

## Discover the fascinating secrets of a small Hokkaido fishing village through a cycling tour

---



### Story

Tokoro Town, a small fishing town facing the Sea of Okhotsk in the eastern part of Hokkaido, is famous for two of its wonderful and irreplaceable heritages.

This town's powerful community of fishermen and farmers creates two distinct characteristics. The first is that it is the best production area for scallops in Japan, which is rated all over the world for its sweetness and fresh taste. The second characteristic is this town's treasured heritage of the sport of Curling, which continues to produce Winter Olympic Games medalists.

Let us explore this area for its hidden secrets with our bikes as we traverse this unique landscape. Pedal while enjoying the breezes from the Sea of Okhotsk and the incomparable scenery of this north-facing town and the brackish water lakes surrounded by northern seashores.

During this one-day tour, after cycling by the seaside, we will also have plenty of time to interact with local fishermen, and by experiencing a game of Curling, participants will be able to enjoy learning about the secrets of this area that may be based on the unique and powerful human energies that have become rooted in this northeastern area of the vast and beautiful northern island.

### Highlights

- Learn about the unique fisheries of the region and environmental issues through interaction with local fishermen
- Cycle comfortably and stress free by utilizing the custom cycling buses

- Experience the curling culture that has produced many Olympic athletes

### **Location**

Hokkaido is an island located in the northern part of Japan. For a long time, the island has been home to the Ainu indigenous people and has a long history of interaction with the Japanese and other northern peoples. This second largest island in Japan has relatively well-preserved nature, a perfect place for outdoor activities.

Especially, the Okhotsk area, which is the stage of this cycling tour, is covered with astonishing nature. In fact, the "Sea of Okhotsk" is a unique sea. Drift ice covers the coast during winter, creating a unique environment. The flavor of the seafood that comes out of it is exceptional. Drift ice has also created many brackish lakes over its long history. Enjoy the nature and food that can only be met here.

### **Difficulty**

3

### **Tour Dates**

1 Day itinerary. Available from May to October

### **Pax**

Minimum 2 Maximum 10

### **Price**

JPY 35,000-

### **Itinerary**

#### **Departure**

Meet and greet at Memanbetsu Airport. Kitami or Abashiri JR train station depending on the situation.

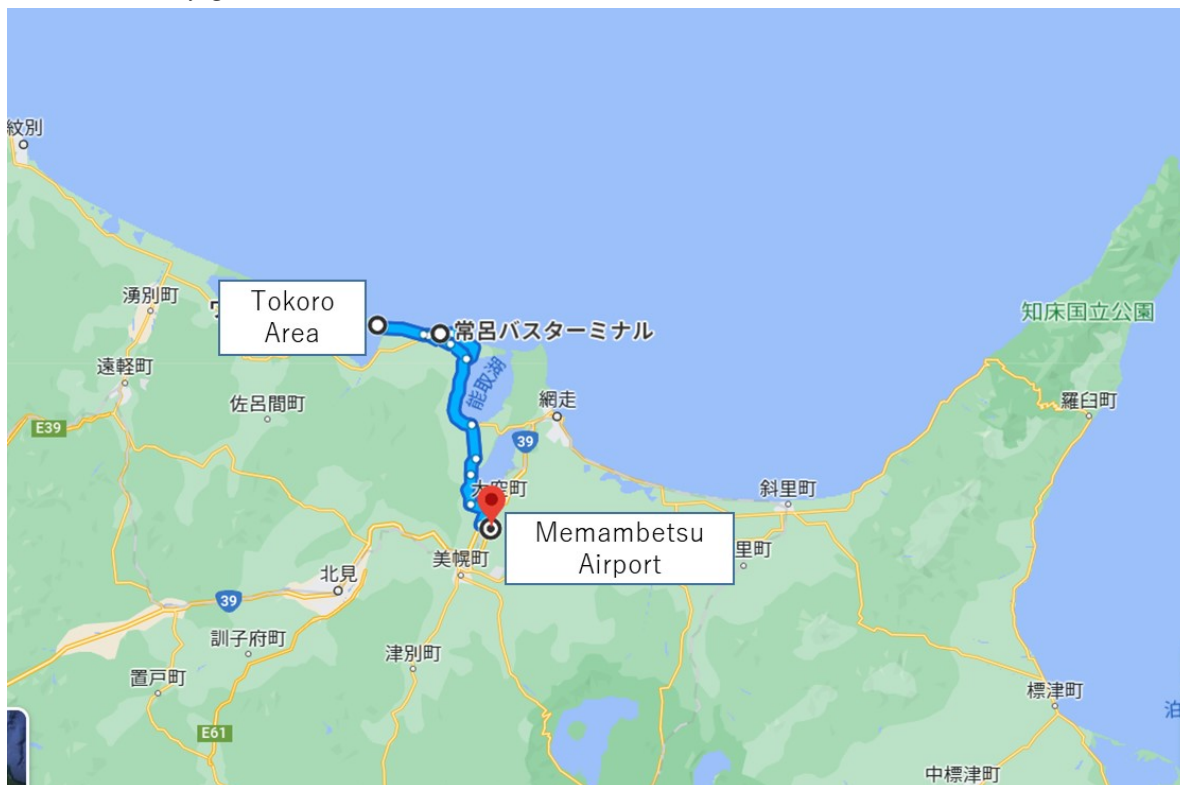
After the bike inspection, use the customized bus for transporting both participants and bicycles to move to the starting point of the cycling course. An orientation will be held on the bus.

