

Rivers, Rafts, and Ainu Roots – An Immersive Adventure



Shaped by 40,000 years of volcanic activity, this journey explores Lake Shikotsu by canoe, then moves to Sarugawa River for rafting and ends in Biratori, where travelers experience Ainu culture through hands-on activities and local food, highlighting the harmony between nature and culture.

Highlights:

- Enjoy canoeing on the crystal-clear waters of Lake Shikotsu and rafting along the pristine middle-to-upper reaches of the Sarugaw river.
- Cultural Immersion in Biratori Town
- Deepen your understanding of Ainu life and culture through museum visits and evening BBQs with local Ainu residents.
- Experience everyday Ainu traditions through hands-on activities such as iwor (traditional space) and a special meal inside a chise (traditional house).
- In the Abetsu Forest, guided by Ainu storytellers, walk through the woods and learn how Ainu life has evolved in relationship with the forest—past, present, and future. Discover the visionary project of “creating a forest for the next 300 years” aimed at sustaining and passing on Ainu culture.

Location:

Shikotsu, Chitose, Biratori, Tomamu , Hokkaido

Main Activity: CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY EXCHANGE

Difficulty: 1~2

Tour Dates: May - Sep

Pax: Minimum 2 Maximum 8

[Route map](#)

[Day-by-day Itinerary](#)

[What's included](#)

