

BC Skiing with the Memory of Railway in Akan & Eastern Daisetsuzan N.P.



When discussing the development and growth of eastern Hokkaido (“Dotou”), we cannot ignore the existence of railroads that connected settlements scattered across the vast land. The number of railroads essential for the transportation of coal and lumber in the entire province reached more than 30 lines with a total length of 4,000 km around 1965.

In the eastern part of Hokkaido, iron roads stretching to remote areas enabled access to deep mountainous regions. Later, the decline of coal and lumber led to the elimination of many routes, and the automobile replaced them as the primary mode of transportation. However, even today, railroad heritage can be seen everywhere, including abandoned railroad tracks such as railway bridges and embankments, and preserved station buildings.

BC skiing in the area will give you a different perspective on eastern Hokkaido, and will be an extremely moving experience.

Highlights:

- To visit the history and traces of the railroads that supported the transportation of people and goods in eastern Hokkaido
- To visit abandoned railway tracks and preserved station buildings that can still be seen today, and reminisce about the bustle of the past
- To enjoy BC skiing while thinking about the benefits of the railroad that helped people enter deep mountain areas
- To enjoy Onsen with a high-quality and abundant volcanic hot spring after skiing

Location:

Akan and Eastern Daisetsuzan N.P. are located in the north of Tokachi Plateau in Hokkaido/Japan. Approximately 150,000 ha of national forests is spread over the land. Also it is the area of beautiful lakes such as Lake Akan, Lake Kussharo, Lake Nukabira, and Lake Shikaribetsu etc. Nukabira Onsen village is located 1.5hrs away by driving from Obihiro Airport.

Main Activity:	BC Skiing & Cultural & Historical Learning	
Difficulty:	5	
Tour Dates:	January - March	
Pax:	Minimum 1	Maximum 6
Price:	JPY 300,000 (2~4pax)	

[Route map](#)

[Day-by-day Itinerary](#)

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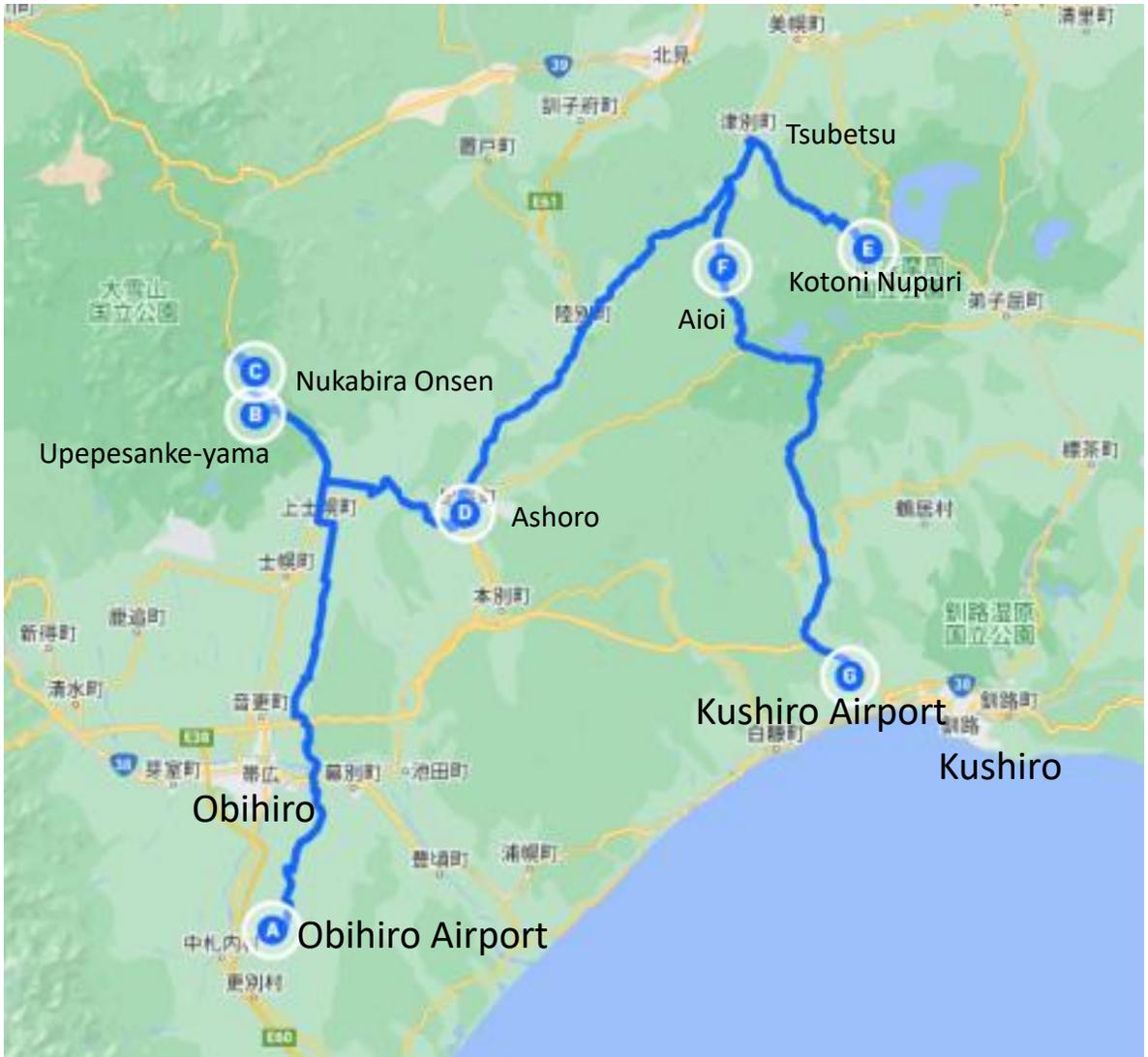
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Route map



