

## Husky Sledding Arctic Adventure, Finland

An epic five-day husky sledding adventure, staying in remote wilderness huts, travelling through pristine forests and across frozen lakes on the edge of the Pallas-Ylläs National Park.



### Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

### Holiday overview

Style	Tour
Accommodation	Lodge & Wilderness Huts
Grade	Tour
Duration	7 days from London to London
Trekking / Walking days	Sledding on: 5 days
Min/Max group size	4 / 7. Guaranteed to run for 4
Trip Leader	Local Leader Finland
Land only	Joining in Kittilä, Finland

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available



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# Departures

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## Group departures

### 2023 Dates:

Sun 17 Dec - Sat 23 Dec

### 2024 Dates:

Sun 14 Jan - Sat 20 Jan

Sun 11 Feb - Sat 17 Feb

Sun 10 Mar - Sat 16 Mar

Sun 22 Dec - Sat 28 Dec

### 2025 Dates:

Sun 12 Jan - Sat 18 Jan

Sun 09 Feb - Sat 15 Feb

Sun 09 Mar - Sat 15 Mar

## Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 4 people and for a maximum of 7. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

## Group prices and optional supplements

Please contact us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or visit our website for our land only and flight inclusive prices and single supplement options.

## No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

This trip is based on dormitory system accommodation. However single supplements may be available for additional nights.

## Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

## Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

## Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday.

If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

## Your guide

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You will have a fully qualified English-speaking 'Wilderness Guide' who will teach you how to handle the dogs, harness them, and how to drive your sled. Your guide will accompany you and take you on your adventure, and brief you each day. During the husky sledding you will be responsible for feeding and caring for your hard working dogs and will no doubt build up quite a bond with them by the end of the trip.

## Your trip highlights

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- Explore the spectacular untouched scenery of Lapland
- Drive your own dog-sled team of 4-6 dogs, look after the huskies and let them steal your heart
- Six possible chances to experience the Northern Lights (weather and activity permitting)
- Enjoy excellent accommodation in the cosy cabins at Harriniva and steaming saunas at each wilderness hut

## At a glance itinerary

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Day 1 Fly London to Kittilä. Meet on arrival at Kittilä Airport, then transfer to Harriniva Resort, near Muonio.

Day 2 Collect your equipment, meet your guide for an introduction and briefing, start your safari.

Days 3-5 Husky Sledding through forests and across frozen lakes between wilderness huts

Day 6 Return to Muonio, farewell dinner.

Day 7 Transfer to Kittilä Airport. Fly to UK.

## Trip summary

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This adventure takes you through the breath taking scenery of North West Finland, across vast frozen lakes and through beautiful forests, and along the edge of the Pallas Yllas National Park. The remoteness and tranquillity is inspiring.

Whilst you are on the Husky safari there will be an English-speaking guide who will give you a safety briefing, show you how to harness your dogs and control your sled. The guide cooks all your meals in the wilderness at lunchtimes and at the huts in the evening. There is plenty of variety and the food is of an excellent standard. You will be expected to help look after and feed the dogs, and help around the hut by fetching water, bringing firewood from the store, lighting the sauna and washing up.

The huts are generally log cabins with timber outbuildings, a separate sauna, and wilderness toilets, they are very cosy and atmospheric and helping out certainly does not feel like a chore. There is no electricity at the huts, lighting is by candlelight and heating by wood burning stoves or log fire. The sauna is a fantastic way to unwind at the end of the day and you might like to try rolling in the snow as well, after or during the sauna. The arrangements for the sauna are flexible and can be adjusted according to the group dynamics.

The daily distances vary between 25 and 40 kilometres per day depending on participants' physical condition, and the weather. This is a sporty safari but is accessible for everyone with a good fitness level.

There is much debate over how to optimise your chances of seeing a display of the Northern Lights. By heading to the far north there is very little light pollution. However the aurora is notoriously unpredictable, and is most often seen between 9pm and 4am, so be prepared for some late nights and above all, do be patient. Your guide may be sent notification when the aurora activity is predicted to be high.

### Special notes

#### Grading

Please note that whilst this trip is graded as a tour it is a physically demanding holiday. You look after your dogs and get involved with the daily routine so there are lots of physical, yet rewarding, activities.

#### Group composition

There will be clients from other tour operators joining this trip, this has been done to offer the best possible value, whilst still offering a high level of service for Mountain Kingdoms clients.

