



FINLAND (LAPLAND)

WINTER WONDERLAND

17 - 25 JANUARY 2025

Ignacio Palacios



Lapland is Finland's northernmost region and winter is the best time of the year to visit its crown snow-load trees and to photograph the Northern Lights. Lapland is well known for its vast wilderness. The landscapes become a surrealistic kingdom bathed in snow and ice. Trees turn into sculptures, and the northern lights cover the skies. Eternal sunsets gift us with an unusual warmth and brightness. A nature photographer's dream. It is winter portrayed in its purest form.

NORTHERN LIGHTS

We are some of the world leaders in helping photographers all over the world see and photograph the magical Aurora Borealis. If you are interested in increasing your skills as a photographer and learning the details of astrophotography and low-light photography, this photography workshop is the perfect place.

WINTER WONDERLAND

The land of snow and ice – extreme conditions and breathtaking displays of nature. For a photographer this arctic photo tour is the ultimate experience.

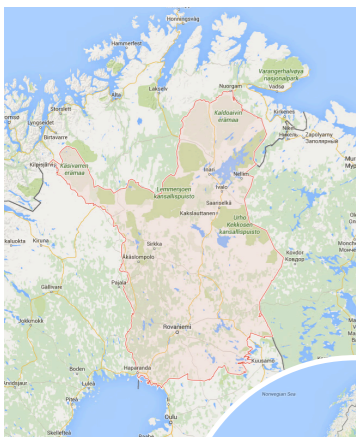
The atmosphere in far north is unique because of the short winter days. During our stay in Kuusamo we will try to capture the Zodiac moments on a landscape photography session. The locations we are visiting are carefully planned out, providing outstanding possibilities for bird and landscape photography. Because of short winter days the blue soft light makes landscape photos interesting.

Capture the beautifully snow covered Taiga forests in Kuusamo! We also have a good chance for witnessing the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights), a magical and colorful display on the night sky which so many people can only dream of!

During the trip, we photograph Golden Eagles from the heated comfortable professional hides. We also have a possibility to photograph several passerine species that visit the feeders. Such species include Willow tit, Great Tit, Crested Tit, Siberian Jay and Siberian Tit. Great Spotted Woodpecker and Black Woodpecker are possible species at the feeders.

White-throated Dippers we will photograph along the fast flowing open rivers. Possible mammal species for this photography tour are Reindeer (semi-domestic), Elk (Moose), Red Squirrel, Mink and Muskrat.

“Travelling above the Arctic Circle in winter is a unique experience. There the light is always perfect for landscape photography; you can photograph during sunrise and sunset for hours.”



ITINERARY

DAY 1 | 17 January: Arrival at Kuusamo airport

Pickup from the airport and drive to the accommodation for dinner. If Aurora Borealis forecast is promising and sky is clear we will head out for a few hours to photograph them.

DAY 2 | 18 January: Riisitunturi and Konttainen

Today we will be photographing winter landscapes in Riisitunturi National Park in Posio region. In Riisitunturi we have beautiful snow-covered taiga forest. This is a popular destination among the winter landscape photographers. By using snowshoes we will be able to move in deep snow.

In the afternoon we will head to Konttainen fjell and to Siberian Jay feeding station, where we enjoy a picnic lunch while we are waiting for Siberian Jays.

Alternatively, if there are Owls in Kuusamo – we can spend the afternoon photographing owls.

As night falls we may have an excellent opportunity to photograph the Aurora Borealis, which can often give incredible shows at this latitude.

DAY 3 | 19 January: Kitka river and Kuntivaara

We spend the early morning at the free-flowing Kitkajoki river, there is picturesque wintery scenery with frosted trees. Aallokkokoski and Jyrävä are possible places to visit. Afternoon and evening we will spend in Kuntivaara fjell (with 2 snowmobiles + sleigh + 2 local guides driving).

