

# Cycle around Southern Hokkaido

## ～ an Important Place in the History of Japan

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For over 200 years, Japan has isolated itself from other countries. In 1854, Japanese government opened its ports in Yokohama City (Kanagawa prefecture) and Hakodate City (Hokkaido prefecture) to foreign countries. This opening was the notice of the ending of Japanese isolation along with the ending of Edo Shogunate. Hakodate City is located in the Oshima Peninsula, which was the main area to talk about the history of modern Japan. In this tour, we will cycle around places like Goryokaku, Kanrinmaru, Matsumae Castle and Kaiyomaru, all of which played in important role in the turning point of Japanese history. As we go along the tour, we will also see some proofs of trade between Japan and foreign countries like Germany, Russia and Netherlands.

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## Highlights:

- Touring Hakodate to learn about the Governance of the Shogunate Era
- Cycling along the coast of the Oshima Peninsula
- Walking the historical foot path of Fukuyama Castle in Matsumae
- Walking the foot path of Inishie highway road
- Experience boarding the local train “Isaribi Railroad”

## Location:

### Southern Hokkaido

Hokkaido Prefecture is the northernmost island and the largest prefecture in Japan, with an area of 83,450 square kilometers / 32,220 square miles and a population of 5.2 million people. Hokkaido is known for natural hot springs (*onsen*), volcanos and ski resorts. With the large area, many of its land are left unspoiled, which allows us to preserve and enjoy its natural beauty. Hokkaido is home to a Natural World Heritage Site, a Ramsar Convention Wetland and several national parks. Each time you visit, you will experience a new side of Hokkaido.

Southern Hokkaido is the area located in the south of Hokkaido. One famous city is Hakodate City, which was Japan’s first international trade port. Hakodate is a city with churches and western style housing, which all were from the inspiration of foreign countries. Once we set a foot out of Hakodate, there are many natural beauty like Onuma Quasi National Park, Lake Toya and also the only castle town in Hokkaido, Matsumae.

<b>Main Activity:</b>	Cycling
<b>Difficulty:</b>	3
<b>Availability:</b>	Recommended from June until August
<b>Tour Duration:</b>	4 Nights 5 Days
<b>Pax:</b>	Minimum 4                      Maximum 10
<b>Price per person:</b>	JPY334,000- ~ (Cost for 8 pax per group)

[Route map](#)

[Day-by-day Itinerary](#)

[What’s included](#)

