



2023 HOKKAIDO SPRING TIME FLOWER TOUR #2

9 Nights / 11 Days • 25 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches, 8 Dinners)

Escorted from Honolulu • English-Speaking Local Guide

May 16 – 26, 2023 • Tour Manager: Lori Lee

Spring is definitely one of the best seasons to visit Hokkaido, the northern most prefecture of Japan. It is not only a place with beautiful greenery and delicious seafood but is also where you can experience the magic and splendor of nature. We are sure that you will instantly fall in love with the beauty of its spring. Let's enhance your nature experience further by visiting these three seasonal flower fields — Iwamizawa Canola Flower Fields, Kamiyubetsu Tulip Park, and Higashimokoto Pink Moss Park!

VISIT:

Chitose • Iwamizawa • Asahikawa • Biei • Sounkyo • Kitami
Abashiri • Lake Akan • Tokachigawa • Sapporo • Otaru

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Iwamizawa Canola Flower Fields • Sunagawa Highway Oasis • Otokoyama Sake Brewery
Mt. Asahidake Ropeway • Blue Pond • Biei Landscape • Ginga Ryusei Waterfall
Kamiyubetsu Tulip Park • Kitami Mint Museum • Higashimokoto Pink Moss Park
Okhotsk Drift Ice Museum • Abashiri Prison Museum • Mt. Io • Kussharo Lake (Sunayu)
Mashu Lake Observatory • Lake Akan Cruise • Marimo Moss Museum
Boya Farm Sheep Dog Show • Sahoro Bear Mountain • Ryugetsu Sweetopia Garden
Sapporo Central Wholesale Market • Odori Park and Lilac Festival • TV Tower
Sapporo Clock Tower • Former Government Building • Tanuki Koji Shopping Arcade
Otaru Canal • Kitaiichi Glass Company • Music Box Museum • Shiroi Koibito Park
Hokkaido Shrine • ARIOSO Mall • Chitose Domestic Terminal Shopping

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES:

Otokoyama Sake Brewery Tour and Tasting • Soba Making Experience
Wagashi (Japanese Sweets) Making Experience • Sushi Making Class

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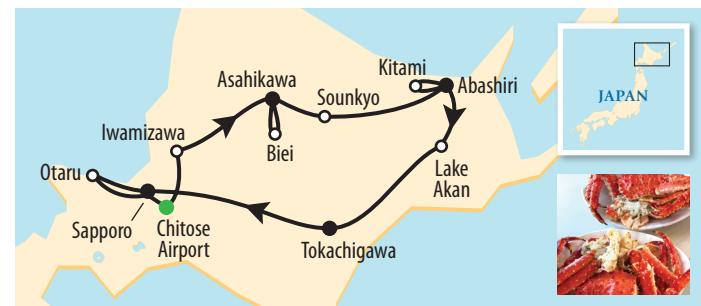
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Day 1: Tue, May 16 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu.

Day 2: Wed, May 17 – CHITOSE. Arrive in Chitose International Airport. After entry formalities, walk to your hotel located within the airport terminal. AIR TERMINAL HOTEL (1 Night)

Day 3: Thur, May 18 – CHITOSE – IWAMIZAWA – ASAHIKAWA. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at your hotel, make way to **Iwamizawa's Canola flowerfields**. "Nanohana" is the word for Canola flowers in Japanese. Enjoy the endless bright yellow blooms. Next stop is **Sunagawa Highway Oasis**, a shopper's paradise on the way to Asahikawa. Next we stop at the **Otokoyama Sake Brewery** for a tour of the facilities and tasting of sake and other tasty products. Our destination for the day is Asahikawa. Enjoy a **Kaiseki Dinner** at a local restaurant in Asahikawa. HOSHINO RESORTS OMO7 ASAHIKAWA (2 Nights) (B, L, D)



