

Wild Lapland in the Summer

FINLAND

A **real riding adventure in the wilds of Lapland** where you will travel through a captivating and rugged wilderness in the heart of a remote region far from the usual tourist spots. You will ride along sandy roads, wild forests, around lakes and over hills and fells. Stay overnight in wilderness cabins without electricity or running water. During your **riding holiday in Finland**, experience authentic Finnish cuisine, fresh salmon, herring and reindeer.

Trail Riding	 6 days/ 4 days riding	 From £2,550	
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ITINERARY

Highlights

- Ride through the quiet wilderness of Lapland, far from the usual tourist spots
- Stay in rustic cabins in the wilderness, with no water or electricity: into the wild!
- Enjoy the Finnish culture and authentic cuisine of delicious fresh salmon, herring, reindeer meat, Kainuu cheese, mushrooms and wild berries
- Experience the phenomena of the midnight sun

Day 1 — 1 : Kittilä - Levi - No riding

Arrive in Kittilä via Helsinki. Please note flights are not included.

You will be met at the airport and driven through the landscapes of forests and lakes to the region Fell. You are on the edge of the Arctic Circle, in the heart of the Boreal Forest. You will be taken to the horse camp, close to the village of Levi - tonight you are staying in Aurora wilderness cabins in a peaceful, remote location. You will meet your guide Päivi and have an introduction of the next day's programme.

Dinner and overnight with shared facilities.

Day 2 — 2: Levi - Näkkälä - Wilderness Cabin - 18 km riding

Throughout your time in Lapland, you will be responsible for the care of your own horse. All chores, cooking and cleaning of the wilderness cabins will be done as a group. The horses are sure-footed and docile and are used to being ridden by different people. The transport of your luggage will be done via quad bike as there are no serviceable roads in this area.

After breakfast pack up your bags before being transferred to Näkkälä Village in Enontekiö. After arrival in Näkkälä, you will prepare the horses and saddle them, and the first trail ride is ready to start. You will get to know your horses and routines. On the first day the route goes alongside sandy roads, hillocks and hills in fell forest. The riding distance today is ca. 18 km. At lunchtime, you prepare a picnic lunch by the campfire. In the afternoon

you arrive at a wilderness cabin you we have dinner and spend the night.

Overnight in a wilderness cabin without private facilities, running water and electricity.

Day 3 — 3 : Wilderness camp - Pöyrisjärvi - 25 km riding

After breakfast you will pack up camp and prepare the horses and continue your ride. The terrain is mainly treeless sandy hillocks and fells with small, beautiful streams and lakes, bogs and hills. At midday, enjoy a picnic lunch by a campfire. You will ride to Pöyrisjärvi, to the summer place of reindeer herders, where your home for the next two nights will be very a basic wilderness cabin without electricity or running water. After taking care of the horses, you prepare dinner and get ready for a good night's sleep.

Day 4 — 4 : Pöyrisjärvi. - 25 km riding

After breakfast, saddle your horse and explore the surroundings and the sand dunes of lake Pöyrisjärvi. The area consists of rolling fell and forests, with an abundance of wildlife. You are getting close to the border with Norway. You might encounter Sami summer villages, still inhabited part of the year. It is an important area for fishing, hunting and reindeer husbandry for the few locals who live there.

Daily routines are as usual. No mobile connection!

Day 5 — 5 : Pöyrisjärvi - Näkkälä - 25 km riding

After breakfast, the group takes care of the horses and start your trail riding back to the village of Näkkälä. After taking care of the horses, you will be transferred back to the first camp, where you can enjoy the sauna and a delicious farewell dinner.

Overnight in the Aurora wilderness cabins.

Day 6 — 6 : Levi - Kittilä - Departure - No riding

After eating a final Finnish breakfast and saying your goodbyes to your hosts and guide, you will be driven back to the airport.

DATES & PRICES			
DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
12/08/2024	17/08/2024	£2,550	Open

Price details

- Flights to your destination (international/domestic) are not included, but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.
 - Rates are per person, based on riders sharing simple communal accommodation.
 - Groups are made up of 4-6 riders plus English-speaking guides
 - If you wish to hire a sleeping bag and liner, a price of approx £20/€25 per person for the week can be paid on arrival.
 - Extra activities (canoe tours, hiking tours) can be arranged, please contact us
 - Children aged 12+ are welcome to join the ride depending on their level of fitness and riding abilities.
 - New dates can be opened on request for groups of 4+ riders.
 - Rider weight limit: 110 kg/ 17.3 st / 242 lbs
- Please Note
- The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.
- The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Price includes

SUPPORT TEAM

1 Finnish, English speaking, tour leader

LOGISTIC

1 horse equipped with saddle and bridle

1 support quad

INLAND TRANSPORTS

Airport transfers

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in a lodge or cabins, something with no electricity or running water.

MEALS

Full board from first dinner Day 1 to last breakfast Day 6

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

Saddle bags

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Free lunches on day 1 and 6

TRANSPORTS

International flights

EXTRA

Tips to local team

INSURANCE

Cancellation and travel insurances are not included. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend to take out an insurance policy as soon as your travel is booked in case of cancellation.

Visas and personal purchase

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Equipment to rent: sleeping bag: see dates and prices

Extra activities like canoeing tours, hiking tours

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

A herd of hardy, cold blooded horses that have for centuries met all the equestrian needs of the harsh lands of Lapland. They were used for agricultural work and are a robust yet sturdy lightweight breed. They are docile yet forward going and are suitable for all levels of riders. They are ridden in English tack.

