

Join Panda Travel in...



2024 Hokkaido Spring Break Ski & Snowboard Tour

(GPI3054)



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

March 16 - 24, 2024
7 Nights/ 9 Days

*Haneda - Asahikawa - Otaru - Niseko -
Sapporo - Chitose*

\$100 OFF PER PERSON
when you pay with a personal check/cash

\$3,989*

per person-triple occupancy

\$3,989*

per person-double occupancy

\$4,488*

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

Day 1: (Sat) March 16 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu 12:20pm via Hawaiian Airlines 863

→ Meet the Panda Travel representative 3 hrs prior to departure at the Hawaiian Airlines check-in counters.

Day 2: (Sun) March 17 – Haneda Airport

Haneda Excel Hotel Tokyu (Free WiFi)

→ 5:10pm – Arrive at Haneda Airport. Meet your local English speaking assistant at the arrival lobby. Our accommodation tonight is the **Haneda Excel Hotel Tokyu**, which is on the airport grounds and just a short walk away.

Day 3: (Mon) March 18 – Haneda-Asahikawa Airport-Asahikawa (B)

JR Inn Asahikawa (Free WiFi) - [Enjoy onsen](#)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ Fly by domestic flight from Haneda to Asahikawa. (To be advised)

→ Once we arrive, meet your local English speaking tour guide at the arrival lobby. We'll start our full day tour in Asahikawa.

→ 10:45am — Here we're at **Asahiyama Zoo**, which is esteemed for its wildlife and its innovative viewing displays. Visitors can wander through underwater tunnels for up-close views of penguins as they dart through the water, trace the flight of scops owls overhead, and observe wolves and polar bears through glass display domes that put thrill-seekers at eye level with them. With over 800 animals, Asahiyama Zoo is one of the most popular attractions in the archipelago.

→ 1:15pm — Enjoy lunch on your own at **Asahikawa Ramen Village**, where it offers 8 ramen outlets in one location. Asahikawa is famous for its shoyu based broth coated with a thin layer of oil, unlike Sapporo's miso-based broth and Hakodate's salt-based broth. Asahikawa ramen is also distinctive for its thin, hard, and wavy noodles.

→ 2:30pm — Now, a stop at the acclaimed **Otokoyama Sake Brewery**, which was founded in 1661 and became the official sake-maker for aristocrats during the Edo period. Otokoyama garnered fame as the 1st Japanese sake to earn the prestigious "Monde Selection" award in 1977 and has won 40+ gold medals internationally since then.

Otokoyama's sake is so spectacular in part because it is brewed using the underground springwater that runs deep beneath the Hokkaido mountains. In addition to learning all about Otokoyama's sake brewing process and rich heritage,

you'll have time to sample their world renowned sake and browse through magnificent sake sets and cups at their gift shop.

→ 4:00pm — Arrive at **JR Inn Asahikawa**. The remainder of the day is yours to explore. Our hotel is connected to **AEON Mall** and it also offers a semi-outdoor public bath/onsen.

Day 4: (Tue) March 19 – Asahikawa-Otaru (B/D)

Hotel Nord Otaru (Free WiFi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:00am — Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. Today we'll embark on a drive to Otaru, a port city known for its glassworks and music boxes.

→ 9:00am — Along the way, we'll stop at **Sunagawa Highway Oasis**. It's a large candy-colored shopping center run by Hokkaido's major manufacturers. This fun spot offers many of Hokkaido's specialties such as melons, whole crabs, famous stuffed squid from Hakodate, Royce chocolates and so much more. Browse through souvenir items and take notice of the wooden owls and bears, which are animals the indigenous Ainu people believe the gods inhabit.

→ 11:00am — Here we are at **Royce' Cacao & Chocolate Town**. This brand new facility (launched in Nov 2022) takes visitors through an immersive factory experience. We'll learn how cocoa beans transform into chocolate bars, browse through Royce's antique collections, and delight in the baked sweets, soft serve ice cream, and 200 types of chocolate available at their on-site shop.

→ 1:45pm — Today, we'll explore **Otaru 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. Now to enjoy a **hands-on experience, creating your own music box!**

Another must visit is the **Kitaiichi 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 confectionery shop and try the famous multi-layered honey wheeled cakes that have a cult-like following.

