

Join Panda Travel in...



2024 Hokkaido's Autumn Treasures

(GP13194)



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

Sept 26 - Oct 4, 2024

7 Nights/ 9 Days

*Furano - Biei - Asahikawa - Sounkyo -
Lake Noto - Lake Saroma - Abashiri
- Shiretoko - Lake Akan - Kushiro -
Tokachigawa - Sapporo*

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

\$4,398*

per person-triple occupancy

\$4,398*

per person-double occupancy

\$4,998*

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) Sept 26 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu via Hawaiian Airlines

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

Day 2: (Fri) Sept 27 – Haneda

Hotel JAL City Haneda Tokyo West Wing (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Arrive at Haneda Airport, meet your English speaking local assistant at the arrival lobby, and then we'll transfer to Hotel JAL City Haneda Tokyo West Wing, our accommodations for the night.

Day 3: (Sat) Sept 28 – Haneda-AKJ-Furano-Biei-Asahikawa (B)

The JR Inn Asahikawa (Free Wi-Fi) - [Enjoy onsen](#)

→ Breakfast at hotel

→ Depart Haneda to Asahikawa via ANA/All Nippon Airways (TBA).

→ Arrive at Asahikawa Airport. Meet your English speaking local guide at the arrival lobby. We'll transfer to begin our tour by chartered coach.

→ 10:45am – First, a visit to **Tomita Farm**. With Daisetsuzan National Park as a backdrop and colorful flowers and plants, this is easily one of the most photographed spots in Hokkaido. As you stroll through the farm, check out the flower arrangements display area, the photo gallery exhibiting the farm's four seasons of flowers, and several gift shops and cafes.

→ 12:15pm – Grab lunch on your own at **Furano Marche**, a cluster of approx. 20 shops in the heart of downtown Furano. Enjoy some free time to browse and shop. Popular foods include ramen, burgers, takoyaki, rice ball varieties, freshly made ice cream, and much more!

→ 2:15pm – Next, a visit to **Biei Blue Pond**, an unnatural yet enchanting bright blue body of water that changes its hue depending on the viewing angle and time of day.

→ 4:15pm – Now we are 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.

→ 5:30pm – Arrive at JR Inn Asahikawa. Our hotel is connected to the JR Asahikawa Station and a direct elevator down to the AEON Mall. The city's shopping arcade entrance is also steps away. Besides its location, the hotel offers a public bath in a semi-outdoor setting. Enjoy the evening at leisure.

Day 4: (Sun) Sept 29– Asahikawa-Sounkyo-Lake Noto-Lake Saroma (B/L/D) Lake Saroma Tsuruga Resort (Free Wi-Fi) - [Enjoy onsen](#)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby before we embark on a drive to Sounkyo, a well-known hot spring resort town nestled among scenic gorges and towering cliffs.

→ 10:00am – Our morning begins with a picturesque ride on the **Sounkyo Kurodake Ropeway**, a gondola that transports us to Mount Kurodake's 5th station. It provides unfettered access to the gorgeous natural landscape adorned with **autumn foliage**. What a beautiful way to start the day!

→ **11:45am** – Now a step inside the enchanting snow and ice-covered world of the **Hokkaido Ice Pavilion**. After entering through a tunnel of lights and a mirror maze, we'll pick up a thick winter coat before proceeding to the -20°C zone of ice and giant icicle covered walls. Here you'll find the air glittering with "diamond dust" or tiny ice crystals that form from the moisture in the air, just as it does on particularly cold Hokkaido days. Be sure to also keep an eye out for the tank of "ice angels," beautiful and almost alien-like sea slugs with delicate wings that live under the drift ice in the sea north of Hokkaido.

→ **2:00pm** – After lunch at a local restaurant, we'll head to Lake Saroma via Lake Notoro.

→ **5:00pm** – Here we are at **Lake Notoro Coral Grass Colony**, Japan's largest coral reef, where the vivid red grass field blends seamlessly with the rich tapestry of **autumn foliage**. The grass field resembles a stunning red carpet along Lake Notoro's shore, boasting the largest area of coral grass in the region. Due to its endangered status, a wooden pathway allows safe viewing through the center of the fields.

→ **6:00pm** – Arrive at **Lake Saroma Tsuruga Resort**, followed by a **buffet dinner at 6:30pm**. Our onsen hotel is situated on the shore of Lake Saroma. The hotel boasts a large hot spring public bath called "Wakka no Yu," which is known for its excellent heat retention properties.