Day-by-day Itinerary

Day 1 - Trveling from Obihiro Airport to Nukabira Onsen village

You meet a guide at Obihiro Airport that connects to Tokyo Haneda airport or other airports with considerable number of daily flights. 1.5hr on a private van to Nukabira Onsen village from the airport. We go through route 241 &273 along the route of the "Shihoro Line." Staying overnight at HTL in Nukabira Onsen village.

Activity – Traveling 1.5hour by van

Accommodation – Nukabira Onsen village | Hotel | Private room with ensuite

Included meals – Dinner at HTL

Day 2 - Guided BC Skiing in Mt. Upepesanke (1,834m)

After breakfast at HTL, we depart for the trail head of Mt. Upepesanke. Mt. We try to hike up to the peak and ski down on the same route as hiking up. Under 1400m is tree lines and enjoy skiing on the slopes in forest. Tour Time is about 8hrs.

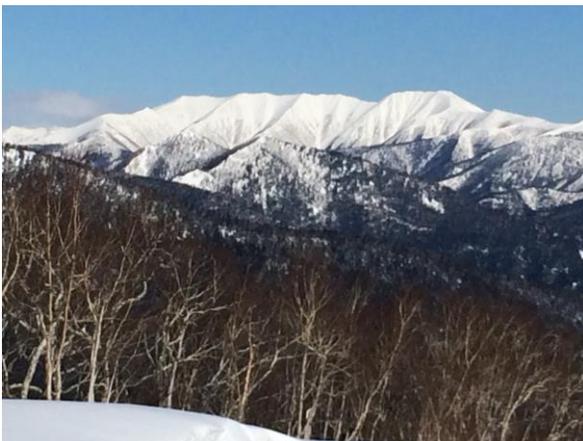
Activity – BC Skiing (8hrs)

Accommodation – Nukabira Onsen village | Hotel | Private room with ensuite

Included meals – Breakfast & Dinner at HTL

Activity: BC Skiing (8hrs)

Difficulty: 5



Day 3 – Trekking to Taushubetsu Bridge

After Breakfast at HTL, we depart Taushubetsu Bridge, a concrete arch bridge of the former Japan National Railways Shihoro Line (closed line) at Lake Nukabira. It is one of the "Former Japan National Railways Shihoro Line Concrete Arch Bridges," selected as the first Hokkaido Heritage Site. We have lunch at restaurant on the way to Tsubetsu via Ashoro town and Rikubetsu town. Dropping at Michi no Eki Ashoro and Michi no Eki Rikubetsu (Michi no Eki is "Roadside Station" as we call), the former stations of the Ikehoku Line, which were once used for transporting passengers and goods, we reach Tsubetsu, a town along the Aioi Line.

