

Discover Hokkaido “Water Island of Japan”: A 4-Day Journey through the Secrets of Pure Water



Hokkaido is whispered to have the finest water in Japan, but its true secret lies in the delicate balance between nature, people, and industry . This journey is more than a sightseeing tour; it is an exploration of the life cycle of water. From the volcanic springs of Noboribetsu that boil from the ancient earth, to the crystal-clear silence of Lake Shikotsu—one of Japan’s deepest and clearest lakes—you will witness how water shapes both the landscape and the soul of its people

Discover the spiritual connection between the Ainu people and the salmon-rich rivers, and see how modern industry strives to coexist with rare wildlife sanctuaries. Through canoeing, forest walking, and meeting local sake craftsmen who transform subsoil water into liquid gold, you will realize how water enriches every aspect of life in Hokkaido.

Highlights:

- **The Source of Life:** Deep dive into Japan's iconic Onsen culture with a walking tour to the volcanic sources of Noboribetsu.
- **Sacred Waters & Indigenous Wisdom:** Explore the National Ainu Museum (Upopoy) to learn about the sacred relationship between the Ainu people, water, and salmon.
- **Crystal Clarity:** Experience a private canoeing tour on the mirror-like waters of Lake Shikotsu, discussing sustainability and conservation.
- **Gourmet of the Earth:** Taste the "Water Theme" through local Wagyu, sake brewery tours, and craft beer made from Mt. Yotei's pristine subsoil water.

Location:

The adventure takes place in Central Hokkaido. Starting from Sapporo Station or New Chitose Airport, the journey covers Lake Utonai, Noboribetsu, Shiraoi, Lake Shikotsu, and the Niseko area, concluding in Sapporo. Explore the pristine waters within Shikotsu-Toya National Park.

Main Activity: Nature Walking and Canoeing

Difficulty: 2/5 (Easy Activity - focuses on nature walks and slow-stream canoeing)

Tour Dates: Mid-May through the Beginning of November

Pax: Minimum 4 Maximum 15

Price: JPY 280,000 per person (4-day pass-through fee)

[Route map](#)

[Day-by-day Itinerary](#)

[What's included](#)