**Day 5: (Mon) Sept 30 –
Lake Saroma-Abashiri-Shiretoko (B/L/D)**
Shiretoko Daiichi Hotel (Free Wi-Fi) - **Enjoy onsen**

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:00am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby as we are off for a full day of touring.

→ **10:45am** – This morning, we'll take a walk along the **Shiretoko Five Lakes Wooden Pathways**, a captivating destination nestled within a primeval forest of a **UNESCO World Heritage site**. Enjoy the **vibrant colors of fall** along your scenic 1 mile walk on the elevated wooden path (~40 min. walk).

→ **12:15pm** – Now we'll drive to **Shiretoko National Park**, a tranquil sanctuary located at the northeastern tip of Hokkaido. This **UNESCO World Heritage site** is renowned for its scenic beauty and serves as an important habitat for wildlife, such as brown bears, deer, and foxes.

→ **2:00pm** – After enjoying a **Japanese-style lunch at a local restaurant**, we'll make a stop at **Michino-eki Utoro**, a popular roadside station at the entrance of Shiretoko National Park. As you visit the information center and gift shop, take in the impressive coastal views and get a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of the region.

→ **2:45pm** – Experience the **Shiretoko Cruise Aurora**, a 90-minute sightseeing cruise along the coast of the Shiretoko Peninsula. Known as Japan's last frontier, this cruise offers untouched viewing areas that showcase breathtaking scenery. Capture stunning photos of tall cliffs, waterfalls, and sea caves in a panoramic setting. Keep an eye out for a variety of wildlife, including brown bears, Yezo deer, Ezo red foxes, white-tailed eagles, Steller's Sea eagles, and Blakiston's fish owls. Watch as seals, dolphins, black-tailed gulls, and Japanese cormorants play in the sea.

→ **4:30pm** – Arrive at **Shiretoko Daiichi Hotel**, followed by a **buffet dinner at 6:00 pm**. The hotel is set on high ground overlooking the Sea of Okhotsk. Our onsen hotel features both indoor and outdoor natural hot spring baths. Enjoy a relaxing time surrounded by the views of this World Heritage Site.

Day 6: (Tue) Oct 1 – Shiretoko-Lake Akan (B/L/D)
Hotel Lake Akan Tsuruga Wings - Lake view rooms (Free Wi-Fi) - **Enjoy onsen**

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **8:45am** – The morning begins with a short drive to **Oshinkoshin Waterfall**, a powerful waterfall that marks the entrance to Shiretoko. Known as the "Twin Beauties Waterfall," a reference to the split in its waters halfway down, this incredible natural wonder has even earned a spot on Japan's official "100 Waterfalls of Japan" list. From the observatory, you can enjoy views of the Sea of Okhotsk and the Shiretoko mountain range.

→ **10:15am** – Next, a fun visit to the **Kiyosato Shochu Distillery**. Located amidst endless fields of potatoes, this unique town-run brewery is recognized as the first in Japan to innovatively use potatoes to manufacture Japanese shochu. The tour includes a backstage view of the entire production process, from potato mashing to distillation. At the conclusion of the tour, enjoy taste testing three shochu varieties, ranging from mild to super strong.

→ **12:00pm** – Time to enjoy a **Japanese-style lunch at a local restaurant**.

→ **1:30pm** – Here we are at Akan Mashu National Park's **Lake Mashu**, which many regard as Japan's most beautiful lake. One of the "clearest lakes in the world," Lake Mashu is also one of Japan's deepest lakes and can often be seen shrouded in a fog, an added mystique to this already enchanting site.

→ **3:30pm** – Arrive at **Hotel Lake Akan Tsuruga Wings**, a stylish and contemporary hot spring Ryokan conveniently situated along the town's main street: **Ainu Koton**. Before

dinner, take a leisurely stroll along Ainu Koton's shops, many of which stay open late into the evening. You may also find yourself unwinding at the hotel's famous onsen or browsing through the vast collection of indigenous and local artworks displayed on the hotel lobby floor.

→ **6:00pm** – Tonight, we'll dine on a delightful array of dishes at the hotel's **buffet dinner**. Following our meal, we will take a short stroll to the theater in Akan Ainu Kotan Village, where we will be treated to a **traditional Ainu fire dance show**, a beautiful performance portraying the Ainu lifestyle through songs and dances.

