

PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITION

FINLAND'S 7 WONDERS



25-30 April, 2027

The most iconic species of the taiga await you at the end of winter.

An expedition through the Finnish forests with the aim of discovering some of the most precious treasures of these lands. Thanks to professional photography hides and specialised excursions, we will search for the 7 wonders of the taiga: Black grouse, Capercaillie, Wolf, Brown Bear, Wolverine, Stoat and Great Grey Owl.

Over 6 days, we will explore some of the most spectacular areas of central Finland. Surrounded by lakes and fir trees, we will drive along roads winding through coniferous forests until reaching the famous “No Man’s Land”, a strip of land along Finland’s eastern border which remained virtually uninhabited for decades and has now become a true sanctuary for European wildlife.

It is precisely in these areas that we will search for the most iconic species of the Finnish taiga, during one of the most fascinating times of the year: the end of winter.

Depending on how the season progresses, we may still encounter the last snowfalls, which can cover the landscape in white, or witness the arrival of the first migrants to the Scandinavian Peninsula as they begin their breeding season. This combination makes the trip ideal for both wildlife photographers and birdwatchers.

A unique journey, at a magical time of year, to discover the wildlife of the taiga and turn every day into an unforgettable memory.





Finland

Brown Bear, Wolf, Wolverine, Black grouse,
Capercaillie, Stoat and Great Grey Owl



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6



25-30 April, 2027

Duration: 6 days



Small Group

Maximum 7 participants



Tour Leader

Francesco Rovedo



Difficulty

Easy



Languages

English, Spanish and Italian

Itinerary

- Arrival in Oulu, transfer to Kuusamo and photography hide session.
- Kuusamo, excursion and photography hide session.
- Transfer to Kuhmo and photography hide session.
- Kuhmo, excursion and photography hide session.
- Kuusamo, photography hide session.
- Transfer to Oulu.



ITINERARY



Day 1 - April 25th Arrival in Oulu, transfer to Kuusamo and photography hide session

AFTERNOON: After arriving in Oulu, our journey north will begin. We will travel to Kuusamo and, along the way, look for photographic opportunities for landscapes and, with some luck, wildlife.

Upon arrival at the hotel, we will have dinner overlooking one of Finland's thousands of lakes and prepare for the early-morning session ahead.

NIGHT: At 3:00 a.m. we will enter the hide to make the best use of the morning light, which at this time of year begins to illuminate the Black grouse lecks shortly before 5:00 a.m. This is when the males arrive to display and compete for females.

Day 2 - April 26th Kuusamo, excursion and photography hide session

MORNING: After leaving the hide, we will return to the hotel for breakfast and spend the rest of the morning looking for White-throated Dippers, female Capercaillies (which at this time of year can come very close to the roads in search of stones) Whooper Swans, Waxwing and Hazel Grouse.

Depending on the year, we may use this morning to search for the Great Grey Owl together with local guides. However, this activity will depend on population conditions, which are difficult to predict until early April.

AFTERNOON-EVENING: Like the Finns, we will have an early dinner at 4:00 p.m. before getting ready to meet the prince of the forest. At 6:00 p.m. we will enter the Capercaillie hide, where we will spend the entire night until the following morning.

The small hide will allow us to remain concealed very close to a male's lek, giving us the opportunity to observe this impressive bird during courtship and, with some luck, alongside a female or confronting another male.

Day 3 - April 27th Transfer to Kuhmo and photography

MORNING: After the session, we will return to the hotel for breakfast, collect our luggage and head towards Kuhmo. Along the way, we will take the opportunity to look for Whooper Swans, Goosanders, Hazel Grouse and Moose..

AFTERNOON: Once in Kuhmo, we will settle into our accommodation and, at 4:00 p.m., enjoy a typical Finnish dinner featuring local cuisine before entering the hides at 5:00 p.m. These hides will give us the opportunity to observe Brown Bears, Wolves and Wolverines.

NIGHT: We will spend the night in comfortable hides equipped with a dry toilet. Sleeping bags will be provided for the hours of darkness, as well as a picnic in case we get hungry. From these hides, we hope to photograph Brown Bears, Wolves, Wolverines and White-tailed Eagles.



