



# PRACTICAL GUIDE ROVANIEMI

PLANNING YOUR ARCTIC CIRCLE ADVENTURE HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!

ROVANIEMI - LAPLAND - FINLAND

[www.nordicodyssey.net](http://www.nordicodyssey.net)

# FINNISH LAPLAND

Finnish Lapland is one of Finland's 19 distinctive regions and covers the northern third of the country. A fun statistic: it's home to more reindeer than people!

This vast territory is a true natural paradise, with pine and birch forests, thousands of lakes and ponds, and some of the cleanest air on the planet. In winter, the polar night ("kaamos") plunges the region into total darkness, while in summer, the midnight sun illuminates the sky without ever setting. A trip to Lapland is an opportunity to discover a wild and unspoiled world, where the extremes of the seasons shape the landscape.

## ROVANIEMI

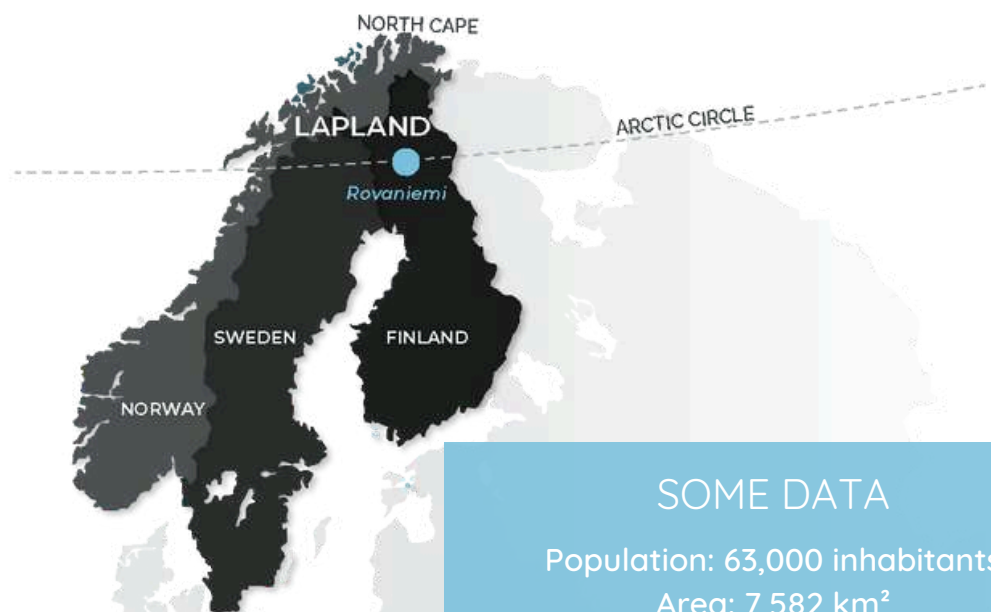
Located in the Southern region of Finnish Lapland, Rovaniemi is the provincial center of Lapland and lies precisely on the Arctic Circle.

Nestled at the confluence of the Ounasjoki and Kemijoki rivers, it has historically been an important crossroads for trade, people, and various Nordic cultures.

Today, Rovaniemi is a vibrant university city and a popular tourist destination.

It is also the main regional center for trade, administration, education, culture, and sports in Finnish Lapland.

Home to approximately 60,000 people, it is the 15th largest city in Finland.



### SOME DATA

Population: 63,000 inhabitants

Area: 7,582 km<sup>2</sup>

Local Time: GMT +2

Latitude: 66° N

Helsinki - Rovaniemi: 1h15 by plane

Helsinki - Rovaniemi: 12 hours by bus/train

Ivalo - Rovaniemi: 3h30 by bus

Kittilä - Rovaniemi: 1h45 by bus

Ylläs - Rovaniemi: 2h00 with  
our guided transfer



# GETTING TO ROVANIEMI

Located in the southern part of Finnish Lapland, the city of Rovaniemi has the double advantage of being easily accessible and regularly served by various public transport.



## BY TRAIN

Trains, including overnight trains, connect Rovaniemi to Helsinki (the journey takes approximately 12 hours), as well as other major Finnish cities. These trains offer a convenient and comfortable way to travel across the country, with the opportunity to enjoy the snowy landscapes in winter.

Rovaniemi Station is located 1.5 kilometer from the city center.

To book:

[www.vr.fi/](http://www.vr.fi/)



## BY PLANE

Located 12 km from the city center, Rovaniemi Airport offers indirect connections to Europe and the rest of the world, usually via the capital, Helsinki. During the winter season, several direct flights are operated by numerous airlines from several cities in Europe.

Airlines:

- [Finnair](#)
- [EasyJet](#)
- [Ryanair](#)
- [Norwegian](#)
- [Air France](#)
- [KLM](#)

Direct flights:

- Paris
- Amsterdam
- Berlin
- London
- Zurich
- Bruxelles
- Milano - Bergamo
- Barcelona
- Warsaw



## BY BUS

Rovaniemi is also accessible by bus from Helsinki. It's also the last major northern destination connected by train; if you want to continue your Lapland journey and venture further north, you'll only find local bus lines...

