FINNISH LAPLAND

Finland is a small, beautiful country in Northern Europe, located between Sweden and Russia. If you want to experience something exotic, you should definitely visit Lapland, the northern part of Finland. There you can, depending on the time of your visit, experience our famous midnight sun, when the sun stays up around the clock, or the gloom of “kaamos,” the polar night during the winter when the sun never rises above the line of the horizon.

If you visit in the fall during “ruska,” you will find the scenery overwhelmingly amazing, with nature ablaze in a million colors as all the leaves turn bright before falling off for the winter. The best way to enjoy “ruska” is to go hiking: you can either take shorter trips, where you return to the comfort of your hotel every night, or longer camping trips, where you sleep in a tent in the middle of the amazing Finnish nature.

If you go during the winter months, prepare for it being really cold and really dark, since you might not see the sun at all, though that is the best time to spot the incredible Northern Lights, Aurora Borealis. Spending Christmastime in Lapland might also be quite an experience, since one of the most popular tourist attractions in all of Lapland is the home of Santa Claus (You did know he was from Finland, right? All rumors about him supposedly being from the North Pole are false, complete lies!). No matter what time of the year you visit Lapland go check it out, it’s a great place for both the young and the young at heart.
Most people would agree that the absolute best time to visit Lapland is during the spring months, between February and May. That’s when you can rent a pair of skis or a snowboard and hit the slopes. There are several skiing centers all over Lapland that you can visit, the most famous being Levi, Ruka and Ylläs, named after the fells – that is “tunturi” in Finnish – (arctic treeless mountains, the tallest one in Finland, Halti, is 1328 meters/4357 feet) where they are located. All offer ample opportunities for cross-country skiing as well, if the speed of the downhill seems intimidating.

However amazing Lapland is, if you’re coming to Finland during the summer, I must recommend visiting one of the southern cities instead. Most people would say that you should go spend time in Helsinki, the capital of Finland and by large our largest city, but I disagree, and invite you all to my hometown, Turku. This beautiful city comes alive in the summer and you can spend hours just walking along the banks of the river Aura that runs through it. And if it gets too hot (our winters may be freezing, but our lovely summers make up for it), you can stop by one of the restaurant boats that populate the river and enjoy a nice cold drink on the deck. It just doesn’t get better than that.