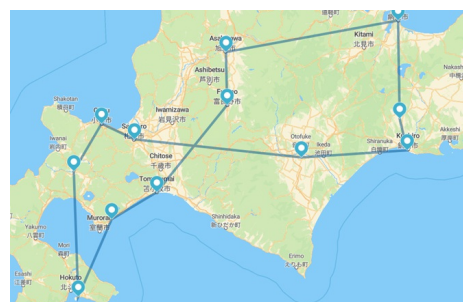




Japan, 13 Days · Tailor-made by car

## Hokkaido Route

Everyone knows Japan, but not everyone has heard of Hokkaido. And that's despite the fact that its capital, Sapporo, hosted the Winter Olympics in 1972. Japan quite often seems to be all about Honshu, literally 'main island' in Japanese, thanks to cities like Tokyo, Kyoto, Nagoya or Hiroshima, and natural wonders such as the eternal Mount Fuji. But to the north of Honshu is the island of Hokkaido, formerly called Ezo, the second largest island in the country and a stunning natural showcase of unforgettable landscapes of intense white in winter and dazzling colours for the rest of the year. On this road trip around Hokkaido in your rental car, you'll get to explore Japan's hidden wonder, an island of open spaces, verdant forests, towering mountains and crystal-clear lakes. You'll be driving through fabulous unspoilt scenery dotted with cities such as Sapporo, Otaru and Hakodate, breathtaking metropolises that fuse technological innovation with ancient Japanese customs and traditions. Marvel at the island's spectacular nature parks and ski resorts, which in winter offer excellent snow for an array of winter sports and in summer provide the perfect setting for hiking and enjoying the extraordinary variety of local flora and fauna. Unwind in the many hot springs and take advantage of their medicinal benefits, as well as following a quintessentially Japanese custom. Savour the very best sushi in Japan made with the freshest seafood in the country, thanks to the major fishing ports here that were the gateway to Japan when it first started opening up to the West. In short, explore this semi-unknown treasure called Hokkaido at your own pace, which even has its own Mount Fuji, the so-called Ezo Fuji! (IMPORTANT NOTE: in winter, some of the areas may be inaccessible in the event of heavy snowfall).



**Departure date:** Departures from June 2026 till May 2027

**From:** Dublin

## Travel details

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## DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - SAPPORO

Flight departure from the city of origin to Sapporo. After completing the relevant arrival and customs procedures at New Chitose Airport, pick up your rental car and head to the hotel to check in. You can now officially start your holiday! How long you have today to visit the attractive capital of the island of Hokkaido, the second largest in the country after Honshu and located in the northern part of Japan, will depend on the time your plane lands. But don't worry, as you'll have two full days to explore it thoroughly. So, plan out your day as you fancy. Of course, take the opportunity to discover the Sapporo nightlife with dinner on Ramen Yokocho (literally, Ramen Alley) and a drink at a bar or 'izakaya' in Susukino, the city's entertainment district par excellence. What's more, it's full of the famous Japanese karaoke bars where so-called 'salarymen' and 'office ladies' will let their hair down after a long hard day at work. Make sure you have a go at singing!

Overnight stay in Sapporo.

## DAY 2 · SAPPORO

Sapporo has so much to offer the traveller eager for new experiences. The fifth-largest city in Japan with about two million inhabitants, the capital of Hokkaido hosted the 1972 Winter Olympics, an event that placed it on the world tourism map. Since then, Sapporo and the island of Hokkaido have gradually been entering the western market, thanks also to its eponymous beer and an excellent miso-based ramen. But, above all, the city has flourished thanks to the Yuki Matsuri (Snow Festival), one of the most important winter events in Japan and which each year pulls in more than two million visitors keen to see almost four hundred spectacular snow and ice sculptures up to fifteen metres high. This magnificent festival is held in February in the central Odori Koen (Odori Park), the ideal setting for a leisurely stroll and an initial insight into Hokkaido's spectacular nature. And if you fancy an incredible panoramic view of the city, head up to the viewpoint of the Sapporo TV Tower, which casts its tall shadow over the Odori Park itself, a hub of activity after dark. The Hokkaido University Botanical Gardens (admission: approximately 400 yen) are another great option for you to enjoy a picnic, wander through the alpine garden and beautiful greenhouse, visit a pocket-sized museum dedicated to the Ainu people (also known as the Utari, the indigenous ethnicity of Hokkaido), and admire the old wooden house of the Shogun (governor of Japan). If you'd like to find out a bit more about the ancient Ainu culture and the history of the region, head over to the Historical Village of Hokkaido (Kaitaku no Mura), a pretty open-air museum in the Noppo Forest Park that features more than fifty houses and buildings from all around the island. It shows what life was like in Hokkaido between 1868 and 1926. Before dinner, we recommend a trip to the Sapporo brewery, one of the most popular brands in Japan, and its Beer Museum, which offers a tour that ends with the tasting of three of its best beers (admission: 500 yen). Then savour the local culinary delights, which mainly revolve around crab, at one of the many excellent buffet restaurants scattered around Sapporo.

