



Finnish Summer Predators

Photographic tour with tour leader Chris Gomersall

9th - 17th July 2027

Trip Overview

Group size:

The trip accommodates a maximum of 6 guests.

Cost includes:

Accommodation, all local transport, permits and all meals.

Cost excludes:

International flights, sundry items, alcohol and personal travel insurance.

Accommodation:

Accommodation is based at one location which is a typical Finnish lodge with everything supplied. There is no option for a single supplement on this trip.

Level of fitness:

Long hours are spent in the suitably equipped hides so you will need good stamina for this type of photography. The walks to the hides are minimal.

LEVEL 1

Trip Overview

Finland is one of the last bastions in Europe for once prevalent predators such as Brown Bear and Grey Wolf: add the incredibly secretive and powerful Wolverine into the mix and you have a trio of mammals to wet the photographic appetite. We have timed this trip to take advantage of the beautiful summer evening light of the Taiga as at this time of the year it is almost 24 hours of daylight.

We have been travelling to Finland for many years now and so our experience and knowledge is of a very high standard and for this trip, we will be based in one of the premier locations in this remote eastern region of Finland, offering amazing potential in seeing these iconic predators.

We will be spending 7 nights in a purpose-built and professionally placed photographic hides offering an array of habitats and each carefully managed to attract one or more of these iconic species. This can be a tiring trip but with the potential images, and just as important, experiences on offer its rewards will be well worthwhile as seeing these beautiful predators in these remote forests is a very special experience.



Itinerary

Day 1: We travel to Oulu airport in Finland where we will collect our hire Van for the trip and make our way to our base for the duration of the trip. This drive will take around 4-5 hours, stopping along the way for some dinner. Once at the lodge we will get a good night's rest after a full day's travel. This lodge will be our base for the entire trip.

Day 2: After a leisurely breakfast we will have some time to explore the surroundings around the lodge and then have some dinner in the afternoon, ready for our first evening in the hides. Bears, Wolves and Wolverines are our main targets for this trip and our local Finnish guide has been feeding them for over thirty years. During the summer months they can usually be reliable, but we are talking about wild predators, and they can be so unpredictable. Usually the Bears arrive first, followed closely by the Wolves. We will head to the hides each afternoon after dinner to spend the whole evening/night in the hides. Different hides offer different opportunities and settings so there will be scope for variety to your images. One set of hides overlook a forest clearing and the others look out over a boreal pond or set in a mature forest. You will spend 15 hours in these hides and so you must be prepared for this. There is room to lie down and sleep though in the hides but with almost 24-hour daylight at this time of the year this would be best to do in a shift pattern, so you don't miss out on a wolf/wolverine/bear encounter.

Days: 3 – 8: Over the course of these evenings, we will continue to rotate around the three different locations so that everyone will get the chance to spend nights at each. There will be a chance to sleep/rest during the daytime between sessions, and all the hides have sleeping areas, so you can get some rest when you are in overnight. Packed lunches and Tea/Coffee are provided for your long nights in the hides. We will arrive in the hides at around 5.00pm and then collected at around 7.30am, so long nights.

Day 9: After our final night in the hides and breakfast back at our lodge there will be a chance to freshen up and then we will be returning to Oulu airport for our connecting flights back home.



Things to bring

Our accommodation is clean and comfortable with all bedding and towels provided so you simply need to bring yourself. Regarding the Sleeping arrangements in the hides, we recommend you bring your own sleeping bag for this trip. If you don't have one or can't fit it in your main bag, then you can rent one from the lodge. If you have any special dietary requirements – please let us know if there's anything you can't/won't eat in advance. In terms of clothing most of your time will be in the hides, but the weather is unpredictable in Finland, and it could be cold especially during the night. The following are very much recommended - a good pair of strong waterproof boots, good waterproof over trousers. For the top half it's very much a question of having several layers – like a thermal type of vest, t-shirt, thin jumper, fleece and then a waterproof coat with a spare jumper or 2 at hand as well, dependent on how the night goes - you'll know your own cold thresholds, but it really is a question of building it up in layers. A good hat and some fingerless mittens/gloves are ideal. We are provided with coffee and sandwiches which we make ourselves at dinnertime, but you may want to take along chocolate bars or biscuits to nibble on through the long night because you are in the hides for 15 hours. Once you are in the hides there is no going out to the toilet so be prepared to use a small chemical toilet. The weather is difficult to predict at this time of the year but most likely warm, so there will be mosquitos around and so you must investigate into buying some good mosquito repellent; most good camping stores sell good stuff nowadays and the mosquito nets/hats can be very useful as well. It is also worth bringing with you some antihistamine tablets in case you get bitten by the mozzies. You are in a northern boreal forest, and they can be a bit of a pest at times.



Camera equipment

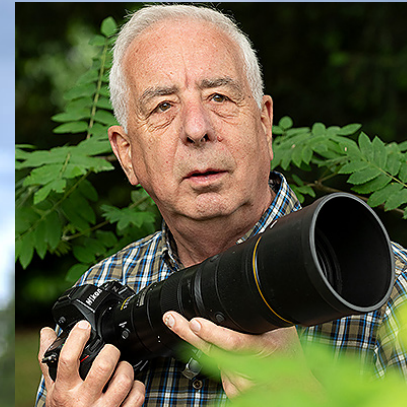
In terms of camera kit, you'll need the longest lens you have (300mm or 500mm + convertor would be my recommendation/choice) and then some supplementary lenses for other opportunities such as a 24-70mm for landscapes and an intermediate zoom (70-200 or 100-400) so that you don't miss anything. You'll get the chance to decide what you want/need each evening, so you won't be burdening yourself with it all the time either but the distances to the hides are not great and will not be walking far. Regarding camera support for the hides tripods are not ideal in the hides because of the space they take up but there are bolts or plates to attach your tripod head to the shelf, so make sure you can detach your tripod head if you want to use these or alternatively you can use a beanbag but if you do make sure it is full because there is nowhere to fill them because of the remote location. Bring plenty of memory cards with you as well because if you get a good evening, you will take a lot of images.



Useful Contact Information

My contact number for the build up to and for the duration of the trip is:

Chris: +44 (0) 7719 546004



Please don't hesitate to contact me even if you think it is a minor question, I am here to help.



Address

4 Deer Park Drive, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7HB

Tel: 01952 411436

Email: mark@natures-images.co.uk

Web: www.natures-images.co.uk

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