

Tectonic Plates Movement in the Hidaka Mountains, 4-Day Geological Observation Tour



The Hidaka Mountains, located in Hidaka Sanmyaku-Erimo Quasi-National Park, are one of the few extremely steep mountain ranges in Japan. They are forming a very important geological area for the insight it provides into the earth's interior. This mountain range was formed by plate tectonics.

On this tour led by a local nature guide and a curator, we will observe the strata of the canyon formed by the flow of the river and look for the tectonic plate motion. We will enjoy different points of view while walking along the river, doing rafting and searching our own geological stone. You will also visit a rare peridotite mining site and learn about this special mining industry unique to the region. This is a tour where you can really feel the tectonic plate motion.

Highlights:

- Observe valuable geological features and rocks exposed on the surface of the earth due to plate motions while enjoying nature walk, river rafting and hiking.
- Visit a local peridotite mining site that requires a special permit and learn about rare peridotite and local industry.
- Find a geological stone and have it appraised by the curator to take it home as a souvenir.

Location: Hidaka Sanmyaku-Erimo Quasi-national Park, Hokkaido

Main Activity: Geological observation walking, River rafting

Difficulty: 2

Tour Dates: From the middle of June to the middle of September

Pax: Minimum 4 Maximum 6

Price: From JPY 340,000

[Route map](#)

[Day-by-day Itinerary](#)

