



Active Japan: Hokkaido's Wild Trails & Volcanic Onsens

9 days, Abashiri to Sapporo

Trip code AJSH

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Local Living Moment: Ryokan Stay, Akan-ko
- Your Foodie Moment: Ramen Dinner in Asahikawa, Asahikawa
- Primeval Forest Hike
- Shiretoko Five Lakes Hike
- Abashiri Bike Tour
- Museum of the Northern People
- Abashiri Prison Museum
- Lake Mashu Observatory Deck
- Sulphur Mountain & Lake Kussharo
- Ainu Kotan - Ainu Culture Dance
- Ryokan Stay
- Asahikawa Ramen Dinner
- Daisetsuzan Asahidake Ropeway & Hike
- Free time in Sapporo
- Nijo Market
- Sapporo Beer Testing
- Lake Akan Free time

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VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing June 12th, 2026 and onwards

Itinerary



NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

Abashiri

Arrive at any time and meet your group and CEO for a welcome meeting in the evening.



Meals included

Dinner



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

After a filling breakfast, depart the hotel en route to the Primeval Forest area of Shiretoko National Park. Embark on a guided three to four hour hike through the area of the park. Be sure to bring binoculars if you are a keen animal enthusiast, as there is ample opportunity to spot various species from the Steller's sea eagle to Japanese deer. The scenery is equally as dramatic as you witness the cliff edges hang over the turquoise water of the sea. After time for lunch on your own, head to the Five Lakes area of Shiretoko National Park. This area is famous for its namesake five lakes that were formed years ago by the eruption of Mount Lo. The area now offers picturesque views of the mountains and the wilderness all around. In the afternoon, take a short walk to the Furepe Waterfall, a waterfall cascading into the Okhotsk Sea. In the evening, head back to Abashiri for free time and dinner at the hotel.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Abashiri - Shiretoko

2h

70km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Primeval Forest Hike

Shiretoko

2h

3km

Hike through this part of Shiretoko, seemingly untouched by man. Walk through the forest and be on the look out for foxes and deer while admiring the incredible forest and cliff side views. You may even have the chance to see bear markings on the trees.

Shiretoko Five Lakes Hike

Shiretoko

3h

4km

Hike through the Shiretoko Five Lakes. On this 4.8 km loop with an elevation of 43 m, walk by reflective lakes and stunning green mountainous scenery. Admire bright green foliage in the summer, gorgeous flower covered mountains in spring and impressive fall colors in autumn.

Private Vehicle

Shiretoko - Abashiri

2h

70km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Explore the laidback city, Abashiri, today on a bicycle. We'll make various stops throughout the day to get a sense to of the city's cultural heritage and beautiful natural scenery. Ride along Mt Tendo, and stop at the observatory for amazing vistas. Visit the Museum of Northern People to learn about the history of the Aynu people, one of two remaining indigenous groups in Japan. The final stop of the day will be the Abashiri Prison Museum. Admired for its beautifully preserved Meiji-era architecture and remembered as one of Japan's most notorious prisons. Opt to try to prison-style lunch and learn about the unique history here in Hokkaido.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Abashiri Bike Tour

Abashiri

5h-6h

14km

Hop on a bicycle for a tour of Abashiri's highlights from two wheels. We'll stop and explore the unique history of the area and see the beauty of Hokkaido. From Mt Tendo, the observatory, the Museum of the Northern People to learn about one of the last remaining indigenous groups in Japan and visit the notorious Abashiri Prison Museum to learn of the Meiji-era penal history and Japan's wild frontier.

Depart Abashiri this morning and head inland towards Lake Akan. En route, stop at the shore of Lake Kussharo, where you can take a moment to get your hands dirty digging into the sandy shore and actually hitting hot spring water. Dig your own personal Onsen! A sign of the volcanic activity still present underground in this area. The next stop is a visit to the active volcano, Mt Lo, which sits inside the Kussharo caldera. Watch the sulfurous smoke and steam rise from the craggy landmass. Make a final stop at the observatory deck to take in views of Lake Kussharo and Lake Mashu before continuing on your overnight stay at a Ryokan. After a dinner with your fellow travelers, enjoy a cultural performance in tribute to the history of the local Ainu people of the region. Akan Yukar Lost Kamuy is a presentation of Ainu ancient ceremonial dance, contemporary dance and digital art.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Abashiri – Akan Mashu National Park

1h30m

70km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Lake Mashu Observatory Deck

Akan Mashu National Park

Visit the impressive caldera lake within Akan Mashu National Park. Take in the views from the best spot to see what's considered the clearest lake in the world.

Sulphur Mountain & Lake Kussharo

Kussharo-ko

Visit the otherworldly sulphur mountain and breathe in the hot air. See the greenish yellow algae that grows around the fumaroles with a steady stream of steam released across the mountain. The head to Lake Kussharo. With a hot spring under the sand, dig a hole and relax in your hand-dug beachy hot spring.