Overnight stay in Sapporo.

## DAY 3 · SAPPORO

You can't leave Sapporo without a visit to Shiroyo Park, a sort of theme park owned by Ishiya, the top chocolate company in the area. Its flagship product is the Shiroyo biscuit, which is also one of the most famous souvenirs in Hokkaido. Here you'll find cafes, restaurants, shops and - the jewel in the crown - the Ishiya Chocolate Factory (admission: 600 yen), where you can watch the biscuit production process and even create your own recipes at practical workshops. Other fascinating plans in the city include admiring the fabulous panoramic view from the T38 Observation Deck, located on the thirty-eighth floor of the JR Tower at Sapporo Central Station; visiting the iconic Tokeidai (clock tower), which houses a museum and ceremonial hall; strolling around the Former Hokkaido Government Office Building, a western-style building that features exhibits on Hokkaido Island and its history; and literally hallucinating at the Sapporo Ekimae-dori Underground Walkway. This walkway is an authentic underground world of corridors, shops and restaurants, where citizens socialise in winter when temperatures tend to fall below zero (it connects Sapporo Station with Odori Station). In the afternoon, we recommend a trip to the top of Mount Moiwa, southwest of Sapporo, so that you can marvel at simply the best views of the city. To get to the summit and reach the viewpoint, take the Mount Moiwa Ropeway (open from 10.30 am to 4.00 pm. Price: 1,700 yen return). It's best to do it an hour before sunset to admire the cityscape that opens up before your eyes.

Overnight stay in Sapporo.

## ● DAY 4 · SAPPORO - OTARU - NISEKO

Once you've fully explored Sapporo, it's time to leave the city behind in your rear-view mirror and head towards the coast of Ishikari Bay, connected to the Sea of Japan. After heading some forty minutes northwest on the E5A toll road, you'll get to the fantastic town of Otaru, nicknamed the Wall Street of the North. The maritime gateway to Hokkaido, and basically the whole of Japan, in its heyday during the first half of the twentieth century, Otaru soon became the country's major trading port with the West, mainly with countries like the US, the UK and Russia. From that glorious era there are still numerous red-brick buildings and warehouses flanking the Otaru Canal, which at night is fabulously lit up with Victorian-style street lamps. In fact, the town oozes an attractive and nostalgic atmosphere of the early twentieth century that never fails to delight visitors. And on the subject of delights, Otaru is famous today all over Japan for its high quality sushi, especially the ones made from 'uni' (sea urchin) and spider crab. The town boasts more than one hundred sushi restaurants (yes, you read right!), the vast majority located on Otaru Sushi Street and Sakaimachi Street, both just a stone's throw from the canal. What's more, it's also famous for its locally brewed Otaru Beer. Don't leave without trying out the delicacies of Otaru! Once you're ready, you can set off for the mountainous region of Niseko, located to the south of Otaru. There are two options: an hour's drive along the 393 road in the direction of Mount Yotei (Yotei-zan); or an hour's drive westerly along the E5A toll road. So, if the traffic is light on the 393, you'll save yourself a few yen. As you approach Yotei-zan, in the spectacular Shikotsu-Toya National Park, you'll start to see what looks like the world-famous Mount Fuji on the island of Honshu, without a shadow of doubt one of the most iconic symbols of Japan. But this isn't a fruit of your imagination, as the similarity between the two mountains is enormous. That's why it's also known as Ezo Fuji, as Ezo is the former name of Hokkaido. Nestled in the western foothills of Mount Yotei is Niseko, a town and a mountain range that share a name, renowned for ski resorts such as Niseko United, the largest and most international in the country. In the winter, the region is blessed with high-quality powder snow that attracts thousands of skiers from all around the world, earning it the nickname of Japan Powder. This is a true paradise for winter sports fans, but a major hassle for motorists! In summer, the area also offers a great deal of activities to breathe in the mountain air, such as hiking, trekking, rafting, horse riding, cycling and even golf. Meanwhile, in autumn there's nothing better than luxuriating in an 'onsen' (the traditional Japanese hot springs of volcanic origin) while admiring the vivid colours of the season. Niseko is also great for savouring the culinary speciality of Hokkaido, the 'jingisukan' (the Japanese pronunciation of Genghis Khan), which is a mouthwatering barbecued lamb dish. Accompany it with freshly harvested potatoes, asparagus, tomatoes and pumpkins for an unforgettable dining experience.

