

Learn about Fishery Industry and its Coexistence with Nature in Eastern Hokkaido



As the most southern area of the World Natural Heritage Site, Rausu is a deep sea of more than 2,000 meters / 1.2 foot in depth and also a place where drift ice rich in minerals flows in. From this unique environment, it has been a habitat for many marine species leading for fishery in the area to be prosperous. Salmon in Shibetsu Town, kombu (seaweed) in Hamanaka and oysters in Akkeshi Town are nationally famous specialties from the area. The environment for these specialties to grow were not only made by the rich minerals from the wetland and the sea. There were many efforts made by the local people to protect the environment while they produce fishery industry. In this tour, we will travel around Eastern Hokkaido and learn and experience about the fishery industry in these areas from local guides and experts.

Highlights:

- Protect the World Heritage Site by clean-up tour of marine litter
- Salmon fishing at Churui River in Shibetsu Town
- Trekking tour of Kiritappu Wetland with a specialist
- Horse trekking the seashore of Hamanaka Town
- Canoeing the Bekambeushi River with licensed guide

Location:

Eastern 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.

Eastern Hokkaido is the area located on the east side of Hokkaido. An unique feature of eastern Hokkaido is that it has many rich nature, including the Shiretoko Peninsula which is registered as the World Natural Heritage Site, that inspires the travelers.

Main Activity:	Learn and experience the development of fishery coexisting with the natural environment in Eastern Hokkaido	
Difficulty:	2	
Availability:	Recommended from June until mid September	
Tour Duration:	4 Nights 5 Days	
Pax:	Minimum 4Pax	Maximum 15Pax
Price per person:	JPY378,000- (Cost of 8Pax per group)	

[Route map](#)

[Day-by-day Itinerary](#)

[What's included](#)

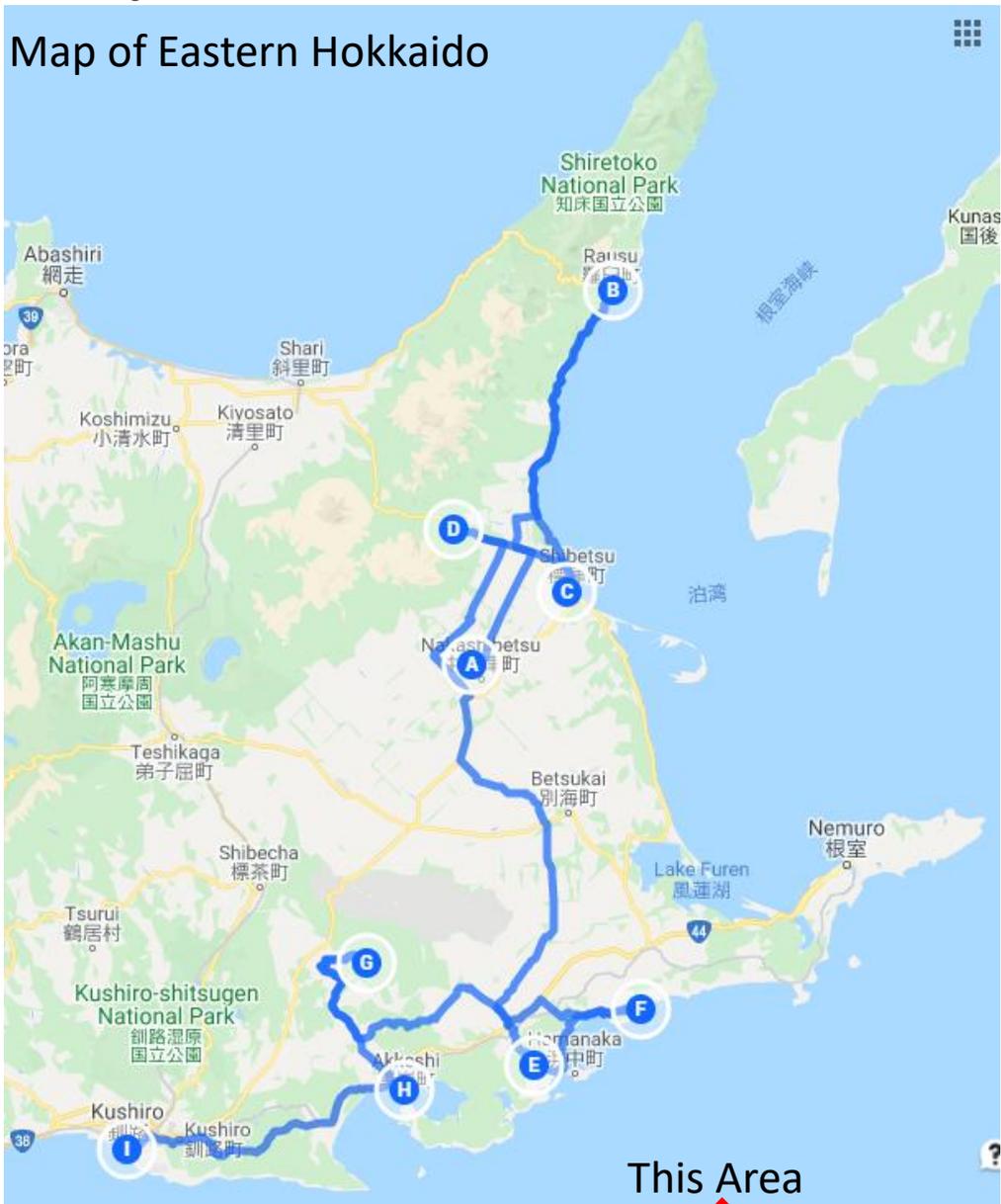
[We provide & What to bring](#)

