

# 2026 GRAND HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL TOUR #1

### **EXPERIENCE 6 WINTER FESTIVALS:**

Sapporo Snow Festival, Asahikawa Winter Festival, Sounkyo Ice Waterfall Festival, Lake Akan Winter Festival with Fireworks, Tokachigawa Swan Festival & Lake Shikotsu Ice Festival

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

11 Nights / 13 Days • 25 Meals (11 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches, 6 Dinners) Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide February 02 – 14, 2026 • Tour Manager: Susan Hamada Yee

#### VISIT:

Nagoya • Sapporo • Ishikari • Asahikawa • Sounkyo • Abashiri • Lake Akan Tokachigawa • Lake Shikotsu • Noboribetsu • Shiraoi • Otaru

#### **ENJOY 5 ONSEN HOT SPRINGS OR LARGE PUBLIC BATH FACILITIES:**

Hotel Taisetsu Onsen & Canyon Resort • Hokuten No Oka Lake Abashiri Tsuruga Resort Akan Yukuno Sato Tsuruga • Tokachigawa Onsen Daiichi Hotel • Noboribetsu Daiichi Takimotokan

# Non-Stop Travel Exclusive!

**CENTRAIR HOTEL** (Nagoya Airport — 1 Night): The hotel is directly connected to the airport terminal via a covered walkway, making it extremely convenient for travelers. It offers comfortable Western-style rooms with WiFi access. Although a Family Mart convenience store is located within the hotel, guests may want to return to the airport for more dining options, including many Nagoya specialties and classic Japanese dishes. Popular choices include Yabaton (Miso Katsu) and Sekai no Yamachan (Nagoya Cochin Chicken Wings). You'll also find cafés, fast food, and coffee shops on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors. In Terminal 1's 4<sup>th</sup> floor, you'll discover two relaxation facilities: the Japanese-style spa "Fu no Yu" and the "Sanatio Spa," the first onsen in Japan with a runway view. Shake the weariness of the 9½ hour flight as you relax in the onsen and watch planes taking off and land, and enjoy panoramic views of Ise Bay. An entry fee of 1,500 yen applies.

### **Non-Stop Travel Exclusives!**

SAPPORO SNOW FESTIVAL (DAY & EVENING VIEWING) 3 nights hotel stay in Sapporo

> ICE BREAKER CRUISE BY "AURORA" See drifting sea ice! Nature's amazing treat!

CRABS — PICK'EM "LIVE" FROM THE TANK! Savor the sweet freshly steamed morsels!

ICE POND FISHING Enjoy your "wakasagi" smelt tempura on the lake! Nothing else like it! Delicious! ICE CREAM MAKING Made with fresh Hokkaido milk!

INCLUDES COMPLIMENTARY SNOW/ICE CLEATS FOR ALL TOUR MEMBERS (\$20 VALUE)

# COMPLETE PACKAGE!

Includes Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu, 11 Nights Hotel, 25 Meals, Tips for Local Tour Guides and Bus Drivers, All Taxes & Fees

JAPAN AIRLINES: CHOICE OF CABINS Treat yourself to a better vacation!

> JAL ECONOMY CLASS \$6,388\*

# JAL PREMIUM ECONOMY CLASS \$7,388\*

HURRY! Only 6 Seats Available at this Price!!

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

# JAL BUSINESS CLASS \$9,388\*

HURRY! <u>Only 6 Seats</u> Available at this Price!!

### EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT PER PERSON<sup>+</sup>

Book by 06/30/25 & **SAVE** \$100 Book by 08/29/25 & **SAVE** \$50

### Non-Stop Travel Exclusive!

DON'T MISS A THING!! WHISPER — Wireless Tour Guide System! English narration directly to your ear! Day 2: Tue, Feb 03 – NAGOYA. Arrive at the Chubu Centrair International Airport at 5:45 pm. After entry formalities, walk to your hotel connected to the airport terminal. CENTRAIR HOTEL (1 Night)

