

Your Custom-Made

HN7 Itinerary Awaits...

At HNT, we specialize in creating and guiding private custom-made tours around Hokkaido in every season. Our passion for travel, attention to detail and love of Hokkaido will guide you to one of the best holidays of your life!

Find out why guests consistently rave about our tours and honor us with 5-star ratings. We not only care about your holiday, we're right there with you, offering complete logistical support, dedicated English-speaking nature guides and private transportation on every tour.

Enjoy Nature, Be Happy!

Recommended Season: 8 Day Tour, Late September - Late October

# Tour Synopsis

This fantastic 8-Day Tour with us at Hokkaido Nature Tours combines the best in Hokkaido's luxury accommodations, with unforgettable nature destinations and a variety of hands-on food activities in Hokkaido's largest breadbasket, the Tokachi Region. You'll go bear spotting and whale watching at



Shiretoko Peninsula, Hokkaido's only UNESCO World Heritage Site; cow milking and Segway riding at farms around Obihiro, and crane spotting in rice paddies. At Furano & Biei, Hokkaido's best mountain towns, you'll see the iconic Biei Blue Pond and be mesmerized by the fall flowers at top flower fields. Top it off with superb Hokkaido gourmet, soothing hot springs and famous Japanese hospitality at our favorite luxury-standard hotels, ryokans & premier onsen resorts including at least 1 night at a traditional ryokan with kaiseki dinner & in-room onsen - and you will have a fantastic vacation with memories that will last a lifetime!

# **Highlights of the Tour**

- ✓ Tour guided by an English-speaking nature guide with private transportation
- ✓ Delicious Hokkaido gourmet, with fantastic hotel meals, visits to seafood markets and our recommended Michelin-star & local restaurants
- ✓ Activities including fall foliage viewing, all-you-can-eat fruit picking, bear mountain safari, flower fields, wildlife spotting cruise, dairy farm tour & more!
- ✓ Stay at our recommended luxury-standard hotel, ryokan & onsen resort accommodation whenever possible, including 1 night at a traditional ryokan with kaiseki dinner & in-room onsen
- ✓ A nice variety of famous sightseeing spots and off-the-beaten-path locations
- ✓ Top rated onsen destinations for you to relax during your tour

### **Tour Route**

Day 1: New Chitose Airport → Lake Shikotsu → Sapporo

Day 2: Sapporo → Asahikawa → Biei

Day 3: Biei → Furano → Sahoro →
Tomamu Resort

Day 4: Tomamu Resort → Tokachi

Day 5: Tokachi → Shiraoi → Akan Lake District → Yoroushi Onsen

Day 6: Yoroushi Onsen → Shibetsu → Rausu → Utoro

Day 7: Utoro → Abashiri → Lake Saroma

Day 8: Lake Saroma → Memanbetsu Airport



#### Why Travel with Us?

✓ Unforgettable private tours in Hokkaido with an English-speaking guide & private transportation

 $\checkmark$  Carefully selected, never outsourced, enthusiastic and highly-experienced nature guides with insider knowledge of Hokkaido

✓ Award-winning, uniquely crafted, custom-made itineraries built around your personal preferences

✓ Complete logistical support and itinerary creation from our HNT travel experts, which means no middle-man costs and the most competitive prices

✓ Superior flexibility during your tour with the ability to change activities as you go, as well as refund policies for missed activities beyond your control



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## **Guest Information**

Name & No. of Guests	Activity Preferences	Pace of Tour
Sample	Fall Sightseeing, Fall Gourmet, Fall Festivals & Foliage, Hot Springs, Fall Wildlife, Farm Visits, Daisetsuzan Nat'l Park, Crafts Culture & Cooking	Mix of Active & Relaxation
Tour Dates	Personal Preferences	Budget
8-Day Autumn Tour	Sample	Luxury
Country of Residence	Tour Starting & Ending Points	Splurge
Sample	This itinerary assumes morning pick- up at New Chitose Airport on Day 1 (please confirm flight details) & late- morning drop-off at Memanbetsu Airport on Day 8	Nature Activities, Accommodation, Gourmet

