

Join Panda Travel in...



2024 Hokkaido Memorial Day Omiyage & Lilac Festival Weekender

(GP13096)



May 23 - 29, 2024
5 Nights/ 7 Days

Sapporo - Otaru - Asahikawa - Furano

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

\$2,879*

per person-triple occupancy

\$2,879*

per person-double occupancy

\$2,989*

single occupancy

pandaonline.com

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1017 Kapahulu Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816

Cancel for any reason up
to 65 days prior to departure
date for a FULL REFUND!

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

Itinerary

Day 1: (Thu) May 23—Honolulu Depart Honolulu via Hawaiian Airlines

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

Day 2: (Fri) May 24—Chitose-Sapporo

Century Royal Hotel (Free WiFi)

→ Arrive at Chitose Airport. Meet your local English speaking guide at the arrival lobby. We'll then transfer to Century Royal Hotel, our accommodation for the next 4 nights, which is directly connected via an underground passage to the shopping zone in front of JR Sapporo Station.

Day 3: (Sat) May 25—Sapporo (B/D)

Century Royal Hotel (Free WiFi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 9:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour around Sapporo.

→ 10:00am – Our morning begins with a visit to **Sapporo Pirika Kotan**, a cultural village that endeavors to promote and preserve 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.

→ 12:30pm – Next, we'll visit the **Sapporo Central Wholesale Market**, also known as Jogai. This market offers some of the freshest fish and marine delicacies in Japan. At the "Curb Market," you can find approx. 60 stores selling everything from fruits, seasonal goods and local Hokkaido specialties. Enjoy lunch on your own.

→ 2:30pm – Join locals in ushering the eagerly awaited spring season at the **Sapporo Lilac Festival** (TBA)! This celebration is held across two famous parks and will treat visitors to a promenade of colorful flower beds and blooming trees. Enjoy the festival events, the seasonal beauty and fragrance of Japanese spring flora, and Sapporo's celebrity lilacs. Beyond its designation as the city's official tree, lilac trees also hold a special meaning in the community as its flowers symbolize tranquility, renewal, and happiness.

→ 4:30pm – Return to hotel. Enjoy some downtime.

→ 6:00pm – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby and make our way to enjoy kani (crab) dinner.

→ 8:00pm – Arrive at hotel.

Day 4: (Sun) May 26—Sapporo-Free Day at Leisure (B)

Century Royal Hotel (Free WiFi)

→ Breakfast at hotel - the day is yours to explore Sapporo! Not too far from the hotel are plenty of shopping and sightseeing opportunities. Have fun!

Day 5: (Mon) May 27—Sapporo-Otaru-Sapporo (B)

Century Royal Hotel (Free WiFi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 9:15am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.

→ 10:00am – The morning begins with a visit to **Royce' Cacao & Chocolate Town**. This brand new facility (launched in Nov 2022) takes visitors through an immersive factory experience. Here, 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.

→ 12:30pm – Once we reach **Otaru**, our first visit will be at the long standing kamaboko fish paste company, **Kamaei Factory Store**. At the conclusion of our tour, sample fresh kamaboko and shop around for some specialty goods.

→ 1:30pm – Later on, 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. 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 confectionery shop** and try the famous multi-layered honey wheeled cakes that have a cult-like following.

Enjoy free time with lunch on your own - try a soft serve cone from **Yamanaka Dairy Farm** as you stroll past locally crafted music boxes and glassware, or sample fresh local seafood at one of the many restaurants in the area. **LeTAO Plus**, a memorable sweet shop, has 50 varieties of cakes and sweets, a cafe on the 2nd floor, and a free observatory on the 3rd floor.

→ 4:00pm – Our last visit on today's tour is **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 confectionery, a buttery cookie sandwich with a thin white chocolate in between. Be sure to take home some cookies (the best Sapporo souvenirs!).

→ 5:30pm – Return to hotel. Enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

Day 6: (Tue) May 28—Sapporo-Asahikawa (B)

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

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour to Asahikawa.

→ 9:45am – Along the way to Asahikawa, we'll stop at **Sunagawa Highway Oasis**, a large candy-colored shopping center run by Hokkaido's major manufacturers that offers an eclectic mix of Hokkaido specialities all under one roof (and it's duty free!) including melons, whole crabs, famous stuffed squid from Hakodate, and Royce chocolates. Browse through souvenir items and take notice of the wooden owls and bears, animals the indigenous Ainu people believe the gods inhabit.

→ 11:45am – Next, we'll head to **Ueno Farm**. Famed botanical architect, Sayuji Ueno, drew inspiration from English cottage flowerings arrangements to design a beautiful landscape adaptable to Hokkaido's climate. Spend some time to stroll, ponder, and relax!

→ 1:15pm – Enjoy lunch on your own at **Asahikawa Ramen Village**. 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 – Here we are at the **Nihon Shoyu Kogyo**, home to Hokkaido's leading soy sauce manufacturer with products that some say "taste like Asahikawa." While there, take some free time to sample their soy sauce popsicles or pick up a few specialty goodies.

→ 5:00pm – 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 7: (Wed) May 29—

Asahikawa-Furano-Chitose-Honolulu (B)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a drive to Furano.

→ 10:00am – Our day begins with a visit to **Furano Jam Garden & Anpanman Shop**, a unique tourist attraction in Furano featuring Auntie Jam's gift shop, a souvenir shop themed around the incredibly popular Japanese anime superhero pastry, Anpanman, and a platform with panoramic views of the gorgeous surrounding landscape. At Auntie Jam's, we'll learn about the process of making fruit jams from locally sourced fruits and sample the 35 varieties of hand-made Furano jam. Additionally, we'll have the opportunity for a **hands-on experience: jam making!**

→ Next door, you'll find Anpanman-themed merchandise and art prints galore at the Anpanman Shop—the only store in Japan directly operated by famed Anpanman author, Takashi Yanase. There's also a cafe where you can enjoy delicious desserts made with the jams produced on-site.

→ 12:15pm – Located on a hill overlooking the town of Furano, **Furano Winery** offers beautiful panoramic views while you sip on some wine, learn about winemaking, peruse the winery shop, and indulge in the rich flavors that reflect Furano's terroir.

→ 1:00pm – Here we are at **Furano Marche**, a cluster of approx. 20 shops in the heart of downtown Furano. Enjoy some free time to browse, shop, and enjoy lunch on your own. Popular foods include ramen, burgers, takoyaki, rice ball varieties, freshly made ice cream, and much more!

→ We plan to reach the **New Chitose Airport** by 4:45 pm to begin our check-in process for the flight home.

→ Depart from Chitose via **Hawaiian Airlines**.

→ 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 65 days prior to departure date, March 19, 2024.
- » Final payment due by April 3, 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.