

# **Arctic Winter Adventure - Finland** *Expedition Information Pack*

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# Why Choose Earth's Edge

Our mission is to support you in exploring our incredible world and experiencing life-changing adventures in the safest way possible. We are passionate about protecting the planet and improving the lives of those we meet along the way.

- We are a 100% Irish-owned small business. Our founder, James McManus, is passionate
  about adventure travel, and his extensive experience is an invaluable source of support
  for our office team in our day-to-day operations.
- Our exceptional expedition leaders are fully trained in wilderness first aid and true
  experts in their region. They are passionate about sharing their first-hand knowledge
  about the local culture, history, and geography while ensuring we consistently deliver
  unforgettable experiences.
- We keep group sizes small to minimise our environmental impact and foster a strong group dynamic. Whether you're travelling solo or with friends or family, our small group sizes provide the perfect opportunity to bond over shared experiences and create lasting friendships.
- We run a **pre-departure training weekend** two months prior to each expedition. It includes a detailed expedition brief, two training hikes and expert advice from an experienced mountain guide. It's also a great opportunity to meet your fellow adventurers!
- We're here to support you every step of the way. Our friendly office team is available to answer any questions you have by phone, e-mail or video consultations. Each team member participates in an expedition every year, ensuring they can share up-to-date advice and insights drawn from their own first-hand experiences.
- Booking an Earth's Edge expedition entitles you to a discount from our equipment partners at <u>Great Outdoors</u> to ensure that you get the best gear for your expedition.



Responsible travel is at the core of what we do at Earth's Edge. As a <u>certified B Corp</u> company, we are committed to using our business as a force for good; to support our communities both locally and worldwide as well as creating more environmental awareness.

We have a number of environmental programmes and community projects, including;

- A <u>yearly scholarship</u> that gives porters the opportunity to become guides on Kilimanjaro.
- We plant 8 trees in Nepal for every person who travels with us in partnership with <u>Eden:</u>
   <u>People + Planet</u>
- Our clients in Nepal help to remove waste from Sagarmatha National Park through the Carry Me Back Program.
- We collect <u>clothing and gear donations</u> for our amazing porters on Kilimanjaro.
- We are striving to increase the number of <u>female staff</u> across our expeditions.

To read more about our sustainability practises please visit our responsible travel page.

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## **Description & Detailed Itinerary**

Discover the magic of **Arctic Finland** on this unforgettable 8-day journey through **Lapland's snow-covered wilderness**. Based in a cozy log cabin near Syöte National Park, we experience the very best of winter adventure and Finnish hospitality.

Each day brings a new way to explore the pristine landscapes of **Syöte and Riisitunturi National Parks**. We **snowshoe** through ancient, snow-laden forests, **backcountry ski** across rolling fells, ride **husky sleds** over frozen rivers, and finish the week **fat biking** along groomed winter trails. Evenings are for hearty meals, the warmth of a traditional Finnish **sauna**, and, if conditions are right, the chance to witness the **Northern Lights** dancing across the sky.

Along the way, we share **campfire lunches**, connect with **local traditions**, and embrace the rhythm of life in Finland's far north. This expedition is ideal for those seeking both adventure and cultural immersion, in a perfect blend of physical challenge and authentic Arctic magic.

#### Please note:

- The itinerary is subject to change due to the unpredictable nature of adventure travel. Adjustments may be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances.
- On this expedition, high-quality medical care is readily available locally. Our expedition leader ensures your safety without the need for a dedicated doctor.

## Day 1: Arrival in Lapland

Arrive at Rovaniemi airport (RVN), where we are met by our expedition leader. A 2-hour transfer takes us to Taigalampi Cabin in Syöte, a cozy log cabin that will be our base for the week. In the



evening, we enjoy a welcome dinner, a trip briefing, and the option to experience our first traditional Finnish sauna before settling in for the night. Overnight cabin.