# **Your Custom-Made Tour Itinerary**

### Day 1: Lake Shikotsu & Sapporo

Pick-up at New Chitose Airport	Our guide will be waiting at the arrival gates to begin your tour; <b>please confirm flight details</b>	
The Birdwatching Café & Gallery	Take a break at this homely café beloved by bird watchers on the boundary of the national park, with a photo gallery from local photographer Tadashi Shimada, great coffee, teas & snacks, and a camouflaged bird watching annex	
Lake Shikotsu Promenade & Nature Center	Stroll along the shores of Hokkaido's deepest lake and one of the clearest lakes in Japan; then visit the nearby Nature Center to learn about the park's endemic flora & fauna & geologic features in a short documentary	

One of Hokkaido's best onsens is situated on the shores Marukoma Onsen of Lake Shikotsu, with multiple outdoor baths and & Lunch stunning views Drive to Sapporo Estimated driving time is approx. 1 hr. Drive up to the peak of Mt. Moiwa outside Sapporo, then Mt. Moiwa City walk the final 15 minutes to the viewpoint for sweeping Observatory views of Sapporo, Sea of Japan and the Central Mountains Experience Japanese popular culture at this unique Sapporo Autumn café: feed owls, pet rabbits, play with cats, have drinks Fest at Odori Park & take close-up photos We'll do our best to reserve a downtown location in Hotel-Check in Sapporo Recommended: Sushi Tanabe (3 Michelin stars restaurant for the ultimate sushi experience); 21 Club (high-end teppanyaki restaurant on the 25th floor with stunning views over Sapporo); Kanihonke Dinner in Sapporo (multicourse kaiseki crab meal in a traditional setting);

Overnight: JR Tower Nikko Hotel or similar (breakfast included)

your preferences





Elm Garden (take in the scenery of the Japanese gardens while enjoying a refined and exquisite kaiseki dinner) Reservations required, so please let us know



Day 2: Sapporo, Asahikawa & Biei

Hokkaido Shrine

Stroll through the peaceful cedar-lined grounds and observe Japanese rituals at Hokkaido's most important shrine



(+81)11-592-3959

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Historical Village of Hokkaido

Learn about Hokkaido's short but dramatic history through actual Meiji-era houses, buildings and other trappings in this large outdoor historical museum

Drive to Asahikawa

Estimated driving time is approx. 1hr. 30 min.

Lunch in Asahikawa Recommended: Asahikawa Ramen Village, where the shovu ramen is the claim to fame

Otokoyama Sake Brewery Learn about the ancient technique of sake brewing at this century old brand; samples & purchases available

Fruit Picking at Minami Fruit Farm All-you-can-eat fall fruit, including apples, pears, grapes & prunes  $\,$ 

Drive to Biei

Estimated driving time is approx. 30 min.

Biei Blue Pond & Shirahige Falls Recently, the Blue Pond has become one of Hokkaido's premier sites; the nearby Shirahige Falls spill into the same milky-blue waters of the Biei River

Hotel Check-in, Onsen & Dinner This quaint little onsen resort sits at the base of the active Mt. Tokachidake, with Shirahige Falls situated in

the heart of the village

Overnight: Mori no Ryotei Biei Ryokan or similar (kaiseki dinner & breakfast included)







### Day 3: Tokachidake, Furano, Sahoro & Tomamu Resort

Mt. Tokachidake Scenic Driving Road A winding mountain road in the southern reaches of Daisetsuzan National Park with a chance to spot red Hokkaido foxes, walk on the hardened lava of past eruptions, take a wild hot springs bath at Fukiage Onsen (mixed-bathing, bathing suits permitted, but there are no changing facilities) and enjoy incredible views

views

Tomita Farm

Visit the most famous flower fields in Hokkaido, where

ice cream and food stands abound

Lunch in Furano

Choose from a variety of great restaurants, including Kumagera, a fantastic izakaya famous for nabe and shabu-shabu, and even has bear meat on the menu!

Ningle Terrace

An artisan village of log houses set in a forest, where you can buy products directly from the artists

themselves

Drive to Sahoro

Estimated driving time is approx. 1 hr.

