# Have a close and deep look to the wildlife at Nemuro region, the most diverse ecosystem in Japan



The Nemuro area, which includes Notsuke and the Nemuro Peninsula, is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including spotted seals, sea otters, Steller's sea eagles, and tufted puffin. The unique "sand spit" topography, tidal flats and wetlands, and the crush of drift ice which make a perfect place for them to inhabit . During this tour, you will enjoy the region's beautiful natural scenery and adorable-looking wildlife. Know more about the conservation from the local nature guides and experts, and understand why this area is called a "wildlife paradise".

On the first day, we will visit Betsukai town to explore the unique topography of Nozuke peninsula with a local fishman by a private cruise. On our second day, we will spend some time to walk deep inside the Nozuke forest and find some wildlife living here! On the third day, we will first have a bird watching private trip with a local bird lover guide and transfer to Hamanaka to watch sea otters. The trip will end on the fourth day which include a peaceful canoe trip at Bekkanbeushi marshland and private raptors conservation tour with a specialst at Kushiro. If you are a wildlife lover, sure you will love this area and have lots of chances to take your best shots!

### **Highlights:**

- Observing Steller's sea eagle, tufted puffin and other rare birds at the Nemuro Peninsula
- Wildlife watching deep inside the vast nature with a variety of activities (walking, canoeing, cruises, etc.)
- Interact with experts and local people to explore about animal and environmental protection projects in East Hokkaido

### Location:

| Eastern Hokkaido:Betsukai , Nemuro , Hamanaka , Akkeshi , Kushiro |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Main Activity:  | Wildlife watching , forest walking , canoeing          |  |
| Difficulty:   | 1 (Relaxed/Social)                                     |  |
| Tour Dates:   | October - December                                     |  |
| Pax:  | Minimum 2 Maximum 4                                    |  |
| Price:  | JPY 340,000 (Tax incl. / per person) ※ reference price |  |

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# **Route map**





# Day-by-day Itinerary

- **Day 1** - Welcome to East Hokkaido, a wildlife paradise! The trip starts with a private cruise with local fishermen!

After arriving at Nakashibetsu Airport, you will meet your guide immediately. We will then move to Betsukai town and now you are entering to an area of wildlife paradise! The trip will start with a wildlife watching private cruise driven by a local fisherman. It is the best way to view the dynamic natural landscape of Notsuke Peninsula from the sea. Also, instead of the usual large sightseeing boats, you will take a local fisherman's small rocky boat into the shallow waters of the inland sea to get a stunning view of the backside of the Onnikuru Forest where you will walk on the next day. Sometimes you may even see wild seals. During the cruise, you will learn from the captain, who has lived in Notsuke for a long time, about what make his lifestyle so unique due to the terrain and the way to interact with the wildlife.

| Included meals : | Hotel dinner                                    |
|------------------|---|
| Activity : Nots  | suke Pennisula private wildlife watching cruise |
| Difficulty : 1   | (1.5 hours)                                     |

# - **Day 2** - Let's go and explore the ecosystem and rare birds that are born from the place where the drift ice dwells!

After checking out, we will visit the Notsuke Peninsula Nature Center, located 30 minutes away from the hotel. You will going to know more about the biodiversity of Notsuke by using the diorama exhibit on the second floor of the facility to introduce the ecosystem created from the topographical formations, soil and drift ice within the Notsuke Peninsula. Then, you will learn about the wildlife you can encounter during the tour you will participate in later. Specialist guides will lead you on different routes according to your requests for wildlife you would like to observe. And today, we will go inside and walk through the deep forest of Onnikuru Forest as seen from the cruise yesterday. Along the way, there will be spots where you can see the unique topography of Notsuke Peninsula and observe this dynamic landscape and wildlife, reminding you the introductions in this morning. In the afternoon, we will go a little further south to Lake Furen, where we can see many wild birds. Lake Furen is the third largest lake in Hokkaido and a treasure trove of wild birds. Let's go around the lake and observe wild birds. From fall to winter, many migratory birds come here for rest. If you are lucky, you may see red-crowned cranes, Japan's largest bird species, raising their young right in front of you! In winter season, white swans, white-tailed sea eagles, and Steller's sea eagles can be seen at the same time, which is one of the attractions of Lake Furen. After the observation time at Lake Furen, we will move to the nearby Nemuro Peninsula for a stay.