#### Sledding in December and January

During December and January there will be shorter periods of light during the day. Normally you will be sledding between 10 am and 3pm when there will be sufficient light for you to be able to enjoy the beautiful surrounding scenery as you sled between huts.

As the wilderness huts have no electricity it is essential in the mornings and evenings to have a head torch. This will enable you to undertake tasks and prepare or settle the dogs for the day.

# Your trip itinerary

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## Day 1: Fly London to Kittilä. Group transfer to lodge.

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On arrival in Kittilä you will be met at the airport and transferred by taxi/bus to Harriniva Resort Lodge, Muonio. There will be a fixed transfer for the group at a set time.

Join your safari group for a welcome dinner.

**Overnight: Harriniva Resort or Similar (Meals: D)**

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## Day 2: Introduction and husky sledding.

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After breakfast you will go to the equipment store to be fitted and issued with your warm overalls, boots, sleeping bags etc. You will meet with your guide who will give a short introduction to the programme. You then meet your own dog team, the sleds will be packed and you will be taught how to handle the sled.

Mid to late morning you will set off on your husky safari. Lunch will be prepared en-route by your guide. On arrival at the wilderness hut in the late afternoon you will be shown how to de-harness, and tend to your dog team, light the fire and sauna and fetch water from the lake. You will then have time for a relaxing sauna before dinner. Dinner is prepared by your guide although you will be expected to muck in with the washing up or any other necessary chores.

**Overnight: Wilderness Hut (Meals: BLD)**

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## Day 3: Husky sledding.

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After another delicious breakfast you will attend to the dogs, pack up the sleds, tidy the hut and set off for another days sledding.

The route will take you through the beautiful forest scenery, over frozen lakes and along rivers on the edge of the Pallas Yllas National Park. Your trusted dogs will do most of the work although you will occasionally have to help them up hill.

You will stop for about an hour for lunch prepared in the wilderness by your guide. Then you set off once again for a couple more hours until you reach the next wilderness hut later in the afternoon. Again you will be expected to tend to your dogs and help with chores, although by now you will know your dogs individually and may spend as much time petting them as feeding them.

**Overnight: Wilderness Hut (Meals: BLD)**

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## Day 4: Husky sledding.

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Sledding through forest and over frozen lakes. Lunch prepared by open fire.

**Overnight: Wilderness Hut (Meals: BLD)**

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## Day 5: Husky sledding.

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Sledding through forest and over frozen lakes. Lunch prepared by open fire.

**Overnight: Wilderness Hut (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 6: Husky sledding and return to Harriniva Resort, Muonio. Farewell dinner.**

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After one final day of sledding, you return in the afternoon to Harriniva. You and your dogs can have a well-earned rest or you may wish to use the free time to explore along the Muonio river, cross the bridge to Sweden or walk into Muonio town (approximately 30 minutes' walk each way) for last minute souvenir shopping.

In the evening you will re-join your group and guide for a farewell dinner of traditional Finnish cuisine.



**Overnight: Harriniva Resort or Similar (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 7: Group transfer to Kittilä Airport. Fly to London.**

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After breakfast you will be transferred to Kittilä Airport for your flight back to the UK.

## Our grading system

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Husky Sledding Arctic Adventure is graded as a Tour, as described below.

**Tours**

Tours may include any of the following activities: sightseeing, visiting local villages, exploring temples, game viewing, birdwatching, husky sledding, mountain flights, city tours and dramatic journeys by road, rail, or river. Occasionally there will be short, gentle walks so that you can properly explore the cultural sites you are visiting.

## What the price includes

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Mountain Kingdoms aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

### What's included:

- ✓ The services of a qualified local guide on safari
- ✓ Economy class return air fares from the UK (flight inclusive option). If you are travelling land only, check with our office for joining time at the airport
- ✓ Single, timed group airport transfers on arrival and departure
- ✓ Accommodation as detailed
- ✓ Meals as shown
- ✓ Sleeping bag
- ✓ A Mountain Kingdoms kit bag
- ✓ Warm overalls, boots, socks, gloves, hat and balaclava
- ✓ Carbon offsetting with the Ecoan Tree Planting Project (for clients taking our flight inclusive option)

### Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

### What's not included:

- × Travel insurance
- × Tips
- × Optional activities

### Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Our clients who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag for their holiday (these are required for certain treks), will instead receive a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle. These unique Water-to-Go bottles can also be purchased from us at a discounted rate.

For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>.

