

*The Beyond Borders Collective*  
 TRAVEL BREAKS BARRIERS AND BRINGS US TOGETHER

**Finland: Helsinki, Lapland (Arctic Circle)**  
 9 Day Itinerary (March)

**Summary Information**

Transportation	
<b>Helsinki</b>	
International Airline	United / Lufthansa
Airport Hub	Helsinki-Vantaa International Airport (HEL)
Ground Transportation	<p><b><u>To/From Airport</u></b>            Luxury option - book private transfer to/from airport from your hotel.            Budget option – take train to city center (download the free HSL app and purchase tickets from your phone)            Alternatively, you can book a Taxi or Uber (see below)</p> <p><b><u>Throughout Helsinki</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taxi Helsinki: download Taksini app</li> <li>• Train: download HSL app to purchase tickets</li> <li>• Uber</li> </ul>
<b>Lapland (Rovaniemi / Levi)</b>	
Airline	<b><u>FinnAir</u></b> – roundtrip Helsinki to Rovaniemi
Rental Car	<b><u>Enterprise Rent-A-Car</u></b> – Rovaniemi Airport

Accommodations	
Helsinki (2 nights)	<b><u>Lapland Hotels Bulevardi</u></b> ( <i>most rooms have saunas</i> ) Bulevardi 28 00120 Helsinki, Finland
Kittilä / Levi (2 nights)	<b><u>Levin Iglut</u></b> ( <i>glass igloos</i> ) Harjatie 4, 99130 Kittilä, Finland
Rovaniemi (3 nights)	<b><u>Arctic Treehouse Hotel</u></b> Tarvantie 3, 96910 Rovaniemi, Finland
Helsinki (1 night)	<b><u>Hotel St. George</u></b> Yrjönkatu 13 00120 Helsinki, Finland
<p>Note: We stayed in two different locations in Lapland (Levi &amp; Rovaniemi). If you would like to reduce the amount of time moving around, recommend staying at Levin Iglut the entire time. You can fly directly to the Kittila airport instead of Rovaniemi (15-minute drive to resort).</p>	

International Travel Requirements*	
Tourist Visa	Tourist visa not required for stays less than 90 days
Passport Validity	Three months required. Six months of remaining validity recommended.
Source*	<a href="http://Travel.state.gov">Travel.state.gov</a>
*Based on requirements for US Citizens. For all others, check local government website. Requirements subject to change so recommend leveraging links above for most up-to-date information.	

Restaurant Recommendations	
**Specific restaurants we dined at are also included in detailed itinerary below. Food delivery is also available via Wolt (food delivery service) for participating restaurants	
Helsinki	<p><a href="#">Kulta Kitchen &amp; Bar</a> – \$\$\$\$ (elevated traditional fare and Lappish décor)</p> <p><a href="#">Yes Yes Yes</a> – \$\$ (chic restaurant serving vegetarian dishes)</p> <p><a href="#">Baskeri &amp; Basso</a> – \$\$ (highly rated; open Tuesday – Friday)</p> <p><a href="#">BasBas Kulma</a> – \$\$ (highly rated; open Wednesday – Saturday)</p> <p><a href="#">Toscanini's</a> – \$\$ (authentic Italian restaurant with handmade pasta)</p> <p><a href="#">Levant Boulevardi</a> – \$ (Middle Eastern street food)</p> <p><a href="#">Cafetino</a> – \$ (café featuring Greek style cuisine)</p> <p><a href="#">Penny</a> – \$\$ (small cozy space)</p> <p><a href="#">Kappeli</a> – \$\$\$ (beautiful café and restaurant near Esplanadi Park)</p> <p><a href="#">Wintergarden</a> – \$\$\$\$ (cocktail bar)</p>
Porvoo	<p><a href="#">Gabriel 1763</a> – \$\$ (charming ambiance, unique &amp; tasty pizza)</p> <p><a href="#">Zum Beispiel</a> – \$\$ (organic restaurant; closed on Sundays)</p> <p><a href="#">SicaPelle</a> – \$\$\$ (modern European restaurant; closed on Sundays)</p> <p><a href="#">Ani's Café</a> – \$\$ (vegetarian restaurant)</p> <p><a href="#">Café Fanny</a> – \$\$ (coffee, deserts &amp; cocktails; known for its Runeberg's cake)</p> <p><a href="#">Porvoon Paahtimo</a> – \$\$ (bar &amp; café; also known for its Runeberg's cake)</p>
Rovaniemi	<p><a href="#">Café &amp; Bar 21</a> – \$\$ (modern café, restaurant &amp; coffee shop)</p> <p><a href="#">YUCA</a> – \$\$ (modern Mexican, located next to Café &amp; Bar 21)</p> <p><a href="#">Korundi Kitchen &amp; Cafe</a> – \$\$ (lunch restaurant and art café)</p> <p><a href="#">Ravintola Roka Street Bistro</a> – \$\$ (bistro-style and street food)</p> <p><a href="#">Rakas Restaurant &amp; Bar</a> – \$\$\$ (local Finnish cuisine with a modern twist)</p> <p><a href="#">Sky Kitchen &amp; View</a> – \$\$\$\$ (scenic views &amp; surprise chef menu available)</p>

## Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Helsinki		
<b>Afternoon</b>		
Transportation	Arrive in Helsinki International Airport (HEL)	Recommend arranging private transportation via hotel (see transportation details above).
Hotel Check In	Check into Lapland Hotels Bulevardi Helsinki	Check in available at 4:00pm. See accommodation details above.
<b>Evening</b>		
Dinner	<b>Kulta Kitchen &amp; Bar</b> \$\$\$\$ (at Lapland Hotels Bulevardi; room service also available)	Elevated traditional fare and Lappish décor. Try the Reindeer cocktail!

Day 2: Helsinki / Porvoo		
<b>Morning</b>		
Breakfast	<b>Kulta Kitchen &amp; Bar</b> at Lapland Hotels Bulevardi	Breakfast included
Activity	Spa treatment at <b>Praan Spa</b> in Helsinki	7-minute walk from hotel
<b>Afternoon</b>		
Activity	<b>Day trip to Old Town Porvoo</b> (45-minute drive from Helsinki)  Porvoo is the second oldest town in Finland. It is quite picturesque and good for shopping and enjoying a nice meal (see below for details)	<b>Transportation options</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uber/Taxi – it is easier to request an Uber on the way to Porvoo than it is on the return trip. You can catch a Taxi in Porvoo outside of Runo hotel.</li> <li>• <b>Metro</b> - departs every 30 minutes from Kamppi bus station (tickets available for purchase when you enter the bus).</li> </ul>
	<b>Shopping in Porvoo</b> All shops in Old Town are within walking distance. Perfect opportunity to meander and see where it takes you!	<b>Shopping recommendations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Petris</b> - beautiful chocolates, offers vegan options</li> <li>• <b>Brunberg</b> - local chocolate maker</li> <li>• <b>Design Deli</b> - offers a selection of Finnish designers and illustrators</li> </ul>
	<b>Lunch at <u>Gabriel 1763</u></b> – \$\$	Charming restaurant in old town with unique and delicious pizza
	<b>Dessert at <u>Café Fanny</u></b> – \$\$	Try the famous Runeberg Cake with a glass of Prosecco!
<b>Evening</b>		
Dinner	<b>Toscanini's</b> – \$\$ (authentic Italian restaurant walking distance from hotel)	Try the beet and goat cheese risotto!

Day 3: Departure to Lapland (Arctic Circle)		
<b>Morning</b>		
Breakfast	<u>Kulta Kitchen &amp; Bar</u> at Lapland Hotels Bulevardi	Breakfast included
Hotel Check Out	Check out of Lapland Hotels Bulevardi Helsinki	Checkout by 11:00am
Transportation	Flight from Helsinki to Rovaniemi via FinnAir	Private transportation to Helsinki airport arranged through hotel. Pick up rental car at Rovaniemi airport. See transportation details above.
Activity	Visit <u>Santa Claus Village</u> (less than 5-minute drive from Rovaniemi airport)  Note: Worth stopping by to visit; however, heads up the whole place feels very touristy.	Shops to check out in Santa Claus Village: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas House Santa</li> <li>• Iittala Shop</li> <li>• Santa's Chocolate and Candy Shop</li> <li>• Marimekko</li> <li>• Santa Claus Holiday Village</li> </ul>
<b>Afternoon</b>		
Lunch	<u>Korundi Kitchen &amp; Cafe</u> – \$\$	Lunch restaurant and art café located in downtown Rovaniemi
Activity	<u>Sauna and Jacuzzi experience at Arctic SnowHotel</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finnish sauna + snow sauna + outdoor jacuzzi with sauna beverage (90 min)</li> <li>• Includes self-paced tour of snow hotel prior to sauna</li> <li>• Contact to book: sales@arcticsnowhotel.fi</li> </ul>	The snow hotel is quite impressive and worth the complimentary tour ahead of the sauna!
Transportation	Drive to Levi (Levin Iglut)	2-hour drive from Rovaniemi to Levin Iglut
Hotel Check In	Check into Levin Iglut (glass igloos)	Check in available at 4:00pm. See accommodation details above.
<b>Evening</b>		
Dinner	<u>Restaurant Utsu</u> - \$\$\$\$ (located at Levin Iglut)	Tip: Make reservation under the glass roof in advance, space is limited! Try the Lingonberry cocktail!
Activity	<u>Aurora Chase by Arctic Frontier</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tour by Arctic Frontier</li> <li>• Pickup from hotel at 7:40pm (time may vary)</li> <li>• Booked through Levin Iglut</li> <li>• 165€/person</li> </ul>	Includes access to Nikon SLR digital camera, Manfrotto tripod professional instruction, warm and comfortable transport, head torch, chocolate brownies, home-made lingonberry juice.