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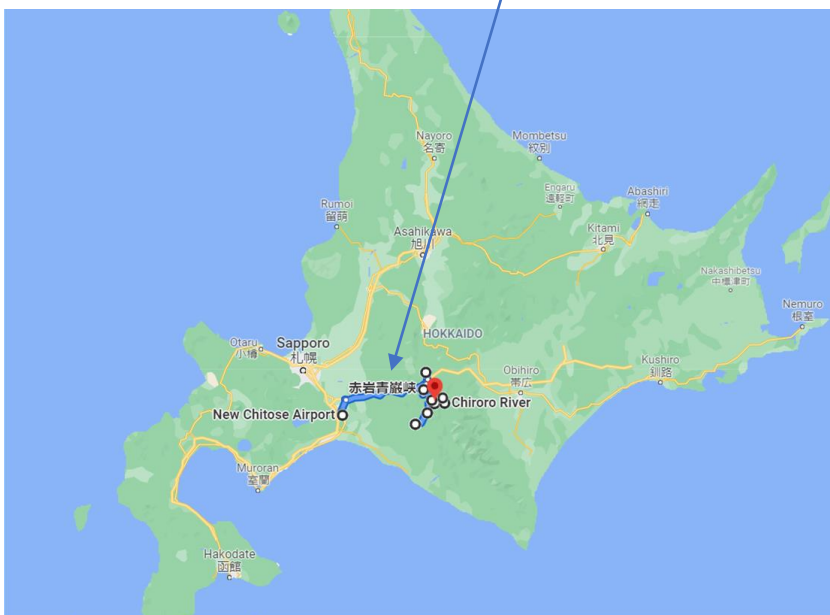
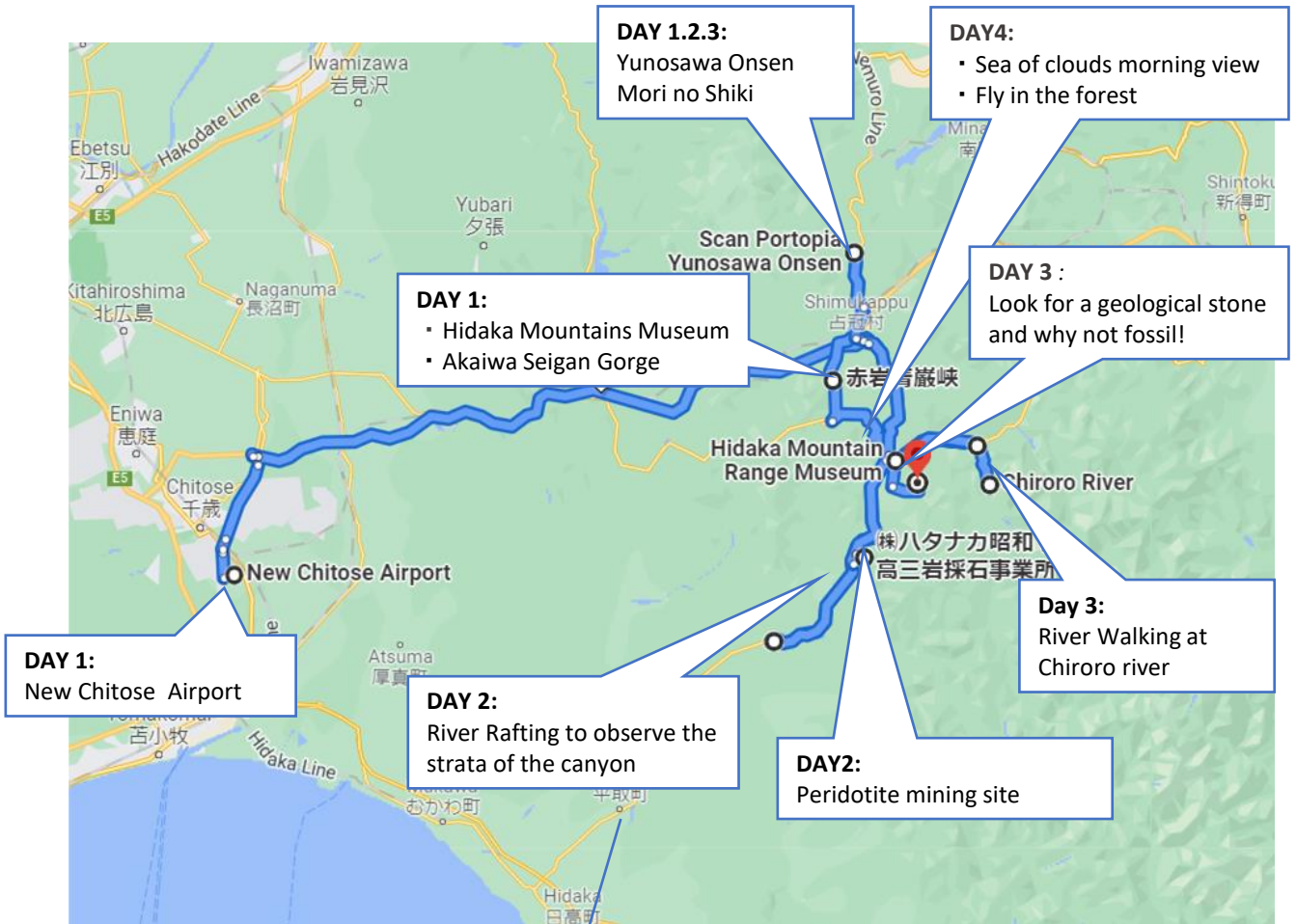
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Route map



Source: Google My Map

Day-by-day Itinerary

Day 1

Meeting at New Chitose airport, gorge walking tour with a curator in Hidaka

We will meet the rest of the group around 11:00 am at New Chitose Airport (CTS). After spending some time getting to know each other and having a briefing for our upcoming adventure program, we will head to Hidaka town, 2 hours away from the airport by private van.

Before going on the field with a curator, we will get a general overview of the formation of the Hidaka Mountains at the Hidaka Mountains Museum. The Akaiwa-Seigan Gorge in the Yubari Mountains, which was formed on the side of the mountain range during the uplift of the Hidaka Mountains. This is a place where red rocks called chert are popular with rock climbers and exposed on a large scale. Here you will be able to touch the actual rocks.

