#### Abercrombie & Kent



# FINLAND & SWEDEN: ADVENTURE ACROSS LAPLAND - A SMALL GROUP JOURNEY (2025)

Experience an exhilarating winter adventure filled with fun outdoor activities like snowmobiling, snowshoeing and ice fishing as you roam across Finland and Sweden.

Small Group Journeys, Luxury Small Group Journeys

Europe, Finland, Sweden 11 days from AU\$31,035 pp

24 Guests

## Journey Overview

Experience an exhilarating winter adventure filled with fun outdoor activities like snowmobiling, snowshoeing and ice fishing as you roam across Finland and Sweden, from cosmopolitan Helsinki and Stockholm to the far-north wilds of Lapland, learning the ways of the indigenous Sami people on an exclusive visit to a reindeer farm, venturing above the Arctic Circle for a sled-dog safari and searching for the wondrous northern lights.

#### **Journey Highlights**

- Explore two great Scandinavian capitals, starting in charming Helsinki and finishing in magnificent Stockholm
- Visit a Finnish family in their private forest home to learn about their life as moose hunters
- Join a young Sami couple in the small Swedish village of Jokkmokk, where they reveal the traditions, spirituality and history of their people, who range across the Arctic
- Relax in some of Scandinavia's most exclusive and unusual accommodations: a hotel built over an Arctic river, glass-domed Aurora Cabins and suites set in the Finnish forest
- Savour dinner in a snow castle, newly created each winter



## **Itinerary**

#### Day 1: Arrive Helsinki, Finland

Arrive in Helsinki, where you are met and privately transferred to your hotel. This evening, gather with your fellow guests for a welcome dinner.

Hotel Kamp | Meals: D

#### Day 2: Helsinki | Rock Church & Bustling Food Market

This morning, explore the sights of Helsinki. Enter the famous Temppeliaukio Church; built directly into solid rock, it is fittingly known as Rock Church. Experience the Helsinki Food Market, before enjoying lunch at a local restaurant, and then spend the afternoon at leisure, free to relax or explore the city at your own pace.

#### Hotel Kamp | Meals: BL

#### Day 3: Kittila | Adventure Above the Arctic Circle

Fly to northern Kittila, landing far above the Arctic Circle, to begin your immersive Lapland experience. Start with a thrilling snowmobile safari that reveals the true spirit of this remote natural region as you venture forth, basking in stunning views over the vast Lappish wilderness. Stop for a light barbecue snack served up fresh from the fire before completing your rousing ride to your hotel in Levi. Upon arrival, settle into a specially designed aurora cabin, its glass dome allowing you to search the skies for the northern lights as you drift asleep from the reclined vantage point of your bed.

Northern Lights Village | Meals: BD

#### Day 4: Levi | Mush Like a Master Sledder

Visit a local reindeer farm to meet the family living there and hear stories of the seven generations that have worked this land. Then, ride a reindeer sled through the forest and enjoy lunch with the family. Afterward, continue to a nearby husky farm owned by a couple who sustainably raise top sled dogs. Receive an introduction to sled-driving before setting out on a husky safari into the Lappish wilderness, pulled by an eager dog team. Return to the farm to sip hot berry juice by an open fire while listening to fascinating stories about these lovable canines. This evening, join a privately guided snowshoe trek into the darkness surrounding your resort as you scan the sky for a possible appearance of the northern lights.

#### Northern Lights Village | Meals: BLD

#### Day 5: Rovaniemi | Design Your Day

Journey overland to Rovaniemi, nestled on the Arctic Circle and renowned as the "home of Santa Claus". En route, stop at a private cabin, set in the woods beside a secluded lake, to enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities.

- **Try Your Hand at Ice Fishing**, learning tricks from the locals about catching fish through a hole in the frozen lake.
- Snowshoe Through the Surrounding Woods, immersed in the quiet beauty of the untouched wilderness.
- Experience Ice Floating, donning a survival suit for a surreally relaxing float in the lake's icy Arctic waters.