Day 4 - April 28th Kuhmo, excursion and photography hide session

MORNING: After the session, around 8:00 a.m., we will return to the hotel for breakfast. If conditions are favourable, we will search for one of the world's most fascinating mustelids: the Stoat! Accompanied by a local guide, we will head to an area close to its den, where we may have the opportunity to observe it moving through its habitat while searching for prey.

Only at the beginning of April will we know which den it is using and, therefore, whether it will be possible to find this animal.

AFTERNOON: Around midday, we will return to the hotel to rest for a few hours and download our photographs. At 4:00 p.m. we will have dinner, as is customary in Finland, and at 5:00 p.m. we will return to the hide.

During the different sessions, we will move between two locations: a peatland area (meadows that may be more or less flooded depending on the year) and a forested area. This variety of habitats will allow us to obtain a wide range of images.

NIGHT: We will once again spend the night in the hide, equipped with beds, sleeping bags, a night-time picnic and a dry toilet.

During these sessions, we may photograph Brown Bears, Wolves and Wolverines, with the hope of witnessing interesting interactions between them. White-tailed Eagles also frequently visit these hides, making these nights an unforgettable experience for any wildlife photographer.

Day 5 - April 29th**Kuusamo, photography hide session**

MORNING: After the session, around 8:00 a.m., we will return to the hotel for breakfast. If we have not had the opportunity to find the Great Grey Owl during our stay in Kuusamo, we can use this morning to search for it. Owl activity in Finland depends largely on the annual population of lemmings and voles, so only a few days before the trip will we know whether there are realistic chances of observing them. If this is not possible, we will instead search for other species typical of the forests of northern Europe, such as Capercaillie, Ptarmigan and many others.

AFTERNOON: Around midday, we will return to the hotel to rest for a few hours and download our photographs. At 4:00 p.m. we will have dinner, as is customary in Finland, and at 5:00 p.m. we will return to the hide. On this final night, we will be able to choose the location we liked most and obtain further photographs in the environments that interested us the most.

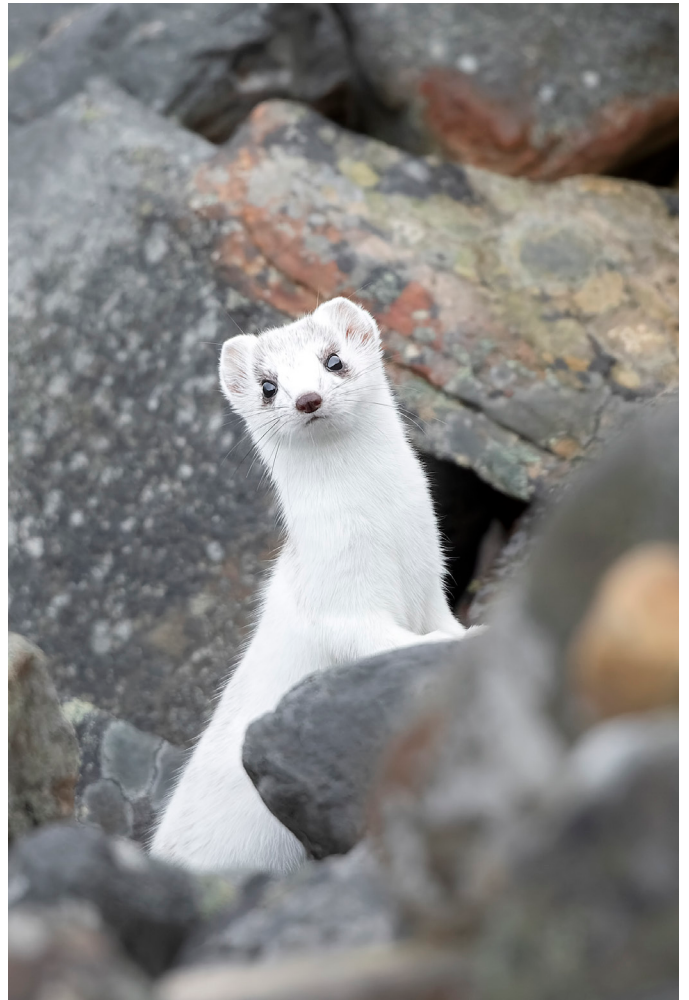
NIGHT: We will once again spend the night in the hide, equipped with beds, sleeping bags, a night-time picnic and a dry toilet, photographing Brown Bears, Wolves and Wolverines, with the hope of witnessing interesting interactions between them.

