

Taivalkoski Wilderness Safari

7 days in Northern Finland



Husky safari in the wilderness of Taivalkoski; the tour leads through forests, over hills with lovely scenery (weather permitting), across many lakes and swamps. We follow some nice riverbanks. The trails are interesting to drive but also safe. With a bit of good luck we can see hares, moose, reindeers and in late spring maybe even bear and wolf tracks on the snow or we hear wolves calling our huskies to a night concert. Every guest gets a dog team of 4 - 6 dogs. The tour includes full-board, accommodation on the farm or on the trip normally in wilderness huts with sauna or according to our guests wishes in more primitive accommodations like in a tent or a lean. We provide an English speaking, experienced guide. After the tour everybody gets a diploma.

Monday: Transfer from the airport to the accommodation dinner in the local way, night in double rooms.

Tuesday: Transfer to the husky camp. Training day in the morning. The guides give a theoretical lesson about husky driving, safety and other needed information. Everyone gets a "driving licence card" with the names of the dog team and the commands. We also distribute warm clothing. We meet with the dogs and start to fix the sledges. We learn how to harness



dogs and how lines and sledge work. Then we build teams with the guides. We do a husky drive of approximately 20km. A guide takes care of the group and stops from time to time and gives advice on how to handle different situations. After the drive we learn how to bring the dogs away from the lines. Lunch is at the farm, the guide gives feedback. In the afternoon it is possible to try snowmobile and off road car driving. Sauna and dinner on the farm. Guests can anytime visit the huskies, they are just beside us in the garden. In the evening we watch a movie about sled dog racing. Overnight is in the hotel.



Wednesday: First safari day. Depending on the conditions, we plan about 30 to 60km trip in the wilderness. Lunch at campfire (soup, sandwiches, sausages from the grill, coffee, tea, cake). In the evening we arrive at the wilderness cabin. Before we enjoy sauna, we have the possibility for ice fishing. The cabins have wood heating, there is a bed for everyone. During the tour at least one possibility for swimming in an ice hole after the sauna. During good weather conditions dinner can be served by the campfire outside. We serve traditional Finnish meals as salmon, reindeer meat, forest mushrooms, etc. For special diets please inform us when you book. For personal hygiene

we have warm water available in the sauna in the evening and in the morning. Toilets are outside and are not heated!!

Thursday & Friday: as above

Saturday: A safari day, arriving later back at the husky camp. Transfer back to the hotel, sauna, dinner, small celebration together with guides, diploma.

Sunday: Breakfast, transfer to the airport.

Tours are guided by snowmobile or dog team. The clients all have their own sledge carrying their personal belongings in 80 litre waterproof bags. Day backpack is also useful. The temperature limit for normal safari is -35°C. Clients get from the farm; overalls, wool socks, thermal boots, warm gloves, hats, towel for sauna and sheets for sleeping bags. The clients should have suitable clothing for outdoor activities. A head-torch is recommended.



Group size: maximum 8 persons

Dates 2009/2010 (Monday to Sunday): mid Dec to mid Apr

Getting there: the closest airport is Kuusamo (60km)

Included: transfers from and to airport Kuusamo, 6 overnights, full-board, double rooms in Hotel or wilderness cabins, English speaking wilderness guide, sleeping bag, overall, boots, mitts

Not included: flights, insurance, alcoholic drinks

Cost: £1250 per person Single supplement: £60

Catering / overnights

Accommodation on the first, second and last night are in the hotel Herkko in double rooms. On the tour we sleep in shared accommodation in wilderness cabins or in Laavu without electricity and running water, each one with a sauna. Full board cooked by our guides.

