

Explore Tōbetsu: A Samurai-Built Town of History & Culture



Tōbetsu Town, located about 30 km northeast of Sapporo, is a tranquil suburban town surrounded by vast rural landscapes. Unlike many other settlements in Hokkaido that were developed by government-appointed pioneers, Tōbetsu is one of the few towns established by samurai families. In a rare and unique history, the head of the Date clan personally relocated to the area with his retainers to cultivate the land. After his passing, he was enshrined as a deity at Tōbetsu Shrine.

Experience the enduring legacy of the Date family's samurai culture and stories through various activities and interactions with the local community.

Highlights:

- Japanese Cultural Experience and Historical Lecture at Tōbetsu Shrine, Where Tōbetsu Town's Founder, Date Kuninao, is Enshrined
- Forest Logging Experience Evoking the Pioneer Era of Tōbetsu Town

Location:

Tobetsu Town is located about 30 kilometers northeast of Sapporo, the central city of Hokkaido, and is approximately a 40-minute train ride away.

Despite being a neighboring town of Sapporo, it boasts vast expanses of forest.

Additionally, its winter climate is significantly different from that of Sapporo, as it is a heavy snowfall area with large accumulations of snow.

Main Activity: Japanese Cultural Experience at Tōbetsu Shrine with Guide, Where a Samurai is Enshrined as a Deity.

Difficulty: 1/5 (Relax / Social)

Tour Dates: Recommended from March until December without August

Pax: Minimum 2 Maximum 8

Price: JPY 88,000

[Route map](#)

[Day-by-day Itinerary](#)

[What's included](#)

[We provide & What to bring](#)

[About us](#)

[Information and Requirements](#)

[Reservation & Cancellation policy](#)

Route map



Day-by-day Itinerary

Day 1 - An encounter with Japanese culture and the story of the samurai pioneers.

8:30 a.m. Tour Starts

After meeting your guide at Sapporo Station, take a train to Tobetsu Town. From Tobetsu Station, walk to Tobetsu Shrine.

10:00 a.m. Shinto Attire Dressing Experience and Japanese Culture & History Lecture Starts

Upon arrival at the shrine, you will experience a traditional dressing session. Women will wear a miko (shrine maiden) outfit, while men will wear a kamishimo (samurai formal attire). As dressing requires special expertise, shrine staff will assist you.

Dressed in these sacred garments, you will have the rare opportunity to enter the main hall, which is specially opened for this tour. You will learn about how Tobetsu Town was developed by a group of samurai, how the leader of the settlement, Date Kuninao, is enshrined as a deity at Tobetsu Shrine, and gain a deeper understanding of Japan's deeply rooted shrine culture through an easy-to-follow explanation.

Lunch 12:00 p.m Lunch:Hokkaido's Local Cuisine Jingsukan

Enjoy Hokkaido's local cuisine, Genghis Khan, at "Ito Genghis Khan," a restaurant loved by the locals. Ito Genghis Khan also sells fresh meat, allowing you to enjoy high-quality, freshly prepared meat. After lunch, you will travel by private vehicle to the forests in Tobetsu Town.

13:30 p.m Forest clearing Experience Starts

Experience the forest clearing that was once carried out by the pioneers of Tobetsu Town. Using an axe, you will cut down trees. Tobetsu Town is a forest town, with 62% of the town covered by forests. A forest management professional will provide a lecture, ensuring that you can safely experience tree cutting. By participating in this activity, you will help maintain the forest in its proper condition.

16:40 p.m Tour Ends

After the experience, you will return to Sapporo Station by train from Tobetsu Station.

Activity:

- A traditional costume dressing experience at Tobetsu Shrine, along with a lecture on its history and culture.
- Forest Logging Experience Evoking the Pioneer Era of Tōbetsu Town

Difficulty:

1 / 5 (Relax / Social)

What's included

- Well-experienced guides
- Meals included in the itinerary
- Transports included in the itinerary
- The experiential programs listed in the itinerary

We provide & What to bring

We provide

- For the forest logging experience, helmets and life jackets will be provided.

What to bring

- Shoes suitable for walking in the forest. Waterproof shoes are recommended.
- Warm clothing is necessary as there may be snow in November and December
- Hats and gloves as needed
- Personal first aid kit

About us

Meitetsu World Travel, 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.,
Address: 1-1, kita 3 jo nishi 1 chome, chuo-ku,
Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan 060-0003
TEL: (+81) 11-241-4986
E-mail: inbound.sapporo@mwt.co.jp



Guides



Naonori Goto

The chief priest of Tobetsu Shrine. He conveys the history of Tobetsu Town, which was developed by Date Kuninao and his vassals, and works on revitalizing the town.



Hiroki Katsumata

A forest expert who knows the forests of Tobetsu Town inside out. Provides the best experience while considering the weather conditions on the day.

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:

- 11 days or more prior to departure : 0% of the tour cost
- 10 – 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 involves inherent risks.

To ensure the safety of the program, please share information with the guides and staff and follow their instructions while participating in the program.

Please be aware that there are risks beyond the care and attention of the guides and staff, and please understand the outdoor principle of “protect your own safety” when participating in the tour.

All programs are outdoor sports in a natural environment, and the start and end times may vary greatly depending on weather and tour conditions.

In addition, tours may be cancelled in the middle of the tour due to inclement weather or for the safety of our guests, in which case the fee will not be refunded.

You are responsible for all personal belongings you bring on the tour.

Partner Company

Tobetsu Tourist Association

Address: 58-9, Shirakaba-Cho, Tobetsu, Ishikari-Gun, Hokkaido, Japan

TEL: (+81) 133-27-5381

E-mail: kankou@town.tobetsu.Hokkaido.jp



Tour Operator / Contact

Meitetsu World Travel inc.,

Address: 1-1, kita 3 jo nishi 1 chome, chuo-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan 060-0003

TEL: (+81) 11-241-4986

E-mail: inbound.sapporo@mwt.co.jp



MEITETSU
WORLD TRAVEL, INC.