

Abashiri winter one-day tour: Snowshoeing on drift ice, wildlife watching, ice fishing



You can experience the drift ice rushing in from the Sea of Okhotsk, the abundance of wildlife, and the traditional winter fun of wakasagi (Japanese smelt) fishing in Abashiri, located in the eastern part of Hokkaido. You can go snowshoeing to the most scenic spots in Abashiri, where the drift ice, revered by the Ainu as the “guardian god of the sea,” reaches the shore where dynamic icefalls and drift ice come in contact with the shore, and enjoy the experience of riding on and touching the ice under the safety control of a guide.

Highlights:

- Spectacular nature and snowy scenery that can only be experienced in winter
- Activities unique to Abashiri with its rich ecosystem
- Healing experiences for body and soul through moderate exercise in the nature
- Wakasagi (smelt) fishing, a traditional winter activity
- Special eating experience of tasting fresh wakasagi you caught yourself, made into tempura on the spot

Location: Abashiri, Hokkaido, Japan

Main Activity: Snowshoeing on drift ice, wildlife watching, ice fishing

Difficulty: 3

Tour Dates: January – March
*Subject to change depending on snow accumulation and freezing conditions of the lake

Pax: Minimum 1 Maximum 10

Price: JPY ¥ 22,000/pax

[Route map](#)

[Day-by-day Itinerary](#)

[What's included](#)

[We provide & What to bring](#)

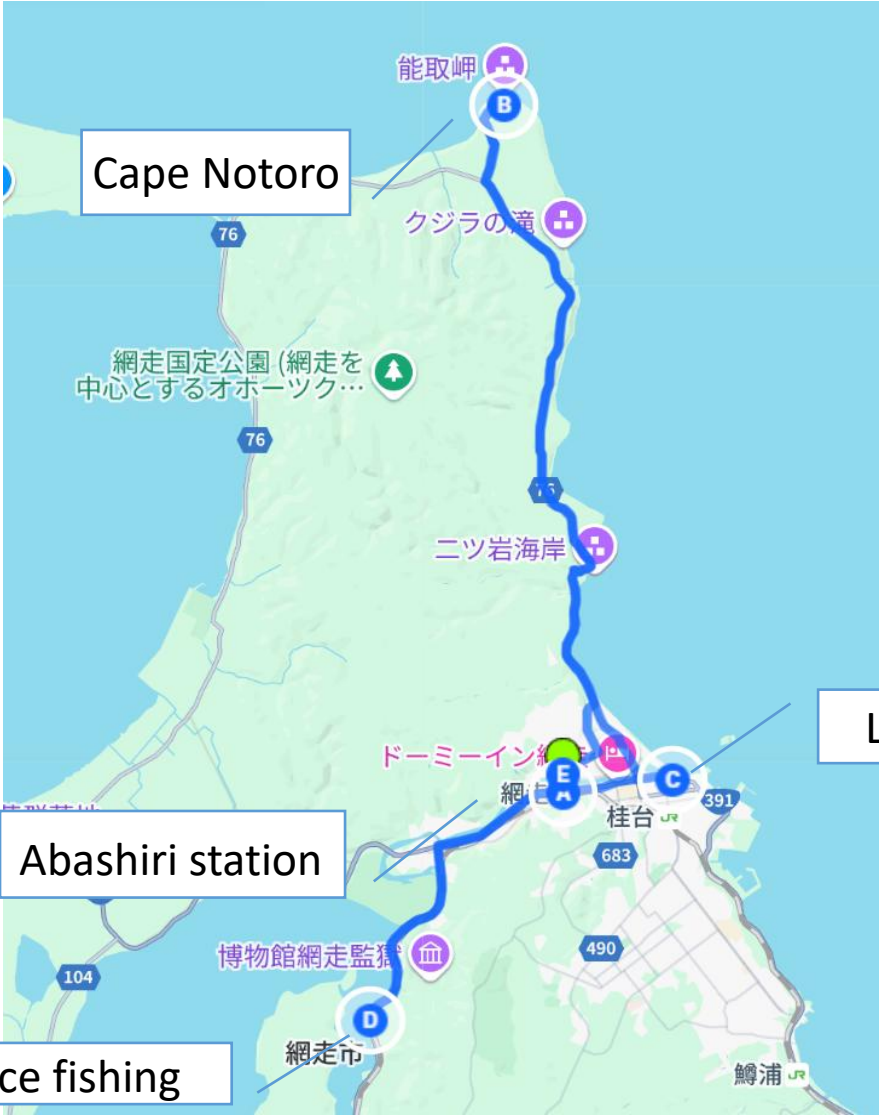
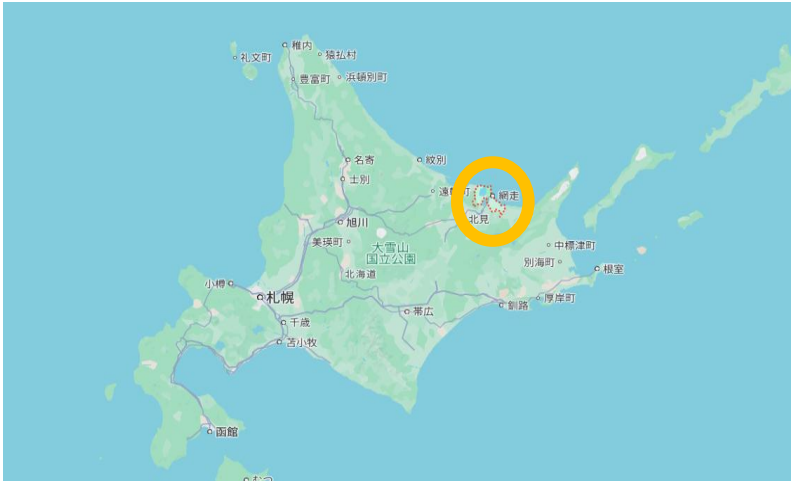
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Route map

