

Join Panda Travel in...



2023 Hokkaido's Great Northern Summer Tour + Rebun and Rishiri Islands

(GP12942)



Cancel for any reason up to 70 days prior to departure date for a **FULL REFUND!**

July 20 - 30, 2023
9 Nights/ 11 Days

*Otaru - Furano - Biei - Asahikawa - Nayoro
- Wakkanai - Rebun - Rishiri - Sapporo*

\$75 OFF PER PERSON
when you pay with a personal check/cash

\$5,280*
per person-triple occupancy

\$5,280*
per person-double occupancy

\$5,959*
per single occupancy

pandaonline.com

(808) 734-1961

1017 Kapahulu Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816

A minimum of 16 participants is required for the tour to operate

Itinerary

Hokkaido's Great Northern Summer Tour

- Airplane
- - - Bus
- Ferry



Day 1: (Thu) July 20 - Honolulu
Depart Honolulu 14:20 via Hawaiian Airlines #441

Please meet the Panda Travel representative **3 hours prior to departure** at the Hawaiian Airlines check-in counters.

Day 2: (Fri) July 21 - Chitose-Otaru

17:50 HA 441 arrives at New Chitose Airport

18:50 Meet guide at arrival lobby/transfer to hotel – The drive time to our hotel in Otaru is approx. 90 mins.

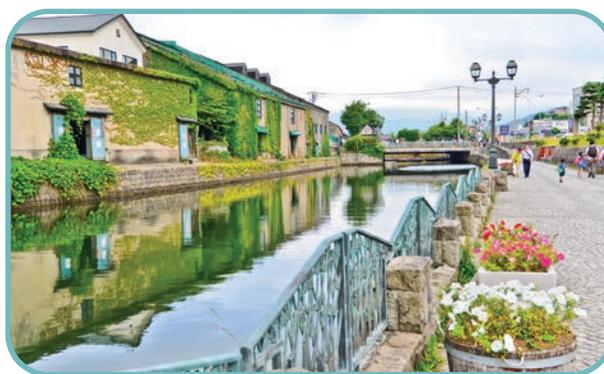
20:20 Arrive at Grand Park Otaru (Free WiFi) – After check-in, the remainder of the evening is free. The hotel is located inside a shopping mall with restaurants and is within walking distance from a AEON supermarket for quick snack, hot food, and beverage pickups.

Day 3: (Sat) July 22 - Otaru-Furano (B/D)

Breakfast at the hotel

8:45 Meet guide at lobby – Welcome to Otaru, the “sea entrance to Hokkaido” and a romantic port town with a rich history as a major herring center. Otaru was also the terminus for Hokkaido’s first railroad, and today, nostalgic warehouses and buildings still line its picturesque canal district.

→ **Otaru Sakaimachi Stroll** – Today, we’ll explore Sakaimachi Street, an avenue lined with Otaru’s famous glassworks, music boxes, and sweet shops. As you near the end of Sakaimachi Street, you’ll come across the Music Box Museum’s renowned vintage clock. The museum houses 15,000 music boxes playing a variety of sounds including classical concertos, hits from the Beatles, and the latest J-pop tunes. Another must visit is the Kitaichi Glass Shop, which was once a glass supplier for the Otaru fishing community and is now a store filled with beautiful glassworks. For a sweet time, visit the Kitakaro confectionary shop and try the famous multi-layered honey wheeled cakes that have a cult-like following. We’ll then journey to Furano, a picturesque town located in the center of Hokkaido. We’ll be visiting Furano during its famous lavender season!



Day 3 - Otaru Canal

→ **Sunagawa Highway Oasis** – Operated by Hokkaido’s major manufacturers, this popular roadside station and cafeteria is the perfect place to find Hokkaido specialties including melons, whole crabs, famous stuffed squid from Hakodate, Royce chocolates, Japanese sweets, as well as wood carved items and other souvenirs. And it’s tax free! Enjoy lunch on your own here.

→ **Ohashi Cherry Farm** – Get your baskets ready for this hands-on cherry picking activity. Only 30 mins outside of Furano, the Ohashi Cherry Farm is home to 1,500 trees of 60 varieties that bear sweet, fully ripe cherries.

→ **Furano Winery** – Located on a hill overlooking the town of Furano, this winery offers beautiful panoramic views while you sip on some wine, peruse the winery shop, and unwind with the aroma of the nearby lavender field.

17:15 Arrive at New Furano Prince Hotel (Free WiFi) – Feel free to enjoy the hot springs and other neighborhood activities before or after dinner. The Kaze no Garden, an English garden with 20,000 plants of 365 flower varieties and an authentic cottage, is only a 2 min. walk from the hotel. You can also visit Furano Dorama Kan, a shop with a selection of paper goods, and Ningle Terrace, a shopping area nestled in a forest of shops designed as wooden cabins.