To Book:

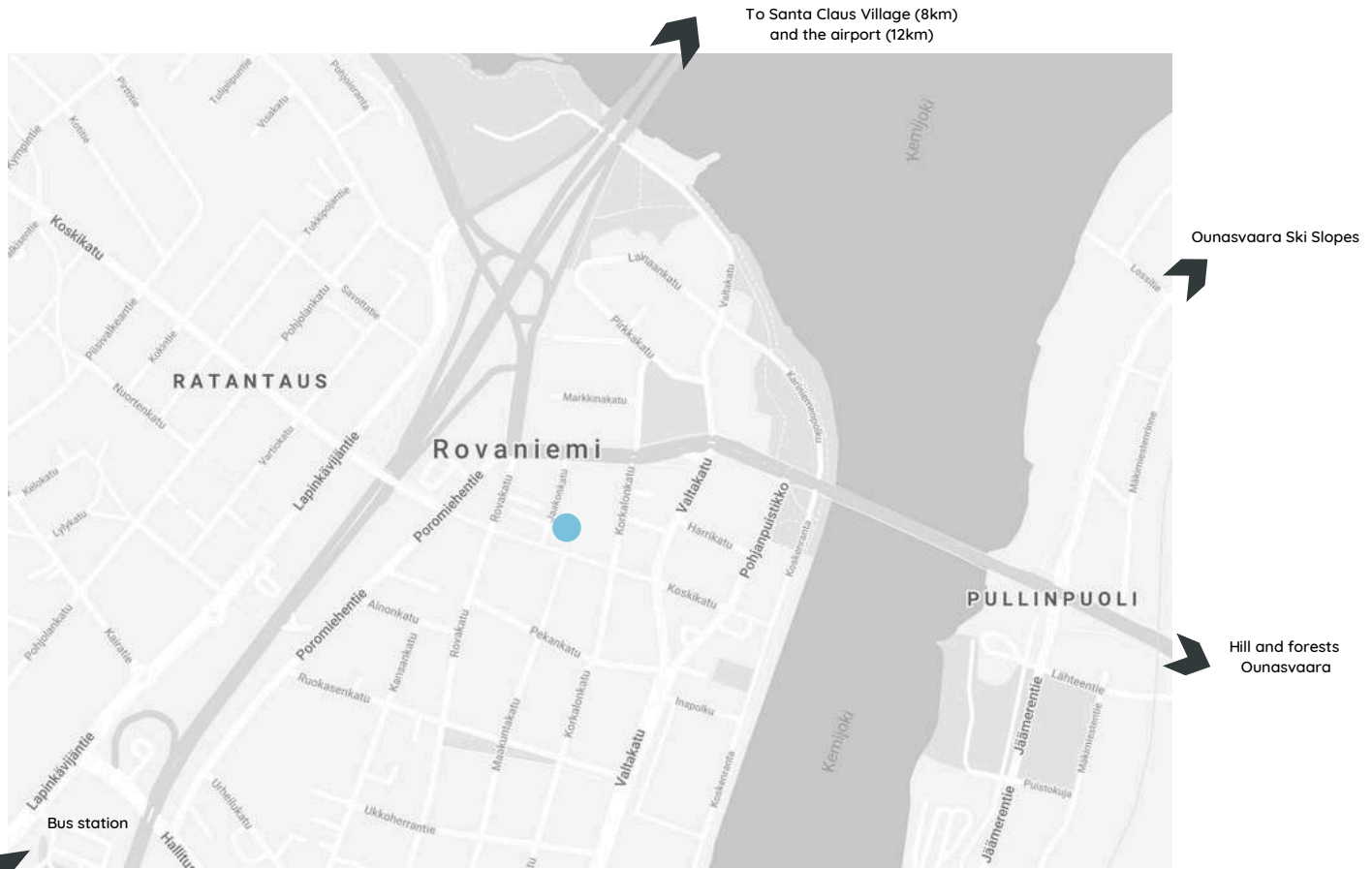
[www.matkahuolto.fi/](http://www.matkahuolto.fi/)

[www.onnibus.com/](http://www.onnibus.com/)

## OUR TIPS:

- **Book in advance:** Flights to Rovaniemi are popular in winter, so plan ahead to get the best prices.
- **Be flexible:** Weather conditions can cause delays, so be flexible with your schedule.
- **Check connections in Helsinki:** If you have a layover, make sure you have enough time for the connection.

# GETTING AROUND ROVANIEMI



To the train station (800m)

Our agency Nordic Odyssey - [Jaakonkatu 4-6, 96200 Rovaniemi](#)



## ON FOOT

Rovaniemi's city center is relatively small, making it easy to get around on foot. You'll have access to most shops, restaurants, and cafes, as well as some activities such as museums, the Angry Birds playground for kids, and all service establishments (banks, etc.).



## BY BUS

If you'd like to visit Santa's Village, take bus number 8, which departs from the train station and passes through the city center. You can buy your ticket directly on board the bus.

[See the timetable for the year 2025-2026](#)

In winter, a special direct connection, the 'Santa Express', is also available to reach the village.



## BY TAXI

Taxis can be an affordable option in Rovaniemi, for example, if you're looking for a quick transfer from the city center to the airport or Santa Claus Village. The fare will cost 30 euros for 1 to 4 people and 40 euros for 5 to 8 people.

Book on [meneva.fi](#)

## GOOD TO KNOW!

We pick you up directly from your hotel or Airbnb for all the activities we offer with an experienced guide, if your accommodation is within a 750m to 8km radius of the city center (including Santa Claus Village).

# LIFE IN LAPLAND

Rovaniemi is the capital of Finnish Lapland. Located a few kilometers from the Arctic Circle, in the southern part of Lapland, it offers many advantages for travelers seeking Arctic experiences!

