

FINNATURE

GET CLOSE TO NATURE

WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR TO FINLAND – JANUARY / FEBRUARY

Day 1

Arrival and meeting Finnature guide at Oulu airport in the afternoon. Drive to accommodation for dinner. Throughout the tour, if there are Northern Lights forecasted and sky is clear we will go out to photograph them in the evening.

Days 2 – 3

The next two days have the same program:

We will either have an early breakfast at the accommodation or we will take the breakfast as take-away with us to the hide. Early departure to Golden Eagle hides. In winter, we need to be ready in the hides already two hours before sunrise. Walk from the parking area to the hides along a forest trail is about 300m.

We spend the whole day in the heated Eagle hide photographing Golden Eagles and other forest birds visiting the feeders in front of the hide. We have fed wintering Golden Eagles at this site for over a decade and the activity varies from the resident pair visiting to several wintering Eagle individuals visiting. Other birds here might include Great-spotted Woodpecker, Eurasian Jay, Crested Tit, Willow Tit, Common Redpoll and Bullfinch.

Departure from the hide takes place in dusk. Drive back to accommodation for dinner and accommodation.

Day 4

Today we will look for photogenic birds in Oulu area in the morning. These might include berry-eating birds such as Waxwings, Pine Grosbeak or Thrushes, or possible wintering Great Grey or Hawk Owls if there are any in the area.

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After lunch, we drive to Finnature forest feeder hides to Liminka for an overnight photo session. During the daylight we hope to photograph the Northern Goshawk and during the night, Eurasian Eagle Owl.

In most winters, we have wintering Northern Goshawk visiting our bait here during daylight. Other forest birds visiting our feeders might include Willow Tit, Yellowhammer, Great-spotted Woodpecker and Eurasian Nutcracker.

At sunset, we turn on the led light system and wait for the Eagle Owl to visit. We will stay in the hides overnight. Our photo hides are converted from camping caravans and they are very comfortable and equipped for an overnight stay.

Day 5

We will stay the morning in the forest feeder hides and wait for the Goshawk to and other forest birds to visit. We then return to accommodation for a short day rest.

After resting, we return to the forest feeder hides for another overnight photo session with Goshawk and Eagle Owl. We will take dinner with us to the hides.

Day 6

Return to the accommodation in the morning for breakfast and a little break. After break, we will departure to Kuusamo. We will make a stop at Iso-Syöte fell for winter landscapes and snowy capped forest.

We will enjoy lunch en route and dinner at our accommodation in Kuusamo.

Day 7

Today we will head to a Dipper river for the morning. The narrow Käylä cascade stays open throughout the winter and is an important wintering area for Dippers. Here, we can photograph Dippers at close range.

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In the afternoon, we drive to Kuntivaara hill which is an unforgettable winter landscape photography destination. We will take a snow mobile ride to the hilltop where the atmosphere is very eerie and the snowy capped trees continue endlessly within the landscape. A wooden hut provides shelter and warmth.

Return to our accommodation for dinner.

Day 8

Today our photo targets are the beautiful snowy forests of Riisitunturi National Park and the delightful Siberian Jays at a forest feeder. After breakfast, we drive to Siberian Jay site and spend the morning with these delightful birds. Depending on the temperatures they can be very active and come to take food even from hand! In very cold temperatures these birds are more sedentary.

At noon we drive to the famous winter landscapes of Riisitunturi National Park. During the day, we walk 3-4km in hilly terrain along a ready-made path and photograph the snowy forest landscapes. We will spend the whole afternoon here and enjoy the sunset at the top of the Riisitunturi fell.

Return to our accommodation for dinner.

Day 9

After breakfast, departure from Kuusamo to Oulu airport for the homewards flight.

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