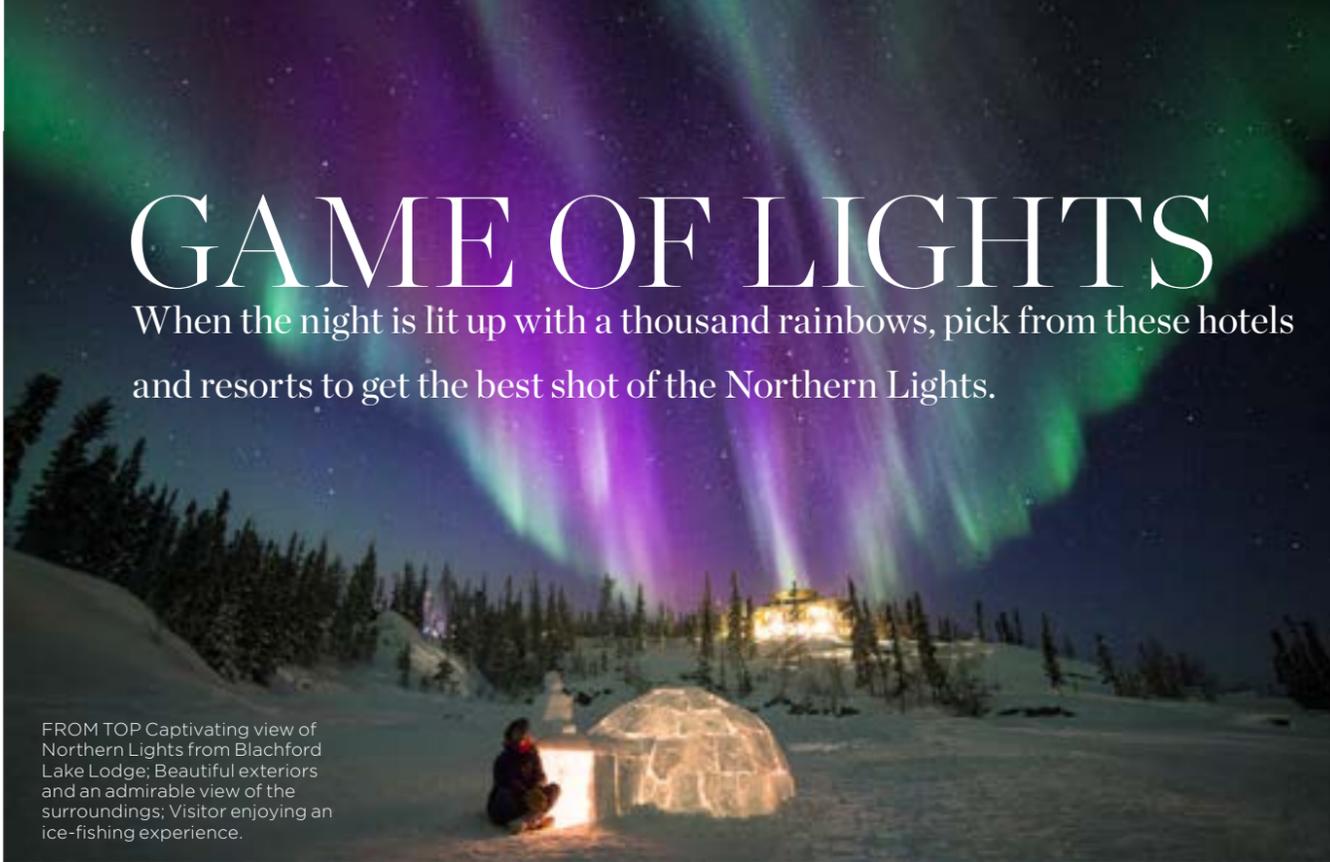


GAME OF LIGHTS

When the night is lit up with a thousand rainbows, pick from these hotels and resorts to get the best shot of the Northern Lights.



FROM TOP Captivating view of Northern Lights from Blachford Lake Lodge; Beautiful exteriors and an admirable view of the surroundings; Visitor enjoying an ice-fishing experience.



A bright spread of dancing lights, also known as Aurora that are actually the collisions between electrically charged particles from the sun that enter the earth's atmosphere. These Lights are seen above the magnetic poles of the northern and southern hemispheres. Northern Lights appear in many colours, although pale green and pink are the most common. Here are the best hotels and resorts that offer you the VIP seat to witness this breathtaking phenomena.

