

YOUR JOURNEY IN JAPAN

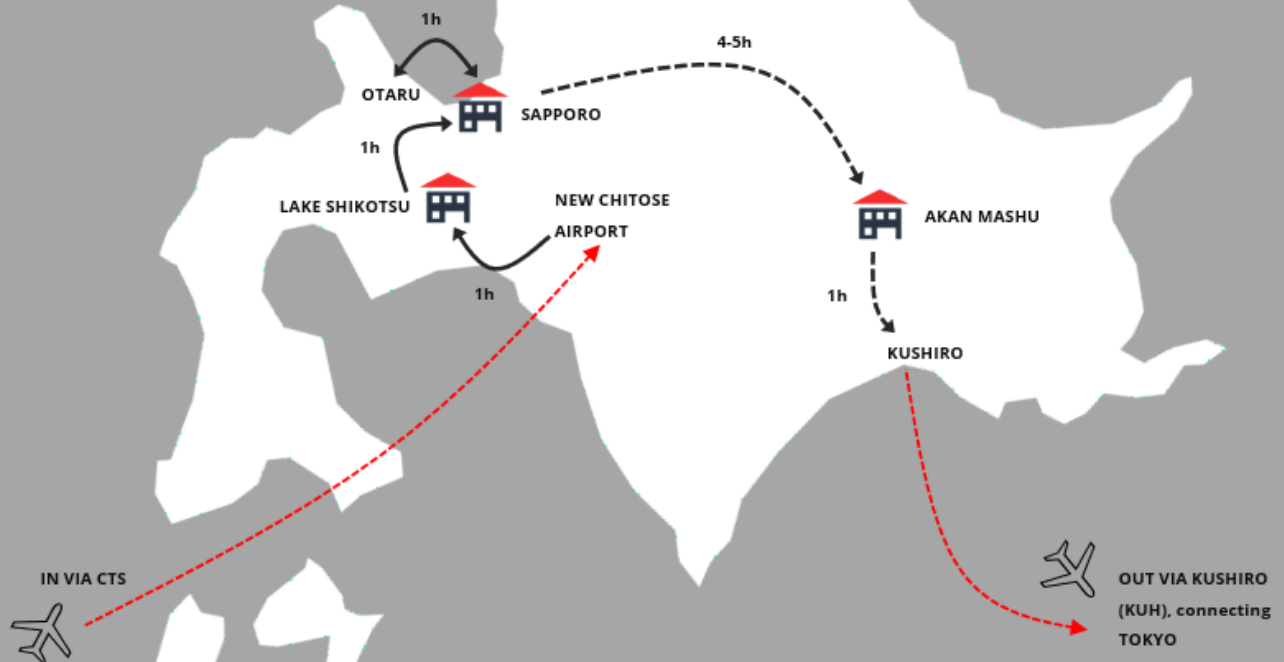
MAIN JOURNEYS

-  PRIVATE CAR
-  RENTAL CAR

Approximate travel times shown



HOTEL



Sample Itinerary: 10-Night Hokkaido

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Day 1	Airport meeting Transfer · Private car to hotel Orientation Tsuruga Besso Ao no Za (3 Nights)
Day 2	Full-day private tour of Shikotsuko with private car
Day 3	Full-day private tour of Shikotsuko with private car
Day 4	Transfer · Private car to hotel Afternoon at leisure in Sapporo JR Tower Hotel Nikko Sapporo (3 Nights)
Day 5	Full-day private tour of Sapporo with local transport
Day 6	Full-day private tour of Otaru with private car
Day 7	Rental Car · Toyota Rent-a-Car (4 Days) Akan Tsuruga Bessou Hinanoza (4 Nights)
Day 8	Day at leisure in Akan Mashu National Park
Day 9	Day at leisure in Akan Mashu National Park
Day 10	Day at leisure in Akan Mashu National Park
Day 11	Drive to Kushiro Airport Departure

Day 1

Airport meeting

After clearing immigration, you will be met by a member of staff and escorted to your private car.

