



LIVE LIKE
A SÁMI IN
SWEDEN

Set up camp in a traditional Swedish tipi beside a lake located deep in Dalsland — West Sweden's verdant lake district, just one hour's drive from Gothenburg. Cook dinner on an open fire and sleep on beds of fir fronds and reindeer skins; the way the Sámi have lived for centuries. Julia Penney recounts her experience: "We didn't sleep the first night — our sleeping bags kept sliding off the skins — but we soon got the hang of it and the beds really added to the experience in the end.

We were very lucky with the weather and were outside the whole time. There's no electricity so if we wanted a cup of tea, we had to light a fire. The girls collected kindling wood every morning; we picked wild strawberries

and raspberries and fished in the lake. There's an outdoor hot tub that costs the same as the tipi to book but it's worth the money. You fill it with water from the stream and heat it with a fire. It felt very private, we only saw other families when we took the camp's rowboat across the lake to a beach. There's lots to do in the area — zip wires and bikes along a disused railway — but the kids mostly loved hanging out at camp. The outdoor living experience was so unique, I'd recommend it to anyone and the kids will never forget it."

Julia Penney travelled with her husband, Stewart, and their four children: Luke, 16, Ollie, 14, Ruby, 10, and Tallulah, eight.

● **The details:** Tipis sleep up to six and cost from £217 for four nights in August. www.naturetravels.co.uk