IN SEARCH OF
The Northern Lights
MARCH 12-21, 2020
DEAR ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS OF DARTMOUTH,

Explore the winter wonderland of Arctic Finland, while venturing in search of the northern lights, or aurora borealis, a spectacular natural phenomenon caused by the interaction of particles from the sun with the upper atmosphere near the North Pole. Discover the charms of Helsinki, then fly north to the Arctic Circle to meet native Sámi in Finnish Lapland and learn about how they have adapted to life at some of the northernmost points on earth since before the last ice age—herding reindeer, using sleds pulled by dogs, and handcrafting exquisite clothing and footwear from animal products.

With regards from Hanover,

Robin K. Albing, Tu’81
Director, Lifelong Learning and Advancement Special Projects

Patrick Bedard
Assistant Director of Lifelong Learning Alumni Relations
Hunt for the northern lights in the tiny resort of Luosto, a hidden gem with untouched nature and very little light pollution in the middle of Finnish Lapland, as well as a research center for the Aurora Borealis Institute.
ITINERARY

Thursday & Friday, March 12 & 13

U.S. / HELSINKI, FINLAND

Take overnight flights to Helsinki, arriving on Friday. Enjoy a city tour on a privately booked vintage electric tram, including a stop at the Temppeliaukio Church, also known as the Rock Church for its design carved out of solid granite, with interior walls left in their rugged rock form and topped with a copper-lined dome. This evening, gather for a welcome reception and dinner at a traditional restaurant with décor inspired by Finland's forests and lakes. HOTEL HAVEN (D)

Saturday, March 14

HELSINKI

Travel into the countryside for a morning meeting with a Finnish earl at his home, Castle Malmgården, including a tour of the estate, complete with an ecological farm and small local brewery. After lunch and a beer tasting, continue to Porvoo, one of the great treasures of Finnish architecture from the Middle Ages, with age-old wooden warehouses at the harbor where salt and other products were imported in medieval times. Enjoy private use of a traditional Finnish sauna at a manor formerly owned by members of the Romanov family, related to the Russian tsars. En route back to Helsinki, visit renowned Finnish architect Alvar Aalto’s former home and studio, which he designed himself in 1955. Dinner is on your own this evening. HOTEL HAVEN (B,L)

Sunday, March 15

HELSINKI / ROVANIEMI

This morning fly to Rovaniemi, the capital of Lapland, Finland’s northernmost province, sitting astride the Arctic Circle and surrounded by a river delta and stunning nature. Begin your exploration of this magical winter wonderland straight away, traveling from the airport by your choice of reindeer sled or private motorcoach to Santa Claus Village for a guided visit of this fairytale setting with ice and snow structures, cheerful lights, and the unique Santa Claus Main Post Office. Local shops boast a range of Finnish design and exclusive Lappish reindeer handicraft and jewelry pieces. Our hotel is conveniently located in the city center of Rovaniemi. HOTEL SANTA CLAUS (B,D)

Monday, March 16

ROVANIEMI

Learn about Arctic culture during a morning visit to a local artisan’s workshop and home, with design pieces from Lappish natural materials that demonstrate traditions
and craftsmanship that has passed from generation to generation. Also visit Arktikum, a museum and science center focused on the northern regions of the world, and view an informative multimedia presentation about the northern lights. Dinner this evening is at a riverside restaurant specialized in traditional Lappish dishes. HOTEL SANTA CLAUS (B,L,D)

Tuesday, March 17
ROVANIEMI
This morning receive specialized winter outerwear (thermal overall, boots, woolen socks and mittens) and set out on a reindeer sled ride, the region’s traditional mode of transport, used by the Sámi people for both personal transport and to carry goods and supplies. Stop at a reindeer farm and meet local herders to learn about their lifestyle, then try your hand at ice fishing at a small wilderness lake, stopping for a campfire snack before returning to the reindeer farm for lunch. Cap off the day with a visit to a nearby farm where huskies are bred and trained as Arctic sled dogs. Learn to mush (drive) your own sled, passing through silent winter landscapes, before returning to the hotel this evening. HOTEL SANTA CLAUS (B,L,D)

Wednesday, March 18
ROVANIEMI / LUOSTO
This morning transfer by private motorcoach to Luosto, a tiny resort located in the middle of Finnish Lapland, surrounded by pristine nature and popular among Northern Lights enthusiasts due to its low levels of light pollution. The surrounding wilderness fells are also home to the precious Lampivaara Amethyst Mine, where gems formed about two billion years ago are mined by hand. Take the unique Pendelino snow transport vehicle up to the top of the fell and admire some of the most beautiful landscapes of the area before heading into the mine to dig your own gem stone. Gather for a guest lecture from a Aurora Borealis Institute researcher before dinner. Accommodations for the next two nights include private saunas in each room; a limited number of glass igloo accommodations are available at additional cost on a first-come, first-served basis. SANTA’S HOTEL AURORA (B,L,D)

Thursday, March 19
LUOSTO
Set out this morning on a snowmobile safari on forest trails around the edge of Luosto Fell to Kesi-Luosta Fell, with magnificent panoramas. Vehicles used are gentle on the environment, and the driving feel is totally different than driving a vehicles with tires; the tour will start slowly to allow all to get used to the feel. Stop for coffee and treats in a Kota (cozy traditional wooden cabin) by a campfire, with panoramic views. After an early dinner, learn about the Northern Lights during a multimedia show then accompany a skilled specialist guide on a hunt to see nature’s most magnificent light show, choosing the most suitable spot near scenic lakeside Ahvenlampi to set up and take pictures, with camera stands available as well as hot drinks by the campfire. SANTA’S HOTEL AURORA (B,D)

