UCLA alum



Duration
8 days

Activity Level
Active Travel

Journey Type
Land

Finland ~ Arctic Magnificence

February 19-27, 2027

Starting from $6,545/pp

Embrace Finland's majestic beauty and Nordic charm on this exhilarating, seven-night adventure in the world's happiest country! Discover vibrant Helsinki and indulge in the quintessentially Finnish tradition of a rejuvenating sauna. In northern Lapland, gaze at the awe-inspiring Northern Lights from your glass-domed cabin and enjoy invigorating outdoor activities. Strap on snowshoes for a trek, see reindeer at a traditional reindeer farm, plus drive a team of energetic huskies across the glistening fjells on a dogsled and take a fun snowmobile ride ! You'll also delve into Arctic culture, wildlife and history at a Lapland museum and delight in a day trip to Tallinn, Estonia, to admire its beautiful old town, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Finland ~ Arctic Magnificence

Air Program: 9 days/8 nights (includes 1 air night)

Land Program: 8 days/7 nights

Breakfasts: 7 | Lunches: 1 | Receptions: 1 | Dinners: 6

B | L | R | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches, receptions and dinners.
A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Land Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Land Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.

This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.

This ACTIVE program is designed for people who are in good health and can comfortably participate in a demanding daily schedule of physical activities. The itinerary may feature full days of ongoing activities. 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

Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

Day 1 | Depart gateway city

AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Helsinki, Finland. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: HEL.

Day 2 | Helsinki, Finland

Hotel U14

R | D
Arrive at Helsinki Airport. Proceed through immigration to the baggage claim area and retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the designated meeting spot, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you. The meeting location will be provided with your final documents.

Transfer to Hotel U14, conveniently located in the city center near the harbor. Please note that if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available.

This afternoon, take a short stroll with your Travel Director to familiarize yourself with the area. Then, meet your fellow travelers at tonight's Welcome Reception and Dinner in the hotel.

Day 3 | Helsinki

Hotel U14

B
Helsinki Tour. Settled since the Ice Age, Finland first appears in written sources in the 12th century. Over the subsequent centuries, it was ruled by neighbors Sweden and Russia during different eras until it declared its independence in 1917. It was a Swedish king, Gustav

Vasa, who established the city of Helsinki in 1550 on a peninsula in the Gulf of Finland with an eye toward establishing trade along the Baltic Sea.

On your guided, scenic tour of Finland's beautiful capital, take in eye-catching architecture that ranges from neoclassical to contemporary. Along your route, admire the green-domed Helsinki Cathedral, or Tuomiokirkko, built in 1852 by architect Carl Ludvig Engel, who designed several of Helsinki's other grand Neoclassical buildings. Another highlight is the sculptural, light-filled and inviting Oodi Library, popular with Finns since it opened in 2018.

Free Time: Choose a nice spot for lunch on your own before returning to the hotel for this afternoon's lecture.

Enrichment: Finnish Sauna Culture. Relaxing in a sauna is a vital part of the Finnish lifestyle, a cherished, rejuvenating ritual enjoyed alone or with family and friends. In this nation of 5.5 million people, it's estimated that there are roughly 3 million saunas. It's such a mainstay of everyday life that Finland's sauna culture has been recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. A local expert will discuss the history and traditions behind this quintessentially Finnish experience.

Löyly Sauna Experience. With your fresh insights, it's time to do as the Finns do! Head along Helsinki's waterfront to Löyly Sauna, a sleek, modern sauna that serves as a tranquil oasis amid the urban landscape. During your visit, try different styles of saunas and soak up the soothing steam. Afterward, cool off outside on the large terrace, and if you're game, take a bracing plunge into the Baltic Sea! If you plan to enjoy the sauna experience, please pack your swimsuit and a pair of water shoes or suitable footwear. The spa will provide towels and peflets, small cloths to sit on in the sauna.

Free Time: Get a wonderful taste of Helsinki's vibrant and inventive food scene this evening. Your Travel Director is a great resource for dining suggestions and assistance with reservations.

Day 4 | Tallinn, Estonia | Helsinki, Finland

Hotel U14

B | D

After breakfast, board a ferry for the two-hour journey across the Gulf of Finland 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 gem with a special romance. On a guided walk through this UNESCO World Heritage site, take in the charming, twin stone towers of Viru Gate that guard the entrance of the imposing, 14th-century town walls. In the bustling Raekoja plats, or Town Hall Square, admire the stately Gothic town hall, the only surviving one of its kind in northern Europe. Learn more about Tallinn's landmarks and intriguing history from your guide while exploring its picturesque, winding cobblestone lanes.