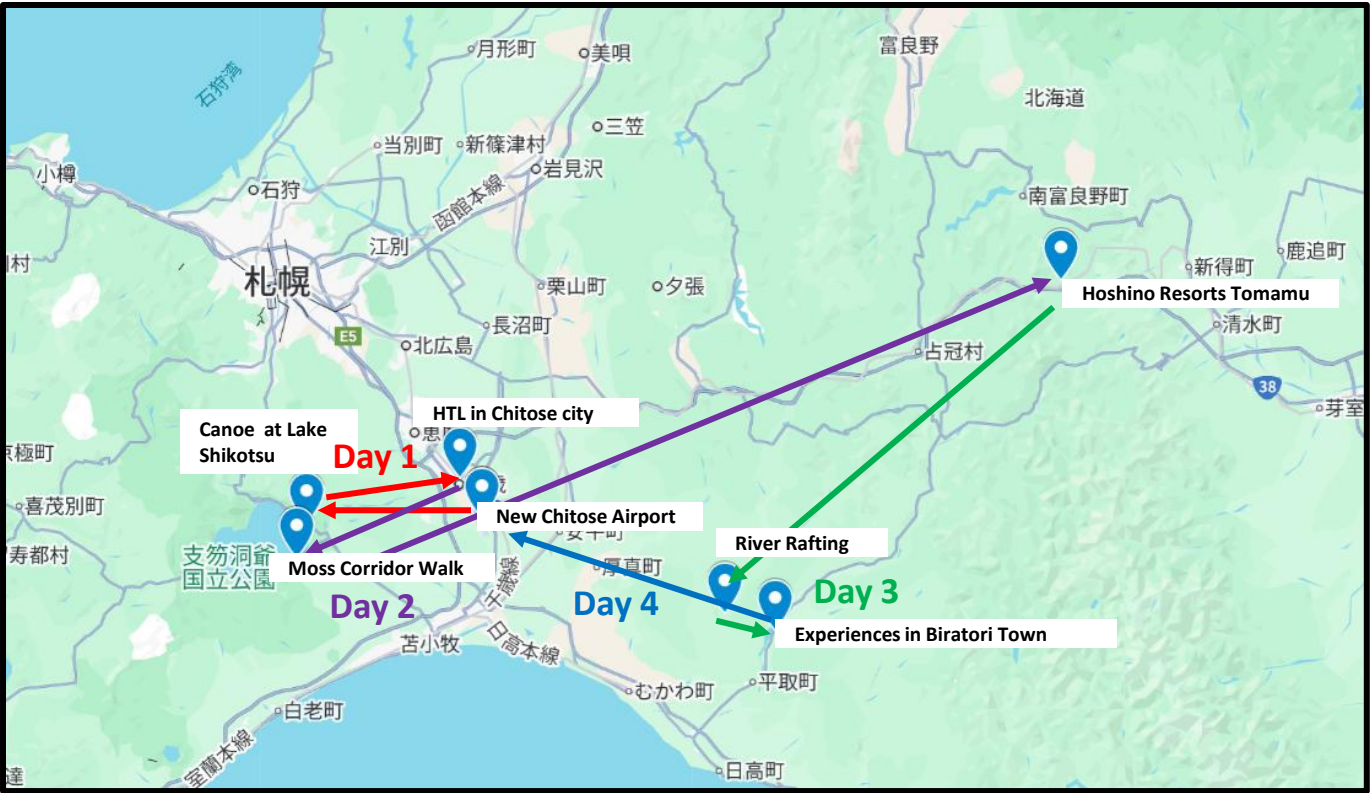
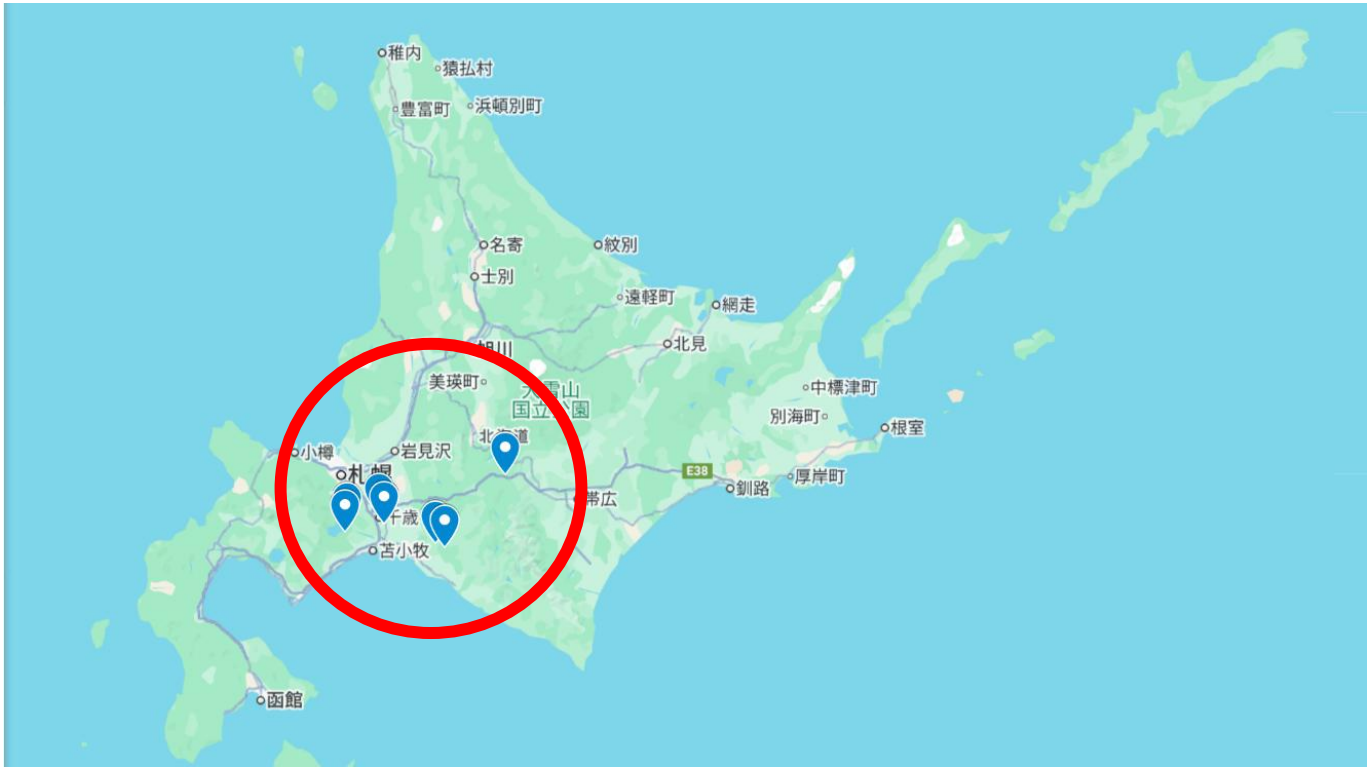
[We provide & What to bring](#)

