## MAGIC OF THE WHITE NIGHTS

WID taiga

Stopover in Finland

### WILDERNESS, FORESTS AND ENCHANTING MUSIC LEAD YOU BACK TO NATURE

Kuhmo and Suomussalmi are sparsely populated municipalities in eastern Finland, next to the Russian border. The region is known for its unspoiled virgin lands, large forests and numerous lakes. The new Hossa National Park was opened as part of the celebrations marking Finland's 100 years of independence in 2017. Blue waters and colourful wildflowers welcome visitors who often indulge in the rural joys of fishing and picking wild berries and mushrooms. Allow yourself to become absorbed into the cool and slow-paced Finnish lifestyle! Individual travellers, couples, families and groups are all invited to linger here a bit longer. It is just a one-hour flight from Helsinki to our neighbouring Kajaani and Kuusamo airports.

### ROMANTIC SOLITUDE AND WELLBEING IN THE WILDERNESS

Sneak away from the hustle and bustle to a guesthouse and enjoy the white nights of summer. Take your loved one by the hand and wander in the fresh cool air, experiencing the harmony and peace. Make your own meals and sit around a campfire, take a rowing boat ride with your partner, marvel at the sunrise and sunset... Take a walk in the woods and pick wild bilberries or forest mushrooms along the footpath. If it is adventure you seek rather than just peaceful comfort in natural surroundings, there are numerous outdoor activities waiting for you: hiking, roaming in the wilderness with a husky team, canoeing across a crystal clear lake to a quiet island, or camping in the wild and barbecuing on a campfire. Naturally, you will have to try the authentic Finnish sauna and plunge into a glassy lake after bathing in the heat. This simple joy will make you feel totally and naturally refreshed.

### **FARMHOUSE HOLIDAYS**

Finland's summer is like a piece of bewitching music: magical midnight sun, vast woodlands, meandering lakes and rivers, and wilderness covered with flowers. Here, you can also choose to stay in a husky or horse farm, and you will be an honoured guest even if you are the only visitor. Huskies and horses, fresh lake water and coniferous forests will surround you. Strolling in a forest, boating on a lake, picking berries and cooking pie from those, fishing, barbecuing, or just simply bathing in the sauna will make you rediscover the essential joy of being united with Mother Earth!

### HEAVENLY MUSIC IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WILDERNESS

Every year, for two weeks in July, Kuhmo hosts Finland's oldest chamber music festival. With 35,000 concert visits annually, almost 50 years old Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival is Finland's biggest festival in its genre. There are 4-5 concerts daily from morning to late at night, amounting to around 70 concerts in a fortnight. The Kuhmo festival is one of the world's foremost chamber music festivals with some 150 top musicians from all over the world come to perform at the festival. Sommelo Ethno Music Festival has a long term co-operation with Japanese friends of kantele.

#### DANCE WITH THE BEARS

The region along the Russian-Finnish border comprise mostly unspoiled wilderness. This land is a haven for wild wolves, brown bears, wolverines, Ural owls, golden eagles, white-tailed eagles and extremely rare wild forest reindeer. Local nature photographers will teach you the secrets of wildlife and landscape photography, and also how to review and improve your work. In autumn season there is the possibility to try to catch every photographers dream, wild brown bear under the Northern Lights!













### **ESCAPE TO THE NATURE**

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### MYSTERY OF HIGH LATITUDE - KINGDOM OF SNOW

Located at the 65th parallel north, the Kuhmo and Suomussalmi municipalities are covered with snow for almost seven months each year. During winter, you can wonder at brightly shining stars, the mysterious aurora borealis, and the frosty snowy wilderness; you can whizz on husky and reindeer sleigh rides, warm up in the Finnish sauna and taste delicious game dishes... Take your time to enjoy this snow-white world that welcomes individual travellers, couples, families and tour groups!

### WINTER ADVENTURE FOR SCHOOL GROUPS OR STUDENTS

When covered by snow, Wild Taiga, the remote north-eastern forest of Finland, turns into an excellent place for a winter adventure where students will learn traditional wilderness skills, such as snow-shelter building and ice-fishing. Students will also set off on excursions on snowshoes and cross-country skis through snow-white forests and along frozen lakes. On a visit to a local farm they will see reindeers and learn about modern reindeer husbandry. A bit of adventure – but not too much. The activities are not too physically demanding and they can be adapted to meet each group's needs. The duration of the tour is freely adjustable.

### CHASING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Amid the frosty wilderness on an iced lake, you can watch the moon, the starry sky and, if you are lucky, even the aurora borealis. In an instant, the evening sky may become your private theatre when the dazzling aurora borealis illuminates the sky. Based on the weather forecast, we will find you the best time to watch this awe-inspiring display. Don't forget to bring your camera to capture these lively shimmering lights of the northern sky. Aurora season starts already in the end of August and then you are able to combine wildlife photography to your holiday.

### FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE OF A WINTER WONDERLAND

When you go out in winter, you will be greeted by cool fresh air that is great for your spirit. If you stay in a traditional Finnish cottage, skiing is a useful skill, but you may also walk on snow shoes in the white wilderness, stretching before you as far as the eye can see. You can build a snow castle, visit a local husky farm and drive a dog sledge like a majestic commander. By wearing special protective clothing, you can float down ice-cold rapids, just like lying on a magical bed. When night falls, it's time for another sauna bath. These Finnish winter joys are all one-of-a-kind experiences.

### WINTER FAIRY TALES FOR COUPLES / FOR LADIES ONLY

Comfy hotels offer a variety of leisure activities for your winter holiday: winter scenery, snow-shoe walking in the wilderness, sledge rides with blue-eyed huskies. Cross-country skiing, followed by speedy snowmobiling, is a great way to let off some steam. In the evening, you return to a cosy cottage or hotel room and can enjoy a wonderful aroma spa along with a traditional sauna.

### EXTRAORDINARY NEW YEAR CELEBRATION NOT FAR FROM THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

Are you looking for something fresh, rustic, and far away from the hustle and bustle of the city? Frosty coniferous forests and iced lakes make your New Year exceptional. Finland is an ideal place for a family or a couple of lovebirds to spend the festive season. Moreover, Santa Claus, who strives to learn your language, will make your day unforgettable. On New Year's Eve, we invite you to a special dinner with fireworks. Welcome to Finland, come and celebrate your extraordinary New Year here!