Day 4: Lapland (Arctic Circle)		
<b>Morning</b>		
Breakfast	<u>Restaurant Utsu</u> - \$\$\$\$ (located at Levin Iglut)	Breakfast included
Activity	<b><u>Taste of Reindeer Herders Day</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reindeer Farm Petrimattus</li> <li>• 3-hour duration</li> <li>• 2-hour drive to destination (one way)</li> <li>• Snowmobile and feed reindeer in nature</li> <li>• Coffee and Bakery Item included</li> <li>• Contact: petri.mattus@gmail.com</li> </ul>	Great tour if you are looking for an authentic experience in Sami culture. Alternative activities in Levi: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Levi Foxfires Arctic Spa</u> (5 min drive)</li> <li>• <u>Reindeer safari at Levin Lapinkyla</u> (10 min drive)</li> <li>• <u>Panorama snowmobiling safari at Torassieppi</u> (45 min drive)</li> <li>• <u>Yllas Sauna Gondola</u> (40 min drive)</li> <li>• <u>Husky Outdoor Levi</u> (6 min drive)</li> </ul>
<b>Afternoon</b>		
Activity	<b>Private use of sauna and outdoor Jacuzzi in Northern Lights House</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located at Levin Iglut</li> <li>• Available to book for 2-hour intervals</li> </ul>	Great relaxing option if you don't have a Suite Igloo. Requires advance reservation. Contact Levin Iglut (reception@leviniglut.fi) for details.
<b>Evening</b>		
Dinner	<u>Restaurant Utsu</u> - \$\$\$\$ (located at Levin Iglut)	This restaurant is so delicious we had no issue eating there twice! Tip: try the "Surprise" 3 or 5 course menu.
Activity	Relax and search for the Northern Lights from inside your glass igloo!	You can purchase a Northern Lights alert from <a href="http://www.nlalert.fi">www.nlalert.fi</a>  You can also track activity on the <a href="#">Space Weather Finland</a> website for free (look for activity over a 1.0) for Muonio (nearest location to Levi)

Day 5: Lapland (Arctic Circle)		
<b>Morning</b>		
Breakfast	<u>Restaurant Utsu</u> - \$\$\$\$ (located at Levin Iglut)	Breakfast included
Activity	Visit Levin Iglut's Kota (traditional Sami dwelling)	Relax next to a Finnish style log fire and roast marshmallows. If you want to be joined by huskies, you can arrange in advance by contacting <a href="#">Husky Outdoor Levi</a>
Hotel Check Out	Check out of Levin Iglut resort	Check out at 11:00am

Transportation	Drive to Rovaniemi	2-hour drive from Levi to Rovaniemi
<b>Afternoon</b>		
Lunch	<u>Café &amp; Bar 21</u> – \$\$ (modern café, restaurant & coffee shop)	Try the Salmon Soup (a Finnish staple)
Hotel Check In	Check into Arctic Treehouse Hotel	Check in available at 4:00pm. See accommodation details above.
<b>Evening</b>		
Dinner	<u>Rakas Restaurant &amp; Bar</u> – \$\$\$ (at Arctic Treehouse hotel)	Local Finnish cuisine with a modern twist
Activity	<u>Discover the Northern Lights</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tour by Beyond Arctic</li> <li>• Pickup at 7:20pm from hotel (varies)</li> <li>• 120€/person</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternative: <u>Arctic Road Trips</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact: +39 3473291506 (What's App)</li> <li>• Lorenzo Miranda (Instagram: @Lorenmira_Lapland)</li> </ul>	Professional photography guide, hot drinks and snacks, hunt for the Northern Lights, headlamps, BBQ gear, warm clothing & winter boots, tripod for your camera / mount for a Smartphone, a few photos from the tour sent to you afterwards.

