

# The seven wonders of winter

As temperatures plummet, be inspired to enjoy the northern hemisphere's greatest travel experiences



The northern lights can be seen across a great sweep of polar regions, ranging from Alaska and Canada to Arctic Scandinavia

# 3 Sweden's reindeer migration

One of the world's greatest migrations takes place each year just over a thousand miles north of Britain. As snow thickens on every surface, lakes freeze over and the temperature drops below  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$ , tens of thousands of reindeer make their way across northern Sweden. Descending from summer pastures in the mountains to the west, the herds travel east to spend the long winter foraging in the forests.

Accompanying them on a journey that can take ten days or more are their semi-nomadic Sami owners. While herding methods may have modernised over the centuries (snowmobiles – and even helicopters – have replaced snowshoes), reindeer husbandry is still a cornerstone of their culture. To fall in with the Sami and their herds is to be part of a heritage that stretches back millennia – one of days dictated by the pace of the reindeers' steady trot, and of nights sharing stories round the fire under a chill, star-filled sky.

## MAKE IT HAPPEN

- Kiruna is a fine base from which to make forays into the Arctic wilderness. Fly there direct from Heathrow with SAS (from £100; [flysas.com](http://flysas.com)) or fly from Stockholm Arlanda (BA and SAS fly to Arlanda from Heathrow; SAS flies from Manchester; and Norwegian flies from Gatwick) to Gällivare with Next Jet (from £100; [nextjet.se](http://nextjet.se)) or to Kiruna with Norwegian (from £100; [norwegian.com](http://norwegian.com)).
- Nature Travels offers six-day reindeer-sled trips, staying the night in traditional tents and cabins and led by experienced Sami herders (£1,588, excluding flights; [naturetravels.co.uk](http://naturetravels.co.uk))