The planned main tour guide will be Toru Tanaka (Tobu Top Tours), and the bus will be operated by Hokkaido Kitami Bus.

### **Cycling**

Arrive at the shore of Lake Saroma, the largest lake in Hokkaido.

Starting from the "Wakka Nature Center" located at the eastern end of this lake, cycle along the sandbar while enjoying the Sea of Okhotsk and Lake Saroma on either side of you. The destination is Wakka Primeval Flower Garden. It is a round trip of 9 km, with an elevation that is relatively gentle.



After returning to the Nature Center, take a break there and then resume cycling. The next destination is a fishing port close to Tokoro town, which is a journey of 11km.

The cycling guide will be Rikio Nakamura, the director of North Bicycle Hokkaido

### **Meet with local fishermen and lunch**

Talk frankly with the fishermen of this town about the history of this area, the characteristic climate, and the secrets of fishing while enjoying a BBQ that includes plenty of local seafood such as scallops. The chance to know the real local life of Hokkaido is a precious one. Experience the true strength of Hokkaido while eating the most delicious local ingredients with the fishermen.

### **Try out the sport of Curling**

In this town, even fishermen and farmers are good Curling players. Experience this activity that is not just a current Olympic sport but is rooted in the daily life of the Okhotsk area.

Spot guide : Members of " Masscosmo"

Return to Memanbetsu Airport, Kitami or Abashiri JR Station, depending on the customer's situation.

**What's included:**

- One lunch
- Curling experience
- All transport as described in the itinerary
- Snacks and refreshments
- English speaking Japanese guide(s)

**Not included:**

- Airfare
- Personal expenses
- Alcoholic drinks with meals

**We provide:**

- First-aid kit
- Safety equipment and maps
- Helmet
- Rental bicycle

North Bicycle Hokkaido, a professional cycle shop that offers full-fledged cycle rental services, prepares a wide variety of high-quality equipment

Cross bike (Equivalent to GIANT ESCAPE R3)

Road bike (equivalent to GIANT CONTEND 2)

E-bike (equivalent to GIANT ESCAPE RX-E+)

- Curling equipment

**What to bring:**

Essentials

- Padded Shorts
- Waterproof jacket and windbreaker
- Sun hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses

- Water bottle
- Quick-dry hand towel
- Personal medications
- Travel insurance
- Passport

