

# Untouched Japan

Welcome to the winter wonderland



## Eastern Hokkaido Frigid Experience Tour

8 Days with English-speaking Guides



# Tour Overview

The tour offers the Japan's 'deepest' adventures that take place in the Japan's most unspoiled area, "East Hokkaido". Since its special geographical position, the Sea of Okhotsk side of Hokkaido's coast is the southernmost place where seasonal ice floes arrive in winter, which causes great impacts on the climate, culture in the area. The temperature in winter sometimes drops under minus 30 degrees Celsius.

Let's find out how people survive in such extreme environment and try to enjoy and co-exist with it. Immerse yourself in wonderful snowy and icy worlds without worrying about anything! Jump into the sea of ice floes, snow-shoeing in the forests, and canoeing down the rivers.

Our expert guides will help you experience the breathtaking landscapes, incredible bio-diversity, and very rare natural phenomenon that all can be observed without travelling long from the temperate zone. If you're lucky, you might encounter very rare wildlife, such as red-crowned crane, Steller's sea eagle.

**Tours available: January ~ March**



# Trip Wows

- 📍 Experience the extreme cold weather, which sometimes under -30 degrees Celsius
- 📍 Learn how the local people enjoy the harsh environment
- 📍 Unique activities, such as Ice Floes Walking with the dynamic background of Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site
- 📍 Able to observe rare wildlife, such as red-crowned crane and Steller's sea eagle
- 📍 Savoring the finest quality Hokkaido seafood, vegetables, and local sake



# Unique ecosystem

## Shiretoko Peninsula

Shiretoko is a 70 km long, narrow peninsula jutting out into the Sea of Okhotsk, a range of 1,200 to 1,600 meters mountains form the backbone of the peninsula, 200 high treacherous cliffs are aligned along the coastline, which makes it inaccessible from the land.

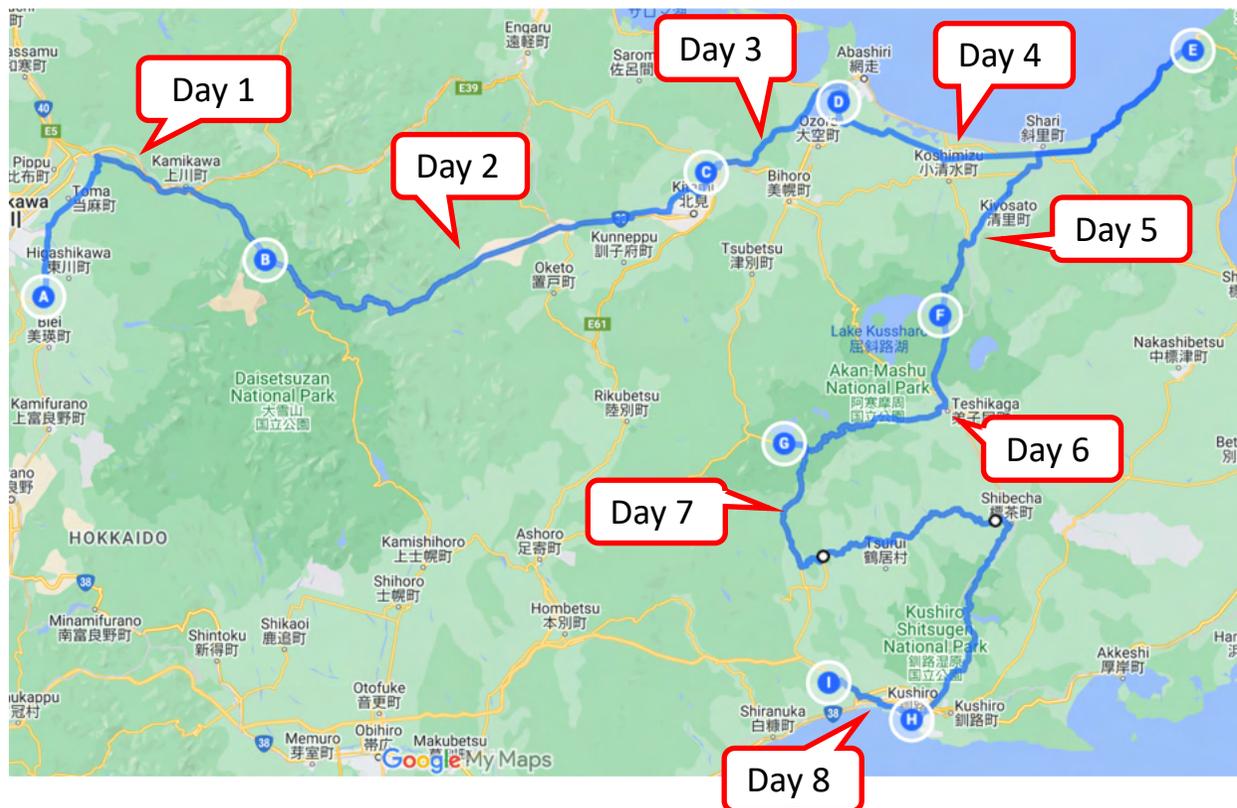
The place is a habitat for 36 land mammals, 22 marine mammals, and 285 species of birds confirmed. Among them are world widely recognized rare species, such as northern sea lion and sperm whale.

