

Immersive Japanese learning and deep local culture experience in Eastern Hokkaido

Date
2024
9.6-9.13

¥290,000 / Person

8 Days with local guide and Japanese teacher

Operated By: Hibi Japan



Table of Contents

Program Overview	_____	2-4
Program Wows	_____	5
Why Hokkaido ?	_____	6
Accommodations	_____	7
Staff information	_____	8-9
Itinerary	_____	10-12
Day to Day Schedule	_____	13-20
Pricing	_____	21
Booking	_____	22
Cancellation & special conditions	_____	23
Disclaimer	_____	24-25

Program Overview

Don't you ever want to have an opportunity to learn native Japanese conversations and explore the authentic Japanese culture more? This program will fulfill your wishes!

You can learn basic Japanese communication throughout the program by not only through the textbook but talking with the local people here in Hokkaido! And why not enjoy and explore the unique Hokkaido culture with them! From classic Japanese culture, Yukata, Wadaiko, Japanese calligraphy and shrine experience to local culture such as onsen, Izakaya restaurant. We offer you tons of contents to involve with the locals and experience the authentic Japanese culture!



Program Overview



HOKKAIDO, AKAN TOWN

Day 1 - 4

AKAN TOWN

AKAN TOWN

AKAN TOWN

AKAN TOWN

Japanese lessons/
Strawberry picking/
Rice cake making/
Cycling tour in Kushiro

HOKKAIDO, LAKE AKAN

Day 5-8

LAKE AKAN

LAKE AKAN

LAKE AKAN

LAKE AKAN

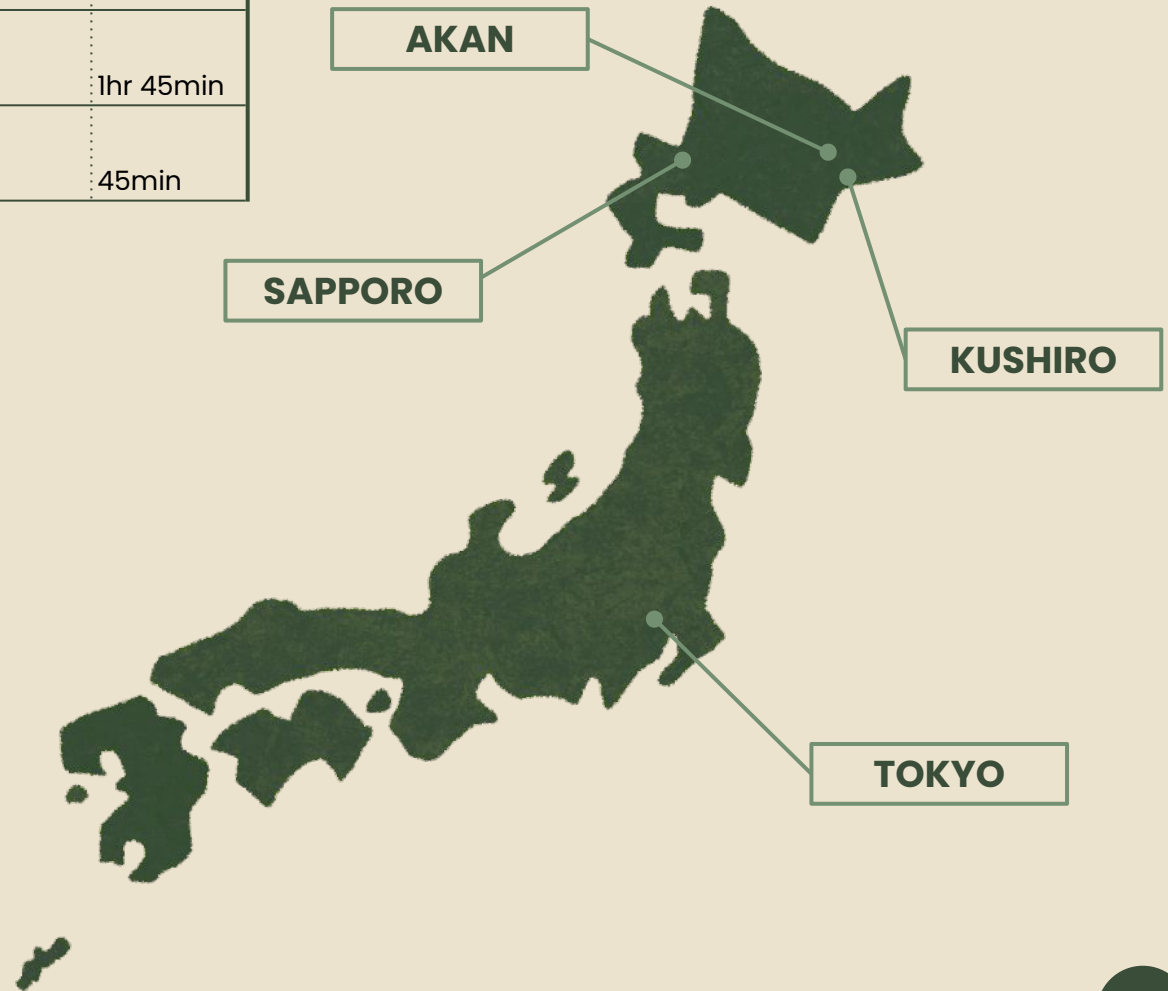
Japanese lessons/
Wadaiko, Shodo,
Yukata experience,
Shitoism

