

THE LOWDOWN: FINNISH LAPLAND

Getting There: From Helsinki Airport, catch a 90-minute Finnair flight to Ivalo. Other airports in the far north of Finland include Kittilä and Rovaniemi. If time is no object, you can catch the train from Helsinki to Rovaniemi, the capital of Finnish Lapland (about 14 hours), then rent a car and drive another 185 miles north.

Staying There: For total tranquillity, reserve a chalet on the edge of one of the region's many lakes. Ukonjärvi Holiday Village, near Lake Ukonjärvi, offers simple but cozy two-bedroom cottages, each with a kitchen and sauna (*from about \$130 a night, www.ukolo.fi*). For a truly immersive experience and the chance to spot the Northern Lights from the comfort of your bed, book one of the glass igloos at Hotel Kakslauttanen in Saariselkä (*from about \$230 per person a night, kakslauttanen.fi*).

Eating There: Local specialties include sautéed reindeer, wild mushrooms and cloudberry. Try



them at Restaurant Aanaar at Hotel Kollehovi in the village of Inari (*hotelkultahovi.fi*), or Restaurant Sarrit (which means “blueberry” in a local language) at the Siida cultural center in Inari (*siida.fi*).

What to Pack: Cold-weather clothing, including thermal underwear, waterproof pants and jacket, a warm hat, wool socks and a good pair of walking shoes or boots. Other useful items are hand warmers and a head lamp. Snowshoes and cross-country skis should be available at your hotel or chalet.