Overnight stay in Niseko.

## DAY 5 · NISEKO - HAKODATE

Today's the day to head to the southernmost point of this fantastic road trip around Hokkaido, the picturesque city of Hakodate. So, take the stunning E3 toll road southbound for about 170 kilometres (two and a half hours behind the wheel, so make a stop to stretch your legs). Famous for the freshness of its fish and seafood, make sure you try the local delicacies made with 'ikura' (salmon roe), sea urchin, crabs, squid (a speciality of Hakodate) and other delicacies from the deep sea. One of the local gourmet delights is a 'donburi' (literally, rice bowl dish) with seafood known as 'kaisendon'. Delicious, fast and cheap! And if you arrive in Hakodate before 2.00 pm, we definitely recommend a visit to its vibrant morning market. Located on Wakamatsucho Street, you'll get to see the freshest seafood, taste delicious seasonal sweets and even fish for squid at one of its stalls. Once caught, the stallholders will slice it into sashimi for you. Besides its culinary delights, Hakodate boasts a whole host of attractions that make it one of the top tourist destinations in Hokkaido. A must-see is the historic district of Motomachi, where there are several Western-style buildings dating back to the nineteenth century, when Japan reopened its doors to the world. Other landmarks include the Russian Orthodox Church from 1861, the first in the whole of Japan and a symbol of the multicultural atmosphere of Motomachi (by the way, the tolling of its bells was named one of the top one hundred soundscapes in Japan), and Koryuji Temple, the oldest church here and an authentic architectural jewel in the city's crown. To reach the beautiful port of Hakodate, we recommend taking the Hachiman-zaka Slope, a mountain road that leads right down to the docks and is famous throughout the country, having been named the number one slope to visit in Japan. In the port itself you can visit the Kanemori Red Brick Warehouse, one of the city's main shopping and restaurant hubs. But if you want to get the very most out of this spectacular destination, you really need to admire it from above. There are two exceptional viewpoints, perfect either day or night, to enjoy the best views: Mount Hakodate and the Goryokaku Tower (admission: between 450 and 900 yen). Rightly dubbed the 'One Million Dollar Night View', Mount Hakodate is equally fascinating in the daytime. You can take the ropeway from the foot of the mountain, in Motomachi, and in just three minutes you'll be whisked to the summit. It's open all year round, except for one week in mid-October, and costs between 390 and 1,280 yen. From the top of the Goryokaku Tower (located at 43-9 Goryokakucho), you'll quickly make out perfectly designed star-shaped citadel below you, one of the major icons of Hakodate. Built in 1864 to protect northern Japan, Fort Goryokaku was the first Western-style citadel constructed in the whole of Japan. It's surrounded now by a park brimming with cherry trees that are absolutely stunning when they flower in the springtime. Make sure you visit the Hakodate Museum of Art, very close to the Goryokaku Tower, to marvel at masterpieces both by Japanese artists, such as the renowned Yokoyama Matsusaburo and Miematsu Tanabe, and Western artists such as Rodin and Renoir.