Private Vehicle

Kussharo-ko – Akan-ko

1h15m

53km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Ainu Kotan – Ainu Culture Dance

Akan-chō

Visit the Ainu Kotan Village. There are only two indigenous groups remaining in Japan and Akanko Ainu Kotan is one of the largest settlements still remaining in Hokkaido. During our visit, we'll see the village and experience their cultural performance in the evening.

ACTIVITY

Experience traditional Japanese life with a night at a traditional Japanese Inn. Stay in tatami-matted rooms and enjoy a glimpse into Japanese culture and history.

Day 5

Akan-ko/Asahikawa

Enjoy a leisurely start to the morning to spend the morning hours enjoying the Ryokan hot springs a second time. Or choose to join your CEO for a walk around Lake Akan. Then make your way towards Asahikawa. Leave room for dinner, because this evening we'll try the famous Asahikawa ramen. This ramen is famed throughout Japan as one of the best in the country.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Today's Activities

Free Time

Akan-ko

Spend the morning soaking in the ryokan onsen or take a stroll around Lake Akan with your CEO.

Private Vehicle

Akan-ko - Asahikawa

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

ACTIVITY

Nearly every region of Japan has their own style of ramen, so a trip to Hokkaido wouldn't be complete without trying Asahikawa specialty ramen. With thin noodles and savory broth, this is a dish you won't want to miss.

It's time to rise and shine and strap on those hiking boots once again. This morning, head to the Daisetsuzan Asahidake Ropeway. Board the ten minute gondola ride up to the start of the walk. Spend a couple of hours exploring the area on foot, and hope for glimpses of the mountain ranges as the fog comes and goes.

It's important to note that in Spring and Fall, its common to still have snow on the ground at Asahidake, so itinerary adjustments may be made. Cold weather clothing should be packed during this season.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Daisetsuzan Asahidake Ropeway & Hike

Asahikawa

1h30m

1km

Visit Daisetsuzan National Park and ride the gondola up to start your hike around Sugatami Pond Loop. This easy, loop hike will give you astounding views of volcanic rock and Mount Asahi-dake, the tallest mountain in Hokkaido reflecting off ponds. After the hike, take the gondola back down.

Sapporo, the capitol of Hokkaido, is home to some of the island's most interesting spots. With a day at leisure, choose to join your CEO to visit the Hill of the Buddha, a incredible and huge shrine. Or, choose to explore the Hokkaido Jingu shrine, a shinto shrine honoring 4 deities.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Local Train

Asahikawa-eki - Sapporo Station

Climb aboard, take your seat, and get around like the locals do.

Free Time

Sapporo

Spend the rest of the day free to explore Sapporo.



Optional Activities - Day 7

Hokkaido Jingu Shrine

Sapporo

Visit the important Hokkaido Jingu Shrine, the resting place of four different kami (deities) of the Shinto religion. Come to the shrine and walk through torii (Japanese gates), write your wish on a wooden plaque and buy a lucky charm. This shrine is one of the best places to witness the four season of Japan. As one of the most renowned places to see cherry blossoms in the spring, fall leaves in autumn, green and colorful in the summer and snow covered in the winter.

Hill of the Buddha

Sapporo

Visit the beautiful and massive Hill of the Buddha outside Sapporo. A metro ride and bus ride brings you to this incredible location. Covered in snow in the winter or covered in flowers in the spring, this place is a must see no matter the season.

Day 8

Sapporo

Spend today getting well acquainted with the city of Sapporo, home of the world famous beer. Begin your day with a visit to the Nijo Market. Walk through the stalls full of fresh seafood, most caught right off the coast of Hokkaido. You'll see crabs, fish and things you may have never seen before like fresh urchin and fish eggs. Afterwards, head to the home of the first Japanese made beer, Sapporo Beer Museum, and sample beer that can only be found at this location.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Nijo Market

Sapporo

Visit Nijo Market, a market over 100 years old. You'll see fresh local seafood like urchins and salmon eggs, and other local vendors.

Sapporo Beer Testing

Sapporo

Visit the Sapporo Beer Museum for a tour and tasting of the popular brew. Known as the first beer made in Japan, we'll have a chance to sample a beer that can only be found at the museum. Opt for a fun all-you-can-eat-and-drink meal in the Beer Hall.

Day 9

Sapporo

Depart at any time.



Meals included

Breakfast

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What are the main highlights of this trip?

Trek through Hokkaido's wildest national parks step by step, Visit Ainu Kotan Village and learn Hokkaido's Indigenous history, Eat Asahikawa's famous ramen and sip Japan's original Sapporo beer

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How large will the group be?

Max 16, avg. 14

What meals are included in this trip?

8 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Plane, private vehicle, train, walking.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotels (7nts), Ryokan stay (1nt)

What should be on my packing list?

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

Health & Safety:

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

Light Hiking:

- Hiking boots
- Hiking pants (Convertible/Zip-off and quick dry recommended)
- Walking poles

What activities are optional on this trip?

Sapporo

- Hokkaido Jingu Shrine
- Hill of the Buddha

How old must I be to join this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

Dossier Disclaimer

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Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.