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# 2026 FALL ULTIMATE HOKKAIDO, SHIRETOKO PENINSULA & SAPPORO AUTUMN FESTIVAL

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**12 Nights / 14 Days • 30 Meals (12 Breakfasts, 9 Lunches, 9 Dinners)**  
**Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide**  
**September 24 – October 07, 2026 • Tour Manager: Lauren Chu**

**VISIT:** Haneda, Noboribetsu, Date, Shiraoi, Sapporo, Ishikari, Tokachigawa, Ikeda, Lake Akan, Shiretoko, Abashiri, Kitami, Sounkyo, Asahikawa, Biei & Furano

**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:** Jigokudani (Hell Valley), UPOPOY National Ainu Museum and Park, TV Tower (Drive By), Former Government Building (Drive By), Odori Park (Drive By), Clock Tower (Drive By), ROYCE' Cacao and Chocolate Town, Sapporo Autumn Festival, Sahoro Bear Mountain, Ryugetsu Sweetpia Garden, Boya Farm Sheepdog Show, Lake Akan Cruise, Lake Mashu Observatory, Road to Heaven Observatory, Oshinkoshin Waterfall, Shiretoko-toge Observation Deck, Shiretoko National Park Nature Center, Shiretoko Five Lakes Wooden Pathways, Abashiri Prison Museum, Okhotsk Ryu-hyo Museum, Kitami Peppermint Memorial Museum, Kurodake Ropeway, Ginga Ryusei Waterfall, Asahikawa Ramen Village, Shirahige Waterfall, Blue Pond, Shikisai-no-Oka, AEON MALL & Chitose Airport Domestic Terminal Shopping

**HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:** Indigo Dyeing, Ikeda Wine Castle Lunch and Tasting, Ice Cream Making & Otokoyama Sake Brewery Museum Tour and Tasting

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**Day 1: Thur, Sep 24** – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:45 pm.

**Day 2: Fri, Sep 25** – HANEDA. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 3:55 pm. After entry formalities, walk to your hotel connected to the airport terminal. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. HOTEL VILLA FONTAINE GRAND HANEDA AIRPORT (1 Night) (D)

**Day 3: Sat, Sep 26** – HANEDA – CHITOSE – NOBORIBETSU. After a breakfast buffet at your hotel, walk back to the Haneda airport terminal. Enjoy a bento box at the domestic departure gate. Depart Haneda Domestic Airport via Japan Airlines flt #513 at 11:20 am and arrive at the Chitose Domestic Airport at 12:55 pm. Depart the airport for Noboribetsu. Upon arrival in Noboribetsu, visit **Jigokudani (“Hell Valley”)**, a spectacular, appropriately named valley just above the town, which displays hot steam vents, sulfurous streams and other volcanic activity. It is a main source of Noboribetsu’s onsen hot spring waters. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. After dinner, soak in the hotel’s **onsen hot springs**. The onsens, which are divided for men and women, can be enjoyed indoors or outdoors. The high-quality service and facilities are sure to become some of your fondest memories of your visit to Japan. DAI-ICHI TAKIMOTOKAN (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 4: Sun, Sep 27** – NOBORIBETSU – DATE – SHIRAOI – SAPPORO. Begin the day learning how to **dye using indigo**. This will make a great souvenir of your trip! Continue to Shiraoi. After lunch, visit the **UPOPOY National Ainu Museum and Park**. Officially opened on July 12, 2020, the mission of UPOPOY is “to promote a proper understanding and awareness of Ainu history and culture in Japan and elsewhere out of respect for the dignity of the indigenous Ainu people, while contributing to the creation and development of new aspects of Ainu culture.” Learn about the Ainu people and culture via short films shown on the large screen in the 96 seat theater, and through the various artifacts and displays set up in the exhibition rooms located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the museum. Upon arrival in Sapporo, get a brief city tour, including the **TV Tower, Former Government Office Building, Odori Park, and Clock Tower**, before stopping at a local restaurant for dinner. Arrive at the hotel, where the remainder of the evening is at your leisure. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL SAPPORO (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 5: Mon, Sep 28** – SAPPORO – ISHIKARI – SAPPORO. After breakfast, explore the new **ROYCE’ Cacao and Chocolate Town** to learn how the famous ROYCE’ chocolate treats are made. Receive a complimentary sample at the end of the tour. For lunch, **pick out “LIVE” crabs** from the tanks, to enjoy with a special kaisen don (fresh seafood over rice) lunch. Return to the hotel for an afternoon of leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for nearby shopping opportunities (on your own) – including the Tanuki Koji Shopping Arcade, which is the largest and oldest shopping arcade in Sapporo and houses over 200 shops, or the MEGA Don Quijote Sapporo Tanukikoji Honten store, which is also in the Tanuki Koji area. This evening, enjoy dinner (on your own) along with free time to explore the **Sapporo Autumn Festival** at Odori Park. Return to the hotel at your leisure. (B, L)

