

Wildlife observation, Trekking and River Canoeing in East Hokkaido



Wild birds soaring in the sky, deer running through the marshland, sea otters swimming in the sea, the Nemuro and Kushiro areas of East Hokkaido are home to a diverse range of wildlife. Join Hokkaido Master Guide Mr. Makoto Ando to meet the wildlife of this magnificent wilderness, and learn about the history of the marshland and the importance of nature conservation. In the evening, you will enjoy Hokkaido's delicious food at the lodge and talk with local people about the excitement of the trip. Deepening the connection between “nature and people” and between “people and people” in the rich nature of East Hokkaido.

5 Days Brief Itinerary

- Day 01: Warmly greeted in Nemuro Nakashibetsu Airport
Wildlife observation on the Notsuke Peninsula (D)
- Day 02: Wildlife observation at Cape Kiritappu (B, L, D)
- Day 03: River canoeing on Bettoga River- 3hrs/ 5km (B, L, D)
- Day 04: Trekking at Cape Kirakotan (B, L, D)
- Day 05: Departure from Kushiro (B, L)

Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)

Highlights:

- Go on a nature tour with Hokkaido Master Guide Mr. Makoto Ando.
- Trekking at Cape Kirakotan, the deepest unexplored part of Kushiro Marsh.
- Bettoga River canoeing, visiting the habitat of the endangered Blakiston's fish owl.
- Quality observation experience with SWAROVSKI OPTIK binoculars and fieldscope.
- Enjoy Hokkaido vegetables, cheese, seafood with the philosophy of Slow Food.

Location:

East Hokkaido is located in the eastern part of Hokkaido and can be divided into four areas, Okhotsk, Nemuro, Kushiro and Tokachi. This is one of the few places in Japan where prehistoric nature is still alive.

Main Activity: Wildlife observation, River canoeing and Trekking

Difficulty: 3

Availability: Recommended from May until September

Tour Duration: 4 Nights 5 Days

Pax: Minimum 4 Maximum 10

Price: JPY 276,000 ~ JPY 326,000

[Route map](#)

[Day-by-day Itinerary](#)

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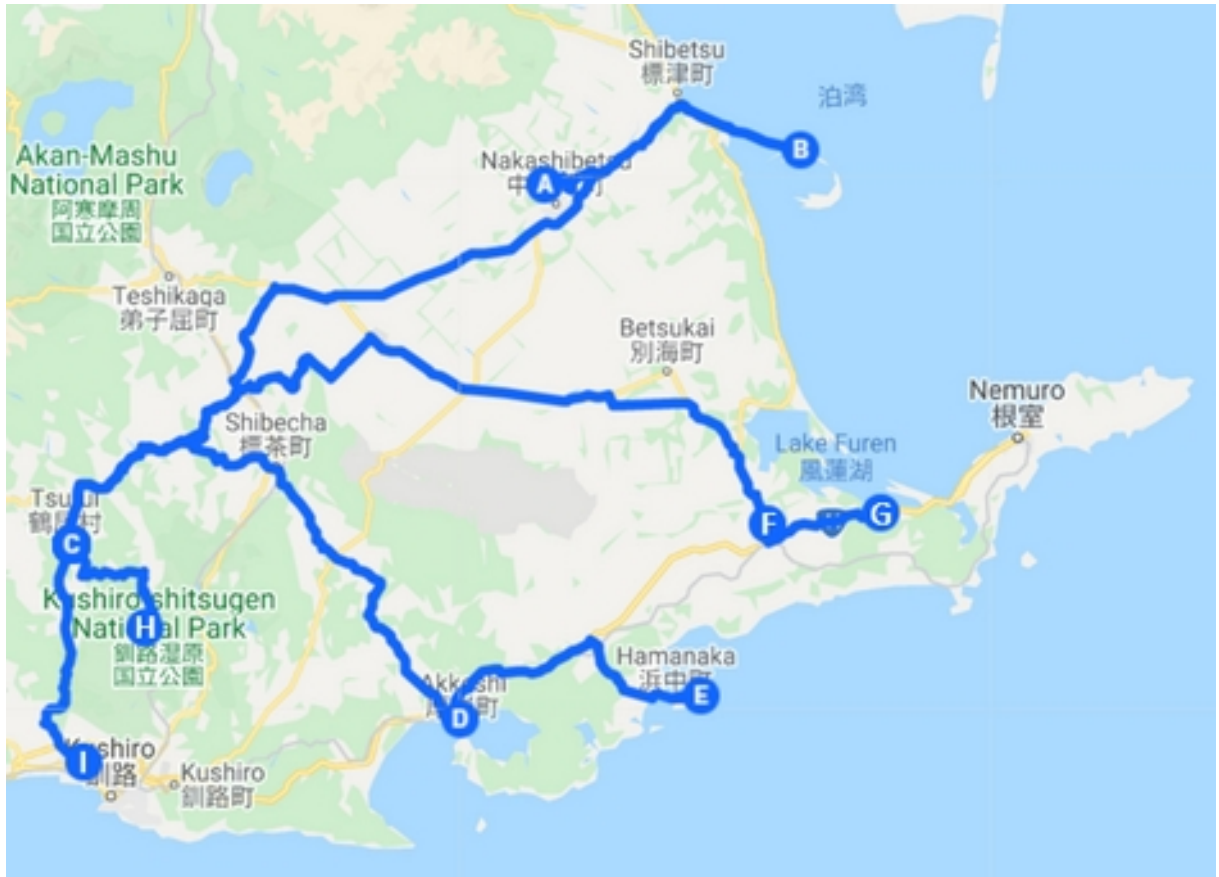
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Route map



