Finnish Lapland Aurora Planner

Pick a base, plan your nights, pack for the cold. · auroramoose.com

1 Pick your base

Base	Aurora odds*	Airport	Polar night 2026–27**	Good for
Rovaniemi	~1 in 2	RVN, in town · night train	None (~2 h sun at solstice)	Short trips, families, day activities
Levi	~1 in 2	Kittilä KTT, ~15 min	12 Dec – 1 Jan	Skiing + aurora, lively village
Saariselkä	~1 in 2, often better	Ivalo IVL, ~30 min	6 Dec – 7 Jan	Wilderness feel, aurora cabins
Inari	Higher again	Ivalo IVL, ~40 min	3 Dec – 10 Jan	Dark lake, Sámi culture, quiet
Kilpisjärvi	~3 in 4	Enontekiö or Tromsø, 2.5–3 h	2 Dec – 11 Jan	Best odds, fells, few people

*Finnish Meteorological Institute statistics, per dark and cloud-free night. **No sunrise above a flat horizon (Moose calculation); hills extend it locally.

2 Sunlight per day

Place	1 Dec	21 Dec	15 Jan
Rovaniemi	3 h 48 min	2 h 15 min	4 h 11 min
Levi	2 h 44 min	No sunrise	3 h 16 min
Saariselkä	1 h 59 min	No sunrise	2 h 41 min
Inari	59 min	No sunrise	2 h 05 min
Kilpisjärvi	20 min	No sunrise	1 h 53 min

Even in polar night there are several hours of blue twilight around noon. Properly dark sky: about 14–15 hours a day, November to January.

3 Trip checklist

- [ ] At least **4 nights**, ideally 5+ (cloud can sit for days)
- [ ] Decided: tours, rental car, or a dark spot outside the door
- [ ] Asked the hotel about an "aurora alarm"
- [ ] Asked whether thermal overalls are lent
- [ ] Winter driving: studded/winter tyres, watch for reindeer
- [ ] Offline maps downloaded
- [ ] Aurora alert app set up for your location
- [ ] Travel insurance covers winter activities

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Every night in Lapland

A two-minute routine, then a warm wait. Nights are often −15 to −25 °C, and colder snaps happen most winters.

4 The nightly routine

When	Check	What you want to see
Afternoon	Cloud forecast for your base and 1–2 spots within an hour	Clear or broken cloud after dark somewhere reachable
Afternoon	NOAA 3-day Kp forecast	Any Kp is fine this far north; Kp 4+ is a bonus
Evening	Moonrise / moonset	Moon down or low during your watch
After dark	Live solar wind: Bz	South (negative) for 15+ minutes
On the night	Look north, then overhead	A pale grey-green arc that grows; phone camera shows green first

Best hours: roughly 9 pm–2 am, but in Lapland displays often start early in the evening. A quiet first half of the night says little about the second.

5 Wear

- [ ] Merino/wool base layer, top and bottom
- [ ] Fleece or down mid layer
- [ ] Windproof insulated outer layer
- [ ] Winter boots, a size up
- [ ] 2 pairs thick wool socks
- [ ] Liner gloves + mittens
- [ ] Hat over the ears, buff or scarf

6 Bring

- [ ] Power bank, kept in an inside pocket
- [ ] Small tripod for phone or camera
- [ ] Red-light head torch
- [ ] Hot drink in a flask
- [ ] Hand and toe warmers
- [ ] Foam pad to stand on
- [ ] Ice grips for boots

7 By day in the twilight

Husky or reindeer safaris · snowshoe walks in Urho Kekkonen National Park (Saariselkä) · Siida Sámi museum (Inari) · Arktikum science centre (Rovaniemi) · Saana fell views (Kilpisjärvi) · cross-country or downhill skiing (Levi) · sauna, then a roll in the snow if you dare.

Moose: Aurora Alerts (free on Google Play) combines live aurora activity, your cloud cover and darkness into one score and alerts you when they line up. Sleep in the cabin, get woken up when it's on.

More guides: auroramoose.com/blog · Live data: auroramoose.com/northern-lights-tonight

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