

# Sapporo & Otaru **KURISUMASU SHOPPING** &



**XMAS** Lights Weekend



November 22nd – 27th, 2022

**Cancel for any reason up to 60 days prior-FULL REFUND!**

**4nts/6days from: \$1995 triple; \$2,095 double and \$2295 single**

*Each month there are fascinating events in Sapporo and November is filled with festivities. Be it the White Illumination that highlights the beauty of winter in Sapporo or the German Christmas Market offering a taste of European flair, it's all here!*

*Enjoy two illuminations, the Sapporo White Illumination, the oldest illumination event in Japan, with a history of over 30 years and then Shiroi Koibito Park for their annual Kurisumasu illumination.*

*The month-long German Christmas Market, started in 2002 when the city marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its sister-city ties with Munich, Germany is always a fun filled. Stalls selling Christmas items, hot wine, and German food are set up at Odori Park. There are also outdoor concerts, indoor workshops, and if you're lucky you might receive a gift from Santa Claus!*

*It's only the beginning as we also include a day trip to Otaru, where you can walk along of the rows of antique buildings that will whisk you back in time. Enjoy walking along Sakaimachi Shopping Street where time seems to slow down as you meander through glassmakers, seafood shops, bakeries, sushi restaurants and as the street ends, the Music Box Hall, a must stop.*

*We have included Tanaka Sake Brewery, Sapporo TV Tower, Nijo Fish Market, Okurayama Ski Jump, a complete free shopping day in Sapporo, and shopping time at Chitose's domestic terminal.*

## Itinerary/Details

**Day 1 – November 22nd, 2022, Tuesday – Depart from Honolulu**

**Hawaiian Airlines #441 Departs Honolulu 12:40 pm – Arrive Chitose 5:00 pm + 1**

Please meet your Panda Travel representative at the Hawaiian Airlines international check-in counters located in Terminal 2, Lobby 4 a minimum of 3 hours prior to the departure time.

**Day 2 – November 23rd, 2022, Wednesday – Chitose – Sapporo**

After passport control and customs, we will meet our local English-speaking guide for the charter bus ride to Sapporo. The drive time is just under one hour.

Accommodations for our stay in Sapporo are at the Century Royal Hotel Sapporo, a 4-star hotel in the perfect city center spot, around the corner from the JR Station and an elevator ride down to a huge underground shopping mall. We guarantee you will not need for dining or shopping options.

There is a 24-hour convenience store on the ground level; however, with our early evening arrival, there will be a variety of dining and shopping options available.



**Accommodations: Century Royal Hotel Sapporo** **Free**

**Day 3 – November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Thursday –Sapporo (B)**

After breakfast, please meet your guide by 8:30am as we are off on a leisurely, fulfilled day exploring Sapporo. Today, off to discover one of the city’s best shopping arcades, a historical 100-year-old fish market, the 42nd Sapporo White Illumination, and German Christmas Market.

The morning begins with a visit the Nijo Fish Market, developed in the early Meiji Period when fishermen from Ishikari Bay began selling fresh fish here. There used to be a row of fish markets running from Nishi 1-chome to Higashi 2-chome along the bank opposite the Sosei River. Eventually, noodle shops, bars, and greengrocers opened, laying the foundations for today’s Nijo Market. The market continues to serve residents’ culinary needs as well is now popular with tourists in search of Hokkaido souvenirs such as crabs and scallops.

Just steps away, Tanukikoji Shopping Street, Sapporo’s oldest covered shopping arcade, with over 200 shops. Here you will find old and traditional merchants selling kimonos, tea, or incense side by side with modern stores specializing in computers and software or state-of-the-art electronics and digital cameras – all of which lends it a bazaar-like quality. Some of the popular shops that Hawaii folks enjoy are all here, a multi-story 108-yen Daiso, as well 24-hour Don Quijote. Enjoy free time to shop and have lunch on your own.

Now, off to visit to Odori Park to enjoy time at the 42nd Sapporo White Illumination and German style Christmas Market.

The White Illumination is a classical event held annually here in Sapporo. With snow falling as early as mid-November, your dreams of a white Christmas come true, and many areas of the city are lit up with fairy lights and decorations, setting the festive mood. In all of Japan, Sapporo is the best place to experience “true” Christmas. The lights stay on until late in the evening, so do feel free to return for a romantic late-night walk!

Close-by, in sight of the Sapporo TV Tower, a small village welcomes you to Christmas cheer, the German Christmas Market. Held since 2002 as a celebration to honor the anniversary of its sister city, Munich, the market offers up a true holiday feel as you walk around the stalls lined with Christmas items, original mugs, hot wine, German foods, and more.

Now, up to the observation deck of the Sapporo TV Tower for incredible views as you look down onto Odori Park and as far off as Mt. Okura, home to Okurayama Ski Jump Stadium which we will be visiting later in the tour. Built in 1957, the tower stands at a height of 147.2 meters. Enjoy time on the observation deck and on the way down, no visit is complete without a stop at the gift shop.

We now make our way back to our hotel, just a short distance away. The arrival will be by 4:00pm and the remainder of the afternoon and evening is free.

As you know by now, the location of our hotel is simply second to none. Daimaru and Stellar Place, steps away, offering never-ending floors of shops and eateries. It is simply mind boggling and will have you shopping and eating to your heart's content. For the techies, Esta next to Stellar Place is a delight with its nine floors of high-tech gadgets and other electronics.