We will stay for three nights at Yunosawa Onsen Mori no Shiki, where you will feel and experience the great nature of Hidaka and Japanese culture. Surrounded by forests, the inn aims to reduce CO2 emissions by using thinned wood and unused leftover wood to heat the hot spring.

Accommodation - Yufutsu | Private room, shared bath and toilet | Onsen Spa

Included meals - Dinner at Onsen Inn

Activity

◆ Gorge walking tour with curator

Location: Akaiwa-Seigan Gorge

Time required: 1hour

Difficulty: 1



Day 2

Gently rafting on the river to observe the canyon's strata and visit of a rare peridotite mine

Rising in the Hidaka Mountains, the beautiful Saru River, which is the longest river in Hidaka, reflects the beauty of the four seasons. Accompanied by our curator, we will enjoy rafting this slowly flowing river. Unique geology site of Hidaka region, this landscape has been carved out by the river over the years. We will observe the geology of the deep underground valleys exposed to the surface of the earth.

After a few hours of gentle river rafting, we will change clothes and head to a local restaurant. We will taste Biratori Wagyu beef lunch. By surviving the cold winters of Biratori town, the flavor of the meat is tender and richer. The hamburger steak is served with a Japanese soy sauce that has been traditionally used for 30 years. With a focus on local production for local consumption, the delicious rice, tomatoes (another specialty of the region) and other vegetables from Biratori are also excellent.

After lunch, we will visit a peridotite mining site thanks to a special permission. Peridotite is a geologically rare rock that is a magma uplifted mass that has escaped serpentinization. We will discover where this rare rock is extracted while acknowledging the natural blessing of the earth and the purpose of this local mining industry.

For dinner, we will have light soba noodles, creative dishes made with local ingredients and local sake.

Accommodation - Yuufutsu | Private room, shared bath and toilet | Onsen Spa
Included meals - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner at the local restaurant

Activity

◆ Gently rafting on the river

Location: Saru River

Time required: 3 hours

Difficulty: 2

◆ Mining visit

Location: Iwanai, Hidaka

Time required: 1 hours

Difficulty: 1



Day 3

Walking along the river to observe geological features and looking for some rare fossils

We will walk through the clear streams of the Chiroro River, a tributary of the Saru River, climb rocks, swim in waterfall pools and look at the variety of rocks and geological characteristics that have surfaced due to the movements of the earth's plates.

After enjoying a lunch of fish dishes, at a fishing pond on the riverbank, we might be enough lucky to find a rare fossil to bring back home with us.

This area is the birthplace of "Ryusou," a method of transporting lumber on the current of the Saru River when transportation was still undeveloped. Our curator will explain to us how to make the difference between simple rocks and geological stones, and we might find a fossil to bring back home as a memory of this trip!

The last dinner of the trip will be an authentic BBQ outdoor cooking experience. We will enjoy a Dutch oven cooking with Hidaka's mountain and sea delicacies while socializing with the Farm Inn owner and his wife around a bonfire.

Accommodation - Yuufutsu | Private room, shared bath and toilet | Onsen Spa

Included meals - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner in nature

Activity

◆River walking

- Time Required: 2 hours
- Location: Chiroro River

Difficulty: 2

◆Look for your own stone

- Time Required: 2hours
- Location: Saru River

Difficulty: 1



Day 4

Seeing the sea of clouds and ziplining over the canyon

We will start our last day a bit earlier than the past few days to enjoy a spectacular view. We will leave the hotel before breakfast and go up a hill to experience the sea of clouds that covers Hidaka valley. After three days of walking and rafting down the river to feel the movements of tectonic plates, we will picture Hidaka region from the top of the mountain and if the weather is clear, we will be able to see the town of Hidaka. We will enjoy the breakfast while admiring the magnificent view of the surroundings before to return to the hotel to check out.

The last activity of our trip in Hidaka is a zipline. We will have a bird's eye view of Hidaka's nature by ziplining over the canyon, which we have been looking up from the river the last 3 days.