Guide & local team

Päivi is a horse riding instructor and owner of a herd of Finnish horses. her husband Pasi is a musher, who drives a team of 40 huskies and takes tourists on 2 day long-distance treks in the winter. Together they own an agency in Lapland that offers riders and amateur Nordic sports enthusiasts a

chance to get the best out of the region. In the summer months, Päivi leads groups of riders through the wilds of Lapland, sometimes with Pasi by her side.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

This trip is suitable for both intermediate and experienced riders.

PACE

The pace of the ride is dictated by the terrain, there will be opportunities for long trots and canters when the terrain allows.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

You will be asked to groom, saddle and unsaddle your own horse. You will be responsible for the care of your own horse. All chores, cooking and cleaning of the wilderness cabins will be done as a group.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

You must be in good physical condition as you will spend long days in the saddle. This is a demanding trail and you should be riding fit, and be prepared for this.

It is essential that you approach this trip understanding that the accommodation will be basic and you will be living rustically, out in the open, with rudimentary facilities. You will spend several nights in communal dormitories, which will include sharing toilet facilities.

No previous trail ride experience is necessary, though a love of wildlife and the great outdoors is essential!

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

Saddlebags are provided.

Horses are ridden in English saddles.

We recommend our riders to wear a helmet to the correct standard and you should bring your own to ensure a proper fit

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

Your first and last night will be spent in the hosts' home.

At the equestrian centre, a converted former school, a warm welcome awaits you; the centre's accommodation is basic but comfortable, consisting of dormitory rooms with shared bathrooms.

Whilst out riding the trails, you will sleep overnight in either kota (traditional tents) or in rustic log cabins with no running water or electricity.

MEALS

Meals consist of Lapland's specialties like sauteed reindeer, salmon, white fish, forest mushrooms and berries, etc.

CLIMATE

Lapland's summer temperatures can reach 27°C and the days are often mild, between 15 and 20°C. However, it's important to bring warm clothes with you for the evenings and the colder days. Don't forget that during this period you will be able to experience the midnight sun - consider bringing an eye mask to help you sleep through the night!

TIPS

Tipping is not obligatory, however if you would like to, please give it to one of the local team.

PACKING LIST

Important: there are mosquitoes in this area in the summer. Please make sure to bring a mosquito spray and a face net is strongly recommended.

Head

- Equus Journeys STRONGLY recommends wearing a helmet. We recommend our riders to wear a helmet to the correct standard and you should bring your own to ensure a proper fit. Helmet makers (GPA, HKM, LAS Helmets, Lamicell, Troxel, Equithème) now offer horse-riding helmets that are ventilated, strong and light and comfortable. Alternatively, under hat protective wear is available (Ranch & Rider, Lexington Safety Products) as well as western helmets (Troxel).
- Sunhat
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding
- Buff or bandana
- Warm hat for cold nights when camping

Upper body

- Thermals (long or short sleeved)
- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun and are an extra layer
- T-shirts
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- Warm fleece or jumper (and a spare in case one gets wet)
- Warm and waterproof jacket - it can rain at any time of year and the evenings can be particularly cold
- Swimming costume - for swimming/bathing in rivers/hot springs

Legs

- Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub
- Thermals
- Casual trousers for the evenings, such as jeans or tracksuit bottoms
- Waterproof over trousers

Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots/hiking boots with half chaps but you may wish to take long chaps as an extra layer against inclement weather. We don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged
- Waterproof shoes/boots can be useful for abundant dew in the mornings or when it rains
- Trainers/Crocs or equivalent light shoes for moving around the camp in the evenings
- Several pairs of warm, thick socks
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun, cold or rain whilst riding. Waterproof gloves can be particularly useful

Nightwear

- Sleeping bag - one with a protection factor down to -5 celsius, but we strongly recommend one with at least -8 or 10 celsius
- Sleeping bag liner - silk, cotton or fleece - to add an extra layer of warmth
- Inflatable mattress or sleeping mat - strongly recommended
- Pyjamas, tracksuits or thermals for sleeping in

Other useful items

- Towels - camping ones will both dry and pack more easily
- Small backpack for accessing items required during the day (carried by support crew)
- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding
- Headtorch or small torch for moving around camp at night - bring spare batteries and bulbs
- Water bottle (2 litres or 2 x 1 litre)
- Swiss army knife
- Wet Wipes or equivalent (for when washing facilities aren't available)
- Toilet paper and a lighter to burn it with after use
- Small plastic bags for your rubbish
- Ear plugs (for light sleepers)
- A soothing cream will be useful to treat areas irritated by long hours in the saddle
- Mosquito spray/bite soothing cream, and, possibly, mosquito net. Mosquitoes are everywhere in the summertime!

Medical kit

- Any medication you regularly take
- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent, preferably containing DEET
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...

- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Eye drops
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication
- Re-hydration sachets
- Water purification tablets
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

General recommendations

- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bum bag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (passport, camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc)
- Please don't take a hard sided suitcase. Your luggage should be soft sided with a capacity of 60-80 litres. We recommend taking a backpack or similar.
- We recommend taking a copy of your passport and insurance documents with you in case you lose your originals
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- Please take your rubbish home with you. There are no recycling facilities, so take your used batteries, aerosols etc. back home and dispose of them appropriately. Try to leave excess packaging material at home before travelling
- If you prefer travelling light, please choose a biodegradable soap or washing powder/liquid to do your laundry once in the country

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

1. **Travel light.** It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when flying a plane or driving a car!).
2. **Reduce plastic waste.** Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. **Preserve nature.** Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. **Choose your experiences carefully.** Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. **Support local populations.** Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. **Share!** Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please [see this page](#) .