\*One live crab for every 6<sup>th</sup> tour member. Live crab subject to weather conditions and availability.

**Day 6: Tue, Sep 29** – SAPPORO – TOKACHIGAWA. Depart Sapporo for Tokachigawa. En route, take a bus tour of **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. The clever viewing facilities include a boardwalk 5m above ground and a heavily fortified bus that looks like it was built for *Jurassic Park*. The bears seem unfazed by both, and you’re almost guaranteed to see at least one hanging around. Then make a stop at **Ryugetsu Sweetpia Garden**, which is famous for their gift sets of cookies and pastries. The sweets sold at Ryugetsu Sweetpia Garden are made with ingredients from Tokachi and Hokkaido. The sugar used is not made from sugarcane, but from fine sugar made from Tokachi beets. The Tokachi Kinagoromo Soft is a special menu item available only at the Garden Café. It is a cone filled with sweet red bean paste made from Tokachi azuki beans, topped with kinako (soybean flour) flavored soft serve ice cream, soft kinagoromo (a type of mochi), and molasses sauce. It is a limited menu item, so don’t miss it! Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure. You can walk to the nearby Lake Akan Ainu Kotan, where 120 native Ainu have settled and continue to produce traditional crafts. Master artisans create intricate wood carvings of bears, birds, humans, and the like, which are highly sought out around the world. These traditional crafts are among Hokkaido’s best known souvenirs. Or you can soak yourself in the hotel’s **onsens**. TOKACHIGAWA ONSEN DAIICHI HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 7: Wed, Sep 30** – TOKACHIGAWA – IKEDA – LAKE AKAN. On the way to Ikeda, stop at **Boya Farm** for a fun-filled **sheepdog show**. Enjoy lunch at **Ikeda Wine Castle**, and enjoy a **tasting of their wine**. After lunch, you’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. This evening, a special seasonal buffet will be served at your hotel. Enjoy a soak in the **onsen**. AKAN YUKUNOSATO TSURUGA WINGS BUILDING (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 8: Thur, Oct 01** – LAKE AKAN – SHIRETOKO. Begin the day learning **how to make ice cream** using fresh Hokkaido milk. What a treat! Stop at a local restaurant for lunch. Butadon (pork bowl) is a popular, fast, and comforting Japanese dish consisting of tender pork simmered or grilled in a sweet and savory sauce, served over a bowl of rice. Often described as a pork alternative to gyudon (beef bowl), it originated in the Tokachi region of Hokkaido. After lunch, stop at the **Lake Mashu Observatory**, famous for its notorious fog, which often hangs over the water for the entire day (a rare phenomenon for a lake), hence its nickname “Foggy Lake Mashu.” On the way to Shiretoko, check out the “**Road to Heaven**” from the **Observatory**. The tall and magnificent **Oshinkoshin Waterfalls** is known as one of the “Eight Views of Shiretoko,” and is also recognized as one of Japan’s “100 Most Beautiful Waterfalls.” The word “Oshinkoshin”