We will toast to our adventure travel ending with a local beer at a local restaurant, and then we will drive to New Chitose Airport.

Included meals - Breakfast, Lunch

Activity

◆The sea of clouds watching
Location: Mt. Kita Hidaka Dake
Time required: Including breakfast, 2 hours

◆Ziplining
Location: Hidaka
Time required: 2hours

Difficulty: 1

Difficulty: 2



Accommodations :

Dates	Location	Type	Room	Spa
Day1.2.3 Yunosawa Onsen Mori no Shiki	Yuufutsu	Onsen Inn	Private room shared toilet and bath /wifi	Onsen

Food & Accommodation

Breakfast & Dinner

Most of breakfasts on this tour will be served at our accommodation. The meals will be set menus or buffet, containing traditional Japanese dishes beautifully presented in separate plates & bowls. If you are a master of chopsticks, these skills will be handy, otherwise western utensils are usually available on request. For most of the dinner on this tour, we will take you to the local restaurant to taste authentic local food, including seafood, fresh vegetables, Soba and deer meat.

We will do our best to make arrangements for any dietary requirements so please be sure to let us know your needs in advance.

What's included

- 3 nights accommodation, single occupancy basis
(Due to limited capacity, we may ask you to share a room with another guest of the same gender In this case we will inform you in advance)
- 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- Entrance fee and all the activities
- All transport as described in the itinerary
- Snacks and refreshments
- English speaking Japanese guide(s)

Not included

- Airfares
- Personal expenses
- Alcoholic drinks with included meals

Please note that you will be asked to show your passport when checking into accommodation in Japan. It is a requirement for accommodation providers to take a photocopy of the passport of overseas guests.

We provide & What to bring

We provide

- Life Jacket and wet suit for river rafting (depends on the season)
- First aid kit

What to bring

Make sure you bring long trousers and a warm sweater for evenings, as well as covered shoes.

Essentials

- Warm/ Wind proof/ Waterproof jacket
- Trekking shoes and backpack
- Comfortable clothing that is easy to move with and a change of clothes for the hiking
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Energy Food
- Personal Medications
- Travel insurance
- Passport
- Cash in Japanese yen. Small restaurants and shops in rural parts of Japan do not accept credit cards. You can withdraw cash from an ATM at a post office and Seven Eleven convenience stores.

Recommended items

- Binoculars
- Camera
- River shoes

About us



Hokkaido Treasure Island Travel

We are Hokkaido Treasure Island Travel (HTIT), an award-winning team of creators of unique, perfectly tailored Hokkaido travel experiences. HTIT Team is deeply rooted in Hokkaido, North Japan. In 2004, HTIT started its journey as a pioneer of a new style of adventure travel by sharing the treasures of Hokkaido. We are constantly opening new doors and making local destinations previously inaccessible for travelers available all over Hokkaido. We provide a compelling combination of personal and professional travel advice, knowledge beyond that of the guidebook insider, and behind the scenes access to places and authentic local experiences generally not available for the public. Our mission is to create for you a journey of a lifetime, every time you travel with us.

Tour Guides:

Mr. Hiroki Suzuki

Mr. Suzuki is the president of Nature Designing, a company that aims to contribute to the revitalization of communities and organizations by creating value through the use of natural resources. After studying forestry at university, he worked in Southeast Asia, mainly in Malaysia and Thailand, providing technical support for tree planting, rural development, human resource development, and environmental conservation. After returning to Japan, he worked as a fieldwork specialist at the Hidaka National Youth Nature Center before launching Nature Designing. Qualified license holder of MFA, WAFA (Wilderness Advanced First Aid), NEAL (Natural Experience Activity Leader).