visit the **Sahoro Bear Mountain**. The brown bear is the largest land animal in Japan, inhabiting only in Hokkaido. Unlike in a zoo or in a bear reserve, here you can see them living in a real forest. We will stop at **Ryugetsu Sweetopia Garden** to shop for some Japanese desserts before dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Fri, May 19 – ASAHIKAWA – BIEI – ASAHIKAWA. **Mt. Asahidake Ropeway** is located on the western slopes of Asahidake mountain in the central region of Hokkaido. It is part of the Daisetsuzan National Park. The Ropeway base station is at an elevation of 1100m and the top is at 1600m. The Ropeway operates for most of the year for sightseeing and climbing. You will see snow from the top of the ropeway! After lunch visit **Blue Pond** outside the hot spring town of Shirogane Onsen, is named after its deep blue color, which it owes to natural minerals dissolved in the water. Take in the beauty of the **Biei landscapes**. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel for the evening. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Sat, May 20 – ASAHIKAWA – SOUNKYO – ABASHIRI. This morning we visit Sounkyo where we enjoy **Ginga Ryusei Waterfall**. The word "Ginga" means "the Milky Way" and the word "Ryusei" means "a shooting star." Depart Sounkyo for Abashiri. After lunch, enjoy the fields of blooming tulips at **Kamiyubetsu Tulip Park**. 1.2 million tulips of 120 different kinds! Looking down on the garden from the observation platform on a Dutch windmill, it's like a dream world. This evening enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. Don't miss your chance to **soak in the hot spring onsen**. After a full day of sightseeing, there's nothing quite like it in the world to relax your body and spirit. Enjoy the tranquil experience. HOKUTEN NO OKA LAKE ABASHIRI TSURUGA RESORT (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 6: Sun, May 21 – ABASHIRI – KITAMI – ABASHIRI. Begin the day of touring in Kitami. It was peppermint that built Kitami's economy in the early days. During the peak production in 1938/1939, Kitami's peppermint accounted for approximately 70% of the global market and became globally recognized as a special produce of Kitami and of Japan. Adjacent to the **Kitami Mint Museum** stands the Mint Distillation House where you can enjoy the aroma of freshly made mint. Then explore **Higashimokoto**, a park in Hokkaido that is famous for its beautiful "carpets" of Shibazakura (moss phlox). Moss phlox is called "Shibazakura" in Japanese, meaning "grass cherry blossoms" because it is like little cherry blossoms blooming on the ground. Shibazakura has variety of colors including light pink, red, light purple and white. After lunch, visit the **Okhotsk Drift Ice Museum**. Then the **Abashiri Prison Museum**. Learn about the conditions the prisoners experienced while incarcerated. Return to the hotel, where a special **Kaiseki Dinner** has been arranged. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Mon, May 22 – ABASHIRI – LAKE AKAN – TOKACHIGAWA. This morning visit **Mt. Io**. Known for erupting liquid sulfur in the eruptions of 1889 and 1936, Mt. Io literally means "Sulfur Mountain." Next visit **Kussharo Lake (Sunayu)**, a caldera lake in Akan National Park. As with many geographic names in Hokkaido, the name derives from the Ainu language. It is the largest caldera lake in Japan in terms of surface area, and sixth largest lake in Japan. It is also the largest lake in Japan to freeze over completely in winter. **Lake Mashu** is an endorheic crater lake formed in the caldera of a potentially active volcano. It has been called the clearest lake in the world. After lunch, we're in for a real treat! The sightseeing **cruise around Lake Akan** is Akan's most popular tour. From the boat you can see the unspoiled primitive forest that shows natural beauty in each season. At the **Spherical Moss Exhibition and Observation Center (Marimo Moss Museum)** on Churui Island, you can see the real Moss Ball known as Marimo, a natural treasure in Japan. Tonight enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. TOKACHIGAWA ONSEN DAIICHI HOTEL (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 8: Tue, May 23 – TOKACHIGAWA. This morning we will see **Boya Farm Sheep Dog Show**. Learn to make your own **soba noodles** today and enjoy your delicious efforts for lunch. After lunch,

Day 9: Wed, May 24 – TOKACHIGAWA – SAPPORO. Transfer this morning from Obihiro to Sapporo. Enroute, stop at the **Sapporo Central Wholesale Market** where you will see an abundance of fresh seafood. For lunch, **pick out "LIVE" crabs** from the tanks! Savor the sweet freshly steamed morsels. Upon arrival in Sapporo, stop at **Odori Park** for the **Sapporo Lilac Festival**. Then drive through Sapporo, passing the **TV Tower, Clock Tower**, and the **Former Government Building** before making a stop at the **Tanuki Koji Shopping Arcade**, the largest and oldest shopping arcade in Sapporo, which houses over 200 shops. Enjoy an Izakaya dinner tonight. MERCURE HOTEL SAPPORO (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

*1 Live crab for every 5th tour member.

