



## Double New Year in Lapland

30 December 2018 – 4 January 2019

(5 nights – max 15 participants)

*A cultural and photographic tour in the heart of the Arctic and Lapland*

*Seeking for the northern lights or aurora borealis*

English-speaking photography lead: Francesca Dani: <http://www.francescadani.com/>



Imagine a faraway place, where nights brighten up with colours like in the old legendary tales, and the spirits that come from the hidden world talk to you. This place exists: it's called Lapland.

Choose **LappOne – The Five Senses Of Lapland** and live through unique emotions in the Heart of Lapland. This land is rich in culture, history, traditions and untouched landscapes, easy to reach, yet far from mass tourism destinations. With a bit of luck, you can also see the mystical northern lights dance above your head, in a scenery you will never forget!

**DATES:** 30 Dec 2018 – 4 Jan 2019

**LODGING:** mini-apartments with three double rooms, shared or private WC/shower, kitchenette

**MEALS:** continental buffet breakfast and dinner are included every day

**ACTIVITIES:** husky safari, day on ice, sauna and hot tub, fishermen village visit, snowmobile safari (optional)

**SUITABLE FOR:** everyone, including children, in good physical shape and without walking impairments

**WINTER CLOTHING:** included, available throughout the whole tour

**CLIMATE:** Arctic, ranging from cold and humid to very cold and dry. Temperature extremes: 0C to -40C.

**TRANSFERS:** private bus

**PHOTOGRAPHY LEAD:** Francesca Dani: <http://www.francescadani.com/>

**DISTANCE COVERED:** around 1000 km

**COUNTRIES:** Finland, Sweden

**ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AIRPORT:** Luleå (LLA), Sweden

**GROUP SIZE:** up to 15 people



## Tour programme

[30 Dec 2018]

### Welcome to Lapland!

We welcome you at the airport, and drive to your **cottage**, located in **Kukkolankoski**, close to the Tornio river shore. You will stay in mini-apartments with three double rooms, shared or public WC (one-room apartments are also available with supplement). Every apartment has a relax area and kitchenette. Upon arrival or on the way we will serve you a typical dinner. Meanwhile, we will go through the travel programme and answer all your questions. After dinner, we will try on your **Arctic clothes** (boots, socks and overalls are included in the price) and upon the right conditions, we will go out and **chase the northern lights**, guided by Francesca Dani.

[31 Dec 2018]

### Day on ice and double New Year!

Breakfast. During the morning we will reach the partly **frozen Tornio River**, where we find a suitable place for our **day on the ice**. We will start with *pilkki* (fishing through a hole in the ice), still a favourite pastime for locals in the winter. While we wait for your prey, we will tell you how this fishing method has been essential for survival in the past. Those of you who feel like it can **dip into the ice-cold water** (+4 C), and test on yourself how this practice helps you feel less cold. After a few hours on the ice, you will be able to relax in the **sauna** or in our **hot tub**. Do not forget your swimsuit!

Your New Year **buffet dinner** will be served in the restaurant (alcohol is not included – bring your own!)

After that, your double new year starts: the time difference between the two shores of the river makes it possible to **celebrate New Year twice**, effectively going back in time!

In case of cloudy skies, we may join the official party of the TornioHaparanda city, 15 km away. In case of clear skies, we will try and chase the northern lights in the surrounding of the cottage, away from light pollution.





[1 Jan 2019]

## Fishermen and snowmobile

After breakfast, it's time for adrenaline! We will jump on our **snowmobiles** in a tour lasting around 2h (*optional activity, available upon supplement*). We may have to transfer to Sweden (40 mins) for the snowmobile activity, depending on the ice conditions. Every snowmobile has a driver and a passenger – we will stop midway and change driver. Later on, we will visit the **old Kukkola village**, which has been perfectly preserved till today. Museum buildings sit right next to the houses where locals still live, in an atmosphere that brings you back in time.



In Kukkola we will guide you through the **fish museum**, the old mill and the fire house, where you will learn how to **make bread** in the traditional Lappish way.

There will be ample time for **photo sessions** in the picturesque surroundings of the village (the amazing **Kukkola rapids** flow nearby). **Dinner** will be served in the restaurant, where Margit Spolander, a best-selling author of local recipe books, will treat you with **local delicacies**. Later on, we get back to Finland and hunt the northern lights.

[2 Jan 2019]

## Huskies

After a hearty breakfast, we reach Kivalot for a **Siberian husky sled safari**. A fantastic experience amidst untouched **wilderness**, surrounded by the world's sweetest dogs. Upon arrival we meet **Ulla**, the senior musher, and her staff. The dogs will howl and get excited when they see you: don't worry, as they are only impatient to get started!

After a short security briefing, we will start a fairy-tale journey in the middle of the old Kivalo forest. The safari may cover up to 15 km, depending on snow and ice condition and temperature (dogs perform better with frigid temperatures). At the end, we gather in the old **Lappish tent** (called kota) where you are offered a hot drink and can talk to Ulla about life in the Arctic.

Given the remote location of the husky farm, no lunch options are available close by. In the afternoon we transfer (30 mins) to the city of Kemi, the largest in Sea Lapland. You can visit the old port as well as the snowcastle area, whereby, in case of good sea ice conditions, we will take a walk on the frozen sea – a unique experience!

A typical dinner is served nearby, after which we return to Kukkolankoski for our daily aurora hunt.