Information and Requirements

Dietary Restrictions

We believe that eating like the locals is the best way of experiencing Hokkaido's unique culture. However, we understand that it's not possible for everyone to do this and we're more than happy to cater for food allergies, dietary restrictions, and special requirements. If you have any diet restrictions or preferences, please tell us in the Registration Form at the time of booking, and we will do our best to accommodate your dietary needs. In some rural areas particularly, we may ask you for some flexibility. For example, if you require halal food, we may be able to substitute for a vegetarian option instead. Please also be aware that for those who are allergic to MSG we may struggle to arrange a good alternative at every meal in Japan. Some of our overseas guests in the past found it difficult to find ready-made foods completely free of MSG, especially when buying from convenience stores. Most Japanese supermarkets sell simple foods like plain bread, boiled eggs, vegetables and fruits, so you should always be able to find something suitable. The most important thing about dietary requirements is to let us know in advance so we can prepare and organize the foods you need.

Emergency Response Plan

Your safety is our top priority, closely followed by fun and comfort! All our tour guides have years of guiding experience in the outdoors under their belt. The activity guide has taken a 40-hour Wilderness First Aid or Advanced Firefighting Lifesaving Course. At all times, our guides will carry a first-aid kit, as well as have an extra kit in our vehicle and hold an Emergency plan with the nearest emergency hospital for any severe accident. In case of heavy rain, strong winds or other unsafe weather conditions for walking and ride on the fish boat, there may be times when we have to change our tour plan. In such cases, we will try to substitute the original activity with other alternatives such as sightseeing, visiting museums or hot springs. We are here to turn a bad day around into a fun day!

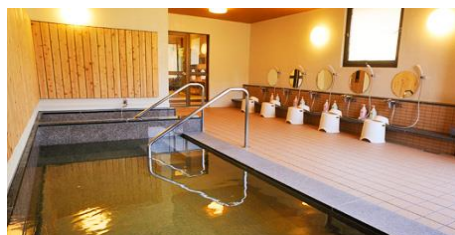
Weather Conditions

In Hokkaido, Mid-June is a transition month from spring to summer, and Mid-September is the beginning of autumn. From June to September the highest temperature is approximately 25.5°C / 77.9°F. The lowest one is approximately 10°C / 50°F in September. The highest rainfall is 211mm(8.3inches) in August. In September and October, we have typhoons in Japan. Although they are not as frequent as in Honshu (the mainland), Hokkaido is occasionally hit by a cyclone (a weakened typhoon as it has travelled over Honshu to Hokkaido). Be prepared for variable weather (warm, cold and wet) to ensure your comfort and safety while traveling.

What is a Onsen Yado?

On our tours, as much as possible, we are offering Onsen Yado to support the local tourism economy. An Onsen Yado (温泉宿) is a traditional Japanese inn, and it is the epitome of Japanese hospitality and cuisine. They are often located in a natural surroundings and feature Japanese style rooms with tatami mats, rice paper partitions and futon (sleeping mattress). Each Onsen Yado prides itself on its cuisine and features seasonal local ingredients. All the Onsen Yado have also on-site natural hot springs for their guests to enjoy during their stay. Here are some good-to-know facts about ryokan to avoid unwelcome surprises.

- You are sleeping on the floor. A traditional Japanese room does not have western beds, instead futon bedding is provided. Often a staff will enter your room and prepare your futon while your dinner.
- Onsen Yado provide "yukata", which is a traditional night robe that looks like a light kimono. You can wear it to go to the hot spring spa and also during the dinner (basically anywhere within the facility). Because in the evening we will most of the time have dinner at the ryokan, you do not have to bring a lot of evening clothes as long as you think you will be comfortable hanging around in your yukata. Of course, our guides will explain to you how to wear properly a yukata.



What is a Onsen?

