



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: 3 – 9 August 2020
Price: 3675 € per person

Explore the Finnish wildlife

When it comes to wildlife, Finland has a lot to offer! During only one week, we visit three main areas where it is possible to see some of the most sought-after European mammals. Starting from the lush forest and lake landscape in southern Finland, we look for the secretive Flying Squirrel and the endemic Saimaa Ringed Seal. We continue to the wilderness of eastern Finland, where we look for the true royals of the forests: Brown Bear, Wolf, and – Finland being the Wolverine watching capital of the world - the wild Wolverine, all in their natural habitat.

Join our exciting small group tour for an unforgettable week within the heart of wild Finland!



Raccoon Dog

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



Flying Squirrel

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White-tailed Deer



Saimaa Ringed Seal



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 to look for Elk, Roe Deer and White-tailed Deer, Red Fox and Raccoon Dog. Midday rest and some free time.

In the evening, we make a boat trip to see the Saimaa Ringed Seal and the many Ospreys of the area. Saimaa Ringed Seal is one of the world's five freshwater Seal species or subspecies, and it is endangered - only 400 individuals remain! This trip is made by boat and hopefully we see some of the area's Seals lying on rocks. We make a short visit to one of the Linnansaari National Park islands as well. Beavers may also be possible during the boat trip as they are common in the National Park. Dinner and accomodation in Rantasalmi.

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

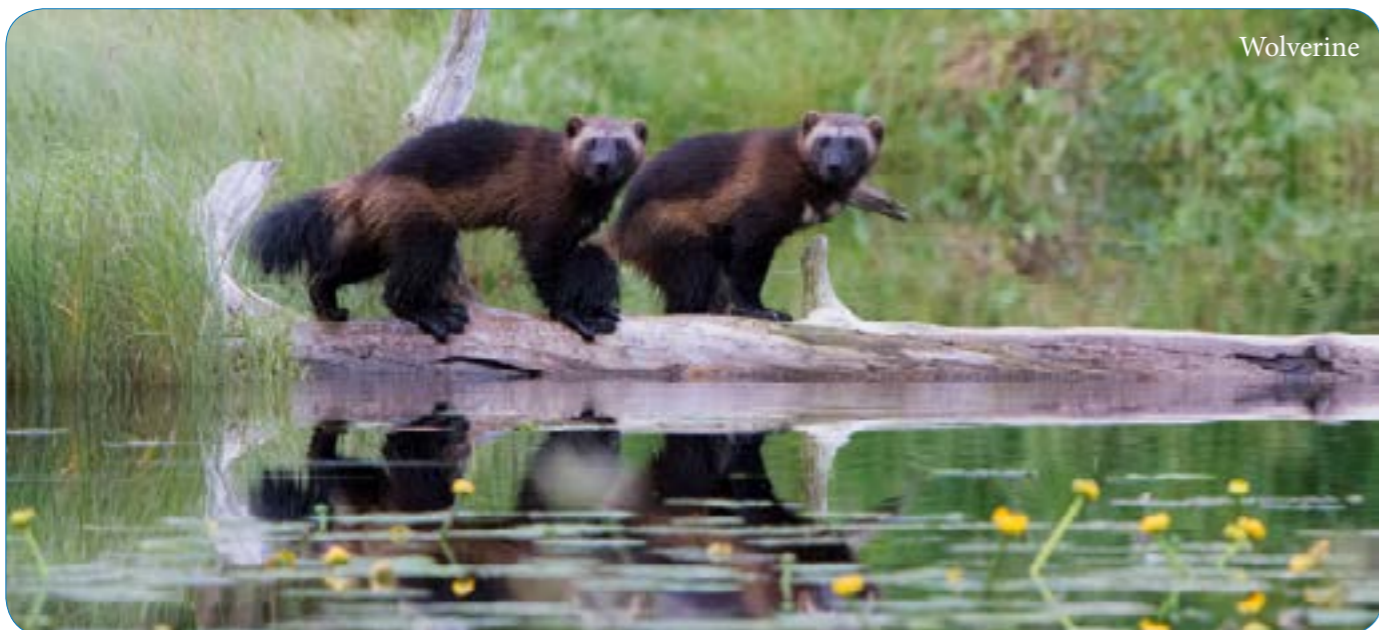
Day 3 Rantasalmi - Lieksa

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 virtually daily. The number of individuals varies, but usually there are several Wolverines around. Brown Bear and even Wolves visit this site occasionally. Lynx and Red Fox have been seen and photographed here as well.

Accommodation in hotel in Lieksa.

Wolverine



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 - actually the watching hides are 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 luggage and for some rest, but we stay overnight in the cabin hide to look for Brown Bears 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 Bears and for obtaining photos of 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 surrounding forests. In the afternoon a well deserved rest. Night in the hide for Brown Bears and Wolves.

Day 7 Viiksimo - Kajaani airport

After the night in the hide, 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: 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.

Elk



Brown Bear



Beaver



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

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