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**Off the Beaten Path:** *A Different Side of Japan*

# 2026 FALL GOURMET ONSEN HOKKAIDO

*Lake Toya, Tokachigawa, Lake Akan & Sounkyo Onsens*

Enjoy your choice of Japan Airlines' "Economy," "Premium Economy," or the affordable luxury of "Business" class service. Premium Economy class customers will begin their journey with a relaxing visit to JAL's "Sakura Lounge" and the "Sakura Lounge — Hale" for Business class.

11 Nights / 13 Days • 29 Meals (11 Breakfasts, 9 Lunches, 9 Dinners)

Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide

September 27 – October 09, 2026 • Tour Managers: Delbert & Gale Nakaoka

**VISIT:** Haneda, Toya, Noboribetsu, Shiraoi, Tokachigawa, Ikeda,  
Lake Akan, Sounkyo, Asahikawa, Ishikari & Sapporo

## **JAPAN'S NORTHERNMOST MAIN ISLAND — Experience the best of Hokkaido!**

Hokkaido makes up more than 20% of Japan's total land area. Much of Hokkaido is wild and unspoiled, with delicious seafood, natural onsen hot springs, volcanic lakes, fascinating indigenous Ainu culture, and unforgettable experiences. In fall, enjoy the colorful foliage along the streets and in the national parks. Taste Hokkaido's seasonal produce when it is freshly harvested, and fresh salmon roe from the salmon that travel up the rivers in fall. Each area offers different scenery and gourmet food, so you will be able to enjoy new adventures no matter how many times you visit. Come and discover the joy of traveling in Hokkaido!

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\*Premium class seating is for international flights between Honolulu and Japan only. Domestic Japan flights do not offer Premium seating.

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### **EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT PER PERSON**

Book by 04/30/26 & **SAVE \$100†**

Book by 05/29/26 & **SAVE \$50†**



# 2026 Fall Gourmet Onsen Hokkaido



**Day 1: Sun, Sept 27** — HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #71 at 4:35 pm.

**Day 2: Mon, Sept 28** — HANEDA. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 7:45 pm. After entry formalities, walk to your hotel connected to the airport terminal. Enjoy dinner at the hotel. HOTEL VILLA FONTAINE PREMIER HANEDA AIRPORT (1 Night) (D)

**Day 3: Tue, Sept 29** — HANEDA — CHITOSE — LAKE TOYA. 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 #511 at 10:30 am and arrive at the Chitose Domestic Airport at 12:05 pm. Depart Chitose for Lake Toya. In Lake Toya, learning about **aizome**, a **traditional Japanese dyeing technique that uses indigo dye** to create patterns on fabric, historically for clothing, kimonos, and workwear. The process involves folding, tying, and binding the cloth to create resist patterns, then soaking it in a vat of natural indigo dye. After soaking, exposure to air oxidizes the fabric, turning it from a greenish hue to its characteristic shade of blue. “Ai” means blue, and “zome” means dyeing, so aizome translates to “indigo dyeing.” Transfer to the hotel for dinner. The hotel offers several public onsen hot spring options for its guest to enjoy. The onsens, which are divided for men and women, can be enjoyed whether indoors or outdoors. Soak in skin-beautifying waters to your heart’s content in the public onsens or in your room with its own **private semi-open-air onsen**. The high-quality service and facilities are sure to become some of your fondest memories of your visit to Japan. LAKE TOYA TSURUGA RESORT HIKARI NO UTA (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 4: Wed, Sept 30** — LAKE TOYA — NOBORIBETSU — SHIRAOI — LAKE TOYA. After breakfast, depart Lake Toya for Noboribetsu. In Noboribetsu, visit the source of the hot spring waters that it’s known for: **Jigokudani** or “Hell Valley,” a spectacular, appropriately named valley just above the town, which displays hot steam vents, sulfurous streams and other volcanic activity. After lunch, visit the **UPOPOY National Ainu Museum and Park**, which opened on July 12, 2020. The mission of this museum 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. Return to the hotel for a Western dinner and an evening of leisure. (B, L, D)

**Day 5: Thur, Oct 01** — LAKE TOYA — TOKACHIGAWA. After breakfast, depart the hotel for Tokachigawa. En route, stop for lunch. After lunch, take a bus tour of the **Sahoro Bear Mountain**.