Sahoro Bear Mountain Safari The best bear park in Hokkaido – see the bears roam their natural habitat as you ride the park's safari bus or

walk along elevated walkways

Drive to Tomamu Resort

Estimated driving time is approx. 30 min.

Hotel Check-in & Onsen

Tomamu is a famous all-year resort tucked in the

mountains

Dinner at Tomamu Resort

Choose from a variety of restaurants at Tomamu Resort

(self-pay)

Overnight: Tomamu Resort or similar (breakfast & gondola tickets included)









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### Day 4: Tomamu Resort, Obihiro & Tokachi

Unkai Terrace Sea of Clouds	Take a ropeway in the early morning for the breathtaking beauty of the sea of clouds, a natural phenomenon seen on clear mornings from the platform at the mountain peak
Breakfast at the Hotel	You can return to the hotel for breakfast
Tokachi Millennium Forest	Visit this unique forest park, with prized garden walks, Tokachi farms food selections, segway rides & more
Drive to Obihiro	Estimated driving time is approx. 45 min.
Lunch in Obihiro	Obihiro is famous for butadon, or braised pork on rice, owing to the many pig farms in the Tokachi region; other options also available
Manabe Garden Guided Walk	Stroll around the first conifer tree garden in Japan on a guided walk with a specialist guide to appreciate the endemic trees of Hokkaido, Canada & Norway
Ryugetsu Sweetpia Garden	See the factory production line at this famous dessert house, then sample & purchase sweets at the gift shop
Tokachi Tancho	During the rice harvest period, it's magical to spot

Tokachi Tancho Crane Spotting

Drive to

tancho cranes in the rice fields in and around Obihiro

Estimated driving time is approx. 20 min

Tokachigawa Onsen Hotel Check-in,

Onsen & Dinner

Tokachigawa Onsen is a hot springs resort outside Obihiro famous for its medicinal waters

Overnight: Tokachigawa Onsen Dai-Ichi Hotel or similar (dinner & breakfast included)









#### Hokkaido Nature Tours 2-6 7-83 Ishiyama, Minami-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan Travel License No.: 3-718 (+81)11-592-3959

## Day 5: Shikaoi, Akan Lake District & Yoroushi Onsen

**Drive to Shikaoi** Estimated driving time is approx. 45 min.

**Fujita Dairy Farm**Learn about cows and dairy production, try milking a cow, and lastly, enjoy a delicious ice cream from the

farm

**Drive to Teshikaga** Estimated driving time is approx. 2 hrs. 30 min.

Lake Kussharo Sunayu & Kotan Wild Onsen Take a foot bath at this unique beach onsen, where onsen water rises up as you dig a hole in the sand; nearby is Kotan no Yu Wild Onsen, dramatically located on the shores of Lake Kussharo (separated bathing areas for men & women with basic changing facilities; bathing suits permitted; bring your own towels)

Mt. Iou Geothermal Park Experience the active volcanic area of Mt. Iou, where sulfur vents billow from the ground

Lake Mashu Sightseeing Gaze at the waters of the clearest lake in Japan, once rated as the clearest lake in the world!

Drive to Yoroushi Onsen

Estimated driving time is approx. 45 min.

Ryokan Check-in, Onsen & Dinner A unique experience in staying at one of Hokkaido's best traditional Japanese ryokans with a chance to spot the rare Blakiston's Fish Owl & Japanese sable

Overnight: Yoroushi Yuyado Dai-Ichi Ryokan or similar (kaiseki dinner & breakfast included)







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## Day 6: Shibetsu, Rausu & Utoro

Drive to Shibetsu	Estimated driving time is approx. 45 min.	
Shibetsu Salmon Park	See salmon return to their spawning grounds as they swim up river on their final journey before laying eggs	
Drive to Rausu	Estimated driving time is approx. 45 min.	
Rausu Local Products Market	Check out the variety of local marine products, such as kelp, crab, uni & salmon	
Lunch in Rausu	Rausu is said to have the best uni in Japan; Recommended: Jun no Banya, a historic building with 6 local women working in a cooperative seaside restaurant specializing in seafood	
Rausu Whale Watching Cruise	Take a midday cruise through Rausu Bay and beyond for a chance to spot whales & dolphins	
Shiretoko Pass Scenic drive	This stunning mountain pass connecting Utoro & Rausu affords grand views of Mt. Rausu and the offshore Russian islands of Kunashiri & Etorofu	

