

Japan's northernmost Backcountry Mt. Rishiri Backcountry Tour



Rishiri Island was created by an undersea eruption 2 million years ago. This is Japan's northernmost backcountry tour on the famous Mt. Rishiri. Mt. Rishiri is one of the 100 most famous mountains in Japan, unique for its majestic appearance, making the entire island look like a single mountain.

With a spectacular view from the peak of Mt. Rishiri down to the sea, this is the perfect backcountry location to enjoy the best tour while interacting with the locals and tasting the island's gourmet cuisine. Through the backcountry tour, interaction with the islanders and highly-experienced guides, you will experience the nature, history, culture, and lifestyle of the island in its entirety.

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1 Group meets guide at Sapporo station and travels to Rishiri island

(D)

Day 2 Backcountry skiing/snowboarding with a highly-experienced local guide

(B,D)

Day 3 Farewell to Rishiri island, travel back to Sapporo

(B)

Breakfast: B Lunch: L Dinner: D

Highlights:

- Experiencing the northernmost backcountry in Japan, taking in the view of mountain sliding into the sea
- Community participation offers the opportunity to feel the culture and lifestyle of Rishiri Island through interaction with locals
 - Eating local foods with islanders at a local restaurant
 - Staying at a B&B run by the backcountry guide himself
 - Backcountry guide – native of Rishiri island
- Enjoying Onsen (hot springs) throughout the trip

Location:

Rishiri Island, part of the prefecture of Hokkaido, Japan. Rishiri Island is a circular island in the Sea of Japan at the northernmost tip of Hokkaido. Lying 20 km. west of Wakkanai, it's a 1hr. 40 min. ride by ferry. About 4,700 people live on this island with beautiful, conical shaped Mt. Rishiri rising 1,721m above sea level. The island is 63 km in circumference and is home to numerous alpine plants and endemic species.

Main Activity:	Backcountry on Rishiri island	
Difficulty:	4 (Vigorous)	
Tour Dates:	January - April	
Pax:	Minimum 3	Maximum 8
Price:	JPY 407,000	

[Route map](#)

[Day-by-day Itinerary](#)

[What's included](#)

