

Group:	min 5 persons (1-4 persons on request)
Time of travel:	Jan-March 2012
Arrangement:	offer includes snowmobiling, accommodation, full board and program as mentioned

TWO WORLDS EXPEDITION

This program includes only the snowmobile excursion from Ruka-Kuusamo. We will depart from Ruka-Kuusamo at mid-day on Day 1. It is recommendable that guests arrive in Ruka-Kuusamo on the previous day.

We will return to Ruka-Kuusamo late on Day 2 and we recommend to book accommodation for at least one night after the excursion to Russia.

ACCOMMODATION IN RUKA-KUUSAMO (FOR EXTRA NIGHTS)

Rukan Salonki Chalets: from eur 171 / night / chalet

Rukan Salonki Igloos: eur 120 / person / night in twin igloo
eur 150 / person / night in single igloo

Hotel Rukahovi: 11.1. - 10.2.: eur 46 / person in twin standard room (s2)
11.2.- 20.4.: eur 65 / person in twin, standard room (s1)

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Prices are quoted / one-way transfer:

Airport-Ruka: 1 - 7 persons: eur 70,00 / car

PROGRAMMES IN KUUSAMO

When staying in Ruka Kuusamo you can choose from the programs in our Winter Fun! and Countryside Restaurants offering. Guests staying at Rukan Salonki will enjoy a free pick-up service for our safaris starting from the safari house in Ruka.

DAY BY DAY

DAY 1: Car transfer to the border and snowmobile excursion through the landscapes and villages.

DAY 2: Snowmobiling back to Ruka-Kuusamo or continuing to explore Russian Karelia

DAY 3: (Optional) Snowmobiling back to Ruka-Kuusamo

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

In Russia we accommodate in a small hotel, standard is very simple. The rooms have en suite toilet and shower. For possible extra nights in Ruka-Kuusamo you can choose from accommodation in hotels or chalets.

MAIN FEATURES OF THE EXPEDITION

Ruka-Kuusamo as well as Russian Karelia are located on the largest wilderness areas of Europe. Arctic climate, scarce population and in some places untouched wilderness create the setting for our expedition.

The nature is truly wild in Russian Karelia, mostly the same kind of nature that you see in Ruka Kuusamo, but untouched for decades. Trees are taller and older; forests are denser and only small gravel roads criss-cross the landscape.

It can be said that the border between Finland and Russia represents a time line. On the Russian side time seems to have been standing still for at least 50 years. Just on the other side of the border of Finland and EU a totally different world meets us. It is like we have taken a step back in time some 50 years. This region is developing fairly fast and catching up with the modern western world, but still now, you will feel the strong contrast of two worlds when you cross the border.

Russian Karelia has a culture differing totally from Europe. We visit Topi and Mari in their home for afternoon tea and get a good impression of the warm hearted mentality that is hard to spot when travelling through the rough villages. Standard of life and values are different here. The people live in conditions and of livelihoods that we in EU knew long ago. Communities are strong and commercialization has not gotten its hold of the people here yet. Traditions, folklore singing and dancing are appreciated and rated high among the locals. The pre-communism romanticism can be vaguely felt in the folklore culture; one should see Russian Karelia with curiosity and expect authenticity. Then you will have a lovely encounter with a time gone by.

The contrast between Finland, which is already exotic for many international travelers and Russian Karelia is tangible. This trip is more than just sightseeing; it is an expedition to a time that the western world has forgotten. A visit to Russian Karelia will not leave anyone untouched.

TWO WORLDS EXPEDITION



DAY 1 – CROSSING THE BORDER

Less than 100 km from the modern ski centre of Ruka or the little town Kuusamo lies completely different world. Genuine Russian Karelia.

You will not only meet another way of life, but great peace of nature. Nature that has been untouched for decades.

Tailor your expedition:

You can choose to do your expedition all by snowmobiles or to be transferred to the border station by car and continue from there by snowmobiles. Further you can choose to explore Russian Karelia for 2 or 3 days. In case you choose the 3 days expedition, a transfer by car to and from the border is necessary.

Option 1) Transfer by car around midday from Ruka or Kuusamo to the border station, where formalities are taken care of. After crossing the border, we change to the snowmobiles and you will get instructions on driving and safety. Crossing the border on snowmobiles.

Option 2) Starting by snowmobiles in the morning from Ruka-Kuusamo, we start with instructions on driving and safety and drive to the border station. We stop for lunch before formalities at the border station and crossing the border on snowmobiles.

There is no difference in price between option 1 and 2. We let guests decide based on their driving capabilities and physical condition.

Snowmobile drive to Suvanto village, where we have afternoon tea at Topi's home.

Drive continues to Pääjärvi settlement. Accommodation and sauna at Hotel Solo. Dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY 2 – FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

Breakfast at the hotel.

Snowmobiling to Sohjana village where we join in on a morning dance party with the locals at their village cultural house. This is not a performance; we are invited to join in on the dancing that the locals amuse themselves with.



Russian lunch, Borch-soup is served and shared after the dance.

Option 1) Back to Finland, two day tour: Snowmobile drive continues to Laitasalmi via border zone watch tower. Coffee break outdoors at our winter camp, from where the drive continues to the Finnish border.

Bus transfer back to Ruka or Kuusamo from the border or snowmobiling all the way to Ruka-Kuusamo.

Option 2) One more day in Russia, three day tour: Expedition continues to Pääjärvi where dinner in a local restaurant, sauna and accommodation in Hotel Solo.

DAY 3 – EXPLORING THE TRUE WILDS

Breakfast at the hotel. We will make our way towards Finland through the true wilderness, untouched by man for centuries.

On our way we will stop for ice-fishing and enjoy lunch at our outdoor camp.

Bus transfer back to Ruka or Kuusamo from the border or snowmobiling all the way to Ruka-Kuusamo.

PRICES

- prices are net and include VAT
- prices are based on min 5 PAX accommodating in double / twin rooms

2 days expedition: eur 790 / person

3 days expedition: eur 980 / person

Price includes:

- single driving on snowmobiles
- fuel and insurances
- guiding
- full board
- accommodation in Russia

Driving distance: when transfer by car to the border station: 170 km
when starting on snowmobiles already from Ruka-Kuusamo: 260 km

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

BOOKINGS&INQUIRES

Please contact info@stlapland.fi