BLACHFORD LAKE LODGE & WILDERNESS RESORT

Northern Canada

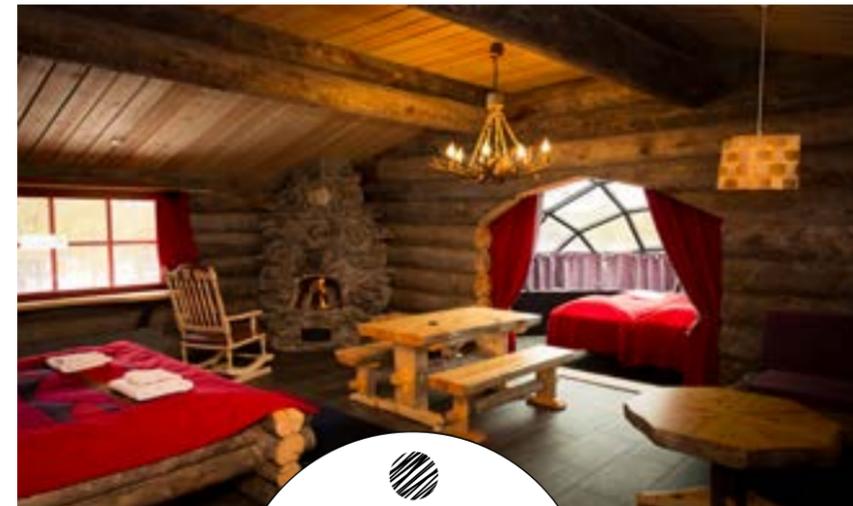
The lowdown Perched on a rock-knoll overlooking Blachford Lake near Yellowknife, it is set in pristine wilderness that is unpolluted by artificial light or noise.

Best for Spectacular Aurora Borealis viewing outside of Yellowknife. It's your home away from home in the serene captivating surroundings of the Northwest Territories. The best part of being here is that Blachford Lake Lodge is located right underneath the auroral oval, that sparkles like a string of glitters and diamonds in winter. Over the years, Blachford has been proud to host international guests, such as actress Kaho Minami of Japan, award-winning photographer Hamilton Lund of Australia, model Godfrey Gao of Taiwan, producer/explorer Ryan Pyle of China/Canada, writer Dallas Hartwig co-author of *Whole 30*, to Prince William and Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge. Perfect for those looking forward to witnessing the sparkling snow; or indulge in some adventures like igloo building or cross-country skiing in winters and canoeing or kayaking in summers. This place also serves as one of the north's most sought-after honeymoon destinations and a host to special off-grid weddings each year.

Book it Rooms begin at ₹35,000 approx a night.
Visit www.blachfordlakelodge.com for more info.

IMAGES COURTESY MARTINA GEBAROVSKA & BLACHFORD LAKE LODGE

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Kaksilauttanen Kelo glass igloo; Northern Lights in beautiful pale green and pink colours; Kaksilauttanen Aurora restaurant cabinet 3; Enchanting interiors of Kaksilauttanen Kelo glass igloo; Witness the Northern Lights whilst you sleep inside Kaksilauttanen glass igloo.



[Legends]

*For the Romans, Aurora was the goddess of dawn.
 * In medieval times, the occurrences of auroral displays were seen as harbingers of war or famine.



IMAGES COURTESY KAKSLAUTTANEN ARCTIC RESORT, LAPLAND, FINLAND

KAKSLAUTTANEN ARCTIC RESORT

Lapland, Finland

The lowdown Renowned for the glass igloos that showcase the Northern Lights in full glory.

Best for Those who are looking for an enchanting arctic experience will be in the midst of the cleanest air and wild nature, with one of Finland's largest national parks, Urho Kekkonen National Park, next door. The pure water that you can drink straight from the streams, fresh air that will cleanse your city-clogged lungs, and the harmonious sound of complete silence, will soothe your soul. The region is steeped in the culture of the indigenous Sámi folk. What makes this resort special is the experience of the Northern Lights phenomenon from the Kelo-Glass igloos that provide the comforting warmth of cosy log chalets. Restaurants Kelo and Aurora offer local Lappish or Sami cuisine. With numerous excursions — from reindeer and husky rides, to meeting Santa, or panning for gold — your stay will be unforgettable.

Book it Rooms begin at ₹35,000 approx a night.
Visit www.kakslauttanen.fi for more info.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP The hypnotising view of Northern Lights from Ranga Hotel; Fridheimar 'Tomato Green House'; Delicious meal at the restaurant; Interiors of the suite and the bathroom 'North America', named after the continent itself.