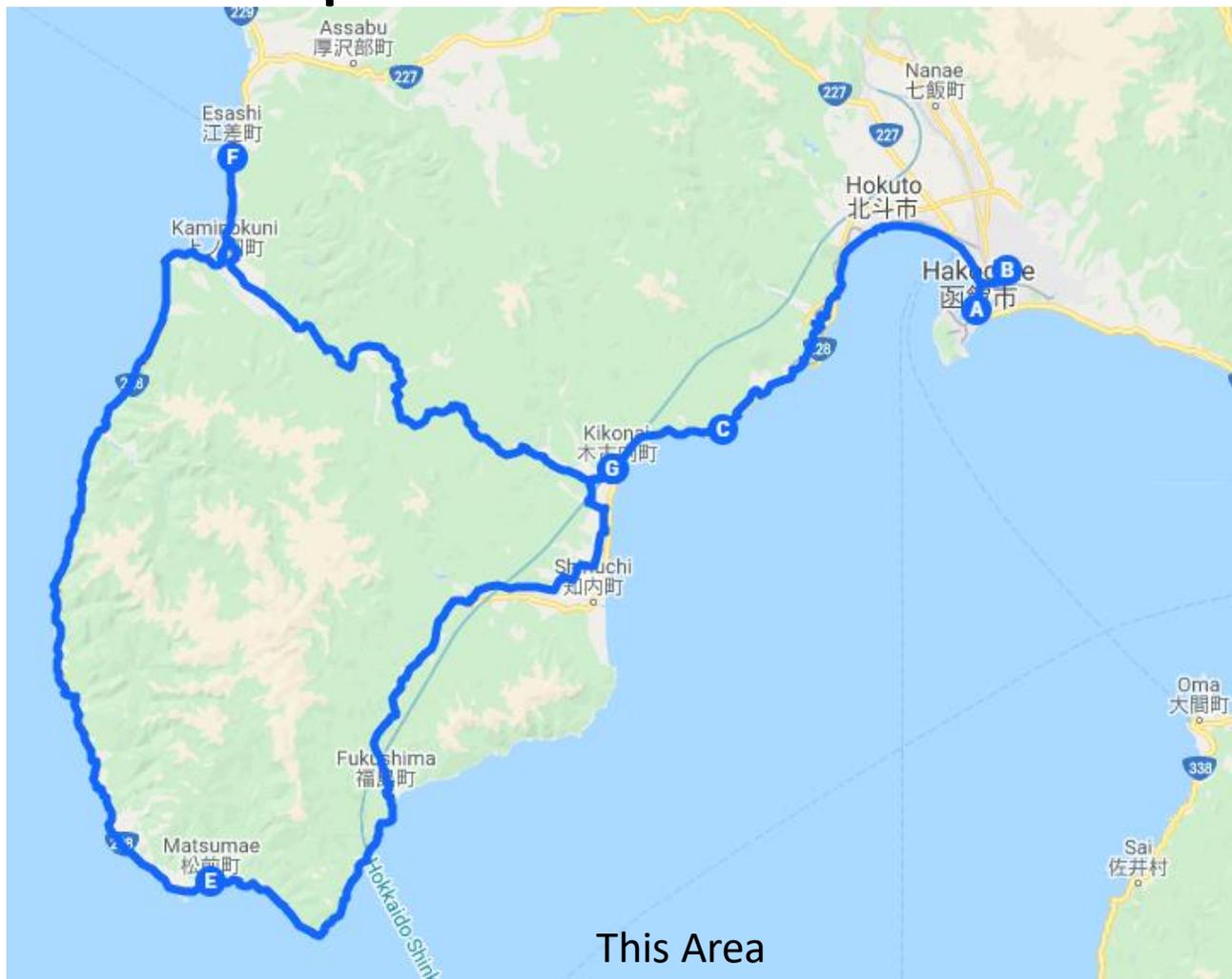
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## Route map



This Area

- A) Hotel in Hakodate
- B) Goryokaku Park
- C) Saraki Cape
- D) Kikonai Town
- E) Matsumae Town
- F) Esashi Town
- G) Kikonai Town (same as D)

### Cycling Course

DAY 1 : G to E (from Kikonai to Matsumae)

DAY 2 : E to F (from Matsumae to Esashi)

DAY 3 : F to G (from Esashi to Kikonai)



# Day-by-day Itinerary

## Day 1 – Touring Goryokaku Park and Tower

You will meet the English speaking guide at the lobby of the hotel you are staying this night at 13:30PM. After everyone has arrived, our exciting tour starts !

We first start off with taking the streetcar to the Hakodate Park. During the period when Hokkaido was formally known as “Ezo”, Hakodate magistrate’s office and Goryokaku was built as an important defense port against the Edo shogunate. We visit the Goryokaku Park and climb the tower to see the overview of the star-shaped Goryokaku. As we are in the tower, the guide will talk more about the history. We stay for two to two and a half hours before we head back to our restaurant for dinner.

### Dinner

After touring the Goryokaku Park and Tower, we take the streetcar once again and head to Kanamori Red Brick area. The restaurant is located in this area which was built back in 1869. Stores and restaurants are located in the warehouses built from red bricks.

Welcome dinner is a Western set menu using ingredients from around Hakodate area.



Goryokaku (star shaped)

Once we finish our delicious dinner, we will have a short free time to walk around the red brick warehouse and check out the shops. We meet back again and head to our hotel by streetcar or local bus.

**Activity:** Tour Goryokaku Park and Tower and learn the history of Hakodate

**Difficulty:** 1

## Day 2 – Visit Kanrinmaru Monument / Cycling Matsumae

Breakfast will be buffet at the hotel restaurant. We checkout and meet at the hotel lobby at 09:00AM. A chartered bus awaits in front of the hotel. We board the bus to Kikonai Town which is about an hour ride.

Arriving at Kikonai Town, we first visit the Saraki Cape and the Kanrinmaru Monument. Kanrinmaru is the first battle ship owned by the Shogunate's navy. It worked as the main ship for the Shogunate. Other than that, it also was the first Japanese ship to cross the Pacific Ocean and come back. During the battle between the Shogunate and new government, it played an important role as the Shogunate ship. Once in Meiji Era, it worked as a transport ship to cultivate Hokkaido. But in 1871, it sunk at Saraki Cape. This ship is a must to explain when talking about the cultivation of Hokkaido. Today, the monument of Kanrinmaru is located at Saraki Cape. After listening about the history of Kanrinmaru on the bus, we get off the bus and visit the monument.

