

A Journey to Explore the Roots of Coexistence



Eastern Hokkaido where human beings and wild animals have been coexisting for a long time even though it has harsh climate and barren land. They acquire wisdom to live in such a severe environment and cultivate its own cultures harmonizing with nature. This tour provides an opportunity to glance at the essence of indigenous cultures traveling this vast and beautiful land.

A four-day journey to experience "coexistence between nature and humans" through the indigenous cultures of the Kushiro and Okhotsk areas in eastern Hokkaido. Encounter the iconic red-crowned cranes in Kushiro Shitsugen National Park, immerse yourself in Ainu culture in Akan-Mashu National Park, and enjoy a mystical canoeing experience on its serene lakes. In Abashiri Quasi-National Park, cycle through the landscapes while exploring the heritage of the Okhotsk culture. This journey, enriched by breathtaking natural beauty and the traditions of the Ainu and Okhotsk peoples, offers a profound sense of connection with nature and a deeper perspective on coexistence.

Highlights:

- Feel a sense of oneness with nature through canoeing and cycling
- Enjoy local culinary culture (Robatayaki and Moyoro Hot Pot)
- Cross-cultural experiences to deepen understanding of respect for nature and coexistence through Ainu and Okhotsk cultures

Location:

Eastern Hokkaido : Kushiro , Akan , Teshikaga , Bihoro , Abashiri

Main Activity: Hiking, Walking, Cycling, Canoe, Culture and Community Exchange

Difficulty: 2 (Easy active)

