

Join Panda Travel in...



2024 Exploring Cassiopeia Road in Autumn

(GP13166)



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

Oct 17 - 25, 2024

7 Nights/ 9 Days

Tokyo - Morioka - Aomori - Hakodate - Lake Toya - Otaru - Sapporo

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

\$4,489*

per person-triple occupancy

\$4,489*

per person-double occupancy

\$4,939*

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



Day 1: (Thu) Oct 17 – 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) Oct 18 – Haneda-Tokyo

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Arrive at Haneda Airport, meet your English-speaking local guide at the arrival lobby, and then we'll transfer to Sunshine City Prince Hotel, our accommodations for the next 2 nights. Our hotel is directly connected to Sunshine City shopping center with many shopping and dining options available to you. Nearby, you'll also find a 24-hr Family Mart convenience store and a Seiyu supermarket for snack, bento, and beverage pickups. Enjoy your evening at leisure.

Day 3: (Sat) Oct 19 – Tokyo (B)

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full-day tour around Tokyo.

→ 9:00am – Our morning begins with a visit to **Rikugien Garden**, often considered Tokyo's most beautiful oJapanese landscaped garden. Built around 1700 for the 5th Tokugawa Shogun, Rikugien means 'six poems garden' and reproduces in miniature 88 scenes from famous poems. The garden is a wonderful example of an Edo Period strolling garden, featuring a large central pond surrounded by man-made hills and forested areas, all connected by a network of trails. This garden is also famous for being one of Tokyo's best **foliage viewing spots**, as it is blanketed in seasonal hues.

→ 10:30am – Here on the grounds of Asakusa's iconic **Sensoji Temple** and **Kaminarimon Gate** (aka "Thunder Gate") with its massive lantern. This spot is a "must see" in every guidebook and boasts over 30 million annual visitors. Traditionally, once you reach the top of the temple steps, you should clap twice and bow your head as a sign of respect. With the belief that coins trap the dangers of daily life, visitors also customarily make a small offering by tossing coins into a wooden rack, tossing away those dangers as well.

You'll also find the **Five Storied Pagoda** there. Regarded as one of the "Four Edo Pagodas," this nearly 174 foot monument stands to represent Tokyo's few remaining pagodas. As you roam through the temple grounds, you'll come across the **Nakamise Shopping Arcade**, a lively and extensive shopping street lined with good luck charms, traditional goodies, and Japanese snacks.

→ 1:00pm – Next, we are at **Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai** (opened its doors in Feb 2024) and inspired by the historic streets of Tokyo, this Edo themed multi-story shopping and entertainment center treats visitors to a diverse selection of boutiques, as well as eateries featuring specialty foods like Toyosu's signature fresh seafood and produce.

→ 3:00pm – Now, a visit to **TeamLab Planets Tokyo**. Using technology and perspective, this immersive museum takes visitors through labyrinth-like rooms to experience fields of flowers, rooms with walls that appear to be composed of brightly lit geographic shapes, and other mesmerizing digital art displays.

→ 5:00pm – Return to hotel. Enjoy the evening at leisure.

Day 4: (Sun) Oct 20 – Tokyo-Morioka-Aomori (B/L/D)

Minamida Onsen Hotel Apple Land (Free Wi-Fi) - Enjoy onsen

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ Please leave your suitcase (2 pcs per person) at the hotel and prepare an overnight bag for 2 days. Your suitcase(s) will be delivered by courier service from Tokyo to your hotel in Lake Toya.

→ 8:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. We'll

proceed by charter coach to Tokyo Station, where we'll board a bullet train to Morioka, the capital of Iwate Prefecture.

→ **11:20am** – Upon arrival at Morioka Station, we will proceed to a local restaurant for a **Japanese-style lunch**.

→ **1:15pm** – This afternoon, a visit to **Morioka Tezukurimura**, an artisan's village of workshops dedicated to local craftsmanship. The motto here is "see, touch, and create." As an introduction to traditional Japanese crafts, we'll enjoy **2 exciting hands-on experiences: indigo dyeing & senbei making**.