### Lunch

Our lunch for this day is at a local restaurant. We will enjoy a western style lunch using ingredients from the southern Hokkaido area.

The afternoon activity is cycling. Today, we cycle from Kikonai Town to Matsumae Town. The ride is a good four to four and a half hour and about 60 km / 37 mi long. Before we get on our bikes, we meet our cycling guide who will be with us throughout the cycling tour. We learn about handling the bikes and get a brief overview of the roads for today. Once we are all set, we start our cycling adventure.

Southern Hokkaido is known to be the "entrance of Hokkaido" from mainland Japan. Most of the people from the mainland had to cross over this southern area in order to cultivate Hokkaido, as it was the closest area from mainland Japan. They called this area Oshima Peninsula. In this cycling tour, we cycle along the coast of Oshima Peninsula and see the entrance of Hokkaido with our eyes.

### Dinner

Dinner is at our ryokan / Japanese inns in Matsumae Town. A Japanese set menu is prepared for everybody.

**Activity:** Cycling Matsumae

**Difficulty:** 3

### Day 3 – Foot Path of Matsumae Town / Cycling to Esashi Town

Our day starts with a good Japanese breakfast at the ryokan. After breakfast, we meet at the lobby at 09:00AM. A local guide from Matsumae Guide Committee will take us on a foot path tour of Matsumae Town.

With the local guide, we walk to Matsuyama Castle and teramachi area. Teramachi is an area where many temples were built around the castle. It played an important role when the castle was attacked by enemies by working as a defense line.

In our three hour foot path, we visit some of the ruins of the temple from the attacks.

#### Lunch

Our last destination of the foot path is the local restaurant where we have our lunch. Matsumae area is known for “Matsumae-duke”, pickles of local ingredients like dried squid, kombu and herring roe. We will have an opportunity to try this specialty.

Once we finish our lunch, our cycling for this day starts. Duration of this day is same as the day before – four to four and a half hour ride and about 60 meters / 37 mi long. We cycle along the coast of Oshima Peninsula and enjoy the scenery, but this time, there will be more ups and downs compared to the day before. So be sure pace yourself and when we take a break, keep yourself hydrated.

After we check in to the hotel, we refresh ourselves and board the bus to dinner.



#### Dinner

Dinner is at a very local restaurant. Menu is Japanese set menu using ingredients caught / made from the area.

**Activity:** Foot Path / Cycling to Esashi Town

**Difficulty:** 3

## Day 4 – Foot Path of Inishie Highway Road / Cycling to Kikonai Town

Breakfast will be at the hotel restaurant. We meet at the lobby at 09:30AM. The local guide from Esashi Sightseeing Committee will greet us and guide us through this morning activity.

In the Oshima Peninsula, this Esashi area was one of the earliest area to open its port but also was the area that was involved in the chaos of Boshin war – the Japanese civil war between Imperial (new government) and the Shogunate.

Kaiyomaru, a ship formally owned by the Shogunate, played an important role to the Shogunate side. It was one of the main power source of the Shogunate. But it sunk at the shore of Esashi leading the Shogunate to gradually lose power and end the Boshin war with Shogunate's loss. As we walk along the foot path, we visit Kaiyomaru Museum and learn in more detail about its role. The walk will be a good three to three and a half hours and about 5 to 6 km / 3 to 4 mi long.

### Lunch

During our walk, we will stop by a local restaurant and enjoy a Soba lunch. Soba is a buckwheat noodle dish – a must try when you are in Japan !

Afternoon activity is cycling back to Kikonai Town, the first town we started our cycling tour. Different from the past 2 days, we are cycling more through the mountains than the coastline. The cycling itself is about three to three and a half hours and 45km / 27 mi long. Not too much ups and downs today compared to the day before.

After we arrive at Kikonai Town, we say farewells to the cycling guide and go on with our tour. We ride the local train "Isaribi Railroad". During our tour, we have learned about the history of Oshima Peninsula. Since this is the ending portion of our tour, we are riding the local train back to Hakodate which is like moving from the past to modern time in Oshima Peninsula. We will enjoy a quick snack on the train.