Transfer · Private car to hotel

Departure Location

CTS Airport

Arrival Location

Tsuruga Besso Ao no Za

Notes

- You will be transferred to your hotel by Lake Shikotsu by private car.



Orientation

In order for your holiday to be as enjoyable and stress-free as possible, we have included a private and personalised orientation session, where you will be given everything you need to travel confidently in Japan.

One of our English-speaking staff members will meet you in the lobby of your hotel and will go through your itinerary with you, day by day, and answer any questions you may have. You'll also receive your "welcome pack" of additional information, such as tourist maps of each destination, suggested walking routes, and detailed information on any special activities you may have booked, as well as a Japanese phrase sheet, which should help you travel in Japan more easily!



Tsuruga Besso Ao no Za

0123-25-6006

Shikotsukoonsen, Chitose, Hokkaido 066-0281, Japan

〒066-0281 北海道千歳市笏湖温泉

2:00 PM

Check In

11:00 AM

Check Out

3 Nights

This stunning property is a true luxury experience. Located right by the quiet shores of the beautiful Lake Shikotsu, this is a rural escape where you can unwind and feel the power and mystique of this revered area.

The theme of Ao no Za is how the story of the land still carries echoes of the Jomon culture into the modern age. The lobby features an 8-metre high wall symbolising the interwoven layers of Jomon culture, Ainu culture, and the modern age through the flow of time.

The rooms here are exquisite, with the blues of the water reverberating through the decor. Each room features its own indoor jet bath and private outdoor onsen.

Dive into superb cuisine in the seasonal kaiseki meals carefully prepared here, crafted using only the freshest ingredients. Or, perhaps try some teppanyaki! Finish up your evening in the elegant bar.

For ultimate relaxation, head to the spa where you can enjoy a wide range of treatments using luxury products.

A number of experiences are also available to help you delve into the historic local culture, including indigo dyeing, tea ceremony, and a traditional Ainu clothing location photo shoot. Historical artefacts can also be found around the hotel, and much of the decor is a rather large nod to the rich culture of this area.

