

BLACK GROUSE PHOTOGRAPHY with FINNATURE



Time late March- mid May

Day 1. Arrival to Oulu airport. Meet up with our guide and get a rental car. Follow our guide to your accommodation.

Day 2.- 5. Four early mornings photography at two different Black Grouse leks with our guide from hides. Rest of the day you can do photography on your own in the area.

Landcost: 890 €(euros) / person (min 2 paying clients and max 7 clients)

The price includes:

- Accommodation in comfortable cabin for 4 nights, breakfast included
- Hire of a car for 5 days (fuel excluded)
- 4 mornings at Black Grouse lek in two different lek sites
- Guide Jari Peltomäki (chairman of “Nature photographers of Finland” professional wildlife photographers association)





Lekking Black Grouse

The best time to photograph lekking Black Grouse in Finland is late March until mid May. When spring days are getting longer in March and the sun is melting the snow, males begin their lekking. In a normal year there is still snow on the ground when lekking starts, but by the last week of April the snow is usually gone. It is then that females usually arrive to visit the lekking grounds.

At one of our lek sites in spring 2007 were 15- 20 male Black Grouse displaying. The spot is situated in a open bogland. It is very open place, and the first sunlight of the day reaches the lekking birds – so we have good chances to get photographs of Black Grouse. Other leksite is frozen small lake and this site is excellent for backlit shots! Spring 2007 there were 10- 15 males lekking. Black Grouse lek normally continues 3- 4 hours from sunrise.

At the Black Grouse lek we will use canvas hides (Dome-hide) and comfortable chairs or comfortable mattresses and warm sleeping bags. We will put up the hides beforehand, so when we arrive birds have got use to them and they will be lekking just in front of the hides. There will be birds so close that it would be possible to photograph them with a wide angle lens, but probably the most suitable lens would be 300 mm or 70- 200 mm zoom.

Black Grouse males arrive to the lekking ground around the sunrise. To avoid disturbing the birds we need to arrive at the hides well before sunrise. Walk to the hides will be about 1 km and part of it is along wet bog. Wellingtons needed and provided. Hot drinks and sandwiches provided.