After we are back in present Hakodate, we will board the bus to Mount Hakodate. Our final activity is going up Mt. Hakodate by ropeway and enjoy the present Hakodate from the top of the mountain.

### Dinner

Farewell dinner is at the restaurant on Mt. Hakodate. A western style set menu will be served.

**Activity:** Foot Path / Cycling to Kikonai Town

**Difficulty:** 3

## Day 5 – Hakodate Morning Market / Motomachi Area

After breakfast, we visit the morning market located less than 5 minutes away from the hotel. At the morning market, we have a chance to actually purchase raw and processed seafood to take home. Then we board chartered bus to the Motomachi area, which is an area where many consulate offices of multiple countries are located. It also is a good walking path. Here, we have free time to walk around the area before we head to Hakodate Station.

Once we are finished with the free time, we head back on the bus to Hakodate Station which is the last destination. You are free to continue your exciting adventure.

### Accommodations :

Day 1 : Century Marina Hakodate Hotel or similar / Western Room / Single Occupancy

Day 2 : Ryokan Yano or similar / Japanese Room / Single Occupancy

Day 3 : Hotel New Esashi or similar / Japanese or Western Room / Single Occupancy

Day 4 : Century Marina Hakodate Hotel or similar / Western Room / Single Occupancy

## What's included

- All of transportation as stated in the itinerary
- English Speaking representative(s) and Guide(s)
- Rental bikes
- Bike accessories
- Spare parts and mechanic services
- Support vehicles
- 4 night accommodation, single occupancy
- 4 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 4 Dinners

## What's not included

- Cost to/from the tour
- Personal expense
- Any extra cost for drinks other than those provided within the tour

# We provide & What to bring

## We provide

- Rental bikes and accessories (helmets, gloves)
- Support vehicle
- Water to prevent dehydration
- First Aid Kit

## What to bring

### Necessities

- Comfortable clothing to exercise
- Warm clothing (as temperature in Hokkaido may drop in September)
- Waterproof jacket (windbreaker would be better)
- Rain Gear (umbrellas, raincoats)
- Exercise shoes with a thick soles
- Reusable bottles (to fill up with water)
- Any personal medications
- Passport
- Travel Insurance
- Cash (in Yen) in case of a sudden need to purchase something.

### Good to have

- Cameras
- Sunglass
- Sunscreen / lotion
- List of any past illness

## About us

### **Nippon Travel Agency Hokkaido**

We, Nippon Travel Agency Hokkaido (NTA Hokkaido) launched business in 1994, spinning off from “Nippon Travel Agency (NTA)”, the first travel agency in Japan founded in 1905. This spin-off helped us to become a specialist in all types of travel in Hokkaido, the largest prefecture of Japan, ranging from Destination Management, Outgoing Tourism, MICE Solutions to Special Interest Tours. We extended our business from the Sapporo office to 8 branch offices within Hokkaido, from Hakodate of southern Hokkaido to Kushiro of eastern Hokkaido. From our 115+ years of experience in the travel market, we are committed to offering travel services of the highest quality, combining our energy and enthusiasm. Our greatest satisfaction comes in serving large numbers of satisfied clients who have experienced the joys and inspiration of travel. If you have any questions or concerns about a trip to Japan, please feel free to contact us. Our mission is to provide the best experience on your next exciting trip to Japan !



### **Guides**

Our English speaking guide is a veteran in guiding foreign customers throughout Japan. We believe that the guides play an important role in tours as they are the bridge between local people and the customers. Therefore, in all of our tours, we only use nationally licensed guides and also who are a professional not only in guiding but also in communicating with the customers.

This goes the same with the cycling guide. We work with the most experienced guides in Hokkaido. The guide may not be fluent in English, but have the passion to communicate with people from all over the world.

# Information and Requirements

## **Dietary Restrictions**

Should you have any dietary restrictions or any special requests, please let us know at the time of booking, in the Registration Form. We will work our best to match your request, but there may be time where we have to ask for your kind understanding. In our years of working with overseas groups, we have been requested for Halal, gluten free and MSG. We ask for you to let us know especially for these three restrictions, as many of Japanese dish uses gluten and MSG, and Halal is not penetrated much yet in Japan, especially in the countryside.

