

# UNESCO Global Geopark Mt. Apoi Climbing and Experience History and Culture in Hidaka

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The Hidaka area in Hokkaido is located in the center and south of Hokkaido. You will find a unique alpine plant communities that were nurtured by such as mountains and valleys, special soil conditions consisting of a variety of peridotite unique in the world. The volcanic ash from the eruption and the special terrain of the coast have created natural harbors and pastures, and produced a history and culture that has prospered as a base for trade and horse production since past times.

In this tour, you can get experiences the history and culture of horses through horse riding experience and a tour of Japan's largest racehorse breeding ranch. It also includes a special plan for trekking Mt. Apoi, which joined the UNESCO Global Geopark in 2015. The Mt. Apoi Geopark has many legends of the indigenous Ainu people related to mysterious rocks, and at the beginning of the tour, we will stop by a museum to learn about the history of the Ainu people.

September is a cool and comfortable season with an average temperature of about 15 degrees Celsius, and it is the best season to have delicious foods, as it is called "Autumn appetite" in Japan. Join and spend exciting days in all areas of culture, activities and food!

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**Highlights:**

- Climbing Mt. Apoi of the Horoman peridotite, which was constructed 13 million years ago
- By climbing Mt. Apoi, learn about the special natural system and local history and culture.
- Learn and experience the history and culture of horses

**Location:**

Hidaka region, Hokkaido

**Main Activity:** Horse riding and trekking

**Difficulty:** 3

**Tour Dates:** Recommended from May until September

**Tour Duration** 4 Days 3 Nights

**Pax:** Minimum: 4                      Maximum: 10

**Price:** From JPY 260,000～

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## Day-by-day Itinerary

### **Day 1 –Night at the largest airport in Hokkaido**

The night before the tour starts, we will spend time at a hotel directly connected to New Chitose Airport, the largest airport in Hokkaido. A traveling guide is waiting for you at the hotel's dedicated tour desk.

You will have an individual private single room. All rooms have WC and Shower, TV and Wi-Fi. included breakfast for the next morning(no dinner). In addition, the airport is fully equipped with restaurants and shops, as well as movie theaters and hot spring facilities, so refresh yourself after journey. |

### **Day 2 – Indigenous Ainu Museum and Horse Riding Experience**

JTB (travel agency) tour guide will pick you up at your hotel in the morning (8:30 am). Take a private car and arrive at the Indigenous Ainu Museum in about 1 hour and 15 minutes. Before the tour, you will receive a lecture from the museum curator. You will learn the Ainu tradition in a multifaceted and professional manner, including the wisdom and teachings nurtured in the background of the rich natural environment. The tour will be enriched by touching the Ainu culture here. After the museum, we will travel for about an hour and have lunch at a local restaurant. Enjoy Hidaka kelp Umami soup, Hidaka matured deer shabu-shabu with tomato, etc. Hidaka kelp is a famous kelp that can be obtained in this Hidaka area and is the source of UMAMI. After lunch, travel for about an hour and check in the hotel. The hotel was built in the middle of Mother Nature aiming for a space where horses, people and nature can interact. Everyone will have a thoroughbred horseback riding experience here. After the horse riding experience, our mountain guide will lecture you on trekking for the next day in the hotel. For dinner, a local fishmonger will deliver fresh seafood to the hotel for you to enjoy. Before bedtime, check the trekking equipment for the next day.

During dinner, enjoy watching fish cutting demonstration in front of you, they will be served as sashimi or seafood bowl. Available various other dishes.

**Activity:** Horse Riding / 60 min

**Difficulty:** 1/5

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### Day 3 – A story of the nature and people, connected by gifts from the mother earth.

After buffet-style breakfast, leave the hotel at 8:15 heading to the Mt. Apoi for 30 minutes. Arriving at the trailhead of Mt. Apoi, the adventure of the day gets started.

Learn the basic history and geographical features of the entire Geopark at the visitor center, then start trekking with a qualified international mountain guide. Mt. Apoi is 810 m high, the trekking distance is Approx.10km, Approx.5 hr.