Some hotels have Onsen spa, that are natural hot springs. As a volcanically active landscape, Japan has over 25,000 natural hot springs scattered throughout the country. Since ancient times, Onsen is part of the Japanese culture. Japanese love onsen and they do not hesitate to travel a long distance to experience famous Onsen establishments. Please keep in mind that there are certain rules to respect while bathing in an onsen. However, they are very simple:

- Bathe in your birthday suit (no swimsuit, no clothes are allowed in the bath). Don't worry, no one is looking !
- Shower before to enter the public bath. In order to keep the onsen water clean make sure to rinse all the soap off and long hair should be tied up. You can take a small towel in if you are feeling shy, but the towel cannot touch the water.
- Be respectful. Do not run, talk too loudly, drink alcohol or splash around while in the onsen. Do not forget to take in a hand towel to dry yourself before returning to the changing room. We are quite fussy about keeping the floor of the changing room as dry as possible. Last but not least, relax and enjoy yourself !

Reservation & Cancellation Policy

Reservation

When we receive your reservation request, we will send you an email with a link to a page on our website, where it asks you to fill in the Registration Form. We will ask for your contact details and personal information such as your height and dietary requirements etc., in order for us to adequately organise and arrange the tour service. Once the Registration Form is completed, you will be taken to the Shopping cart to review your booking, and finally onto the Check Out page to make the payment (Deposit/Full) to secure the booking.

Payment Methods

We will send a booking confirmation by email with an invoice requesting a deposit

- * A 20% Deposit is required for the confirmation of the booking.
- * The remaining cost(Balance Payment) is due 21 days before your arrival.
- * Payment is acceptable by Credit card or Bank Transfer:
 - A. Credit card
 - * We will send you a link with a form to fill in your credit card details
 - B. Bank Transfer
 - * Please process the payment from your local bank in Yen.
 - * All Transaction Fees will be paid by remitter.

Cancellation

- 20% of the tour price will apply 20 days prior to the travel starting date
- 30% of the tour price will apply 7 days prior to the travel starting date
- 40% of the tour price will apply 1 days prior to the travel starting date
- 50% of the tour price will apply on the travel starting date
- 100% of the tour price will apply after the start of the tour or the traveler does not participate in the Tour without notice

Disclaimer

Assumption of risk and safety declaration

Travelers are advised that all activities are undertaken entirely at their own risk and they must behave in a fit and proper manner at all times in accordance with Hokkaido Treasure Island Travel Inc's guidelines. All adventure tours and outdoor activities carry inherent risks and Hokkaido Treasure Island Travel Inc nor its partners do not assume any responsibility for accidents that are caused by its customers or caused by factors outside of human control.

With the purchase of your trip you acknowledge that:

By its very nature, adventure travel, hiking and cycling tours are more challenging and demanding with a significantly higher level of risk, and involve potential exposure to injury and possibly death.

Additional dangers and risks associated with adventure travel may include difficult and dangerous terrain; high altitude; extremes of weather, including sudden and unexpected changes; political instability; remoteness from normal medical services and from communications; and evacuation difficulties in the event of illness or injury.

You must follow our guide's instructions and use any safety equipment provided at all times. For the above reasons you accept the inherent and increased dangers and risks associated with the proposed adventure and the accompanying risk of injury, death or property damage or loss.

Our Responsibilities and Exemptions from Responsibility

All Travelers are required to acknowledge the Terms and Conditions that we provide to them before contracting with us. The Traveler acknowledges that he or she understands the Terms and Conditions, as well as the following information about exemptions from our responsibility.

- We shall be responsible for compensating any damage caused to the Traveler intentionally or negligently by us or by our agent in the performance of this Contract. However, this shall be limited to cases when we have received notice within two years from the time when the accident occurred.

- Except as provided in the preceding Paragraph, we will not be responsible for compensation in the following cases:

- (1) Acts of providence
- (2) Maelstrom of war or civil commotion
- (3) Suspension of Tour Services including transport and accommodation facilities
- (4) Orders from government and public agencies
- (5) Other causes beyond our control or the control of our agents

Tour Operator / Contact

Hokkaido Treasure Island Travel Inc.

9F Daito Bldg, Minami 2-jo Higashi 2-chome 8-1,
Chuo-ku, Sapporo City, Hokkaido, Japan