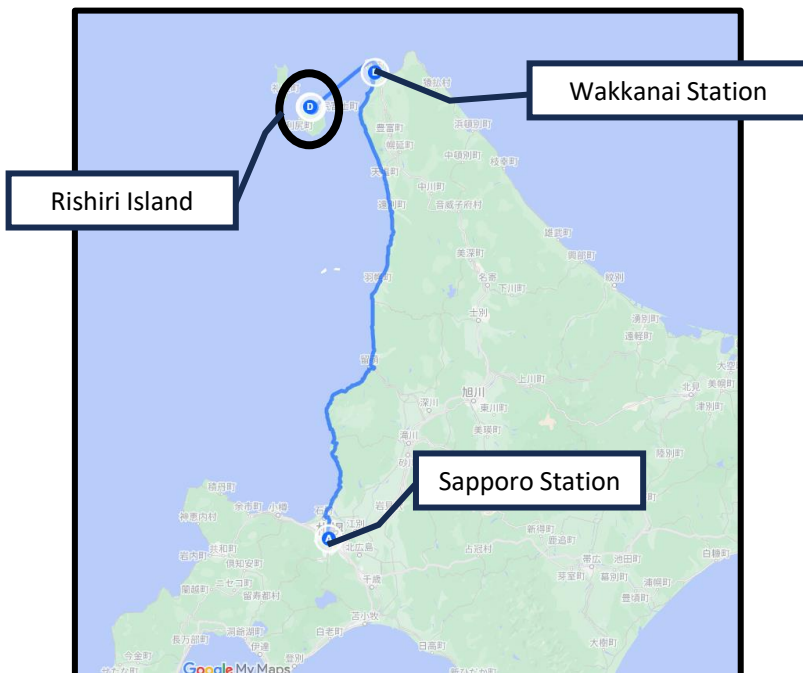
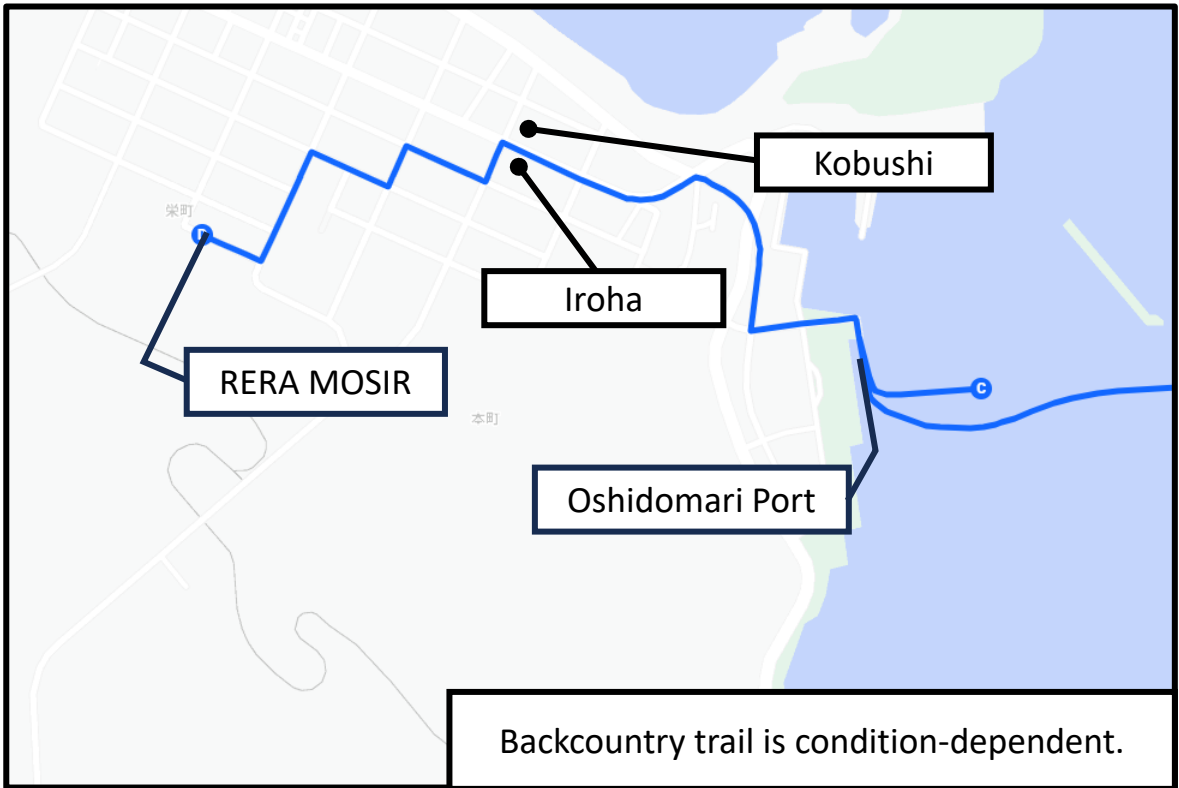
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Route map



Source: Google My Map

Day-by-day Itinerary

Day 1 – Meeting with the guide – travels to Rishiri island

The group will meet at Sapporo station at 7:00. After spending a short time getting to know each other, they start on their way to Rishiri island. Firstly, the group takes a train to Wakkanai station from Sapporo station at 7:30. Each of the participants will be responsible for taking their own lunch on the train. The train arrives at Wakkanai station at 12:42. The group will change transportation to ferry, departing from Wakkanai port to Oshidomari port at 13:55. The ferry arrives at Oshidomari port at 15:25, and the group finally lands on Rishiri Island. There will be a private bus to RERA MOSIR (accommodation facility) which is run by the backcountry guide. Participants will then be free to prepare for the next day's backcountry tour or enjoy hot springs for the rest of the day. The group will have a dinner at RERA MOSIR and enjoy local cuisine and meeting island locals at the same time.

