

Japan Story Hokkaido 13 Days

UPDATE: 2018-1-11

Departure from Canada,

Day of travel across the International Date Line to Tokyo Japan.

Day 1

Haneda Airport-New Chitose Airport-Sapporo(-)

Arriving Tokyo Haneda Airport after immigration and custom formalities, transfer to ANA domestic flight bound for Sapporo. Arriving at New Chitose Airport you will be transferred by Airport Express Bus to hotel. There is no dinner service on this day.

Overnight is at Hotel Okura Sapporo

Day 2

Sapporo-B|L|D

Morning praying for safe trip and good weather at Hokkaido Shrine and Okurayama Jump of 1970 Sapporo Winter Olympic. Nijo Market follow by ramen noodle lunch at Ramen Yokocho Lane.

Afternoon sightseeing tour to Clock Tower and Historic Village Hokkaido is an open museum exhibits about 60 typical building from all over Hokkaido since 1868.

Mongolian Genghis Khan grilled spring lamb dinner is served at Sapporo Beer Museum Garden Grill.

Overnight is at Hotel Okura Sapporo.

Day 3

Sapporo-OtaruB|L|D

Morning visit to Otaru is a small harbour city. From the early days of **late 1800s**, Otaru served as a major trade and fishing port. It was hence chosen as the terminal station of Hokkaido's first **railway** line that connected the port with **Sapporo**. Many old warehouses are in Otaru Canal give city a special character reminiscent of past decades.

Now Canal was beautifully restored and warehouses were transformed into **museums**, shops and **restaurants**. The canal makes for a pleasant stroll during the day, when artists present their works to passing tourists, and during the evenings when old fashioned gas lamps are lit and provide a romantic atmosphere.

We will visit Sakaimachi Street is an attractive, preserved merchant street in central **Otaru**, Many of the buildings along Sakaimachi Street have since been converted into restaurants, cafes, souvenir shops, boutiques and museums. There are also a few glass workshops for tourists to enjoy a hands-on experience in creating the local Otaru Glass.

After a local lunch at B&B Aotsuka, tour continues Nishin Goten Herring Museum were built by wealthy herring fishermen. Return to Sapporo in the afternoon. Dinner is served at local Izakaya Maruumiya Paseo. Overnight is at Hotel Okura Sapporo.

Day 4

Furano and Biei-B|L|D

Morning sightseeing to beautiful Biei and Furano are towns in the center of **Hokkaido**, known for their pleasant and picturesque rural landscapes. The best time to visit is July, when the **lavender fields** are in bloom. Visiting lavender farm, Panorama Road, Hokusai Hill Observatory to fully enjoy the Hokkaido scenery with lunch at Furano Winery .

Afternoon along the rural landscape of Patchwork Road and Panorama Road we will ending the day in Asahikawa. Overnight is at Asahikawa Grand Hotel with dinner served.

Day 5

Asahikawa-Sounkyo-B|L|D

Morning short visit to the world famous Asahiyama Zoo is a very popular zoological garden allow visitors to observe animals from various angles. After taking picture at penguins, tiger and polar bears we will visit famous Hokkaido Sake Otokoyama Brewery to learn and taste the Hokkaido Sake.

We will slowly entering into Sounkyo Daisetsuzan National Park is a touristy **hot spring** resort in narrow valley with a pleasant village center, Onsen baths and beautiful nearby waterfalls.

We will take Kurodake Ropeway to climb to 1984M high Kurodake Peak to command the panoramic view of Sounkyo.

Overnight is at Hotel Taisetsu

Day 6

Sounkyo-Abashiri-B|L|D

Abashiri is a city of 40,000 people on the eastern coast of Okhotsk Sea, the city's attractions are its Okhotsk Drift Ice Museum tell you about amazing drift ice in the Okhotsk Sea during winter.

Lunch is served at local sushi house.

And Abashiri Prison was constructed in the 1890s to hold more than one thousand dangerous criminals. The prison gained national fame through a popular yakuza **movie** series by director Ishii Teruo in the 1960s.