Reenergise with a lunch of salmon cooked over a fire before continuing to your hotel. Enjoy the rest of your day at leisure, free to relax or perhaps join your Resident Tour Director for a fun, all-ages visit to "Santa's" house.

#### Arctic TreeHouse Hotel | Meals: BL

#### **Day 6: Rovaniemi | Two Exclusive Experiences**

Experience traditional life in Lapland up close when you visit Palovaara Farm, situated on 500 acres of private forest. Meet the family who lives there and learn how they provide for themselves by hunting moose. Then, for a Chef's Table moment, savour a homemade lunch prepared by your hosts, featuring fish caught from their own lake and meat from the moose they've hunted. Follow this A&K-exclusive experience with another as you proceed to Villa Vinkkeli, studio of renowned photographer Kaisa Sirén, to view an exhibition of her works and hear her share her passion for the Arctic, an insider-access opportunity arranged exclusively for A&K guests. This evening, stop for dinner at the magical Snowland's igloo restaurant, an ice structure freshly rebuilt every year to incorporate new layouts and decor. Savour a Scenic Sundowner cocktail in the ice bar, and then dine in this unique setting before embarking on a hunt for the aurora borealis, accompanied by a professional photographer who helps you get the best shot should you happen to spot this rare, awe-inspiring phenomenon.

#### Arctic TreeHouse Hotel | Meals: BLD

#### Day 7: Harads, Sweden | Historic Gammelstad

Cross a far-north frontier this morning as you pass from Finnish Lapland into Swedish Lapland. Join your Resident Tour Director to explore Gammelstad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, walking through its labyrinth of narrow streets among hundreds of charming 400-year-old cottages to the impressive Gammelstad Church. Later, pause for lunch at nearby Brandon Lodge, nestled on the edge of the Gulf of Bothnia and overlooking the islands of the Lulea Archipelago. Continue to Arctic Bath, your home for the next two nights, where rooms rest suspended over a frozen wilderness river.

#### Arctic Bath | Meals: BLD

#### Day 8: Jokkmokk | Discovering the Sami Culture

Travel today to Jokkmokk, a village that is a centre for the Sami people and culture in Sweden, which houses an office of the Sami Parliament. Meet a young Sami couple who introduce you to the modern realities of life for this traditionally nomadic people whose main activity is reindeer herding and who range throughout the Arctic region of Europe. Gather around the fire with them to listen to joik, the ancient Sami practice of storytelling through music. Learn about the Sami language and traditional cuisine, and then meet the couple's reindeer up close and enjoy the opportunity to hand-feed them. Return to Arctic Bath with time to relax and enjoy the saunas and spa, or just bask in the tranquillity of the pristine natural surroundings.

#### Arctic Bath | Meals: BLD

#### Day 9: Stockholm | Sweden's Elegant Capital

After a leisurely morning, transfer to nearby Lulea for a short flight to Stockholm, a colourful capital city built on a 14-island archipelago and graced with charming architecture. Upon arrival, set off on a guided stroll through Gamla Stan — the most historic area of the city, contained on its own island — walking its cobblestone streets past shops, museums and galleries as well as the Royal Palace.

#### Grand Hôtel | Meals: B

#### Day 10 | Stockholm | Home of the Nobel Prize

This morning, join a local expert who reveals authentic Stockholm to you. Visit the Vasa Museum and City Hall, where the annual Nobel Prize ceremony takes place. Enjoy time at leisure in the city, then gather with your fellow guests for a special farewell dinner as you recall the adventures of your Lapland journey.

Grand Hôtel | Meals: BD

#### **Day 11: Depart Stockholm**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your departing flight.

Meals: B

#### **Journey Details**

Internal Air: Helsinki/Kittila; Lulea/Stockholm This journey contains some active elements.

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 7:00 p.m. on Day 1. Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:30 p.m. on Day 10.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 4 guests.

#### Included with every Luxury Small Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director<sup>®</sup> and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy® Luggage Handling
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Your Choice of Activity on Design Your Day<sup>®</sup>
- Traveller's Valet® Laundry Service
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

#### **Customise this Journey**

**Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers** or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke Tailor-Made Journey based on this itinerary.