18:30 Buffet dinner at hotel

Day 4: (Sun) July 23 - Furano-Biei-Asahikawa (B/L)

Breakfast at hotel

9:00 Meet guide at lobby

→ **Furano cheese factory** – Here, we'll observe the local camembert-type cheese production process and nibble on some cheese samples, including a squid ink infused black cheese. There's also a pizzeria and ice cream parlor where you can make your own ice cream!

→ **Flower Land Kamifurano** – Our tour includes a tractor bus ride for a more leisurely way to enjoy the lavender, salvia, and lilies that burst with color in the summer. On the other side of Flower Land is a large barn that holds an eatery, souvenir shop, and local goods and produce. The highlight, Furano melon sampling, is a fan favorite!

→ Lunch at a local restaurant

→ **Shikisai-no-Oka (Four Seasons Hill)** – The vibrant display of colors at this flower garden carpet the 37 acre field and change with the seasons. From April to October, you can smell the wonderful fragrance of these flowers in bloom.

→ **Biei Blue Pond + Drive along "patchwork road"** – We'll continue to Biei, a small town surrounded by a picturesque landscape of gentle rolling hills and vast fields. We'll first visit Blue Pond, an unnatural yet enchanting bright blue body of water that changes its hue depending on the viewing angle and time of day. We'll then make a drive along the scenic northwest area of the Biei, aptly named the "patchwork road" for the appearance of its fields. Over the years, the area's beauty has garnered the attention of marketing professionals who have used the scenic area for commercials and package-label designs.

17:30 Arrive at JR Inn Asahikawa (Free WiFi) – Our hotel is connected to the JR Asahikawa Station and offers a direct elevator to AEON Mall for evening shopping. Unwind at the hotel's indoor and outdoor public baths (onsen) with views of the surrounding countryside. Enjoy your evening at leisure.

Day 5: (Mon) July 24 - Asahikawa (B)

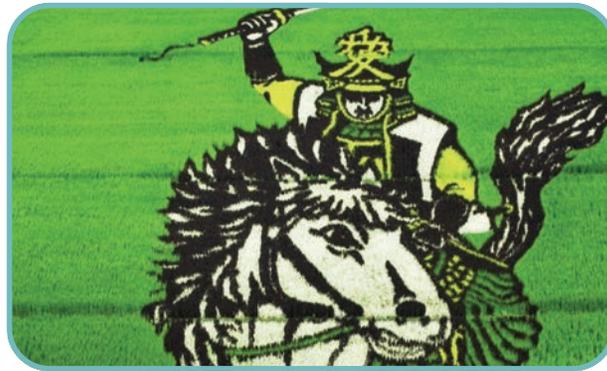
Breakfast at hotel

8:50 Meet guide at lobby

→ **Ainu Kawamura Kaneto Museum** – Built in 1916 and in the traditional Ainu style, this museum is an ode to the history, culture, and lifestyle of the native Kamikawa Ainu people who inhabit the lands surrounding the Sea of Okhotsk like Hokkaido Island. Through a collection of artifacts and storytelling, the museum celebrates this beautiful indigenous culture.

→ **Rice Paddy Art** – Here, you'll find an incredible display of Japanese innovation, design, and community effort. Using the rice paddy as its massive canvas, villagers harvest 6 types of colored plants to paint an agricultural masterpiece.

More impressive is that the art theme changes annually! We'll marvel at this work of art from the observation deck.



Day 5 - Rice Paddy Art

→ **Asahikawa Ramen Village** – Enjoy lunch on your own at this iconic gathering place of 8 of Asahikawa's most famous ramen shops. Asahikawa ramen is distinctive from its other regional counterparts in its thin, hard, and wavy ramen noodles that are submerged in a shoyu based broth coated with a thin layer of oil.

→ **Nihon Shoyu Kogyo** – This is the home of Hokkaido's leading soy sauce manufacturer with products that some say "taste like Asahikawa." While there, spend some time picking up a few specialty goodies or sampling their soy sauce popsicles!

→ **Takasago Sake Brewery** – Established in 1899, this brewery is the oldest kura in northern Japan and a major contributor to Asahikawa's past prominence as a large sake producer. This area is also known for its harsh winters, with temperatures regularly dropping to -20C, creating the perfect sake brewing environment. Taste, shop, and experience the sake tradition of old Japan.

