



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AT THE HIGH TOWER



The **High Tower** is a photography hide located close to the public Osprey Tower. You can book this hide in advance with a new online booking system. We rent the High Tower for one photographer and his/her 1-3 fellow photographers for 1-6 days. If the High Tower is free you can rent it also at Pohtiolampi Cafeteria during opening hours.

1. There are four (4) photography windows/spots. Prices are on the Photography/Instructions – page.  
After your payment in the Cafeteria you will receive a key chain that shows the number of your window/spot.
2. Park your car in the parking area of the watchtower. There is a wooden footpath to the public watchtower (Sääksitorni/Osprey Tower). High Tower is on the right side of the Public Osprey Tower.
3. There is a camera stand at each photography window with a solid “bird hide mount”. In order to use this mount you need your own ball-head or video-head. Distance to the Osprey pond is about 38 meters.
4. The first photographer of the day should unlock the door that leads to the High Tower. **The last photographer of the night must always lock the door when leaving.**
5. Please respect the ospreys by going into the tower immediately after you arrive - this way the disturbance to the birds can be minimized. You should never hang around outside the tower to e.g. have a cigarette or chat with your companion. You can exit the tower to enjoy a meal or coffee, go to the toilet etc. if you remember to check that there are no birds at prey in the area. Always use the wood covered footpath only.

Please avoid any unnecessary noise when moving inside the tower. This way you respect the other possible photographers or viewers in the public tower at the time, and, most of all, you respect the ospreys. However, you can silently discuss with the photographer next to you, if you keep in mind that the tower is not soundproof.

6. Before you can place your camera's lens into the slot of the cover curtain, make sure that no ospreys are sitting on the hollow trees, electric fences or on the poles anywhere near the tower. Only when the sitting osprey has vacated (most likely with his prey) can you place your camera into the shooting position. Nature photography takes patience! When adjusting your camera's position you must also bear in mind that the lens (lens hood) must not be placed too far outside the window. The front lens should only barely extend outside the cover curtain (max 5 cm!).
7. Please make sure that the cover curtain does not have any slots through which the bird can see your face. The windows have membrane surfaces that prevent the bird from seeing directly inside the tower. However, do not place your face or your hands too close to the glass surface, as your movement can be detected by the bird in spite of the covering membrane.
8. If an osprey lands onto the hollow trees, electric poles, electric fences or branches, pay extra attention. The bird can easily detect even the smallest of lens movements. If the bird makes a sharp or suspicious call, you have been too careless when shifting your camera. In this case, the most sensitive ospreys immediately take flight and leave the area or start their observing flight rounds above the fishing pond. Photography should take place on the birds' conditions, not yours! Also remember that there are, in almost every case, other viewers at the watchtower as well as photographers at the bird hides. If you discard these instructions, they could lose their opportunities, too.
9. Please observe the birds arriving at the pond area very carefully. Only when the osprey has clearly started his prey or even taken off to plunge into the water can you shift your camera more quickly. In case there are several ospreys at prey simultaneously, they will reveal themselves with a greeting call.
10. Before you exit the tower, make sure that there are no ospreys at prey at the fishing pond area.
11. There are dozens of photographers visiting Pohtiolampi during the summer, so it is important that you ensure that the ospreys can prey without any disturbances. If you chose to discard these instructions, you might be able to take a great shot or two, but simultaneously you would cause even the more trusting osprey individuals to behave very cautiously. The most sensitive ospreys can start avoiding the fishing pond area entirely due to just a few camera disturbances. Please remember to behave in a respectful and careful manner.
12. Please pick up any trash you have left behind! The next photographer will most likely attend the watchtower only a few hours after you.
13. In case you notice any troublemakers in the area during your photography session (delinquents, fish thieves, or any kind of attempt of mischief), please notify us immediately by calling +358 400 499 395 or +358 40 528 3030. Apart from you and the other photographers at the hides, there should be, in principle, no other people in the fishing pool area, except the maintenance staff who feed the fish and clean the pools on weekdays.
14. The rent revenues from the bird hides, High Tower and public tower cover approximately half of the maintenance costs of the summer season. Hence the revenues from your photography session will be directly targeted at the conservation of ospreys.

**Good luck with your photography session. Remember that osprey is a challenging photography target! Welcome back!**