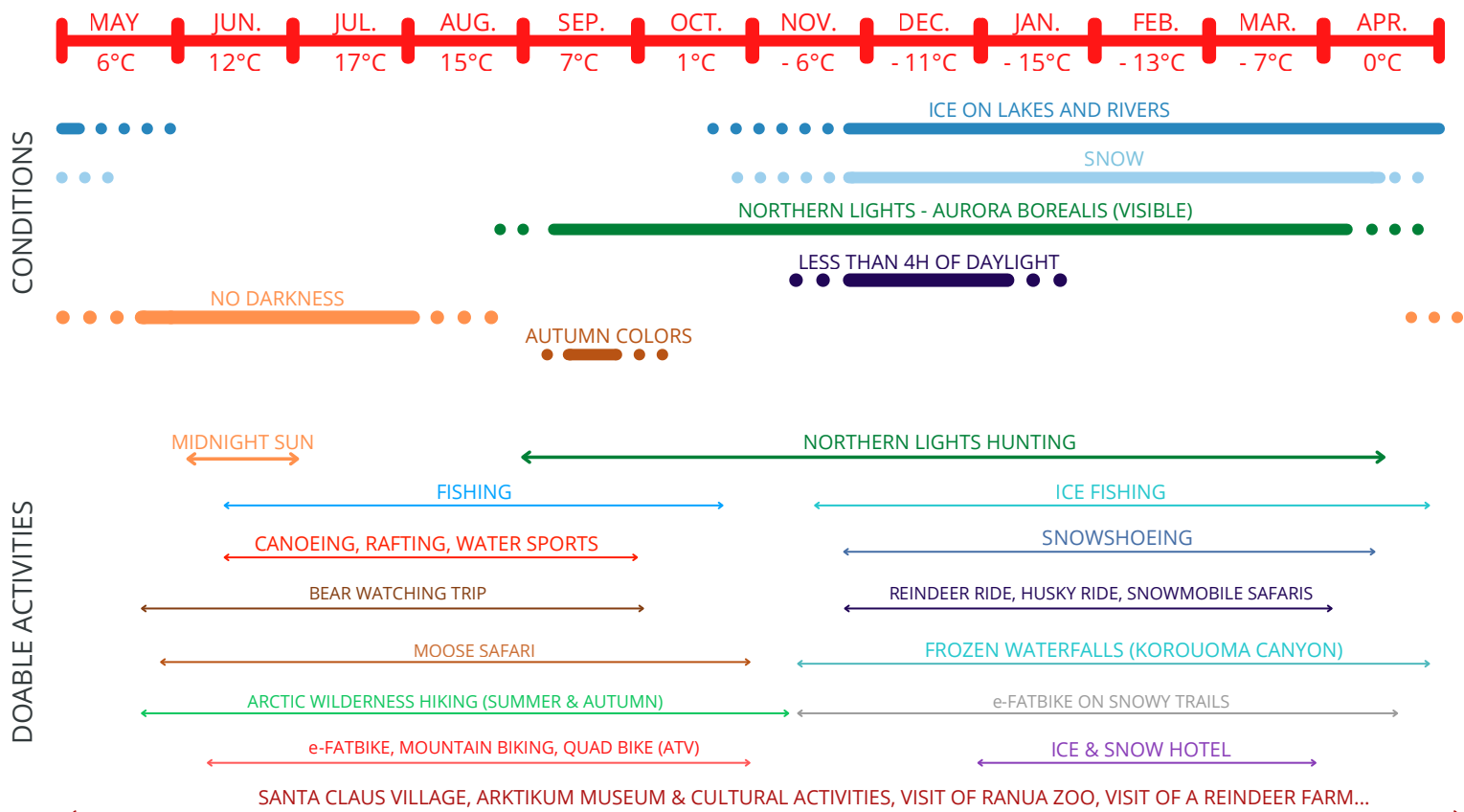
Every year, millions of tourists travel to Rovaniemi to enjoy the beauty of the Lappish winter, spend the holiday season, or meet its most famous resident: Santa Claus! Please note: Rovaniemi is a popular destination, so we recommend booking your accommodation and activities in advance (especially in December and February).

Overall, Rovaniemi is a perfect base for exploring Lapland, and you can enjoy a wide range of local activities there. Rovaniemi has the advantage of enjoying at least a few hours of daylight in the heart of winter, which will not be the case if you venture further north where the polar night is in full swing in December...

The **cost of living** is generally high in Finland, and even higher in Lapland due to its remoteness and challenging conditions. You'll probably be surprised by the cost of alcohol and food. For example, it will be difficult to find a bottle of wine for less than 9 euros. Also, expect to pay 2 to 3 euros for a can of cheap beer in a supermarket, or 8 euros for a pint at the bar. Sliced bread costs around 2 euros in the supermarket, a kilo of tomatoes around 3 euros, a bar of chocolate 4 euros... But if you opt for local products, the prices remain reasonable: 1 euro per liter of milk, 0.50 euros per kilo of oat flakes for porridge...

## CONDITIONS & ACTIVITIES IN THE ROVANIEMI AREA

The graph below shows typical weather conditions and possible activities by month of the year.



# PREPARING FOR THE COLD

In winter, temperatures in Rovaniemi hover around -10°C and can sometimes drop to -30°C between December and February, which is the coldest time of year. Being well prepared for the extreme cold is also a way to ensure a great vacation despite the harsh conditions of the Arctic winter.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU PACK IN YOUR SUITCASE?

**Thermal base layers:** T-shirts (long sleeves), tank tops, leggings... will be the first layer of your clothing. These clothes must be dry when you put them on, so make sure you have enough for the duration of your stay. We highly recommend merino wool and 100% wool clothing.

**Warm clothing:** Sweaters, fleeces, or light down jackets are essential. They can be worn under a winter coat or ski suit/pants.