16:15 Return to JR Inn Asahikawa (Free WiFi) – Across from the station, you'll find Kaimono Koen, a pedestrian-only outdoor mall that is Asahikawa's main shopping area. Among the many restaurants and shops is the well-known Seibu Department Store and Nitta, a shop featuring traditional Japanese toys and decorations.

Day 6: (Tues) July 25 - Asahikawa-Nayoro-Wakkanai (B/L/D)



Day 6 - Sun Pillar Park Sunflower Fields

Breakfast at hotel

8:30 Meet guide at lobby – Our drive time to Nayoro, “the city covered in sunflowers,” is approx. 105 mins.

→ **Sun Pillar Park Sunflower Fields** – Bask in the beauty of the sunflowers that blanket the fields. The 2011 Japanese film, “Star Watching Dog,” was filmed here.

→ **Lunch at a local restaurant + Drive to Soya Cape** (2 hrs)

→ **Otonrui Windmills** (along the way)



Day 6 - The Monument of the Northernmost Point of Japan

→ **Soya Cape** – A popular stopping point for visitors and outdoor enthusiasts, the cape offers notable monuments, gift shops, a windmill, and a lighthouse. Standing proudly at the tip of Cape Soya is “The Monument of the Northernmost Point of Japan,” which draws its design inspiration from the North Star. In clear weather, you can spot Sakhalin, a Russian island that was once a part of Japan and was discovered by Japanese explorer, Rinzo Mamiya. Today, his name is memorialized in a statue on the cape and on the Japanese world map as “Mamiya Strait.”

17:30 Arrive at Dormy Inn Wakkanai (Free WiFi) – Unwind at the hotel’s hot springs, spa, and sauna during your stay.

18:30 Dinner at a local restaurant

20:30 Return to hotel

Day 7: (Wed) July 26 - Wakkanai-Rebun (B/L/D)

Please prepare an overnight bag for the next 2 days (limit 1 bag/person). Courier services will deliver the luggages from Wakkanai to Sapporo.

Breakfast at hotel

8:30 Meet guide at lobby

→ **Fukko Market** – As Japan’s northernmost market, Fukko Market is an oasis for all things Hokkaido. Here, you’ll find fresh fish, vegetables, regional snacks, a cafeteria, and a cafe that offers soft serve topped with Hokkaido specialty, Shiroy Koibito (smooth chocolate sandwiched between 2 light cookies).

→ **Kita Bouhatei Dome** – Modeled after Greek architecture and built to withstand the area’s harsh winds and waves, this dome is the only breakwater design of its kind in the

world. In Oct. 2001, this symbol of Wakkanai earned a spot on Hokkaido Heritage’s list.



Day 7 - Interactive uni (sea urchin) experience

10:00 Arrive at Wakkanai Port

10:30 Transfer by Ferry from Wakkanai Port to Kafuka Port, Rebun Island

12:30 Arrive at Kafuka Port, Rebun Island – Monikered “Lands’ End,” Rebun Island is the northernmost remote island in Japan and is recognized for its rich flora. The now extinct Japanese sea lion frequented this area in the ‘70s!

→ **Lunch at a local restaurant**

→ **Unimaki Center** – Coupled with its prime geographic location and surrounding ocean currents, Rebun Island is home to high quality uni (sea urchin). At this center, we’ll learn how to harvest, clean, and prepare uni before we sample this delicacy!

→ **Cape Sukai** – At this perfect vantage point, the sky meets the cobalt blue of the sea and the flowering plants of 300 species contrast against the dark hues of the rugged terrain.

17:00 Arrive at Mitsui Kanko Hotel – Relax at this hot spring hotel with onsens that overlook the ocean.

18:30 Japanese style dinner at hotel

Day 8: (Thu) July 27 - Rebun-Rishiri (B/L/D)

Breakfast at hotel

9:45 Meet guide at lobby

10:25 Transfer by Ferry from Kafuka Port, Ruben Island to Oshidomari Port, Rishiri Island

→ **Lunch at a local restaurant**

→ **Otatomari Swamp** – Unlike your typical swamp, you’ll find a beautiful blue pond with stunning views of Mount Rishiri in the background. There’s also a small cafe that sells fresh seafood, as well as ice cream with regional flavors like rosehip and bamboo grass!

→ **Semposhi Misaki Park** – Located along the coastline, this historic site offers some of the best views on the island and is home to many aquatic life, including seals!

→ **Rishiri Town Museum** – Here, we’ll learn about Rishiri’s

history, culture, and community.

16:45 Arrive at Island Inn Rishiri – Overlooking the Sea of Japan and Mount Rishiri, this hotel features stunning sunset viewing, which can be enjoyed from the dining room, outdoor bath, and the observation deck.

