Lapland Winter Trail

7 days / 6 nights / 3 days of horse riding

Nearest airport: Rovaniemi

Maximum rider weight: 95 kg



Ride through the snow-covered forests of Finnish Lapland on local horses, with the chance to admire the Northern Lights from the saddle.

Discover the magic of Lapland in winter on this week-long adventure, based at a family-run ranch in the countryside near Rovaniemi. Ride local horses through silent, snow-covered forests and magnificent Arctic landscapes, including an unforgettable evening ride beneath the dark northern sky in search of the Northern Lights.

Away from the saddle, experience some of Lapland's traditional winter activities, such as a horse-drawn sleigh ride through the forest, snowshoeing and relaxing in a Finnish sauna.

You will also have a day to explore Rovaniemi and the famous Santa Claus Village before returning to the peace and tranquillity of the ranch. With small groups and horses matched to each rider's level and experience, this winter riding holiday is suitable for a range of riding abilities.

Highlights

- Ride through snow-covered forests on local horses.
- Search for the Northern Lights on an evening horseback ride.
- Stay at a family-run ranch in the heart of Finnish Lapland.
- Enjoy a traditional horse-drawn sleigh ride.
- Explore winter landscapes on snowshoes.
- Discover Rovaniemi and the famous Santa Claus Village.
- Unwind with an evening in a traditional Finnish sauna.

What makes Lapland so special?

Lapland is a place of wide-open spaces, tranquillity and a genuine connection with nature.

- Vast forests and open landscapes.
- Fresh air and profound silence.
- Long, light-filled summer days, with the midnight sun from May to early August.
- A strong and vibrant equestrian culture.

Exploring Lapland on horseback allows you to experience nature without disturbing it. You hear the wind, the rhythm of the horses' hooves and the sounds of the forest. Many travellers say it is the first time in a long while that they have truly felt relaxed.

Riding level and fitness

An advanced riding level is required for this type of riding holiday. Riders must be comfortable and confident at all three paces — walk, trot and canter — when riding outdoors and across varied terrain.

Days in the saddle can be long, lasting 4–6 hours, and may include sustained faster paces. A secure seat, good balance and a reasonable level of physical fitness and stamina are therefore essential. You will be expected to manage your horse independently in natural environments, sometimes far from any facilities.

This holiday is not suitable for beginners or occasional riders. It is designed for experienced riders who want to make the most of the scenery and enjoy the lively pace of the trail rides.

The archery sessions are specifically designed for beginners and people who have never tried archery before. The focus is on concentration, posture and enjoyment rather than performance or competition. No previous experience is required.

Maximum rider weight: 95 kg.

Group and guides

At Kuulas Ranch, the team is united by a shared love of nature, animals and Lapland's traditions, with a strong commitment to animal welfare and environmental care.

Suvi and Valtteri, the founders of Kuulas Ranch, created this special place with passion, inspired by Finland's heritage and the Arctic wilderness.

Their experienced and welcoming team of guides will look after your safety and the quality of your experience, sharing their passion for Lapland along the way.

Group size: 1–6 riders.

The horses

The Finnhorse is the only horse breed native to Finland and a true national symbol. Hardy, versatile and reliable, it is ideally suited to the sometimes demanding conditions of the northern climate.

Historically used for agricultural and forestry work, the Finnhorse has become an excellent leisure and trail-riding horse. It is known for its calm temperament, kind nature and willingness to cooperate, making it a wonderful partner for experienced riders and those seeking an authentic connection with their horse.

Comfortable and sure-footed, the Finnhorse has pleasant paces and excellent stamina, making it well suited to long rides through nature. Its sure-footedness and ability to handle varied terrain make it an ideal companion for exploring Lapland's vast landscapes.

Riding a Finnhorse is an opportunity to discover a breed deeply connected to Finnish culture and enjoy an experience that is both authentic and relaxing.

Accommodation and meals

During your riding holiday, you will stay in a traditional wooden building known as a luhtiaitta, with comfortable rooms for one or two people. The rooms are simple but thoughtfully furnished, cosy and full of character.

- Shared toilets and showers.
- Views over the stable yard, with the possibility of seeing the Northern Lights from late August to April.
- A peaceful setting surrounded by nature.

Loimu Restaurant

All meals are included in the holiday price and served at the wooden Loimu Restaurant. The package includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. The restaurant is fully licensed, but drinks are not included.

Traditional Lappish dinner

Experience the spirit of Lapland with a traditional Lappish dinner around the fire. This multi-course meal brings together authentic flavours, age-old recipes and stories shared beside the fire.

You can look forward to:

- Seasonal dishes inspired by local produce.
- Rich northern flavours, including game, fish and forest herbs.
- A warm, welcoming atmosphere by the fire, hosted by friendly local people.