**For your feet:** 2 pairs of winter socks, preferably wool (as wool limits perspiration). Winter shoes should be high above the ankles and waterproof to prevent snow from getting inside. The sole should be thick to avoid close contact between the foot and the cold ground. Go one size larger to be comfortable with a double pair of socks; a little "extra" air will always help with insulation rather than a shoe that is too tight.

**Coat or suit:** A thick winter coat, ski pants, and/or a ski suit are necessary for outdoor activities. Make sure this third "outer layer" is waterproof and windproof. A hood is highly recommended to protect your head from wind or snow.

**Protect your head:** Cover yourself with a hat, balaclava, or chapka to limit the greatest heat loss through your head. Also, make sure your ears are well covered! A scarf or neck warmer can also protect parts of your neck that would otherwise be exposed by a coat.

**For your hands:** If you're going to invest in equipment, it should be gloves! Good ski gloves will do the trick, and you can pair them with liner gloves (or mittens), which will be very useful if you want to stick your hands out to take a photo. Large mittens are also a good alternative (always with liner gloves) because they help keep the fingers warm by holding them together.



*Let's be honest: there will inevitably be a time during your stay when you'll feel uncomfortably cold (especially when it comes to your hands and feet). Even the best clothing and gear won't be able to keep you warm all day long. So, you need to prepare for that too, by anticipating long outdoor trips and times when you're less active (sitting around the fire, etc.). But you'll survive!*

## DON'T FALL INTO THESE TRAPS!



### DON'T OVERDRESS!

If you're alternating between indoor and outdoor activities, or if you're doing more physical activity, make sure you don't overdress or that you can open or remove layers (for example, when entering a store). Sweat is your worst enemy: if your body is wet, you'll feel the cold terribly!

### BATTERIES

Your camera and phone batteries won't last long in cold weather. Don't worry, it won't damage them, but you won't be able to use them. Consider portable batteries or keep your camera warm in your inside pocket near your heart.

### I LIKE TO MOVE IT, MOVE IT!

When it's very cold, the body "sacrifices" its extremities (hands, feet) to keep blood (and heat) in its vital organs (chest). In fact, your fingers and toes will be the first to suffer... Give your arms, shoulders, and legs a quick shake to get the blood circulating again. It might sting a lot, but it's a good sign: the warmth is returning!

### HAND WARMERS - NOT THE BEST IDEA!

We do not recommend their use, partly for ecological reasons (hand warmers are an ecological disaster, especially for mammals that eat them), but also because of their counterproductive effect: rapid and intense heat causes perspiration, which then freezes with extreme temperatures... In addition, during long walks, foot warmers in shoes cause uncomfortable friction and a risk of blisters. If you want to use them, choose reusable hand warmers, and use them only in case of extreme cold (not to prevent cold).



## HOW TO PREPARE?

Depending on the time and weather, you'll need to adjust your clothing. Here's what you'll need to fully enjoy your experience:

In general, we recommend wearing three layers on your upper body and two layers on your legs, depending on your activities and whether you're wearing a winter suit.

Wool clothing, such as merino wool, and wool socks are strongly recommended. Also, remember to bring a spare pair of dry socks, which are essential for outdoor activities.

Don't forget your toiletries, your swimsuit for saunas, and any other essentials.

If needed, we also offer **winter suit rentals** to keep you warm during your activities.

## TRAVEL LIGHT, RENT ON SITE!

### Renting your equipment: a practical and economical solution

Traveling light and on a budget is possible! We offer rentals of sports equipment and winter suits suitable for those who wish to explore Rovaniemi and its surroundings in complete freedom. Our equipment is high-quality, easy to use, and available directly from our office in downtown Rovaniemi.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## TO STAY WARM... CHOOSE PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT

### Thermal Suits and Winter Boots

Our professional suits effectively protect against the cold down to -20°C. Worn over your clothes, they combine comfort and warmth. Our waterproof high boots are suitable for all terrains, whether snowy or urban.

Winter suit + boots: €20/day

Winter suit + boots: €5/activity with us



## SLIDE, HIKE, EXPLORE... WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE EQUIPMENT!



### SNOWSHOES AND WALKING POLES

We rent Leki snowshoes and poles. They are easy to use, adaptable to the shape of your foot, and very comfortable. Sizes (EU): 35 to 50. Children's models also available.

Snowshoes: €20/day, €50 for 3 days

Poles: €10/day, €25 for 3 days

Snowshoes + poles: €25/day, €65 for 3 days



### E-FATBIKE

The bike's electric motor makes riding very easy and enjoyable, even on snow! Fatbikes are always rented with a helmet and lock.

The minimum height requirement is 150cm (160cm for optimal comfort).

Electric fatbike: €45 for 2 hours; €60 for 4 hours; €80 for 8 hours



### ALTAI SKIS

We rent Altai skis, also known as 'sliding snowshoes'. Typically Finnish, these skis with integrated skins adapt to varied terrain and allow both climbing and gliding, making them ideal for off-trail adventures.

Skis + poles €60/day, €140 for 3 days



### CRAMPONS

Rent high-quality crampons to safely explore the slippery trails around Rovaniemi, especially in Korouoma Canyon!

Crampons: 10€/day



# THE ESSENTIALS FOR AN OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



## SLEEPING BAG & MATTRESS

Rent a comfortable and warm Marmot Wild River Long sleeping bag, designed to protect you on cold winter nights in Lapland. An air mattress, four-season tent, and other camping gear are also available.

Sleeping bag: €20/day



## BARBECUE SET

Lapland's trails are dotted with public fire pits and open shelters called laavu. Enhance your hike with this outdoor grilling kit and enjoy a cozy break around the fire!