After the morning session – departure to Kuntivaara fjell, which is a wonderful winter landscape photography destination. The fjell is known as the forest where all the trees are loaded by crown snow, where we walk with snowshoes along a ready-made path. Picnic lunch in the hut where we can warm ourselves at the open fire.

As the day turns to night we will once again be looking skywards and hoping for clear skies to see nature's most prized gifts – Aurora Borealis illuminating the night sky over the snowy forest.

“The first time I went above the Arctic Circle in winter, I told myself to stay still and enjoy my first aurora experience. I couldn't help myself and it took me one second to set up my tripod and photograph one of the most unique phenomena I have ever witnessed.”



Frozen Taiga forest



Golden Eagle

DAY 4 | 20 January: Oulanka National Park

Golden Eagle hide in Oulanka (2 snowmobiles + sleigh + 2 local guides driving).

Maximum 8 clients at one time in hide!

After the breakfast we are ready for Golden Eagle photography in Kuusamo.

We spend the whole day in heated pro-hides, where the main target species is the Golden Eagle. While waiting for the eagles we will have truly outstanding photographic opportunities to work with Siberian Tit, Siberian Jay, Great Spotted Woodpeckers, northern Bullfinches, and Red Squirrels.

During the day picnic lunch in the hide.

We will return late in the afternoon after the sunset. In the evening we will have a chance for Aurora Borealis again.

DAY 5 | 21 January: Kitka river and Oulanka National Park

Today we can start our morning with White-throated Dipper photography and winter landscape photography at the Käylä cascade along the Kitkariver.

Narrow cascade is open over the winter, where the Dippers chase each other in close distance.

For the afternoon we will head to Kiutaköngäs cascade – which is 100 meter long rapids with beautiful colorful cliffs on the side of the river.

DAY 6 | 22 January: Kitka River (old mill place)

We will spend the morning at the free-flowing Kitkajoki river, where is picturesque wintery scenery with frosted trees and an old traditional repaired mill building. Interesting images can be taken here – since floating ice is making circles in the water with slow shutter speed! The place is full of details and also White-throated Dipper is a daily visitor in ice-cold water, where it is looking for food.

If there are photographable Owls in Kuusamo region we will have another photography session with the owls. If no Owls – we will have another landscape photography session in Kuusamo region with crown snow-load landscape or winter river sceneries. In the evening we will have another chance for Aurora Borealis.

ITINERARY CONTINUED

“When I look at these bizarrely shaped trees, I think of them as the sentinels of the arctic. Everything is swallowed in a desolate white wasteland frozen under temperatures that range from -40 to -15 degrees Celsius.”



DAY 7 | 23 January: Kitka river and Riisitunturi

In the morning White-throated Dipper photography and winter landscape photography at the Käylä cascade along the Kitkariver. Narrow cascade is open over the winter, where the Dippers chase each other in close distance.

In the afternoon we will drive again to one of the most famous winter landscape sites in Finland, Riisitunturi National Park. This winter landscape photography place is well known around the World. During the day, we walk 3-4 km in hilly terrain with snowshoes along the readymade path in the snowy forest and charmed by snowy characters that wintry nature has created.

After the sun set we return to the cabin and have rest before dinner.

DAY 8 | 24 January: Oulanka National Park

Golden Eagle photography from pro-hides in Oulanka (with 2 snowmobiles + sleigh + 2 local guides driving). Maximum 8 clients at one time in hide!

After the breakfast we will have a second Golden Eagle photography session in Oulanka National Park. We spend the whole day in heated pro-hides, where the main target species is the Golden Eagle. While waiting for the eagles, there are many other species in front of the hides.

It is possible to photograph also Siberian Jay, Siberian Tit, Eurasian Jay, Great Tit, Willow Tit, Eurasian Bullfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Red Squirrel from Oulanka pro-hide during the day. All these species visit the feeding site within 3-4m range from the pro-hide in Oulanka National Park – the same pro-hide as for Golden Eagles.

During the day we will have picnic lunch in the hide. In the evening we will look for Aurora Borealis just outside from our cabin, so everybody can stay outside as long as they want.

