



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AT THE PUBLIC WATCHTOWER

1. You can obtain your key to your photography spot from the cafeteria. At the public watchtower, there are six (6) photography spots that are available simultaneously. Photography spot 1 is in the upper part of the tower, whereas spots 2 - 6 are situated on the floor below, to which there is a separate locked entrance at the left side of the watchtower. Photography spots 2 - 6 are not for public use, but for photographers who have booked the photography spots (only 1 photographer per spot). You can rent a photography spot from the cafeteria.

Prices are on the Photography/Instructions –page. After your payment you will receive a key chain that shows the number of your spot.

2. Park your car at the parking area of the watchtower. There is a wood covered footpath to the public watchtower (Sääksitorni/Osprey Tower).
3. The camera slots at photography spot 1 are locked and can be attained for use by the means described above. The photography spots 2 - 6 can be entered through the locked entrance with the individual key. (The camera slots 2-6 have so far not been locked.) There are two camera stands at each spot. The other one has a solid 'bird hide mount' with 3/8 male screw. In order to use this mount you need your own ball-head or video-head. The other camera slot can be used without any extra devices: you can just place your camera to lean against the sandbags and adjust the position of the camera by readjusting the sacks. The photographing distance is about 38 meters.
4. The first photographer of the day should unlock the door that leads to the spots 2 - 6 and attach the lock to the clasp so that the crossbar is drawn to the left (open). The lock should not be taken in the tower, as it might easily get lost. In case there are no other photographers at spots 2 - 6 when you are finished, please lock the door carefully before returning the key to the cafeteria. **The last photographer of the night must always lock the door when leaving.**
5. Please respect the ospreys by going into the watchtower immediately after you arrive - this way the disturbance to the birds can be minimized. You should never hang around outside the watchtower to e.g. have a cigarette or chat with your possible 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 of prey in the area. Always use the wood covered footpath only.
6. Please avoid any unnecessary noise when moving inside the tower. This way you respect the other possible photographers or viewers in the 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 bear in mind that the tower is not soundproof.
7. **Before you can place your camera's lens into the slot of the cover curtain, make sure that no ospreys are sitting in 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 in 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!).**

8. 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.
9. 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 pools. 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, their opportunities might be lost, too.
10. Please observe the birds arriving at the pool 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.
11. Before you exit the watchtower, always make sure that there are no ospreys at prey at the fishing pool area.
12. There are tens of photographers visiting the area during the summer, so it is very important that also 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 pool area entirely due to just a few camera disturbances. Please remember to behave in a respectful and careful manner.
13. Please pick up any trash you have left behind! The next photographer will most likely attend the watchtower only a few hours after you. The waste basket is on the stairs next to the door.
14. 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 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 fishes and clean the pools on weekdays.
15. The revenues from the bird hides and public watchtower 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 ospreys are a challenging photography target! Welcome back!**