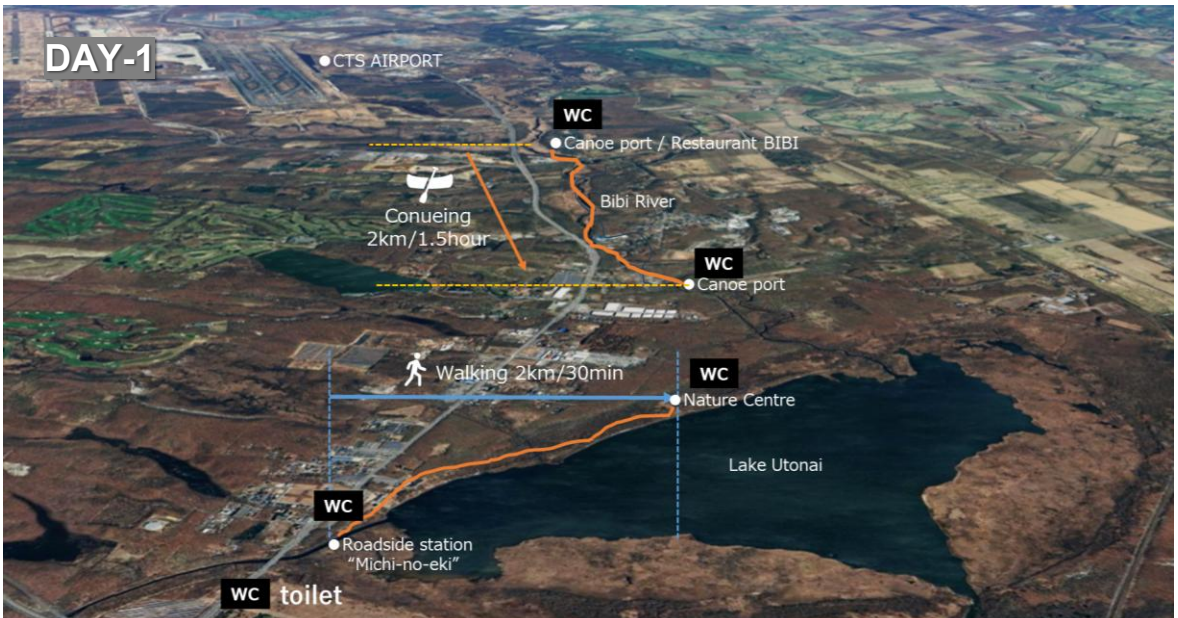
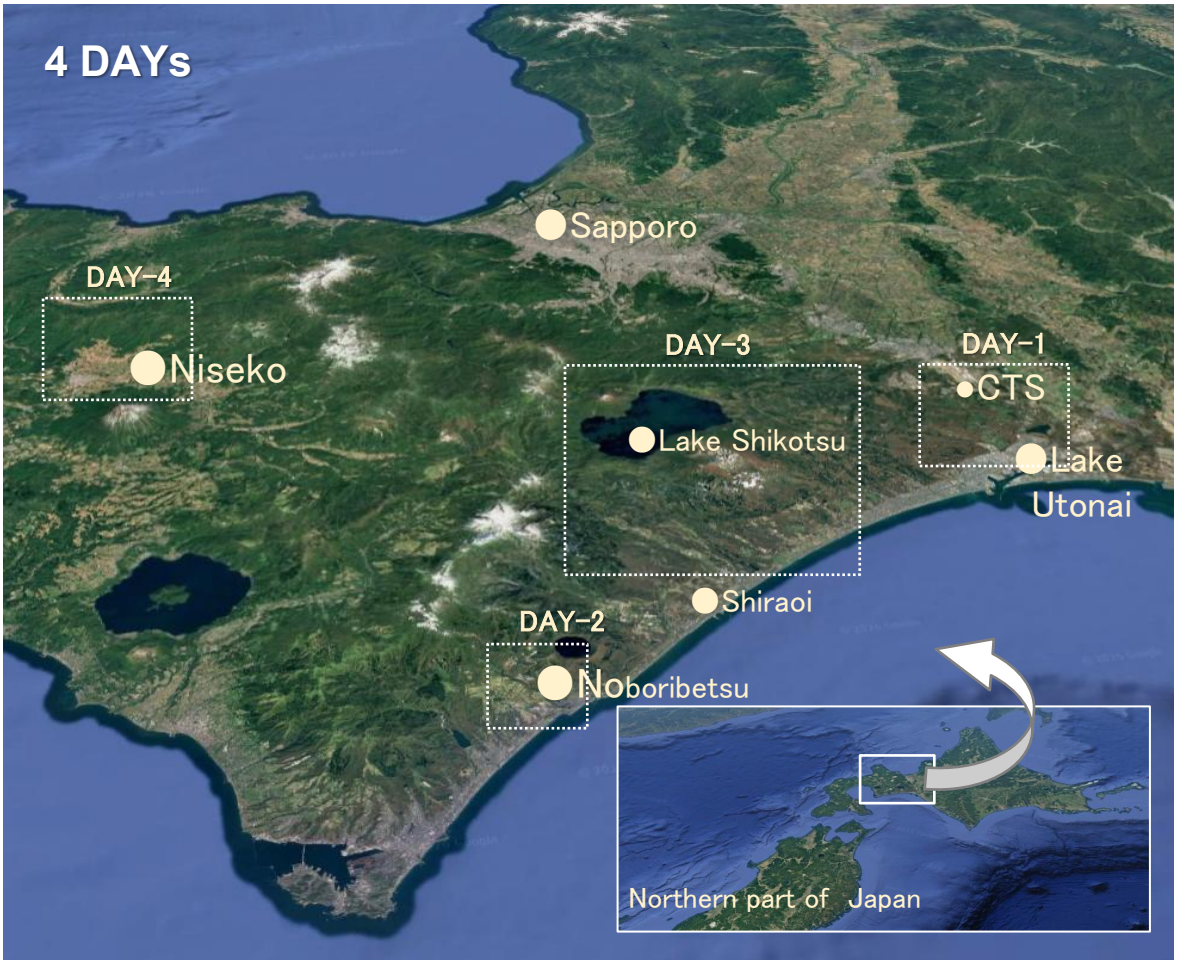
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Route map



Route map



Day-by-day Itinerary

- Day 1- Symbiosis of Nature and Development

Meet at either Sapporo Station, or New Chitose Airport

Morning:

Depart Sapporo. Nature walk at Lake Utonai Sanctuary (2km wooden road) to learn about bird conservation and the coexistence of industry and nature.