Day 2 – Backcountry skiing/snowboarding with a highly-experienced guide

The group will have breakfast at RERA MOSIR. Either Japanese or Western cuisine will be served, using fresh ingredients from the island.

At 8:00, the group and the backcountry guide, Mr. Watanabe, meet at RERA MOSIR. The group will board a private bus to the starting point of the backcountry tour. The location and the course of the tour will be decided by the guide, depending on the condition of the weather, participants, etc. The order of the backcountry tour is as follows:

- A snowmobile pulls you to the starting point of your climb.
- Climb on foot with snowshoes / ski skins
- Start descent under the direction of the guide.
- Drop off back at RERA MOSIR at about 16:00

(Duration: 6-8 hours)

Enjoy backcountry skiing on pristine trails in the northernmost part of Japan without the hustle and bustle of more known areas. Rishiri has an elevation of 1,700 meters. Due to the nature of the island, the backcountry skiing is enjoyed amidst the best scenery, which upon descent gives the feeling of descending right down to the sea. Through Mr. Watanabe, a specialist on Rishiri Island, and a native resident himself, the group will learn not only about backcountry skiing, but also about the history and nature of Rishiri Island. After the backcountry tour, the group will have a dinner at a local restaurant “和洋創咲いろは” and enjoy the interaction with locals.

Breakfast

RERA MOSIR

Either Japanese or Western cuisine will be served. Dishes using fresh ingredients from Rishiri Island are appealing.

Lunch

Each person purchases his or her own food to eat on the mountains.

Dinner

和洋創咲いろは (Wayo-Sosaku Iroha)

A local restaurant in Rishiri island. Each person will enjoy a dish of Rishiri Island's ingredients.

Recommended dishes

- Atka mackerel
- Tachi Kama (A winter delicacy made from cod soft roe, available on Rishiri Island in winter only.)

Winter is a time of year when there are fewer tourists and more local islanders.

Activity: Backcountry tour of Mt. Rishiri

Difficulty: 4 (Vigorous)

Day 3 – Farewell to Rishiri island – travel back to Sapporo

The group bids farewell to their local guide at 8:30 a.m. and departs RERA MOSIR to board a ferry. The ferry departs Rishiri Island (Oshidomari Port) at 9:05 a.m. The ferry arrives at Wakkanai Port at 10:45. The train departs Wakkanai Station at 12:35, arriving at Asahikawa Station at 16:19. The group changes trains at Asahikawa Station and boards the 16:30 train bound for Sapporo Station, arriving at 17:55. The group disbands at Sapporo station bidding farewell to their tour guide, Mr. Aoki.

(Available to arrange a backup day depending on the weather conditions)

Accommodations :

Day 1 : RERA MOSIR

Day 2 : RERA MOSIR

What's included

- 2 nights accommodation
- 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners with local community
- Backcountry skiing/snowboarding on Mt. Rishiri
- All transports described in the itinerary
- Guides

Not Included

- Airfares
- Personal Expenses
- Lunch

【Notice】

Passport must be presented upon check-in. Please note that a photocopy of the passport will be taken. .

We provide & What to bring

We provide

- First-aid kit
- Tickets for public transportations
- Arrangements throughout the tour
 - Accommodation
 - Activity
 - Guides
 - Transportation

What to bring

For the safety control of the activity, it is suggested to bring the following items that are familiar to you.

Equipment

- Your own ski / snowboarding equipment
- Ski wear (Climbing can be sweaty and warm. Wear quick-drying underwear and other clothing to layer so that you can regulate your body temperature)
- Backpack (big enough to pack all your belongings)
- Avalanche beacons, shovel, probe (can be rented)
- Energy foods (ex. protein bars, nuts, energy gels, liquids, etc.)
- Water bottle

Personal Effects

- Passport
- Personal medications
- Cash in Japanese yen. Some rural shops accept cash only.