<b>Day 6: Lapland (Arctic Circle)</b>		
<b>Morning / Afternoon</b>		
Breakfast	<u>Rakas Restaurant &amp; Bar</u> - \$\$\$\$ (located at Arctic Treehouse)	Breakfast included
Activity	<u>Riisitunturi Photography Expedition</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tour by Beyond Arctic</li> <li>• 8:00am – 4:00pm</li> <li>• Lunch included</li> </ul> <p><i>Tip: Time permitting, request guide to stop at Pentik (local Finnish designer) on the way back</i></p>	Private tour to the dramatic snow-covered landscapes with opportunity to capture beautiful photos from the fells.  <i>Note: Northern lights tours end late, Consider leaving your morning open to rest and relax in lieu of a tour.</i>
<b>Evening</b>		
Dinner	Room service at Arctic Treehouse hotel	Food delivery options are also available via Wolt (Food delivery service in Finland)

<b>Day 7: Lapland (Arctic Circle)</b>		
<b>Morning / Afternoon</b>		
Breakfast	<u>Rakas Restaurant &amp; Bar</u> - \$\$\$\$ (located at Arctic Treehouse)	Breakfast included
Activity	<u>Husky Safari - Happy Trail Morning Tour</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tour by Bearhill Husky</li> <li>• Pickup at 10:30am</li> <li>• Duration: 2.5 hours</li> <li>• 157€/person</li> </ul>	Includes 45-minute drive with a husky sled (2 adults per sled), Hot juice, snack and cookies, Arctic outer clothing, Informative talk about huskies.

Evening		
Dinner	<u><a href="#">Sky Kitchen &amp; View</a></u> – \$\$\$\$ (scenic views; reservations recommended!)	Try the Jerusalem artichoke soup or the surprise menu!

### Day 8: Return to Helsinki

Morning		
Breakfast	<u><a href="#">Rakas Restaurant &amp; Bar</a></u> - \$\$\$\$ (located at Arctic Treehouse)	Breakfast included
Hotel Check Out	Check out of Arctic Treehouse hotel and return rental car at airport	5-minute drive from Arctic Treehouse Hotel to Rovaniemi airport.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flight from Rovaniemi to Helsinki via FinnAir</li> <li>• Private transportation from Helsinki airport to hotel upon arrival</li> </ul>	See transportation details above
Afternoon		
Hotel Check In	Check into St. George Hotel	See accommodations details above
Lunch	<u><a href="#">Yes Yes Yes</a></u> – \$\$	Vegetarian and Vegan restaurant with beautiful cocktails. One of our favorite spots!
Activity	Explore shops and landmarks around Helsinki	Landmarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orthodox Parish of Helsinki</li> <li>• Senate Square</li> <li>• Market Square</li> <li>• Punavuori district (shops and restaurants)</li> </ul>
Evening		
Activity	Appointment at <u><a href="#">St. George Spa</a></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring swimsuits to use sauna/pool amenities</li> <li>• Book appointments <u><a href="#">here</a></u></li> </ul>	Note: Stay at St. George includes complimentary access to the sauna and therapeutic pools
Dinner	<u><a href="#">Levant Bulevardi</a></u> – \$ (Middle Eastern street food)	Great spot if looking for a casual option. See restaurant section above for additional recommendations.
Drinks	<u><a href="#">Wintergarden</a></u> – \$\$\$\$ (cocktail bar located inside St. George Hotel)	Go for pre-or post-dinner cocktail. Located in St. George's courtyard under a glass roof

### Day 9: Return Home

Morning		
Hotel Check Out	Check out of St. George Hotel	Checkout by 11:00am
Transportation	Depart Helsinki International Airport (HEL) for flight home.	Transportation to the airport arranged through hotel (Helsinki Limo)

### Travel Tip #1: What to Pack

Less is more! Here are a few important items to invest in:

- 1.) Warm base layers (merino wool socks & long sleeve shirts)
- 2.) Outerwear (parka and a lighter coat, hat, gloves, and scarf)
- 3.) Waterproof boots that are stylish and comfortable (Columbia has great options)
- 4.) Eye mask for when sleeping in the glass igloo to help once the sun rises!

### Travel Tip #2: Restaurant Hours of Operation

Many restaurants in Finland aren't open on Sundays or are closed during certain hours of the day so plan accordingly. This is a good opportunity to take advantage of hotel room service!

### Travel Tip #3: Local Cuisine and Other Food

Reindeer is a Finnish staple, so don't be surprised if you see it on the menu! Salmon soup is another. There are plenty of food options available - even for vegetarians (see restaurant recommendations above). Finland also has a food delivery service called WOLT if you are wanting a relaxing night in.

### Travel Tip #4: Book a Northern Lights Tour

Even when the aurora activity is high, a sighting is not guaranteed. The benefit of booking a tour is that the guide will monitor the activity and take you to a location with optimal chances of viewing. The guides will capture a few professional photos and some tours provide a camera and tripod for use during the tour.

### Travel Tip #5: Northern Lights Preparation

Capturing the northern lights can be tricky. Invest in a travel size tripod for your camera or phone (I used [UBeesize](#)) as it makes a huge difference in quality. If capturing on your phone, adjust your exposure to the "Night" setting. Finally, purchase a Northern Lights alert from [www.nlalert.fi](http://www.nlalert.fi). You can also track activity on the Space Weather Finland website for free (look for activity over a 1.0) for Muonio (nearest location to Levi).