18:30 Buffet dinner at hotel



Day 8 - View of Mount Rishiri at Otomari Swamp

Day 9: (Fri) July 28 - Rishiri-RIS-CTS-Sapporo (B/L/D)

Breakfast at hotel

10:00 Meet guide at lobby

→ **Fujinoenchi Park** – Located on the northern part of the island, this scenic spot offers gorgeous views of the grasslands with daylilies in full bloom.

→ **Lunch at a local Restaurant**

13:00 Arrive at Rishiri Airport

14:15 Fly by ANA (NH 4930), from Rishiri Airport to New Chitose Airport

15:10 Arrive at New Chitose Airport

15:45 Transfer by chartered coach from New Chitose Airport to hotel

16:45 Arrive at Century Royal Hotel (Free WiFi) – Enjoy your stay here for the next 2 nights.

→ **Hokkaido kani (crab) dinner**

Day 10: (Sat) July 29 - Sapporo-Free day at leisure (B)

Breakfast at hotel

→ **Enjoy your free day at leisure** – The day is yours to explore Sapporo! Not too far from the hotel are plenty of shopping and sightseeing opportunities, as well as cafes and restaurants. Have fun!

Day 11: (Sun) July 30 - Sapporo-New Chitose Airport-Honolulu (B)

Breakfast at hotel

9:30 Meet guide at lobby

→ **Okurayama Ski Jump** – Constructed in 1931, the stadium was home to the 90m ski jump competition during the 1972 Sapporo Winter Olympic Games and is still used for competitions today. At the foot of the jump hill is the Sapporo Winter Sports Museum, which commemorates the 1992 Sapporo Winter Olympics and winter sports like ski jump, bobsled, and biathlon. Together, we'll ride a ski lift to the peak where a viewing lounge will provide us with a spectacular view of Sapporo, the Ishikari Plain, and Ishikari Bay. This is also the ideal location to view the start line of the ski jump - look below at the steep slope to put yourself in the skiers' boots right before they begin their jumps!

→ **Sapporo Central Wholesale Market (Jogai)** – This market offers some of the freshest fish and produce in Japan. At the "Curb Market," you can find approx. 60 stores selling everything from fruits to seasonal goods. Pick up some fresh crab and salmon sushi, a donburi bowl, or other regional delicacies as you enjoy lunch on your own here.

→ **Sapporo Tanukikoji Shopping Street** – Sapporo's oldest (since 1868!) covered shopping arcade stretching 10 blocks with 200 stores. Here, you'll find merchant stalls from the old world and the new, selling traditional goods like kimonos and tea sets alongside electronics and tech accessories. You'll also find Hawaii favorites like a multi-story Daiso, a 24-hour Mega Don Quijote, and a variety of dining options.

16:15 Arrive at New Chitose Airport – Enjoy some free time to browse at stores in and around the airport or at the duty-free for more last-minute shopping before we fly home.

19:50 Depart from New Chitose Airport by HA442 for Honolulu.

8:25am Arrive in Honolulu (same day).

Thank you for traveling with us!



Need to Know...



Payment Policy

- » **Reserve with \$75 per person deposit. Refundable up to 60 days prior to departure date, April 29, 2023.**
- » **Final payment due by May 11, 2023. Package is non-refundable after this date.**

* Fares and Fees (Priced in USD)

- » Are subject to change in light of fuel supplements, taxes, and differences in costs.
- » Air ticket fare is guaranteed, but taxes, fees, and fuel surcharges are subject to change until tickets are issued, approximately 45 days out.
- » We reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary with or without notice.



Special Assistance

- » You must inform us of any disability/impairment that requires special attention at the time of your making the reservation.
- » We reserve the right to cancel the reservation(s) if the disability/impairment is unsuitable for the tour.
- » You are also responsible for any costs and/or accommodations related to your disability/impairment, such as providing your own travel companion.



Travel Insurance

- » We highly recommend the purchase of trip insurance. Please ask our representatives for more information.



Travel Documents

- » A valid passport is required for all U.S. citizens and must be valid and not expire at least 6 months from the return tour date.
- » Non-U.S. passport holders must check with the Japanese Consulate to see if a visa is required.



Land Tour Operator & Costs

- » Land Tour Operator is Nippon Travel Agency.
- » Land Tour costs are based on current currency conversion rates, which are subject to change.



Other remarks

- » Not Included in the tour: Gratuities for local English speaking guide; additional baggage fee charges from the airlines; alcohol and soft drinks with meals.
- » A minimum of 16 participants are required for the tour to operate.
- » You are expected to abide by domestic and international government and accommodation policies related to health, safety, and welfare.