Activity –Trekking and Sightseeing

Accommodation – Tsubetsu | Hotel | Private room with ensuite

Included meals – Breakfast & Dinner at HTL

Activity: Trekking & Historical Learning

Difficulty: 5

Day 4 - Guided BC Skiing in Mt. Kotonipuri (952m)

Breakfast at HTL. We depart for Mt. Kotonupuri. We try to hike to the peak and ski down into the deep forest via Mt. Osappenupuri and Mt. Samakkenupuri. In the forest, there was Aioi Line which was used to transport lumber in Akan. Tour time is about 7hrs.

Activity –BC Skiing (7hrs)

Accommodation – Tsubetsu | Hotel | Private room with ensuite

Included meals – Breakfast & Dinner at HTL

Activity: BC Skiing (7hrs)

Difficulty: 5



Day 5 - Traveling To New Chitose Airport

After breakfast at HTL, we drop by "Michi no Eki Aioi" (Road Station Aioi), the former terminus of the Aioi Line and then travel to Kushiro Airport by a private van. 1.5hr to the airport.

Activity – Traveling 1.5 hr by van
Included meals – Breakfast at HTL

Food & Accommodation

Accommodations

Day	Location	Type	Room	Spa
1	Nukabira Onsen	HTL	Private room en suite	Onsen
2	Nukabira Onsen	HTL	Private room ensuit	Onsen
3	Tsubetsu	HTL	Private room ensuit	
4	Tsubetsu	HTL	Private room ensuit	

Breakfast & Dinner

All breakfasts and dinners on this tour are included. While staying at HTL, both will be served as a set menu or a buffet, it depends on the day and subject to an accommodation. In many cases, it will mainly be served basically 'Washoku', Japanese cuisine, and some other dishes like Western or Chinese cuisines may also be included. Any kind of dietary requirements will happily be accepted, or if it's not, the proper substitutes must be provided, so please feel free to tell us your requirements in advance.

Food & Snacks for BC Skiing

Winter outdoor, we shouldn't take a time for eating a packed lunch or similar, because, the air temperature is normally around zero degree or less even in the daytime. So, you'd better take high energy food regularly also quickly, whichever you're hungry or not. You have a time to buy something at a local convenience store like Seicomart, which has wide range of foods and beverages such as cooked sandwiches, chocolates, energy bars, high caloric snacks, mixed nuts, sports drinks etc. Please buy them and pack it in your backpack.



The Airport

Guide will await at Obihiro Airport. Located approximately 25 km south of the center of Obihiro City, the central city of the Tokachi Plain, and approximately 30 km inland from the Pacific coast in a field crop area (roughly in the center of the plain). On the last day, You will be sent to Kushiro Airport.

What's included

- 4 nights accommodation with 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners
- All transportations as described in the itinerary
- English speaking Japanese guide and assistant guide upon group size

Not included

- lunches & Drinks and personal expenses
- Equipment for BC skiing ; skis with tour bindings, boots, climbing skins, couteaus, ski poles, and other suitable items for backcountry skiing

We provide & What to bring

We provide

- First aid kit
- Safety equipment and maps

What to bring

Essentials

- Skis with alpine touring bindings (with heel free function)
- Ski boots, climbing skins, cousteaus/mountings, ski poles
- *Avalanche beacon, probe and shovel (Available for rentals)
- Gore Tex jacket and pants suitable for mid winter
- Base layers top and bottom
- Thermal layers top and bottom
- Fleece or down jacket
- Woolen gloves and windproof outer gloves
- Balaclava or Bienne, neck warmer
- Sun glasses and sun screen
- Ski goggles
- Water bottle of more than 1 L
- Personal Medications
- Backpack suitable for all items
- Rations/Lunches (Able to buy them at local shops)
- Travel insurance
- Passport
- Cash in JPY (Some places don't accept credit cards.)