→ 5:00pm — Arrive at **Hotel Nord Otaru**, followed by a western dinner at 6pm.

Day 5: (Wed) March 20 – Otaru-Niseko (B/D)

Hilton Niseko Village (Free WiFi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ **8:30am — Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.** Today we'll embark on a drive to Niseko.

→ **10:00am** — Along the way, we'll make a stop at local favorite, **Max value.** As the largest grocery store in Niseko, Max Value boasts an array of goods like fresh produce, prepackaged meals, household items, a bakery, a 100 yen corner, and specialty items that may not be readily available at smaller stores. This is a great opportunity to stock up on some food and drinks in anticipation of your upcoming snow days.

→ **11:30am — Arrive at Hilton Niseko Village.** Conveniently located, our accommodation for our 3 night stay is the perfect place for skiers and snowboarders as the rentals, slopes and the ski lifts are just right outside the front door.

→ **Niseko** is known for its fine powder and its famed mountain, **Niseko Annupuri**, which offers scenic courses with some of the best and longest skiing/snowboarding routes. From gentle terrain at some of its lower mountains to steep runs, Niseko Village offers 27 marked trails (13 beginner, 9 intermediate, and 5 advanced) to accommodate skiers at every level. Nestled between Hirafu and Annupuri, **Niseko Village** is widely recognized as a snowy haven for winter enthusiasts.

→ **3 days of skiing/snowboarding with unlimited ski lift rides are included but rental gear is not. Please submit your rental order list at least 1 week prior to today if you are interested.**

→ Since hotel check-in becomes available after 3pm, this will be a great time to get your snow and rental gear ready. You may be able to squeeze in a few runs before enjoying dinner and resting up for tomorrow's excitement.

→ **6:30pm — Dinner at hotel.**

Day 6: (Thu) March 21 – Niseko-Full day at leisure (B)

Hilton Niseko Village (Free WiFi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ After breakfast, kick up some snow or carve down the mountain. However you choose to spend your day! Have Fun!

Day 7: (Fri) March 22 – Niseko-Full day at leisure (B)

Hilton Niseko Village (Free WiFi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ It's the last day to make your mark on the slopes. Let's get in some good runs!

Day 8: (Sat) March 23 – Niseko-Sapporo (B/D)

Century Royal Hotel (Free WiFi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ **9:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby** to begin our journey to Sapporo, Hokkaido's capital. Known for its winter snow festival, Sapporo became the first Asian city to host the Winter Olympics in 1972 and is internationally recognized for the major beer company that shares its name.

→ **10:30am** — Our morning begins with a visit to **Sapporo Pirika Kotan**, a cultural village that focuses on promoting and preserving the rich heritage of the indigenous Ainu people of Hokkaido. Enjoy a traditional ancient Ainu dance performance, and spend some free time exploring Ainu traditions, history, and crafts through their interactive exhibits.

→ **1:00pm** — Next, we're at the **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 that you can browse through. Enjoy lunch on your own.

→ **3:00pm** — Now visit the **Sapporo Beer Museum**, the first and only "beer museum" in Japan since the 1850s. We'll learn about the history and the process of beer-making.

→ **4:15pm – Arrive at Century Royal Hotel.** Enjoy some downtime.

→ **6:30pm – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby and make our way to enjoy kani (crab) dinner.**

→ **9:00pm – Return to hotel.**

Day 9: (Sun) March 24 – Sapporo-Chitose-Haneda-Honolulu (B)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ **8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.**

→ **9:00am** – We'll start our tour at the **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.

→ **10:30am** – Now a visit to **Shiroi Koibito Park**, a whimsical theme park with a central mascot that's especially exciting: chocolate! Operated by famed local chocolate company, Ishiya, this theme park is known for its flagship cookie, a buttery cookie sandwich with a thin white chocolate in between. Explore the exhibits and chocolate factory, and be sure to take home some cookies (the best Sapporo souvenirs!)

→ **Fly by domestic flight from New Chitose to Haneda. (To be advised)**

→ **Arrive at Haneda Airport. Meet your local English speaking assistant at the arrival lobby.**

→ **8:05pm** – Depart Haneda via Hawaiian Airlines 864 for Honolulu.

→ **8:00am** – Arrive in Honolulu on the 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, January 6, 2024.**
- » **Final payment due by January 18, 2024. 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.