After an hour trekking, get to the limit of forest presence on Mt. Apoi. The trail's steepest long rocky slope continues from here to the ridge next resting area.

The ridge area affords views of the Pacific Ocean to the south and ridges of the distant Hidaka Mountains to the north. Alpine flowers bloom freely along the trail from here to the summit. The summit is surrounded by Erman's birch trees. It's time for lunch here, enjoy a bakery set from local shop.

After lunch, descent from the mountain Approx. 2 hr. return to the visitor center again and end of trekking. Back to the hotel Approx. 30min. then enjoy soaking in the large public bath to get relaxed at the hotel. Dinner is at a local Indian restaurant, Approx.10 minutes drive.

**Activity:** Trekking / Mt. Apoi 810 m high / Approx.10km / Approx.5 hr.

**Difficulty:** 3/5

### Day 4– Departure for Home

After breakfast, at 7:45am, head to JRA Hidaka Breeding Ranch, one of the largest racehorse breeding ranches in Japan, by private car. Great opportunity to learn about the coexistence of residents, horses, and the community through horse riding training at a jockey training school and a riding park, which is a town-run facility.

After that, transfer to Urakawa Town-run Horseback Riding Park and experience the horseback riding treatment that the local government is actively working on. Horseback riding medical treatment is an activity for people with special needs, such as disabled or the elderly people. At a jockey restaurant on a racehorse ranch, enjoy healthy lunch with calorie-calculated health-conscious menus.

After lunch, drive to Sapporo, the venue of ATWS. On the way, we will pop-in to the Sun Forest Dimasio Museum, Approx.1.5 hours away. Frenchman Gerard Dimasio was impressed by the scenery of the Thoroughbred ranch in Hidaka and visited Hidaka many times. Exhibits more than 200 works, including the world's largest oil painting, 9m high and 27m wide. After that, return to Sapporo Approx. 2 hr. drive.

## **Accommodations :**

### **Day1 :**

Air Terminal Hotel: Single room with private bathroom. WiFi available  
Also the large communal bath in New Chitose Airport is available for free.  
<https://www.air-terminal-hotel.jp/eng/>

### **Day2-3 :**

Urakawa Yushun Village AERU: Twin room single-use with private bathroom. WiFi available  
Room is in a separate building from the main building large public bath, restaurant, and front desk, you need to go outside to come and go. Two drum-type washing machines are available, wash and dry for 200 yen each time.

## **What's included**

- English speaking guide
- Accommodation 3nights in hotel
- Pick-up and drop-off at hotel
- All meals according to itinerary (3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners)
- Safety equipment
- Admission fee for Ainu museum

## **What's not included**

- Dinner on arrival day
- Dinner on departure day
- Alcoholic beverages
- Travel insurance
- Tip
- Airfares
- Personal expenses

## We provide & What to bring

### We provide

- Lunch,
- Extra food
- Portable toilet
- Trash bag
- First aid kit

### What to bring

- Backpack with enough capacity to carry all, and well fitted, adjusted correctly and comfortable
- Rain cover for the backpacks
- Mid- to high-cut hiking boots
- Rain Gear
- Base layers top & bottom
- Walking Socks
- Under wear
- Fleece or down jacket
- Gloves
- Long-sleeved shirt & long pants
- Towel
- Water bottle or hydration system (More than 1L.)
- Face mask (For protection)
- Personal medications
- Mobile phone

### Optional

- Camera, video camera
- Sunglasses
- Suncream
- Portable wifi (Recommended to bring your own wifi as some areas and hotels might be difficult to connect.)
- Something to entertain you, just in case...(books, games, binoculars, etc.)

## About us

JTB -- “Perfect moments, always.”