Date	Visiting area	Distance to travel
Day 01	Nemuro Nakashibetsu Airport(A) -> Notsuke Peninsula(B) -> Lodge "Hickory Wind" (C)	approx. 147 km
Day 02	Lodge "Hickory Wind" (C) -> Restaurant "Conchiglie"(D) -> Cape Kiritappu (E) -> Lodge "Hickory Wind"(C)	approx. 218 km
Day 03	Lodge "Hickory Wind" (C) -> Akesato Ito Dairy Farm(F) -> Bettoga River (G) -> Lodge "Hickory Wind" (C)	approx. 224 km
Day 04	Lodge "Hickory Wind" (C) -> Cape Kirakotan (H) -> Lodge "Hickory Wind" (C)	approx. 39.7 km
Day 05	Lodge "Hickory Wind" (C) -> Restaurant "Tamagawa-an" (I) -> Kushiro Station or Kushiro Airport	approx. 45.6 km

Day-by-day Itinerary

Day 1 - Wildlife observation on the Notsuke Peninsula

Welcome to Hokkaido! On your arrival in Nemuro Nakashibetsu Airport at 2pm, we warmly greet you at the airport. Let's do an introduction of your guides before the tour starts.

Mr. Makoto Ando is a nature guide who has been sharing the stories of wildlife in East Hokkaido with people for over 20 years. He is well versed in wildlife, natural ecology and the history and culture of the region. With his years of experience, he is able to recognize the preferences of each passenger and provide the best nature experience for you. He is also a professional photographer who has won awards in world photography contests. If you want to take high-level photos, despite having a professional camera or smartphone, just ask him for advice during your trip.

And the other guide is Ms. Kana Yamada. She learned the knowledge of Hokkaido's nature and guiding from Mr. Makoto Ando. She will guide you and ensure that you enjoy this trip.

As the start of your tour, you will visit the Notsuke Peninsula, which is home to many of Hokkaido's representative animals, such as Ezo red fox and Ezo-shika deer. Seeing the animals living in the natural habitat, you will definitely feel excited and anticipate this trip.

After visiting the Notsuke Peninsula, we will depart to “Hickory Wind”, a lodge run by Mr. Makoto Ando and Mrs. Shinobu Ando. The lodge is like a home for this trip and all break

Dinner

served here.

Course menu to enjoy Hokkaido's vegetables such as potatoes and corn.

Hokkaido's climate and soil make its vegetables grow deliciously. Enjoy a relaxing dinner with dishes based on vegetables grown in Hokkaido.

Activity: Wildlife observation on the Notsuke Peninsula

Activity details: Difficulty - 1
Time required - approx. 1.5 hrs

Meals provided: Dinner

Accommodation: Hickory Wind

Day 2 – Amazing sea life at Cape Kiritappu

Starting a new day with continental breakfast with natural ingredients.