→ **4:15pm** – Enjoy free time shopping at **Antler Michinoeki Kazuno**, a roadside station known for its special selection of souvenirs and local produce by Kazuno farmers.

→ **6:00pm** – Arrive at **Minamida Onsen Hotel Apple Land**, followed by a **Japanese-style dinner at 6:30pm**. During our stay, unwind in the hotel's apple onsens. These unique onsens are said to benefit your skin and its delicate scent helps to relax your mind and body.

Day 5: (Mon) Oct 21 – Aomori-Hakodate (B)

La Vista Hakodate Bay (Free Wi-Fi) - [Enjoy onsen](#)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:00am** – We start our morning with a **fun apple picking** experience.

→ **11:00am** – Next, a visit to the **Nebuta Museum Wa Rasse**. Dedicated to Aomori's annual August Nebuta Matsuri festival, this museum showcases beautiful exhibits that tell of the 300 year old festival's history, lore, and traditions. A museum highlight is the Nebuta parade floats; composed of painted washi paper over wire frames, these magnificent lantern floats take one year to construct and are accompanied by teams of taiko drummers, musicians, and dancers during the summer festival.

→ **12:00pm** – This duty-free, market-style shopping center, **A-Factory**, sells everything local here: sweets, processed goods, fresh vegetables and fruits, and so much more. Most notable is the onsite apple cidre (cider) factory, which produces fresh cidre and juices from locally grown Aomori apples. Aomori is the top apple producer in Japan, so the apple products here are a must try! You'll also find restaurants and eateries using Aomori ingredients, as well as other regional goodies.

→ **1:30pm** – Arrive at Shin Aomori Station. We'll catch a bullet train to Hakodate.

→ **3:01pm** – After arriving at Shin Hakodate Hokuto

Station, we'll transfer to our hotel.

→ **4:00pm** – Arrive at **La Vista Hakodate Bay**. This onsen hotel features 6 types of hot spring baths with spectacular night views of Hakodate. It's also located on the waterfront of the **Kanemori Red Brick Warehouse District**, a site that earned a spot on the Michelin Green Guide!

→ Now, stop by **Hakodate Meijikan**. Originally constructed as the Hakodate Post Office in 1911, this red-brick building is now transformed into a vibrant shopping mall. Inside, you'll find a diverse selection of shops, boutiques, and eateries.

→ **5:00pm** – Time to explore **Mt. Hakodate!** Let's take a ride on the famous **Hakodate Ropeway**. Our cable car will take us to the Mt. Hakodate observatory, where we can enjoy panoramic views so remarkable that it has earned a 3 star recommendation from the Michelin Green Guide—the highest rank!

→ **6:00pm** – **Return to hotel**. The remainder of the evening is yours at leisure.

Day 6: (Tue) Oct 22 – Hakodate-Lake Toya (B/D)

Toyako Manseikaku Hotel Lakeside Terrace, lakeview room (Free Wi-Fi) - [Enjoy onsen](#)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **8:45am** – Along the way, we'll visit **Hakodate Morning Market**. Spanning 4 city blocks, this bustling marketplace of 250 stalls sells everything from fresh seafood, fruits, and vegetables to regional delicacies and souvenirs.

→ **10:15am** – Here we are at the **Goryokaku Tower & Park**. The tower's observatory overlooks Goryokaku, the star shaped fortress built by the Shogunate in 1857 to protect northern Japan, as well as the beautiful surrounding scenery that changes with the seasons.

→ **12:30pm** – Enjoy and grab lunch on your own at **Michinoeki Nanairo Nanae**, a rest stop where you can find a variety of souvenirs, snacks, and foods made with southern Hokkaido ingredients.

