



Capercaillie

## Lekking Week – Capercaillie, Black Grouse and Ruff

<b>Destination:</b>	Kuusamo - Oulu, Finland	<b>Group size:</b>	4 – 6 photographers
<b>Focus:</b>	Ruff, Black Grouse and Capercaillie	<b>Time:</b>	6–12 May 2024
<b>Grading:</b>	Short day walks 500 - 1000m, for all ages	<b>Price:</b>	3950 € per person, single supplement 430 €

### Spring photography safari

Spring is busy times for wildlife photography in Finland - there are almost too many things going on in nature, especially in May. Luckily the days are long and the nights are short, giving plenty of light time to take photos. Most of our migrant birds such as **Ruff** are arriving back to Oulu region in early May. All of our five Grouse species are resident in Finland and their leks peak in May. Normally the females visit the lek sites on the second week of May and mating takes place in Kuusamo lekking arenas.

This photography tour is planned for keen wildlife photographers and a lot of time will be spent in pro-hides to take the ultimate images of beautiful lekking birds. The magnificent **Capercaillie** lek in fairly open pine forest, the active and noisy **Black Grouse** lek in open arena with dark forest background in beautiful backlit conditions, and the delightful and colorful Ruff lek at eye level by the most important wetland reserve in Finland - Liminka Bay in Oulu area. Other great photography opportunities during the tour include **Whooper Swans** in action, and **Common Cranes** and several waterfowl species from the shore hides in Kuusamo. In Oulu area there are also good opportunities to photograph other shorebirds from the hide including **Spotted Redshank**, **Wood Sandpiper** and **Marsh Sandpiper**.



Ruff

### Highlights

Lekking Capercaillie, Black Grouse and Ruff, Whooper Swan, Common Crane, Goosander, Goldeneye, Wood Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank

### For more information:

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Capercaillie

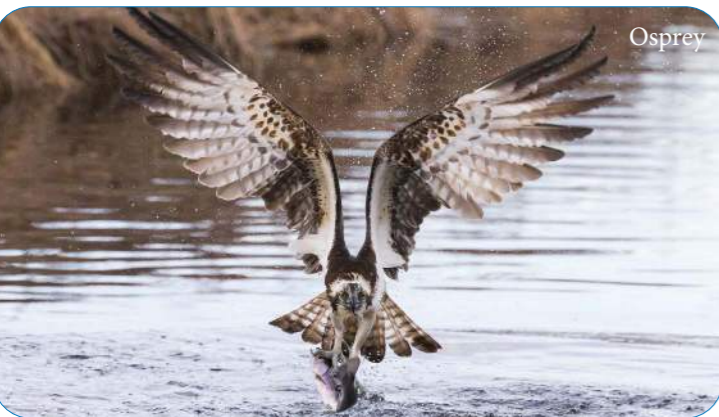
## ITINERARY

### Day 1 Arrival at Kuusamo

Arrival at Kuusamo airport in afternoon and transportation to Oivangin Lomakartano's log villa for accommodation and lunch. After a lunch photography session with fighting Whooper Swans and Common Crane, White-tailed Eagle and waterfowl from the shore hides by a lake. Return to accommodation for dinner and a short briefing for the program of the following days. Day 1 program depending of the Flights.

### Day 2

Early morning start at 3.00 for a photography session in photography hides at the Black Grouse lek site. Black Grouse photography until the lek is over – normally by 8.00 and return to accommodation for late breakfast. On the way back we might have a photography stops if we can find other Grouse species on the roadsides. Afternoon break or independent photography near the accommodation from 10.00 - 15.00. Dinner at 15.00 and after dinner head to Capercaillie hides. Staying in the hides overnight.



Osprey

### Day 3

Before dawn, we are ready in our hides for the Capercaillie lek. When the lek is over between 9.00 - 10.00, we return to our accommodation for breakfast. Afternoon break or independent photography near the accommodation from 10.00 - 15.00. At 15.00 start from the accommodation and drive to Osprey hides, where we photograph the diving and fishing Ospreys for the next 4 - 5 hours. On the way back there might be chances for Capercaillie or Black Grouse on the roadsides (or Owls if available).

### Day 4

This morning we sleep a little longer. After 7.00 breakfast, we head to the morning photography session at the small birds feeder, where there are tens of Bullfinches, Bramblings and many other birds actively visiting the feeder. After the photo session, return to accommodation for early dinner at 15.00. After dinner we head to the barn hide, where we photograph Common Cranes and Taiga Bean Geese at the field during their migration



Whooper swans in Kuusamo



Black Grouse



Ruff

### Day 5 Departure from Kuusamo to Oulu

Another early morning start at 3.00 for a photography session in the photography hides at the Black Grouse lek site. Black Grouse photography until the lek is over, and return to the accommodation for breakfast. On the way back we might have a photography stops if we can find other Grouse species on the roadsides. Check-out from accommodation and departure to Oulu by bus.

In Oulu you meet another Finnature guide at the bus station. Transfer and check-in to the accommodation and lunch. Break in the middle of the day before dinner. Evening is spent in the hides for **Ruff and other waders**. Good chances to get reflection photos and if the evening is bright, you will get beautiful backlit with the Ruff. Photo session until 11 pm.

### Day 6

Early morning start at 3.00 for a **Ruff** photography session in our professional photography hides. Return to the accommodation for late breakfast around 9.00. Day break for sleep and emptying memory cards from 10.00 - 16.00. Dinner and departure back to the **Ruff** hides for the evening.

### Day 7 Departure from Oulu

One more early morning photography session for the **Ruff**. Breakfast between 9.00 - 10.00. Check-out from the hotel and transportation to Oulu airport for your afternoon flight.

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

**Price includes:** Finnature guiding throughout the journey. Use of professional photography hides. All meals, accommodation and land transportation during the week. Tour starts from Kuusamo airport and ends to Oulu airport.

**Accommodation:** [Oivangin Lomakartano's](#) log villa in Kuusamo and Park Hotel Liminka for 6 nights. Please notice that 1 night will be spent in Capercaillie hide.

**Food:** Local restaurants and picnic lunches. Somedays only 1 warm meal and snack at the hides.

**Leader:** Finnature guide

**Possible extensions:** Eagle Owl, Brown Bear, Wolverine and Wolf photography

**Booking:** Finnature [shop.finnature.fi](http://shop.finnature.fi)

**Recommended flights:** We recommend you to arrive with afternoon flight if available if not then evening flight to Kuusamo. Depart from Oulu at 2:30 pm (AY438) 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 photography opportunities during the tour.

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



Ruff

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