Japanese lessons/
Join local festival/
Shrine experience



Program Overview

FROM	TO	HOW	DISTANCE	TIME
AKAN TOWN	LAKE AKAN	Drive	45km	45min
KUSHIRO AIRPORT	TOKYO (HANEDA AIRPORT)	Flight		1hr 45min
KUSHIRO AIRPORT	NEW CHITOSE AIRPORT (SAPPORO)	Flight		45min



Program Wows

Immersive Japanese learning



5 Japanese lessons with our Japanese teacher Naoya. Not only learning formal sentences from textbook but more about daily conversations.

Cultural Experiences



Several Japanese cultural contents (Shodo, Wadaiko, Yukata, Shinto, onsen, local izakaya restaurant, sake etc.)

Meet unique Wildlife



You may observe very rare species of wildlife (e.g. Red crowned cranes, Steller's sea eagle, red fox, Ezo owl, Ezo deer)

Variety of Outdoor activities



Enjoy the vast nature with several outdoor activities! (Cycling in Kushiro city,, Forest walking in Akan etc.)

Local Cuisine



You can enjoy not only Japanese but also local Hokkaido cuisine during the program! (Sushi, Yakiniku, tempura, soba noodles, ramen, etc.)

Meet our local friends



Lots of our contents are involving with the local people. Meet our friends here and try to communicate with them to improve your Japanese speaking skills.

Why Hokkaido?

Hokkaido is the northernmost and largest prefecture in Japan. You may not find old temples and shrines like Kyoto, no urban life like Tokyo or Osaka here. But what you can explore here is another amazing and incredible Japan!

Tall buildings are really hard to find out here but untouched forests, clear rivers & lakes, active volcanoes are everywhere! Also, here is the perfect playground for outdoor lovers! Tons of great routes for hiking, canoeing & cycling. Move your bodies and enjoy the stunning nature with all five senses!

Hokkaido is a paradise to not only human beings but also wildlife. Cute squirrel, red fox, deer, raccoon, rabbit inhabit to all the land of Hokkaido. You may sometime also observe rare animals like brown bear, whale, red-crowned cranes, Steller's sea eagle and ezo-owl.



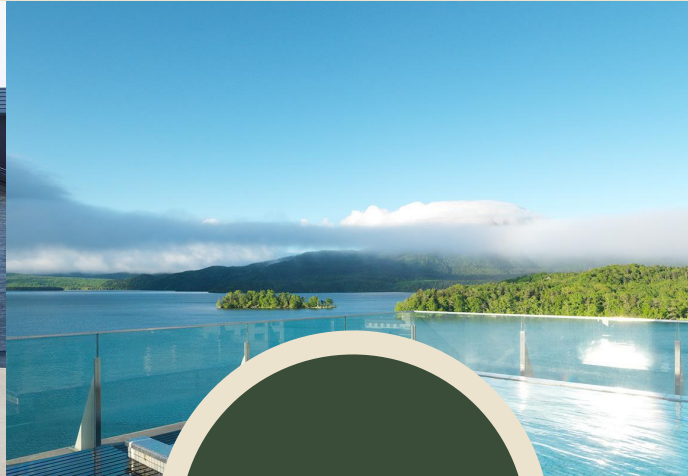
Accommodations

7 nights of accommodations



Private lodgings

Stay at private lodgings. You can chill out here and spend some nice moments with our staffs and other participants!