→ **2:45pm** – Now, a visit to the **Yakumocho Bear Woodcarving Museum**. This museum boasts a collection of bear woodcarvings from various eras and regions of Japan, showcasing the evolution of the traditional art form. Each carving tells a unique story, reflecting the artist's vision and skill.

→ **From here, drive to Lake Toya.**

→ **5:00pm** – Arrive at **Toyako Manseikaku Hotel**, and enjoy a **buffet dinner at 6:30pm**. Located on the shores of the scenic Lake Toya and in close proximity to the area's most

popular landmarks, our hotel offers natural hot spring baths (onsen), an indoor pool, and a karaoke bar.

Day 7: (Wed) Oct 23 – Lake Toya-Sapporo (B/D)

New Otani Inn Sapporo (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.**

→ **9:30am** – Our morning begins with a sightseeing **boat cruise** on **Lake Toya**. Located at the center of Toya-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark, scenic Lake Toya features gorgeous scenery, wildlife, and natural landscapes. The lake was also designated as one of Japan's Top 100 Tourist Sites! During our leisurely cruise, be on the lookout for the wild ezo deer inhabiting Nakanoshima Island and the seagulls soaring above.

→ **11:00am** – Like Lake Toya, volcanic Mount Usu holds UNESCO Geopark status. We'll make our swift ascent towards Mount Usu's summit on the **Usuzan Ropeway** with an observation deck and stunning, sweeping views greeting us atop.

→ **12:00pm** – Next, off to **Showa Shinzan**. Born from Mount Usu's 1943 volcanic eruption and named after Emperor Showa, this young lava dome rapidly emerged from what was once a flat wheat field and still vents sulfurous fumes. Enjoy some free time for lunch at this UNESCO Geopark.

→ **From here, drive to Sapporo with a rest stop.**

→ **3:30pm** – 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 confectionery, a buttery cookie sandwich with a thin white chocolate in between. Be sure to take home some cookies (the best Sapporo souvenirs!).

→ **5:00pm** – **Arrive at New Otani Inn Sapporo** and enjoy some downtime.

→ **5:45pm** – **Meet at the hotel lobby and make our way to enjoy kani (crab) dinner.**

→ **8:00pm** – **Return to hotel.**

Day 8: (Thu) Oct 24 – Sapporo-Otaru-Sapporo (B)

New Otani Inn Sapporo (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:15am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour in Otaru.**

→ **10:00am** – Our 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** – Next, 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** – Later today, join local shoppers and enthusiasts at the **Sapporo Tanukikoji Shopping Street**, Sapporo's oldest covered shopping arcade since 1868. This historic landmark stretches 10 blocks and features over 200 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.

→ **6:00pm** – **Return to hotel.** The remainder of the day is yours at leisure.

Day 9: (Fri) Oct 25 – Sapporo-Chitose-Haneda-Honolulu (B)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a half day tour before we head to New Chitose Airport..**

→ **9:00am** – This morning, a visit to **Okurayama Ski Jump Stadium**. 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.

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 see the starting line of the ski jump - look below

at the steep slope to put yourself in the skiers' boots right before they begin their jumps!

→ **10:30am** – Now a stop at **Sapporo Central Wholesale Market (Jogai)**, renowned for its fresh fish and produce in Japan. Explore the “Curb Market” with around 60 stores selling everything from fruits to seasonal goods. Beyond its culinary delights, Jogai also showcases the vibrant culture and lifestyle of Sapporo, serving as a lively gathering place for locals, chefs, and restaurateurs.

→ **12:30pm** – Arrive at **New Chitose Airport**. We'll board an **ANA/All Nippon Airways flight from Chitose to Haneda Airport. (TBA)**

→ **Upon arrival at Haneda**, you will be greeted by your local English-speaking assistant at the arrival lobby. We'll shuttle to Terminal 3 for our flight home.

→ **Depart Haneda via Hawaiian Airlines for Honolulu.**

→ **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, August 13, 2024.**
- » **Final payment due by August 25, 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 53 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.