Overnight stay in Hakodate.

## ● DAY 6 · HAKODATE - LAKE TOYA - NOBORIBETSU

Head back to Shikotsu-Toya National Park along the E5 toll road, but this time northbound along the coast of Uchiura Bay until you reach the junction with the 230 road, which leads to the beautiful Lake Toya. The drive will take you around two hours and you'll pass through some stunning landscapes. Enjoy it! A must-visit in the area is Toyako Onsen, a thermal complex that housed the G8 Summit in 2008 and commands one of the top three views in Hokkaido, overlooking Lake Toya, Mount Yotei and the surrounding mountains. Created after a massive volcanic eruption 110,000 years ago, Lake Toya has an almost circular shape and stretches eleven kilometres east-west and nine kilometres north-south. There are four islands of various sizes in the middle that are collectively referred to as Nakanoshima, with visits possible in the summer to the largest of them, Oshima, thanks to a steamboat that ploughs through the waters (the excursion lasts between fifty and eighty minutes with the stopover in Oshima, while in winter it takes thirty to forty-five minutes, as there's no drop-off on the main island. The price ranges between 710 and 1,420 yen). Lake Toya is so stunning that it has been named one of the 'Top 100 Landscapes of Japan', one of the '100 New Japan Travel Destinations' and one of the '500 Most Beautiful Walking Trails in Japan'. Come on, you can't miss it! And then it's only a forty-minute drive southbound on the E5 to Noboribetsu, where you'll be spending the night. Perched at the mouth of the Iburi-Horobetsu River, here you can soak up some of the ancient and colourful traditions of Japan thanks to the Noboribetsu Date Jidai Village, a theme park that recreates the culture and urban landscapes of Japan during the Edo period (1603-1868). You'll get to see ninja shows packed with action and the captivating Oirai dances; practise your archery, blowgun or shuriken (ninja star) skills; savour a bowl of dango rice, a speciality of Jidaimura; and take a selfie while dressed in the typical costumes of a daimyo (feudal lord), samurai, ninja or maiko (princess). Simply unforgettable! The town is also home to the Noboribetsu Marine Park Nixe, a fabulous aquarium showcasing species such as sea lions, penguins and dolphins; and the Noboribetsu Bear Park, where you can feed several types of bears. If you're doing OK for time, make sure you head north on the 782 to Jigokudani (literally, Hell Valley), the alleged home of the ancestral Japanese demons known as 'oni'. This fascinating valley is famous for fumaroles that spurt out volcanic gases to the surface, the pungent smell of which can only be withstood by these demons. This is why legend has it that these beings inhabit the rugged lands here (if you don't make it to Hell Valley, you can always try to find the eleven 'oni' statues scattered throughout the city!). These gases give rise to mineral-rich thermal waters with healing properties and have been erupting ever since 1850 in the town of Noboribetsu Onsen, one of the best-known spas in the country and the second largest in Hokkaido. Make sure you also visit the nearby river known as Oyunomagawa, which flows right through the Jigokudani Forest and is the perfect place to enjoy a relaxing foot bath.

Overnight stay in Noboribetsu.