Onsen (Hot spring)

“Onsen”, means hot spring in Japanese sure will be one of the reason why you love Japan. Try some special local onsens here!



Local based

All lodgings are ran by locals and you can feel the special design inside.

Local Guide



Hibi Japan / Travel designer Ernest Mok



<Introduction>

- Founder of Hibi Japan
Travel designer. Provide tailor made itinerary and tour operation service to oversea travelers since 2023.
- Member of Kushiro regional revitalization corps
Promote tourism information in East Hokkaido to the whole world

<Message>

I was born in Hong Kong and lived in the U.S. before migrated to Japan in 2014. Still amazed everyday that it is a totally different story to explore Japan as a local rather than a tourist. From major destinations such as Kyoto, Tokyo, Hiroshima to off the beaten places like Hokkaido, Akita and Shiga, I had visited most of the Japan and met lots of local people there. Their lifestyle, local culture are truly amazing and sure you can learn a lesson or even change your life either!



Japanese teacher



Naoya Kinoshita

<Introduction>

- A certified Japanese teacher
Been providing Japanese lessons for over 400 learners for approximately 3 years mainly online since I got certified as a professional teacher.
- Private English teacher
Teaching English to kids in the local town in Hokkaido.

<Message>

I was born and raised in Osaka, Japan for most of my life but now I'm in love with life in Hokkaido so I moved here last year. Before I moved here, I was living in Toronto, Canada for about 2 years to learn English and to have working experiences. I was volunteering as an assistant to a Japanese teacher while there, which is one of the biggest reasons why I started teaching Japanese. Now I believe learning a new language can change people's lives so I would love to support your learning journey!



Itinerary (1/3)

Date	Time	Schedule	Note	Area	Accommodation	Eatery			
						B	L	D	
DAY1 9/6 (Fri)	15:00	Meet up at Kushiro Airport	Recommend domestic flight to Kushiro: ① JL 543 from Tokyo Haneda airport ② NH4873 from New Chitose airport	HOKKAIDO, AKAN TOWN	Guest House "Kushiroko"				
		Move to Akan Town	About 20min drive						
		Check in at Akan Town							
		Welcome session							
		Dinner	Takoyaki Party						
DAY2 9/7 (Sat)	9:00	Japanese lesson ①		HOKKAIDO, AKAN TOWN	Guest House "Kushiroko"				
	12:30	Lunch	Local Ramen						
		Strawberry picking experience							
		Rice cake making experience							
		Dinner	Local restaurant						
DAY3 9/8 (Sun)	9:00	Japanese lesson ②		HOKKAIDO, AKAN TOWN	Guest House "Kushiroko"				
	13:00	Lunch	Local restaurant						
		Cycling tour in Kushiro city	About 3 hours (E-bikes)						
		Nusamai Bridge	Best sunset spots in Japan						
		Dinner	Local grilled seafood BBQ						
		Move back to Akan Town	About 40min drive						

Itinerary (2/3)

Date	Time	Schedule	Note	Area	Accommodation	Eatery			
						B	L	D	
DAY4 9/9 (Mon)	9:00	Japanese lesson ③		HOKKAIDO, AKAN TOWN	Guest House "Kushiroko"				
		Move to Kushiro City							
	13:00	Lunch	Super delicious Sushi !					•	
	14:00	Visit Kushiro Itsukushima Shrine							•
		Know more about Shintoism							
		Back to Akan town							
	Dinner	Local restaurant							
DAY5 9/10 (Tue)	9:00	Move to Lake Akan		HOKKAIDO, LAKE AKAN	Akan Terrace				
	10:00	Enjoy chill sightseeing cruise trip							
	11:30	Deep forest walk in Akan							
	13:00	Lunch	Local restaurant					•	•
	14:00	Shodo Experience	"Shodo" = Japanese calligraphy						
	16:00	Wadaiko playing Experience	"Wadaiko" = Japanese drum						
	Dinner	Hokkaido Style "Yakiniku BBQ"							
DAY6 9/11 (Wed)	9:00	Japanese lesson ④		HOKKAIDO, LAKE AKAN	Akan Terrace				
	12:30	Lunch	Special Ainu cuisine						
		Yukata Experience	"Kimono" = Casual summer kimono					•	•
		Free time at Lake Akan	Souvenir time!						
		Dinner	Local Izakaya restaurant						

Itinerary (3/3)

