

The itinerary

Friday - arrival.

- Fly from London to Helsinki to Ivalo £252 return.
- Pick up hire car £121 for 4 days (we booked Europcar via carflexi.com).
- 1 hour drive to Lake Inari via Ivalo town to pick up dinner supplies.
- Arrive at Lake Inari Mobile Cabins (2x nights) £240 p/n (incl. breakfast).
- Check the Aurora Forecast & set your alarm for the best northern light viewing times. NB: The Ivalo area is closest to kp2 (further detail here).

Saturday - skiing/snowboarding.

- 7am, wake up. You have an hour on the lake before Esko collects you. Rug up & head outside for scenic photos at golden hour.
- 8am (check this the night before) Esko turns up on the snow ski to take your cabin back to basecamp where breakfast is served.
- At your convenience drive 1 hour to Saariselkä Ski Resort for a day of skiing &/or snowboarding (opens 10am) £70 for 2x days (w. full gear hire £125) pp.
- Head back to Inari in time for a sauna before another night on the lake.

Sunday - skiing/snowboarding.

- Repeat Saturday morning, then check out.
- Drive to Saariselkä Ski Resort for another day on the slopes.
- Around 4pm make the 30min drive to Kakslauttanen Artic Resort for your last nights accommodation in a Glass Igloo £440 p/n (incl. dinner/breakfast).
- Check in & spend the afternoon exploring the resort.

Monday - home time.

- Wake up to the sunrise through your glass walls & ceiling.
- One last walk through winter wonderland and say hello to the reindeer.
- Make your way back to Ivalo Airport for your flight home.

Trip taken: 30 May - 2 April 2018. Prices based on what was paid at time of booking.

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Everything you need to know

When to go.

We recommend the beginning or end of the winter season, around 20 March or 20 September. The spring & autumn equinoxes bring greater solar activity which means higher chances of seeing the northern lights. [More detail here.](#)

If you're interested in snow & winter activities, travel around the end of March, and if you're interested in magical autumn colours & 2 auroras for the price of 1 (lake reflections), travel around the end of September.

Tips.

- Your flight to Ivalo may bypass via Helsinki (this was the case for us travelling from London), so take layover durations into consideration.
- In winter each evening the Lake Inari cabins are towed out to the middle of a frozen lake at 8pm (or 9pm after daylight savings). Be sure to arrive with enough time to cook/eat dinner at basecamp, as there are no cooking or running water facilities out on the lake.
- Pick up groceries for 2x dinners & 3x lunches to save money.
- Prepare a playlist for your time in the car.
- Go for a walk at the [Kakslauttanen Artic Resort](#). It's a big and beautiful winter wonderland and there's so much to explore.

Total cost.

- We knew this was a pricey destination but our excitement to go out-weighed the worry of cost. NB: you'll be able to get prices down with a group of 4.
- We paid £773 per person all in (excl. groceries & petrol).
NB: all breakfasts + dinner at [Kakslauttanen Artic Resort](#) was included.
- Another accommodation option is the [Star Artic Hotel](#) which is located at the [Saariselkä Ski Resort](#). This means you get to wake up on the slopes! (Prices here are cheaper than the mobile cabins/glass igloos.)

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What to bring.

- Lots of warm layers!
- Waterproof jacket/trousers
- Down jacket
- Wool thermals (top & bottoms)
- Suitable shoes for the snow
- Woolly socks
- Beanie & scarf
- Ski/Snowboard gear (you can hire the usual, boots/board/skis/poles if needed)
- Waterproof gloves
- Ski/snowboard goggles
- Sun glasses
- Camera & tripod (for those long exposure Aurora shots)
- Carrot (for snowman nose)
- Toiletries
- Card games & a book (we absolutely love Monopoly Deal)
- Bathing suit (or traditionally, sauna in the nude)
- Car phone holder (to use as a GPS)