DAY 9 | 25 January: Departure from Kuusamo

Homeward flight from Kuusamo airport.



Kitka river

PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

Central to this unforgettable tour is YOU. Through Ignacio's guidance, you'll not only learn the secrets of the masters, but you'll take your photography skills to the next level and leave your Scandinavian adventure with a collection of powerful, moving photographs you'll share with pride:

Some of the photography skills you'll learn throughout the tour include:

- The art of composition
- Post-processing techniques tips and tricks
- How to work with light
- Optimising your equipment and filters
- Pre-visualisation and the creative process
- The unique techniques of landscape photography, wildlife photography, portrait photography, while also touching on aerial, black and white, and night photography
- Ignacio will also be there to offer one-on-one guidance on other specific skills you'd personally like to master.

Photography and Camera Skills

All skill levels are welcome. Whether you're a beginner or expert, the tour is designed to cover all aspects of image capture and processing as it applies to where you are on your photography journey. As for equipment, we can help you optimise any equipment you chose to use; from mobile phone to tablets, compact camera to digital SLR cameras. The best way to learn the art of photography is by taking photos. So, Ignacio will be by your side in the field sharing his unique insight, expertise, and guidance as you shoot. Ensuring you don't just leave the tour with incredible photographs, but with skills that will transform the way you pursue your photography passion.

“There is no right or wrong way of creating an image - the most important thing is that you enjoy the experience of capturing and processing the image.”



The Creative Process

Throughout the tour, you'll also have the opportunity to process and enhance your images using Lightroom, Photoshop, Capture One, and other editing software. Learning first-hand how to create photographs that tell a story, evoke emotion and ultimately help you find your unique style and personality as an artist.

Critique Session

Should you dream of entering competitions, or simply wish to push yourself as a photographer, critique sessions are an invaluable part of the learning process. Ignacio will offer one-on-one critique sessions during the tour. Providing constructive evaluation and feedback supported by recommendations and tips through the eyes of a professional. While having your work critiqued can feel overwhelming at first, this is one of the most powerful ways to improve your skills as a photographer.

Physical considerations

While you'll be experiencing Finland in style there will be times when the group needs to embark on a walk/hike to visit and photograph the best locations. As part of the pre-tour planning, we ask you to share any existing health conditions with us so we may plan for your comfort and safety.

Accommodation

Oivangin Lomakartano Chalets comprises three handsome deadwood chalets. The chalets are situated by clear lakes which are abundant with fish and are the perfect base to visit the parks around.





IGNACIO PALACIOS

When it comes to photography and travel, few can rival Ignacio Palacios' experience, skill, and passion. A third-generation photographer, Ignacio has been honoured with over 100 prestigious photography prizes and awards from around the world and has travelled to over 90 countries in his 20 years career. It's little wonder he's developed a reputation as a leading photographer in the fields of travel, landscape, and nature photography.

Born in Spain, Ignacio now calls Sydney, Australia home – though his unmistakable Spanish spirit continues to influence his work and define his signature style.

Combining his love of travel and photography has proved a powerful combination, and today Ignacio leads some of the world's best photography tours to incredible destinations around the world. As an AIPP double Master of Photography, Ignacio shares his insight, experience, and technique with his clients to help them find their own success and joy on their photographic journey.

"I hope that through my images and my tours, I can open people's eyes to the incredible world we live in. I want to give my guests both travel and photographic experience. We are privileged to have such a beautiful planet and it's our responsibility to respect, cherish and protect it."

Ignacio's distinct, award-winning style can be defined by his mastery of composition, colour, and light. With his minimalistic style and unique ability to connect with his audience through storytelling through his images, Ignacio invites his audience to experience the subject not as how he captured it, but how he experienced it, evoking an emotional connection between the viewer, subject and artist.

Photography and travel will always be Ignacio's passion, and he is dedicated to helping others ignite their passion too.