## Your accommodation

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We will endeavour to secure the hotels named in the itinerary but if our first choice of hotel is not available we will book a suitable alternative of a similar standard.



### **Harriniva Resort Lodge or Similar**

Harriniva Resort is a comfortable family-owned wilderness lodge established in 1973 located on the banks of the River Muonio in North Western Finland, 3 Km from Muonio Village and 75km from Kittila Airport. Accommodation is in 6 person dorm rooms. There is a restaurant, a bar and small gift shop in reception. The complex has communal saunas which are open daily free of charge and also a private jacuzzi and sauna which can be reserved for a small fee. There is also a wellness centre which is ideal for a post safari massages (payable locally). Adjacent to the centre is the Husky Farm, home to over 300 huskies.



### **Wilderness Hut**

The Wilderness huts in this part of Finland usually consist of log cabins with dormitory style accommodation, wood burning stoves or open fires, separate sauna cabins and a wilderness toilet. There is no electricity and lighting is by candlelight.



## Meal arrangements

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6 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 6 dinners

## Flight arrangements

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### Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

### Flight upgrades and regional Airports

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

## Further information

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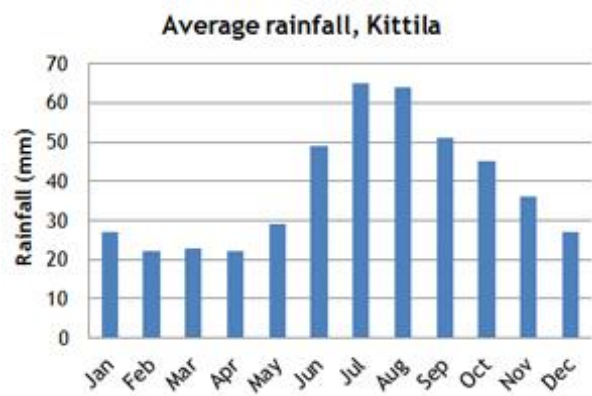
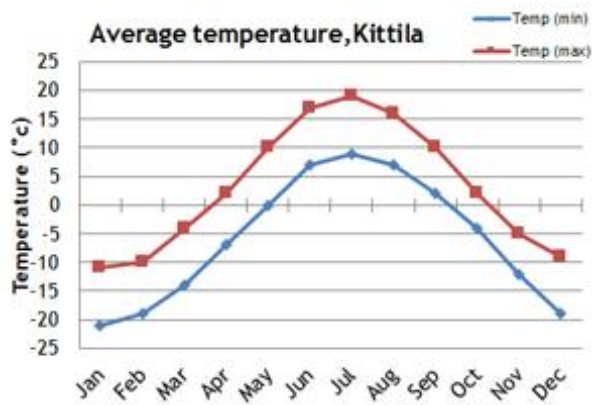
When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

## The nature of adventure travel

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Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

# Climate information



# Extensions

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## Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400. Alternatively, you can download a range of extension information sheets on our website, at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).



There are many ways you can extend your holiday with Mountain Kingdoms: you could book extra hotel nights at the start or end of your trip, arrange a personal sightseeing tour or enjoy some other exciting activities. In fact, whatever's available we can help make it happen. We're happy to suggest ideas, provide quotes and make all the arrangements.

We can also assist with flight and hotel upgrades.

## Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

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- Our husky sledding adventure gives you the chance to see the Northern Lights on six evenings.
- You drive your own dog team, sledding each day between wilderness huts.
- We provide an English-speaking local wilderness guide throughout your time on safari.
- At the start and end of the trip you spend a night at Harriniva Resort, a cosy, comfortable centre with good facilities.
- All warm weather, outdoor wear and equipment is provided and included in the price.
- We have a transparent pricing policy with no hidden costs or surcharges. Airport transfers are included plus all meals, which are of an excellent standard.
- Our maximum group size is 7 for this trip. This provides for a genuine small group travel experience and helps reduce the negative aspects often associated with larger groups.
- As part of our commitment to 'Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency', we will be carbon-offsetting all international flights booked through us by donating funds to the Ecoan Tree Planting Project in Peru.
- We are an IATA accredited agent and work directly with some of the world's major airlines. If you wish to fly with a specific airline or on alternative dates to the main group we will be happy to arrange this for you.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com) or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.