Our most desire is for you to experience Japan to the fullest, not just through activities and communicating with the locals but through food as well. As we stated above, in certain areas, especially in the countryside of Japan, it may be difficult to completely match your request. So we would like to ask for you to try your best to challenge it. On the other hand, we do understand that dietary restrictions are very important as well. All in all, we will work our best to match your request, so please let us know at the earliest.

## **Emergency Response Plan**

We believe that in order to enjoy any kind of tour, we must first think of safety as the top priority. We, Nippon Travel Agency Hokkaido, ask for all activity guides to be certified with the Advanced First Aid Course or any certificate of similar course (for example wilderness first aid). Other than just being certified, the guides will have a first aid kit along with them during the tour. We will also have a staff in our office to take care with any kind of trouble that happens during the tour.

Depending on the weather condition of that day, the guide will be giving out specific instructions to prevent any danger that may occur because of the weather condition. If the weather is unsuitable to fulfil the activity, the guide will make a decision to change the routing, or if worse, we will substitute the activity with a different activity just as enjoyable as the original activity.

## **Tips on Onsen (Hot Springs) / Wearing Yukatas / Japanese Rooms**

Japan is a very famous country for *Onsen* or we call it Hot Springs. In most of the Onsen Ryokan (Japanese Inns), there are public baths for you to take a shower and try a dip into the onsen. You may take a clean bath together with other guests, using as much water you may desire, and talk to acquaintances as long as you desire. However, you must be careful as the water is quite hot you may get dizzy. Remember to drink a good cup of water after you bath, as you will be dehydrated.

In many of Japan's ryokans, they prepare a *Yukata* instead of pajamas. Yukatas are one piece clothing, where you wear on top of you underwear (undershirt and socks are optional). Yukatas are typical Japanese style robes. You can wear Yukatas to dinner, but that is optional. We will teach you how to wear Yukatas at the time of check in.

The first and last night will be a hotel with western rooms. At the hotel for the second night, all rooms are Japanese rooms, using tatami mats. In Japanese rooms, there are no beds, and we ask for your to sleep on the tatami mats in *futons*. Futons are mattress stuffed with cotton wool with a bed quilt. When we don't use the futon, they will be stored in the closets. During your dinner time, the staff from the hotel will come into your room and get the futon ready. If you need more mattress, please feel free to let the hotel know. The third night hotel will either be western room or Japanese room, depending on the availability of the hotel. Every night will be single occupancy.

# Reservation & Cancellation Policy

## Payment Methods

We accept payment via Credit Card or Wire. If you wish to pay by Credit Card, please be noted that we only accept VISA or Master. Any other type of credit card company, we are afraid we can not accept them. If you wish to pay through our bank, please let us know on the reservation form, and we will send you our banking information.

We will require a deposit of JPY50,000- or Full Payment at the time of filling in the Reservation Form. The Deposit will be waived to the total tour fare of this tour. Final payments must be made 21 days prior to tour date. We will send you a reminder email on the payment approximately 30 days prior.

## Cancellation

If you wish to cancel your reservation, please let us know by email with a writing that you are cancelling the tour. We must receive the writing in order to cancel your request.

Please see below for our Cancellation Charge

<b>Cancellation Notice is Received on:</b>	<b>Cancellation Charge</b>
31 days or Before prior tour start date in Japan	No Charge
30 to 15 days prior to group arrival date in Japan	20% of total tour fare
14 to 8 day prior to tour start date in Japan	50% of total tour fare
7 to 5 day prior to tour start date in Japan	70% of total tour fare
4 day to 1 day prior to tour start date in Japan	100% of total tour fare
No show or on and after tour start date in Japan	100% of total tour fare

## Disclaimer

Our tour programs are programmed under the careful consideration of your safety. The guides will pay sufficient attention to keep you away from accidents and/or injuries during the tour. However, we could not assume any responsibilities of the following incidents :

1. Accidents and/or injuries caused from bad physical conditions and/or any diseases or sickness which you already have suffered prior to the tour.
2. Accidents and/or injuries caused by your negligence to safety instructions given by your guides throughout the tour.
3. Any other accidents and/or injuries caused by your self-infliction.

At the time of filling in the Reservation Form, we will ask for you to make a signature on the disclaimer form sent with the reservation form.

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## Tour Operator / Contact

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