Abashiri, Hokkaido



Cape Notoro

Lunch break

Abashiri station

Ice fishing

Day 1

8:30 Meet at a hotel or JR station in Abashiri City

9:00 〈Snowshoeing〉

*Tour starts after transfer by guide's car to the starting point

Duration: about 2.5 hours

Distance: about 2 to 3 km

Snowshoeing will take you to the coast where dynamic icefalls and drift ice come into contact with the shore. Experience Abashiri's winter wilderness while admiring the beautiful snowy scenery.

When the drift ice is in contact with the shore, you can ride on and touch the ice under the safety control of the guides.

*The walking distance varies depending on weather conditions and other factors.

11:30 〈Lunch break〉

Duration: 1hour

After the walk, take a lunch break in downtown Abashiri.

Guide will pick you up and drop you off at a restaurant of your choice.

Local guide's recommendation will also be introduced.

*Please note that the fee is at your own expense.

12:30 〈Wildlife Watching〉

Duration: about 1.5 hours

Transfer to observation point by car. If you see eagles, you will get out of the car and observe them with binoculars.

14:00 〈Ice Fishing Experience〉

Duration: about 1 hour and 40 minutes

After watching the wildlife, take a restroom break and transfer to Lake Abashiri.

You will experience ice fishing for wakasagi (Japanese smelt) in the frozen Lake Abashiri, and have the fish tempura you catch on the spot.

16:20 End of tour and drop-off (at your accommodation or JR Abashiri Station)

Activity: Snowshoeing, wildlife watching, ice fishing

Difficulty: 3

We provide & What to bring

We provide

- Local guides specializing in tours
- Transportation by car

What to bring

- Warm clothing (jacket, snow boots, hat, gloves, etc.)
- Clothes that are easy to move around in
- Drinks

About us

JTB -- “Perfect moments, always.”

The JTB Group traces its roots back to 1912 when “Japan Tourist Bureau” was formed to attract international travelers to Japan and assist with their travel needs. While our activities and clientele have expanded greatly since then, the JTB Group remains aligned around a core purpose: bringing people, places and possibilities together. Developing innovative services and solutions that enable our customers to connect more deeply and meaningfully. Contributing to the creation of sustainable communities and a more peaceful and interconnected planet.

No matter how the world changes, the JTB Group remains as committed now as we were 108 years ago to delivering unrivaled excitement, value and satisfaction. At its essence, JTB’s legacy resides in the bonds of trust we have forged with our customers, communities and stakeholders.

The JTB Group is poised to embark on the next exciting chapter in its incredible journey, staying attuned to and aligned with the evolving needs of a new era, maintaining its position as a digital trailblazer, and delivering real value that our customers can feel.

Guides

Okhotsk Nature Center, Mr & Mrs Umebayashi

As pioneers of Abashiri nature guiding, they offer a unique experience. Both husband and wife have been guiding for over 20 years and are very knowledgeable about Abashiri activities and guiding.



Information and Requirements

Dietary Restrictions

If you have any dietary restrictions or allergies, please let us know in advance. Please note that lunch is at your own responsibility as each person is free to choose his/her own lunch. Also, after the wakasagi fishing experience, you will eat wakasagi tempura, which cannot be provided for those who are allergic to fish, eggs, or flour.

Emergency Response Plan

We will arrange appropriate guides so that everyone can enjoy outdoor activities safely and securely in nature throughout the four seasons.

In the event of an accident, your guide will respond promptly in cooperation with local medical personnel.

Reservation & Cancellation Policy

Payment Methods

Only payments by credit card will be accepted.

Cancellation

*Cancellation fee (per person)

- Cancellations from the 10th to 8th day starting from the day before the start date of the trip... 20% of the travel fee
- Cancellations from the 7th to 2nd day starting from the day before the start date of the trip... 30% of the travel fee
- Cancellation the day before the start date of the trip... 40% of the tour fee
- Cancellation on the day of the start date of the trip (exclude (1) below) ... 50% of the tour fee
- Cancellation after the start of the trip or no contact, no participation (1) ... 100% of the tour fee

Disclaimer

- The snowshoe walk is about 2 km to 3 km, with one uphill and one downhill. There is no turning back. The downhill slope requires a lot of footwork. Therefore, the following people are not allowed to participate in this tour.
 - Those who are not able to walk 3 km on the snow
 - Those who are unable to walk normally or climb up and down bus steps without assistance.
 - Those who weigh more than 100kg
 - Those who have a poor sense of balance or fear of heights
 - Pregnant or those who have consumed alcohol on the day of the tour
- The icefall is a natural phenomenon, so there may be no ice floes or the ice may be partially collapsed depending on the time of year. Lunch is not included in the tour fee. The order of the program is subject to change.
- In the case of bad weather, the tour may be cancelled for your safety.

Tour Operator / Contact



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