Fureppe Falls Nature Trail

This 1 - 1.5 hour nature trail is suitable for beginners, with wildlife spotting opportunities and wide sea views, albeit somewhat obscuring the waterfall itself

**Utoro Fishing Port** & Oronkoiwa Rock

See the catch of the day and the photogenic daily routine of fishermen, including mending nets, unloading boats, weighing and sorting fish. At Oronkoiwa Rock, climb the hundreds of steps to the top for the great views, and observe the busy life of seagulls who nest there

Hotel Check-in. Onsen & Dinner Utoro, located in the UNESCO World Heritage Shiretoko Peninsula, is one of Hokkaido's most famous

seaside towns with incredible seafood

Overnight: Shiretoko Kitakoubushi Resort or similar (in-room sea view onsen, dinner & breakfast included)







Day 7: Shiretoko Peninsula, Abashiri & Lake Saroma

Bear Spotting	We'll drive through Shiretoko National Park in an effort
Scenic Drive	to spot roadside bears
Shiretoko 5 Lakes Walk	After a short lecture about bear awareness, take a walk through the stunning 5 lakes region of Shiretoko along elevated flat walking trails

**Utoro Scenic Drive** & Waterfall

Enjoy a seaside drive from Utoro, with tall cliffs and the powerful Oshinkoshin Falls along the coastal road

Be it the freshest crabs & shellfish at the local seafood market, or hand rolled soba at a tiny place tucked in the Lunch in Abashiri woods, or a bowl of ramen in the interiors of a train car, Abashiri is a great place to eat!

Abashiri Prison Museum OR Okhotsk Ryuhyo Museum	The most feared prison in all of Japan during the Meiji Restoration Period – we'll see the living conditions that prisoners persevered through OR learn about drift ice in Hokkaido, the southernmost
wuseum	place on earth with drift ice

Lake Notoro Red Coral Grass	See the fall colors of the red coral grass in this marshy lake near Abashiri
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Hotel Check-in, Lake Saroma is the largest lake in Hokkaido and is Onsen & Dinner surrounded by remote countryside

Overnight: Lake Saroma Tsuruga Resort or similar (specialty dinner & breakfast included)



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## Day 8: Abashiri to Memanbetsu Airport

Drive to Memanbetsu Airport

Estimated driving time is approx. 45 min.

Drop-off at Memanbetsu Airport Drop-off in time for your departure flight; Unfortunately, this marks the end of our tour together . . . until next time!

## **Tour Price**

Tour Price (2 pax group)	¥687,400 pp
Sales Tax	¥68,740 pp
Total Tour Price	¥756,100 pp
5% Off Early-booking Tour Price*	¥718,300 pp

<sup>\*</sup> Tour price is per person based on luxury-standard accommodation; please inquire directly for exact quotes for groups other than 2 pax and/or other accommodation standards

What is included in this tour	What is not included in this tour
✓ Tour guided by an English-speaking nature guide ✓ Private transportation in a 4wd vehicle ✓ Entry and participation fees for all activities listed in the itinerary ✓ 7 nights of luxury standard hotel & ryokan accommodation whenever possible, including at least 1 night at a traditional ryokan with kaiseki dinner & in-room onsen ✓ 5 hotel/ryokan dinners ✓ Daily hotel/ryokan breakfasts ✓ Hot springs entry fees and taxes ✓ Quality photos provided following the tour	Daily lunches     2 Dinners     Wi-Fi (please ask us about mobile Wi-Fi or SIM card rental from New Chitose Airport)