Lunch: Wagyu Yakiniku near the river

Afternoon:

Canoeing on the slow-moving Bibigawa River (2km). Drive to Noboribetsu Onsen.

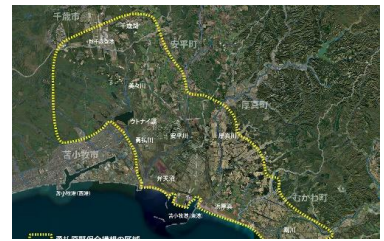
Depart from Sapporo to Lake Utonai Sanctuary, where you will explore the harmony between industrial development and bird conservation. Enjoy a nature walk along a 2km wooden path followed by canoeing on the gentle Bibigawa River to experience the ecosystem firsthand. The highlight is witnessing how human technology and pristine wildlife sanctuaries coexist in the Yufutsu Wilderness.



Lake Utonai



Lake Utonai Nature Walk



Areas where biodiversity conservation is recommended.

Dinner&Stay

Although not included in the tour, Noboribetsu Onsen is highly recommended.

Main Activity: Walking and Canoeing

Difficulty: 2/5 (Easy Activity)

Day-by-day Itinerary

- Day 2- Earth’s Pulsation and Environmental Harmony

Morning: Walking tour (3km forest road) to the volcanic sources of Noboribetsu Onsen, including Jigokudani and Oyunuma.

Lunch: Lunch at Natu-Forest Factory restaurant.

Afternoon: Workshop at an eco-friendly cosmetics factory to create your own aroma mist using Hokkaido fir and natural spring water.

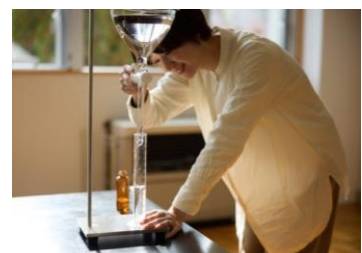
Explore the dramatic volcanic sources of Noboribetsu Onsen through a 3km forest walk to Jigokudani and Oyunuma. In the afternoon, visit an eco-friendly cosmetics factory to craft original aroma mists using natural spring water and local plants. The highlight is the contrast between the powerful, smoky volcanic landscape and the serene, crystal-clear beauty of Lake Shikotsu.



Noboribetsu, Oyunuma



Natural Foot Soup



Aroma mist making

Dinner&Stay

Although not included in the tour, Shikotsuko Onsen is highly recommended.

Main Activity: Walking and DIY

Difficulty: 1/5 (Easy Activity)

Day-by-day Itinerary

- Day 3- Indigenous Culture and Sacred Lakes

Morning: Private canoeing on the "Blue Ribbon" waters of Lake Shikotsu with a focus on environmental sustainability.

Lunch: Soba lunch in Shiraoi.

Afternoon: Guided tour of Upopoy (National Ainu Museum) focusing on salmon and water culture. Continue to Niseko for a private sake brewery tour and Toji (master brewer) talk.

Wake up to the "mirror-like" waters of Lake Shikotsu for a private canoeing tour focused on sustainability. Later, visit Upopoy (National Ainu Museum) to learn about the spiritual bond between the Ainu people, rivers, and salmon. The highlight is an exclusive sake brewery tour in Niseko, where a master craftsman explains how Mt. Yotei's subsoil water is transformed into premium sake.



Lake Shikotsu Canoeing



Upopoy National Ainu Museum



Niseko Sake Brewery

Dinner&Stay

Although not included in the tour, Niseko Area is highly recommended.