Date	Time	Schedule	Note	Area	Accommodation	Eatery		
						B	L	D
DAY7 9/12	8:00	Japanese lesson ⑤		HOKKAIDO, LAKE AKAN	Akan Terrace			
	10:00	Join local festival	"Mt. Akan Shrine festival"					
		Lunch					•	•
		Free time at Lake Akan						
		Dinner	Local restaurant					
		Karaoke						
DAY8 9/13	8:00	Farewell session		HOKKAIDO, AKAN TOWN				
	10:00	Visit Mt. Akan shrine						
		Footbath lunch						
		Move to Kushiro Airport	About 60min drive				•	
		Depart from Kushiro Airport	Recommend domestic flight: ① JL 542 to Tokyo Haneda airport ② NH4874 to New Chitose airport					

DAY 1 9/6(Fri)

Travel to the vast nature wonderland, Hokkaido

Local guide and Japanese teacher will meet you at Kushiro Airport in Hokkaido at noon and welcome to the northernmost land of Japan!

We will soon move to Akan Town to check in and have a welcome session with our guests! Share why you participate in this program and what do you love about Japan! At night we will have a takoyaki party together and try to make this snack together!



Recommend domestic flight to Kushiro

- ① JL 543 from Tokyo Haneda airport
- ② NH4873 from New Chitose airport (Sapporo)

Meals

Dinner: Takoyaki Party (Osaka cuisine)

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Welcome session with our staffs and all participants
- ▶ Osaka cuisine takoyaki making experience



Accommodation

Guest house Kushiroko (Private accommodation, Western style room, Japanese style room)

DAY 2 9/7(Sat)

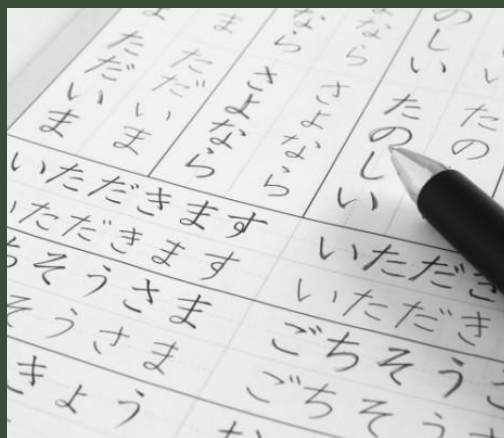
First Japanese lesson and create your own Japanese sweets

Today we will have our first Japanese lesson and mainly about simple daily conversations. Sure you can use it throughout the program!

In the afternoon, we will visit a strawberry farm to pick some delicious strawberries! After that we will make rice cake together with a traditional Japanese sweeten shop's chef with your strawberries!

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ First Japanese Lesson
- ▶ Strawberry picking
- ▶ Rice cake making



Activity Japanese lesson ①

Strawberry picking
Meet our farmer friend here and enjoy some sweet strawberries!

Rice cake making
Try the traditional method to make rice cake!

Meals

Breakfast: **Not incl.**

Lunch: Ramen noodles
(Local restaurant)

Dinner: Local restaurant

Accommodation

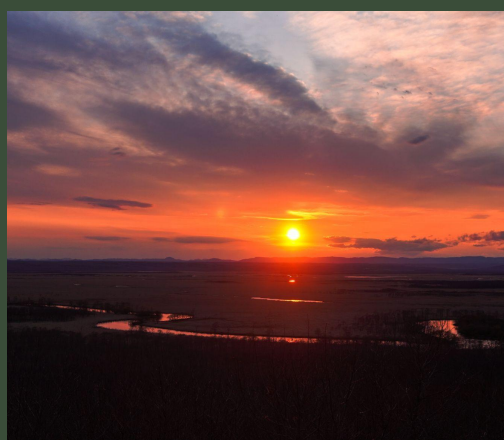
Guest house Kushiroko
(Private accommodation,
Western style room, Japanese
style room)

DAY 3 9/8(Sun)

Pedal to the biggest fishery industry area, Kushiro

After our morning Japanese lesson, we will have a fun cycling tour to Kushiro city which about 20 km. You can enjoy the rural landscape of Hokkaido here with lots of farmland and forest. (E-bikes available)

Cycling tour end around dawn and let's enjoy the vest sunset view in Japan here! After that, a special and traditional local grilled seafood BBQ dinner is waiting for you!



