



Wolverine

Mammals of the Finnish taiga – wildlife watching tour

Destination: Helsinki - Rantasalmi - Lieksa - Viiksimo - Kajaani
Focus: Wildlife watching with photography opportunities
Grading: Moderate walks only – max 1000 meters one way

Group size: 4 – 6 persons
Time: 5 – 11 August 2019
Price: 3675 € per person

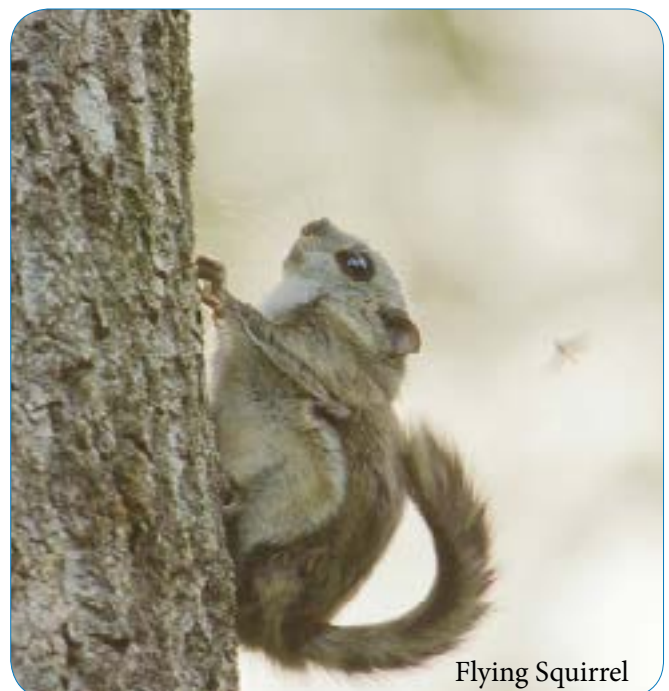
Explore the Finnish wildlife

When it comes to wildlife, Finland has a lot to offer: Brown Bear, Wolverine and Wolf can be seen in their natural environment. In addition to the large carnivores there is a lot more to see - including the secretive Flying Squirrel and the endemic Saimaa Ringed Seal! No wonder many wildlife lovers return to Finland year after year for another wildlife watching tour.

Highlights: Brown Bear, Wolverine, Wolf, Saimaa Ringed Seal, Elk, Wild Forest Reindeer, Flying Squirrel, Beaver



Raccoon Dog



Flying Squirrel

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White-tailed Deer

ITINERARY

Day 1 Helsinki airport - Rantasalmi

Arrival to Helsinki airport and meeting with Finnature guide. Drive to Rantasalmi (about 3,5 hours). Evening walk to see and listen to Finnish bat species. Visit a Flying Squirrel forest. Dinner and accomodation in Rantasalmi.

Day 2 Rantasalmi

Early morning trip to Southeast Finland's countryside. Looking for Elk, Roe Deer and White-tailed Deer, Red Fox and Raccoon Dog. Midday rest and some free time. Evening boat trip to see the Saimaa Ringed Seal and the many Ospreys of the area. This trip is made by boat and we make a short visit to one of the Linnansaari National Park islands as well. Also Beavers are possible during the boat trip. Dinner and accomodation in Rantasalmi.

Bird specialities of the area are Red-necked Grebe, Black-throated Diver, Hazel Grouse, Black Grouse, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Greenish Warbler, White-backed Woodpecker, Black Woodpecker and Grey-headed Woodpecker among others.



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Day 3 Rantasalmi - Lieksa

Morning excursion to the beautiful forest area, which hold birds like Blyth's Reed Warbler, White-backed Woodpecker, Black and Grey-headed Woodpecker, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Hazel Grouse.

Drive to Lieksa in Northern Karelia region in the easternmost Finland (about 3,5 hours). Check-in to the hotel in Lieksa. Evening in Wolverine hides in Kontiovaara. Kontiovaara offers excellent opportunities for Wolverine watching from comfortable log cabins in natural environment. Here, the Wolverines visit the site almost daily. The number of individuals varies, but usually there are several individuals around. Also the Brown Bear visits the site occasionally and even some Wolves and Lynx have been seen and photographed here.

Accommodation in hotel in Lieksa.



Saimaa Ringed Seal



Elk

Day 4 Lieksa

Early morning excursion to look for Flying Squirrel, Beaver and Elk. Lunch. Evening in Wolverine hide in Lieksa. Accommodation in hotel in Lieksa.

Day 5 Lieksa - Viiksimo

Drive north to Viiksimo in Kainuu region (about 2,5 hours). Here we are very close to Russian border and the watching hides are actually situated in the border zone. We look for Wild Forest Reindeer and other wildlife on the way.

We will have rooms at the lodge for the luggage and for some rest, but we stay overnight in the cabin hide to look for Brown Bear and Wolves. The viewing cabins are located on a shallow slope and the feeding point itself is in a boggy depression. The cabin windows give excellent views and are situated in good height. There are openings for camera lenses below the height of the viewing windows. The cabins are excellent for general views of the bears and for obtaining photos of the animals with their natural habitat in the background.

Day 6 Viiksimo

After the night in the hide breakfast is served at the lodge. After the breakfast we will again look for Wild Forest Reindeer and Elk in the forests. In the afternoon a well deserved rest. Night in the hide for Brown Bears and Wolves.



Brown Bear

Day 7 Viiksimo - Kajaani airport

After the night in the hide we will have breakfast at the lodge. Transportation to Kajaani airport.

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

Price includes: Finnature guiding throughout the journey, landtransportation from Helsinki airport to Kajaani airport, accommodation, all meals, boat cruise in Saimaa lake, use of professional viewing hides

Accommodation: Clean and comfortable hotel, cabin and lodge accommodation with double occupancy and with shared facilities. Please notice that single rooms are not available on this tour.

Food: Local restaurants and picnic lunches

Leader: Finnature guide

Booking: www.shop.finnature.com

Recommended flights: We recommend to arrive to Helsinki and to depart from Kajaani 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 viewing and photography opportunities during the tour.

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Official Package travel trader (Organiser) and Travel agent Registration number: 1193/05/MjMv

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