Complete set: €10/day

## Everything to equip your little adventurers!

We offer everything you need for your little ones for rent: bike trailers, baby carriers, travel cots, sleds, snowshoes and skis, as well as children's winter suits and boots.

Bicycle trailer (2 children): €30/day

Expedition sled: €30/day

Portable backpack: €20/day



Find the complete list of our equipment on our website:  
<https://nordicodyssey.net/fr/location-equipement-rovaniemi/>

## OTHER RENTAL SERVICES IN ROVANIEMI

**Winterent** : winter clothing rental

**SantaSport** : rental of cross-country skis, forest skis, snowshoes, fatbikes... Contact : [santasport.fi](https://santasport.fi)

**Ounasvaara Ski Station** : rental of alpine ski equipment and ski passes. Contact : [Ounasvaara.fi](https://ounasvaara.fi)

## ANY QUESTIONS?

Our team is here to help and advise you on how to organize your stay in Lapland, whether it's for equipment rental or booking activity programs.

Contact us: [info@nordicodyssey.net](mailto:info@nordicodyssey.net)

## WHERE TO STAY?

Rovaniemi is a popular tourist destination, offering a wide range of accommodation to suit all budgets. Below is a comprehensive list of hotels. You'll also find many Airbnb rentals throughout the city. Keep in mind that rates fluctuate with the seasons: autumn is usually more budget-friendly than the highly popular Christmas period. Accommodation options are diverse, from unique snow hotels or glass-ceiling lodgings to charming cabins tucked away in nature.

Eco	★★
Comfort	★★★
Luxurious	★★★★★

### IN THE CITY CENTER & ACCESSIBLE ON FOOT

#### ARCTIC LIGHT HOTEL ★★★★★

Located in the heart of Rovaniemi city centre, this 4.5-star hotel is recognised as one of the best in Finland.

[arcticlighthotel.fi](http://arcticlighthotel.fi)

#### ARCTIC CITY HOTEL ★★★★★

Located directly across the street from our office, this hotel offers a luxurious setting similar to the Arctic Light Hotel at slightly lower rates.

[arcticcityhotel.fi](http://arcticcityhotel.fi)

#### HOTEL SANTA CLAUS ★★★★★

This hotel, located on Rovaniemi's main square (Lordi Square), is opposite the tourist information center. The Santa Claus Hotel (not to be confused with the Santa Claus Holiday Village in Santa Claus Village!) also has a less luxurious and expensive establishment, the Rudolf Hotel, located 400m from the center.

[santashotels.fi](http://santashotels.fi)

#### SCANDIC HOTELS ★★★★★

Scandic hotels are part of the larger Scandic hotel chain, which is present throughout Finland. They therefore have the advantage of offering a large capacity, especially during holiday periods when availability elsewhere is more limited.

[scandicrovanienicity.fi](http://scandicrovanienicity.fi)

[scandicpohjanovi.fi](http://scandicpohjanovi.fi)

[Scandic Polar](http://ScandicPolar)

#### GUESTHOUSE BOREALIS ★★

Located near the train and bus stations, this hotel offers a wide selection of rooms at a reasonable price. However, it's a 15-20 minute walk to the city center.

[guesthouseborealis.com](http://guesthouseborealis.com)

#### HOTELLI AAKENUS ★★

Hotel Aakenus is located just up from Rovaniemi's main thoroughfare, Koskikatu. It's a 5-10 minute walk to the city center.

[hotelliaakenus.net](http://hotelliaakenus.net)

### ACCESSIBLE BY TRANSPORT

#### SANTA CLAUS HOLIDAY VILLAGE ★★★★★

Right in the heart of Santa Claus Village, the Santa Claus Holiday Village (distinct from Hotel Santa Claus in the city center) features a variety of cozy cottages, surrounded by the magical Christmas spirit.

[santaclausholidayvillage.fi](http://santaclausholidayvillage.fi)

#### NOVA SKYLAND ★★★★★

The resort is located behind Santa Claus Village, a 5-minute walk from Santa's house. The restaurant offers a renowned and recommended buffet, even if you're not staying there.

[novaskyland.com](http://novaskyland.com)

#### OUNASVAARA SKY HOTEL ★★★★★

High up on Ounasvaara Hill overlooking the city, right on the ski slopes, the Ounasvaara Sky Hotel enjoys a perfect setting. You'll be a little far from the city center but right in the forest.

[laplandhotels.com/sky-ounasvaara](http://laplandhotels.com/sky-ounasvaara)

#### GLASS RESORT ★★★★★

Located right next to Nova Skyland, behind Santa's Village, the Glass Resort offers luxurious cottages with glass roofs for stargazing, and perhaps even spotting the Northern Lights.

[glassresort.fi](http://glassresort.fi)

## WHERE TO STAY?

### CHALETS CLOSE TO THE CITY CENTER

#### LAKITUVAT CHALETS ★★★★★

A collection of chalets nestled in the heart of the Ounasvaara forests. The chalets are spacious and ideal for groups of six adults.

[safartica.com](http://safartica.com)

#### OUNASVAARA CHALETS ★★★★★

This group of chalets is located at the foot of the slopes and the Ounasvaara hill, closer to the river than to the forests.

[laplandhotels.com/ounasvaara-chalets](http://laplandhotels.com/ounasvaara-chalets)

#### SAARITUVAT ★★★★★

Located outside the city center, this collection of individual chalets and cottages is located on the north side of the Kemijoki River, in the outer part of Rovaniemi. Ideal for both winter and summer if you have a vehicle.

[saarituvat.fi](http://saarituvat.fi)



Renting private accommodation through the Airbnb platform is an economical option, especially for families and larger groups.