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#### Accommodation

#### Hotel Kamp, Helsinki



Hotel Kamp, A Luxury Collection Hotel is a landmark in Helsinki and has been the choice of royalty and heads of state for many years. It was the first hotel in Finland to have a lift and is in the best location to explore this compact city.

Muted colours and marble bathrooms give the spacious hotel rooms a relaxed feel. Opt for a Junior Suite which are on the highest floors of the hotel and in the historical part of the hotel overlooking Esplanadi Park.

Dinner at the hotel takes you from Asia at YUME to the Brasserie Kamp serving mouth-watering cocktails and a great Sunday brunch. The Kamp Bar is the place to be in the summer when it spills out onto the terrace of esplanade promenade the best address in town.

Kamp Spa will pamper you when you return after a day's exploration. Choose from three different saunas the eucalyptus-fragranced grotto steam sauna, the Turkish hammam and the traditional Finnish sauna.

#### Why we like it

- Landmark Helsinki Hotel
- Museums on your doorstep
- Kamp Bar with a summer terrace spilling onto the Esplanadi promenade

- Kamp Spa with a choice of saunas
- Great family option with interconnecting rooms

#### Northern Lights Village, Levi



Experience the pristine nature of Lapland, under the colourful glow of the Northern Lights in Saariselka. This 4-star resort has been carefully crafted to immerse you in the wilderness. It is one of the best places you can be to witness the vibrant aurora borealis.

Each cabin features a king-size bed and a glass-domed roof with access to the wintery sky all night long. You can also boost your chances of seeing the auroras with trips over frozen wilderness ponds by snowmobile, snowshoe or heated sleigh. Keen photographers will enjoy an aurora photography workshop for expert tips on capturing the sky at its finest.

Northern Lights Village has been immersing guests in authentic Artic experiences for over 20 years. Sustainability is key for these nature lovers. Geothermal heat pumps generate warmth in the winter months and efficiently drops heat in the summer. But at the heart of this sustainable Lapland gem is personalised, warm and consistently exceptional service.

#### **Arctic TreeHouse Hotel, Rovaniemi**



Arctic TreeHouse Hotel provides a unique blend of luxury and comfort in the heart of the Arctic Circle. Each of the 32 treehouse suites comes with a wall-to-ceiling glass wall with spectacular views of the surrounding skies and forest. Bed down in Arctic nature among snow-dusted pines, wispy auroras and summer views of the midnight sun.

Guests will enjoy an array of polar activities, including wild taste testings, heli-skiing, ice swimming, and reindeer and husky safaris. While in the evenings Finnish dishes of lake-caught perch and reindeer ribs, are served indoors or fireside in the snow. For the full pamper, venture into the forest to the lakeside Arctic Forest Spa, a sanctuary dedicated to your every need.

Witness the beauty of the Northern lights with a stay in one of the exclusive Arctic Glass Houses. These beauties come with a fireplace, private sauna, spacious terrace and glass roof for endless views of the North Sky.

#### **Arctic Bath**



Arctic Bath is a natural spa retreat that serves as a beautiful reminder of this region's historic reliance on timber trade, located just south of the arctic circle on Lule River - once the only transportation route for this precious forest cargo. Local resident and hotel owner Per-Anders Eriksson wanted to keep the spirit of this tradition alive, resulting in a unique architectural design indicative of log-jammed rapids. The result? A main building and cabins that have high design impact while ensuring a minimal environmental footprint. A stay here is guaranteed to reconnect you with nature whether the hotel is floating or frozen. Come in summer for swims under a midnight sun and arctic herb workshops or experience the chilly bliss of frozen lakes, husky hikes and dinner under the northern lights. Cabins are crafted from pale timber and are kitted out with cosy fireplaces and Scandi furnishings. Whether you opt for one on water or land, they offer plenty of space to take in the surrounding views. Families will love the two levels inside the land cabins, which can accommodate up to five guests. Inside the hotel you'll find an open-air plunge pool, spa, sauna, steam room and hot tub - perfect during those cold winter nights. Food is very much driven by the seasons, changing daily to give you a true taste of Arctic cuisine, and is organic, locally sourced and usually comes in the format of five courses. Ask to arrange an ice dining experience for dinner in a heated tipi tent on a frozen lake.