Day 6 - April 30th**Transfer a Oulu**

MORNING: After the final session, we will head directly to Oulu, taking advantage of the journey to look for Whooper Swans, Merganser, Moose and Reindeer.

AFTERNOON: Around midday, we will arrive at the airport, where we can take the first afternoon flight, which will normally allow us to return to our respective cities of origin on the same day.





€ Price

INCLUDED

- Nature and photographic guide throughout the entire trip.
- Accommodation in a twin room.
- Full board.
- 5 sessions in professional photography hides.
- All transportation during the trip.

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights (please ask for prices and availability).
- Personal expenses and tips (optional).
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Any service not specified in the "Price includes" section.
- Single room: €350. In Kuusamo, we will stay in a small rural hotel, while in Kuhmo we will stay in a former military facility that has been converted into a comfortable hotel. However, as these are very remote areas, the number of rooms is limited and therefore single-room accommodation cannot be guaranteed for all participants.

€ 3.150 /person

For groups of 4 people

€ 3.000 /person

For groups of 5 people

€ 2.850 /person

For groups of 6-7 people

BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- A €500.00 deposit is required to confirm the booking.
- Deadline for payment of the outstanding balance: 25 February.
- The tour is guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 4 participants.
- Please wait for our confirmation before booking your flight. We will confirm whether the tour will go ahead 2 months before the departure date.
- If the tour cannot take place due to insufficient participants, 100% of the deposit will be refunded.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

- If a participant withdraws after paying the deposit, €400.00 will be refunded. The remaining €100.00 is non-refundable, as it covers administration costs.
- If you decide to cancel your trip, the refund will be made as follows:
 - Between 2 and 1 month before departure: 40% refund.
 - Less than 30 days before departure: no refund.
 - If you decide to return home before the end of the trip, please note that we cannot offer a refund for the unused portion of the tour.

Guide

Francesco Rovedo

Photographer, science communicator and naturalist technician. He has lived for over three years in Scandinavia, guiding photographic tours between Norway and Finland.



Flights

We recommend booking a flight departing on the evening of 24 April or during the morning of 25 April, arriving in Oulu before 5:00 p.m. of the 25 of April.

We will be waiting for you at the airport, and our adventure will begin from there.

For the return journey, we recommend booking a flight on 30 April from 2:00 p.m. onwards.

Accomodation

In Kuusamo we will stay in a small rural hotel, while in Kuhmo we will sleep in a former military facility that has been converted into a comfortable hotel.

As these are very remote areas, the number of rooms is limited, so we cannot guarantee single rooms for all tour participants.

Photographic equipment

For wildlife photography, we recommend using telephoto lenses of at least 400 mm. A wide-angle lens is also highly recommended for photographing the spectacular Finnish landscapes.

A tripod is recommended, although not essential. If we have the opportunity to make observation sessions for the Great Grey Owl or Stoat, it may prove particularly useful.

However, it will be essential to bring either a ball head or a gimbal head to mount your equipment inside the hides, where specific plates or screws will be available to secure the head safely.

Clothing

At the end of April, temperatures can still drop below 0°C. Although sleeping bags will be available in some of the hides, it will be necessary to be well equipped to protect yourself from the cold.

We recommend dressing in layers, wearing thermal wool underwear, and bringing gloves and a warm hat.

The so-called “hand warmers” or disposable heat packs are also highly recommended, especially during the long periods of waiting in the hides.



Documents needed

To enter Finland, Spanish citizens need a valid national ID card or passport.

Health

No vaccinations are required. For more information, please consult the Ministry of Health (<https://www.sanidad.gob.es/>) or the health authority of your country.

Spanish citizens covered by the Spanish social security system who wish to receive medical assistance in Finland during their stay must have a valid European Health Insurance Card; presenting only the Spanish social security card is not sufficient. It is therefore highly recommended to apply for the card in Spain before traveling to Finland. It can be obtained through the Social Security Electronic Office.

For more information on healthcare in Finland, please consult the Foreign Health website.

Electricity

The electrical system in Finland operates at 220 V, and the plugs have two rounded pins—just like in Spain.

Currency and money

As a member of the European Union, the currency is the euro. Credit cards are commonly used and accepted in most establishments. As a member of the European Union, the currency is the euro. Credit cards are commonly used and accepted in most establishments.





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