Shiretoko's best-known animal is the brown bear with one of the highest population densities in the world. Other rare species include Blakiston's fish owl, and black woodpecker.

As such, the fact that many wild animals can live within such a small area is largely due to Shiretoko's unique connection to the sea, rivers, and forests. Drift ice comes to Shiretoko in winter carry large volume of ice algae which create zooplankton plentifully, which then feed salmon fry. The salmon begin travelling in early summer and return back to Shiretoko after wandering the ocean for several years. Then, they go up the rivers, serve as food for carnivores, such as brown bears and eagles.

# Route Map

- Day 1 📍 Asahikawa Airport to Sounkyo
- Day 2 📍 Sounkyo to Kitami
- Day 3 📍 Kitami to Abashiri
- Day 4 📍 Abashiri to Utoro
- Day 5 📍 Utoro to Teshikaga
- Day 6 📍 Teshikaga to Akano Onsen
- Day 7 📍 Akanko Onsen to Kushiro
- Day 8 📍 Kushiro to Kushiro Airport



Durations: 8 days 7 nights  
Activity: Winter sports/ Wildlife watching/ Canoeing/Hiking  
Intensity: Easy

# Accommodations

- 📍 Five nights of accommodation at handpicked hotels
- 📍 Stay at various types of accommodations – Japanese traditional Hot spring inn, Luxury hotel resort, etc.
- 📍 Enjoy the local Hokkaido ingredients through Japanese traditional course meal
- 📍 Take a break and enjoy the scenic view during hot springs and saunas
- 📍 Detail requests available



# Guides and staffs

- Experienced English speaking guides with abundant local knowledge
- Interpretation, camaraderie and other supports from our guides
- Experts and local hospitality staffs provided
- Well relationships with the local connections
- Quick response against unexpected events (One-stop tour operator)



**Day 1**



**Day 3**



**Day 2**



# Day to Day - 01

## Day 1 - Meet our guests at Asahikawa Airport

Our guide will pick you up at Asahikawa Airport, move to Sounkyo by chartered car. After dinner, we will have an orientation meeting. Sounkyo is a popular winter destination located in one of the coldest places in Hokkaido at north of Daisetsuzan National Park. Nevertheless, the town offers a very unique and fantastic event with so many huge ice sculptures, ice dorms, colorful illuminations and fireworks, which will make you get hot. For those who want to have a sip, there has a ice bar that offers tasty local sake. Cheers!