#### Why we like it

- The stunning architecture focuses on naturally sourced materials for high-impact design with a minimal environmental footprint
- Arctic Bath brings a Nordic old timber tradition into the world of luxury wellness
- This is an inspiring reconnection with nature no matter the season, from summer

swims under the midnight sun to witnessing winter's northern lights

- Sits on the historic Lule River, a long-relied-upon resource for fishing and transporting timber, with evidence of settlers dating back to the Stone Age
- Astonishing activities on offer include moose safaris, husky hikes and Arctic herb workshops
- Our top tip: ask to arrange an ice dining experience for dinner in a heated tipi tent on a frozen lake

#### Grand Hôtel, Stockholm



Grand Hôtel is one of Scandinavia's leading hotels and a landmark in the centre of Sweden's capital city. Opened in 1874, the hotel boasts a prime waterfront location overlooking the Royal Palace and Gamla Stan, Stockholm's old town. It is an ideal base from which to explore the city; both the Parliament building and Royal Opera House are nearby and the top end shopping district is just a short 5 minutes' walk.

When it comes to accommodation choose from the 278 spacious rooms, including 34 luxury suites. Interiors are distinctive and traditional, with no two rooms the same as they portray the hotel's colourful history. The Princess Lilian Suite impresses with panoramic views across Stockholm and is the most spectacular of them all.

Swedish restaurant Veranda offers seasonal themed menus and is renowned for its traditional Smorgasbord served all year round as well as its stunning views. In the summer of 2013 the hotel opened a new outdoor restaurant, The Terrace, which serves delicious Mediterranean and Southern European dishes in a relaxed setting.

The Grand Hôtel Nordic Spa and Fitness is a member of The Leading Spas of the World. The unique treatments are inspired by Norse mythology and the highly trained therapists will adapt the massage to suit your specific needs.

#### Why we like it

- Located in the heart of Stockholm overlooking the Harbour
- The Hall of Mirrors and the Winter Garden are both designed as Swedish national treasures for their great historical significance

- Two Michelin-starred Matsalen restaurant and one Michelin-starred Matbaren
- World-class Spa offering Nordic bathing rituals and Arctic detox massages
- Attracts visiting royalty, heads of state and celebrities

## **Dates & Pricing**

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

Jan 16, 2025 - Jan 26, 2025

Price Single Supplement Internal Air (From) Availability

AU\$31,035 pp AU\$11,165 Included Call for Availability

Jan 30, 2025 - Feb 9, 2025

Price Single Supplement Internal Air (From) Availability

AU\$31,035 pp AU\$11,165 Included Call for Availability

Feb 6, 2025 - Feb 16, 2025

Price Single Supplement Internal Air (From) Availability

AU\$31,035 pp AU\$11,165 Included Call for Availability

Feb 20, 2025 - Mar 2, 2025

Price Single Supplement Internal Air (From) Availability

AU\$31,035 pp AU\$11,165 Included Call for Availability

Feb 27, 2025 - Mar 9, 2025

Price Single Supplement Internal Air (From) Availability

AU\$31,035 pp AU\$11,165 Included Call for Availability

Mar 6, 2025 - Mar 16, 2025

Price Single Supplement Internal Air (From) Availability

AU\$31,035 pp AU\$11,165 Included Call for Availability

Mar 13, 2025 - Mar 23, 2025

Price Single Supplement Internal Air (From) Availability

AU\$31,035 pp AU\$11,165 Included Call for Availability

Mar 20, 2025 - Mar 30, 2025

Price Single Supplement Internal Air (From) Availability

AU\$31,035 pp AU\$11,165 Included Call for Availability

### Abercrombie & Kent

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