

CULTURAL TOUR TO WESTERN LAPLAND – June 8-10, 2018

1. DAY: ROVANIEMI – PAKASAIVO – LEVI

Rovaniemi is the capital of Lapland, “The heart of Lapland”. At the beginning of 2006, after the municipal merger of Rovaniemi and its municipalities, Rovaniemi became the largest city in area in the whole of European Union (8016 km²). Signs of settlement are already from 11th to 12th centuries. Rovaniemi has always been a market place, where people from Lapland came to sell their products and have some fun. The first Rovaniemi Fair was held in February 1881 and the tradition is still strong. Rovaniemi got market town rights in 1929 and city rights in 1960. Nowadays Rovaniemi is a lively year-round tourism and university city.



At 09.00, Pick-up from the hotel

At 09.15, Transportation to Pello

Pello is a Finnish municipality 100 km west of Rovaniemi. Until 1949 it was known as Turtola – made famous because two former Prime Ministers, Kaarlo Castren and Paavo Lipponen, were born there.

At 10.15, Pello’s Vihreä Pysäkki (Green Stop). Possibility to have a short break, drink a cup of coffee and do some shopping.

At 10.45, Transportation to Ylläsjärvi. Lunch at local restaurant.

At 12.15, Transportation to Äkäslompola Nature Centre Kellokas

At 13.00, Transportation to Pakasaivo gully lake

At 14.00, Arrival to Pakasaivo or the “Hell of Lapland”. Pakasaivo is an about one kilometre long “bottomless gully” meromictic lake. The water comes from underground sources.

At 15.15, Arrival to Äkäsmylly

At 15.45, Transportation to Levi

At 17.00, Arrival to Levi

At 17.15, Hotel Sirkantähti, check-in. Accommodation rooms have saunas. The price includes breakfast.

A possibility to have a short coach tour to the top of Levi fjeld.

At 19.30, Dinner at the hotel

Levi is situated in the village of Sirkka, in the municipality of Kittilä. Levi is, with its services and year-round activities, an international skiing and leisure centre. The tourism history of Levi first started in the 1930's, when 12 women were trained to cook and how to serve. The first travellers came in horse sledges in spring 1937, because in wintertime snow was not cleaned off the roads.



2. DAY: LEVI-KITTILÄ – SODANKYLÄ – LUOSTO

Breakfast at the hotel, check-out

At 9.30, Transportation to Kittilä Pöntsö, Raekallio's studio

At 10.15, Reijo Raekallion studio, guided tour in Kittilä Pöntsö. This is the artist/painter Reijo Raekallio's studio and home. The building is octagonal so that every room has a "crooked wall". In the gallery, you can see Reijo Raekallio's paintings.

At 11.30, Transportation to Sodankylä

At 12.30, Lunch in Sodankylä, Päivin Kammari (Päivi's Chamber)

At 13.45, Transportation to the old church of Sodankylä. The old church is one of the oldest wooden churches in Finland. It was built in 1689 at the cost of His Royal Majesty Kaarle XI.

At 14.15, Transportation to Finnish Meteorological Institute's office in Sodankylä, Tähtelä

At 14.30, Arrival to Tähtelä

At 16.15, Transportation to Luosto

At 17.00, Arrival to Hotel Luostotunturi. Accommodation rooms have saunas.

At 17.00-19.00, Free time. A possibility to visit Amethyst Spa.

(Free of charge to hotel guests). A possibility to have a short hike to the top of Luosto mountain in Lapland.

At 19.30, Dinner at the hotel

3. DAY: LUOSTO – ROVANIEMI



Breakfast at the hotel, check-out

At 10.00, Transportation to Amethyst Mine (<http://www.amethystmine.fi/>)

At 10.15, Amethyst Mine, guided tour. The mine is the only jewellery stone mine which is open to the public/visitors in Europe.

At 11.20, Transportation to Suvannonkylä (Suvanto Village)

At 12.00, Arrival to Suvannonkylä. The village, with its 30 inhabitants, is the only surviving village from the Lapland War 1944-1945.

At 12.20-12.40, Coffee Break Cafe Gallery Säpikäs. Coffee with a sandwich.

At 12.40, Transportation to Santa Claus Village at the Arctic circle in Rovaniemi

At 14.40, Arrival to Santa Claus Village. Guided tour at the Santa Claus Village. The possibility to have lunch, at own expense.

At 16.30, Transportation to Rovaniemi city centre / airport.

Note: The Airport is only 3 km away from the Arctic Circle, so the participants of the tour will be able to catch the 17:40 flight to Helsinki.

Please note that some hiking is done during the trip. It would be good to have a pair of sport or hiking shoes with you, or at least shoes which have a thick sole. In early June, the ground can still be rather damp. A wind-proof jacket and warm clothing would be also good, as well as some protection from possible rain. The average temperature at that time is around 10°C.