Free Time: Afterward, make your own plans for sightseeing around the old town.

Rejoin your group and embark the ferry for Helsinki. During your return journey, dinner will be served on board.

Day 5 | Rovaniemi | Pyhä

Northern Lights Village

B | D

Check out of the hotel this morning and depart for Helsinki Airport for your flight to Rovaniemi in Lapland. Upon arrival, head to Arktikum in Rovaniemi.

Arktikum. This engaging science center and history museum delves into the 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.

After time at leisure for lunch on your own, transfer to Pyhä, where you'll check in to the Northern Lights Village. Gather for an informative meeting that will acquaint you with the lodge, its many activities and your scheduled itinerary.

Please note: The Village will outfit you with a thermal snowsuit, wool socks, boots, mittens and a balaclava, which you'll keep for your entire stay.

Afterward, spend some time on your own to get settled in your cozy cabin and check out the lovely, snowy surroundings.

This evening, join your fellow travelers for a delicious dinner in the Village's dining room.

Day 6 | Pyhä

Northern Lights Village

B | D

AHI Connects | Happiest People in the World Workshop. Finland consistently tops the World Happiness Report, which measures how people around the world evaluate the quality of their lives. Discover the reasons behind the Finns' strong sense of well-being and their unique affinity with the natural world from a local expert during a workshop.

Husky Safari. This afternoon, you're in charge as you drive a team of eager huskies on a fun, fast-paced and unforgettable journey across the snowy fjells! A professional driver will provide training. Then, you'll lead the team of dogs in a sled that can accommodate two people. All the sled teams will follow the professional driver and will be accompanied by a second guide on a snowmobile. (Very Active. This is a highly active excursion that requires strong balance over a one-hour period, including balancing on the narrow slats of a dogsled for one hour (with a few stops along the way) as it travels at moderate speeds and the ability to stand with strength on the foot brake that stops the dogs.)

Meet your fellow travelers in the dining room for dinner.

Aurora Hunting in the Wilderness. Relish a wonderful evening at the lodge's Aurora Camp, where you'll have the opportunity to see the awe-inspiring Aurora Borealis (atmospheric conditions permitting.) This amazing natural phenomenon is the result of collisions overhead! When electrically charged particles generated by the sun hit the molecules of the Earth's upper atmosphere, they become excited. As these particles calm down, they emit the glowing, dancing green and violet lights we see as the Aurora. On your way to the camp by minibus, stop for photos, and enjoy a warm drink by the fire inside a hut at the camp.

Day 7 | Pyhä

Northern Lights Village

B | L | D

AHI Connects | Finnish Reindeer Farm. Reindeer husbandry is an intrinsic part of Sámi culture, a custom that dates to the Middle Ages when the Sámi people first domesticated wild reindeer. Today, Lapland's reindeer remain semi-wild, roaming the forests and fjells while local reindeer herders watch over them. At a traditional farm owned by a Sámi family, see these beautiful animals, learn about daily life over the seasons and enjoy a homemade lunch.

Free Time: Your afternoon is at leisure.

Head to the Village's dining room for a satisfying dinner tonight.

Aurora Snowshoe Expedition. Strap on snowshoes and venture off for an invigorating hike under a moonlit sky amid the stillness of the pristine forest and fjells. Follow your professional guide over gentle slopes to special vantage points to view the Northern Lights (atmospheric conditions permitting.) Savor a refreshing break by a fire, complemented by a toasty beverage and tales about the Northern Lights.

Day 8 | Pyhä

Northern Lights Village

B | D

Snowmobile Safari. Feel immersed in the wintery wilderness as you zip across powdery snowdrifts on a carefree ride! Your experienced guide will provide safety training and accompany you. Pause for great photos and a warm drink during your two-hour ride. (Very Active. You must be 18 years or older and present your valid driver's license to take part in this excursion.)

Free Time: Spend the afternoon pursuing your own passions! Delight in more of Lapland's breathtaking scenery by taking advantage of cross-country ski and snowshoe rentals at a nominal fee for Village guests. In addition, the Village offers many other optional experiences (available at an additional cost). Take a cross-country skiing lesson or travel by snowmobile to a secluded lake and try ice fishing.

This evening, celebrate your time in Finland with your fellow travelers at a Farewell Dinner.