Tour Dates: June - October

Pax: Minimum 2 Maximum 6

Price: JPY 300,000 (Tax incl. / per person) ※ reference price

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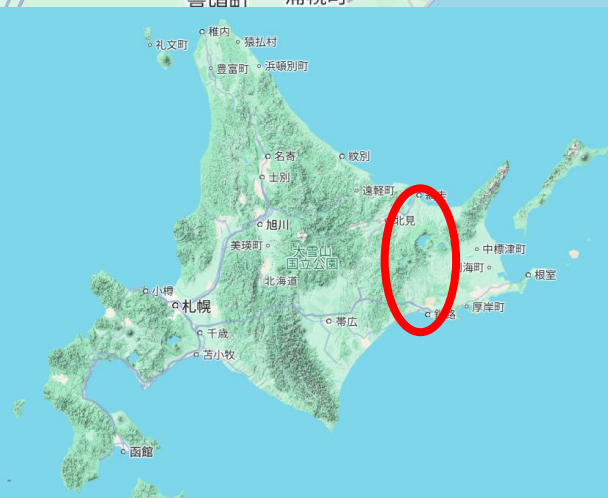
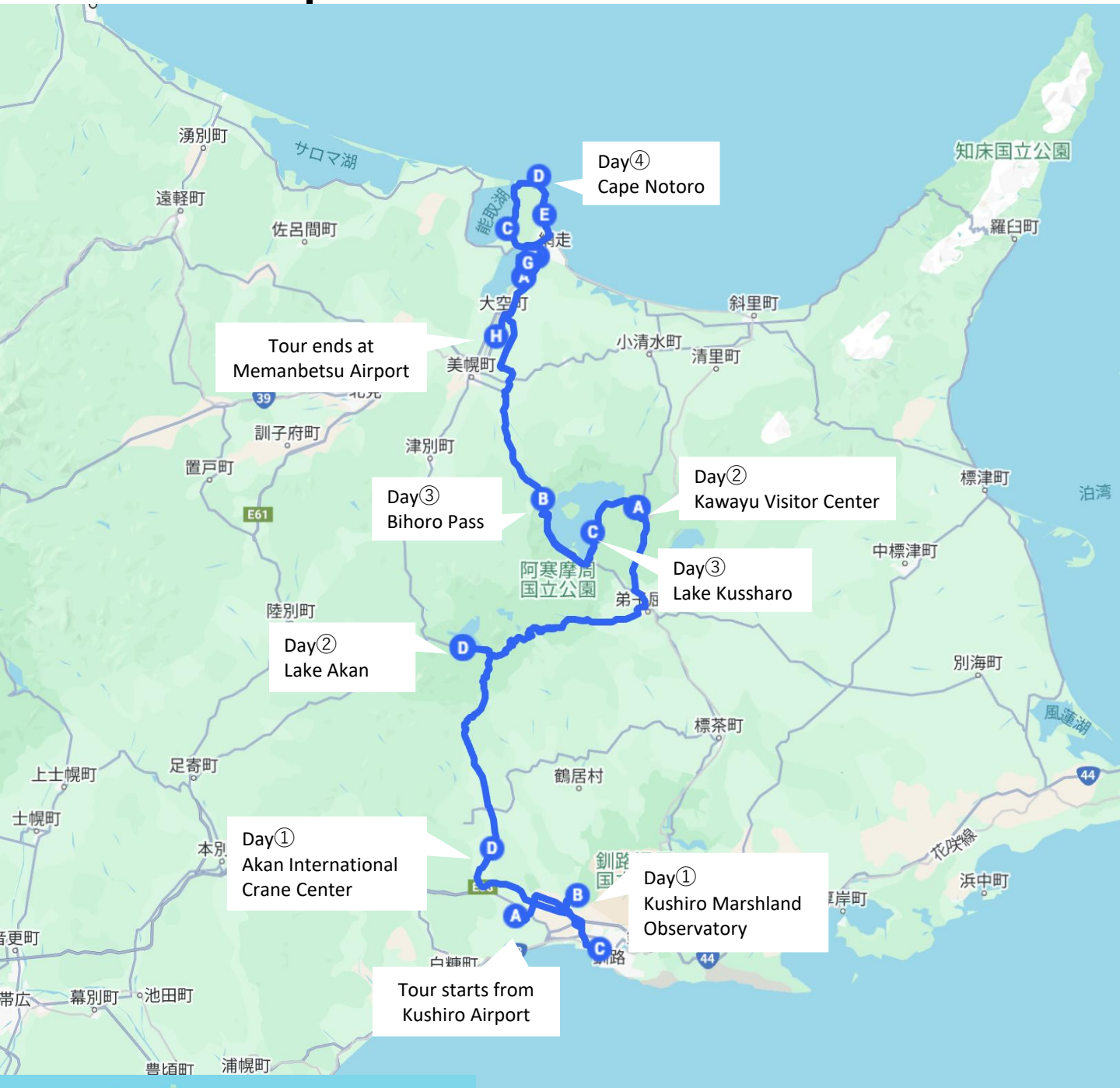
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Route map



Day-by-day Itinerary

- **Day 1** - Explore the origins of Kushiro through its wetlands, fisheries, and red-crowned cranes!

Upon arrival at Kushiro Tancho Airport, you will meet your guide and head to the Kushiro Wetland Observatory, where you can enjoy a panoramic view of Japan's largest wetland. As you take in the vast landscape, you will learn about the history of the wetland, which was once a sea about 6,000 years ago.

you will move to downtown Kushiro to experience "Robatayaki," a traditional grilling style that originated in Kushiro. The seafood, sourced directly from local processing factories, guarantees exceptional freshness.

After lunch, you will travel to the Akan International Crane Center GRUS in Akan Town. This facility is the birthplace of artificial feeding for the rare and nationally designated special natural monument, the red-crowned crane. You will gain insight into the ecology and habits of these revered birds, known as "Sarorun Kamuy," or "God of the Wetlands." Following the tour of Crane Center GRUS, you will proceed to Akanko Onsen for an overnight stay. In the evening, you will immerse yourself in the rich culture of the Akan Ainu through traditional dance performances, "Lost Kamuy," and the mesmerizing "Kamuy Lumina" experience.

Included meals : Robatayaki lunch , hotel dinner

Activity : Crane watching

Difficulty : 1 (1.5 hours)

- Day 2 - A day to reflect on our relationship with nature through the culture and spirituality of the Ainu.