Room Selection

Room Category

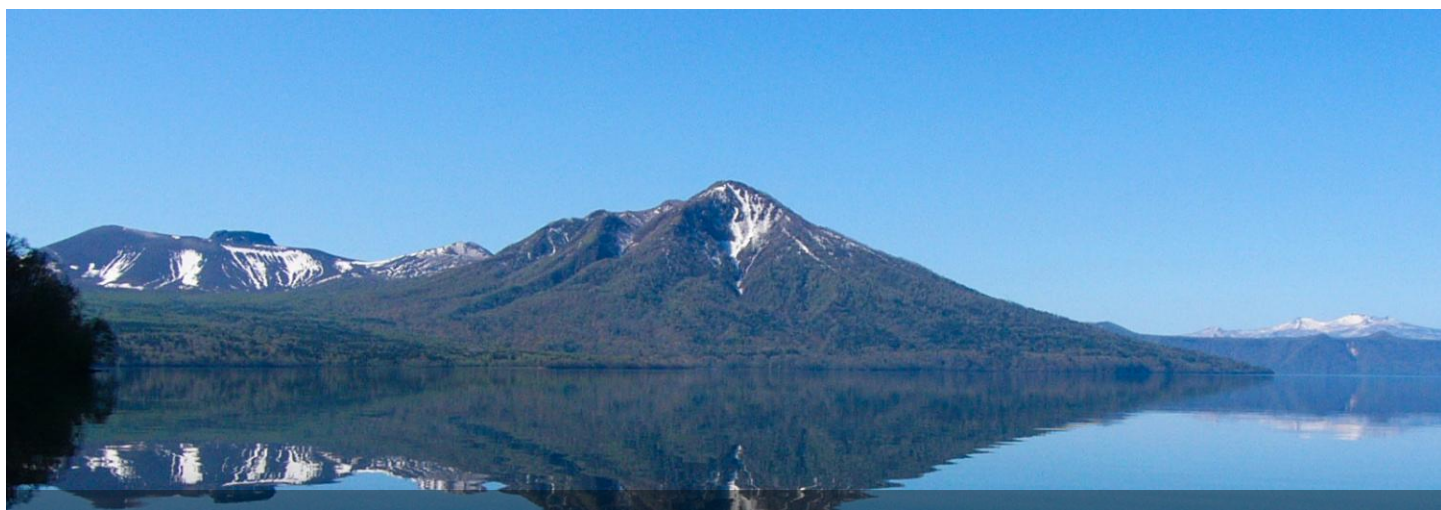
Sky Suite Resort

Room Description

A stunning 100-120sqm penthouse suite. Featuring a separate living room, outdoor terrace with table seating and a round lounge sofa, an indoor jacuzzi and outdoor private bath, as well as a wide range of amenities. From your room enjoy breathtaking views over the lake below and the surrounding mountains.

- Breakfast and dinner included

Day 2



Full-day private tour of Shikotsuko with private car

Spend the day exploring this stunning area with your guide today.

Enjoy a trip around Lake Shikotsu, the most northern lake in Japan that does not freeze in winter, and also its second-deepest. Spend the day exploring the small shops located around the edges of the lake as well as enjoying the lake's natural beauty. For most of the year, lake boat rides are available, so take advantage of this to truly get a feel for this beautiful area.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car

Day 3



Full-day private tour of Shikotsuko with private car

Your driver will meet you again this morning and today you'll set off to explore the Lake Shikotsu National Park.

At the northern shores of the lake stands Marukoma Onsen, a ryokan with unique hot spring baths that are also open to non-staying visitors. The baths are located right along the lake shore and are connected to the lake by small canals, allowing for a certain exchange between the pool's hot water and the lake's cool water. Moreover, their water level changes according to the lake's water level and can be uncharacteristically high for onsen pools outside of winter. The ryokan has also conventional hot spring pools, all of which are gender segregated.

After exploring the lake area, head on to visit the Shiraoi Porotokotan Ainu Village. Shiraoi lies in between Noboribetsu and Tomakomaishi, about an hour's drive from Lake Shikotsu and was once the site of many Ainu villages. It is now a famous spot for introducing Ainu culture. While performances of ancient Ainu dances can also be viewed here, the most outstanding feature of Shiraoi Porotokotan is the Ainu Museum, a significant outdoor museum that is located on this site.

With multiple homes exhibited outdoors, the Ainu Museum reproduces the appearance of an Ainu village. The facility also features spaces that are home to bears and the Hokkaido dogs that were an essential part of Ainu life, a botanical garden growing edible and medicinal plants, and a cafe serving Ainu food. It offers a close-up experience of the way of life of the Ainu people, who lived in harmony with nature.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car

Day 4

Transfer · Private car to hotel

Departure Location
Tsuruga Besso Ao no Za

Arrival Location
JR Tower Hotel Nikko
Sapporo

Notes

- After breakfast you will be transferred to your hotel in Sapporo city, where you can drop your bags off with reception before heading out for some sightseeing.



Afternoon at leisure in Sapporo

Enjoy shopping in the area surrounding Sapporo station. Home to both underground shopping streets and multi-storey department stores, this is the best place for any souvenirs!

This is also the perfect time to have a leisurely wander around the centre of this wonderful city - grab a bite to eat or simply watch the world go by!

- Unguided



JR Tower Hotel Nikko Sapporo

011-251-2222

2 Chome-5番地 Kita 5 Jonishi, Chuo Ward, Sapporo, Hokkaido 060-0005, Japan

〒060-0005 北海道札幌市中央区北5条2丁5番地

2:00 PM

Check In

11:00 AM

Check Out

3 Nights

The hotel is ideally situated, adjacent to the JR train station in the centre of the city and it is only a short walk away from Odori park.