## DAY 7 · NOBORIBETSU - TOMAKOMAI - FURANO

Just one hour northeast of Noboribetsu (on the E5 toll road) is Tomakomai, the ideal stopover before heading to Furano, in the central region of Hokkaido. Once there, a must-see is the Tomakomai City Science Center (Asahicho 3-1-12), a science museum that exhibits high-tech artefacts, including a small space station, and showcases an array of the fundamental principles of physics and other disciplines. In short, an amazing journey into the world of science suitable for young and old alike. And as Japan is the country of contrasts par excellence, the city's other major attraction is the Tarumaesan Shrine (Takaoka 6-49), a beautiful traditional temple located in a wonderfully peaceful area, the perfect environment to reflect and unwind while embraced by a sensation of tranquillity. On the outskirts of Tomakomai is the 1,041-metre-high Mount Tarumae (Tarumae-zan), a triple volcano with lava dome located on the shores of Lake Shikotsu. Listed as a Natural Monument of Hokkaido, this is one of the most popular hiking and trekking destinations on the island, as it's not too taxing and commands simply fascinating views from the top. On the northwest side of the mountain base, you can also visit an impressive moss-covered cavern known as Koke-nodomon. Once you're ready, take the E38 toll road to Shimukappu and then the 237 to Furano, which will take around two hours in total. Surrounded by the Tokachi-dake and Ashibetsu-dake mountains, Furano is a popular tourist destination in Japan, thanks to its colourful and aromatic lavender fields, such as Farm Tomita, Farm Kanno and Shikisai-no Panoramic Flower Gardens. What's more, it's home to the Furano Ski Resort, which has hosted the Snowboard World Cup, and was the setting for the 1980s TV series 'Kita no Kuni kara', a costumbrista series from the early 1980s filmed in Furano and was broadcasting specials until 2002. Thanks to its location in the heart of the island, Furano receives the nickname of the 'belly button of Hokkaido'. What's more, it boasts attractions such as the Furano Wine Factory, where local wines are produced; hot air balloon trips to admire the vast lavender fields; a perfect outdoor setting for hiking, cycling, fishing, paragliding and rafting on the River Sorachi; and a ski resort with amazing powder snow in winter, when temperatures of minus thirty are sometimes registered.

Overnight stay in Furano.

## DAY 8 · FURANO - ASAHIKAWA

We recommend setting off early today northbound to the city of Asahikawa, just over an hour away from Furano on the 237. That's because halfway there is one of the major tourist attractions of Hokkaido, which in summer can get very busy and prove hard to find a parking space. The attraction in question is the Shirogane Blue Pond, a small man-made pond created in 1988 with the most intense blue on the planet thanks to the concentration of aluminium in the water. Simply amazing! (Note: there are tours available from spring to November, but it's not accessible in the winter). Continue north towards the Daisetsuzan Mountains to reach the city of Asahikawa, the second largest in Hokkaido and also the coldest in Japan. Asahikawa is an important craft centre, as evidenced by the many sculptures found along Heiwa Street (Peace Street), so don't miss the chance to pick up a typical Japanese souvenir. It's also an excellent place to become an expert in sake, the Japanese rice-based alcoholic beverage (in fact, sake simply means alcoholic beverage, so the correct Japanese term to refer to this typical drink is 'nihonshu', which translates as 'alcohol of Japan'). In the heart of Asahikawa is Takasago, the most emblematic brewery in the city as it occupies a traditional white-walled building and holds regular 'nihonshu' tastings. Meanwhile, at the Otokoyama brewery you'll be able to find out about the process of making this drink thanks to its wonderful museum, while at the Taisetsu no Kura brewery, there's a Japanese restaurant and a beautiful garden. Another must-see in Asahikawa is the Asahiyama Zoo, the northernmost in Japan, which is inhabited by polar bears, spotted seals, cranes, eagles and Hokkaido deer, among other species (check feeding times to interact with the animals). And when winter comes, make sure you ski or snowboard on one of the runs in the Asahikawa area and enjoy the snow festival that rivals Sapporo. When it comes to cuisine, local ramen noodles made with all kinds of ingredients and condiments are famous throughout the country. We recommend the 'double soup', a mixture of ramen and seafood that was created in Asahikawa half a century ago. On and around Kaimono Koen Avenue, you'll find a great deal of restaurants where you can savour the local cuisine.

Overnight stay in Asahikawa.

## DAY 9 · ASAHIKAWA - ABASHIRI

The time has come to discover the treasures of the northeastern coast of Hokkaido. And there's nothing better than heading towards the city of Abashiri, about a three-hour drive from Asahikawa on the 450 and 333 roads. As a gateway to the UNESCO-listed Shiretoko National Park, Abashiri has a natural beauty that will take your breath away. Its splendid scenery, its environmental wealth, its magnificent lakes, its spectacular floating ice plates, and its varied fauna (including bears and eagles) make this city a must-visit on any trip to Hokkaido. What's more, not only is Abashiri a huge pleasure for the eyes, but also for the palate, as you can savour delicious seafood all year round. And it comes as no surprise, as this city on the coast of the Okhotsk Sea lives off fishing and eco-tourism. Must-sees include the Prison Museum, which housed the country's most dangerous criminals between 1890 and 1984 and now reproduces the everyday life of a prisoner of the time, and the Okhotsk Ryu-Hyo Museum (Okhotsk Drift Ice Museum), where you can see authentic ice drifts throughout the year and dive into the ice thanks to an immersive projection on huge screens. That said, the best time to marvel at the huge ice drifts that cross the frozen Sea of Okhotsk is in the month of February, while the best way to visit the area is on the Aurora boats, which set sail on the hour every day from June to April.