translated from the Ainu language is literally “the beautifully forked waterfalls.” Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel and soak in the **onsen** hot spring. KIKI SHIRETOKO NATURAL RESORT (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 9: Fri, Oct 02** – SHIRETOKO – ABASHIRI. Start the day taking in the view from the **Shiretoko-toge Observation Deck**. Next, explore the **Shiretoko National Park Nature Center** and learn about one of Japan’s most pristine parks that is home to 36 land and 22 marine mammals, 285 bird species, and orcas. Also, visit the **Shiretoko Five Lakes Wooden Pathways** before enjoying lunch at a local restaurant. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. Relax after dinner in the hotel’s **onsen**. HOKUTEN NO OKA LAKE ABASHIRI TSURUGA (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 10: Sat, Oct 03** – ABASHIRI – KITAMI – SOUNKYO. After breakfast, visit the **Abashiri Prison Museum** and learn about the conditions the prisoners experienced while incarcerated in this remote location. Then, visit the **Okhotsk Ryu-hyo Museum** and learn about drift ice. After lunch, travel to Kitami to visit the **Kitami Peppermint Memorial Museum**. It was peppermint that built Kitami’s economy in the early days. During its peak production years, Kitami’s peppermint accounted for approximately 70% of the global market and became globally recognized as a special produce of Kitami. Adjacent to the museum stands the Mint Distillation House, where you can enjoy the aroma of freshly made mint. Continue to the hotel in Sounkyo. Explore the hotel grounds or relax in the hotel’s **onsens** before your buffet dinner. HOTEL TAISETSU ONSEN & CANYON RESORT (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 11: Sun, Oct 04** – SOUNKYO – ASAHIKAWA. After breakfast, take in the view of autumn foliage from the **Kurodake Ropeway**. Then, visit **Ginga Ryusei Waterfall**. The word “Ginga” means “the Milky Way” and the word “Ryusei” means “a shooting star. Enjoy a local favorite for lunch (on your own) at the **Asahikawa Ramen Village**, where you’ll get to choose the type of ramen lunch you’ll have from one of eight ramen shops. Asahikawa is known for their shoyu based broths, while Sapporo is known for its miso based broths and Hakodate for its salt based broths. Which one will you try? After lunch, stop at the **Otokoyama Sake Brewery Museum** for a **tour of the facilities and tasting of sake** and other tasty products. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before arriving at the hotel for the evening. OMO7 ASAHIKAWA BY HOSHINO RESORTS (1 Night) (B, D)

**Day 12: Mon, Oct 05** – ASAHIKAWA – BIEI – FURANO – SAPPORO. Start the day at **Shirahige Falls**, a spectacular waterfall situated 600 meters above sea level in the town of Biei. White curtains of water cascading through gaps in the cliff give this natural landmark its name, which means “white beard waterfall.” The **Blue Pond**, located outside the onsen town of Shirogane Onsen, is named after its deep blue color, which it owes to natural minerals dissolved in the water area. Explore the panoramic flower gardens of **Shikisai-no-Oka**, which provide spectacular views across the hills of the Biei area. After lunch, transfer to your hotel in Sapporo for an evening of leisure. The Local Guide will have recommendations for nearby dining and shopping. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL SAPPORO (2 Nights) (B, L)

**Day 13: Tue, Oct 06** – SAPPORO. Day at leisure. Don’t forget the shopping opportunities at Susukino Shopping Area. Or Tanuki Koji Shopping Arcade, the largest and oldest shopping arcade in Sapporo, which houses over 200 shops. Need more opportunities to shop? Drop by the MEGA Don Quijote Sapporo Tanukikoji Honten store, also in the Tanuki Koji area. The Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

**Day 14: Wed, Oct 07** – SAPPORO – CHITOSE – HANEDA – HONOLULU. After breakfast, depart the hotel for a last minute shopping stop at an **AEON MALL**, before arriving early at the Chitose Domestic Airport, to begin exploring the **shopping mall located within the Domestic Terminal**. Consisting of four 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. Or you can relax in the airport onsen or movie theater (for a fee). Depart Chitose Domestic Airport via Japan Airlines flt #516 at 4:00 pm and arrive at the Haneda Domestic Airport at 5:45 pm. Depart Haneda International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #74 at 9:05 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 9:30 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)