The hotel aims to provide a relaxing experience for all guests. There is a spa including an onsen on the 22nd floor and there are fantastic views of the city from the restaurants on the 35th floor. There are a number of restaurants to choose from, some offer Japanese style and others offer French style cuisine from the renowned chef Kiyomi Mikuni.

Room Selection

Room Category

Suite

Room Description

Available on the 34th floor, the highest guest room floor, the Suite Rooms is an expansive 63 square meters in size. Gaze at the city view below from the lounge area, and enjoy the wide range of amenities on offer.

- Breakfast included

Day 5



Spend the day exploring Sapporo with your guide.

This morning, head out to the Hokkaido Historical Village, where you can learn about Hokkaido's fascinating history and also enjoy the frontier-like feeling of early Sapporo, created by buildings that have been re-erected in the Historical Village.

Afterwards, take a stroll through Odori Park, the beautiful green area in the centre of the city.

Walk down to Susukino, the bustling entertainment district and choose a place to enjoy a famous dish of Sapporo - soup curry!

- Guided
- Transport: Local transport

Day 6



Full-day private tour of Otaru with private car

Enjoy a full-day private tour of nearby Otaru today.

Otaru is a charming city by the seaside, facing the lovely Ishikari Bay. Otaru's main attraction is its canal, adorned with Victorian-style lamps, which is perfect for a romantic stroll. Otaru also has many historical buildings and also has a buzzing arts scene with local live bands playing concerts in the city's old warehouses. Locals often call Otaru "the Venice of Hokkaido", not only because of the canal but also because the city is famous for its hand-blown glassware. Be sure to browse the shops offering everything from glass table lamps to glass fountain pens!

To make the most of your trip, we suggest a fresh sushi lunch in one of the many seafood restaurants and then follow it up with a slice of the famous "Double Fromage" cheesecake in the Le Tao cafe.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car

Day 7

Rental Car · Toyota Rent-a-Car

4 Days

Duration

Notes

- Pick up your rental car today. You will have it until your departure day.
- Drive to Akan Mashu at leisure and enjoy the stunning rural scenery along the way. The drive will take 4-5 hours but this drive is in itself an experience.



Akan Tsuruga Bessou Hinanoza

0154-67-5500

2 Chome-8-1 Akancho Akankoonsen, Kushiro, Hokkaido 085-0467, Japan

〒085-0467 北海道釧路市阿寒町阿寒湖温泉 2 丁 8 -1

2:00 PM

Check In

11:00 AM

Check Out

4 Nights

This gorgeous hotel is a peaceful escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Existence in the Akan Mashu National Park is slower; in tune with the surrounding nature.

Each room is stunningly decorated and furnished, with warm wooden features and a private open-air bath.

Experience the tastes of Hokkaido with the freshly prepared seasonal kaiseki meals, and afterwards head to the beautiful and intimate bar for a sip of sake.

For a moment of relaxation, dip your feet into the warming foot bath whilst enjoying views of the serene lake outside, and for an extra helping of mineral goodness, you can freely enjoy water from the natural water fountain. For deeper relaxation head to the public bath and take a visit to the luxury spa.

Room Selection

Room Category

Ama no Za Suite

Room Description

At 110sqm, this fabulous suite comes equipped with the most stunning views of glistening Lake Akan below. Complete with a Simmons mattresses, a private outdoor hinoki cypress bath, a traditional tatami living area and wide range of amenities.

