

## Snowshoe Hiking on Lake Shikaribetsu, Railroad Remains, and Tokachi River Boat Cruise

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In the Tokachi area, a railroad was built in the Taisho era (1912-1926) to carry lumber out of the area, but the line was abandoned as the forestry industry declined, leaving behind only derelict remains.

Among the concrete arch bridges around Lake Nukabira, the Taushubetsu River Bridge is special because it appears only in winter, when the lake freezes and the water level drops. This mysterious bridge can only be seen by snowshoeing on the lake.

We will visit the arch bridge on snowshoes, feel the history of Hokkaido's pioneering period, and experience the winter wilderness of the Tokachi area, including a boat cruise.



## Highlights:

- Lake Shikaribetsu snow hiking and 'Shikaribetsu-ko Kotan' a venue with winter-only events
- Snowshoe hiking to see Taushubetsu River Bridge and Ice Bubbles
- Tokachi River boat cruise with splendid views of the natural winter landscape
- Staying at a natural hot spring resort at Lake Shikaribetsu and Nukabira Onsenkyo hotspring

## Location:

Tokachi area of Hokkaido , Shikaoui , Shikaribetsu Onsen hot spa, kamiishihoro, Lake Shikaribetsu, Lake Nukabira, Tokachi river

**Main Activity:** Snowshoeing, River boat cruise

**Difficulty:** 2 Easy

**Tour Dates:** Early February to Early March

**Pax:** Minimum 8                      Maximum 12

**Price:** JPY 228,000. ～

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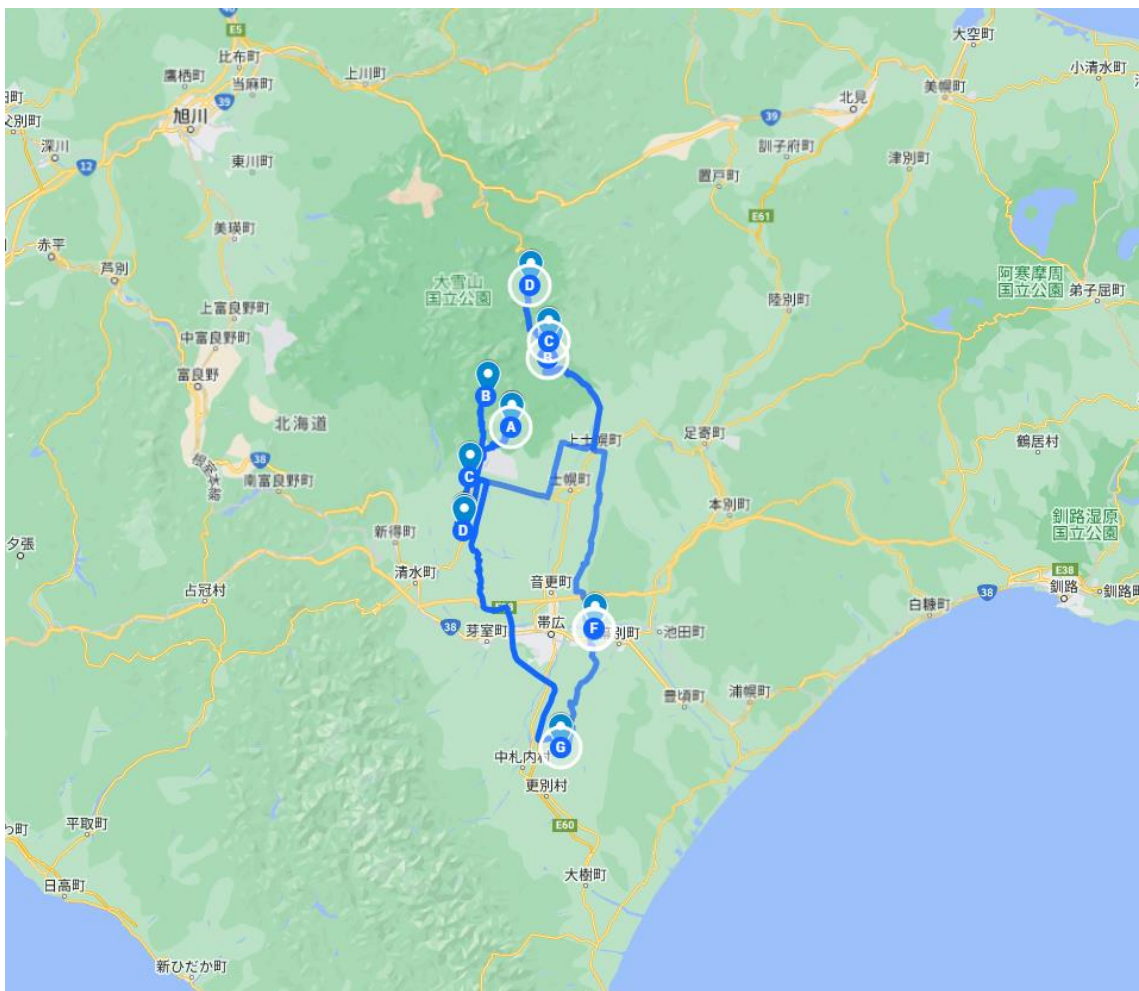
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# Route map



