



Ruff

## Lekking week – Capercaillie, Black Grouse and Ruff

<b>Destination:</b>	Kuusamo - Oulu, Finland	<b>Group size:</b>	4 – 6 photographers
<b>Focus:</b>	Lekking Ruff, Black Grouse and Capercaillie	<b>Time:</b>	3 – 9 May 2019
<b>Grading:</b>	Short day walks 500 - 1000m, for all ages	<b>Price:</b>	3090 € per person, single supplement 445 €

### Spring photography safari

Spring is busy for wildlife photography in Finland - there are almost too many things going on in nature, especially in May. Luckily the days are long and the nights are short, giving plenty of light time to take photos. Most of our migrant birds such as Ruff are arriving back to Oulu region in early May. All our five Grouse species are resident in Finland and their leks peak in May. Normally the second week of May is when females visit the lek sites and mating takes place in Kuusamo lekking arenas. Depending on the vole population cycles, Owls may have started their breeding and in that case we will dedicate couple of evenings for owl photography.

This photography tour is planned for keen wildlife photographers and a lot of time will be spent in pro-hides to take the ultimate images of beautiful lekking birds. The magnificent Capercaillie lek in fairly open pine forest, the very active and noisy Black Grouse lek in open arena with dark forest background in beautiful backlit conditions, and the delightful and colorful Ruff lek at eye level by the most important wetland reserve in Finland - Liminka Bay in Oulu area. Other great photography opportunities during the tour include Whooper Swan in action, and Common Crane and several waterfowl species from the shore hide in Kuusamo. In Oulu area there are also good opportunities to photograph other shorebirds from the shore hide including Spotted Redshank, Wood Sandpiper and Marsh Sandpiper.



Capercaillie

### Highlights

Lekking Capercaillie, Black Grouse and Ruff, Whooper Swan, Common Crane, Goosander, Goldeneye, Wood Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank

### For more information:

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Capercaillie

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 Arrive to Kuusamo

Arrival to Kuusamo airport and transportation to Oivanki Lomakartano's log villa for accommodation and lunch. After lunch photography session with fighting Whooper Swan, Common Crane, White-tailed Eagle and waterfowl from the shore hides by a lake. Return to the accommodation for dinner and a short briefing for the program for the following days.

### Day 2

Early morning start at 3.00 for a photography session in professional photography hides at the Black Grouse lek site. Black Grouse photography until the lek is over - normally by 8.00, and return to the accommodation for late breakfast between 9.00 - 10.00. There might be chances for other Grouse species on the roadsides on the way back. Afternoon break and independent photography near the accommodation from 10.00 - 17.00. Dinner at 17.00 and after that head to the Capercaillie hides. Staying in the hides overnight.



Black Grouse

### Day 3

Before dawn, we are ready in our hides for the Capercaillie lek. When the lek is over between 9.00 - 10.00, we return for breakfast in our accommodation. Few hours break or independent photography near the accommodation from 10.00 - 15.00. At 15.00 start from the accommodation and drive to the Osprey hides, where we photograph the diving and fishing Ospreys for the next 4-5 hours. On the way back there might be chances for Capercaillie or Black Grouse on the roadsides (or Owls if available).

### Day 4

This morning we sleep a little longer. After 7.00 breakfast we head to morning photography session with White-throated Dipper along a flowing river. After the Dipper session return to the accommodation for lunch. In early afternoon, we stay 2-3 hours at passerine hides. Dinner and after that once again back to the Whooper Swan, Common Crane, White-tailed Eagle and waterfowl from the shore hides by a lake.



Whooper swans in Kuusamo

### Day 5 Departure from Kuusamo to Oulu

Another early morning start at 3.00 for a photography session in the professional photography hides at the Black Grouse lek site. Black Grouse photography until the lek is over, and return to the accommodation for breakfast between 8.00 - 9.00. On the way back there might be chances for other Grouse species on the roadsides. Check-out from accommodation and departure to Oulu by bus. In Oulu you meet a Finnature guide at the bus station. Transfer and check-in to the accommodation and lunch. Break in the middle of the day. Dinner. Ruff photography from either the lek site hides or feeding site hides in the evening - from 18.00 until 22.00.

### Day 6

Early morning start at 3.00 for a Ruff lek photography session in our professional photography hides. Ruff photography until the lek slows down - normally by 8.00, and return to the accommodation for late breakfast between 9.00-10.00. Afternoon break and independent photography near the accommodation from 10.00 - 17.00. Dinner and departure either back to the Ruff hides for the evening or for Owl photography in Oulu region - if Owls are available.

### Day 7 Departure from Oulu

One more early morning photography session at the Ruff lek site from pro-hides. Breakfast between 9.00-10.00. Check-out from the hotel and transportation to Oulu airport for your flight.



Black Grouse



Ruff



Tengmalm's owl

For more pictures: [Finnature's Flickr Gallery](#)

**Price includes:** Finnature guiding throughout the journey. Use of professional photography hides. All meals, accommodation and land transportation during the week. Tour starts from Kuusamo Airport and ends to Oulu Airport. For extra price transportation from Oulu or to Kuusamo if needed.

**Accommodation:** [Oivanki Lomakartano's](#) log villa in Kuusamo and wilderness hotel in Oulu for 5 nights. Please notice that 1 night will be spent in Capercaillie hide.

**Food:** Local restaurants and picnic lunches

**Leader:** Finnature guide

**Possible extensions:** Brown Bear, Wolverine and Wolf photography

**Booking:** [www.shop.finnature.com](http://www.shop.finnature.com)

**Recommended flights:** We recommend to arrive to Kuusamo and to depart from Oulu in the afternoon.

**Please notice:** The itinerary might change due to weather conditions or bird situation. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee any of the species, but our expert Finnature guides do their utmost to ensure the best possible photography opportunities during the tour.

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