	Sample Hotels for HNT Custom-Made Tours	
	Zaborin Ryokan	Niseko
*	Kuramure Ryokan	Otaru / Asarigawa
	Umi no Bettei Furukawa Ryokan	Noboribetsu
5	JR Tower Hotel Nikko Sapporo	Sapporo
*	The Windsor Hotel Toya Resort & Spa	Lake Toya
	Ki Niseko	Niseko
	Lake Shikotsu Tsuruga Resort Spa Mizu no Uta	Lake Shikotsu
	Akan Yuku no Sato Tsuruga	Lake Akan
*	Lake Toya Nanokaze Resort	Lake Toya
4	Sapporo Grand Hotel	Sapporo
*	New Furano Prince Hotel	Furano
^	Yunokawa Prince Hotel Nagisatei	Hakodate
	Dai-ichi Takimotokan Resort	Noboribetsu Onsen Resort
	Asahidake Yumoto Yukomanso Ryokan	Asahidake Onsen Resort
	Natulux Hotel	Furano
	Hotel Niseko Alpen	Niseko

<sup>\* 5%</sup> Early-booking discount available for tours booked 3 months prior to the tour date

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# **Policy & Payment Information**

#### What to Bring

Fall jacket  $\cdot$  Winter hat  $\cdot$  Thin gloves  $\cdot$  Comfortable walking shoes  $\cdot$  Raingear / collapsible umbrella  $\cdot$  Small onsen towel

If you have any questions, ask us!

#### **HNT Guiding Policy**

Paramount for HNT Tours is the safety and wellbeing of our guests. Our extensive experience in the mountains of Hokkaido and internationally gives us a profound respect for nature, and we may be forced to alter a tour itinerary if we encounter adverse conditions that may put our guests at risk. All tour activities in the itinerary are subject to modification depending on safety conditions. Your safety is our top priority.

#### **Payment Methods**

Please specify your preferred payment method for the 50% deposit:

- 1. **Domestic Bank Transfer** (no additional charges other than remitter fees)
- 2. **International Bank Transfer** (subject to bank fees of ¥4,000 per transaction in addition to remitter fees)
- 3. PayPal (subject to PayPal fees of approximately 4% per transaction)

#### **Deposit & Cancellation Policy**

A minimum 50% deposit must be received in order to confirm your tour with us at HNT. Any cancellations by any participants made prior to 30 days before the start of a tour are eligible for a 50% deposit refund (e.g. appx. 25% of the total tour price). Any cancellations by any participants made within & including 30 days before the start of a tour are not eligible for a deposit refund. Remainder payments can be settled in advance of the tour (2 weeks prior preferred) OR in cash (yen only) upon pick-up on Day 1 of the tour. Please note that tour cancellations made due to government mandated travel bans on/by Japan vis-a-vis the guest's Country of Residence will be eligible for more lenient refund policies (please inquire for details)

#### Disclaimer

We take great care in creating fantastic tours for our guests which are custom-made to match their preferences. We will endeavor to follow the itinerary to the greatest possible extent. However, if changes to an itinerary must be made due to weather conditions, guest safety concerns or unexpected delays during a tour, HNT is not responsible if aspects of a tour cannot be achieved. If aspects of a tour are missed due to reasons beyond the guest's control (such as weather related, unannounced closures, etc.), a refund will be provided for any missed activities, not including any cancellation fees imposed by hotels, operators or others.



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#### Awards, Recognition & Social Media

2020/21 Luxury Travel Guide (LTG) Private Tour Company of the Year, Global Awards

2019 Travel & Hospitality Awards Winner (THA) Nature Tour Company of the Year, Japan

2018 Travel & Hospitality Awards Winner (THA) Tour Company of the Year, Hokkaido, Japan

2017-2020 TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence / Travellers' Choice Awards

> 2017 Luxury Travel Guide (LTG) Shortlisted, Asia & Australasia Awards

2016 - Present: All Nippon Travel Agents Association (ANTA) Member, Hokkaido, Japan

























#### What Our Guests are Saying

"The most enjoyable and relaxing holiday we've ever experienced!" - A.W. (Indonesia)

"Absolutely brilliant! I would recommend these guys to anyone who wants to see the REAL Hokkaido. I was looked after with the utmost care and every one of my needs were met." - U.Y. (England)

"I can't speak highly enough of the organization: A professional guide service with a human touch, you won't go wrong with Hokkaido Nature Tours!" - Chris Tharp (America), National Geographic Traveller UK

