

Lawrence University presents...

The Northern Lights of Finland

March 19 – 26, 2026

Travel with Associate Professor, Megan Pickett



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LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
APPLETON, WISCONSIN

For more information contact
Collette

(844) 217-4213

Please refer to booking #1265162



Small Group Travel rewards travelers with new perspectives. With just 12-24 passengers, these are the personal adventures that today's cultural explorers dream of.

8 Days • 12 Meals: 6 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 5 Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS... Helsinki, Helsinki Cathedral, Lapland Region, Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort, Meet & Greet with Santa, Reindeer Safari, Northern Lights Searches, Husky Safari, Glass Igloo Accommodation

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1 Overnight Flight

Days 2 – 7 Lilla Roberts Hotel, Helsinki

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.



Megan Pickett is an associate professor of physics at Lawrence University. She earned a B.A. in physics at Cornell University in 1988, and a Ph.D. in Theoretical Astrophysics from Indiana University in 1995. She was a research fellow at NASA's Ames Research Center until 1999, after which she taught at Valparaiso University and Purdue University, before joining Lawrence in 2006. She has published more than two dozen scholarly articles on the formation of the solar system, the Earth and Moon, and the dynamics of black holes and neutron stars. More recently, she has turned her focus to bettering student outcomes in physics education

through collaborative work via the Science Division's HHMI grant and her own \$500,00 NSF grant. In addition to work on the Lawrence campus, Pickett has been a vocal advocate for celebrating celestial cultural heritage through her dark sky campaign work (including a well-received invited TEDx talk on light pollution <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYC93oQURPc>). She is currently writing a biography of Dr. Elda Anderson, a Manhattan Project Scientist and the first woman to chair the physics department at Milwaukee-Downer College.

Day 1: Thursday, March 19, 2026 Overnight Flight On an adventure to the top of the world, experience a side of life that feeds the imagination and leaves you forever enchanted with Finland, "Daughter of the Baltic."

Day 2: Friday, March 20, 2026 Helsinki, Finland *Hei Helsinki!* Finland's vibrant capital, where history converges with architectural style and combines with a laid-back vibe across beautiful islands and pristine public parks, welcomes you. This evening, gather with new friends for a welcome dinner in the city center, taking a 20-minute stroll to a local restaurant. *Hyvää ruokahalua!* (bon appetit!) (D)

Day 3: Saturday, March 21, 2026 Helsinki Join a local expert for an engaging city tour. If Finland's heart beats in Helsinki, then Helsinki's core is in Senate Square, home of Helsinki Cathedral, the city's most iconic building. Take a 90-minute walking tour of empiric-designed Tori Quarters before enjoying some free time in Market Square, the city's famous international market. See the steel monument dedicated to the composer Sibelius. During your free time, explore more of Helsinki independently. (B)

Day 4: Sunday, March 22, 2026 Helsinki - Kakslauttanen - Northern Lights Search Escape to northernmost Finland's winter wonderland on board a flight to Ivalo and magical Lapland. Like a storybook come to life, Lapland's culture is steeped in myth and legend. Relish a sled ride with reindeer and unspoiled views of the northern lights.* At the remote Kakslauttanen Resort, spend two nights in your very own Finnish log cabin** indulging in your own personal Finnish sauna. Take the motor coach north toward Inari on a chase for the northern lights.* Stops along the pursuit allow you the chance to witness nature's dazzling, electric light show.* (B, L, D)

Day 5: Monday, March 23, 2026 Kakslauttanen - Santa Claus' Home - Reindeer Safari - Northern Lights Hit the snow and mush yourself to breakfast aboard your own authentic Finnish sleigh. After a leisurely breakfast, meet Santa's Elves who will escort you to meet Santa Claus in his own home. Learn about Santa's origins during a warm and friendly conversation at his house. After dinner, under the Arctic moonlight, a reindeer farmer introduces you to some friendly Lappish reindeer that will escort you on an exhilarating safari through remote Kakslauttanen. Gain insight into the importance of reindeer herding to the Sámi indigenous culture. Sip warm berry juice, a Finnish tradition, around an open fire, inside a Lappish Tepee in the surround of northern Finland's wilderness as you continue the search for the elusive northern lights.* (B, D)

