



Birds & landscapes in autumn

Destination: Kuusamo, Finland

Focus: Bird & landscape photography

Grading: Long walks – up to 5 km on one day

Group size: 4 - 6 photographers

Time: 20 – 25 September 2020

Price: 2495 € per person, single supplement 375 €

Autumn is a very beautiful season in Finland!

Colorful Birch trees, foggy mornings and mystical Northern Lights create an array of photographic possibilities.

During this tour, we will visit some of the most photogenic landscape sites of Kuusamo. We will have many early mornings – this way we will be ready to photograph in stunning locations when the sun illuminates the foggy landscape. We will dedicate one full day for Golden Eagle photography with chances for other birds, such as Siberian Jay – in spectacular autumn landscapes of course. We will also have one morning in Black Grouse autumn lek site – a good opportunity for different images of this handsome bird!



Autumn is a great time to photograph Northern Lights. This gorgeous show in the sky with possibilities to reflections on the surface of ponds and lakes is a wonderful experience that you will never forget.

During this tour, we will take you to the best places for amazing landscape photography!

Highlights

Golden Eagle, Siberian Jay, Black Grouse, autumn landscapes, Aurora Borealis

For more information:

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Pähkinäkallio



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Day 1 Kuusamo

Arrival at Kuusamo airport in the afternoon and drive to a beautiful log villa at Oivangin Lomakartano for dinner and accommodation. At dinner a short briefing and a slide show about the tour program.

Throughout the tour, we check for **Northern Lights** activity and if the forecast and conditions meet, go out to photograph them. We will put a special effort to find places with possibilities for reflection images from water.

Day 2 Kuusamo

Early self-made breakfast at our lodge. We start the day with an early visit to the beautiful **Pähkinäkallio** cliff site. This site gives a beautiful view over Kitka river valley and is quoted as one of Europe's finest views of a river valley. Overall walking distance is about 3km.

In the afternoon, we visit **Kitka river**. An old restored traditional mill building and its beautiful environment create an interesting setting to try different compositions – the place is full of details.

We will also visit **Jyrävä**, the highest waterfall in Kuusamo.

Dinner and accommodation at Oivangin Lomakartano, and check for Northern Lights activity.

Day 3 Kuusamo

Early morning start for a photography session in professional photography hides at **Black Grouse** lek site. Even though Black Grouse are more known for their spring lek, they also have a lek in the autumn. This is a good possibility to get Black Grouse images that stand out! After the morning in the hides, drive back to accommodation for a warm breakfast. A brief rest and a possibility for independent photography near the lodge. Lunch at Oivangin Lomakartano.

In the afternoon we visit **Iivaara** hill. Highest peak in southern Kuusamo, Iivaara is covered with old-growth taiga spruce forest, and the views are spectacular. This visit requires walking in hilly terrain for some kilometers but we keep the pace suitable for all. After exploring the landscapes, return to Oivangin Lomakartano for dinner and accommodation. Check for Northern Lights activity.



Day 4 Kuusamo

We will have early breakfast at Oivangin Lomakartano and leave early to be ready to photograph the sunrise from the top of **Rukatunturi** fell. The landscape offers great views of the rising sun over the typical landscapes of Kuusamo – taiga forests and lakes.

After sunrise, we continue to **Golden Eagle** photography hides at the edge of Oulanka National Park and spend the day in the hide until evening. The hides overlook the Oulanka river valley with beautiful background to Eagle images. Here, a resident Golden Eagle pair visits our feeding site regularly. While waiting for the Eagles, there is a lot else to photograph: many birds, such as **Siberian Jay**, **Eurasian Jay** and different Finch species, visit the feeders set up in front of the hides.

Picnic lunch in the hide and dinner and accommodation at Oivangin Lomakartano. Check for Northern Lights activity.



Day 5 Kuusamo

Early self-made breakfast at our lodge. After breakfast we depart to **Riisitunturi National Park** to photograph the sunrise from the top. Riisitunturi is known for its wintery snow-capped trees but offers a lot in autumn as well. There is a beautiful view across the surrounding lakes and forests from the top. Walk in hilly terrain, partly on well-established paths is about 5km in total.

In the afternoon we will visit Oulanka river's biggest rapids at **Kiutaköngäs**. The flowing river offers versatile photography. Dinner and accommodation at Oivangin Lomakartano, and check for Northern Lights activity.

Day 6 Departure from Kuusamo

One final landscape photography session. After lunch, time to check out and departure. Afternoon flight back home from Kuusamo airport.

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

Price includes: Finnature guiding throughout the tour and use of professional photography hides: one day in Golden Eagle hide and one morning in Black Grouse hides. All meals, accommodation and land transportation from Kuusamo airport. For extra price, transportation from Oulu (bigger airport) if needed.

Accommodation: Oivangin Lomakartano's beautiful log villa

Food: Local delicious dinners, picnic lunches in the hide, breakfast.

Leader: Jarmo Manninen

Possible extensions: Our Autumn Eagles photography tour in Oulu on 26 – 29 September 2020. Wolverines.

Booking: shop.finnature.com

Recommended flights: We recommend to arrive to Kuusamo in the evening, and to depart from Kuusamo in the afternoon.



Photos: Jarmo Manninen Layout: Kaisa Peltomäki

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 Registration number: 1193/05/Mj

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