| Included meals | : Hotel breakfast , restaurant lunch , Izakaya dinner     |
|----------------|---|
| Activity 1 :   | Forest walking and wildlife watching at Notsuke Pennisula |
| Difficulty :   | 1 (3 hours)   |
| Activity 2 :   | Rare birds and raptors watching at Lake Furen             |
| Difficulty :   | 1 (1.5 hours)   |

### - Day 3 - Come see the wildlife with a local wildlife lover guide!

The Nemuro Peninsula is a miraculous natural wonder created by strong winds , cold weather, arctic vegetation which you can enjoy the similar scenerary as the Ice Age. Thanks to this, we can see numerous bird species. In the morning, we will spend time for bird watching with a wildlife lover guide who lives in this area. He will ake us to a secret place and enjoy the private space and focus on your bird watching! The first observation spot is Cape Nosappu, which is the easternmost point in Japan that people can reach freely. At Cape Nosappu in winter, you can observe many seabirds, sea otters and whales. You may also see white-tailed and Steller's sea eagles are searching for sea prey on the cliffs. The Nemuro Peninsula in winter is the best season for seabird watching, and there are tons of little house for bird watching allow you to observe wildlife without worrying about the freezing weather. We will visit "Nemuro Hanamaru", a famous Kaiden sushi restaurant in Japan. And the sushi restaurant is the main store which provide super fresh seafood from the fish market nearby. Enjoy one of the best kaiten sushi here!After a delicious sushi lunch, we will move on to Cape Kiritappu. The Kiritappu area is a town on a steep cliff and home to endangered sea otters. A few sea otters started to live on the coast here about 10 years ago and have continued to live here. Luckily he number has now increased to about 10, making Kiritappu the "first breeding ground in Japan" for sea otters. Visit here with a local guide, we will observe sea otters and seals from the cliffs.

| Included meals | : Hotel breakfast , Sushi lunch , restaurant dinner         |
|----------------|---|
| Activity(1) :  | Wildlife watching at the easternmost of Japan, Cape Nosappu |
| Difficulty :   | 1 (3 hours)   |
| Activity(2) :  | Sea otters watching at Cape Kiritappu                       |
| Difficulty :   | 1 (1 hours)   |

# - **Day 4** - Let's take a look at the conservations of local people who have been protecting the great nature of East Hokkaido!

It is the last day of our trip! Today, let's start the morning with our accompanying guide, who knows a lot about birds, and explore why wild birds love the live in the east Hokkaido! To learn about the background and story, we will go to the Akkeshi Waterfowl Observation Center, which has an area on the second floor for observation and a telescope, so we can look for a few animal tracks before joining the canoe tour.

In the past few days, we have seen wildlife by walking and cruising, but today we will take a canoe to search for them in the further deep forest and river. The distance between the canoe and the river bank is very close, so there are many photo opportunities, which you can also hear the animals breath. Sometime birds flap their wings and fly just above you! Enjoy a canoe in Bekkanbeushi Marsh will truly be an unforgettable moment.

Let's enjoy a "Robata" lunch (Japanese style grilled BBQ) which it is a traditional way to enjoy fresh seafood in Japan. You can pick your favorite ingredients at the shop and we recommend oysters and whisky which are all produced in this area.

The last content of this tour will be an introduction to the natural environment and animal conservation efforts in east Hokkaido. The beautiful natural environment and rare wildlife we have seen over the past few days would not be possible without the cooperation of local residents and governments. You will visit the Medical Research Institute for Raptors in Kushiro to understand the role of the Wildlife Conservation Center and how animals are housed in the facility. We hope you can know more how this area cares about the great nature and ecosystem as much as possible. We will send you to Kushiro airport to end your trip.

| Included meal | s   | Hotel breakfast , "Robata" lunch                             |
|---------------|-----|--|
| Activity :    | Реа | ceful canoe wildlife watching tour at Bekkanbeushi Marshland |
| Difficulty :  | 1   | (1.5 hours)  |

### Accommodations :

- DAY 1: Odaito , Japanese onsen hotel , Japanese or western style room , Wi-Fi
- DAY 2 : Nemuro , City hotel , Japanese or western style room , Wi-Fi
- DAY 3 : Hamanaka , Private lodging, western style room , Wi-Fi

# What's included

- All activities include in this itinerary
- 3 nights accommodation
- Eateries (Morning and Dinner only)
- Private vehicle transportation (Parking, fuel, highway fees incl.)
- Well trained English speaking guide with first-aid skills (WAFA)
- Tour operation fees
- Taxes (10% consumption tax)

# Not included

- Airfares
- Personal expenses
- Alcoholic drinks or beverages not included meals

Please note that you will be asked to show your passport when checking into accommodation in Japan. It is a requirement for accommodation providers to take a photocopy of the passports of overseas guests.