Day 9 | Rovaniemi | Helsinki | Depart for gateway city

B

After breakfast, depart for the Rovaniemi airport and fly to Helsinki. Connect in Helsinki to your international flights home. Please note: Upon arrival in Helsinki, you will be required to retrieve your luggage from the baggage claim area and recheck it for your international flight home.

Meet the UCLA Experts

Andrea Ghez

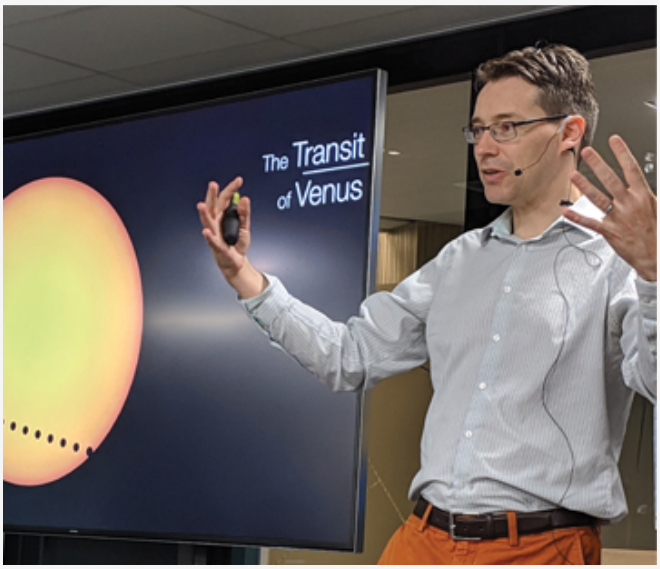
Lecturer



Andrea M. Ghez, professor of Physics & Astronomy and Lauren B. Leichtman & Arthur E. Levine chair in Astrophysics, is one of the world's leading experts in observational astrophysics and heads UCLA's Galactic Center Group. Her groundbreaking work has provided the best evidence to date for the existence of supermassive black holes and has opened a new approach to understanding these exotic objects. In 2020 Andrea was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics by the Royal Swedish Academy of Science. She has received numerous other honors and awards including the Bakerian Medal from the Royal Society of London, a MacArthur Fellowship, election to the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society.

Jean-Luc Margot

Lecturer



Dr. Jean-Luc Margot is a planetary astronomer and UCLA professor who conducts research on the properties of planetary bodies with a variety of spacecraft and telescopes. He has studied Mercury, Venus, the Moon, asteroids, icy satellites, and exoplanets. He is currently an interdisciplinary scientist for the ESA/NASA EnVision mission to Venus. He also leads the UCLA SETI initiative and has collaborated with more than 200 UCLA students, alumni, and friends in the search for life in the universe. He has had the privilege of serving as faculty host for seven wonderful trips with UCLA Alumni Travel.

What's Included

Program Overview

- Small group: Sized just right at 24 guests.
- 3 nights in Helsinki, Finland, at the first-class Hotel U14.
- 4 nights in Pyhä at the first-class Northern Lights Village.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 6 dinners.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions and Dinners to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

On-site Features

- Flights, ferry and deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program with baggage handling.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.

FlexAir Travel Program

Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.

Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

Travel and Hotel Accommodations

Hotel U14

Enjoy a warm welcome and top-notch service from the courteous staff at this exceptional boutique hotel. Perfectly situated near Helsinki's waterfront and popular attractions, Hotel U14 boasts smart, stylish Nordic décor and well-equipped, comfy guest rooms with bathrooms featuring rain showers. At the hotel's VERSION Eatery & Garden, choose from classic Finnish cuisine and California-inspired vegetarian, fish and meat dishes. Reenergize with a workout at the gym or some quiet time in the sauna. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



Northern Lights Village Pyhä

Experience Lapland's breathtaking winter wonderland during your unforgettable stay at this delightful, secluded resort. Your warm, cozy cabin exudes a homey ambience and features a heated, glass-domed roof over the bed for optimal Northern Lights viewing! The friendly, accommodating staff and guides ensure that you enjoy a comfortable stay and memorable outdoor fun. In the dining room, savor a variety of fresh, delicious dishes. After an exciting day, chill out and relax at the inviting bar with friends, or unwind in the sauna and hot tub! Wi-Fi is complimentary.



Pricing

Trip Price (USD)

Base Price	**$6,545**
You Pay	**$6,545 per person**

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; U.S. government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is $1000.00 per person. To view Program Terms and conditions please click here. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

*Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 120+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.


LAPLAND
Pyhä
Rovaniemi
FINLAND
Gulf of Bothnia
Helsinki
Tallinn
Baltic Sea
ESTONIA
Ferry