→ **9:15pm** – After the show, we'll walk back to our hotel. The remainder of the evening is yours to unwind and enjoy.

Day 7: (Wed) Oct 2 – Lake Akan-Kushiro-Tokachigawa (B/D)

Tokachigawa Onsen Daiichi Hotel, Toyo-tei (Free Wi-Fi) - [Enjoy onsen](#)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for another fun-filled day of touring.

→ **9:00am** – Our morning begins with a sightseeing **boat cruise** on the pristine waters of **Lake Akan**. Enjoy the panoramic views that are surrounded by breathtaking natural beauty.

→ **11:30am** – Time for some shopping and lunch on your own at **Kushiro Washo Ichiba Market**, also known as "the Citizen's Kitchen." One of the top 3 markets in Hokkaido, this historic indoor fish market features fresh seafood, meats, produce, and confections. Dazzle in the brilliant sights and listen to "wasshoi wasshoi" fill the market, enthusiastic calls for goods and trade. Meander through the 60+ shops and perhaps delight in creating your own bowl of Katte Don, a tailor-made seafood donburi and one of the famous attractions here.

→ **1:30pm** – Now visit the **Red-crowned Crane Nature Park**, a nature reserve designed to protect the iconic Japanese Tancho cranes. This rare breed is a powerful and sacred Japanese symbol that has also become synonymous with good luck and longevity. Immerse yourself in the serenity of this remarkable park and gain a deeper appreciation for the beauty and importance of these endangered cranes.

→ **4:00pm** – Next, we are off to **Ikeda Wine Factory**, also known as the "Ikeda Wine Castle" for its resemblance to a medieval European castle, is one of Ikeda Town's specialties. Enjoy some free time exploring the exhibition rooms displaying grape cultivation and winemaking techniques, as well as the wine maturation cellars. The factory also features a wine tasting area, a restaurant, and a shop selling wines and other local specialties.

→ **5:30pm** – Arrive at **Tokachigawa Onsen Daiichi Hotel**, followed by a **Japanese dinner at 6pm**. In addition to the gorgeous surrounding Hidaka mountains, Tokachi Plains, and Tokachi River, the hotel offers 2 open-air baths. Famously, the Tokachi River's hot spring waters that flow through the hotel's onsen have received Hokkaido Heritage recognition. Rich with natural minerals derived from ancient plants, these amber waters are said to not only deeply revitalize and moisturize skin, but its therapeutic properties also quell nerve and muscle pain, stiffness, arthritis, and fatigue. Enjoy the hotel's onsen.

Day 8: (Thu) Oct 3 – Tokachigawa-Sapporo (B/L/D)

New Otani Inn Sapporo (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:00am** – Meet your guide at the lobby as we embark our way to Sapporo, the capital of Hokkaido.

→ **10:30am** – Our morning begins with a scenic drive to **Yuni Garden**, a stunning British-style garden where the beauty of **autumn foliage** comes alive. Take your time to leisurely stroll amidst a kaleidoscope of colorful flowers and a delightful array of herbs. By October, the landscape transforms into a captivating sight with over 30,000 red kochia bushes, complemented by the enchanting hues of maple trees and Japanese Ivy. Don't forget to visit the garden shop where they sell unique herbal cookies and teas that make perfect souvenirs to bring home.

→ **1:30pm** – After a **buffet lunch at Yuni Garden**, we are on our next adventure: **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 indulge in the baked sweets, soft serve ice cream, and 200 types of chocolate available at their on-site shop.

→ **3:45pm** – Join local shoppers and enthusiasts at Sapporo's oldest covered shopping arcade (since 1868!), the **Sapporo Tanukikoji Shopping Street**. 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 and a 24-hour Mega Don Quijote.

→ **5:30pm** – Arrive at **New Otani Inn Sapporo** and enjoy some downtime.

→ **6:15pm** – Meet at the hotel lobby and make our way to enjoy **kani (crab) dinner**.

→ **8:45pm** – Return to hotel.

**Day 9: (Fri) Oct 4 –
Sapporo-Chitose-Haneda-Honolulu (B)**

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ **8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a half day tour before we are heading 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, July 23, 2024.**
- » **Final payment due by August 2, 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.