Day 10: Thur, May 25 – SAPPORO – OTARU – SAPPORO. Today we visit Otaru, which served as a major trade and fishing port in the 1800s. The **Otaru Canal** makes for a pleasant stroll. A visit to the **Kitai Glass Company** will delight your eyes with its beautiful creations. Explore the **Music Box Museum**. Before lunch, **learn how to make wagashi** – traditional Japanese confectionaries. Participate in a sushi making class and enjoy your creations for lunch. Back in Sapporo, take a tour of **Shiroi Koibito Park** and see how Hokkaido's leading confectionery "Shiroi Koibito" is made. Round out the day with a visit to **Hokkaido Shrine**. In 1869 the Meiji Emperor decided to enshrine three Shinto Deities: Sukunahikona, Okunitama, and Ookuniinushi. They became the three deities of Hokkaido. Enjoy a buffet dinner tonight! (B, L, D)

Day 11: Fri, May 26 – SAPPORO – CHITOSE – HONOLULU. Morning at leisure. After lunch (on your own), depart the hotel. Enjoy some last minute shopping at **ARIO MALL**. Arrive early at the Chitose Airport and begin exploring the **shopping mall located within the Domestic Terminal**. Consisting of 4 floors of restaurants, shops, and activities, there's something for everyone. Those with a sweet tooth will enjoy the Sweets Zone, where you can enjoy Hokkaido sweets in a spacious and relaxing setting, and the Royce Chocolate World (factory, museum, shop, and bakery) and LeTAO Chocolatier. The kids (and those young at heart) will enjoy the Doraemon Sky Park and Hello Kitty Happy Flight, which have an activity area, shop, and café (fees may apply) or the Pokémon store. UNIQLO aims to provide customers with "ultimate casual clothes." And there are more than two dozen shops at the airport that specialize in various fresh, frozen or dried seafood that can be eaten there or packed for you to bring home. Depart Chitose and arrive Honolulu the same day. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B)

* Fares are per person, USD based on double occupancy and INCLUDE ALL AIRLINE TAXES AND FEES. Airline fuel supplements, taxes and fees are subject to change and tour member is responsible for any increases. Some airline-imposed personal charges, including but not limited to baggage, priority boarding and special seating, may apply. For details visit www.tripadvisor.com/AirlineFees. After initial deposit, a \$75 per person Non-Stop Travel (NST) Cancellation Fee will apply. Group departures may be cancelled, if there are less than 24 tour members. Final Payment to NST for "non-cruise-line" Air and Land Package must be made by Money Order or Personal Check. NST does not guarantee that all tour members will fly together with Tour Manager. Tour Manager assignments, number of meals offered on tour, tour price, discount, and the "final" tour itinerary are subject to change with/without notice. **NST reserves the right to correct errors or omissions including but not limited to, fares, fees and surcharges at any time.** Deposit: \$500 per person. Final Payment Due: 01/06/23. † Early Booking Discount is per person. Purchase of Non-Stop Travel's complete Air and Land Package is required. ‡ Earn Rewards Every Time You Refer a Friend. For each "New-to-NonStop Travel" customer you refer, both you and your referral can receive a \$25 discount off your next NST escorted group. **Special Assistance:** You must notify NST, at time of reservation, of any disability requiring special attention. NST reserves the right to cancel your booking or terminate your vacation if your special needs or disabilities are not suitable for the vacation or if you are not traveling with a companion who will provide all the assistance you require. **Wheelchair and Electric Scooter access outside of the USA is severely restricted.**