It's also a good alternative to traditional hotel rooms for those who want to enjoy a more independent stay.

On Airbnb, you'll find a very long list of Nordic-style apartments near or in the city center. Outside the center, you'll find more houses or chalets (particularly near Ounasvaara and the surrounding forests).

[OUR DOWNTOWN APARTMENT\\*](#)

*\*Contact us directly to get discounted rates*

### OUR RECOMMENDATION

We don't necessarily recommend staying in **Santa Claus Village**. Located 8 km from the center, you'll quickly feel cut off from the rest of the city, bars, and restaurants, and will always be dependent on public transport. Also, while the village undoubtedly has a certain charm and magic during the day, the excitement fades after 6:00 p.m. when the restaurants and shops close. So, look for accommodation closer to the city, and set aside half a day in your schedule to visit Santa Claus Village.

If you can, we recommend looking for accommodation with a sauna. Generally, most homes have one, as saunas are such an integral part of Finnish culture. A short sauna session will be greatly appreciated to warm up and relax after a day of outdoor activities in the cold! If your accommodation doesn't have one, we then recommend a [truly local wood-fired sauna experience in the heart of nature during your stay!](#)

Want to find out more? Discover our selection of accommodation on our website.

[SEE THE SELECTION](#)

## WHAT TO EAT IN LAPLAND?

Rovaniemi's city center is full of cafes, bars, and restaurants. Since Finnish culture isn't particularly focused on gastronomy, you'll find establishments offering international cuisine or bistro cafes.

### A TASTE OF LAPPISH CUISINE

Due to the region's extreme conditions, traditional Lappish cuisine is limited to the few products available in these latitudes: reindeer or moose meat, salmon, potatoes, lingonberry or blueberry jam, etc.

It should also be noted that it is not always easy to find a restaurant offering traditional dishes at affordable prices. The few Lappish restaurants, such as Nili, unfortunately take advantage of their tourist appeal...



### THE BUFFET OPTION

Finland isn't exactly known for its culinary culture. In fact, lunchtime often consists of hot dogs, pizzas, or a cheap buffet (around €13/person) served in small restaurants or even gas stations!

The concept is so well-established in local daily life that even international cuisine restaurants (Asian, Mexican, etc.) have adopted it and offer an all-you-can-eat lunchtime buffet.

## OUR TOP CULINARY FINDS

### NILI RESTAURANT

One of the few traditional restaurants downtown, with service in a picturesque setting. The only downside: its high prices (very touristy)

Price range: 22€ - 52€

[nili.fi](http://nili.fi)

### ROKA STREET BISTRO

Popular with locals for its simple, delicious dishes. We particularly recommend the salmon soup.

Price range: 5€ - 35€

[ravintolaroka.fi](http://ravintolaroka.fi)

### CAFÉ 21

A very cozy café where you can enjoy delicious pastries, generous waffles (savory or sweet) and salads.

Price range: 6€ - 13€

[cafebar21.fi](http://cafebar21.fi)

### PURE BURGER

The best burgers in town, served in a retro setting. This place also offers a great way to try reindeer meat without breaking the bank!

Price range: 10€ - 20€

[kauppayhtio.fi](http://kauppayhtio.fi)

### SANTA'S SALMON PLACE

This is one of the few good places in Santa Claus Village. Their specialty: salmon cooked over a wood fire, in the middle of a wooden hut.

Price range: 5€ - 19€

[santas-salmon-place.com](http://santas-salmon-place.com)

### GUSTAV KITCHEN

A trendy restaurant-bar right on the central street (Koskikatu) that offers an elaborate menu at affordable prices.

Price range: 11€ - 16€

[gustavkitchenbar.fi](http://gustavkitchenbar.fi)

## QUENCH YOUR THIRST WITH OR WITHOUT ALCOHOL!

### ESPRESSO HOUSE

Here you can enjoy your coffee in a Nordic hipster atmosphere!

### COFFEE HOUSE

Open very early in the morning, you can enjoy your morning coffee or a little snack between two activities.

### UITTO PUB

A city centre pub that pays homage to the history of Rovaniemi and its lumberjacks.

### OLIVER'S CORNER or VANHA MESTARI

Two bars side by side on the pedestrian street which guarantee a pleasant experience for all those wishing to dance the night away or enjoy a pleasant evening with friends.

### THE BULLBAR

A pub where you can eat, drink, and play various games. Children are welcome, as the pub also serves food.

Please note! Minors are not allowed in establishments serving alcohol after a certain time (approx. 7 p.m.), except restaurants.



# WHAT TO DO? WHAT TO SEE?

## MUSEUMS TO VISIT IN THE CITY CENTER



### THE ARKTIKUM MUSEUM

The Arktikum is Rovaniemi's museum of history and science, a must-visit for a deeper understanding of Arctic culture and local history. On clear days, its garden offers a prime view of the Northern Lights!

Adult rate: 20€

Child rate (7-15): 5€

[arktikum.fi](http://arktikum.fi)



### THE KORUNDI MUSEUM

Korundi features temporary exhibitions of Nordic and contemporary art, events such as concerts, and a café/restaurant. We recommend their affordable and delicious lunch buffet.

Adult rate: 11€

Child rate (7-15): 5€

[korundi.fi](http://korundi.fi)



### PILKE

The Pilke Science Center, located right next to the Arktikum, focuses on forest management and development, as well as related science. The museum is highly visual and interactive, making it ideal for children!

Adult rate: 7€

Child rate (7-15): 5€

[pilke.fi](http://pilke.fi)

## GOOD TO KNOW!

You can also purchase a Culture Pass that will give you access to all three museums! You'll find all the information you need on [this page](#).

## OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

### SANTA PARK

It's a theme park dedicated to the world of Santa Claus. Elf workshops, shows, and traditions await you there. Open only from November to early January.

Adult rate: approx. 42€

Child rate (3-12 years old): approx. 37€

[santaparkarcticworld.com](http://santaparkarcticworld.com)

### SANTASPORT

The Santa Sport complex in Ounasvaara offers a variety of activities to keep you active: climbing wall, pool with sauna, ice hockey, gyms, and more. It also has a large indoor playground for kids. Also, ski rentals are available.

[santasport.fi](http://santasport.fi)

### SNOW HOTEL

Discover this unique ice structure: spend the night in a room at -5°C, dine in the ice restaurant or opt for one of our guided tours, which can be extended with a moment of relaxation in a traditional sauna surrounded by nature.

[snowhotel.en](http://snowhotel.en)

### OUNASVAARA

Ounasvaara Hill overlooks Rovaniemi and offers a scenic spot of nature and forests that's easily accessible from the city. Join the Winter Trail or Nature Trail to an observation tower with breathtaking views of the city. You can also hike to the top of the hill, at the top of the slopes.

Allow two hours for the walk from the city center.

### ANGRY BIRDS PARK

Right in the city center, you'll find the Angry Birds children's park, with various swings and climbing structures. Plenty to keep the little ones busy!

### ICE HOCKEY GAME

Attending a hockey game in Rovaniemi is a real-life experience of one of Finland's most popular sports. Come cheer on the local team, RoKi, at the Lappi Areena and experience a vibrant, authentic atmosphere!

Adult rate: approx. 16€

[rokihockey.fi](http://rokihockey.fi)



[SEE MORE TIPS & RECOMMENDATIONS](#)

# WHAT TO DO? WHAT TO SEE?

## THE ESSENTIALS



### HALF-DAY OR FULL-DAY HIKE

Explore Rovaniemi and its surroundings on a half-day or full-day hike. Depending on the conditions, the activity can be done on foot, with crampons, or on snowshoes, in the nature parks surrounding the city.

Our recommendation: [Korouoma Frozen Waterfalls Tour \(7 hours\)](#)



### MEETING ARCTIC ANIMALS

Meet Lapland's iconic animals: chat with reindeer herders or experience a dog sled ride. All in a small group, for an authentic experience.

Our recommendation: [Premium Combo - Reindeer & Sled Dogs with lunch \(5 hours\)](#)



### THE ART OF SAUNA IN LAPLAND

Enjoy a traditional Finnish sauna in the great outdoors, often accompanied by a dip in ice-cold water. This authentic activity can also be combined with other must-do activities.

Our recommendation: [Snow Hike & Wilderness Sauna \(5.5 hours\)](#)



[DISCOVER MORE ACTIVITIES](#)

## NIGHT TOURS & NORTHERN LIGHTS



### NORTHERN LIGHTS PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

Join your Northern Lights expert guide as they lead you to the best observation points. With a professional camera at hand, they'll capture this magical experience for you!

Our tip for higher success: [Aurora Pass \(3+ nights of aurora hunting\)](#)



### SNOWSHOEING OR SKIING UNDER THE AURORA!

Set out on a night-time snowshoe or ski tour deep in Lapland's nature, far from light pollution, and enjoy the chance to witness the Northern Lights.

Our recommendation: [Snowshoeing Adventure by Night \(4h\)](#)



### CULTURAL EVENING AROUND THE FIRE

Immerse yourself in Finnish history and enjoy a relaxing time around the fire in the heart of the Arctic forests, listening to traditional tales and legends.

Our recommendation: [Finnish Legends & Stories Night Around the Fire \(3 hours\)](#)



[EXPLORE MORE NIGHT TOURS](#)

# WHAT TO DO? WHAT TO SEE?

## FOR AN ACTIVE STAY



### SKI OR SNOWSHOE ADVENTURE IN LAPLAND

Embark on premium guided journeys in Lapland. Snowshoeing or ski touring, you can explore pristine, off-the-beaten-path scenery at your own pace.

Our recommendation: [Premium Snowshoe or Ski Adventure in Lapland \(4 or 7 hours\)](#)



### E-FATBIKING IN THE ARCTIC FORESTS

Experience the wilderness of Rovaniemi by all-terrain bike! You can join a guided tour or rent an electric fatbike, ideal for riding on snowy trails. A unique adventure suitable for everyone.

Our recommendation: [Guided Tour \(3 hours\) and Rental of Electric Fatbikes in Winter](#)



### SNOWMOBILE EXPERIENCE

Whether you enjoy motorsports, are looking for an intense experience, or prefer a ride to discover Lappish nature, snowmobiling is a must-do activity in Rovaniemi!

Our recommendation: [Snowmobile tour in a very small group from Rovaniemi \(2h\)](#)



## ALL OUR ACTIVE EXPERIENCES

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY EXPERIENCES



### FULL ARCTIC ADVENTURE FOR FAMILY

Enjoy an Arctic adventure in Rovaniemi with your family on a private tour including snowshoeing, ice fishing, orienteering, and a campfire—an unforgettable and authentic experience!

Our recommendation: [Family Full Arctic Adventure \(4h\)](#)



### DISCOVER THE SNOW HOTEL

A unique guided cultural tour of the Snow Hotel: between fascinating sculptures and ephemeral architecture, it's a one-of-a-kind adventure for both children and adults! This outing can also include a relaxing sauna session.

