



# Finland

ARCTIC MAGNIFICENCE



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University of Illinois Alumni Association



ALUMNI

January 10-18, 2027

# I ALUMNI

## Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Join us for an exhilarating, seven-night journey that captures the natural grandeur, vibrant culture and Nordic cool of Finland! Begin with three nights at a first-class hotel in lively Helsinki, getting acquainted with this cosmopolitan capital and indulging in a Finnish sauna. Then, fly to northern Lapland and stay for four nights in a comfy, glass-domed cabin, perfect for watching the spectacular Northern Lights overhead.

Breathe in Lapland's crisp, fresh air on unforgettable, active adventures. You'll strap on snowshoes for a trek, drive a team of huskies across the fjells on a dogsled and take a fun snowmobile ride! Other engaging excursions introduce you to Arctic culture, wildlife and history as well as life on a traditional reindeer farm.

As you explore with your small group, look to experienced guides and lecturers for illuminating details about Finland's history, cultural traditions and the unique character of its people. This well-rounded itinerary also includes a day trip to admire the beautiful old town of Tallinn, Estonia, and a round-trip flight between Helsinki and Lapland.

Space on this remarkable Finnish experience is limited to 24 travelers and in demand, so guarantee your place by reserving today!

Sincerely,



David Bambrey  
President

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

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### UNESCO World Heritage

Historic Center (Old Town) of Tallinn,  
Estonia

*Viru Gate, Old Gate, Tallinn*





# Discovery begins here



From the dazzling Northern Lights to a rejuvenating sauna, bask in outdoor fun and cool Finnish traditions in the world's happiest country! The Finnish people savor the simple pleasures of life and find joy in their close bond with nature. On this marvelous, seven-night adventure, appreciate what Finnish happiness is all about as you embrace the country's majestic beauty and Nordic charm. Take in hip Helsinki's urban vibes and explore the sparkling, snowy landscapes of Lapland!

Top: Glass-domed cabin, Lapland | Above: Sámi man  
Cover: Northern Lights Village | Mail panel: Sámi man and reindeer | Snowshoeing

## Inspiring Moments



- Watch the ethereal **Northern Lights** dance overhead from your **glass-domed cabin** in northern Lapland.
- **Drive a team of energetic huskies** on a thrilling ride across the glistening fjells.
- Revel in a **snowshoe trek** through a tranquil, moonlit forest to take in the Northern Lights and the starry sky.
- Discover intriguing facets of **Finland's Sámi culture**.
- Soak up the soothing steam of a **sauna** and learn why it's an essential, beloved experience for Finns.
- Travel to Estonia and delight in Tallinn's beautiful old town, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.
- Admire the stunning mix of historic and contemporary architecture in **Helsinki**.
- See reindeer in their natural habitat at a traditional **reindeer farm**.



Helsinki

### Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Helsinki, Finland. 🌐

### Day 2 | Helsinki, Finland

Upon arrival, transfer 🚗 to Hotel U14.

Join your Travel Director for a brief stroll around the neighborhood this afternoon. Later, meet for a Welcome Reception and Dinner in the hotel.

### Day 3 | Helsinki

**Helsinki Tour.** On a scenic tour, discover the eye-catching architecture of this dynamic city founded in 1550. See splendid gems along your route, including Tuomiokirkko, the neoclassical, green-domed cathedral built in 1852, and check out the sleek, light-filled Oodi Library, popular with Finns since its opening in 2018.

**Free Time:** Make your own plans for lunch.

**Enrichment: Finnish Sauna Culture.** Relaxing in a sauna is an integral part of Finnish life, a ritual enjoyed alone or with family and friends. A local expert discusses the traditions behind this quintessentially Finnish experience.

**Löyly Sauna Experience.** It's time to do as the Finns do! Try different styles of saunas at Löyly Sauna, and if you're game, cool off with a bracing dip in the Baltic Sea!

**Free Time:** Get a wonderful taste of Helsinki's inventive dining scene tonight.

### Day 4 | Tallinn, Estonia | Helsinki, Finland

After breakfast, ferry across the Gulf of Finland on a two-hour journey to Tallinn, Estonia. Enjoy lunch on your own upon arrival.

**Tallinn Walking Tour.** Founded in the 12th century, Tallinn boasts an enchanting, medieval old town that's one of the most impressively preserved in northern Europe. Its delightful Gothic and baroque churches, elegant spires and red-tile roofed buildings imbue this Baltic jewel with a special romance. On a guided walk in this UNESCO World Heritage site, see the highlights and hear about its intriguing history while exploring the picturesque, winding lanes. After some free time, return by ferry to Helsinki. Dinner will be served on the ship.