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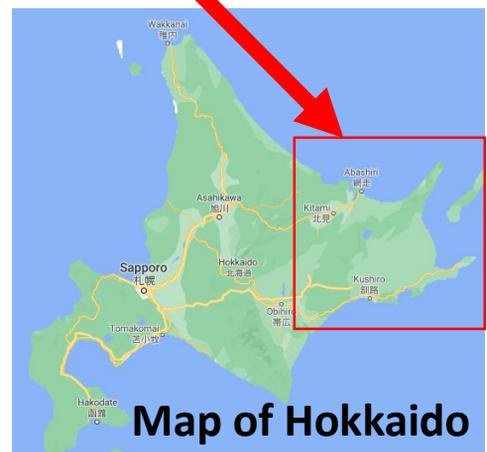
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Route map



- A) Nakashibetsu Airport
- B) Rausu
- C) Shibetsu Salmon Museum
- D) Churui River
- E) Kiritappu Wetland
- F) Horse Trekking
- G) Bekanbeushi River
- H) Conchiglie
- I) Kushiro Prince Hotel



Day-by-day Itinerary

Day 1 – Make Prayers at Rausu Shrine and board Shiretoko Nature Cruise

Meet the English speaking guide at Nakashibetsu Airport at 09:30AM. Once everyone is set to go, we board the chartered coach and head to Rausu. Bus ride will be about one hour. During the bus ride, the guide will give an overall history and culture of Eastern Hokkaido.

Once we arrive at Rausu, the first stop will be Rausu Shrine. This shrine has been here for over 160 years protecting the people of Rausu. Many fishermen come here to make their prayers for their safety while out on the sea. Here, we make prayers like the fishermen for this tour's safety.

Lunch

Lunch is a Japanese set menu at a local restaurant.

After lunch, we head on to the shore of Rausu. We meet Captain Hasegawa, who will be taking us out to the sea with his boat. With over 15 years of experience with the cruise, captain and his boat cruise has been interviewed by local and international television channels like NHK and BBC. The captain will guide us through the sea to meet many fish, whales and dolphins. If we are lucky, we may meet some birds like Shearwater. Boat ride is about two and a half hours.



Once we say our good-bye to Captain Hasegawa, we head on to our accommodation for the night. The hotel is located close from the captain's port. Rausu is known to be the earliest sunrise in Japan. From the hotel, we can enjoy the view of the sunrise and also the beautiful sunset in the evening.

Dinner

Welcome dinner will be at the hotel. Local Japanese dish using many seafood caught around the area will be prepared.

Activity: Visit Rausu Shrine and Board Shiretoko Nature Cruise

Difficulty: 1

Day 2 – Beach Clean-Up and Visiting Salmon Museum

Good morning ! Some of you may have enjoyed watching the earliest sunrise in Japan from the hotel. Breakfast will be Japanese Set Menu at the cafeteria. After breakfast, we meet at the lobby at 08:30AM.