## Highlights – Sounkyo Onsen Ice Fall Festival



Dinner: Japanese/ Western buffet (Hotel)



Hotel Taisetsu (Japanese style room, hot spring)

# Day to Day - 02

## Day 2 - Curling experience in Kitami

Move to Kitami and try one of the popular winter sports here, curling at a venue where many Japanese Olympians have trained. The Hall houses 3 curling sheets that meet Olympic standard. You will learn it is a great fun and not easy than you might think. Kitami is a BBQ town and the citizens love it very much. There are about 60 BBQ restaurants. Let's discover the food culture of Kitami and learn how the residents enjoy such harsh environment. Stay at **Northern Arc Resort** which offers opportunities for multiple winter adventures.

## Highlights – Curling experience, Yakiniku BBQ



Curling



Breakfast: Japanese & Western buffet (Hotel)  
Lunch : Yakiniku (BBQ restaurant)  
Dinner: Local seafood & meat cuisine (Hotel)



Northern Ark Resort (Western room)

# Day to Day - 03

## Day 3 – Fat bike riding in Northern Ark Resort

Northern Arc Resort provides a wonderful 3km course which is designed exclusively for fat bike riding so that even beginners can enjoy it safely. The excitement and thrills of biking on the fluffy snow downhill is what the ride is all about. It also offers fantastic views in all directions. Then move to Abashiri, visit Abashiri Prison Museum and learn about how the Japan's northernmost prison runs and operates prisoners. Stay at Abashiri which is a port city that faces the Sea of Okhotsk. It is well-known for freshly caught seafood, such as scallop, oysters.

## Highlights – Fat bike riding, Abashiri Prison Museum



Fat bike riding (2 hours)  
Intensity: Easy (★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ )



Breakfast: Buffet (Hotel)  
Lunch: Prison meals (Abashiri Prison Museum)  
Dinner: Local seafood (Local restaurant)



Route-inn Abashiri (Western style room)



Day 4



Day 5



# Day to Day - 04

## Day 4 – Crusie the sea of Okhotsk with ice floes

The boat moves through the ice field, making dynamic sounds of the huge ices clashing as it goes. Seasonal ice floes bring a lot of benefits to the land. During the 1-hour cruise, passengers can observe ice floes up close from the cabin and learn how the seasonal ice floes affect the area's nature and ecosystem. If you are lucky, you might encounter harbor seals and Steller's sea eagle.

## Highlights – Drift Ice Boat Tour



Drift Ice Boat Tour (1 hour)



Breakfast Buffet (Hotel)  
Lunch: Seafood Ramen (Restaurant)  
Dinner: Japanese-style seafood (Hotel)



Shiretoko Village (Japanese style room)

# Day to Day - 05

## Day 5 –Ice floes walk & Shiretoko Five Lakes snowshoeing

Put on a dry-suits and jump into the cold water covered with ice floes! It's not joking. The air temperature is -15 degrees Celsius and the water temperature is -2 °C. Is this Cold? Nope. The guide gives you a warm rubber suit and teaches you how to enjoy the tour safely. This will be an absolutely once-in-a-lifetime experience. After lunch walk around the Shiretoko's signature Five Lakes wearing snowshoes. Stay at Kawayu Onsen which maintain one of the finest hot springs in Hokkaido.

**Requirements:** Participants must be at least 140 cm in height and 100 kg or lower in weight

**Recommended Season:** February-March

## Highlights – Ice floes walk, Five Lakes snowshoeing



① Shiretoko Ice Floes walk (90mins)  
Intensity: Easy (★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ )

② Five Lakes Snowshoeing (3hrs)  
Intensity: Easy (★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ )



Breakfast: Buffet (Hotel)  
Lunch: Local seafood (Local restaurant)  
Dinner: Japanese course meal (Hotel)



Kawayu Onsen Kinkiyu (Japanese style room)