#### Day 2: Snowshoeing in Syöte National Park, 5 hrs

After breakfast at the cabin, our adventure begins with a full day of snowshoeing through the great white forests and fells of Syöte. We pass by ancient, snow-covered trees and learn about life in these remote areas in South Lapland. We stop for a hearty lunch by an open fire before continuing our journey through the pristine wilderness. We return to the cabin for stretching, sauna, dinner, and a well-earned rest. Overnight cabin.

#### Day 3: Hiking in Riisitunturi National Park, 4-5 hrs

We enjoy an early breakfast before driving approx. 1.5 hours to Riisitunturi National Park. There, we hike through its idyllic snow-covered fells, with fantastic views along the way (snowshoes optional). A picnic lunch in nature keeps us going before visiting the Pentikmäki Culture and Ceramics Centre, where you'll be able to see an exhibition on Northern ceramics, browse for souvenirs, and enjoy a coffee break in the café. We then return to the cabin to relax with a hot sauna, dinner, and, if skies are clear, we might be fortunate enough to see the Northern Lights overhead! Overnight cabin.

#### Day 4: Cross-Country Skiing Adventure, 5-6 hrs

Following breakfast and a short introduction to skiing, we set off on a classic cross-country skiing route along well-maintained tracks. Moving from hut to hut, we experience Lapland's varied landscapes, stopping for lunch along the way. The total distance today will depend on the group. Overnight cabin.

#### Day 5: Husky Sledding, 5 hrs

Today we embark on an unforgettable husky sledding adventure! We'll be instructed on how to handle our husky sleds safely before we set off in teams of two through the winter wonderland. Our thrilling ride takes us through snowy forests and over frozen rivers in the beautiful winter landscape of Finnish Lapland. We stop along the way for a picnic lunch, and later return to Taigalampi Cabin for a well-deserved sauna and dinner. Overnight cabin.

#### Day 6: Back-Country Skiing in Syöte, 5 hrs

A short transfer brings us to a remote part of Syöte National Park for a full day of backcountry skiing on traditional skin-based fell skis. Especially designed for deep powder snow, we explore the quiet snow-covered forests, heading up the fells, along the ridges, and cross over frozen lakes. As we've become used to, we enjoy a wilderness lunch along the way to fuel our journey. Transfer back to the cabin for our usual sauna and dinner. Overnight cabin.

#### Day 7: Fat Biking in Syöte, 4 hrs

Our final adventure takes us on a unique winter biking experience along dedicated trails in Syöte National Park. Riding electric fat bikes (mountain bikes with extra-wide tires that provide



stability and grip on snow), we enjoy the snowy landscapes one last time, pausing at a wooden shelter for lunch. In the evening, we share a delicious farewell dinner and a final sauna under the northern skies. Overnight cabin.

#### **Day 8: Departure**

We enjoy a relaxed morning at the cabin before transferring back to Rovaniemi airport for departure.

## **Expedition Costs**

Total Cost: €2,599

- A deposit of EUR/USD/GBP 399 is taken at the time of booking to secure your spot
- A part payment of EUR/USD/GBP 1,000 is due six months prior to departure
- The **final balance** can be paid in instalments, but is due 90 days prior to departure

For up-to-date prices in GBP and USD based on today's exchange rate, please visit our website.

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# **Flights**

Our recommended flight route for this trip is below. Please consult us before booking alternative flights (e.g. to Oulu or Kuusamo) to ensure you arrive in time for the expedition briefing on the first day. It is essential that you do not miss this meeting.

Dublin (DUB) - Lapland Rovaniemi (RVN) with Ryanair

- FR 9793: Saturday 7th February 10:55 16:15
- FR 9794: Saturday 14th February 16:50 18:10

Cost: Approx €400 per person (including 20kg check-in bag)

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# **Expedition Inclusions & Exclusions**

## **Expedition Costs Include:**

- Pre-departure training weekend
- Experienced expedition leader
- All accommodation based on twin sharing in Taigalampi Log Cabin
- All meals and drinking water throughout the itinerary
- A celebratory dinner at the end of the expedition
- All group transport throughout the expedition



- All specialist equipment including snowshoes, skis, poles, etc.
- An Earth's Edge buff for all participants