Awards

- Spanish Professional Photography Awards (AFP) – Landscape Winner (LUX Gold) 2014
- APPA AIPP Landscape Photographer of the Year – Runner-Up 2016
- APPA AIPP Creative Photographer of the Year – Runner-Up 2019
- Head On Landscape Prize – Exhibited Finalist 2013, 2016, 2018
- NSW AIPP Professional Photographer of the Year – Overall Winner 2018
- NSW AIPP Professional Travel Photographer of the Year – Winner 2017, 2018, 2019
- NSW AIPP Professional Nature Photographer of the Year – Winner 2016, 2017/Finalist 2018, 2019
- NSW AIPP Professional Landscape Photographer of the Year – Finalist 2014, 2016 2017/Winner 2018
- NSW Epson Signature Worthy Award – Winner 2017
- APPA AIPP Photographic Book of the Year – Finalist 2018, 2019
- ANZANG Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the year – Finalist 2013
- National Geographic Travel Contest – Finalist and Editors choice 2013
- Travel Photographer of the Year – Finalist (TPOTY) 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021
- Travel Photographer of the Year – Category Winner and Portfolio Runner-Up 2019, Category Runner-Up 2021
- TPOTY – Highly Commended 2014, 2015, Commended 2018, 2 x Special Mentions 2019
- International Landscape Photographer of the Year – Category Winner 2016, 2018, 2019
- EPSON Pano Awards Open Competition – Top 50: 2016, 2017, 2018
- IPA (International Photography Awards) – Finalist 2009, Honorable Mention 2009, 2013, 2015, 2019
- International Loupe Awards – Runner up 2010, Finalist 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013
- Wildlife Photographer of the Year – Final Round 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019
- GDT European Nature Photographer of the Year – Finalist 2017
- MontPhoto Landscape – Finalist 2020
- Eyes on Asia Awards – Runner Up 2013
- FOCUS Awards – Image of the Year 2016, 2018



Frozen forest and Aurora

"I believe that photography can be way of change and I feel an obligation and responsibility to share what I have captured and created with my camera in the hope that I can not only inspire people to take better images but to care for the environment."

Ignacio Palacios

CHECKLIST

“There is such a high that I get when I’m standing in front of the Northern Lights... That very moment when you are part of the magic, it’s tangible and the elements are unforgettable... hard to describe, hard to put it into words.”



Camera equipment

- DSLR or Medium Format (check your baggage allowance with your airline/travel agent)
- Tripod with quick release plate
- Standard zoom, wide angle and telephoto lenses
- Battery and chargers
- Shutter cable release
- Polarising filter and ND filters
- Laptop computer with Photoshop and Lightroom and/or Capture One
- External backup drives and memory cards for storage.

We recommend to shrink-wrap your baggage at your departure airport. Ensure your telephoto lenses are packed in protective packs designed for such lenses. We also recommend that you pack your camera equipment as your hand luggage as much as possible so that if the checked-in baggage is lost or delayed at least you can start photographing as soon as you arrive.

Note: Please contact me if you want to discuss equipment for this trip.

What to bring, clothing and other

Our accommodation is clean and comfortable with all bedding and towels provided.

In terms of clothing you’ll obviously need plenty of warm and weatherproof clothing. The following are very much recommended:

A good pair of strong waterproof warm walking boots and ideally those offering some thermal lining or maybe even a pair of

thermal overshoes such as those made by Neos to go over your walking boots. Keeping warm feet, hands and head should be your priorities. Good waterproof over trousers (lined ones are best as they’ll keep you warmer especially with a normal pair of trousers and some thermal leggings underneath as well) and dependent on how these 2 items fit together some gaiters can be useful as well. For the top half it’s very much a question of having several layers – like a thermal type vest, t-shirt, thin jumper, fleece and then a waterproof down coat that is built for keeping out the wind chill. You’ll know your own cold thresholds but it really is a question of build it up in layers. A good hat, some fingerless mittens and then some warm waterproof gloves to go over the top (the former so that when you come to photograph your fingers can still work the camera) should round the piece off.