Activity

Japanese lesson ②

Cycling tour in Kushiro

Duration: 3 ~ 3.5 hrs

Intensity : ■■■□□□

Meals

Breakfast: **Not incl.**

Lunch: Japanese cuisine
(Local restaurant)

Dinner: Local grilled
seafood BBQ

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Japanese lesson ②
- ▶ Cycling tour in Kushiro
- ▶ Best sunset view in Japan
- ▶ Local grilled seafood BBQ

Accomodation

Guest house Kushiroko
(Private accommodation,
Western style room, Japanese
style room)

DAY 4 9/9(Mon)

Start our day with great cuisine and visiting Shrine

We will start our day with our third Japanese lesson in the morning. After that will soon move to the Kushiro city and visit Kushiro Itsukushima Shrine to learn more about "Shinto". And why not have a wish for yourself!

For our lunch today, we will have a delicious "Kaiten" sushi time. Sure you can have the best sushi ever!



Activity

Japanese lesson ③

Visit Kushiro Itsukushima Shrine

Know more about "Shinto" and how shrine is so important for the Japanese from a priest!

Meals

Breakfast: **Not incl.**

Lunch: Kaiten Sushi (Local restaurant)

Dinner: Local Izakaya restaurant

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Shrine experience
- ▶ Learn about Shintoism
- ▶ Kaiten Sushi lunch

Accommodation

Guest house Kushiroko (Private accommodation, Western style room, Japanese style room)

DAY 5 9/10(Tue)

Move to Lake Akan to enjoy vast nature scenery with cultural experience

We will move to Lake Akan in the morning and why not enjoy the untouched nature here! Let's have a chill sightseeing cruise together!

After lunch, you can try writing your name in "Kanji" during our Shodo experience. After that, we offer you a really rare Wadaiko instrument playing experience! Wadaiko is Japanese drum which usually use at ceremonies and festivals!



Activity
Chill sightseeing cruise in Lake Akan

Shodo Experience
Try to write your name in Kanji together!

Wadaiko experience
Follow our friend to learn how to play!

Meals

Breakfast: **Not incl.**

Lunch: Japanese rice bowl/ soba noodle (Local restaurant)

Dinner: Hokkaido local Yakiniku BBQ

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Sightseeing cruise at Lake AKan
- ▶ Shodo experience
- ▶ Wadaiko experience
- ▶ Hokkaido local Yakiniku BBQ

Accommodation

Akan Terrace
(Private accommodation, Western style room, Onsen)

DAY 6 9/11(Wed)

Enjoy the great view and walk along the lakeside at Akan with your Yukata

We will start the new day with our fourth Japanese lesson!

In the afternoon, we offer you a yukata experience to you! You can know more about its history and try wearing it! Sure you can take some great photos in the town!



Activity

Japanese lesson ④

Yukata experience

Know more about the history of Yukata and wear it to take some photos at the lake side!

Meals

Breakfast: **Not incl.**

Lunch: Indigenous Alnu cuisine

Dinner: Local Izakaya restaurant

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Japanese lesson ④
- ▶ Yukata experience
- ▶ Free time in Lake Akan

Accommodation

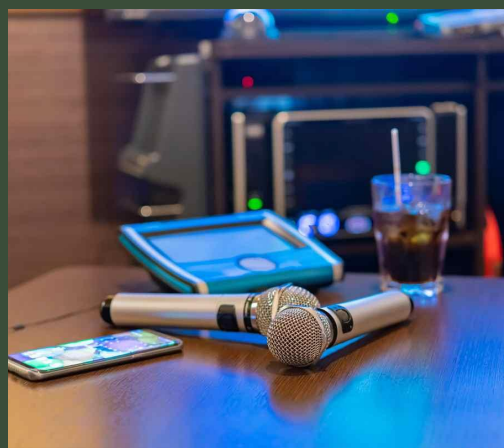
Akan Terrace
(Private accommodation,
Western style room, Onsen)

DAY 7 9/12(Thur)

Not only visit, but participating the biggest festival in Lake Akan

We will have our last Japanese lesson today! Then, we will join the local festival at Lake Akan. Let's participate with moving the shrine and wadaiko playing together!

And we will end up the night with karaoke! Sing your favorite Japanese songs!



Activity

Japanese lesson ⑤

Participate at "Mt. Akan Shrine Festival"

Let's join the festival with playing some traditional festival games!

