



## Winter Wonderland

**Destination:** Kuusamo, Finland

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

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

**Group Size:** 4 – 6 photographers

**Time:** 20 - 25 January 2022

**Price:** 2570 € per person

### Experience the magical winter wonderland in Finland

This photography tour takes you to blue winter moments and beautiful snow-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 **Aurora Borealis**, a magical and colorful display in the night sky - a show so many 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 as well. For example, **Siberian Tit**, **Siberian Jay** and **Red Squirrel** keep us busy while waiting for Eagles.

Aurora Borealis in Kuusamo



### Highlights

Golden Eagle, White-throated 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 at Kuusamo

Arrival to Kuusamo airport with evenign flight, lunch and accommodation at Oivangin Lomakartano's log villas. After lunch, we make the first visit to the snowy taiga forest. At 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 as well. For example **Siberian Jay**, **Siberian Tit**, **Eurasian Jay**, **Great-spotted Woodpecker** and **Red Squirrel** are regular visitors. 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 Käylä cascade. Open throughout the winter, this narrow cascade is an important wintering site for Dippers. These delightful birds chase each other at 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 a hut where we can warm ourselves at open fire. With some luck a possibility for **Aurora Borealis** over the snowy forest.

### Day 4

After 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 out side the hides after the sunset.

Black woodpecker



Golden Eagle



White-throated Dipper



Photographer at Riisitunturi

### 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 a snowy taiga forest and let the snowy characters that wintery nature has created charm us. At noon, we 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

Departure with the only available flight from Kuusamo at 9:45 AM.

Siberian Jay



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

**Recommended flights:** arrival to Kuusamo at 9:10 PM and departure from Kuusamo at 9:45 AM

#### 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:** [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.

**Official Package travel trader (Organiser) and Travel agent**  
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Traditional old mill by Kitka River