



Black Grouse

Birds & Mammals in Autumn

Destination: Oulu - Viiksimo - Lieksa - Joensuu
Focus: Wildlife and landscape photography
Grading: Moderate walks only - max 500m one way

Group size: 4 - 6 photographers
Time: 19 - 26 September 2020
Price: 3700 € per person, single supplement 415 €

Autumn is a great season for wildlife photography in Finland!

Autumn is an attractive season: even though the nature is slowing down, the **Black Grouse** are lekking actively, and the **Brown Bear** and **Wolverine** visit the feeding sites while preparing for the winter. The colours in nature are breathtaking – the wide range of red, yellow and green are booming both on the ground and in the trees, and this tour is timed carefully for the brightest autumn colours. Also, good chances for **Aurora Borealis** might present themselves, with opportunities to get beautiful water reflection photos as the lakes are not frozen yet. This tour includes three days with Brown Bear, three days with Wolverine and two mornings with Black Grouse.

Highlights: Brown Bear, Wolverine, Black Grouse, autumn landscapes, Aurora Borealis



Wolverine



Brown Bear

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Common Crane



ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrival to Oulu

Arrival at Oulu airport and transportation to the cozy Villa Finnature for dinner and accommodation. Evening excursion to photograph **Common Cranes** in their roosting flight – there should be thousands of them around Oulu this time of the year! At dinner, a short briefing about this wildlife tour's program.

Brown Bear



Day 2 Oulu - Viiksimo

After breakfast we drive to Kuhmo (about 4 hours) to our base in Viiksimo for three days. During the next days, we photograph **Brown Bears**, colourful autumn landscapes and lekking **Black Grouse**.

During the drive to Kuhmo it is possible to make brief stops for landscape photography. In the afternoon around 16.00 departure to the Brown Bear hides where we stay until dark (around 20.30). An evening snack will be waiting when we get back to the accommodation.

Day 3 Viiksimo

Early morning starts with the **Black Grouse** lek. There is a lekking site on a bog next to a picturesque pond. Photography takes place from tent hides, located about 400 meters from the road. If the weather is cold, frosty grass and rising mist from the pond create a perfect stage for the grouse lek! After photo session breakfast is waiting for us. After breakfast we do some landscape photography nearby. We return to accommodation for early dinner and departure to **Brown Bear** hides takes place again around 16.00. Dinner and accommodation at the lodge.

Black Grouse



Wolverine



Day 4 Viiksimo

We start again with an early morning at the **Black Grouse** lek. Breakfast after morning session. During the day, some landscape photography. Beautiful autumn colours create an interesting setting for the **Brown Bears**. We depart to the hides in late afternoon. Dinner and accommodation at the lodge.

Day 5 Viiksimo - Lieksa

After breakfast we start the drive towards Lieksa and photograph landscapes on the way. Around noon we arrive at Lieksa and check-in at our hotel. In the afternoon at 15.00, we head to **Wolverine** photography session. The Wolverines visit the feeding sites usually daily. Two sites are available: hides next to a pond and others in a forest. We stay in hides until dark. Dinner and accommodation at hotel Puustelli in Lieksa.

Day 6 Lieksa

In the morning landscape and bird photography in Lieksa region. In the afternoon departure to the hides for the second session with the **Wolverines**. Dinner and accommodation at hotel Puustelli in Lieksa.

Day 7 Lieksa

In the morning landscape and bird photography in Ruunaa region near Lieksa. This area is famous for its rapids, and it is possible to photograph landscapes with autumn colors. In the afternoon our last departure to **Wolverine** hides. Dinner and accommodation at hotel Puustelli in Lieksa.

Day 8 Lieksa - Joensuu

Early departure after breakfast from Lieksa to Joensuu to catch the afternoon flight back home from Joensuu airport.

Brown Bear



More photos in our [Finnature's Flickr Gallery](#)

Price includes: land transportation from Oulu airport to Joensuu airport, all meals, accommodation, Finnature guiding and use of professional photography hides.

Accommodation: Clean and comfortable hotel, cabin and lodge accommodation with double occupancy and with shared facilities.

Food: Local restaurants

Guide: Finnature guide

Bookings: shop.finnature.com

Recommended flights: We recommend to arrive to Oulu and to depart from Joensuu 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.

Official Package travel trader (Organiser) and Travel agent
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Aurora Borealis