#### Recommended items

- Cell phone power bank
- Extra snacks which you may usually eat while cycling
- Camera

### **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.

Especially in the local areas of Hokkaido, there is a unique and attractive food lifestyle. On the other hand, over the long history, the inhabitants of many areas, for example, have often not experienced all types of vegetarian or religious requests. Therefore, please make sure to inform us of any possible dietary requirements or preferences before departure. Even if you make a sudden request for dietary restrictions or requests for ingredients or cooking methods at the site, there may be many cases we cannot adjust or change, whether it is an allergy, a personal policy, or a religious one.

In addition, please understand that depending on the situation, it may be difficult to respond to cases where you want to change because you cannot eat the ingredients unique to the region. In that case, we may reply an individual response and an additional fee depending on the case, we will investigate and prepare in advance according to the information on the registration form before heading to the area. We thank you for your cooperation.

#### **Emergency Response Plan**

we require our guides to be certified as Advanced First-Aid Responders or Wilderness First-Aiders. If a local guide or activity guide concentrates on that particular activity and is not licensed to provide first aid, the tour operator can deploy a licensed person as an assistant to be able to deal with emergency cases without delay.

At all times, our guides always complete and carry a first-aid kit.

This activity will be held in an area where an ambulance can arrive within approximately 10 minutes.

## **Reservation and Cancellation Policy**

### **Payment methods**

### **Cancellation**

### **Disclaimer**

◆ Participants should ensure that they follow the guide's instructions during the tour.

◆ The organizer will take out the following insurance for the participants.

The organizer is not responsible for any injury, illness, loss or other accidents, except for first aid.

Death / residual disability: 15 million yen

Hospitalization fee 180 days or more of hospitalization: 200,000 yen

Hospitalization days 90 days or more and less than 180 days: 100,000 yen

Hospitalization days: 7 days or more and less than 90 days: 50,000 yen

Hospitalization days less than 7 days: 20,000 yen

Outpatient visit fee 90 days or more: 50,000 yen

Number of hospital visits: 7 days or more and less than 90 days: 25,000 yen

Number of hospital visits: 3 days or more and less than 7 days: 10,000 yen

Exemption from liability within 2 days

Personal / objective common insurance amount: 100 million yen (deductible amount: 1000 yen)

In the event of any accident, we cannot guarantee more than the above insurance limit.

Participants are responsible for their own health care, such as getting a doctor's diagnosis in advance.

◆ If the tour is canceled by the day before due to rain, etc., participants will be refunded.

However, please note that no refund will be given after the tour commences.

◆ The decision as to whether the tour can be held in bad weather will be made by the organizer.

### **Tour Director and Through Guide**

The Tour Director and Through Guide is Mr. Toru Tanaka of Tobu Top Tours.

He is always focus on guest's satisfaction with humorous talk and guiding skill.

He is also cycling guide for this tour and fluent in English and can communicate with participants easily.

### **Cycling Guide**

Mr. Rikio Nakamura (owner of North Bicycle Hokkaido) who is a cycling guide and has experience as a mechanic for the overseas continental teams "Marco Polo (Netherlands, China), CITEC (Germany), KTM (Austria)", Tour de Hokkaido Japan Cup, TOUR OF KOREA and more. He has a high level of technical skills and is familiar with cycling activities around the world, such as inspecting races in Europe like the Giro d'Italia. He is fluent in English and can communicate with participants easily. He is a licensed cycling tour guide of JCTA

### **Partner Company**

North Bicycle Hokkaido

<https://northbicycle.co.jp/>

### **Masscosmo LLC**

<https://instagram.com/masscosmo?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

### **Tour operator contact information**

Tobu Top Tours Sapporo Branch Toru Tanaka

〒060-0051 7th floor, Park East Sapporo, 1-3, Minami 1 Johigashi, Chuo-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido tel 011-221-0821 fax 011-222-4357 Mobile 080-2195-1819