobiling: 5-6 hrs incl stops and visits*

In the evening we arrive at Isokenkäisten Klubi. A hearty guesthouse kept by Sirpa and Katja, the lovely sisters of the eastern border. After the warm welcome, you can relax for a while in the lounge, where you find a lot of interesting books on the area and the nature of the north.

Dinner is served in the restaurant of Isokenkäisten Klubi. You can enjoy the pampering heat of the sauna in the main building before going to bed, a good night's sleep is guaranteed!



### DAY 4 – VISITING THE FISHERMAN'S VILLAGE

Breakfast at Isokenkäisten Klubi.

Time to hop on the snowmobiles again! Today we will for sure be the only people on the route – we are driving on well maintained private routes along the border to the south. Our goal is a fisherman's village called Sossonniemi and the cozy cottages of Family Ollila. Lunch is enjoyed en route by a camp fire.

*Duration of the snowmobiling: 4-5 hrs*

In Ollila we check in to the cottages and the guide as well as Tuomo Ollila will show how to heat the wood heated sauna! We highly recommend everyone to try out the soft and pampering heat of a real wood heated sauna tonight.

Dinner is served in the cozy restaurant. Tuomo and Marjo are glad to share the stories of Ollila and the fisherman's village with you.



### DAY 5 – TO THE AIRPORT

Breakfast at Ollila. We will head for the airport, passing yet one more stunningly beautiful place, Muovaara Hill. The trees are like sculptures and once more before leaving Lapland, you are able to listen to the silence... Make sure to bring some of this peace of mind with you back home. Departure by Finnair at 14:00

*Duration of the snowmobiling: 2 hrs*

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



# COUNTRYSIDE EXPEDITION PRICES

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- all prices are net and include VAT

- prices are quoted per person, based on a group of min 4 PAX accommodating in double / twin rooms

Price: eur 1364 / adult

## Includes:

Winter equipment and guided snowmobiling program as described

Full board

Accommodation in twin / dbl

## Optional services & supplements:

Accommodation in an igloo: eur 65 / person in twin igloos

- possible at Pohjolan Pirtti

- this is a supplement to the offered accommodation in the guesthouse.

- access to the sauna building is included in the igloo overnight.

Smoke sauna at Isokenkäisten Klubi: eur 385 / group

Countryside saunas and Hot Pool at Pohjolan Pirtti: eur 250 / group

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

## WHAT TO BRING?

Please, pack light for this trip. You will be provided winter equipment (overalls, boots, woolen socks, balaclavas, gloves) at the airport and will wear your own clothes underneath; this is what you are wearing during the snowmobiling. There is no need to dress up at night, comfortable everyday clothes are fine. The luggage is transported in a sledge after the guides snowmobile; you might also be wearing a small rucksack while driving.

## SNOWMOBILING

According to Finnish law, all drivers of snowmobiles have to possess a valid driver's license and be at least 18 years of age. The driving routes are regarded as official roads in the wintertime and normal traffic rules apply (right sided traffic). There is 0 tolerance for alcohol in Finland and the routes are regularly guarded by police.

On the expedition all guests will drive single snowmobiles and the guide will have a small sledge for luggage.

All snowmobiles and drivers are fully insured, there is a self-liability of maximum eur 650 / snowmobile for damages caused by the driver.

Our guides are trained in health and safety and will give instructions on driving to the guests before start.

Use of helmet is obligatory.

Our guides have the right to discontinue a safari / expedition in case one of the guests is acting harmfully or threatening to his / her own safety as well as the safety of others.

## BOOKINGS & INQUIRES

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