# **Reader Holiday**



oin Estonian Nature Tours, Speyside Wildlife and *Bird Watching* on an eight-day fully-inclusive holiday amid unique, untouched nature with winding rivers, vast floodplains, mires, bogs and primeval forests.

We shall search for the country's outstanding birdlife, such as Golden and White-tailed Eagles, Ural Owl, and a wealth of woodpeckers, as well as mammals including Raccoon Dog, Fox, European Beaver, Wild Boar, Elk (Moose), Roe Deer and Brown Bear, with an outside chance of seeing Wolf and Lynx.

Estonian forests are renowned in Europe for their healthy populations of mammals with around 700-800 Lynx, more than 150 Wolves, 500-600 Brown Bears and almost 20,000 Beavers – tremendous numbers for such a small country. In all, 64 species of mammals have been recorded in Estonia



including several European rarities, the most endangered examples being the European Mink, several species of dormouse and the Flying Squirrel.

# The highlights

**Birds:** Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Black Grouse, thousands of Cranes,

White-fronted Geese and Bean Geese, peak autumn migration of songbirds, waders and waterfowl, Ural Owl, Pygmy Owl, Goshawk, Peregrine, Black Woodpecker, White-backed Woodpecker, Three-toed Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Nutcracker, Yellow-browed Warbler (probably), Crested Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Bearded Tit, Lapland Bunting etc.

Mammals: Raccoon Dog, Red Fox, Elk (Moose), Roe Deer, Wild Boar, Brown Bear, European Beaver (dependent on water level), tracks and droppings of Lynx and Wolves.







### THE DETAILS

Group size: 6/10 pax

**Grading:** Walking is mainly on good level tracks but we may also enter the forest in search of tracks and signs and this terrain can be a little more difficult

Flights: Easyjet Scheduled Outbound Morning Gatwick-Tallinn. Inbound Afternoon Tallinn-Gatwick Accommodation: Comfortable hotel and/or guesthouse with private facilities, in twin and single rooms, plus overnight in bear hide with dormitory style beds and shared facilities

**Food:** Restaurants and local farms **Leaders:** Tarvo Valker, Luke Massey & local specialists

#### **ITINERARY**

**Day 1** Arrive in Tallinn, and transfer to Haapsalu

Day 2 Matsalu National Park

Day 3 Mammal tracking

Day 4 To central Estonia; Elk (Moose)

& Wild Boar safari

Day 5 Toosikannu & Mõrdama

Day 6 Transfer to Rakvere; Bear Hide

Day 7 Wolf & Lynx tracking

**Day 8** Departure

See full itinerary at: birdwatching.co.uk/articles/estonia2013

# **BOOK NOW!**

Call Speyside Wildlife on 01479 812498 or email enquiries@speysidewildlife.co.uk

Single supplement: £195pp. Deposit payable: £300pp. Excludes: Alcoholic beverages and sauna, insurance and other items of a personal nature. Full details and terms and conditions on Speyside Wildlife's website: www.speysidewildlife.co.uk