[3 Jan 2019]

### Arctic landscapes and shaman rituals

After breakfast, we get on our bus and start a fabulous tour along the Tornio River Valley. We will learn about the centuries-old culture of the area, which has its own language and is distinctively separate from the rest of Lapland. We climb up to the Aavasaksa hill and enjoy the majestic views on the endless forest below. We will stop at Juoksenki, the village that is crossed by the Arctic Circle, and later on visit a local souvenir factory, where the "kuksa" cups are made. You can make your own and buy it – it will be yours for life. The Korkeaniemi family runs the adjacent shop and will offer us a snack.

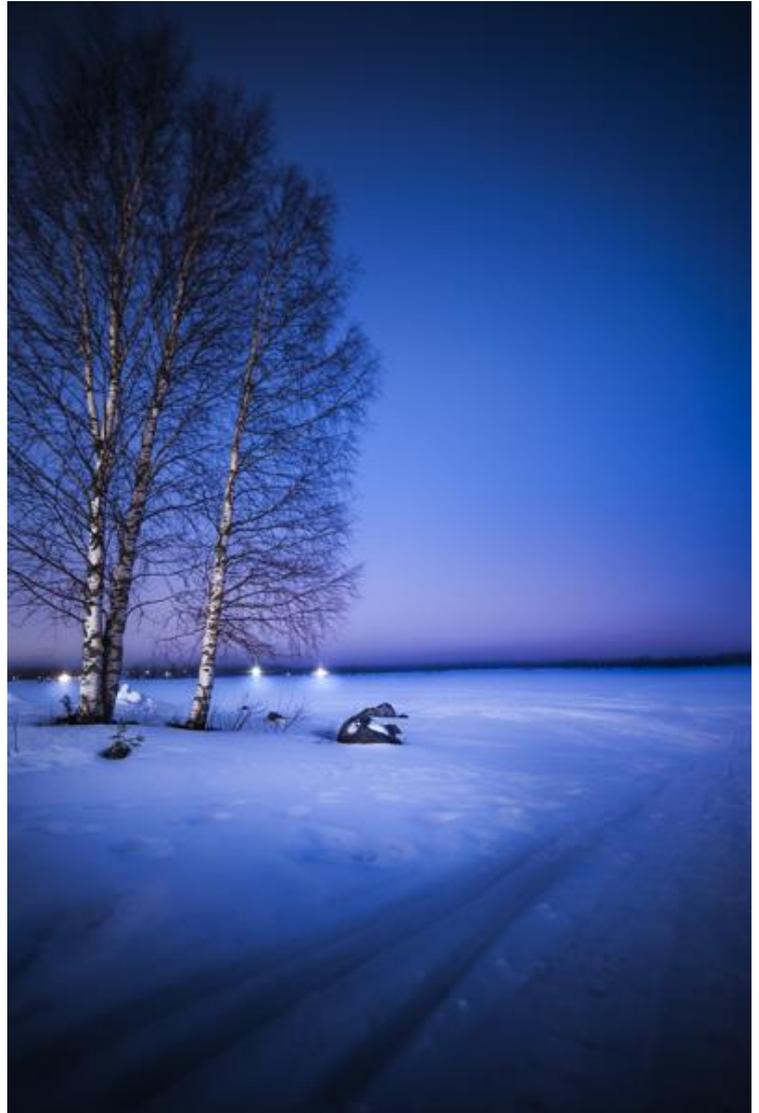
Later on, we will get to meet a local shaman. After gathering around the fire, we will go through a ritual whereby the energy from inside is conveyed towards reality. An emotional and positive experience – the cherry on the cake for your Lapland holiday!

The final dinner is served in the Hulkoffgården farm restaurant, specialized in locally grown products and meat. We will then head back home and look for the northern lights one last time.

[4 Jan 2019]

### Goodbye Lapland!

Breakfast. Transfer in a private vehicle to the Luleå airport. End of the tour.



### Price (flights excluded): €1990 (adults)

Child discount: 4-11 years 50%, 0-3 years free.

Supplement for two-person apartment: double use €190, single use €290.

Single supplement in 3-room apartment: €190.

#### Optional activity: snowmobile.

(3h, around 15-25 km depending on snow conditions, in countryside trails, or upon frozen rivers or lakes)

- 2 persons shared: €169

- 1 persons (single drive): €249

Includes fuel, insurance, helmet and balaclava. Requires good physical shape.



**The price includes:**

- lodging as described
- breakfast and dinner every day
- coffee and tea at all included meals
- the listed activities (snowmobile upon supplement)
- all transfers in private bus
- entrance tickets to the listed attractions
- rental arctic clothes as described
- English-speaking photography lead during the whole tour

**The price does not include:**

- return flights to Lapland (we can purchase them for you upon payment of a €20 fee)
- alcoholic and soft drinks
- lunches
- extras
- medical and luggage insurance
- all that is not explicitly mentioned in the programme

**Northern lights are an unpredictable natural phenomenon.** *Visibility cannot be guaranteed. The low light pollution in the area maximises the probability of observation. Our photography lead is expert in northern lights hunting, and can guide you through managing being in the cold and taking the best shots*

**Recommended photo equipment:**

This tour is open to anyone, regardless of their photo equipment. Some of our clients choose not to take pictures at all! For best results, we recommend bringing a last-generation reflex or mirrorless camera, a wide-angle lens (under 30mm), a tripod and a photo bag or rucksack for easy carrying of the equipment.

*We reserve the right to shorten, swap or cancel activities due to external events (mostly, the weather and the condition of roads). We always prioritize your safety and security, and will not authorize an activity to start in case the minimum safety and security requirements are not met.*



**For more information:**

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