- Breakfast and dinner included

Day 8



Day at leisure in Akan Mashu National Park

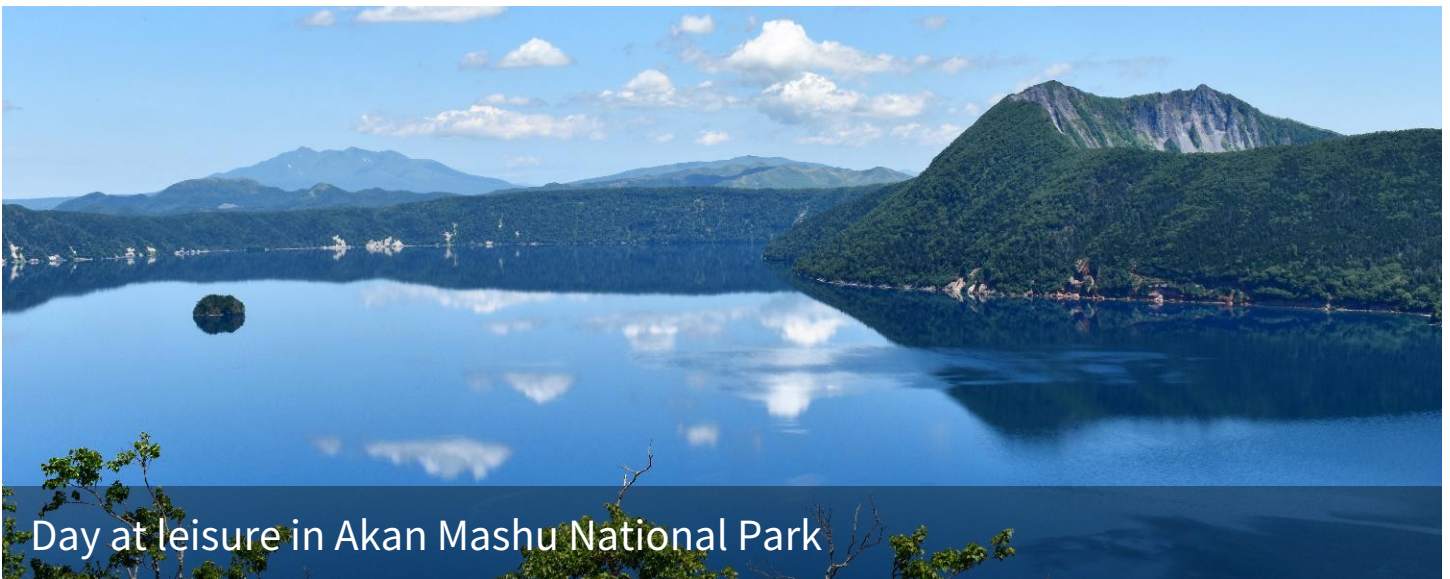
Spend the day at leisure in Akan.

Lake Akan is famous the world over for its "marimo", rounded moss balls that are found in very few other areas on the planet. Conserving the marimo has become a priority for the local government as they are not only important to the indigenous Ainu population, but the other major marimo colony in Iceland has diminished significantly in recent years. You can learn about the marimo in the nearby Eco Centre, which showcases fantastic information about the area's wildlife and nature.

Also nearby is the Ainu Kotan, where you can learn about and experience the Ainu culture - through theatre, dance, and also at the museum. You can find see traditional crafts here, that are available to buy as souvenirs.

- Unguided

Day 9



Day at leisure in Akan Mashu National Park

Today we recommend heading out in your rental car and driving to the other side of Akan Mashu National Park to see Lake Mashu (Mashuko). The natural scenery is stunning and the mountains reflect off the crystal clear waters of the lake. You might like to stop by one of the observatories around the lake. The area itself is lovely for some leisurely walking.

You might like to stop off at the neighbouring lake (Lake Kussharo) for Sunayu Beach, where onsen water surfaces right under the sand. You can dig a hole in the beach and make your own onsen bath!

On the opposite (north) side of Lake Kussharo is the Bihoro Pass, from where you can see some stunning panoramic views of the lake and surrounding mountains.

- Unguided

Day 10



Spend your final day relaxing at your accommodation.

Make use of the onsen baths, enjoy the delicious cuisine and take in the stunning landscape that surrounds you.

You have a big day of travel tomorrow so make sure to get packed up and get some rest!

- Unguided

Day 11

Drive to Kushiro Airport

Head off in your rental car this morning as you make your way to Kushiro across the stunning natural landscape. On arrival at Kushiro please return your rental car and head to the check-in desk.

- The drive should take around 1 hour.

Departure

- Please make your way through to the airport in good time for your flight.