The JTB Group traces its roots back to 1912 when “Japan Tourist Bureau” was formed to attract international travelers to Japan and assist with their travel needs. While our activities and clientele have expanded greatly since then, the JTB Group remains aligned around a core purpose: bringing people, places and possibilities together. Developing innovative services and solutions that enable our customers to connect more deeply and meaningfully. Contributing to the creation of sustainable communities and a more peaceful and interconnected planet.

No matter how the world changes, the JTB Group remains as committed now as 108 years ago to delivering unrivaled excitement, value and satisfaction. At its essence, JTB’s legacy resides in the bonds of trust we have forged with our customers, communities and stakeholders.

The JTB Group is poised to embark on the next exciting chapter in its incredible journey, staying attuned to and aligned with the evolving needs of a new era, maintaining its position as a digital trailblazer, and delivering real value that our customers can feel.

## Guides

Our mountain guide, Daisuke SASAKI has an excellent professional skills, certified by the International Mountain Guide Association (IFMGA), and has experience as a guide not only in Japan but also around the world.

<Qualifications>

- Certified by the Japan Mountain Guide Association
- Certified by International Mountain Guide
- Certified by Japan Backcountry Ski Guide Association
- Lecturer of National Climbing Training Institute
- Lecturer of International Natural Environment Outdoor College Mountain Professional Course



# Information and Requirements

## **Dietary Restrictions**

If you are allergic to nuts or seafood, or if you are a special vegetarian, vegan or gluten-free, please let us know in advance and we will provide you alternatives as much as possible.

## **Emergency Response Plan**

In Hokkaido, we have established the Hokkaido Outdoor Qualification System so that everyone can enjoy outdoor activities safely and securely in the nature of the four seasons. The qualified guide who passed the practical skill test of activities has skills related to lifesaving and emergency, and basic knowledge of Hokkaido and activities as a professional. Please be assured that the activity guide who accompanies you is the qualification holder.

In addition, there are mobile phone receptions at all accommodations. If any unexpected accident happens, the guide will promptly respond in cooperation with a nearby medical institution.

If any problems occur such as broken gear or minor mechanical equipment problems, rest assured, we will assist you.

## **Weather Conditions**

The weather in Hidaka has many rainy days in September, and it can get very cold in the morning and evening. You may feel chilly, so it is safe to have a thick coat such as a fleece or raincoat. The average temperature is 15°C, mostly between 20°C. Also, since Mt. Apoi is low in altitude, it is a mountain that you can enjoy climbing on a day trip, but steep rocks may continue from the middle and the weather may change often and quickly, so let's enjoy climbing with perfect equipment.

# Reservation & Cancellation Policy

## Payment Methods

Trip Price: JPY260,000

Only payments by credit card will be accepted.

The due date for the payment is one month prior to departure.. Please note that payments will not be accepted after this date.

[How to pay by credit card]

The credit cards listed below can be used to make payments.

Your credit card statement will show that the payment has been made to the name of JTB Corp., which is the agent handling registration.

Visa, MasterCard®, JCB, AMEX, Diners Club

## Cancellation

\*In case of cancellation, your deposit will be refunded after deducting the cancellation fees as shown below.

\*JTB shall make the corresponding refund within the 7th day from the next day of cancellation, when effecting refund before tour departure.

\*Cancellation Fee when notice is given:

21 or more days prior to the departure date of the tour	N/A
8-20 days prior to the departure date of the tour	20% of the tour fee
2-7 days prior to the departure date of the tour	30% of the tour fee
1 day prior to the day of departure	40% of the tour fee
On the day of departure	50% of the tour fee
After the day of departure, or in case of failure to show without notice	100% of the tour fee

## **Disclaimer**

Trip Cancellation: JTB reserves the right to cancel or change the itinerary of a tour. In the event of the tour being cancelled, we will refund 100% of your costs. Weather conditions are never severe enough to warrant cancelling a tour, only a truly exceptional event that cannot be predicted could lead to a cancellation. JTB is not responsible for compensating any additional costs such as flights.

## **Terms and Conditions for Agent-organized Tour**

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### **Tour Operator / Contact**



*Perfect moments, always*

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