## Day-by-day Itinerary

### Day 1 – Meet at Tokachi Obihiro Airport and visit a Japanese inn with natural a hot spring in Shikaribetsu-kyo

We will gather at Tokachi Obihiro Airport and take a private car to the town of Shikaoi (approx. 1 hour).

Next we will visit Kanno Onsen, a natural hot spring hotel in Shikaribetsu-kyo (approx. 30 min).

We can also take a walk around the area.

#### Dinner

Japanese-style course meals featuring local ingredients and seafood

**Activity:** Strolling around the inn

**Difficulty:** 2 Easy

### Day 2 –Dog sledding in the Tokachi wilderness and snowshoe hiking in the forest around Lake Shikaribetsu

In the morning, we will take a private car to the town of Shikaoi to experience dog sledding with Mushing Works on a 12km section (each sled can only seat two riders but we will all go as a group). This quiet means of transportation allows us to blend in with nature and experience the Tokachi Plain from a unique perspective (approx. 2 hours). After lunch in Shikaoi town, we will move on to Lake Shikaribetsu by private car for a snowshoe hike in the forests surrounding the lake, experiencing the nature of Daisetsuzan National Park (approx. 2 hours on foot).

Afterwards, we will enjoy the open-air hot bath in the snow as well as an ice bar at Lake Shikaribetsu Kotan, an event held at the lake only during winter.

#### Morning / Lunch / Dinner

Breakfast: Japanese set menu

Lunch: We can enjoy scallop pasta, pita sandwiches, and other dishes that make the most of Hokkaido ingredients at Café Mahalo in Shikaoi.

Dinner: Japanese-style course meals featuring local ingredients and seafood

**Activity:** Dog sledding, Snowshoeing

**Difficulty:** 2 Easy

### **Day 3 –Snowshoe hike at Lake Nukabira to explore the remains of the railroad and see a rare and magical winter phenomenon**

We will take a private car to Lake Nukabira (approx. 2 hours). The tour will take us on a leisurely snowshoe hike through a white birch forest to the frozen lake. There, we will see the Taushubetsu River Bridge, which only appears in winter, and the Nukabira arch bridges of the old Shihoro Line.

Here we can view the railroad remains from a perspective unique to winter and feel the relationship between the forests and the industry that once thrived there. Looking out over Mt. Upepesanke, we explore the dynamic icy scenery along the shore and search for the rare natural phenomenon of Ice Bubbles (approx. 2 hours on foot).

Next we will travel to Tokachigawa Onsen (approx. 1.5 hours).

#### **Morning / Lunch / Dinner**

Breakfast:Japanese set menu

We will have a hearty lunch at Mitsumata Sanso, a log cabin cafe in the town of Kamishihoro.