**Sapporo TV Tower**



**Tanukikoji Shopping Street**



**Nijo Fish Market**



Accommodations: Century Royal Hotel Sapporo **Free**

### Day 4 – November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Friday –Sapporo-Otaru-Sapporo (B)

After breakfast, please meet your guide in the lobby by 9:00am as we are off to Otaru. From old days, when they sailed trading boats from Honshu-mainland to Hokkaido, this city played important roles as the center of trade or commerce, not to mention fishery in Hokkaido. Walking along the main streets, you find a charming and nostalgic city filled with historic architecture.

Here you will find the old remnant of Otaru’s major industry, glassware shops. Glass buoys were used to light up fishing boats at night to attract herrings. A glass industry flourished in Otaru to support the herring trade. When the herring fishing industry declined in the 1950s, the makers of glass buoys diverted their business to produce refined glassware, as the demand for buoys plunged. The result today are numerous glass shops, which now cater mainly to souvenir hungry tourists. If you think that blown glassware is only made in Venice, then you are wrong.

The city is renowned for its glassworks, music boxes, and sweet shops that can be found lining Sakaimachi Street. As you near the end of Sakaimachi Street, look and listen when you come to the vintage steam clock at the front of the charming Music Box Museum. The nostalgic atmosphere inside the main building of the museum takes you back in time. The museum houses almost 15,000 music boxes, ranging from matchbox sized souvenirs to precisely tuned masterpieces. The Music Box Museum has something for everybody, from The Beatles to the latest J-pop hits.

Another must stop is at the Kitaichi Glass Shop where you can enjoy looking and shopping for beautiful glassware. How about making glassware on your own with the help of the artisans?

Another famous landmark in Otaru is the Kitakaro confectionary shop. The cake and confectionery store is a popular stop for tourists and locals alike. There is a cult like following of its famous honeyed wheeled layered cakes and there are good reasons why. The layered cakes are delicate and the honey flavored intense, but not too sweet. Sit and enjoy at the small café right in the store. Coffee, tea, and ice cream are also available.

Enjoy a leisurely lunch on your own at one of many restaurants just steps away. Otaru is well known for its beer, and Otaru Beer, next to the canal, is a popular restaurant with a medieval Germanic theme. If sushi is more to your liking, a stroll down to Sushi-dori Street is well worth your time. You will find a collection of some 20 sushi restaurants.



This afternoon, a visit to the Tanaka Sake Brewery for tastings and time at their gift shop. Founded in 1899 by Ichitaro Tanaka, the great, great grandfather of the brewery's current president. During Otaru’s golden years, there were as many as 40 breweries here, but today, it is the one and only.

Using only 100% Hokkaido grown rice, water, yeast, and koji, the brewery always has at least 10 varieties of sake available to sample. In addition to the standard junmai and daiginjo varieties, do try the less common sparkling, cloudy, aged and fruit-flavored sake.

As we make our way back to Sapporo, a must-do visit at Shiroi Koibito Park, a theme park by Ishiya, a local chocolate company. The company's flagship product is the Shiroi Koibito cookie, which consists of two thin butter cookies and a layer of white chocolate in between. These cookies are the best souvenirs from Sapporo!

The park consists of a free area with a shop, cafe, and restaurant and most interestingly, large windows so that you can observe the candy production process. The first glimpse of the building doesn't compare to the wonderland inside while outside it is complete with all sorts of winter decorations and illuminations. We purposely left this stop for last, to enjoy the illuminations under the evening sky.

At this time of the year, it is especially fun as the park's inner courtyard is illuminated with approximately 110,000 lights along with a 10-meter Christmas tree, Santa sleigh, cute snowmen, creating a fantastic winter wonderland atmosphere.

Enjoy time to shop and explore the grounds.

Arrival back at our hotel will be by 5:00pm and the remainder of the evening is free.



### Shiroi Koibito Park



**Accommodations: Century Royal Hotel Sapporo** **Free**

### Day 5 – Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Saturday –Sapporo (B)

After breakfast, enjoy a complete free day sightsee and shop at your leisure. If you would like to go back to Tanukikoji Shopping Street and not sure how to get there, your Panda Travel escort will set up a meeting time to walk over via the underground route.

This afternoon or evening do walk back over and enjoy the festivities at the German Market and Illumination festival at Odori Park.



**Accommodations: Century Royal Hotel Sapporo** **Free**

### Day 6 – Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Sunday –Sapporo-Chitose (B)

After breakfast, please meet your guide in the lobby by 9:00am. It is our last day on tour, but much to see and do!

The morning begins with a visit at the Okurayama Ski Jump Stadium. Constructed in 1931, the stadium was featured in the 1972 Winter Olympics, when it was home to the 90m ski jump competition. It is still used for ski jump competitions throughout the year.

A five-minute ride on the ski lift brings you to the top of the mountain, during which time you can catch a glimpse of what it's like to be a ski jumper. The viewing lounge at the far top of the mountain comes steadily closer, and the steeply sloping approach stretches out along one side. Seeing the takeoff point at such a close distance will surely give you a taste of what it's like to ski jump, as well as what it feels like to be an athlete.

Looking back once you have reached the top of the lift, you can enjoy panoramic views of the city of Sapporo. This refreshing experience will probably make you wish that the climb would last forever!



### **Okurayama Ski Jump Stadium**

From here, time at the Aeon Mall Sapporo Hassamu for lunch on your own along with shopping time. Among the many shops, you will find the popular 100-yen, Seria and 3COINS, where most of the items sold are 300-yen.

We now bid our good-byes to Sapporo and make our way to the Chitose Airport for an early arrival to allow you time to visit and shop at the popular domestic terminal. Yes, there will be time for you to rearrange your bags before checking in for the flight. We will arrange an area to secure your bags while shopping.

**Hawaiian Airlines #442 Departs Chitose 7:45 pm – Arrive Honolulu 7:45 am (same day)**