Morning activity is the cleaning up of marine litter to protect the World Heritage Site. The Shiretoko Peninsula, including Rausu and Shari, is registered as the World Natural Heritage Site. Because of its unique shape, the cold current from the Sea of Okhotsk and the warm current from the Sea of Japan both brings in rich minerals to the species. On the other hand, this unique shape also brought in marine litter from Korea, China and Kunashir Island.

Our mission today is to pick up those marine litter and protect the World Natural Heritage Site. We meet Captain Minato who is the head of the group protecting the Site. Regularly, we must receive permission from the Japanese Government to land on the World Heritage Site. Captain Minato and his crew has received special permission from the government to land on the Site. Before we land, we receive instructions from the captain. As stated before, not everybody could take step on the World Heritage Site, which means the roads are not fully maintained. Some roads will be rocky and may be difficult to walk smoothly. As we walk, the captain will warn us to be careful from time to time but we must be careful ourselves as well. This tour will be four and a half hours.

Lunch

Once we are back from the clean-up tour, it is lunch time. Menu will either be Seafood rice bowl or set menu with cooked fish depending on the availability that day.

In the afternoon, we travel to Shibetsu Town, a town famous for Salmon. Shibetsu Town is the first town to develop the system of HACCP for salmon as a community in Japan. We visit Shibetsu Salmon Museum and learn about how the HACCP system is operated in the town. Depending on the season, we may be able to actually see how the salmon is raised in the museum.

Our hotel tonight is a family owned hotel. They are famous for natural hot spring onsen.

Dinner

Dinner is at a local community center called “Shibetsu Banyan”. With the help from local people, we cook and enjoy dishes using salmon and other seafood caught in the area.

Activity: Clean-up of World Natural Heritage Site and visit Salmon Museum

Difficulty: 2

Day 3 – Salmon Fishing and Kiritappu Wetland Trekking Tour

Our day starts early as we must go to Churui River for salmon fishing. After an early breakfast at the hotel, we meet at the lobby at 07:30AM. We board the bus for about half an hour.

To protect overfishing of the salmon, fishing at Churui River is prohibited by law. But there was a fear of poaching the salmon, so in order to protect them, Shibetsu Town has allowed certain members of the town council to catch and release the salmon. They have started this activity to research and keep count the number of salmon coming to this river every year. This activity let the town check that the salmon are not being poached and there is a steady number of salmon.

We will be part of this research team. We meet the local guide from Shibetsu Guide Committee. First, the guide will explain the process of salmon fishing and any precautions. This research will be about two hours.

Lunch

Lunch will be at a local restaurant in Hamanaka Town, a different town from Shibetsu Town. Specialty in this town is seaweed, or kombu, in Japanese. A set menu using kombu will be served.

After our kombu lunch, we head on to Kiritappu Wetland. Here, we go into the wetland and learn how the kombu we had for lunch is grown. Kiritappu Wetland is the fifth largest nationally protected wetland. As we trek the wetland, we learn about how the wetland works as a natural filter to provide clean water rich in minerals to the sea. With the guide from Kiritappu Wetland Natural Trust Center, we will trek a good 4-5 km / 2.5-3 mi in two and a half hours.

Our hotel tonight is also a family owned hotel in Hamanaka City.

Dinner

Dinner is at the cafeteria of the hotel. A Japanese set menu will be prepared. The main dish is using locally bred Hamanaka Beef. Also, fish caught from the sea that day will be used as well.

Activity: Salmon Fishing and Kiritappu Wetland Trekking

Difficulty: 2

Day 4 – Sea Otter Observation / Horse Trekking / Canoe Bekanbeushi River

After a good Japanese breakfast, we meet in the lobby at 07:45AM. We board the chartered bus and start our day.

The first stop of the day is at a community hall. Here, we learn about the sea otter and its living environment from Mr. Kataoka, the first man to find wild sea otter living near this Kiritappu area. Sea otter has been registered on the Red List by IUCN, as the endangered species. From around 2014, wild sea otter has been found near this area. Mr. Kataoka started to research the living environment of the sea otter and also has been working to protect the living environment.

We first receive a lecture from Mr. Kataoka and watch a video of sea otter in Kiritappu area. Then we move to the actual places where Mr. Kataoka has seen the sea otter. We must keep in mind that since sea otters are wild animals, we may not be able to see them. The lecture and tour will be around an hour and a half.