Main Activity: Canoeing and museum walking

Difficulty: 2/5 (Easy Activity)

Day-by-day Itinerary

- Day 4- Benefits of the Subsoil Water

Morning: Guided walk through Shinsen-numa (3.5km), the most beautiful marsh in the Niseko area, featuring alpine flora.

Lunch: Local craft beer workshop and gourmet hamburgers made from Mt. Yotei’s waters.

Afternoon: Return to Sapporo (2 hours). Historical city tour exploring how water supported Sapporo's pioneering development, ending with a celebratory toast at local bars.

Enjoy a guided 3.5km trek through Shinsen-numa, the most beautiful alpine marsh in the Niseko area. After a lunch featuring local ingredients and craft beer made from pristine mountain water, return to Sapporo. The highlight is a historical city tour in Sapporo, discovering the vital role water played in the town's pioneering development and concluding with a celebratory toast.



Niseko products (image)



Niseko Shinsen-numa



Sapporo Historical district

Dinner&Stay

Although not included in the tour, Central Sapporo Area is highly recommended.

Main Activity: Hiking

Difficulty: 2/5 (Easy Activity)

What’s Included and to Bring

What’s Included

- Transport by Mini-Van (HiAce, Alphard, or Small Bus depending on pax).
- Accompanying English-speaking through-guide and expert spot guides.
- All entrance and activity fees (including gear rental)
- 4 Lunches, snacks, and coffee during transport.

What’s NOT Included

- Accommodation costs (can be arranged separately from 1-star to 4-star).
- Airfare and Travel Insurance.
- Dinner and drinks (except water) and 10% consumption tax.

What to bring

What to Bring (Clothes/Equipments)

Athletic clothes

Change of Clothes if clothes get dirty and wet. Shorts and T-shirt (to wear under the dry suit on the first and third days when canoeing)

Cap Water bottle Small rucksack Waterproof jacket (windbreaker would be better)

Rain Gear (raincoats) Gloves for hiking Small towel Cameras Sunglasses

Sunscreen

About us

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Awareness of environmentally friendly action and the protection of our precious nature has always been at the core of our corporate philosophy. We feel that we need to do more than our obligations to ensure that our business and participants have a positive impact on the community. Our important goal is also to encourage guests to spend more time in Hokkaido’s natural environment, protecting the natural environment and taking action to respect the indigenous culture.

Information and Requirements

Dietary Restrictions

Our company has a policy of accommodating food allergies, religious, and ethical dietary restrictions by providing alternatives whenever possible. We will inquire about these restrictions when you join the tour. Please do note that due to extenuating circumstances, we may not be able to fully accommodate all requests.

Emergency Response Plan

Our tour guides are always in possession of a first aid kit. At least one guide will hold a license in advanced life-saving training conducted by the Japanese fire department. Our tours do not visit remote mountain areas and are as such easily accessed by emergency vehicles except when participants are in lakes or rivers.

Reservation & Cancellation Policy

Payment Methods

Following the completion of the reservation, we will deliver an invoice to the agency or guest. Payment can be completed by credit card, and please follow instructions listed on the invoice.

Cancellation

Below are the cancellation fees after tour booking is completed.

Cancellation date	Cancellation charge
21 or more days prior to the starting day of the tour	Free
20 to 8 days prior to the starting day of the tour	20% of the Tour Fare
7 to 2 days prior to the starting day of the tour	30% of the Tour Fare
1 day prior to the starting day of the tour	40% of the Tour Fare
On the date of departure	50% of the Tour Fare
Cancelled after the start of the tour Failure to show without notice	100% of the Tour Fare

Refund process may take up to 1 to 2 months depending on when the refund request is received, and the closing date and refund processing procedure conditions of the applicable credit card company. It will be credited to your credit card when the time you purchased the package.

Disclaimer

Tobu Top Tours is responsible for compensating guests for damages caused by the company's intentional or negligent actions while fulfilling the travel contract. However, this responsibility is limited to cases where the claim is made to the company within two years from the day after the damage occurred. If a guest suffers damage due to natural disasters, wars, riots, the suspension of travel services by transportation or accommodation providers, government orders, or other reasons outside of the company's control, the company will not be responsible for compensating the damage.

Tour Operator / Contact

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