### Day 5 | Rovaniemi | Pyhä

This morning, check out and depart for the Helsinki airport. Fly to Rovaniemi in Lapland.

**Arktikum.** This engaging science center and history museum in Rovaniemi reveals unique aspects of life in the Arctic. On a guided tour, view fascinating exhibits about the culture, history, wildlife and natural environment of northern Lapland.

Löyly Sauna, Helsinki





Dogsledding

After lunch on your own, transfer to Pyhä and check in to the Northern Lights Village. Spend time getting settled in your cozy cabin and checking out the Village's lovely environs. Meet for dinner in the Village's dining room.

#### Day 6 | Pyhä

**AHI Connects | Happiest People in the World Workshop.** Finland consistently ranks as one of the happiest nations. A local expert delves into the reasons behind the Finns' strong sense of well-being and their affinity with the natural world during a workshop.

**Husky Safari.** This afternoon, drive a team of eager huskies on a fast-paced journey across the fjells. You'll receive training from the guide who will lead the group. (*Very active. Requires strong balance over a one-hour period.*)

Join your group for dinner in the dining room.

**Aurora Hunting in the Wilderness.** Enjoy a pleasant evening at the lodge's Aurora Camp, where you'll have the opportunity to witness

the awe-inspiring Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights (atmospheric conditions permitting), an amazing natural phenomenon that occurs when charged solar particles collide with the molecules of the Earth's upper atmosphere. On your way to the camp by mini-bus, stop for photos, and sip a toasty drink by the fire later at the camp.

#### Day 7 | Pyhä

**AHI Connects | Finnish Reindeer Farm.** Reindeer husbandry has been an intrinsic part of Sámi culture since the Middle Ages. See these beautiful animals, chat with the reindeer herder about daily life and savor a homemade lunch at a farm owned by a Sámi family.

**Free Time:** Your afternoon is at leisure.

Gather in the Village dining room for dinner.

**Aurora Snowshoe Expedition.** Follow your guide on a snowshoe hike under the moonlit sky amid the stillness of the pristine forest and fjells, then relax by a fire with a warm beverage and listen to tales about the Northern Lights.

Bear exhibit, Arktikum

Reindeer farm





## Included Features



### Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **3 nights** in Helsinki, Finland, at the first-class Hotel U14.
- **4 nights** in Pyhä at the first-class Northern Lights Village.

### Transfers (with baggage handling)

- All transfers in the Land Program: flights, ferry and deluxe motor coaches.

### Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 6 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

### Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 24 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome Reception to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

## Day 8 | Pyhä

**Snowmobile Safari.** Zip across powdery snow on a breathtaking ride. Your guide will offer safety training and lead the ride. Pause for photos and a warm drink. (*Very active.*)

**Free Time:** Pursue your own passions in the great outdoors of Lapland! The Village offers cross-country ski and snowshoe rentals at a nominal fee for guests as well as many optional experiences (at an additional cost.) Celebrate your time in Finland with your fellow travelers at a Farewell Dinner.

## Day 9 | Rovaniemi | Helsinki | In Transit

After breakfast, depart for the airport in Rovaniemi and fly to Helsinki. Connect in Helsinki to your international flight home.

**Note:** Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

✈️ Flights and 🚗 transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

## Active Travel

This Active Program is designed for people who are in good health and can comfortably participate in a demanding daily schedule of physical activities. For more details, please call or visit our website.

### Excursions on this program require:

- standing and walking for up to 2 hours during dogsled ride and snowshoe hike
- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats
- tolerating colder temperatures during outdoor activities in the snow

Warming hut at Aurora Camp





*Great Grey Owl, Lapland*



*Cross-country skiing*



*Snowmobile safari*

# 2027 | Departure Details

## Program Dates

**Travel dates** † **January 10-18, 2027**

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

**Tour dates\*** **January 11-18, 2027**

\* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

## Land Program

**Full Price** **\$6,545**

**Special Savings** **\$750**

**Special Savings Price\*** **\$5,795**

**\*This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$1,000 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 150 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single accommodations are an additional \$1,395 (limited availability).

**Please note:** Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/2017A?schoold=69>.

## AHI FlexAir

### *Let us arrange your flights*

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

## *AHI Travel Expertise*

**Travel Consultants** guide you through the reservation process.

**Travel & Air Coordinators** offer assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

**Travel Information** provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

**Your Travel Director**, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

**Handpicked Expert Guides and Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



# Accommodations



Hotel U14 | Helsinki



Northern Lights Village | Pyhä



Book your journey today!

844-414-0369

<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>

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**Nordic charm, the Northern Lights and outdoor fun!**

**Please call or refer to  
our website for the  
most current program  
information, discounts  
and pricing.**

**Book your journey today!**

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**<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**

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