



# **SAMURAI TOURS**

*Adventures in Discovering Traditional Japan*

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## **Eastern Hokkaido Mini Tour**

8 Days/7 Nights

# Eastern Hokkaido Mini Tour



## Tour Overview

Among the Japanese, Hokkaido has become synonymous with sensational food, stunning scenery and some of the best onsens in Japan. As the rest of the country heats up in the summer months, Hokkaido stays cool, making it ideal for relaxing by the crystal-clear waters of the island's many caldera lakes.

## Destinations

*Sapporo, Sounkyo Onsen, Akanko, Abashiri, Shiretoko*

## Tour Factors



Cultural Immersion



Pace



Physical Activity



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## Tour Details

After overnighing in Sapporo, you will travel to Sounkyo Onsen, where you will have your first opportunity to experience traditional outdoor onsens, along with the opportunity to hike in the Daisetsuzan National Park. Then, we will travel to Akanko, which has plenty of entertainment to offer, including fishing, boat cruises, and other water sports. Or just enjoy the Ainu Village located at Akanko. After visiting the International Crane Center in Akanko you will go to the northeastern coast of Japan and visit Abashiri. Here, you will be visit the Abashiri Prison Museum before moving onto the quiet town of Utoro Onsen, gateway to Shiretoko. A hiking tour of Shiretoko Goko will help you experience the outdoors and nature before departing back to Sapporo or Tokyo, where the tour will end.

Tour Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Akan Crane Center</li><li>✓ Ainu Dance Demonstration</li><li>✓ Nature Walk around the Shiretoko Go-ko Lakes</li><li>✓ Shiretoko Peninsula Boat Cruise</li></ul>
Tour Inclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Travel Guard Gold Policy (for American tour members only)</li><li>✓ Baggage transfer from city to city</li><li>✓ Electronic version of Tour Handbook and Japanese History</li><li>✓ Domestic Airfare at the end of the tour to Sapporo or Haneda</li></ul>
Tour Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ International airfare is NOT included.</li><li>✗ A printed itinerary is not included</li><li>✗ Alcoholic beverages, soft drinks and desserts are NOT included</li></ul>

# Map



## Tour Destinations

- 📍 Sapporo
- 📍 Sounkyo Onsen
- 📍 Lake Akan
- 📍 Akan Crane Center
- 📍 Abashiri
- 📍 Shiretoko

# Itinerary

## **Day 1 Arrive in Sapporo**

You will travel on your own to Sapporo, check into the hotel and staying overnight in the city of Sapporo. We will leave a message for you at the hotel informing you of the meeting time for the next day. No meals included.

**Travel: TBD; Walking: TBD**

## **Day 2 Travel to Sounkyo Onsen; Sounkyo Onsen: Ropeway, Ginga no Taki and Ryusei no Taki Waterfalls**

Before departing for the day you will need to prepare your luggage to be sent to Akanko. You will travel to Sounkyo Onsen with an overnight bag only. Prepare your overnight bag for two days and one night. After breakfast we will travel to Sounkyo Onsen. Sounkyo Onsen is a hot spring resort town in the north of Daisetsuzan National Park. This quaint village town is located in a scenic, narrow gorge that is flanked by 100 meter high, forested cliffs. After we check into the ryokan we will board the Kurodake Ropeway which will take us to higher parts of the Daisetsuzan National Park. Next, we will stop at Ginga no Taki and Ryusei no Taki waterfalls cascading down the 100 meter high cliffside. Breakfast and dinner at the hotel included.

**Travel: 3 Hours; Walking: Light**

## **Day 3 Travel to Lake Akan; Free time at Lake Akan**

After breakfast, we will travel by local public bus to Akanko. In addition to lakefront vistas and hot springs, Akanko is known for two things: marimo, a rare kind of algae that forms oddly perfect spheres; and its Ainu village. After checking into the ryokan, and picking up your main luggage you will have free time in the afternoon in Akanko. Use this opportunity to take advantage of the many attractions Lake Akan has to offer. Go fishing or take a sightseeing boat cruise. Or you can visit the Ainu Village with its many souvenir shops and restaurants selling authentic Ainu cuisine, or attend an authentic Ainu Dance Demonstration at the Ainu Village. We will return to the ryokan for a buffet dinner. Breakfast and dinner at the ryokans included.

**Travel: 1 Hour;; Walking: Heavy**

## **Day 4 Akan Crane Center; Free time at Lake Akan**

After breakfast, we will travel to Akan International Crane Center. Here we will learn about the Red-Crowned Crane, indigenous to this area of Japan. It was once thought the cranes were extinct. However, about 90 years ago, a few cranes were found, and extensive efforts were made to bring them back from the brink of extinction. While much work remains to be done, the crane population has stabilized and is even growing. Once we return to Akanko, you will have free time to do any of the activities that you did not get to do the day before returning to the ryokan for a buffet dinner. Breakfast and dinner at the ryokan included.

**Travel: 2 Hours; Walking: Medium**

## **Day 5 Travel to Abashiri; Abashiri - Northern Peoples Museum**

Before departing for the day you will need to prepare your luggage to be sent to Shiretoko. You will

travel to Abashiri and Shiretoko with an overnight bag only. Prepare your overnight bag for two days and one night. After breakfast at the ryokan, we will travel to Kitami, and then to Abashiri. Abashiri, on the northeastern coast of Hokkaido, is home to a prison and known for the drift ice on the coast in the wintertime. In the afternoon, we will visit the Northern Peoples Museum documenting the cultures and lifestyles of many different people including the Ainu living in the cold and inhospitable northern areas of the northern hemisphere. After checking in to our hotel, you can enjoy the baths before dinner. Breakfast at the hotel and kaiseki-style dinner at the ryokan or dinner at a local restaurant.