Our next destination is horse trekking at the seashore. After 45 minute ride on the bus, we arrive at the place to horse trek. Ms. Abe will be waiting for us. She is a trail riding licensed guide by Hokkaido prefecture. Owing more than 30 horses at one time, Ms. Abe has been guiding for over 10 years. Horse trekking at a seashore is one of the most valuable experience and there are not so many places in Japan where you can horse trek on the seashore.

Ms. Abe and her staff will give us precise instructions on how to ride the horse. We break up in groups depending on our levels and enjoy horse trekking. We enjoy for a good two hours before we head on to late lunch.



Lunch

Lunch will be at Ms. Abe's place. We enjoy seafood caught from the area and also locally famous kombu. If the weather is clear, we will have lunch outside.

Day 4 – Sea Otter Observation / Horse Trekking / Canoe Bekanbeushi River

Once we finish our lunch, we board the bus and head to Akkeshi Town. Akkeshi is famous for Lake Akkeshi and Akkeshi Bay. It is one of the unique places in Japan where the brackish lake (Lake Akkeshi) rich with minerals from Bekanbeushi Wetland and seawater (Akkeshi Bay) rich with plankton mixes. This unique environment is perfect for oysters which lead Akkeshi to be one of the most famous area in producing oysters in Hokkaido. We meet our canoe guide from Akkeshi Terminal Conchiglie and start our adventure in the Bekanbeushi River. Depending on the number of members in the group, we split into groups to board the Canadian Canoe. Our canoe ride is about 2 hours and the guide will decide on how far we go depending on our level. During the canoe ride, enjoy the harmony of birds chirping and the sound of the flowing water.



Dinner

We head to Akkeshi Terminal Conchiglie after our canoe adventure. Here, we enjoy our farewell dinner using oyster bred in the terminal.

Activity: Sea otter observation, horse trekking, canoe Bekanbeushi River

Difficulty: 3

Day 5 – Farewell at the Hotel

Breakfast is buffet at the hotel restaurant.

Our tour ends after checkout. To those who needs to head to Kushiro Station, the guide will be happy to take you there. For others heading on to their next adventure, we say our farewells and hope you enjoyed the tour !

Accommodations :

Day 1 : Rausu Marumi / Japanese or Western Room / Single Occupancy

Day 2 : Hotel Kawabata / Japanese or Western Room / Single Occupancy

Day 3 : Kurimoto Ryokan / Japanese or Western Room / Single Occupancy

Day 4 : Kushiro Prince Hotel / Western Room / Single Occupancy

What's included

- All of transportation as stated in the itinerary
- English Speaking representative(s) and Guide(s)
- Canoe gears (paddles, life jackets)
- Canoe boats
- Rain boots
- Fishing rods
- 4 night accommodation, single occupancy
- 4 Breakfasts, 4 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

- Canoe gears (paddles, life jackets)
- Water to prevent dehydration
- First Aid Kit
- Waders, water glass and rain boots
- Fishing rods

What to bring

Necessities

- Couple sets of comfortable clothing
- Warm clothing (as temperature in Hokkaido may drop even in summer time)
- Waterproof jacket (windbreaker would be better)
- Rain Gear (umbrellas, raincoats)
- Exercise shoes with thick soles
- Reusable bottles (to fill up with water)
- Any personal medications
- Passport (you may need to present it at the time of check in)
- Travel Insurance
- Cash (in Yen) as many of the stores only accept cash

Good to have

- Cameras (waterproof are better)
- 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.

All of the local guides on this tour are professional local guides, most with over 10 years of experience in the adventure travel industry. As stated before, Eastern Hokkaido area is rich in nature and has many outdoor activities. Even though it offers many activities, the area is not so much familiarized compared to the other areas of Hokkaido. In order to change this situation, the local guides and the community have been working hard to promote the area more to the public. They aim for eastern Hokkaido to be more popular and receive more understanding of its environment through the outdoor activities.

All of the guides we have on this tour are heartwarming caring people, eagerly waiting to guide everyone to the fascinating nature of eastern Hokkaido.

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.

Other than the last night, we have booked a Ryokan, or Japanese Inns. All accommodations will be single occupancy, but other than the last night, your rooms are either going to be Western or Japanese rooms using tatami mats, depending on the ryokan's availability. 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 last night will be at a hotel with all western rooms.

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

Cancellation Notice is Received on:	Cancellation Charge
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.

Tour Operator / Contact

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