



## Winter Wonderland

**Destination:** Kuusamo, Finland

**Focus:** Landscapes, Aurora Borealis, Golden Eagles

**Grading:** Middle distance walks on snow shoes

**Group Size:** 4 – 6 photographers

**Time:** 27 January – 1 February 2019

**Price:** 2495 € per person, single supplement 375 €

### Experience the magical winter wonderland in Finland

This photography tour takes you to the blue winter moments and beautiful snowy capped taiga forests of Kuusamo, Finland. Only imagination is the limit for photography in these winter landscapes, and there might be good chances for witnessing the Aurora Borealis, a magical and colorful display in the night sky - a show so many people can only dream of.

During the tour, we also have two days photography of Golden Eagles from well-heated comfortable professional hides. Many other species visit the feeders in front of the hides, e.g., Siberian Tit, Siberian Jay and Red Squirrel, keeping us busy while waiting for the eagles.

Aurora Borealis in Kuusamo



### Highlights

Golden Eagle, Dipper, Siberian Tit, Siberian Jay, Winter landscapes, blue winter light, snow capped trees and Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis)



Blue moment in Riisitunturi

### For more information:

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Kuntivaara at sunrise

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 Arrival to Kuusamo

Arrival at Kuusamo airport, lunch and accommodation at Oivanki lomakartano's log villas. After lunch, we make the first visit to the snowy taiga forest. At the dinner we will have a short briefing and slide show about the tour program.

### Day 2

After breakfast we are ready for Golden Eagle photography. We spend the whole day in heated pro-hides, where the main target is the Golden Eagle. While waiting for the eagles, many other species visit the feeders in front of the hides, e.g., Siberian Jay, Siberian Tit, Eurasian Jay, Great-spotted Woodpecker and Red Squirrel. Picnic lunch in the hide. Before dinner, a well deserved rest. Depending on the weather, a chance for Aurora Borealis later in the evening.

### Day 3

In the morning White-throated Dipper photography and winter landscape photography at the Käylä cascade. Open throughout the winter, this narrow cascade attracts Dippers which chase each other in close distance. Well before sunset departure to Kuntivaara fell, which is a wonderful winter landscape photography destination. The fell is known as the forest where all the trees are capped by snow. We walk with snowshoes along a ready-made path. Picnic lunch in the hut where we can warm ourselves at open fire. With some luck a possibility for Aurora Borealis over the snowy forest.



Black woodpecker



White-throated Dipper



Photographer at Riisitunturi

### Day 4

After the breakfast departure to the Golden Eagle hides for a second photography session. The day's program is otherwise same as the first Golden Eagle photography day, but if the weather permits, we photograph the Blue Moment just outside the hides after the sunset.

### Day 5

After early breakfast drive to one of the most famous winter landscapes in Finland, Riisitunturi National Park. This winter landscape photography site is well known around the world. During the day, we walk 3-4 km in hilly terrain with snowshoes along a ready-made path in the snowy taiga forest and let the snowy characters that wintery nature has created charm us. At noon drive to a Siberian Jay feeder, where we enjoy picnic lunch while waiting for Siberian Jays. After the sunset we return to the villa and have a rest before dinner.

### Day 6 Departure from Kuusamo

We spend the last day at the picturesque winter scenery of free-flowing Kitkajoki river. Frosted trees and a restored old traditional mill building offer beautiful photo opportunities. The place is full of details and White-throated Dipper is also a daily visitor looking for food in the ice-cold water. After midday we have lunch at a local restaurant. Afternoon flight back home from Kuusamo airport.

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

**Price includes:** Finnature guiding throughout the journey. Two days in professional Eagle photography hides. All meals, accommodation and all land transportation from Kuusamo airport. For extra price transportation from Oulu (bigger airport) if needed.

**Accommodation:** [Oivangin Lomakartano's](#) gorgeous log villa

**Food:** Local restaurants and picnic lunches

**Leader:** Finnature guide

**Possible extensions:** Golden Eagles in action, Winter owls (ask for more information from Finnature office, the owl situation varies between years)

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

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

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

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Golden Eagle



Traditional old mill in Kitka River

