

# Hokkaido Nature Tours

## Trip Itinerary & Policies



# SOUNKYO SAYONARA WINTER SNOWSHOE TOUR

**Dates:** March 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Activities:** 8 Ice-Waterfalls Trail, Snowshoeing, Kurodake Ropeway, Kurodake Summit Hike, *Onsen*, Sounkyo Ice Festival, Hotel Stay

**Price:** 28,000 yen pp (see the **How to pay the deposit** guidelines below)

Early-booking discount (10% off) until February 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Group discount (15% off) for 4 or more ~ Member's discount (5% off) are all available.

*\*\*Please read all of the information in preparation for the trip; all activities are optional*

## Tour Itinerary

Day	Time	Activity	Notes
Day 1: March 19 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	<b>Departure from Sapporo in private vehicle</b> Pick-up locations: Sumikawa Station, Odori Station (Exit 23), Sapporo Station (in front of Yodobashi Camera)	<b>Please specify your pick-up preference AND send us your phone number in your reply email.</b> Our phone number is (+81)70-3540-6622.
	1:00pm	<b>Arrive at Frozen Waterfalls in Sounkyo Gorge &amp; Snowshoe the 8 Ice-Falls Trail</b> Prepare to snowshoe roundtrip along 3km flat course; Easy-level hiking for all abilities Depending on time, we may or may not do a proper lunch stop.	Check gear (see the "What to Bring" section below for more information) Prepare a <i>bento</i> , or purchase at a convenience store on the way; Bring high-energy snacks such as nuts, dark chocolate and energy bars; Recommended: tea thermos!
	4:00pm	<b>Check-in at Choyo Galaxy Pension</b> Take <i>onsen</i> & relax	Accommodation is futon-style in double rooms; Japanese breakfast included; <i>Onsen</i> fees also included in price of tour.
	6:00pm	<b>Dinner at Beer Grill Canyon</b> Great western & Japanese dishes such as fish steak, vegetable gratin in pumpkin and venison curry.	Moderately priced and delicious – a local favorite. Dinner is self-pay (appx. 1,000-1,500 yen pp)
	7:00pm	<b>Sounkyo Ice Festival</b> Entry included in price of tour	Enjoy sightseeing at the ice festival famous for its ice sculptures, igloos and ice caves; Closing weekend so there may be cultural shows and/or fireworks.

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Email: [Hokkaidonaturetours@gmail.com](mailto:Hokkaidonaturetours@gmail.com) / [www.hokkaidonaturetours.com](http://www.hokkaidonaturetours.com)

Address: Sumikawa 6-3 2-6-802, Minami-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan 005-0006

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Day 2: March 20 <sup>th</sup>	7:30am	Hotel Breakfast	Japanese-style (fish, rice, miso soup, natto, pickles, etc.)
	8:00am	<b>Kurodake Ropeway &amp; Summit Hike</b> Snowshoe to peak (RT appx. 5-6 hours); moderate to difficult level snowshoeing - hiking experience required; For beginner hikers, there is plenty of easy and beautiful snowshoeing around the top of the ropeway suitable for all levels (self-guided)	Ropeway tickets included in price of tour; If weather is poor, we'll avoid the peak and hike lower down; BC skiers/boarders are welcome to ride down from the peak; Avalanche danger minimal on the main face of Kurodake – no beacon/poles/shovel required. Bring packed lunch ( <i>bento</i> ), high energy snacks, and water; See “What to Bring” section for equipment requirements.
	4:00pm	Local <i>onsen</i> at Sounkyo Onsen Resort	Included in price of tour; bring small towel or rent on-site
	5:30pm	Depart for Sapporo / Arrive by 8:30pm	Drop-off at same locations as pick-up; Drop-off at home is possible depending on location.

What is included in this tour	What is NOT included in this tour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Activities guided by an English-speaking nature guide</li> <li>- Private transportation in 4WD vehicle via expressways when applicable</li> <li>- Entry fees for all activities</li> <li>- Hotel accommodation in double rooms</li> <li>- Hotel breakfast &amp; <i>onsen</i></li> <li>- Kurodake Ropeway roundtrip tickets</li> <li>- Mountain guiding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lunches &amp; Dinners</li> </ul>

## Policy & Payment Information

### What to Bring

**Winter boots** · **Winter clothes / jacket / snow pants / gaiters** (free use upon request and availability) / **leggings** (thermal underwear) / **hat / gloves / muffler** (neck warmer) / **heat packs / chapstick** · **Snowshoes & poles** (HNT rentals available for 1000 yen per day – reserve in advance) · **2 pairs of non-cotton socks** (wool socks work great) / **non-cotton undershirt** · **Goggles** (HNT rentals available for 500 yen / sunglasses are enough if visibility is good) · **Camera** · **Onsen towel** · **Change of socks & shirt** · **Hiking snacks** · **Lunch (*bento*)**

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## *Trip Itinerary & Policies*

If you have any questions about what gear to bring, please ask us. Underprepared winter hiking is dangerous, so don't hesitate to ask for clarification on what to bring. We have extra gear available upon request – first come, first serve.

### Adverse Weather & Deposit Policy

In the event of adverse weather conditions (heavy snow) on March 19<sup>th</sup>, we may push the trip back by one day to March 20<sup>th</sup>. If you cannot participate on March 20<sup>th</sup>, your deposit will be refunded in-full. If we encounter adverse weather on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, we may cancel the trip – in that case we will refund your deposit in-full, or if you wish, we can credit your account for any future HNT trip. Cancellations prior to 7 days before trip date are eligible for 50% deposit refund; cancellations within 7 days of trip date are unfortunately not eligible for a refund.

### How to pay the deposit

Start by making a booking through [hokkaidonaturetours.com](http://hokkaidonaturetours.com) (via the Set-Trips on a Budget or Contact Us pages). Alternatively, contact us by email at [hokkaidonaturetours@gmail.com](mailto:hokkaidonaturetours@gmail.com). We will send you a confirmation email with price and deposit information. If you are eligible for the Early-booking discount (10% off), Group rates (4 or more get 15% off), or Member's discount (5% off), the deposit must be paid **within 7 days from the contact date** to secure the discounted price.

**Please specify by email your preferred payment method:**

1. **Pay in-person** at our home base of Sumikawa, Minami-ku, Sapporo. Arrange a time and place that is convenient for you. Meeting downtown is also possible upon request.
2. **Pay via domestic bank transfer** (may be subject to additional bank fees of about 500 yen)
3. **Pay via PayPal** (may be subject to additional PayPal fees of between 2-6%)

### Our Guiding Policy

Paramount for HNT tours is the safety and wellbeing of our clients. Our extensive experience in the mountains of Hokkaido and internationally gives us a profound respect for the powers of nature, and we will not hesitate to postpone, cancel or alter a trip if we encounter adverse weather conditions. All scheduled plans in the itinerary are subject to change according to safety conditions. Your safety is truly our top-priority.

Please contact us for any additional information at:

[www.hokkaidonaturetours.com](http://www.hokkaidonaturetours.com), [hokkaidonaturetours@gmail.com](mailto:hokkaidonaturetours@gmail.com) or by phone at (+81)70-3540-6622.

Thanks for your interest in Hokkaido Nature Tours!

Enjoy Nature, Be Happy!

The HNT team

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