

Sapporo Nanseki: A Timeless Legacy

Chitose & Sapporo Guided Walking Tour



Story

Enjoy activities in the great outdoors on this walking course as you experience Hokkaido history and culture. The course is themed around Sapporo Nanseki, a soft stone material registered as a Hokkaido Heritage for its role in Hokkaido industry and lifestyles, and for its significance to later generations. Focusing on the unique and often-overlooked theme of Sapporo Nanseki and tracing its history from its formation to the part it plays in modern lifestyles will impart meaning to all aspects of this highly satisfying course, give you an understanding of the full range of history and culture in Hokkaido and thoroughly stimulate your intellectual curiosity.

Itinerary

	Activity and cultural experience	Story	Meals	
Day 1	<p>Meet your guide at New Chitose Airport at 13:30, and transport to Lake Shikotsu by private car/bus.</p> <p>Offer prayers for a safe journey at Chitose-jinja Shrine.</p> <p>Next to the stairs leading up to the main shrine, you can drink Sachii-no-mizu, sacred water from the forest of Chitose-jinja Shrine. After prayers for a safe journey, fill your canteen with sacred water.</p> <p>Transport to hotel</p>	<p>At the Lake Shikotsu Visitor Center, learn about the origin and characteristics of the lake you will tour over the next days.</p> <p>The hotel is self-sufficient for both power and drinking water, which is directly sourced from Lake Shikotsu. The hotel's open-air baths are filled with natural spring waters from the lake.</p>	B	
			L	
			D	Japanese Kaiseki Course Meal featuring local ingredients at Irori
Day 2	<p>[Nanajo-otaki Falls FAT Bike]</p> <p>You may encounter wildlife such as deer along the way.</p> <p>The snowy road lined with giant trees presents an otherworldly scene. As you walk further, a world of ice created by waterfalls and icicles awaits you.</p> <p>[SUP on clear window paddleboard]</p> <p>Proceed along the shores of Lake Shikotsu while peering into its waters.</p> <p>The views of the three Shikotsu mountains, among them Mt. Eniwa, and the crystal-clear waters are spectacular.</p>	<p>Paddleboard in the caldera lake, formed by an eruption 40,000 years ago. The mountains surrounding Lake Shikotsu can also be seen from the lake's line of sight.</p> <p>*This is the only place in Hokkaido where you can SUP in winter.</p>	B	Buffe style break fast
			L	Salmon sushi in Shikotsu
			D	Cook together with a professional chef, using local ingredients.
Day 3	<p>Hiking Koke no Kairou, a mossy canyon and Bifue area</p>	<p>Koke no Kairou is the result of years of erosion by wind and rain on the hardened lava flows created by the enormous volcanic eruptions around Lake Shikotsu.</p> <p>• Take a walk to the Bifue area on the other side of the lake where you experienced activities the previous day. Experience Lake Shikotsu close to 360 degrees.</p>	B	Buffe style break fast
			L	light meal
			D	Japanese Kaiseki Course Meal featuring local ingredients
Day 4	<p>Tour overview at Visitors' Center</p> <p>Chitose River canoeing</p> <p>The Chitose River is the only outlet from Lake Shikotsu. Enjoy canoeing through a silent, silvery world in search of scenery and creatures that can only be seen in winter.</p> <p>Depending on time of year, you may see white-tailed eagles and young salmon.</p> <p>Eniwa Valley walking *Volcano topography</p> <p>Tour of waterfalls in Eniwa Valley, formed by the volcanic eruption that created Lake Shikotsu (Rarumanai Falls, Sandan Falls, and Hakusen Falls)</p>	<p>• The Chitose River and its tributaries are dotted with numerous archeological sites where people have lived since the Jomon period.</p> <p>• Approaching downtown Chitose by canoe.</p> <p>• See a waterfall formed by a pyroclastic flow and learn about the topography of the area where it flowed.</p> <p>• Welded tuff bedrock = Sapporo Nanseki</p> <p>• The luxurious lobby entrance was constructed from birch. The large Sapporo Nanseki bridge is also impressive. (hotel)</p>	B	Buffe style break fast
			L	light meal Enjoy lunch while observing the nature and ecosystem watered by Lake Shikotsu.
			D	Japanese Kaiseki Course Meal featuring local ingredients

