

Finland - On the Trail of the Wolverine

Naturetrek Tour Report

6 - 9 July

Report compiled by Esa Muikku



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn Wolf's Lane Chawton Alton Hampshire GU34 3HJ UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Esa Muikku (leader) with seven Naturetrek clients

Summary

It was unfortunate that on day two of this four day tour to Finland the leader fell ill and couldn't continue, so it was necessary for a local guide to complete the tour. As a consequence the report is brief but, on the positive side, the focus of the tour was to look for Wolverine and good numbers of it and Brown Bear were seen.

Day 1

Thursday 6th July

Group members set off from Heathrow airport to fly to Finland, arriving at Kuopio airport at 5.25pm. We then drove to Lieksa and checked in at Hotel Puustelli at 8.50pm

Day 2

Friday 7th July

Breakfast was between 7am and 8am. We then went on a forest walk to a nearby birding area with a bird tower. Next we drove to an area of Beaver habitat and saw a Beaver lodge and dam. Finally this morning we went to an area of Flying Squirrel habitat. We found a nest and saw two squirrels coming out of the nest hole. We returned to the hotel for a late lunch between 2.30pm and 3.30pm

At 4pm we went to the Wolverine hide where we spent the night and were excited to see two Wolverines.

Day 3

Saturday 8th July

We left the hide at 7.15am and went back to our hotel for breakfast.

Between 9am and 2.30pm we went on a wildlife trip to Patvinsuo National Park, returning to the hotel for another late lunch.

Again, at 4pm we went to the Wolverine hide to spend a second night. This time we watched three Wolverines.

Day 4

Sunday 9th July

For the second time we left the hide at 7.15am and returned to our hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast we drove to Joensuu airport where we caught our 1.20pm flight to start our return journey to the UK, where another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Species Lists

Mammals (✓=recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	July		
			6	7	8
1	European Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>		3	6
2	Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>		2	3
3	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>		1	
4	Flying Squirrel	<i>Pteromys volans</i>		2	

Birds (H = heard)

1	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>		1	
2	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			3
3	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>		1	2
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		20+	15
5	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		5	1
6	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>		1	
7	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1		
8	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		1	
9	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		1	
10	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			1
11	Western Capercaillie	<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>		1	
12	European Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		3	
13	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	1	2	
14	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	1	1	
15	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			3
16	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		1	
17	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		1	
18	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		1	
19	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>		1	
20	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>		58	1
21	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	5	20+	20+
22	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	1	2	2
23	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		1	
24	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>		1	
25	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		3	
26	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	13	10+	
27	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>		2	
28	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		2 H	
29	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		5+	5+
30	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		2	2
31	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		5+	3
32	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>		5	3
33	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		1	
34	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>		5+	6
35	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			1
36	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		1	
37	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		20+	20+
38	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>		2	1
39	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		1 H	1
40	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		1	
41	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		1	

	Common name	Scientific name	July		
			6	7	8
42	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		1	1
43	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			2
44	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		8	2
45	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	1	2	2
46	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	1	5	2
47	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		5	2
48	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	3	3	2
49	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		5	
50	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			10+
51	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>		1	
52	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		3	
53	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		1	
54	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		3	

Reptiles

1	Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>		1	
---	---------------	-------------------------	--	---	--

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!