Itinerary

Day 1 – Arrival

Transfer from Rovaniemi to Kuulas Ranch. Settle in and enjoy some free time to relax and experience the peace and tranquillity of the ranch.

Day 2 – Winter horseback ride and Lappish dinner

Enjoy a guided two-hour ride through the snow-covered landscapes, giving you the opportunity to get to know the Finnhorses and discover the surrounding countryside.

In the evening, enjoy a tasting menu showcasing the flavours of Lapland, featuring local specialities and produce.

Day 3 – Horse-drawn sleigh ride and snowshoeing

The day begins with a traditional horse-drawn sleigh ride through the winter forest.

Later, explore the landscape on snowshoes and appreciate the peaceful beauty of Lapland's natural surroundings.

Day 4 – Visit to Rovaniemi

Spend the day exploring Rovaniemi city centre or Santa Claus Village. Transfers to the city are included, allowing you to discover some of Lapland's most famous attractions.

Day 5 – Horse riding activity and Northern Lights ride

Depending on the group and weather conditions, enjoy another horse-related activity during the day.

In the evening, embark on a two-hour horseback ride in search of the Northern Lights, offering a unique experience beneath the Arctic night sky.

Day 6 – Horseback ride and sauna evening

Enjoy a final two-hour horseback ride through the winter forest.

In the evening, unwind in a traditional Finnish sauna.

Day 7 – Departure

Enjoy breakfast before checking out of the ranch and transferring back to Rovaniemi.

International flights and airport transfers

Please do not book flights or train tickets until you have received a booking confirmation email from SaddleTravel.fr.

- Please arrive at Rovaniemi Airport at any time on Day 1.
- The ranch is approximately 40 minutes from Rovaniemi city centre and 30 minutes from Luosto.
- You will need your own car, as no public transport is available.
- We can also help arrange private transfers on request, at a cost of €40 per person return.
- Please book your return flight for after breakfast on the final day.

Included in the price

- 6 nights' accommodation.
- Full board: breakfast, lunch and dinner (drinks not included).
- Transfers from Rovaniemi Airport or train station.
- Guided horseback rides and equestrian activities.
- Horse-drawn sleigh ride.
- Horseback ride in search of the Northern Lights.
- Snowshoeing excursion.
- Visit to Rovaniemi city centre / Santa Claus Village, including transfers.
- Traditional Finnish sauna evening.
- Small-group holiday experience.
- Return transfers from Rovaniemi city centre.

Not included in the price

- Flights.
- Insurance.
- Drinks and alcoholic beverages.
- Transfers from Rovaniemi: €40 per person return.
- Pet: €15 per stay.
- Private mounted archery session: €120.
- Private trick-riding session: €120.
- Horse photography session: €280.

What to pack

- Riding boots or sturdy shoes with a small heel.
- Comfortable, warm outdoor clothing suitable for winter.
- Several layers of warm clothing.
- Gloves suitable for horse riding.
- Personal medication.
- Travel insurance.

A riding helmet can be provided if you are unable to bring your own.

Health

For advice on travelling safely abroad, please visit the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs website:

Consult your doctor at least eight weeks before departure so they can offer advice and, if necessary, arrange any vaccinations appropriate to your age and state of health.

Travel documents

French travellers holding a valid French national identity card or individual passport are exempt from visa requirements for stays of up to 90 days. They must have a passport valid for three months beyond their intended return date.

It is advisable to ensure, particularly when crossing the border by road, that the passport has been correctly stamped by the authorities and includes the date of entry into Bosnia and Herzegovina. Otherwise, a fine payable on the spot may be imposed when leaving the country. If your passport expires during your stay, you will be unable to leave the country.

For further information, please visit:

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents.

Currency and tipping

The currency used in Finnish Lapland is the euro (€). Finland has been a member of the European Union since 1995 and the eurozone since 1999, having replaced its national currency with the euro.

Tips are appreciated but entirely at your discretion.

Cancellation policy

Payment and cancellation terms

Your holiday is confirmed with a non-refundable 20% deposit.

The remaining balance is due 56 days before departure.

The original cancellation terms provided are as follows:

- 42 days or more before departure: 50% refund.
- 30 days or more before departure: 30% refund.
- Less than 30 days before departure: No refund.

Book with confidence – COVID guarantee

If the riding operator closes or you are unable to travel due to lockdown restrictions:

1. Your deposit will be reissued as a booking voucher that can be used at any time.
2. Any balance payments will be refunded in full within one week of the scheduled departure date.

Insurance

All SaddleTravel.fr clients must have travel insurance that covers horse riding and holiday cancellation. Proof of insurance will be required during the booking process.

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