## What our clients say

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*It was a sensational holiday...Superbly organised, no fuss, just the right mixture of someone helping while also telling you to 'get on with it'!*  
Mr P, London

*Pirjo, the leader, was excellent, so well organised and efficient. Her cooking was amazing.*  
- Mrs K, Orpington



*This was the best experience I've had travelling with Mountain Kingdoms. Our knowledgeable expert guide, the pristine wilderness and our energetic husky dogs made this an exceptional active adventure.*  
- Ms A, Gloucestershire

*Fabulous adventure. Excellent trip itinerary away from the main tourist routes. Guide Pirjo was outstanding, her cooking for 3 full meals a day was second to none, she was patient and always upbeat.*  
-Ms D, London



*Of course the landscape and the experience with the Huskies were most fascinating. What I enjoyed most was the remoteness and different daily routine. To feed the Dogs, to fetch the water, chop the wood and light the fire in the cabins to cook and keep warm were so different from the usual life at home where to have a shower and breakfast is a matter of 30 minutes, on this trip it was more like 2 hours. To bring down the pace was for me a great and very enjoyable experience.*  
-Mr B, Switzerland



*As returning customers to Mountain Kingdoms we were delighted with this holiday. Our guide, Katrin was amazing and nothing was too much trouble for her, she worked really hard. We had very cold but clear weather and were pleased at the equipment provided. Cooked lunches in the snow and excellent dinners. The cabins soon became very toasty with the wood stoves and saunas provided a true Finnish experience. The dogs were amazing and looking after them was a great part of the holiday.*  
-Colin & Susan, Herts

*Pre-trip information was good e.g. kit list, first aid kit supplies. Also the day-by-day itinerary was how it was, without giving you any false expectations. We did find the mountain Kingdoms kit bag excellent as it fitted nicely into the sled and was very strong. Our leader greatly admired it, wishing she had one!!*  
-Mr & Mrs F, Derbyshire

# Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

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## **Truly independent**

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

## **Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality**

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

## **Complete financial security**

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

## **No Surcharge Guarantee**

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

## **Award winning Responsible Tourism**

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).

## **Genuine small group travel**

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

## **Loyalty Discount**

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

## **Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier**

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

## **Comprehensive information**

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.



## RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN



For over 33 years, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now offer trips to all corners of the world, but we are conscious that inevitably our holidays have a detrimental impact on the world around us, and we want to do all we can to reduce our carbon emissions. We are a signatory to Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency, along with a growing number of like-minded, reputable tour operators. For more information, please visit [www.tourismdeclares.com](http://www.tourismdeclares.com)

From 2020 onwards, we will be focusing on how we can reduce the carbon emissions that our holidays produce, and how to counterbalance this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures. Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole:

### Carbon Offsetting

#### Already doing:

- ✓ We have been offsetting carbon since 2007, but will be increasing our donations to the [Ecoan tree planting project](#) in Peru this year. This is with a trusted partner where the funds go directly to a project where the community plants trees on its own land.

#### Will do:

- ✓ We are working on making our carbon offsetting more accurate and targeted.
- ✓ In future, we will add to that a further estimate for carbon produced by hotels, local road travel, trains and internal flights to arrive at a carbon offset sum for each trip we operate.
- ✓ Carbon offsetting will be included in our holiday prices. For our Flight Inclusive holidays it will include the international flight and any emissions produced by inland travel and accommodation. Our Land Only prices will include the cost of offsetting emissions caused by inland travel and accommodation.

### Reducing Carbon Emissions

#### Already doing:

- ✓ We already offer the majority of our customers a free filtered water bottle which means they can instantly cut down on their single-use plastic consumption. This will be an ongoing project.
- ✓ We already predominantly use locally owned hotels, but will continue to ensure that, where possible, we use these rather than multinational chains.
- ✓ We have joined the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside like-minded travel companies, to work together to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.

#### Will do:

- ✓ We will re-evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We will stop offering unnecessary optional flights – for example our Everest sightseeing trip.
- ✓ We will eliminate unnecessary staff flights wherever possible.
- ✓ We will look at minimising internal flights.
- ✓ We will be asking all our worldwide agents and suppliers to look at their own carbon footprint and encourage them to reduce it.
- ✓ We will promote our more low impact trips to give customers an informed choice.

As part of our wider commitment to Responsible Tourism, we will continue to support a number of charities with whom we have had a long standing relationship over many years. These include: Shiva Charity in Nepal (Ginette Harrison School), Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Service and Porter Welfare, as well as setting aside a sum for emergency disaster relief should the need arise.