The morning will be spent at the lodge. At Hickory Wind there will be an exhibition of photographs by Mr. Makoto Ando, a display of ceramics and other traditional crafts, and information about the region's conservation and tourism resources to enhance your understanding of the area. We will leave the lodge at 10:00 am and take a 1.5-hour car ride to get to our restaurant for lunch.

Lunch

Chargrilled grilled oysters, seafood, vegetables and other local ingredients at the Akkeshi Gourmet Park Restaurant "Conchiglie".

Akkeshi is the only place in Japan where oysters are available all year round. Lake Akkeshi, which is a mixture of freshwater rivers containing nutrients from the mountains and marshlands and seawater from the Pacific Ocean, is a blessed natural environment that makes oysters grow plump and sweet.

We will drive 45 minutes from restaurant to Cape Kiritappu to see the sea life.

Cape Kiritappu is located on the east side of the table-shaped Kiritappu Peninsula, 40-60m above sea level. Wild sea otters are breeding around here, and the area is attracting attention as a rare place where you can observe their lovely appearance from land all year round. In Ainu language "Tokkari" means seal. Cape Kiritabu is also called Cape Tokkari because seals can be seen here. If you are lucky, you may even spot a seal resting on a reef.

After about an hour's stay we will depart for Lodge Hickory Wind.

Dinner

Okonomiyaki with Tsurui Village cheese and seafood.

Tsurui Village Cheese has won the All Japan Natural Cheese Contest for the sixth time in succession. There will be a demonstration of okonomiyaki making, which is very popular with foreigners.

Activity: Wildlife observation at Cape Kiritappu

Activity details: Difficulty - 1
Time required - approx. 1hr

Meals provided: Breakfast , Lunch , Dinner

Accommodation: Hickory Wind

Day 3 – Bettoga River Canoe, to the habitat of the Blakiston's fish owl

Today's breakfast is rice porridge and side dishes made from natural ingredients and we'll leave the lodge at 9:20 am. After a 1.5 hours driving, we will arrive in Nemuro City where you will have lunch and experience river canoeing.

Lunch

Beef stew made with Akesato Shorthorn beef and homemade soft ice cream at Akesato Ito Dairy Farm. The Akesato Shorthorn cattle are raised on Nemuro grass grown on the farm.

After lunch we will drive to the Bettoga River for a river canoeing trip.

We will start near the intersection of National Highway 44 and go upstream to visit the habitat of the Blakiston's fish owl, then went down the river to Furen Lake.

A visit to the habitat of the Blakiston's fish owl, a critically endangered species with a small population. You will learn about the realities of the Blakiston's fish owl, which needs a rich ecosystem to survive, and the importance of nature conservation. During the canoeing, you can also see white-tailed eagles and numerous wild birds.

This three-hour course takes you through a meandering river, with each turn opening up a new landscape. As you enter Lake Furen, the lake with the largest circumference in Hokkaido, the view in front of you opens up at once. Lake Furen is a brackish lake, so you can experience the ebb and flow of the tide.

After experiencing river canoeing, which requires a lot of stamina to go upstream and keep paddling, we will leave for the lodge at 4:00 pm and take some rest.

Dinner

Barbecue of Hokkaido seafood such as oysters, scallops, and shrimp with Tsurui villagers. An opportunity to interact with local residents over dinner. Share the joys of travel and local life, and deepen your connection with the locals.

Activity: River canoeing on the Bettoga River

Activity details: Difficulty - 3
Time required - approx. 3hr
Distance - approx. 5km

Meals provided: Breakfast , Lunch , Dinner

Accommodation: Hickory Wind

Day 4 - The unexplored areas of Kushiro Marsh - Cape Kirakotan

The most exciting day of the tour has arrived. We're going to explore the mysterious areas of Kushiro Marsh. A continental breakfast with natural ingredients will be served at the lodge. Then we will leave for Cape Kirakotan at 10:00 am.

Cape Kirakotan is located in the northern part of Kushiro Marsh, the largest marshland in Japan. It is designated as a Natural Monument Area and is not accessible to the public without special permission. People can't easily get close to it, so it offers the most pristine natural view of Kushiro Marsh. Mr. Makoto Ando, who has a special permit to enter Cape Kirakotan, will guide you through this unexplored area.