Meals

Breakfast: **Not incl.**

Lunch: Local restaurant

Dinner: Local Izakaya restaurant

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Join local festival "Mt. Akan Shrine Festival"
- ▶ Karaoke

Accommodation

Akan Terrace
(Private accommodation,
Western style room, Onsen)

DAY 8 9/13(Fri)

Enjoy our last day with visiting Shrine and footbath

Is our last day today! We will have a short farewell session in the morning and visit Mt. Akan Shrine which is what the festival about yesterday! And why not have a wish for yourself!

Before sending our participants to Kushiro airport, let's chill out with soaking a footbath in lake Akan!



Activity

Visit Mt. Akan Shrine
Make wishes for yourself!

Meals

Breakfast: **Not incl.**

Lunch: Local restaurant

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Farewell session
- ▶ Shrine experience
- ▶ Chill footbath lunch



Recommend domestic flight

- ① JL 542 to Tokyo Haneda airport
- ② NH4874 to New Chitose airport (Sapporo)

Pricing

Pricing (For whole program)

¥290,000 for each person

※ If you need special offer for your eateries or rooms, please inform us.

Price Include

- 7 nights accommodations
- All activities and cultural experiences during the program
- Comfortable transportation during the program
- 1 local guide and 1 Japanese teacher throughout the trip
- 5 Japanese lessons
- Part of the eateries (7 lunch, 7 dinner)

Price **not Include**

- Flight tickets to Kushiro airport and back to your home
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Part of the eateries (All breakfast)
- Other services not clearly indicated in the program

Booking

Reservation

Please send us your information to Hibi Japan. (ernest@hibi-japan.com)

- Your full name
- Dates of birth
- Nationalities
- Food restrictions
- Health issues

※ A 20% deposit is required to confirm your reservation. We will send you the payment method after receiving your email.

The remaining cost is due 21 days before your arrival.

Terms and conditions

https://hokkaido-sightseeing.com/en/pdf/booking-conditions_202012.pdf

Cancellation & Special conditions

Cancellation

If you wish to cancel your reservation, please notify via email. Our cancellation policy is as follows:

- 20% of the price will apply 20 days prior to the travel starting date
- 30% of the price will apply 7 days prior to the travel starting date
- 40% of the price will apply 1 days prior to the travel starting date
- 50% of the price will apply on the travel starting date
- 100% of the price will apply after the start of the program or the traveler does not participate in the program without notice.

Special conditions

This policy may vary for bookings during high season and Japanese holidays, and also depends on the actual cancellation conditions of hotels, and contents providers. In this case , we will clearly mention it on the invoice.

Disclaimer

Assumption of Risk and Safety Statement

Travelers are advised that all activities are undertaken entirely at their own risk and that they are expected to behave appropriately at all times in accordance with Hibi Japan's safety rules. All outdoor activities carry inherent risks and neither Hibi Japan nor its partners assume any responsibility for accidents that are caused by its guests or caused by factors beyond human control.

By purchasing your trip, you acknowledge that : By their very nature, outdoor activities, hiking and biking activities are more difficult and demanding, and present a significantly higher level of risk, involving potential exposure to injury or death. Additional hazards and risks associated with adventure travel may include difficult and dangerous terrain, high altitude, extreme weather conditions (including sudden and unexpected changes), political instability, distance from medical services and normal communications, and difficulties in evacuating in case of illness or injury. You must follow the instructions in our guide and use any safety equipment provided at all times. For the above reasons, you accept the inherent and heightened dangers and risks associated with the proposed adventure and the resulting risk of injury, death and property damage or loss.

Disclaimer

Our responsibilities and disclaimers

All travelers are required to read the terms and conditions we provide before joining with us. The Traveler acknowledges that he/she understands the Terms and Conditions, as well as the following information regarding our liability waivers.

- We are liable to make good any damage caused to the traveler intentionally or negligently by us or our agent in the performance of this contract. However, this shall be limited to cases when we have received notice within two years from the time when the accident occurred.
- Except as provided in the preceding paragraph, we are not liable for indemnification in the following cases:
 - (1) Acts of providence
 - (2) Maelstrom of war or civil disturbance
 - (3) Suspension of travel services, including transportation and accommodation facilities
 - (4) Orders of government and public agencies
 - (5) Other causes beyond our control or that of our agents.

We operate a customized "order-taking" travel contract in Japan. Upon receipt of payment, you agree to the following terms.

https://hokkaido-sightseeing.com/en/pdf/booking-conditions_202012.pdf