The temperatures we could be working in are -25 to -15 it is also a dry cold so sometimes it actually feels colder than that.

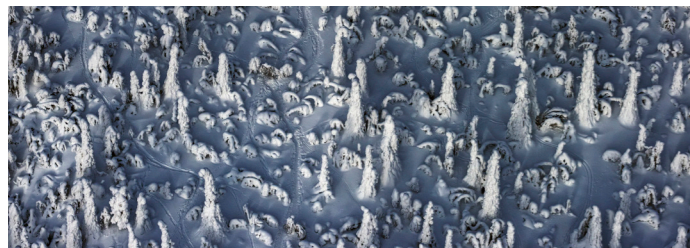
- Hiking boots (well-worn in) and good socks – Gore-Tex – **mandatory**
- Snow shoes (optional) – They will be beneficial to walk in the snow
- Spikes – **mandatory** <https://www.amazon.com/Snowline-stud-Spikes-Chainsen-Pro/dp/B006O5K050>
- Very warm jacket – **mandatory** (can be Gore-Tex or use a warm jacket and put a thin Gore-Tex on top). Average mini temperatures are below zero

- Gloves and hat – **mandatory**
- Snow trousers/waterproof pants, thermals (both legs and body) – **mandatory**
- Thin gloves to shoot – **mandatory**
- Sunglasses are **mandatory** when walking on snow
- Raincoat/waterproof jacket/wind jacket and warm jumper – **mandatory**
- Head torch – **mandatory**
- Alarm clock/smart phone

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to cancel this workshop. In the event of this happening, all payments received will be refunded but participants shall have no further claim against IP Travel Photography arising from such cancellation. Any such refund will not include payments for any bookings for other services made in addition to the itinerary outlined above. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection insurance prior to paying the first deposit.

To reserve your place for 2025 or to make an enquiry, please email ignacio@iptravelphotography.com.au





WORKSHOP DATES AND PRICES

Tour dates: **17 – 25 January 2025**

The tour commences and ends in **Kuusamo**, Finland

Cost is **US\$13,490** per person, twin share

Optional single supplement **US\$2,490** (limited places)

Maximum **12** participants

A deposit of **US\$2,000** is required when you book the workshop

Terms of payment

- A deposit of US\$2,000 must be paid to secure your place. The deposit is non-refundable unless you can sell your place to someone else
- The Registration Form must be filled in and signed by each participant at the time of paying the first deposit. Participation will be declined otherwise.
- The remaining balance must be paid on or before **31 August 2024**

- Bookings will be accepted strictly in the order they are received
- **Important:** the workshop requires a minimum of 8 participants to run so please don't book your flights until this has been confirmed.

To calculate the rate in AU\$, the currency exchange rate will be obtained from the Westpac website at the time of transferring the deposit and balance.

What's included

- 9 days (8 nights) in Finland with all land content
- Transfers from/to airport
- Transportation and accommodation in Finland during the official period of the workshop
- All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinners)
- All photographic tuition and workshop materials for the duration of the tour
- Photography sessions at exclusive locations with photography advice in the field and back at the hotel, where we will do critique sessions and post-processing lessons.

What's not included

- Airfares
- Travel insurance (travel insurance with emergency evacuation is mandatory as a condition of booking)
- Optional personal activities
- Camera/Equipment Insurance
- Other meals and drinks
- Tips to the local guides along the way
- Any other personal expenses.

Cancellation Policy

A written notice of any cancellation must be received by you at which time the following cancellation fees will apply:

- If cancelled before 1 Sept 2024, 50% of the workshop cost will be refunded
- If cancelled between 1 December 2024 and before date of commencement, the cost of the workshop will not be refunded
- Failure to pay by the due dates will be considered a cancellation of the booking and fees paid will be non-refundable
- Bookings made after 31 August 2024 must be paid in full
- No refunds will be made for unused portions of the workshop. The photography workshop is sold as a package.
- Cancellation fees are not transferable.