Day 6: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 Kakslauttanen - Husky Safari - Northern Lights Search Breathe in the fresh Arctic air this morning and step into the role as leader of your own dog sled team. Zoom through the wilderness on a husky safari, driving your husky guides that are as fast as they are adorable. Spend some time getting to know these amazing dogs and learn about their different commands. You'll also be introduced to the equipment you'll need to experience this incredible Arctic adventure at its best. Enjoy your last night in the heart of the Lappish wilderness, nestled in your incredible and unique glass igloo.*** You may even see the northern lights* dancing overhead from the comfort of your own bed. (B, D)

Day 7: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 Kakslauttanen - Helsinki Say goodbye to enchanting Lapland and fly back to Helsinki. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure. Explore the city's central squares and get in tune with the latest Finnish trends at a collection of charming shops. Tonight, in downtown Helsinki, toast to grand adventures and new friends. (B, D)

Day 8: Thursday, March 26, 2026 Helsinki - Tour Ends Set out for home with incredible memories and a longing to return. (B)



Per Person Rates*:

Double \$6,599; Single \$7,699; Triple \$6,499

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Dane Cty Regional or Austin Straubel Fld, Inter-flights from Helsinki, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$549 per person

Upgrade your in-flight experience with Elite Airfare

Additional rate of: Premium Economy \$1,590; Business Class \$4,190

- * Elite Air pricing (Premium Economy, Business Class or First class) is valid until 8 months prior to departure, after which rates are subject to change and will be quoted based upon availability.

† Refer to the reservation form to choose your upgrade option

* *All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change*

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received and booking confirmed by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received and booking confirmed, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. (See registration form for consent.)

Important Tour Information:

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

Travel with an average of 16 people (maximum of 24).

The dog sledding activity requires you to be able to lower yourself into the sled.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

This tour is not wheelchair or stroller accessible due to Arctic terrain.

Personal audio devices (headsets) are not included on this tour.

Because the northern lights are a winter event, you will be walking and waiting outdoors while looking for them. It is recommended that you wear sturdy non-slip snow footwear and warm clothing including thermals, hat, scarf and gloves.

Experience It! The Northern Lights

Each year, during the winter months, travelers journey to Finland and venture out into the dark to see the magical but elusive northern lights. This natural phenomenon is the product of collisions between electrically charged particles from the sun that enter the earth's atmosphere, yielding spectacular results. Streaks of colorful light that change from white to pink to purple, and most commonly, to green, dazzle and move across the open sky like it's nature's own dance party. It is known that the best time to witness the northern lights in Finland is from late September to mid-April, when the nights are the longest. Well worth the pursuit, this is a truly remarkable light show that's not to be missed.

The days and order of sightseeing may change to best utilize your time on tour.

Outdoor activities and structures are weather dependent and may be unavailable or rescheduled. Outdoor activities in early November or April may vary depending on snowfall. If there is not enough snowfall, the husky safari will be substituted for a husky meet and greet and hike experience. The reindeer safari will be substituted with a horse drawn carriage northern lights search.

*The northern lights are in the Northern Hemisphere from September through April and are only visible when the sky is clear and free of clouds. **As this tour is weather dependent, sightings of the northern lights are not guaranteed.**

Hotel check-in on your day of arrival is 3:00 p.m. Rooms may not be available prior to that time.

**Finnish log cabins (small cabins) are equipped with 1 double bed, 1 bunk bed, a dining space, one bathroom (inclusive of sink, toilet and shower), private sauna and private fireplace (firewood not included).

***Glass igloos are equipped with a private shower, sauna and a toilet. A privacy curtain lines the base of the bedroom inside the igloo. Overnights in igloos may be on the first night or last night at the Kakslautanen Arctic Resort.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability.

For more information visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1265162>

Coaches which may not be lavatory equipped may be used on this tour. In this case, stops are made during travel periods.

To complete your tour, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of *purchasing* these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Internal flights are required in order to participate on this tour and are included in the final price, quoted at time of booking.

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

Travel Requirements:

IDENTIFICATION

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require that your passport be valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of your travel. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

A deposit of \$698 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the seat reduction date of August 13, 2025 are based upon availability. Final payment due by December 19, 2025. Deposits are refundable up until August 20, 2025.



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For important reservation information visit
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1265162>.
You can also find this information on your tour documents.