Our recommendation: [Visit of Snow Hotel & Wilderness Sauna \(5 hours\)](#)



### TRIP TO RANUA WILDLIFE PARK FROM ROVANIEMI

Guided tour to visit the Ranua Wildlife Park and discover Arctic animals: bears, wolves, lynxes, moose, eagles, otters...

Our recommendation: [Trip to Ranua Wildlife Park with Lunch \(5 hours\)](#)



## LEARN MORE ABOUT FAMILY ADVENTURES

## SCAMS TO AVOID.... OUR ADVICE

### SANTA CLAUS VILLAGE

Santa Claus Village is very touristy and is particularly popular with kids (and grown-up kids), rather than travelers seeking authenticity and nature. You can meet the real Santa Claus and take a photo with him (the photo can be purchased afterward, without obligation, for around €50), but depending on the time of year, the lines can be long, especially at Christmas. In short, a long wait for a relatively short time, but the atmosphere and decor will delight both young and old in search of magic.

The village itself is mainly made of restaurants, souvenir shops, and agencies offering various activities. So, allow only half a day in your schedule. If you want to escape the crowds, we recommend simply taking a stroll outside in the late afternoon or evening, after the shops and buildings have closed. The village, fully illuminated and covered in snow, creates a particularly magical atmosphere.

**Note:** The entrance to the Santa Claus Village is free! Regular buses (No. 8) will take you there from the city center. Beware of "guided tours" offered by large agencies that sell outrageously expensive excursions to Santa Claus Village: these are clearly scams!

Not to be confused with Santa Park, located nearby: this paid indoor theme park, open only from November to January, features shows and workshops in an enchanted setting.

### CHOOSE YOUR EXCURSION CAREFULLY

Before booking, it's important to consider a few criteria for a quality and respectful experience:

- **Group size:** Find out the number of participants. A small group (minivan) will often offer a more enjoyable experience than a large group by bus.
- **Northern Lights tours:** Some operators send several vehicles to the same location, which can affect the peaceful and exclusive nature of the experience. Don't hesitate to check in advance how the tour is conducted!
- **Meals included:** If a tour includes a meal, be sure to check what's actually offered (snack, barbecue, or full lunch), as this may explain the price difference.
- **Animal activities:** For a more authentic and respectful experience, choose providers that take you outside the city. This will give you access to more family-friendly farms or kennels, away from mass tourism.

Taking the time to compare will allow you to experience a richer, more serene adventure, and often more in tune with the spirit of Lapland.



[Discover our complete article on the scams to avoid](#)



## GOOD TO KNOW

### ALCOHOL

**Alcohol** over 8% is sold in a special store called 'ALKO,' which holds the monopoly on alcohol sales and is government-controlled. Opening hours are limited (the store closes after 9 p.m.), especially on weekends. Similarly, low-alcohol drinks (under 8%) are no longer sold in supermarkets after 9 p.m.

### DEPOSIT & RECYCLING

All plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and glass bottles are subject to a deposit ("pantti"). Deposit amounts vary between €0.10 and €0.40, depending on the volume and material of the container to be **recycled**. At the entrance to supermarkets, you will find machines where you can deposit your bottles and cans and receive your deposit amount. So don't throw your bottles in the trash!

### SAUNA

**Sauna** is a true Finnish tradition, with a sauna for almost every inhabitant. This wellness ritual, deeply rooted in the culture, is often followed by an **avanto**: an invigorating plunge into icy water. This alternation of heat and cold stimulates circulation, strengthens the immune system, and provides a unique sensation.

Want to discover this authentic experience? Book your sauna session with us and immerse yourself in tradition.

### CANDY

Don't be surprised to see **liquorice** or "Salmiakki" and sweets everywhere, it's the little guilty pleasure that almost all Finns add to their shopping!

### KARAOKE

Although Finns are known for being shy and reserved, they're also surprisingly good at karaoke. So don't be surprised if some bars host special nights or if you suddenly hear a Finn grab the microphone and start singing! And don't laugh too much- you might be next...

### CASH

Thought you could spend your coins on your stay in Rovaniemi? You were wrong! Finland no longer accepts 1 and 2 cent coins, which are considered too small. In fact, when you pay in cash at the checkout, the total will be rounded to the nearest €0.05. Furthermore, since card payments are widespread, you can pay everywhere with a credit card. This is very convenient because there are few ATMs in the city center (the OP bank has one at the tourist office).

### WATER

You'll likely find little to no bottled mineral water in supermarkets. Finland prides itself on having some of the **cleanest water in the world**. So, whether at home or in restaurants, we drink tap water. And if you do find bottled water for sale, it's likely imported or sparkling water...

To learn more about Finnish culture and history, [join our Finnish Legends Night around the Fire!](#)

# CONTACT US

## WHY CHOOSE US?

- **Small groups:** maximum of 8 people per activity, ensuring comfort, quality, and a friendly atmosphere.
- **Bilingual guides:** all our guides speak English & French, for a seamless and accessible experience.
- **Human-sized company:** close to its clients, with personalized support.
- **Sliding scale pricing:** the larger the group, the lower the price.
- **Payment in instalments available:** for greater flexibility.
- **Customizable activities:** upon request, we can adapt some of our services to your wishes.
- **Trusted partners:** we collaborate with providers we carefully selected for the quality of their activities, sometimes outside of Rovaniemi, to help you discover Lapland from its best angle.

Visit our website to learn more! - [www.nordicodyssey.net](http://www.nordicodyssey.net)

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# LOOKING FOR ADVENTURES?

DISCOVER OUR

**PRIVATE WINTER PACKAGE**

TO YLLÄS NATIONAL PARK

7 days - Riverside Chalets - Private Activities



[SEE DESCRIPTION HERE](#)





SEE YOU SOON!



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