# We provide & What to bring

## We provide

- 24 hours emergency response service
- First-aid kit
- Complete version itinerary (English)
- Able to have changes for accommodations, eateries if you have any requests
- Canoeing equipment

### What to bring

This tour include outdoor activities such as forest walking, canoeing and wildlife watching. Additionally, the average temperature on October to December is low so please prepare enough clothing and gears before you join the tour.

Personal belongings to be prepared by participants:

- · Earth-colored clothing and athletic shoes that are easy to move outside
- Warm clothing, knit hat, gloves
- Rain wear and rain hat (no umbrellas so as not to affect the animals)
- Water bottles
- Sunscreen
- Binoculars
- · Any medicine you may need

# About us



Contact : info@doto-adventure.net Website : https://doto-adventure.net/

#### **DOTO Adventure Network**

"Doto Adventure Network" is a coalition of coordinators, travel designers, land operators, and through-guides specializing in Eastern Hokkaido, the 'Doto Area.' Deeply rooted in the region, we promote sustainable tourism for the future.

### Guides



#### **Gen TERAYAMA**

- Travel Service Arrangement Operations Manager
- Wilderness Advanced First aid
- Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor

Since 2006, I have called Shiretoko home, bringing over a decade of experience in travel, wildlife management, and regional branding. I have guided trips to remote regions like Nepal, Mongolia, and Antarctica and worked on brown bear conservation and national park management. An adventurer at heart, I was the first Japanese to ski from Cho Oyu's summit. Now, I focus on promoting Shiretoko's beauty and developing long-distance trails like the Hokkaido East Trail, inviting travelers to immerse themselves in nature and meaningful adventures.



#### Akimasa TAKIKAWA

- Hokkaido Adventure travel guide (Mountain)
- Wilderness Advanced First aid
- Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor

Originally from Sapporo City. Moved by the hospitality shown to him by people in various regions during his backpacking trip around the world, he wanted to be the one to host others next, so he started working in the tourism industry in Sapporo. In search of a new place to live, he moved to Bihoro Town as a local revitalization volunteer after the COVID-19 pandemic. After graduating, he mainly worked as an outdoor guide (Pecan Planning), and was involved in developing the tourism area, such as by building trails, as a director of the Bihoro Town Tourism and Products Association.

# 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 is not possible for everyone to do this and we are 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.

In some rural areas particularly, we may ask you for some flexibility. For example, if you require halal food, we may be able to substitute for a vegetarian option instead. For those who are allergic to MSG, please be aware that it may be difficult to arrange a good alternative at every meal in Japan. Some of our overseas guests in the past found it difficult to find ready-made foods completely free of MSG, especially when buying from convenience stores. Most Japanese supermarkets sell simple foods like plain bread, boiled eggs, vegetables, and fruits, so you should always be able to find something suitable. The most important thing about dietary requirements is to let us know in advance so we can prepare and organize the foods you need.

### **Emergency Response Plan**

Your safety is our top priority, closely followed by fun and comfort! All our tour guides have years of guiding experience in the outdoors under their belt. We require all of our guides to be certified as Advanced First-Aid Responders or in Wilderness First-Aid. At all times our guides will carry a first-aid kit, as well as have an extra kit in the vehicle. Depending on the terrain and the potential risks it poses for each trip, our guides will also have the necessary safety and climbing equipment. In case of heavy rain, strong winds, or other unsafe weather conditions for activities such as hiking or canoeing, there may be times where we must change the tour plan. In such cases we will try to substitute the original activity with alternatives such as sightseeing, visiting museums, or hot springs. We take charge of turning a bad day around into a fun day!