Day 6



Day 8



Day 7



# Day to Day - 06

## Day 6 – Experience active volcanoes, scenic lakes and ainu culture

Lake Kussharo is Japan's largest caldera lake with thermal hot springs dotted around the lake where you might see unique natural phenomenon, such as diamond dust, frost flower, etc. Taking a dip in a natural hot spring with whooper swans which will be an unforgettable memory. Mt. Io is a sulfur mountain with many hot springs and volcanic vents creating an awe-inspiring scenery. Lake Mashu is a wonderful blue lake sometimes described as "Mashu Blue". Before stay at the hotel in Akanko Onsen, we will take you to the special place around Lake Akan's forests where only authorized Ainu guides are allowed to enter. You will learn their way of thinking about the world and the deep association between the natural world and personal philosophy and culture.

## Highlights – Whooper swans watching, Mt. Io, Lake Mashu, Ainu culture experience



Mystic forest walking tour (Indigenous Ainu guides)  
Intensity: Easy (★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ )



Breakfast : Buffet (Hotel)  
Lunch: Traditional Ainu cuisine (Restaurant)  
Dinner: Local Cuisine (Local restaurant)



Akan Yuku no Sato Tsuruga  
(hot springs, rooftop hot baths, sauna)

# Day to Day - 07

## Day 7 – Ice Fishing & Steam locomotive riding through the wetland

Try ice fishing on Lake Akan! The target is wakasagi, or Japanese pond smelt. The fish is tiny but the thrill of sensing the small tugs of the fish at the lake bottom is what the ice fishing is all about. After fishing, savor your tasty catches at a restaurant. After that, move to Kushiro city by riding a steam locomotive through the Kushiro Marshland. It is the only railway which pass through a national park either a wetland in Japan. Since the wetland maintain a very unique ecosystem, you may see various types of wildlife such as red-crowned crane, white-tailed eagle, Stella's sea eagle and Ezo deer.

## Highlights – Ice fishing, Wakasagi lunch, Steam locomotive riding, Kushiro wetland



Ice Fishing (2 hours)  
Intensity: Easy (★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ )



Breakfast : Buffet (Hotel)  
Lunch: Deep fried Wakasagi (Restaurant)  
Dinner: Local special grilled seafood (Restaurant)



Kushiro Prince hotel (western style room)

# Day to Day - 08

## Day 8 – Meet the beautiful red crowned crane and learn about the preservation

Enjoy a special breakfast at Washo market which can make your own original rice bowl! Kushiro is a coastal city where well-known for delicious fishery and people here usually enjoy finest seafood cuisine. Create your special dish with communicating with the fishermen. After that, meet beautiful red crowned cranes at Akan town before heading to Kushiro Airport. Red crowned cranes once listed as endangered animals. They used to be living in the deep wetland but can be easily observed during winter since of lacking food. You can explore how local people act on preservation in the last few decades.

## Highlights – Original rice bowl, red crowned crane observation



Act.

Red-crowned crane observation



Meals

Breakfast : Original rice bowl (Washo market)  
Lunch: Local cuisine (Restaurant)

# Tour Overview

**Locations** : East Hokkaido, Sounkyo, Shiretoko Natural World Heritage Site, Akan Mashu National Park, Utoro, Kushiro Shitsugen National Park

**Main Activity** : Activities and experience under extreme cold conditions

**Difficulty** : 1/5 (Very easy)

**Pax** : Minimum 6 Max 10



**Tour dates recommended:**  
January to March



**Price** : For each person  
JPY ¥ 382,200 ~

# Organization Profile

Organization name: Akan Adventure Tourism Co., Ltd.

Head Office: 2-6-20 Akanko Onsen, Akan-cho,  
Kushiro-shi, Hokkaido, JAPAN

Establishment: April 2, 2018

Representative Director: Masayuki Onishi

Capital: ¥ 400 million

Our works: Organization of accommodations, meals, sightseeing, activities and transportations

Entertainments development and promotion

Development and management of adventure tourism based tours and programs

For any inquiry, please feel free to ask via [tour@akanat.co.jp](mailto:tour@akanat.co.jp)