Day 5	<p>★Nanseki Guided Walk (morning course) Ishiyama Open Space, 60 min (snowshoes) + Sapporo Municipal Ishiyama Flood Control Warehouse 5 min + Former Ishikiriyama Station 10 min ➡ Nishikuru Café (lunch)</p> <p>★Nanseki Guided Walk (afternoon course) Private residence 20 min + Ishiyama Community Development Center (dress in kimono) 40 min + Ishiyama-jinja Shrine 50 min (talk by priest and purification ceremony) + Ishiyama Community Development Center 110 min (change out of kimono/light meal/chat) + Post-kan 90 min (Nansekiya: soft stone craft experience)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross the Ishiyama Open Space, once a soft-stone quarry, on snowshoes accompanied by a guide, who will explain the area's history. • Learn about soft-stone history and processing methods by visiting the Sapporo Ishiyama Flood Control Warehouse and the former Ishikiriyama Station (Ishiyama Promotion Hall), which was used to transport Ishiyama soft stone and ore from the Toyoha Mine as well as serving local citizens. • Visit a private home and experience the real soft stone used in daily life. • Interact with local citizens at the Ishiyama Community Development Center (dress in kimono, make rice balls, chat, etc.). • Making rice balls with locally-grown and -prepared pickled plums (available from vending machine). • Learn about people's lives by wearing kimonos that were actually worn by the locals. • Ishiyama-jinja Shrine is an unusual shrine built entirely with excess lumber from the ceremonial relocation of the Ise-jingu Shrine. A priest will cover such topics as the relationship between the shrine and soft stone, and perform a purification ceremony for you. 	B	Japanese Set Meal featuring local produce
			L	Lunch at a restaurant renovated from a soy sauce brewery built in 1926 Island ingredients, mainly from the islands of Hokkaido. You can enjoy a variety of boldly presented grilled and local cuisine that brings out the best in the ingredients.
			D	Enjoy the taste of Northern cuisine and experience Hokkaido's unique history in a warehouse constructed from soft stone in 1915. Japanese cuisine using fresh seafood and vegetables, including horsehair crab from Hokkaido.
Day 6	<p>Sapporo City Archive Museum (former Sapporo Court of Appeals, Sapporo High Court) *Important Cultural Property Little Juice Bar Sapporo Main Shop Hokkaido Shrine Tongu New Chitose Airport (OUT)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The building is one of the largest extant structures constructed from Sapporo Nanseki, and displays a range of stone dressing techniques. • A juice bar in a remodeled Taisho-era soft stone warehouse. It is said that it was constructed by a wealthy woman to store her kimonos. <p>The <i>komainu</i> (guardian dogs) standing before the main shrine are of Sapporo Nanseki. They were dedicated in 1890 and are said to be the oldest such figures in Sapporo.</p>	B	Japanese Set Meal featuring local produce
			L	
			D	
<p>※Extended stays can be arranged; please contact us for details.</p>				

Point

- Learn about the overall history of Hokkaido through the theme of Sapporo Nanseki (soft stone).
- Interact with local people.
- Meals such as salmon from Lake Shikotsu are locally produced for local consumption.
- Experience the uniqueness of Hokkaido by doing clear SUP at Lake Shikotsu, which boasts the highest water quality in Japan.
- Guide tells the story about one of Japanese best caldera lakes and Sapporo Nanseki.
- The natural open-air bath, which is rare in Japan, is a hot spring which connects the Lake Shikotsu.

Highlights

- A highly localized, guided tour focusing on Sapporo Nanseki (soft stone), a Hokkaido Heritage
- Interaction with local citizens who have incorporated soft stone into their daily lives
- Japanese cultural experiences including shrine visit and purification, and dressing in kimono
- Snowshoe through the "Moss Corridor," a mysterious space cut by lava flows
- Clear-window SUP experience on Lake Shikotsu, with some of the clearest waters in Japan
- Ease your fatigue away at Marukoma Onsen, an open-air hot-spring bath connected to the waters of Lake Shikotsu

Information

- Available
- Minimum 2 people, Maximum 10 people
- Departure Time: January to March
- Tour includes 6 breakfast, 5 dinner, 5 nights' hotel, bus or taxi transfers, and a hot spring fee and ♨️ bath tax.
- Tour includes a guide/escort.
- Please meet at the designated bus stop 10 minutes prior to the scheduled meeting time.
- Please make sure to sign up for travelers' insurance (although some activities may include insurance).

Contact Information

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**Please contact for us for more information
on tour prices and equipment options.**