# Weather Conditions

Hokkaido's pleasant summer attracts many visitors from the other regions of Japan escaping from the unbearable summer heat and humidity. May is the middle of spring, and October is the middle of autumn. From May through October the highest temperature is approximately 25°C / 77°F in August, and the lowest is approximately 10°C / 50°F in October. The highest rainfall is 182mm(7.1inches) in August. Japan in September and October can bring typhoons. Although they are not as frequent as on mainland Honshu, occasionally Hokkaido is hit by a cyclone (a weakened typhoon as it has travelled over Honshu to Hokkaido). Be prepared for variable weather - warm, cold, and wet - to ensure your comfort and safety while traveling.

# **Reservation & Cancellation Policy**

### **Payment Methods**

We will send a booking confirmation by email with an invoice requesting a deposit
A 20% Deposit is required for the confirmation of the booking.
The remaining cost(Balance Payment) is due 21 days before your arrival.
Payment is acceptable by Credit card or Bank Transfer:

- A. Credit card
  - We will send you a link with a form to fill in your credit card details
- B. Bank Transfer

Please process the payment from your local bank in Yen.

All Transaction Fees will be paid by remitter

### Cancellation

- Cancellation fees apply from 20 days prior to the travel starting date
- 20% of the tour price will apply 20 days prior to the travel starting date
- 30% of the tour price will apply 7 days prior to the travel starting date
- 40% of the tour price will apply 1 days prior to the travel starting date
- 50% of the tour price will apply on the travel starting date

• 100% of the tour price will apply after the start of the tour or the traveler does not participate in the Tour without notice

# **Reservation & Cancellation Policy**

# Disclaimer

### Assumption of risk and safety declaration

Travelers are advised that all activities are undertaken entirely at their own risk and they must behave in a fit and proper manner at all times in accordance with Hokkaido Treasure Island Travel Inc's guidelines. All adventure tours and outdoor activities carry inherent risks and Hokkaido Treasure Island Travel Inc nor its partners do not assume any responsibility for accidents that are caused by its customers or caused by factors outside of human control.

With the purchase of your trip you acknowledge that:

By its very nature, adventure travel, hiking and cycling tours are more challenging and demanding with a significantly higher level of risk, and involve potential exposure to injury and possibly death.

Additional dangers and risks associated with adventure travel may include difficult and dangerous terrain; high altitude; extremes of weather, including sudden and unexpected changes; political instability; remoteness from normal medical services and from communications; and evacuation difficulties in the event of illness or injury. You must follow our guide's instructions and use any safety equipment provided at all times. For the above reasons you accept the inherent and increased dangers and risks associated with the proposed adventure and the accompanying risk of injury, death or property damage or loss.

Our Responsibilities and Exemptions from Responsibility

All Travelers are required to acknowledge the Terms and Conditions that we provide to them before contracting with us. The Traveler acknowledges that he or she understands the Terms and Conditions, as well as the following information about exemptions from our responsibility.

• We shall be responsible for compensating any damage caused to the Traveler intentionally or negligently by us or by our agent in the performance of this Contract. However, this shall be limited to cases when we have received notice within two years from the time when the accident occurred.

• Except as provided in the preceding Paragraph, we will not be responsible for compensation in the following cases:

- (1) Acts of providence
- (2) Maelstrom of war or civil commotion
- (3) Suspension of Tour Services including transport and accommodation facilities
- (4) Orders from government and public agencies
- (5) Other causes beyond our control or the control of our agents

# Partner Company

Hibi Japan Provide tailor made tour with authentic adventures, local cultural contents in Hokkaido. Ernest Mok (Representative Director/ Travel designer) Contact: <u>ernest@hibi-japan.com</u> Website: <u>https://www.hibi-japan-travel.com/</u>



### Tour Operator / Contact



# Hokkaido Treasure Island Travel Inc.

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We are Hokkaido Treasure Island Travel (HTIT), an award-winning team of creators of unique, perfectly tailored Hokkaido travel experiences. The HTIT Team is deeply connected to Hokkaido, in northern Japan. In 2004, HTIT started its journey as the pioneer of a new style of adventure travel by sharing the treasures of Hokkaido. We are constantly opening new doors and making local destinations previously inaccessible for travelers available all over Hokkaido. We provide a compelling combination of personal and professional travel advice, knowledge beyond that of a guidebook, and behind the scenes access to places and authentic local experiences generally not available for the public. Our mission is to create for you a journey of a lifetime every time you travel with us.