This trekking takes you through unpaved forest roads, shallow swamps, and areas with unpredictable terrain changes. Since there is no fixed trekking route, you will be required to be adaptable to the terrain and get the full feeling of adventure.

The history of Kushiro Marsh revived here. You can visit the remains of pit dwellings, a thousand-year-old *Quercus crispula* tree, and the Akiaji swamp and a spectacular spot with a view of the meandering Chiluwatunai River and Kushiro City. Akiaji swamp is where the red-crowned crane, thought to be extinct in Japan, was rediscovered. The calm surface of the swamp and the unspoiled natural scenery around can make you feel the peace of mind.

At Cape Kirakotan, you can see white-tailed eagles soaring in the sky, Ezo-shika deer running in the reeds, and pairs of red-crowned cranes. Using SWAROVSKI OPTIK's high performance binoculars and fieldscope, you can see animals and plants clearly even in this large marshland.

Lunch

Picnic at Kushiro Marsh.

Enjoy rice balls and sandwiches made with local ingredients while surrounded by nature. Warm soup made from boiled water will also be served.

After six hours of enjoying the magnificent wilderness at Cape Kirakotan, you may feel a little tired. Let's go back to the lodge, enjoy dinner, and then get some rest.

Dinner

Creative Japanese cuisine using seasonal ingredients and homemade oden.

Oden is a kind of Japanese stew consisting of several ingredients such as Japanese white radish, boiled egg, and konjac.

Day 4 - The unexplored areas of Kushiro Marsh - Cape Kirakotan

Activity: Trekking at Cape Kirakotan

Activity details: Difficulty - 3
Time required - approx. 6hr (including lunch time)
Distance - approx. 6km

Meals provided: Breakfast , Lunch , Dinner

Accommodation: Hickory Wind



Day 5 – Four seasons of East Hokkaido

It is the last day of this tour. You have rice porridge and side dishes made from natural ingredients. After breakfast, Mr. Makoto Ando will introduce wildlife and scenery that can only be seen in other seasons through photographs and video in the wilderness of East Hokkaido, which shows the varying expressions of the four seasons.

Lunch

Oyster Soba at Michelin-starred restaurant “Tamagawa-an”.

In Japan, it is customary for newcomers to distribute soba to their neighbors. Soba means "thin, long, unbreakable relationship" or "always by your side". Even though we are separated, the friendships we made during this tour will continue.

After lunch, we will drive you to Kushiro Station or Kushiro Airport. Hope to see you soon on your next trip!.

Activity: -

Activity details -

Meals included: Breakfast , Lunch

Accommodation: -

Accommodation :

Lodge Name	Name of the Room	Room type	WiFi
Hickory Wind	Birch	Single with barrier-free sink and toilet (1F)	O
	Hickory	2×single bed with sink, bath and toilet (1F)	O
	Oak	2×single bed Shared sink and bathroom (1F)	O
	Iris	Max 4 persons (Japanese-style bedding) Shared sink and bathroom (1F)	O
	Larch	Semi-double bed Shared sink and bathroom (2F)	O
	Tancho	2×single bed Shared sink and bathroom (2F)	O

Guides

<Makoto Ando>

- Hokkaido Certified Outdoor Guide(Master Guide)
- Hokkaido Certified Excellent Outdoor Business in Hokkaido
- Winner of the Nature Photography Award "Wildlife Photographer of the Year" in 2020
- 4 times winner of the Nature Photography Award "Nature's Best Photography Contest"
- Nikon Professional Service Members
- FUJIFILM Professional Service Members
- Panasonic Lumix Professional Services Members
- SWAROVSKI OPTIK Support Professional Guide



<Kana Yamada>

- Hokkaido Certified Outdoor Guide
- Certificate of Advanced First Aid Course

Food

Mrs. Shinobu Ando ensures that visitors to Lodge Hickory Wind have the best dining experience possible. She is a member of “Slow food friends Hokkaido” and also owned “Hokkaido Food Meister” qualification.

Using local ingredients in season to create dishes that will soothe your body and soul. Since there were many international visitors to the lodge, Mrs. Shinobu Ando is good at sensing the guests' preferences and providing them with suitable meals. There is no doubt that you will enjoy your meals at the lodge.



Tour Operator / Contact

[ANA X Inc.](#)

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