About us

Meitetsu Kanko Service, Inc. is a member of the Meitetsu Group, which is centered on Nagoya Railroad, and has offices throughout Japan. Based on the connections with local stakeholders and businesses cultivated through our travel business, we are committed to meeting your needs and creating opportunities for people to interact both within and outside the region. We welcomed guests to Hokkaido for the first Adventure Travel World Summit (ATWS2023) in 2023. We will contribute to the development of a symbiotic society through encounters and connections with guests from all over the world, in this fascinating land of Hokkaido.



Tour Operator / Contact

Meitetsu World Travel inc.,

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Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan 060-0003

TEL: (+81) 241-4986

E-mail: at-hokkaido2023@mwt.co.jp

Guides

Aoki 'Roy' Ryohei



- National Government Licensed Guide Interpreter, English EN00254
 - Authorized Tour Conductor / Guide
- Engaged as a guide interpreter since 2016. Has done all-around mountaineering in any season since his 20's. Multiple experiences climbing Mt. Rishiri, walking, rock climbing, backcountry skiing. Has competed in triathlons multiple times.

Watanabe Toshiya



- Certified by the Japan Mountain Guides Association (Mountain Climbing guide level II, skiing guide level II, President of Rishiri Alpine Club)
- Born in Rishiri Island, started guiding in 2004. While managing a guesthouse, he guides visitors to Rishiri Island's seasonal attractions. Especially during the winter season, guides backcountry tours of Mt. Rishiri.

Information and Requirements

Dietary Restrictions

During this tour, it is highly recommended that you try the local foods from Rishiri Island (mainly seafoods), however, we are aware it may not be possible for all applicants based upon their preference, religious beliefs or allergic issues. As for meals, we have arranged that each person can order what they wish, however, if you have any particular diet restrictions or preferences, please inform us in advance with the registration form. We will arrange meals to accommodate your dietary needs as much as possible.

However, it can be difficult to accommodate needs perfectly in Rishiri Island due to the remoteness of the area. Therefore, we would really appreciate cooperation with information as to if you have any preferences or restrictions. Particularly, please be aware that those who are allergic to MSG may find it difficult to find MSG-free food in Japan, and it would be suggested to arrange details for their own meals themselves.

Emergency Response Plan

To ensure the group's safety during the backcountry tour on Mt. Rishiri, the group is led by two experienced guides as described, Mr. Aoki and Mr. Watanabe. In addition, a first-aid kit is carried throughout the tour.

In case of a sudden injury, our guides will provide first aid immediately. After the first aid treatment, the casualty will be transported to the nearest medical institution as needed.

Rishiri Island National Insurance Center Hospital

11 Midori-cho, Kutsugata, Rishiri-cho, Rishiri-gun, Hokkaido 097-0401

TEL: 0163-84-2626

AM 8:20~11:00 / PM 1:00~3:00

Reservation & Cancellation Policy

Payment Methods

- Banking transfer

Cancellation

Payment for the tour is a fundamental part of the tour's income and contributes to the overall cost of equipment, running costs, staffing, administration, etc. We need to impose cancellation charges to cover these costs.

If you cancel your booking, we will impose cancellation charges as follows:.

- 21 days or more prior to departure : 0% of the tour cost
- 20 – 8 days before departure: 20%
- 7 – 2 days before departure: 30%
- 48 – 24 hours before departure: 50%
- On the day of departure: 100%

Disclaimer

As an outdoor activity, this tour has inherent risks. By taking part in this tour, participants acknowledge and willingly assume the risk of accidents and injuries during the tour. Although we implement safety measures as necessary to minimize the risk of injury to participants, we cannot guarantee complete elimination of such risks during the tour. Guides will provide instruction, make decisions relating to safety, and advise participants about relevant precautions during the tour; however, participants are also expected to exercise their own judgement based on the nature of this tour as an outdoor activity and take full responsibility for their own actions.

Please note that we may not allow some applicants to participate in the tour, if we judge that they do not have the equipment necessary to take part in this activity safely. Please also note that this tour may be canceled, or the route may be altered depending on the weather and nature conditions on the day.

Tour Operator / Contact

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