**Travel: 3 Hours; Walking: Medium**

## **Day 6 Abashiri - Abashiri Prison Museum; Travel to Shiretoko**

This morning, after breakfast we will tour the Abashiri Prison Museum to learn how the inmates lived and the role Abashiri prison played in the history of Hokkaido. After the Prison Museum we will travel to Utoro Onsen, the gateway to the remote and beautiful Shiretoko National Park. Shiretoko is an ancient Ainu word meaning 'edge of the world'. Shiretoko National Park is famous in Japan for its beautiful scenery and abundant wildlife including deer, bear and foxes. We will enjoy a buffet dinner at the ryokan after checking in and picking up your main luggage. Breakfast at the ryokan and buffet dinner at the hotel included.

**Travel: 2 Hours; Walking: Medium**

## **Day 7 Shiretoko Peninsula Cruise, Nature Walk around Shiretoko Go-ko Lakes**

This morning we will take a boat cruise along the beautiful Shiretoko peninsula. In the afternoon we will take a walking tour exploring the Shiretoko Goko Lakes area to experience the nature and tranquility of the area. In the afternoon we will take a boat cruise along the Shiretoko coastline with its 100 meter lava-rock cliffs and waterfalls. You may even see seals and dolphins. We will return to the ryokan where you can relax in the onsen before a buffet dinner at the ryokan. Breakfast at the ryokan and buffet dinner at the hotel included.

**Travel: 1 1/2 Hours; Walking: Heavy**

## **Day 8 Travel to Sapporo's Chitose or Tokyo's Haneda Airport**

This morning we will travel by bus to Membanbetsu Airport, where we will fly to Sapporo Chitose Airport or Haneda Airport. After arriving at the airport of your choice, you will continue around Japan on your own. Breakfast at the ryokan included.

**Travel: 4 Hours; Walking: Light**

Walking level descriptions:

Light - 0 to 2 miles on level ground

Medium - 2 to 4 miles on level ground or 0 to 2 miles on hilly ground

Heavy - 4 to 6 miles on level ground or 2 to 4 miles on hilly ground

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## **Dates & Pricing**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Price (land only) / Single Supplement (All prices are per Person)</b>	<b>Status</b>
Aug 2, 2020 - Aug 9, 2020	\$2,494.00/ \$350.00	Available
Oct 25, 2020 - Nov 1, 2020	\$2,744.00/ \$350.00	Available
Jun 20, 2021 - Jun 27, 2021	\$2,744.00/ \$350.00	Available
Jul 25, 2021 - Aug 1, 2021	\$2,744.00/ \$350.00	Available
Aug 29, 2020 - Sep 5, 2020	\$2,744.00/ \$350.00	Available
Sep 26, 2021 - Oct 3, 2021	\$2,744.00/ \$350.00	Available
Oct 24, 2021 - Oct 31, 2021	\$2,994.00/ \$350.00	Available

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## Inclusions

- Local, licensed, English-speaking, Japanese guides
- **Travel insurance from Travel Guard**, one of the world's largest travel insurance providers, will be provided to everyone from the United States. All others will receive a \$100 per person credit and will be responsible for obtaining their own travel insurance in their own home country. (The insurance provided by Samurai Tours will cover the land portion only. Insurance to cover airfare and other additional expenses is the tour member's responsibility.)
  - Exact coverage dependent on state
    - For residents of the following states please click here for your available plan. FL, KS, MN, MO, MT, NY, and WA
    - For all other states and the District of Columbia click here
  - **Travel Insurance Surcharge:** Depending on your age at the time the travel insurance is purchased, you may be subject to the following surcharge for your travel insurance. Travel insurance surcharges will be due at the same time as your tour deposits. (the surcharge itself is not insured)
    - Up to 69 - \$0
    - 70-74 - \$100
    - 75-79 - \$125
    - 80-84 - \$200
    - 85+ - \$300
  - **Travel Insurance Opt-Out:** If you would prefer to opt out of the travel insurance, please note this at the time of registration. You will receive a \$100 credit per person, which will be reflected on your invoice. In the event that you would need to cancel your tour, cancellation penalties may apply. See the Terms and Conditions page for the Cancellation Fees Schedule.
- All transportation from Sapporo to Sapporo as described in the itinerary
- Lodging for 7 nights in Japanese-style ryokans or western-style hotels
- Meals:
  - Breakfast every morning from Day 2 through Day 8 of the itinerary
  - Six dinners
- All transportation costs when traveling with the group (transportation costs during scheduled free times are the tour member's responsibility)
- Electronic version of itinerary
- Admission fees to the destinations and activities listed in the Tour Highlights column on the right (itinerary specifics subject to change)
- Baggage transfer from Sapporo to Akanko
- Baggage transfer from Akanko to Shiretoko

Each tour member receives an electronic copy of our tour handbook. This handbook is full of tips and suggestions taken from our Japan travel experiences that allow you to better plan and prepare for your trip, and therefore enjoy your trip even more. The tips and suggestions included cover everything from how to save while exchanging money, what to pack, some basic Japanese-language tips, general etiquette do's-and-don'ts, ryokan customs, etc.

## Exclusions

- Airfare is NOT included. (Domestic flight from Membanbetsu Airport to Sapporo Chitose Airport IS included)
- Alcoholic beverages, soft drinks and desserts are NOT included
- Transportation to Sapporo at the beginning of the tour
- Transportation from Sapporo at the end of the tour
- A printed itinerary is not included



Thank you for downloading this PDF version of our tour. Please visit our website at [www.samuraitours.com/tours](http://www.samuraitours.com/tours) for the most current dates, prices and information.

## Contact Samurai Tours

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### MEMBERSHIPS/ASSOCIATIONS

Better Business Bureau  
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