Friday, March 20
LUOSTO / ROVANIEMI
This morning, transfer back to the Rovaniemi area for a a snowshoe hike, taking in the small miracles of nature like hanging moss on the trees, snowdrifts creating fairy tale figures, and winter birds. The hike ends at a nice kota hut, where a simple but tasty camp site lunch is served. Check in to the hotel for some time at leisure then gather for a special Lappish heritage feast at a forest restaurant, with commentary from the chef about the ingredients and preparation. HOTEL SANTA CLAUS (B,L,D)

Saturday, March 21
ROVANIEMI / HOME
Transfers to Rovaniemi Airport for flights home. (B)
TRIP INFORMATION

Program Rates Include
8 nights of hotel accommodations • 8 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 7 dinners • Welcome and farewell receptions • Internal flight Helsinki/Rovaniemi • Bottled water on motor coaches • Gratuities to guides, drivers and wait staff for all group activities • Full program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Airport transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days

Program Rates Do Not Include
Airfare between home and Finland • Medical expenses and immunizations • Airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess-baggage charges • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Meals not specified in the itinerary; food and beverages not part of the included meal • Personal items such as telephone, internet, fax, laundry, room service, alcoholic or other beverages not specified as included

Group Size
This program is limited to 32 participants.

Air Arrangements
U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Economy-class airfare from New York to Helsinki with return from Rovaniemi is approximately $626 per person as of April 2019 and is subject to change without notice. AirTreks, can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 1-800-AIRTREKS or 415-977-7171. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

What to Expect:
Distances covered on foot will all be under one mile, usually just ¼ mile or so, and will frequently be on snowy or icy paths; be sure to bring, warm, waterproof boots with good traction. Husky sleds and snowmobile rides will be in the open air; safety orientations and instruction are provided, along with insulated body suits, boots, gloves, and headwear. March is an ideal time of year to both seek out the elusive Northern Lights and to enjoy Finland’s majestic winter landscapes. With the unpredictability of winter weather, the itinerary will by necessity be subject to change, if weather conditions, road conditions, and other factors beyond our control dictate. Participants should expect an adventurous travel experience with accommodations that are more comfortable than lavish, and must be physically fit, active and in good health. We’ll be avoiding the coldest periods of the Finish winter, but hours of daylight will still be relatively short (10-12 hours per day). The Gulf Stream makes the region warmer than other parts of the world at these latitudes, but temperatures in March are still usually below freezing on most days, typically in the 20s and 30s F, and rarely dropping below zero degrees F (similar to Hanover, NH). No experience is required for the husky sled and snowmobile rides.

PROGRAM RATES
Double occupancy per person..........................$6,995
Single occupancy per person..........................$7,995

The Sámi People
Learn about how they have adapted to life at some of the northernmost points on earth since before the last ice age

Finnish Saunas
For Finnish people the sauna is a part of life.
TERMS & CONDITIONS

Reservations & Payments
A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. To reserve space, please complete the reservation form and mail it with your check or credit card information to Criterion Travel, 165 Jessie Street, Suite 4, San Francisco, CA 94105. You may also fax the form to (650) 560-6400 and your reservation will be held for five working days pending receipt of your check or credit card information. If you have questions, please call (888) 328-2089 or email res@criteriontravel.com. Final payment deadline is November 13, 2019 and can be made by check or credit card. All prices quoted in this brochure are based on tariffs, costs, and exchange rates of the United States dollar that were in effect at the time of publication.

Cancellations & Refunds
Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing by Criterion Travel, the tour operator. Deposits are refundable (less a $500 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. Cancellations after final payment deadline of November 13, 2019: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. Refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for any reason at all. Criterion Travel reserves the right to withdraw a participant from a tour at any time at his/her own expense, when such action is determined by tour staff to be in the best interest of the health, safety, or general welfare of the tour group or the individual participant, and subject only to the requirement that the recoverable portion of the tour price that corresponds to the cost of unused services and accommodation be refunded, if any.

Itinerary Changes
The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Dartmouth Alumni Travel and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Dartmouth Alumni Travel and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

California Seller of Travel Program
CST #2088800-40

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REGISTRATION FORM

ARCTIC FINLAND • In Search of the Northern Lights • March 12–21, 2020

To reserve space on this Dartmouth Alumni Travel program, mail completed reservation form with your check or credit card information to Criterion Travel, 165 Jessie Street, Suite 4, San Francisco, CA 94105, or fax to (650) 560-6400. If you have questions, please call Criterion Travel at 888-328-2089 or email res@criteriontravel.com.

Contact Information (please print)

NAME #1

__________________________

__________________________

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP / POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE   BUSINESS PHONE

CELL PHONE   E-MAIL

Payment Information

☑ Enclosed is my check for $ __________ ($1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel), to reserve _____ place(s) on Arctic Finland.

OR

☑ Charge my deposit to: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD #

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

EXP DATE

SECURITY CODE

Accommodations

Bed preference in hotels (not guaranteed): ☐ KING/QUEEN ☐ TWINS

Single Travelers (choose one)

☑ I prefer to have single accommodations.

☑ I will share accommodations with:

☑ I am willing to share with another participant (not guaranteed).

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of November 13, 2019, I will pay the single rate.

☑ I/We have read the General Information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE     DATE

SIGNATURE     DATE

I understand that the detailed statement of limitations and exclusions of liability will be sent to me for signature after registration, and is available for review prior, upon request.
Highlights

**DISCOVER**
Helsinki’s modern architecture and the surrounding forested countryside: visit Alvar Aalto’s former home and studio, be welcomed by the owner at a castle estate, and experience a Finnish sauna at a private manor.

**MEET** reindeer herders in their remote wilderness homes and gain an authentic sense for this traditional way of life in Lapland. Feed the reindeer by hand, ride a reindeer-pulled sled, and learn about traditional handicrafts.