### **Expedition Costs Exclude:**

- Training weekend accommodation and food
- Personal travel insurance
- Tourist visas
- Personal equipment
- Tips
- Expenses of a personal nature like souvenirs, alcohol and excess baggage charges
- Any costs arising out of unforeseen circumstances which affect the itinerary, such as bad weather, landslides, road conditions, and any other circumstances beyond our control

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# Sleeping Arrangements

<u>Taigalampi Cabin</u> is reserved solely for our group for the duration of the trip. The cabin has a total of **8 bedrooms** with a mix of twin and bunk beds. Most bedrooms are private, however, please note:

- There are 2 twin bedrooms that serve as 'throughways'
- Each throughway bedroom provides access to 2 adjoining bedrooms and a bathroom, meaning others must walk through this space to reach those rooms
- These 2 bedrooms therefore offer less privacy compared to the others
- A €100 discount is available for those who opt to stay in these rooms on a first come, first served basis. Please contact <u>support@earths-edge.com</u> to avail of this option

#### Single Supplement

Due to the limited number of bedrooms in the cabin, it may not always be possible to offer single rooms. A small number of single supplement bookings may be available on request, but this depends on the total group size.

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# Spending Money & Tipping

### Spending Money

Although entirely optional, we recommend that you put aside **EUR 300** in spending money for this trip to cover items like drinks, snacks, and souvenirs. ATMs are available at Rovaniemi Airport, although most shops, cafés, and services in Finland accept credit/debit cards, even for small purchases.



#### **Tipping**

Although always appreciated, tipping is neither customary nor expected in Finland. For this reason, we don't recommend a set tip amount for this trip. Any gratuity is entirely at your discretion and based on your experience, level of satisfaction, and personal circumstances.

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## **Training Weekends**

Before every expedition, we organise a training weekend where you'll have the chance to meet your fellow adventurers! Led by one of our experienced guides, this weekend includes a detailed expedition briefing introducing you to the range of activities you'll experience in Finland, such as snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, husky sledding and e-fatbiking. You'll also enjoy two guided hikes, and get invaluable advice covering everything from equipment and layering systems to cold-weather management. Not only are these events educational, but they're also enjoyable, set against the breathtaking backdrop of Glendalough, Co. Wicklow. Please note that food and accommodation for this weekend are not included.

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## **Safety Standards**

At Earth's Edge, your safety is our top priority. This expedition is led by an experienced leader familiar with the locations of local medical facilities and hospitals. While our leader carries a comprehensive first aid kit, we ask all participants to bring a basic first aid kit as outlined in the equipment list. Always follow the guidance of your expedition leader to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.

We recommend participants research local laws and customs before travelling to Finland. Up-to-date travel advice is available on the <u>DFA website</u>.

On expeditions, the most common cause of illness is gastrointestinal upset, often caused by poor personal hygiene. The good news is that it is easily avoided by practising the following:

- Always wash your hands and apply hand sanitiser after going to the toilet and before touching food
- Maintain a healthy diet and consider taking multivitamins and probiotics for one month before and during the expedition to help your body adjust to changes in your diet and keep you healthy throughout the expedition

To read more about our safety standards please visit our <u>safety page</u>.

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# **Special Offers**

• **Return Customer Offer** - If you have travelled with us before, please visit our <u>return</u> <u>customer</u> page for details on what discount you are entitled to



- **Refer a Friend Offer** If you have a friend who wants to travel with us, please visit our refer a friend page for details on our referral programme
- **Group Discounts** If you are booking as part of a group, please visit our group discounts page for details on what discount you are entitled to
- Couples Offer If you are booking with a friend or partner, please visit our <u>couples offer</u> page for details on what discount you are entitled to

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# **Book Your Trip Consultation**

You can now schedule a free trip consultation with a member of the Earth's Edge team! We're happy to talk you through the itinerary, preparation and training, equipment, and anything else you'd like to know. Book your <u>consultation here</u>.

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## **Expedition FAQs**

Do you have a question that wasn't answered in this information pack? If so, please visit our <u>FAQ</u> <u>page</u> for a full list of frequently asked questions. If you can't find your answer there, please <u>contact us.</u>

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