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Finland Bears

Friday: London to Kajaani

Fly from London to Kajaani via Helsinki. Details of the flight to be arranged independently. Advice can be given on request. On arrival at Kajaani Airport you will be met and transferred by road to your accommodation at Martinselkonen Wilderness Lodge – a distance of 170 kilometres i.e. around two hours drive. Once you reach Martinselkonen where you will spend 3 nights, you'll have a quick introduction to the area before dinner.

Martinselkonen Wilderness Lodge

This lodge is located close to one of Europe's premier bear-viewing spots, near Eastern Finland's border with Russia. The refurbished former frontier guard station provides clean and comfortable accommodation in 14 rooms for up to 26 people. There is a sauna that has a separate self-contained shower. The lodge is small with a highly personal atmosphere – local produce features in the meals and there's always a hot coffee pot in the dining room. The highlight here, however, is an overnight stay in a bear hide. Located just 10 kilometres from the lodge in a forest clearing, two communal hides accommodate nine and ten people respectively, with comfortable coach-style seats, a sleeping area and a toilet. Other smaller, more rustic, hides are available for keen photographers. All the hides have camera ports and a knowledgeable guide is on hand to answer your questions and help you to see bears and other wildlife. Bears of all ages

have been seen here, ranging from small cubs to 300 kilogramme adult males. Dinner is included today.

Saturday: Martinselkonen Nature Reserve

This morning after breakfast you can go for an optional walk in the nearby forest by way of an introduction to this ecosystem, returning to the lodge for lunch. In the afternoon, after an early dinner, at around 16:00 you will be driven to the drop-off point in Martinselkonen Nature Reserve, then walk nearly two kilometres along a forest track to the hide to settle in for your first overnight bear watch. Normal outdoor clothing and waterproof walking boots are essential. The weather can be quite changeable, so bring a waterproof jacket and a warm fleece. The hides are unheated and may get quite chilly in the early hours of the morning, so prepare accordingly and dress in layers. All meals are included today. A snack and drink are provided for your overnight stay at the hide.

Sunday: Martinselkonen Nature Reserve

On return from the hide early this morning, you have an ample breakfast back at the lodge. You are then free to relax and review your photos from the previous night's bear watching. There may be an opportunity to do an optional activity in the vicinity. Once again, after an early dinner, at around 16:00 you are driven to the drop-off point in Martinselkonen Nature Reserve, then walk to the hide for your second night of bear watching. A night in a small private photography hide is included for you today. All meals are included today. A snack and drink are provided for your overnight stay at the hide.

Monday: Kajaani to London

On return from the hide you have breakfast back at the lodge. Soon after it is time to check out and depart for the transfer back to Kajaani for your flight back to the UK. Only breakfast is included today.

PRICES AND DATES ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. THEY CAN VARY DEPENDENT ON CLIENT NUMBERS AND DEPARTURE DATES.

CONTACT ME DIRECTLY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Departures are flexible and available from the beginning of May through to the end of July.

The price includes.

- 3 nights accommodation in Martinselkonen Wilderness Lodge.
- Breakfast, Dinner and Snack whilst in the hides
- Airport Transfer (as described)
- All services from tour driver/guide.
- All services from photographic guide.
- Bottled Water whilst on safari

The price excludes.

- Any flights
- Tips and Gratuities
- Any drinks other than water.
- Travel Insurance.

(Please Note accommodation options detailed above are subject to availability and may be changed)

Additional extension days can be added to the itinerary with the possibility of hides for wolverine, Capercaillie and Black Grouse.