The brown bear is the largest land animal in Japan, inhabiting only in Hokkaido. Upon arrival in Tokachigawa, check-in to the hotel. Enjoy time before dinner exploring the hotel, the seasonal fruits and sparkling wine at the **Premium Lounge** — available only for the guests staying at Hoshu-tei — or relax in the **private open-air moor onsen** in your room. Unlike the more common mineral onsens, the moor onsen is an alkaline botanical onsen that get its amber color from the organic plants deep underground. The amber waters moisturizes the skin and is known as “nature’s skin lotion.” Enjoy a **Kaiseki Dinner** at the hotel. TOKACHIGAWA ONSEN DAIICHI HOTEL HOSHU-TEI (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 6: Fri, Oct 02** — TOKACHIGAWA — IKEDA — TOKACHIGAWA. This morning, start the day at the **Boya Farm** for a **Sheep Dog Show**. Stop at the **Ikeda Wine Castle** for lunch, to take a **tour of the winery** and **taste a few of their products**. On the way back to Tokachigawa, stop at **Ryugetsu Sweetpia Garden**, famous for their gift sets of cookies and pastries. Return to the hotel. Enjoy some leisure time before a buffet dinner. (B, L, D)

**Day 7: Sat, Oct 03** — TOKACHIGAWA — LAKE AKAN. After breakfast, take a leisurely drive to Lake Akan. Stop for lunch en route. **Lake Akan Ainu Kotan**, one of the largest kotans (villages) in Hokkaido, and home to about 120 Ainu people. In Ainu culture, the number six is important, along with its numerical value it also means “many,” and Lake Akan Ainu Kotan spreads the Ainu culture through six senses — interacting, making, eating, inheriting, unleashing and living with nature — based on the Ainu belief that souls reside in all things. The Ainu people have coexisted with nature for centuries, and the Ainu history and culture can be felt at the Ainu Theater Ikoro, a permanent theater where Ainu dance performances are held, and the art museum Onnechise, which houses beautiful artifacts. The area is home to various facilities including craft shops, restaurants, an indoor theater dedicated to Ainu culture, a museum and a gallery with a collection of artworks. Arrive at the hotel. Enjoy leisure time to explore the hotel and its surroundings before dinner. You have another opportunity to soak in the hotel’s **onsen**. Enjoy a **Kaiseki Dinner** tonight. AKAN YUKU NO SATO TSURUGA BEKKAN MIYABI (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

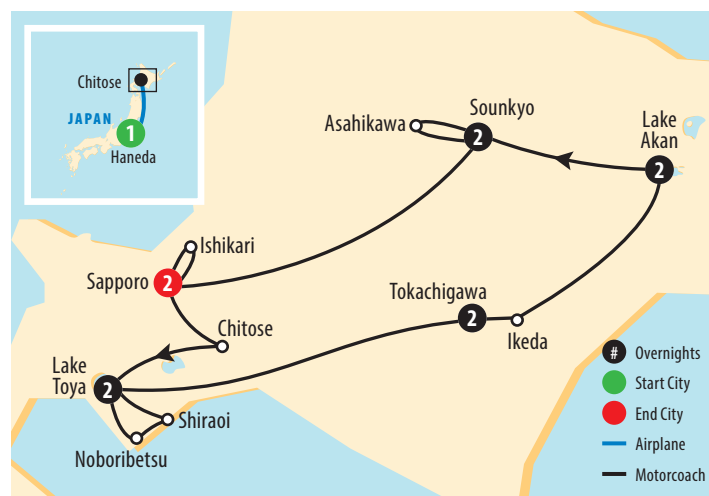
**Day 8: Sun, Oct 04** — LAKE AKAN. This morning, we’re in for a real treat! The **sightseeing cruise around Lake Akan** is Akan’s most popular tour. From the boat you can see the unspoiled primitive forest that shows natural beauty in each season. After lunch, visit the **Akan International Crane Center**, the only facility in Japan dedicated to the research and protection of the red-crowned cranes (tancho in Japanese). These culturally significant birds were saved from extinction in the 1950s by farmers in the Akan area who fed them crops through the harsh winters. These birds are



believed to bring good luck. Even the indigenous people of Hokkaido said that they were marsh gods of the land. In the facility itself, check out the exhibitions which explain the cranes' ecosystem. On the adjacent wetlands, be sure to watch these majestic birds outdoors under close-to-natural conditions. Between November and March, over 300 red-crowned cranes gather in the feeding area in front of the neighboring Tancho Observation Center. Don't miss the rare chance to see these stunning birds flying over the snow-covered landscape! Return to the hotel for another **Kaiseki Dinner** and an evening of leisure. (B, L, D)