HOTEL RANGÁ

South Iceland

The lowdown Perfect for star-gazing, sun gazing and the never-ending mysticism of the elusive Aurora Borealis.

Best for Its opulent landscape, and ideal for discovering and experiencing everything South Iceland has to offer — from the Golden Circle in the west to the Glacier Lagoon in the east. The continental suites at Hotel Rangá are themed after each of the seven continents, and they provide guests with the ultimate comfort, luxury, relaxation, and experience that is figuratively a 'world apart'. Offering a fine dining experience in an elegant riverside setting, the gourmet restaurant overlooks one of Iceland's finest salmon rivers, East-Rangá River. Based on the concept of a farmer market, it predominantly uses local ingredients. Hotel Rangá is a perfect base for exploring the Icelandic highlands, glaciers, volcanoes, black sand beaches, fishing villages, magnificent waterfalls, hot springs, cultural centres, historic places, nature preserves and much more. All in all, what you'll find here is pure bliss and perfection.

Book it Rooms begin at ₹41,870 approx a night.

Visit www.hotelranga.is for more info.



CLOCKWISE FROM THIS PICTURE Restaurant Aurora Sky at Levin Iglut Golden Crown; Interiors of the washroom; Beautiful exteriors and view from the bedrooms; Enchanting view on a perfect winter day; Northern Lights in its full glory.

[Legends]

- * The Maori of New Zealand believed that the lights were reflections from torches or campfires.
- * The Menominee Indians of Wisconsin believed that the lights indicated the location of manabai'wok (giants), who were the spirit of great hunters.



LEVIN IGLUT- GOLDEN CROWN

Finnish Lapland, Finland

The lowdown It is located at an altitude of more than 340 meters in the very lap of Levi Fell with views to the peaceful Fell landscape.

Best for A unique experience of living in a glass igloo, half submerged in the snow. With a total of 24 glass igloos that are supplemented by the service of a restaurant and the Northern Lights House, this place is a must-visit. Each of these igloos feature electrically heated non-fogging glass, air conditioning, a small kitchen, shower and toilet, Wi-Fi connection and motorised beds, which you can adjust to the desired position for watching the Northern Lights or sleeping. Northern Lights House, which is partly built into the ground, has a panoramic window in the living room that provides a view of the spectacular beauty of nature and is equipped with a private sauna and jacuzzi on the terrace. At the Aurora Sky restaurant, you can enjoy Scandinavian flavours in two different atmospheres. On the upper floor, your dinner is seasoned with an unobstructed view of the sky, while on the ground floor, you can enjoy your meal in the warm glow of the fireplace.

Book it Rooms begin at ₹40,784 approx a night.

Visit www.leviniglut.net for more info.



IMAGES COURTESY HOTEL RANGÁ; FOOD, EXTERIORS & FRIDHEIMAR TOMATO GREENHOUSE SHOWS BY BRENT DARBY

IMAGES COURTESY LEVIN IGLUT



[Legends]

* The Inuit of Alaska believed that the lights were the spirits of the animals they hunted—seals, salmon, deer and beluga whales.

* Aboriginal people believed that the lights were the spirits of their people.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Beautiful display of Northern Lights above the Igloo hotel; Sorrisniva's Northern Lights and Sami excursion; the view from outside; The entry to Sorrisniva Igloo hotel.

SORRISNIVA THE IGLOO HOTEL

Alta, Norway

The lowdown A hotel entirely of snow and ice, it's the world's highest ice hotel.

Best for Delivering a once-in-a-lifetime mystical and surreal experience, including riverboat excursions, fishing trips, snowmobile tours, Northern Lights tours, reindeer and Sami experiences. The name Sorrisniva is derived from the Finnish language and means a cascading stream. Located 20 km from Alta and set on the banks of the Alta River, the entire hotel is made of snow and ice - yes, even the glasses in the bar. The hotel has 30 rooms including double rooms, single rooms, twin rooms and family rooms, as well as a few suites, which are uniquely decorated. The Snowmobile safari to the Finnmark Plateau is another highlight and brings you closer to Arctic nature. All the meals served at Sorrisniva are made with local ingredients and according to age-old traditions. Every year, the hotel has a new unique theme from the Arctic part of the world, and the list goes on...

Book it Rooms begin at ₹30,000 approx a night.

Visit www.sorrisniva.no for more info.