Dinner:Luxurious buffet with local ingredients

**Activity:** Snowshoeing

**Difficulty:** 2 Easy

### **Day 4 –Experience the harsh yet fascinating nature of winter on a Tokachi River boat cruise**

After leaving the hotel, we will take a winter boat cruise on the Tokachigawa River organized by the Tokachi Nature Center. We can enjoy a leisurely river cruise amidst the sparkling scenery of the river on a winter morning.

From the waters of the river we can take in the harsh winter landscape of Tokachi and observe the ecology of wild birds and wildlife (approx. 2 hours).

Finally, we will transfer by private car to Tokachi Obihiro Airport (approx. 40 minutes) to conclude the tour.

#### **Morning / Lunch**

Breakfast:Japanese set menu

Lunch:Local restaurant serving mainly dishes made with local ingredients.Customers can choose from a menu

**Activity:** Boat cruise

**Difficulty:** 2 Easy

## **Accommodations :**

**Day1** : Shikaribetsukyo Kanno Onsen Japanese Ryokan style

**Day2** :Shikaribetsu Hotel Fusui Japanese Ryokan style

**Day3** :Tokachigawa Onsen Daiichi hotel Zuyoutei Japanese Ryokan style

## **What's included**

- Accommodation as per itinerary in a double / twin bed room. Single supplement applies for the single room accommodation.
- Transportation as per itinerary.
- English speaking licensed guide throughout the whole tour.
- Meals as listed in the itinerary.
- Program Participation Fee as per itinerary.

# We provide & What to bring

## We provide

- Snowshoes and poles are available free of charge
- Life jackets and other necessary items for the cruise are available free of charge

## What to bring

A list of equipment necessary for snowshoe hiking will be made and distributed in advance. The list may include the following:

- Hiking Boots for 3-seasons or severe winter conditions
- Mountaineering backpack
- Outerwear, middle wear, underwear (top and bottom for each)
- Gloves, over-gloves
- Warm clothing (sweaters, fleece, down jackets, etc.)
- Socks for mountaineering
- Long spats (gaiters)
- Sunglasses, goggles
- Cap, beanie, balaclava
- Headlamp
- Compass, map
- Toilet paper
- Personal medical supplies
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle (insulated bottle)
- Health insurance card
- Plastic bag
- Trail foods, snacks

# About us

Alpine Tour Service is the tour company in Japan, specialized in the adventure trips which feature hiking, trekking & birding all over the world. We are the one of the oldest tour companies in Japan with more than fifty years of history.

## Guides

- Tour leader: Certified English speaking mountain guide as well as a tour leader.  
Japan Mountain Guides Association (JAMG)  
Mountain Guides Stage 1  
certified first aid
- Local Hiking Guide: Certified guide, certified first aid.



# Information and Requirements

## **Dietary Restrictions**

All meals will also offer a vegetarian menus.

## **Emergency Response Plan**

A first-aid kit will be carried by your tour leader and hiking guide at all times. All those tour leader and hiking guide have finished authorized first-aid course. A support car accompanies throughout the cycling activity. In case of major injuries, contact Fire and Disaster Management and transport to the nearest medical facility.

# Reservation & Cancellation Policy

## Payment Methods

Credit card (VISA MASTER)

## Cancellation

### Deposit

To secure your itinerary we require an initial non-refundable deposit as a booking confirmation fee.

Deposit amount and conditions will be confirmed case by case at the time of travel planning and quoting.

Deposit will be treated as part of the planning fee, tour fee, cancellation fee or penalty fee.

### Payment

Payment of the travel invoice is due no later than 60 days prior to commencement of travel. When settling

the travel invoice, the payment will be reduced by the amount of the deposit.

Where a booking is made within 60 days of commencement of travel, the total trip cost is required at the

time of booking. A travel invoice will be issued and will be immediately payable.

## Disclaimer

Organizers reserve the right to cancel or change the itinerary of the tour at their own discretion.

Organizers are not responsible for compensating any additional costs that may result from any changes.

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## Tour Operator / Contact

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