

Ice Hotel

Imagine a Hotel built from thousands of tons of snow and ice, and re-built every Winter – well that's what happens at the Ice Hotel in the little village of Jukkasjärvi in Northern Lapland, Sweden.

In the Ice Hotel, there are double rooms and suites for overnight guests, a lobby, a pillar hall, film auditorium and of course the famous Absolut Icebar - where folk from all over the world socialize 'til late.

In November, building starts on the unique Ice Hotel and the official opening takes place in mid-December. By the time the Spring sunshine has done it's work, the Ice Hotel has slowly but surely made way for Summer and melted back into the River Torne. At the end of April or the beginning of May, the Ice Hotel closes for the season.

Why not visit the spectacular beauty of the world famous Ice Hotel with Eblana Travel. This magical place with its breathtaking beauty and snow wilderness makes impressions and memories to last a lifetime.

The Ice Hotel facilities include 'warm' accommodation at the Northern Hotel Chalets and Kaamos Hotel rooms. For practical purposes, and to have the right mix of adventure and comfort, guests usually stay one night in 'cold' accommodation at the Ice Hotel and then a night or more in 'warm' accommodation in the chalets or Kaamos Hotel.

Sleeping in the Ice Hotel.

To spend the night at the Ice Hotel is an experience, and it is not like any other hotel night!

The bed that you sleep on is built by ice blocks, a wooden frame, mattress and it is topped with reindeer skins. You sleep in a thermal sleeping bag that they provide, which can protect against cold of -25°C. In the Ice hotel, it never gets colder than -5 to -8°C, regardless of the fact that the outdoor temperature sometimes drop down to -45°.

You cannot lock your hotel room when you sleep in the Ice Hotel, because there is no door to your bedroom! This may sound a bit strange, but it is a very special hotel.

If you leave your luggage in your room, it will freeze – there are separate luggage compartments for the Ice hotel night, where you can store your luggage in lockers.

You do not have a bathroom in your hotel rooms (thank goodness!). For the night itself there are warm (ordinary) lavatories built into one of the corridors of Ice hotel, and there are also common sauna departments and changing rooms.

How big is the Ice Hotel?

Since the Ice Hotel melts away every Spring, the exact number of rooms change from year to year. The number of hotel rooms vary from 80 rooms upwards - ice rooms, ice family rooms, ice suites and ice suites deluxe.

Is the hotel the same each winter?

No, the Ice Hotel changes from year to year. There is a new Architecture each year as well as new works of art and themes, and also new artists from year to year.

What kind of clothes should I bring?

Icehotel offers warm outer clothing to all guests in the form of: snow-mobile overall, hat, mittens and winter boots. In addition to this, it is advisable to bring thermal underwear, woollen and fleece sweaters, scarves, gloves as well as plenty of woollen socks.

Is the restaurant made of ice?

No – they thaw out their guests for meal times, which you have indoors!

In Jukkasjärvi there are 2 restaurants: Jukkasjärvi Wårdshus is about 100 metres from Icehotel and serves Laplandic Gourmet foods with raw materials, on plates of ice from the Torne River if you wish. The other restaurant, The Old Homestead Restaurant offers Swedish everyday food, and where there is a café during day-time.

Weddings & Christenings in the Ice Hotel.

Couples from all over the world come to Jukkasjärvi to get married in the stunning Ice Chapel. Children from near and far are baptized here and people have their marriages blessed. They leave with fond memories that will last a lot longer than the chapel itself.

How many nights should I stay?

In addition to "cool" accommodation the Ice Hotel also has warm accommodation: 4 bed cabins, Aurora houses and Kaamos hotel rooms. Ususally this means that for practical purposes, and to have the right mix of adventure and comfort, guests stay 1 night in Icehotel proper and then a night or more in "warm" accommodation with private bathroom, luggage keeping etc. Most people stay at least 2 nights.

How & when can I book?

Reservations are accepted all year round and Eblana Travel can organize your stay at the Ice Hotel. Flights are ex Dublin via Stockholm; you can stop off in Stockholm en route for a couple of nights and enjoy all this wonderful city has to offer. Basically, we can tailor-make your trip to suit your individual requirements.

For further details or to book – contact Eblana Travel on (091) 501400 or email sales@eblanatravel.ie