Abashiri Prison Museum which opened its doors to the public in 1985 as an **open air museum**. The Abashiri Prison Museum illustrates the daily life of prisoners and exhibits more than a dozen buildings and structures of the old prison, including the main prison building with its five radially constructed wings, a law court, bath house and a punishment chamber.

Overnight is at Lake Abashiri Koso.

Day 7

Abashiri-Oshinkoshin-Utoro-B|L|D

Your journey from Abashiri to Shiretoko will brief stop enroute at Koizumihara Garden and the Oshinkoshin Falls designated as one of Japan's best 100 waterfalls, before entering Utoro Onsen of Shiretoko Peninsula

We have lunch at local drive-in enroute to scenic town of Rausu on the east coast of Shiretoko Peninsula.

In 2005, Shiretoko was added to the list of **UNESCO World Natural Sites** for the irreplaceable value of the peninsula's ecosystem and biodiver.

Utoro (ウトロ) is the largest and only sizable town along the western coast of the **Shiretoko Peninsula**. Located at the entrance to the national park, it serves as a transportation hub and is the boarding point for **sightseeing boat tours** up the peninsula's coast. Overnight is at Shiretoko Daiichi Hotel

Day 8

Utoro-B|L|D

Taking a morning boat cruise along the rugged western coast of the Shiretoko Peninsula, you can get a look at the more remote parts of the national park, which are otherwise only accessible on foot. Lunch at local restaurant.

Afternoon sightseeing continue to Cape Puyuni, Shiretoko Gorge, Shiretoko Five Lakes and Shiretoko Nature Centre.

Overnight is at Shiretoko Daiichi Hotel.

Day 9

Utoro-Kushiro-Akan Kohan-B|L|D

After morning hot spring bath and breakfast, tour will depart Utoro Onsen to Lake Mashu in Akan National Park, It vies for the position of clearest lake in the world and is considered by many to be Japan's most beautiful lake.

Lunch at old local restaurant Hazel Grouse Manor,

Lake Akanko is a beautiful crater lake in **Akan National Park**. It is home to **marimo**, a rare algae species that forms itself into beautiful green balls. Left alone for a few centuries, Lake Akan's marimo can reach the size of soccer balls. The algae have been designated a National Special Natural Monument.

The lakeside **hot spring** resort of **Akan Kohan** is the only town around the lake. **Ainu Kotan** is a small **Ainu** village with Ainu Craft souvenir shops, and enjoy a traditional Ainu performance. Overnight is at Lake Akan Tsuruga Resort Spa Tsuruga Wing.

Day 10

Akan Kohan-Tokachi Onsen-B|L|D

Enjoy an morning Lake Akan Boat Tour and a visit at Akan Crane Centre to see Japanese Tancho crane with red head.

In 1926 a group of about 20 birds was discovered in the marshes around Kushiro. With conservation efforts they have since made a dramatic recovery and now number more than 1000 birds.

The cranes are most spectacular to watch as they dance when snowing, often in pairs, with seemingly choreographed dips and jumps. The cranes are best seen in the winter as they gather at winter feeding sites.

Overnight is at Tokachi Onsen Daiichi Hotel.

Day 11

Tokachi Onsen-Lake Shikotsuko-B|L|D

After breakfast, we will sightseeing the local Botanical Garden and Observatory.

Tokachi-ga-oka Botanical Garden Park on our way to Lake Shikotsuko..

Lake Shikotsuko and Lake Toya are the two most prominent features of the Shikotsu-Toya National Park.

Shikotsu Kohan, a small, touristy town with a visitor center and a small number of lodgings along the lake's western shores. From there, visitors can rent boats, bicycles or scuba gear to enjoy the natural surroundings. Sightseeing cruises of the lake are offered in glass bottomed boats and in speed boats and overnight is at Shikotsuko Tsuruga Resort Mize-no-Utah. Enjoy its luxurious hot spring spa and dinner.

Day 12

Sapporo-Tokyo-B|-|

Tour disbands after breakfast, you will be transferred by Airport Bus to New Chitose Airport to continue your extension or fly home .

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