Early in the morning, we will set out on a canoe, gliding across the tranquil lake and immersing ourselves in the stillness of nature. It will be a mysterious experience, as if merging with the surrounding forest and water, reminding us that humans are also a part of nature.

In the morning, participants can explore Ainu culture according to their interests—strolling through Ainu Kotan, listening to the sounds of the tonkori, or taking part in a hands-on craft experience. Through these activities, we will deepen our understanding of the Ainu spiritual belief that "kamuy (gods) dwell in all things."

For lunch, we will enjoy a meal at an Ainu restaurant, savoring seasonal ingredients that reflect the blessings of nature. We will also hear stories about traditional ways of gathering food, life around Lake Akan, and the deep respect for life in Ainu culture.

In the afternoon, we will visit the Kawayu Visitor Center, where we will learn about Akan-Mashu National Park and Kawayu Onsen. A guided walk through the Akaezomatsu (red spruce) forest behind the center will introduce us to the unique ecosystem influenced by Mount Io's volcanic activity, showcasing its distinctive vegetation and wildlife.

Included meals : Hotel breakfast , restaurant lunch , hotel dinner

Activity : Canoeing at Lake Akan

Difficulty : 1 (1.5 hours)

- Day 3 - The past and present through the lives of Northern indigenous peoples.

Early in the morning, we head to Bihoro Pass in search of the sea of clouds. From early summer to autumn, fog from the Pacific Ocean off Kushiro drifts into the caldera, increasing the chances of witnessing this breathtaking phenomenon over Lake Kussharo. The ever-changing movement of the clouds is truly mesmerizing—an unforgettable sight!

After enjoying breakfast at the hotel, we engage in activities around Lake Kussharo based on individual interests, such as stand-up paddleboarding (SUP), canoeing, hiking, or cycling. Through these activities, we fully immerse ourselves in the dynamic natural landscapes shaped by volcanic activity.

In the afternoon, we visit the Northern Peoples Museum, where we explore the cultures of northern indigenous peoples from Greenland to Scandinavia, including the Ainu and the Okhotsk culture. We gain insight into the wisdom and ingenuity that enabled survival in these harsh, cold regions.

We also experience Moyoro Hotpot, a dish inspired by the pottery of the Okhotsk culture, made with fresh seafood from the Sea of Okhotsk and surimi (fish paste), which is believed to have originated in Abashiri.

Included meals : Hotel breakfast , restaurant lunch , Izakaya dinner

Activity : Optional guided tour

Difficulty : 1 ~ 2 (Optional)

- Day 4 - Explore the vast Okhotsk region! Cycle through the great northern land!

Final day of the journey! Embark on a cycling tour to fully experience the landscapes of the Okhotsk region with all your senses.

First, head to the Abashiri Fisheries Science Center, where you'll learn about the rivers and lakes of Abashiri, rich in natural beauty, as well as the local fishing industry. Next, cycle to Cape Notoro, which juts out into the Sea of Okhotsk. This area is formed by uplifted cliffs, and on a clear day, you can enjoy breathtaking views of the Sea of Okhotsk to the north and the distant Shiretoko Mountain Range to the east.

During the cycling tour, lunch will be served at the destination Cape Notoro. You will enjoy fresh local seafood while taking in the stunning scenery.

In the latter half of the tour, visit local historical and cultural sites such as Miyoshi Shrine and Abashiri Prison. At Abashiri Prison, explore exhibits that depict the lives of prisoners and the historical context of Hokkaido's development.

After the tour concludes, you will be transferred to Memanbetsu Airport.

Included meals : Hotel breakfast , restaurant lunch

Activity : Cycling in the Okhotsk region

Difficulty : 2 (4 hours)

Accommodations :

DAY 1 : Kushiro Akan , Japanese onsen hotel , Japanese or western style room , Wi-Fi

DAY 2 : Teshikaga , Japanese onsen hotel , Japanese or western style room , Wi-Fi

DAY 3 : Abashiri , Japanese onsen hotel , Japanese or 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

What to bring

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: ernest@hibi-japan.com

Website: <https://www.hibi-japan-travel.com/>



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.