Recommended items

- Cell phone chargers
- Dry bags
- Extra snacks/energy bars
- Camera

About us

Nomad

Nomad Co Ltd established in 1987 in Sapporo, the principal city of Hokkaido Prefecture in Japan. We've been dealing various types of nature related tours over 35 years and now ended up had various experiences and useful knowledge those all provided from our valued guests and nature.

Initially, we were dealing various kinds of travel related products and materials such as air tickets , hotel bookings, train/bus/rent-a-car bookings, visas, group tours for academic conventions, travel arrangements for inbound groups/individual into Hokkaido, and many more. That is, we dealt everything for personal needs to travel.

Many periods so far, we have been producing nature relating tours, such as trekking/hiking tours and mountaineering tours. Having had a mountain guiding section called 'Alpine Guide Nomad', we have been guiding mainly Japanese hikers, trekkers and climbers to various mountains in domestic and overseas. However, due to covid19 pandemic, we suspended overseas tours and become focusing our home ground Hokkaido since March 2020.

We let recognized how our home Hokkaido is beautiful and abundant with amazing nature. There are still many unknown places to explore, and also those places are relatively accessible easily. We set our next mission is to invite nature lovers from all over the world and to take them into genuine and deep Hokkaido's nature, and also to provide them a great opportunity with memorable experiences through unique adventurous activities.

Why don't you visit and explore the genuine nature of Hokkaido?
We provide you such a great adventure in Hokkaido's Nature.
See you in Hokkaido!

Guides

Yu SATO “YOU”



‘YOU’ was born in a small village at eastern Hokkaido, as a family member of a big farm producing various crops and local specialties. He grew up in an ideal nature-filling environment of the eastern foot of a great mountain group called Hidaka Mountain Range, a magnificent huge uplift with a total length of 150 km, also considered as a backbone of Hokkaido. He has learned how to deal with nature or how to walk in a dense forest as well as how to avoid an unexpected encounter with a wild bear through his daily life. He moved to Sapporo at his age of 18th to learn outdoor guiding. He started working at Nomad and brushed up his guiding skill. He has been guiding our guests to various locations in and outside Hokkaido, also to the mountains abroad such as Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Annapurna Sanctuary in Nepal, and many more. Now he has his own guiding office ‘Your Time’ to provide clients various adventures.

HMGA official Mountaineering Guide Stage-1 and Ski Guide Stage-2, Hokkaido official Outdoor Guide (All seasons)

Micihiko AOKI “Michiko”



“Michiko”, born in Sapporo, has started skiing from her early age. After she studied the international development at the University of Calgary, AB, Canada, had worked as a park-ranger at Daisetsuzan N. P. in Hokkaido and also spent two year experience in the Republic of Kenya as a JICA Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer. After returning to Japan, she became an aspirant mountain guide in Hokkaido and also back to Canada to acquire higher guiding skill at the mountaineering course in Yamnuska Mountaineering School, Canmore, AB. In 2014, she set her own mountain climbing guide office “Mountain Flow”, and has been guiding a lot of domestic and international clients. The certainty of her guiding is undisputed, but more than that her cheerful personality and mindfulness attracts all the customers coming from any location of the world.

HMGA official Hiking Guide Stage-2 and Ski Guide Stage-1, CAA ATS Level-2, JAN Level-1, Wilderness First Aid, International Mountain Leader

Information and Requirements

Dietary Restrictions

If you have dietary restrictions, please fill out the pre-departure questionnaire. At restaurants, hotels and deli in Japan, you may find difficulties to find gluten-free products and meals which do not contain any meat nor fish products. Especially at Japanese restaurant, it is very few menus for vegetarians/vegans to find a full meal. We will arrange the meal at restaurant or hotel according to your dietary requirement. If you found still difficulties to eat, we do our best to get you satisfied and keep your health at the best condition for your trip in Hokkaido.

