

Join Panda Travel in...



2027 Hokkaido in Bloom: Spring Explorer

(GP13684)



May 13 - 21, 2027
7 Nights/ 9 Days

*Haneda - Sapporo - Asahikawa - Takinoue
- Kamiyubetsu - Abashiri - Lake Akan -
Obihiro - Furano*

\$100 OFF PER PERSON
on our complete package when you pay
with a personal check/cash

JAL Economy Class:

☐ **\$3,998***

per person-double/triple occupancy

☐ **\$4,798***

single occupancy

JAL Premium Economy Class:

☐ **\$5,198***

per person-double/triple occupancy

☐ **\$5,798***

single occupancy

pandaonline.com

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

Itinerary

Day 1: (Thu) May 13 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu

→ **Meet your Panda Travel representative at the airline's check-in counter 3 hours prior to departure.**

Day 2: (Fri) May 14 – Haneda-CTS (D)

Air Terminal Hotel (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **3:55pm – Arrive at Haneda Airport.**

→ **6:40pm – Depart Haneda to New Chitose Airport (CTS) via Japan Airlines domestic flight (JL527).**

→ **8:15pm – Welcome to Hokkaido!** Meet your local English-speaking guide at the arrival lobby. We will head directly to the **Air Terminal Hotel**, located just a short walk away on the airport grounds. A **bento** box is provided at the hotel.

Day 3: (Sat) May 15 – CTS-Sapporo (B)

Mercure Hotel Sapporo (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby this morning for Sapporo.**

→ **10:30am – Here we are at 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.

→ **11:45am – Now a stop at 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.

→ **1:15pm – Constructed in 1931, the Okurayama Ski Jump Stadium** hosted 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!

→ If the dates align, we'll pass by Odori Park for a glimpse of the Sapporo Lilac Festival (TBA), famous for its colorful blooming trees.

→ **3:00pm – Check in at the Mercure Hotel Sapporo.** The hotel is a short walk from Tanukikoji Shopping Street, Hokkaido's oldest covered arcade. Spanning 7 blocks with approximately 200 shops, it is a hub for shopping, local street food, and entertainment. Note: Your guide is happy to escort anyone who wants to visit Tanukikoji tonight.

Day 4: (Sun) May 16 – Sapporo-Asahikawa (B)

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

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **10:00am – Start our day at Sunagawa Highway Oasis**, 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, and Royce chocolates. Browse through souvenir items and take notice of the wooden owls and bears, which are animals the indigenous Ainu people believe the gods inhabit.

→ **11:15am – Next, a visit to the Takikawa Canola Flower Field**, a breathtaking sea of bright yellow that draws in visitors from around the world and home to some of the largest crops of canola flowers in Japan. Takikawa primarily harvests 2 types of canola flowers: Kizaki no Natane (produces rapeseed oil) and Haru no Kagayaki (cultivated as a food source).

→ **1:30pm – 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 and Hakodate's salt-based broths. Asahikawa ramen is also distinctive for its thin, hard, and wavy noodles.

→ **3:00pm – 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.

→ **4:30pm – 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 5: (Mon) May 17 – Asahikawa-Takinoue-Kamiyubetsu-Abashiri (B/L/D)

Hotel Abashirikoso (Free Wi-Fi) - [Enjoy Onsen](#)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for Takinoue**, known for its cultivation of various herbs. The town proudly contributes to 95% of Japan's peppermint production each year—what a remarkable achievement!

→ **10:15am –** Located in Takinoue town, **Shibazakura Takinoue Park** is home to the famous annual Takinoue Shibazakura Festival. Between May and June, the undulating hills of this expansive 25-acre park undergo a magical transformation, blanketed in millions of pink and purple shibazakura (moss phlox). Unlike cherry blossoms, shibazakura bloom close to the ground, creating a vibrant floral carpet beneath your feet. Take a stroll through this dreamy landscape, visit the onsite specialty shops, and treat yourself to a unique cone of Shibazakura soft-serve ice cream!

→ **12:30pm – Enjoy a Japanese-style lunch at a local restaurant.**

→ **2:30pm –** Calling all tulip lovers! We'll now step into a floral dreamland at **Kamiyubetsu Tulip Park**. Open exclusively from May to early June, the park's iconic Dutch windmill stands tall over a massive 17-acre field showcasing 1.2 million tulips of 200 unique varieties. Capturing this colorful, rolling landscape is an absolute must-do during spring in Hokkaido!

→ **5:15pm –** Arrive at **Hotel Abashirikoso**, followed by a **Japanese-style dinner at 6:30pm**. Located on the shores of Lake Abashiri, this hotel features a large public bath, natural hot springs, a sauna, a large indoor bathtub, 2 small indoor bathtubs, and an open-air bathtub.

Day 6: (Tue) May 18 – Abashiri-Lake Akan (B/L/D)

Yuku no Sato Tsuruga (Free Wi-Fi) - [Enjoy Onsen](#)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:15am –** Our morning begins at **Abashiri Prison Museum**, the only prison museum in Japan. At this 1890s constructed complex repurposed as an open-air museum, we'll learn what the living conditions were like in Meiji-era confinement. The museum also highlights some of the detainees' historical contributions to Hokkaido, such as the construction of the first road to Sapporo.