**Day 9: Mon, Oct 05** — LAKE AKAN — SOUNKYO. After breakfast, depart the hotel for a day of traveling. **Learn how to make ice cream** with fresh Hokkaido milk! A true treat no matter the time of year! After lunch, visit **Kita-Kitsune Farm**, the only zoo in Japan where about 50 Ezo red foxes and five Hokkaido raccoon dogs (also known as tanuki) live together in a free-roaming area. Although many foxes live in Hokkaido, observing the habits of the foxes is quite difficult. Kita-Kitsune Farm allows you to observe foxes grooming, napping, and play-fighting amongst themselves, as you see raccoon dogs napping unaffected nearby. Transfer to the hotel in Souunkyo. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. After dinner, enjoy the hotel's many **onsen** facilities. HOTEL TAISETSU ONSEN & CANYON RESORT (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 10: Tue, Oct 06** — SOUNKYO — ASAHIKAWA — SOUNKYO. After breakfast, take the **Mt. Kurodake Ropeway**, a 1,984 meter high peak that towers over Souunkyo Onsen in central Hokkaido. The Kurodake Ropeway connects Souunkyo Onsen with an upper station that is located half way up to the summit and is one of the most easily accessible major peaks of the Daisetsuzan National Park. Next, visit **Ginga Ryusei Waterfall**. The word "ginga" means "the Milky Way" or "galaxy" and the word "ryusei" means "a meteor or shooting star." After lunch, explore **Daisetsu Mori-no Garden**. Set against the grand peaks of the Daisetsu Mountains, Daisetsu Mori-no Garden is a vibrant tapestry of nature that changes its colors with every passing season. In the main "Forest Flower Garden" area, a vast array of blossoms compete in beauty, filling the air with a soft fragrance carried by the refreshing highland breeze. As you step into the "Forest Reception Hall," which integrates the area's natural trees, the gentle rustle of leaves and the singing of birds create a tranquil sanctuary where you can find deep peace away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. The "Play Forest" adds a touch of whimsy to your visit. Here, the "Forest Xylophone" — an impressive 40-meter-long wooden instrument — produces warm, healing tones that resonate through the trees. Return to the hotel for dinner and an evening of leisure. Tonight is the last night to relax in an **onsen**. Don't miss out! (B, L, D)



**Day 11: Wed, Oct 07** — SOUNKYO — SAPPORO — ISHIKARI — SAPPORO. En route to Sapporo, stop at the **Sunagawa Highway Oasis**, a shopper's paradise. For lunch, stop at a local **wholesale seafood market** where an abundance of fresh seafood and the freshest local products can be found. While there, **pick out "LIVE" crabs\*** from the tanks, to enjoy with a special kaisen don (fresh seafood over rice) lunch. After lunch, take a tour of 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. Upon arrival in Sapporo, get a brief city tour as you **drive by the TV Tower, Former Government Office Building, Odori Park, and the Clock Tower**. Arrive at the hotel for an evening of leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for nearby dining and shopping options. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL SAPPORO (2 Nights) (B, L)

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

**Day 12: Thur, Oct 08** — SAPPORO. Day at leisure. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. Need more opportunities to shop? Check out the Tanuki Koji Shopping Arcade, the largest and oldest shopping arcade in Sapporo, which houses over 200 shops. Or drop by the MEGA Don Quijote Sapporo Tanukikoji Honten store, also in the Tanuki Koji area. (B)

**Day 13: Fri, Oct 09** — SAPPORO — CHITOSE — HANEDA — HONOLULU. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast, on your last day in Japan. Depart the hotel for a final shopping stop at an **AEON MALL**, where you will have time to shop and enjoy lunch (on your own). Depart for the Chitose airport. Arrive at the Chitose Airport and 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 cafe (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 via Japan Airlines flt #518 at 5:00 pm. Arrive in Tokyo's Haneda Domestic Airport at 6:45 pm. Depart Tokyo's Haneda International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #72 at 9:55 pm and arrive Honolulu at 10:20 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)



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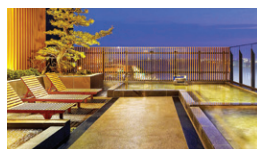
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**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:** Jigokudani, UPOPOY National Ainu Museum and Park, Sahoro Bear Mountain, Boya Farm Sheep Dog Show, Ryugetsu Sweetpia Garden, Lake Akan Ainu Kotan, Lake Akan Cruise, Akan International Crane Center, Kita-Kitsune Farm, Mt. Kurodake Ropeway, Ginga Ryusei Waterfall, Daisetsu Mori-no Garden, Sunagawa Highway Oasis, Wholesale Seafood Market, ROYCE' Cacao and Chocolate Town, TV Tower (Drive By), Former Government Office Building (Drive By), Odori Park (Drive By), Clock Tower (Drive By), AEON MALL & Chitose Airport Domestic Terminal Shopping

