



Black Grouse

## Birds & Mammals in Autumn

<b>Destination:</b>	Oulu - Viiksimo - Lieksa - Joensuu	<b>Group size:</b>	4 - 6 photographers
<b>Focus:</b>	Wildlife and landscape photography	<b>Time:</b>	19 – 26 September 2020
<b>Grading:</b>	Moderate walks only - max 500m one way	<b>Price:</b>	3650 € per person, single supplement 300 €

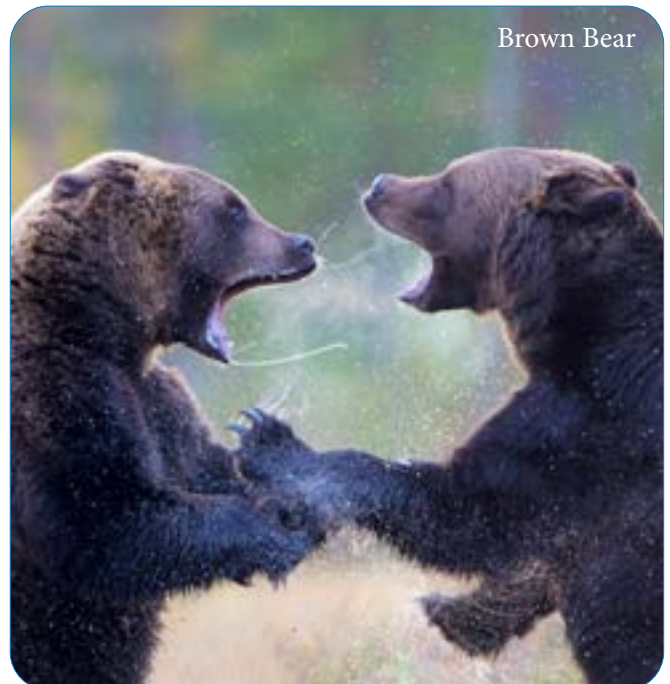
### Autumn is a great season for wildlife photography in Finland!

Autumn is an attractive season: even though the nature is slowing down, the **Black Grouse** are lekking actively, and the **Golden Eagle, 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 two days with **Golden Eagle, Brown Bear, and Wolverine** and two mornings with **Black Grouse**.

**Highlights:** Golden Eagle, Brown Bear, Wolverine, Black Grouse, autumn landscapes, Aurora Borealis. Other possible species e.g. Great-, Crested-, Willow and Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Eurasian Jay, Great Spotted and Grey-headed Woodpecker, Sparrowhawk and Red Squirrel.



Wolverine



Brown Bear

For more information:

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Aurora Borealis



## ITINERARY

### Day 1 Arrival to Oulu

Arrival at Oulu airport and transportation to the cozy Villa Finnature for dinner and accommodation.

Throughout the tour, we will check for **Aurora Borealis** activity, and go out to photograph them if the conditions are right. This tour takes place near equinox. In northern countries it is well known that the Aurora Borealis are stronger around equinoxes because of the planet's position and angle in relation to the sun. So fingers crossed!

Golden Eagle



### Day 2 - 3

After early breakfast at Villa Finnature, departure to our Eagle hide. We spend the whole day in our luxurious Eagle hide photographing **Golden Eagles**.

Finnature's new Golden Eagle hide is really comfortable with a great heating system, standing height and good office chairs. This luxurious hide is only available for the Finnature's photography groups and brings your hide experience to the new level!

While waiting Golden Eagles to come opportunity to photograph **Great, Blue, Willow and Crested Tits, Eurasian Jays, Great Spotted Woodpeckers and Red Squirrels** from the feeder. We might see also **Sparrowhawk** visiting in front of the hides.

Departure from the hide takes place at dusk around 19.00. Drive back to Villa Finnature for dinner and accommodation. Good time to charge batteries and empty memory cards in the evening.

### Day 4 Oulu - Viiksimo

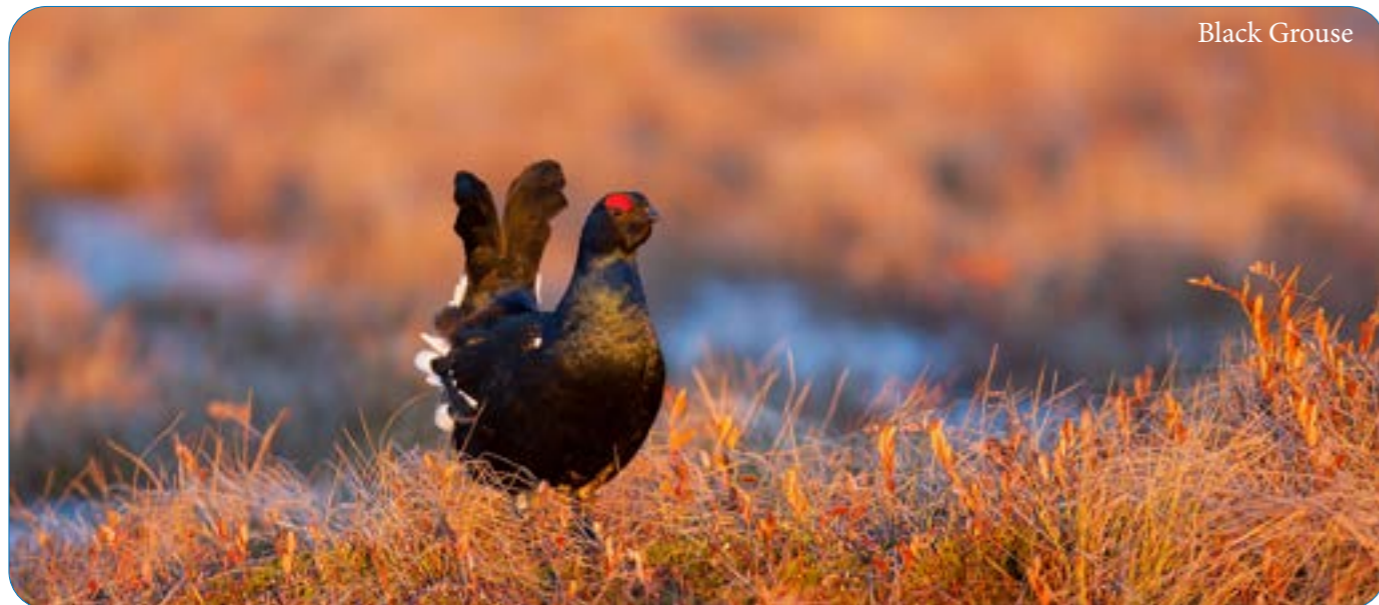
After breakfast we drive to Kuhmo (about 4 hours) to our base in Viiksimo for three days. During the next days, we photograph **Brown Bears**, colourful autumn landscapes and lekking **Black Grouse**.

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.

Brown Bear



Black Grouse



Wolverine



### Day 5 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 plywood 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. During the day a time for a good rest and photo editing. Early dinner and departure to **Brown Bear** hides takes place again around 16.00. Dinner and accommodation at the lodge.

### Day 6 Viiksimo - Lieksa

Early morning starts with the **Black Grouse** lek. 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 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 at 13.30 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 and lodge accommodation with double occupancy and with shared facilities.

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

**Guide:** Finnature guide

**Bookings:** [shop.finnature.com](http://shop.finnature.com)

**Recommended flights:** We recommend to arrive to Oulu at 17.00 and to depart from Joensuu in the afternoon at 13.30.

**Please notice:** The itinerary might change due to weather conditions or unexpected wildlife 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**

**Registration number:** 1193/05/Mj

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Great Tit



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