Overnight stay in Abashiri.

## DAY 10 · ABASHIRI - AKAN-MASHU AND KUSHIRO-SHITSUGEN NATIONAL PARKS - KUSHIRO

Ahead is one of the most mind-blowing days on this road trip. The Akan-Mashu and Kushiro-Shitsugen National Parks are waiting for you to discover and marvel at unforgettable landscapes of towering mountains, spurting volcanoes, verdant forests and crystal-clear lakes. These are two protected areas that will let you venture deep into the wild nature of Hokkaido. Located about forty minutes south of Abashiri on the 102 is the first stop of the day, the Akan-Mashu National Park, the oldest in Hokkaido. In its western part is Lake Kussharo, a popular camping destination in the summer. Weather permitting, make sure you take a dip in the lake. Then continue to the spa town of Kawayu, where you can visit the sulphurous active volcano of the ever-smoking Monte Io (Iozan). Just a few minutes southeast of Kawayu is the impressive Mashu Lake, located within a crater and one of the clearest lakes in the world with a visibility of more than forty metres! From Lake Kussharo you can cross the mountain pass on a fascinating journey to the town of Teshikaga, located in the eastern part of the park. To the west, don't miss Lake Akan and the huge volcanic caldera of more than twenty kilometres in diameter, which causes the phenomenon of boiling mud known as 'bokke'. This is a region with an impressive wealth of fauna, such as ezo bears, deer, Siberian swans and Blakiston's fish owls. Near the lake is the Marimo Exhibition Centre, showcasing weird and wonderful moss balls unlike any other in the world, and the Ainu Museum and Observation Centre, where you'll get an insight into this enigmatic culture and enjoy a traditional dance show. And to explore the most remote parts of the lake, what better than an eighty-five-minute boat trip across its crystal-clear waters? And just a twenty-minute drive westbound will take you to Lake Onneto, which stands under the shadow of the towering Mount Meakan, the highest mountain in the park and home to a hot waterfall known as Onneto yu no taki. Onward journey to the stunning Kushiro-Shitsugen National Park, known for its wetlands ('shitsugen' means swamp) and for housing the largest swathes of reeds in all of Japan, making it a paradise for bird lovers. And this earned it the title of National Natural Monument in 1967. In fact, it's home to more than six hundred species of plants and the habitat of species such as the red-crowned crane, the Siberian salamander and the dragonfly. The best way to admire its intense natural beauty is definitely from the Kushiro-Shitsugen Observatory. Round off the day in the city of Kushiro (not to be confused with the town of Kushiro, located further east, or the district of Kushiro) that was declared a free trade port with the United States and the United Kingdom in 1899, as it didn't usually freeze over in winter. Head to the fishing pier and the Washou Ichiba Fish Market to find the freshest seafood from all over Hokkaido.

Overnight stay in Kushiro.