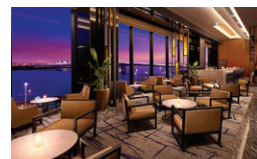
**HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:** Indigo Dyeing, Ikeda Wine Castle Tour and Tasting & Ice Cream Making

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:



### HOTEL VILLA FONTAINE PREMIER HANEDA AIRPORT (HANEDA AIRPORT — 1 NIGHT):

Conveniently located just a one-minute walk from Terminal 3. Shake the weariness of the 9 ½ hour flight as you relax in the onsen hot spring, enjoy a drink from your in room's refrigerator, or get in a workout at the hotel's gym (all complimentary for Premier guests). A distinctive feature of the hotel is that all **Premier guest rooms face the Tama River**, ensuring every stay comes with a stunning view.



### LAKE TOYA TSURUGA RESORT HIKARI NO UTA (LAKE TOYA — 2 NIGHTS):

The connection that this hotel has to the culture of Hokkaido's past is seen in its décor. Sculptures, woodblock prints, and paintings depicting the world of the Ainu are found throughout the hotel. Countless eye-catching works of art unexpectedly draw visitors into their universe and take them on a journey to the extraordinary. You can refresh both body and mind to the core in the hotel's **open-air baths, sauna, and spa**. Or feel the splendor of nature as you soak in the **private semi-open-air onsen** in your room.



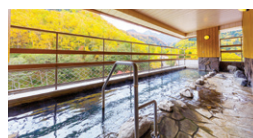
### TOKACHIGAWA ONSEN DAIICHI HOTEL HOSHU-TEI (TOKACHIGAWA — 2 NIGHTS):

After check-in, relax in the **Premium Lounge** — available only for guests booked in one of the 24 exclusive Hoshu-Tei rooms — where you'll be greeted with seasonal fruits and sparkling wine. Each of the 24 Hoshu-Tei rooms have a **private open-air moor onsen with beautiful views** of the Tokachi River and Hidaka Mountain range. Feel the warmth from the fireplace as it permeates the room. Or enjoy the open-air onsen located by the garden, where you can listen to the sounds of a waterfall as you relax in its waters.



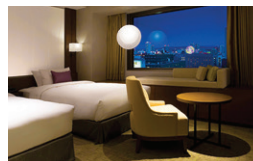
### AKAN YUKU NO SATO TSURUGA BEKKAN MIYABI (LAKE AKAN — 2 NIGHTS):

Put your mind at ease as you relax in your Japanese-Western room in the Bekkan MIYABI section of the hotel. Relax in the exclusive **Bekkan Lounge Nanakamado**, where beverages, snacks, and nightcap. Warm your body and mind from the inside out, as the **onsen waters** help relieve travel fatigue, in the public baths. Indoor baths offer the view of painted murals of Lake Akan, while the **rooftop bath overlooks Lake Akan** itself. The souvenir shop carries a wide range of products from around Hokkaido. Also available on-site is the ArbreWoodshop, which carries accessories featuring designs using Ainu patterns, such as decorative straps made from wood and leather. A coin operated laundry is available for your convenience as well.



### HOTEL TAISETSU ONSEN & CANYON RESORT (SOUNKYO — 2 NIGHTS):

The hotel opened in 1954 — recently celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary — and aims to coexist with the natural beauty of Mt. Taisetsu and Sounkyo. Located on the highest hill in Sounkyo, it's the only hotel in Hokkaido with **three grand baths and two open-air baths** that flow directly from the source. **Special rooms**, offering a unique calm space, mixed with Japanese and Western styles, features **comfortable low beds and tatami flooring**.



### KEIO PLAZA HOTEL SAPPORO (SAPPORO — 2 NIGHTS):

This luxury hotel is only a five-minute walk from JR Sapporo Station, nearby popular shopping, and entertainment spots. Stay in a **Premier Room** (located on the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> floors), with stunning views of the city, where you will have access to the **Club Lounge**, where you'll still be able to enjoy **Hokkaido-inspired food and drinks**, along with breathtaking views from the hotel's top floor. The souvenir shop stocks a wide selection of Hokkaido specialties and local character-themed merchandise, and travel goods.



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