



Ruff

## Spring Bird Photo Safari – Ruff, Black Grouse and Spring birds

**Destination:** Oulu, Finland

**Focus:** Ruff, Black Grouse and Eagle Owl

**Grading:** Short day walks 500 - 1000m, for all ages

**Group size:** 4 – 6 photographers

**Time:** 10–15 May 2027

**Price:** 3975 € per person, single supplement 380 €

### Photograph Spring's First Drama

Spring arrives with a rush in Finland. As the snow vanishes and the wetlands awaken, thousands of migratory birds return – and with them, nature's grand performance begins.

This is a season of vivid displays and raw energy. In the early light, Black Grouse stage their final lekking battles. The Goshawk, swift and powerful, still visits regularly. By night, the deep hoot of the Eagle Owl echoes through the forest – and in spring's long twilight, it often appears in natural light, offering rare and unforgettable photographic moments.

The undisputed highlight, however, is the stunning Ruff. Adorned in vibrant breeding plumage, these elegant waders gather in flooded meadows to feed, posture and reflect – quite literally – in the shimmering water. It's a scene of pure photographic poetry.

To add to the variety, two evenings are dedicated to flexible field photography. Depending on the conditions, we may seek out Black-throated Divers, Red-throated Divers, woodpeckers or owls in beautiful forest and lake landscapes – always chasing the best light and most active species.

Join us for this exclusive spring tour and witness northern nature at its most alive. Exceptional light, iconic species and thrilling encounters await.



Black Grouse

### Highlights

Ruff, Black Grouse, Eagle Owl, Goshawk, possibility also for northern owls- including Great Grey-, Tengmalm's and Pygmy Owls.

### For more information:

[www.finnature.com](http://www.finnature.com)

[info@finnature.fi](mailto:info@finnature.fi)

+358 45 129 4264

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Great Grey Owl

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 – Arrival in Oulu and evening in the field

Upon arrival in Oulu during the afternoon, you will be welcomed by your guide and transferred to your accommodation. After settling in, we enjoy a warm dinner together before heading out for our first evening session in the field.

If the spring is rich in owls, we will focus our efforts on species such as Great Grey Owl, Tengmalm's Owl or Pygmy Owl, depending on the latest sightings. If owls are scarce, we will visit forest habitats to photograph woodpeckers – always lively and full of character.

The evening programme and target species depend on the unfolding spring and current conditions – we follow the season closely to make the most of each moment.

An inspiring start to our spring photography adventure!

### Day 2 – Pre-dawn Black Grouse, restful day, and evening fir Eagle Owl

Before sunrise we'll head out to a strategically placed hide to photograph the spectacular Black Grouse lek. This pre-dawn session captures the stunning courtship displays in the soft, early light – one of the season's most dramatic moments.

After the morning session, we return to the accommodation for a hearty breakfast and enjoy a well-earned, leisurely break during the day.

In the evening, following dinner, we venture into the forest for a raptor photography session at a feeding site. Our aim: to capture the majestic Eagle Owl and powerful Goshawk in action.. We will spend the night in our comfortable forest hide, built from a converted caravan – offering warmth, quiet, and the perfect position for nocturnal encounters.

### Day 3 – Morning rest and divers in the evening

After a night in the hide, we return to the hotel for breakfast and a proper daytime rest.

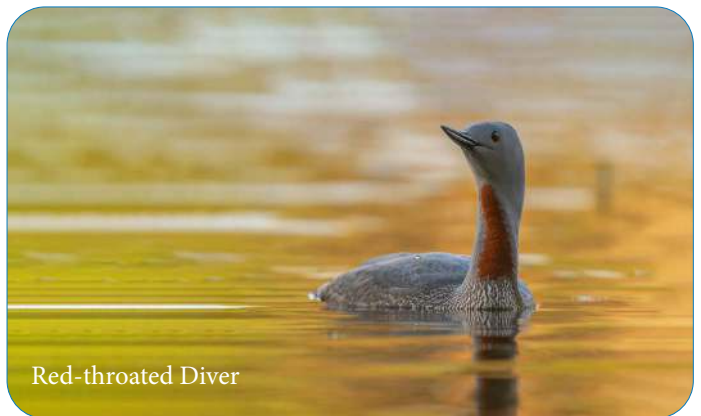
In the evening, we head into the field for a relaxed session focusing on Black-throated Divers and/ or Red-throated Divers. These elegant birds in their breeding plumage are wonderful to photograph in calm lake settings, especially in golden evening light.

Depending on the conditions and spring, we may also explore alternative subjects that are active and photographically rewarding at this time of the year.

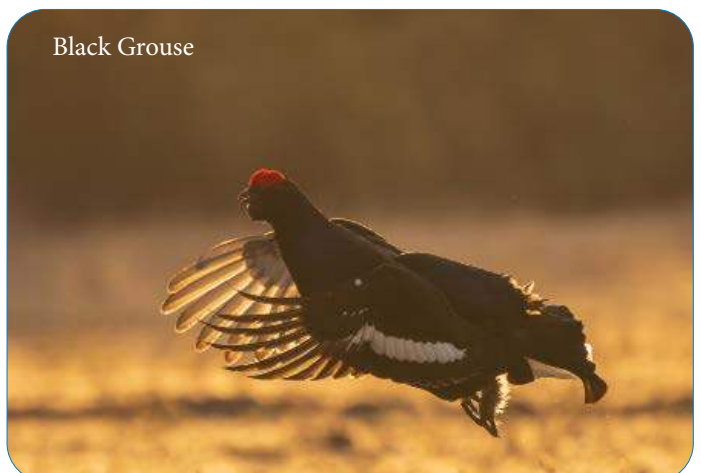
### Day 4 – Early Black Grouse and evening with Ruffs

We start the day early with another visit to the Black Grouse hides. Each morning on the lek offers something new – fresh encounters, shifting light and dynamic action between the males.

After breakfast, we take a long, relaxing break to rest and recharge. Following an early dinner, we head out again – this time to photograph the elegant Ruffs in a shallow flooded pond. Their courtship behaviour, intricate plumage and mirrored reflections in calm water are breathtaking, especially when bathed in golden backlight during the evening hours.



Red-throated Diver



Black Grouse



Ruff



Ruff

### Day 5 – Dawn and dusk with Ruffs

Today is dedicated to the elegant Ruffs. We begin with an early morning session before breakfast – the light is soft, the mist may linger, and the birds are often at their most active. While this flooded meadow is not a traditional lek site, the Ruffs still display impressive courtship behaviours, offering wonderful photo opportunities in beautiful conditions.

After returning for breakfast, we enjoy a well-earned daytime rest before another delicious dinner and a second evening session with Ruffs. As the sun sets, golden light once again brings out the magic in every movement and reflection.

### Day 6 – Final morning with Ruffs and departure

We begin our final day with one more early session dedicated to photographing the striking Ruffs in the peaceful morning light. Their elegant movements, subtle interactions, and vivid breeding plumage offer rich photographic opportunities, especially as their reflections ripple gently across the still water. It's a calm and rewarding way to close our time in the field, allowing for those last refined frames that capture the spirit of the season.

Afterwards, we return to the hotel for breakfast, packing, and a chance to reflect on the week's highlights before heading on towards new adventures.

**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 and ends to Oulu airport.

**Accommodation:** Accommodation in hotel in Liminka. . Please notice that 1 night will be spent in Eagle Owl 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 4:55 pm flight to Oulu (AY 441). Depart from Oulu at 2:15 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



Eagle Owl

**Finnature Oy Ltd**  
+358 45 129 4264  
info@finnature.fi

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