Camera gear

There is really no limit to what camera gear you take but we always recommend to travel light! Check with your airline about weight restrictions. Whatever level of camera equipment you have,

we will help to ensure you get the most out of it.

In terms of camera kit you'll need a tripod, the longest lens you have (300mm or 500mm + converters are recommended) and then some supplementary lenses for other opportunities such as a 24-70mm (or wider) for landscapes, fisheye for the Auroras, an intermediate zoom (70-200 or 100-400) so that you don't miss any opportunities.

Working in this Boreal habitat in northern Finland during the winter is one of the most rewarding experiences you can have in Nature, the landscape and wildlife is absolutely stunning at this time of the year. The harsh Finnish winter is at its best and so whatever we find it will sure to offer some amazing photographic opportunities.

Fitness and health considerations

Sometimes participants will be required to walk on uneven terrain or tracks and hiking. A basic level of walking fitness will help, but this tour is not a hiking tour or a trekking tour so nothing extreme will be required. If you have concerns about your own capabilities or health please check with your doctor before booking a place.

By signing the Registration Form, you guarantee that to the best of your knowledge, you do not have any physical or other disability that could create a risk for you or other tour participants. Once a booking has been accepted by IP Travel Photography, medical

circumstances will not be accepted as an exemption to the Cancellation Policy above.

We are visiting Finland in February and although the average temperature in February is -15 °C, we might encounter ranges between -2°C and -25°C so please follow our clothing recommendations below.

Within the Registration Form, please indicate any health issues, allergies or dietary requirements. IP Travel Photography does not assume any responsibility or liability for medical care or special dietary requirements.

If a participant becomes ill during the workshop, IP Travel Photography reserves the right to continue the tour for the benefit of the rest of the participants. IP Travel Photography will make every effort to assist you whilst trying to minimize disruption of the workshop for other participants.

Visas

Finland, as a member of the Schengen States, does not require Australians citizens travelling to Finland as tourists to obtain a visa prior to arrival. On arrival from a non-Schengen state Australian citizens will be issued with a short period visa, or the common 'Schengen Visa', which permits a maximum stay of 90 days.

If you are coming from another country rather than Australia, please check with your consulate/embassy regarding VISAS. Please make sure that your passport/visa does not expire during the tour period.

Rights

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to:

- Substitute hotels/accommodation
- Make changes in the itinerary or transport if required due to changes in airline schedules, or when necessary. We may be forced to change or alter the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware, however, that we will attempt to stick as close to the original program as possible
- Cancel the workshop prior to departure, in which case a full refund of all payments received will be given. If such an event occurred, IP Travel Photography will not be responsible for any other expenses such as nonrefundable air fares, visa fees and other related expenses. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit
- Substitute the tour leader and guest photographer as originally specified, in which case this substitution will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Run the photography workshop without the guest photographer if the group size is less than 6 participants. This will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Accept or refuse any person as a participant in the workshop
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to

adverse currency exchange fluctuations, airline schedule changes, fuel and tax price charges.

- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to major unforeseen increases in expedition related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

Liability

The operation of the workshop is at the sole discretion of Ignacio Palacios, having in mind the wellbeing and interests of all participants and the safe and sensible operation of the program as specified within this itinerary.

IP Travel Photography does not accept any liability for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligent or otherwise of third party providers.

IP Travel Photography disclaims liability for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or trouble caused by force majeure or any other event which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on IP Travel Photography's part.

IP Travel Photography

IP Travel Photography is an ASIC business name with Australian Business Number 16578586693 and registered in Australia under the Business Names Registration Act 2011. IP Travel Photography (Ignacio Palacios) will guide and provide photography tuition to all participants during the tour. IP Travel Photography is not a travel agent or travel service provider.





**TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE FOR 2025
OR TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY, PLEASE EMAIL
IGNACIO@IPTRAVELPHOTOGRAPHY.COM.AU**



IGNACIO PALACIOS
TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

©2023 IP Travel Photography
www.iptravelphotography.com.au