## ● DAY 11 · KUSHIRO - OBIHIRO

Take advantage of the morning to visit the attractions of the city of Kushiro. These include, for example, the Eco Museum and its aquariums that house various marine species, including the legendary maritime of Lake Akan; the Kushiro Museum, with fascinating exhibitions on local history, geology and wildlife; and the Tancho Market, where you can savour the culinary delights of the area. Once you're ready, take the E38 inland. The next destination is Obihiro, about two hours westbound from Kushiro. Obihiro was named a 'model environmental city' of Japan thanks to its modern design and its many colourful gardens, such as Shichiku, Midorigaoka (home to the Art Museum), Tokachi Hill, Rokka no Mori and the Manabe Garden. Its natural spas are also amazing, with the Tokachigawa Onsen taking full acclaim. Located on the outskirts of Obihiro, these thermal baths get their medicinal waters from a fountain in the Tokachi riverbed, the waters of which have beneficial and softening effects on the skin. Another major attraction in Obihiro are the Ban'ei horse races held at its racecourse, a tradition that dates back to the early twentieth century and where the most powerful horses would compete by pulling heavy carts. Spectacular and exciting in equal terms! Other must-sees include the old Kofuku Station, or the happiness station, a romantic place where citizens hang their wedding photos; and the small but stunning Sanctuary of Obihiro, where good wishes are left. On a culinary level, Obihiro is famous for 'butadon', a pork dish glazed in sauce and served on rice; 'chuuka chirashi', a ramen dish; and the excellent quality of potatoes, turnips, dairy products and game. And make sure you head to Kita no Yatai, a street full of food stalls open throughout the year and where you'll get to enjoy the many flavours and colours of Obihiro's varied and rich cuisine.

Overnight stay in Obihiro.

## ● DAY 12 · OBIHIRO - SAPPORO - CITY OF ORIGIN

Bear in mind that the city of Sapporo is located about two hundred kilometres west of Obihiro, so it will take you about two and a half hours to get to the airport.

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Night on board.

## ● DAY 13 · CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

## Your trip includes

### Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Sapporo.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Sapporo.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Niseko.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Hakodate.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Noboribetsu.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Furano.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Asahikawa.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Abashiri.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Obihiro.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Sapporo.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Niseko.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Noboribetsu.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Furano.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Asahikawa.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Abashiri.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Kushiro.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Obihiro.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Hakodate.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Kushiro.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

### Your trip doesn't include

✗ Possible toll charges.

✗ Insolvency protection.

## Destinations Visited

Sapporo



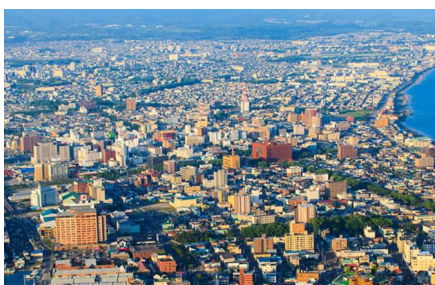
Otaru



Niseko



Hakodate



Noboribetsu



Tomakomai



Furano



Asahikawa



Abashiri



Akan



Kushiro



Obihiro



## Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Japan are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible.
- Please check with your international vaccination centre about the recommended healthcare measures in Japan.
- Depending on the return flight, the trip may be one day longer.
- In general, people with tattoos are not accepted in the onsen for cultural reasons. If they're small tattoos, they could be covered with a plaster, but access isn't guaranteed if the tattoos are large.

- Triple rooms in Asia are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.
- Driving in Japan: 1. Almost all Japanese vehicles are automatic, which makes driving easy and comfortable. 2. Speed limits are very low: 40 km/h in cities; 80 to 100 km/h on motorways; and between 30 and 60 km/h everywhere else. Even though almost all drivers tend to drive at 20 km/h over these limits, be careful with the police, as they usually patrol the roads with radars. 3. The motorways are among the best and safest in the whole world, but there are many tolls and they're usually extremely expensive. 4. It is strictly forbidden to double-park and to park on the pavement and in private car parks. And the fines are very high. The only solution is to use official car parks, but these are quite expensive. 5. It's a good idea to use GPS. 6. As for signs, almost all of them are written in Japanese and English (or, failing that, in Japanese with the Latin alphabet). 7. Zero tolerance against people who drink and drive, so don't even think about trying. 8. It's polite to flash your hazard lights to say thank you to another driver, which is akin to bowing your head in gratitude. 9. The police use a megaphone to ask you to pull over. 10. Along with speeding, the most common offence is parking in unauthorised areas. The authorities might clamp your car, tow it away or place a yellow sticker on the rear-view mirror with the corresponding fine. 11. You need to have an international driving licence. If your driving licence is from Belgium, France, Germany, Monaco, Slovenia, Switzerland or Taiwan, there's a special agreement with Japan and you'll only need an official translation of the licence from the JAF (Japan Automobile Federation) or your corresponding consulate. This official translation is valid for up to one year, as is the international driving licence.