→ **11:00am –** Next, visit the **Okhotsk Ryu-hyo Museum**, a modern facility dedicated to showcasing the ryu-hyo (drift ice) that stretches from Siberia to the Sea of Okhotsk during winter. The museum also houses the largest projection mapping display in Hokkaido. In the "Ice Room," visitors can enter a simulated environment to experience the freezing temperatures and harsh conditions faced by both humans and wildlife in this region.

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

→ **3:00pm –** Board a scenic **boat cruise** on the pristine waters of **Lake Akan**. Enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding breathtaking natural beauty.

→ Now, we'll visit the **Marimo Exhibition and Observation Center** to explore the underwater kingdom of marimo, bright green spherical algae that roll along the bottom of Lake Akan. Interestingly, Lake Akan's marimo is the only region in the world where these algae creatures can grow to a "large size," which can take more than 100 years. It's no wonder the marimo of Lake Akan has been designated a National Special Natural Monument in Japan! Fun fact: marimo are well-known Japanese symbols of good luck and everlasting love.

→ **4:45pm –** Arrive at **Yuku no Sato Tsuruga**, followed by a **buffet dinner at 6:00pm**.

→ After dinner, we'll take a short walk to Akan Ainu Kotan Village's theater to watch a traditional **Ainu Traditional dance show**, a beautiful performance portraying the Ainu lifestyle through song and dance.

→ **9:00pm –** Afterward, we'll take a brief walk back to our hotel.

Day 7: (Wed) May 19 – Lake Akan-Obihiro-Furano (B/D)

New Furano Prince Hotel (Free Wi-Fi) - [Enjoy Onsen](#)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:45am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for Furano.**

→ **10:30am –** Our morning begins with a visit to **Ikeda Wine Factory**. Also known as the "Ikeda Wine Castle" for its resemblance to a medieval European castle, this factory 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.

→ **12:15pm –** Along the way, we'll stop at **Michinoeki Otofuke Natsuzora no Furusato**, a rest area in Otofuke town where visitors can explore regional produce, handicrafts, and souvenirs. Enjoy lunch on your own

with some time to shop. A tip: try their famous Obihiro specialty - the butadon dish featuring slow-cooked, thick yet tender slices of pork served over steamed rice.

→ **1:30pm** – Arrive at **Ryugetsu Tokachi Sweetpia Garden**, the flagship confectionery theme park of Ryugetsu, one of Hokkaido's top three pastry brands. Go behind the scenes to see how their signature cakes are made and learn about how the fertile Tokachi plains produce some of the world's finest baking ingredients. After exploring the facility, have fun with a **hands-on cookie decorating experience with the experts**.

→ From here, we'll drive to Furano.

→ **5:00pm** – Check in at the **New Furano Prince Hotel**. Just a few minutes' walk away, you can view the seasonal blooms at the Wind Garden, home to 20,000 flowers of over 450 varieties. Don't miss a walk through Ningle Terrace, a charming collection of artisan craft shops housed in cozy wooden cottages hidden in the trees or enjoy the onsite hot springs.

→ **6:30pm** – **Buffet dinner will be served at the hotel.**

Day 8: (Thu) May 20 – Furano-Sapporo (B)

Mercure Hotel Sapporo (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:15am** – Our day begins with a visit to the **Furano Cheese Factory**. Here, we'll observe the local camembert-type cheese production process and nibble on various cheese samples, including the unique squid ink-infused black cheese. The factory also houses a pizzeria and an ice cream parlor where you'll **make your own ice cream**.

→ **12:45pm** – Next stop: **Michionoeki Tobetsu**, a modern, Swedish-inspired roadside hub. Have lunch on your own at the food hall, spotlights Tobetsu's rich farming heritage. Dining options range from local pork bowls and house-made pasta to Hokkaido soup curry.

→ **2:00pm** – Discover the wonders of **Royce' Cacao & Chocolate Town**, a large museum and factory facility. Here, visitors take a self-guided walk through their interactive exhibits detailing chocolate production, view the actual packaging and manufacturing lines through glass viewing areas, and browse their massive flagship shop for factory-exclusive chocolates.

→ **4:15pm** – After checking in at **Mercure Hotel Sapporo**, the remainder of the evening is yours at leisure.

Day 9: (Fri) May 21 – Sapporo-CTS-HND-HNL (B)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **11:00am** – **Meet your guide in the lobby for our transfer to New Chitose Airport.**

→ **12:00pm** – Arrive at the airport. Following flight check-in, enjoy free time for lunch and last-minute souvenir shopping. We'll be **boarding Japan Airlines flight JL514**, departing at 3:10pm.

→ **4:55pm** – Land at Haneda Airport and take the airport shuttle over to Terminal 3 for our flight home.

→ **Arrive in Honolulu (same day).**

Thank you for traveling with us! 



Need to Know...



Payment Policy

- » To secure your reservation, a **\$200 per person** deposit is required. The deposit can be refunded until **February 10, 2027**. Any changes made after this date will be subject to additional fees.
- » Final payment is due by **March 12, 2027**. 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.
- » We reserve the right to change any part of the itinerary, including payment schedules, at any time and 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.