Emergency Response Plan

All of our guides equip first aid kit as must items and also they are qualified as first aid responders with licenses given by the Japan Mountain Guide Association (JMGA) or Hokkaido Outdoor guide Qualification (HMGA). Also, for winter activities in snow, our guides are fully trained for Avalanche Search and Rescues. Our tours deal activities in outdoors. Unexpected cases could be happened due to the nature including weather which humans cannot control. Yet guides always care of the safety first and make judgement for the best. Guides carry a satellite phone or radios to call an emergency rescue in a remote area.

Weather Conditions

The continental climate of the area provides large annual and daily variations in temperature and also it is designated as a heavy snowfall area. While it is very hot in summer, in winter, temperatures below -20° C are not uncommon, and the coldness is severe.

In January, due to the severe coldness of the region creates Ice bubbles on the surface of lakes. It is a phenomenon in which gases generated from the bottom of the lake freeze in the water before reaching the lake surface, creating a fantastic landscape of countless bubbles trapped in the ice. The luminosity and color of the lake's surface also differs depending on the weather and time of day, offering a variety of different looks.

Snow and coldness of the region are very important resource for tourism now.

“ONSEN” = Natural Hot Springs

“ONSEN” is one of the best experiences in Japan. Due to volcanic mountains, there are many ONSENS with different types of hot springs and variety of styles in terms of buildings and views from ONSENS in Hokkaido. More than 10 obvious active volcanoes exist in Hokkaido. Even though in mid-winter, you enjoy ONSENS at most of places where you visit and some places are opened from morning. That is an unignorable advantage for us as winter mountain lovers spending all day long for outdoor activities in cold air.

To enjoy Onsen, here are some tips you'd better know in advance;

1. No swimwear is required (some allows wearing swimwear in a mixed type of ONSEN)
2. Use Locker or Basket to keep your clothes.
3. Bring Small Towel to Onsen area and Keep Big Towel at changing room
4. Before Jumping into ONSEN tub, clean your body and rinse soap off at a shower booth
5. To keep hot springs clean, do not soak your towel into the bath
6. No drinking Alcohol in Onsen
7. Wipe your body with small towel before back to the changing room

NOTE

- Some ONSENS do not prepare for Shampoo, Conditioner nor Body soap
- Some ONSENS do not allow you to use any soap due to the matter of onsen minerals

“RYOKAN”= ONSEN Hotel

Accommodations situated at Onsen resort are commonly called Onsen Hotel or “RYOKAN” (旅館). The guestrooms are usually traditional Japanese “TATAMI” style on the floor, you sleep in a “FUTON” mattress on the floor instead of a bed. Yet, the western style bed rooms are also widely facilitated these days. Despite both room types, “YUKATA” a traditional Japanese night robe looking like a simple kimono are prepared for you to relax in your room. You can go with wearing “YUKATA” wherever inside of the facility and at the dining room.



Reservation & Cancellation Policy

Booking

When we receive your reservation request, we will ask for your contact details and personal information such as your height and dietary requirements etc., in order for us to adequately organize and arrange the tour service. Once the Registration Form is completed, you will be taken to the payment (Deposit/Full) to secure the booking.

Payment Methods

We require the Deposit of 50,000 yen or Full Payment to secure your booking. The Deposit is treated as a part of the Tour Price. You will receive an email reminder about payment of the balance, which is generally due 30 days prior to the tour departure date. We accept payment by credit card in our local currency, Japanese yen. If you prefer to pay by bank transfer, we will give you our bank details and the amount of bank fees that should be added to the Tour Price.

Cancellation

If you wish to cancel a tour reservation, please notify us in writing. Our Cancellation Policy is as follows.

- Cancelled more than 31 days prior to departure : zero fees
- Canceled between 30 and 15 days prior to departure : 20% of the Tour Price
- Canceled between 14 and 8 days prior to departure : 30% of the Tour Price
- Canceled between 7 and 3 days prior to departure : 50% of the Tour Price
- Canceled 2 days prior to departure or later : 100% of the Tour Price
- No refunds will be given after the tour has commenced

Tour Operator / Contact

Nomad Co.

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