[About us](#)

[Information and Requirements](#)

[Reservation & Cancellation policy](#)

Route map



Day-by-day Itinerary

Day 1 - A Day of Canoeing at Lake Shikotsu and Stay in Chitose

New Chitose Airport or Pre-stay Hotel

10:00–10:45 Briefing in vehicle

10:45–11:45 Visit: Lake Shikotsu Visitor Center

12:00–13:00 Lunch

13:30–16:00 Canoeing experience at Lake Shikotsu

Check-in & Accommodation: HTL in Chitose

Dinner: Izakaya (near hotel)

Lunch Local restaurant around Lake Shikotsu

Dinner Izakaya style dinner

Activity: Canoeing experience at Lake Shikotsu

Difficulty: 1

Day 2 - A Day of Moss Corridor Walk and Stay at Hoshino Resorts Tomamu

8:30 Depart from hotel

9:00–12:00 Moss Corridor Walk

12:20–13:20 Lunch (Tonton)

13:03–14:00 Free time

16:30–17:30 Check-in & Free Time: Hoshino Resorts Tomamu

18:00– Dinner (Hoshino Resorts Tomamu)

Accommodation: Hoshino Resorts Tomamu

Breakfast Restaurant at the accommodation

Lunch Outdoor lunch served by rafting guide office

Dinner Biratori BBQ at Yukara

Activity: Moss Corridor Walk

Difficulty: 2

Day 3 - A Day of Rafting and Ainu Cultural Experiences

9:00 Depart from hotel

10:00–14:00 Rafting on Mukawa River (Tomiai–Niwa or upstream Fukuyama–Tomiai)

*Route depends on water level; includes special lunch

14:00–15:00 Briefing on Ainu culture (in vehicle)

15:00–16:00 Visit: Nibutani Ainu Culture Museum

16:00–16:30 Check-in: Biratori Onsen Yukara

16:45–18:45 Experience & Dinner: Biratori BBQ at Yukara (interaction with local Ainu community)

Accommodation: Biratori Onsen Yukara

Breakfast Restaurant at the accommodation

Lunch Outdoor lunch served by rafting guide office

Dinner Biratori BBQ at Yukara

Activity: Rafting

Difficulty: 2

Day 4 - A Day of Ainu Cultural Experience and Special Lunch

8:45 Depart from hotel

9:00–12:30 Experience & Lunch: iwor Ainu Cultural Program (Forest Walk) + Special Ainu Cuisine Lunch in a Chise

12:30–14:00 Continue cultural activities

15:30–18:30 Transfer to New Chitose Airport or post-stay hotel

Tour Ends

Breakfast Restaurant at the accommodation

Lunch Special Ainu Cuisine Lunch in a Chise

Activity: iwor Ainu Cultural Program (Forest Walk)

Difficulty: 1

Accommodations :

Day1 : HTL in Chitose

Day2 : Hoshino Resorts Tomamu

Day3: Biratori Onsen Yukara

What's included

- Meals (Breakfast x 3, Lunch x 3, Dinner x 3)
- Accommodation 3 nights
- All the activity fees
- All transportation
- Activity Guide
- An English speaking Japanese guide

We provide & What to bring

We provide

- Canoe and rafting Gear

What to bring

Must-Have Items

Backpack (approx. 20–30L)

Towel (preferably quick-drying)

Water bottle or hydration pack (500ml or more)

Sunscreen & sunglasses

Insect repellent & anti-itch cream

Personal medication

Plastic bags

Good to have

Headlamp or compact flashlight ✕ Might be useful when doing BBQ

Trail snacks (e.g., nuts or energy bars)

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

Rishiri Hana Guide Club, Hirasawa (Cycling, Hiking, Walking)

Hokkaido Outdoor Association, Mountain Guide certification, Fire Department “First Aid provider” certification by fire department, Completed Risk Management Manager Training Course

Information and Requirements

Dietary Restrictions

If you have any dietary restrictions or allergies, please let us know in advance. We will provide you alternatives to the best of our abilities.

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

If it rains lightly, the tour will be held. However, in the event of a typhoon or rainstorm, the event may be cancelled. In the event of bad weather, the cycling/hiking/walking route may be changed.

Tour Operator / Contact



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