**Day 3: Wed, Feb 04** – NAGOYA – CHITOSE – SAPPORO. After a breakfast buffet at your hotel, walk back to the Nagoya airport terminal. Enjoy a bento box at the domestic departure gate. Depart the Chubu Centrair Domestic Airport via Japan Airlines flt #3107 at 1:10 pm and arrive at the Chitose Domestic Airport at 2:50 pm. Upon arrival in Chitose, depart the airport for a drive-by sightseeing tour of Sapporo – including the **TV Tower**, the **Clock Tower**, and the Former **Government Office Building**. Enjoy a BBQ dinner at a local restaurant before arriving at the hotel for the evening. SAPPORO GRAND HOTEL (3 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 4: Thur, Feb 05 - SAPPORO - ISHIKARI - SAPPORO. After breakfast, begin the day with 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. 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 lunch (fresh seafood over rice). After lunch, take in the spectacular sight of Sapporo from the top of Mt. Okura via the Okurayama Observatory Chair Lift. Next, take in the wonders of the SAPPORO SNOW FESTIVAL<sup>®</sup> with a walking tour with the Local Guide. The Sapporo Snow Festival was started in 1950, when high school students built a few snow statues and it has since developed into a WORLD-CLASS EVENT attracting more than two million visitors. Return to the hotel, where the remainder of the evening is at your leisure. Don't miss out on the seeing the festival at night (on your own), where some of the sculptures are illuminated with lights and appear differently than during the day time. (B, L)

\*One live crab for every  $6^{\rm th}$  tour member. Live crab subject to weather conditions and availability.

**Day 5: Fri, Feb 06** – SAPPORO. Day of leisure. The perfect opportunity to explore more of the **SAPPORO SNOW FESTIVAL**<sup>9</sup> on your own. You'll have ample free time to walk around and enjoy the city at your own pace. Don't forget the shopping opportunities at Susukino shopping area, or the Tanuki Koji Shopping Arcade, the largest and oldest shopping arcade in Sapporo, which houses over 200 shops. (B)

Day 6: Sat, Feb 07 – SAPPORO – ASAHIKAWA – SOUNKYO. After breakfast, depart Sapporo for Sounkyo. En route, stop at the Sunagawa Highway Oasis, a shopper's paradise. Take a tour of the Otokoyama Sake Brewery, and taste some of their sake and other tasty products. Warm yourself with 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? Experience one of the most popular winter festivals in Hokkaido, the ASAHIKAWA WINTER FESTIVAL? As Hokkaido's second largest winter festival, after Sapporo's snow festival, Asahikawa Winter Festival boasts one of the biggest snow sculptures. Each year, one massive sculpture is made as a stage for music or other performances. The giant sculpture has a different theme each year. What will the theme be this year? Will it top the giant sculpture built in 1994 which made it into the book of Guinness World Records as the largest snow construction ever built? Finally, enjoy the **SOUNKYO ICE WATERFALL FESTIVAL**<sup>6</sup> a frozen world of ice featuring man-made ice caves, pillars, tunnels, domes and sculptures. Arrive at the hotel in Sounkyo. Tonight, enjoy a **relaxing soak in the onsen hot springs** and a sumptuous buffet dinner at your hotel. The onsens – which are divided for men and women – allow you to enjoy the hot springs whether indoors or outdoors. The high-quality service and facilities are sure to become some of your fondest memories of your visit to Japan. HOTEL TAISETSU ONSEN & CANYON RESORT (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 7: Sun, Feb 08 – SOUNKYO – ABASHIRI. Before departing Sounkyo, we will visit the nearby Ginga Ryusei Waterfall. The word "Ginga" means "the Milky Way" or "galaxy" and the word "ryusei" means "a meteor or shooting star." A brief stop will be made at the Onneyu Michi-no-Eki, for the opportunity to rest and shop for souvenirs, before heading towards Abashiri. After lunch, visit the Okhotsk Ryuhyo Museum and learn about drift ice. Warm up (with some shopping) at a local shopping area. View drift ice up close during the ice breaker cruise aboard the "Aurora." After dinner at the hotel, warm up in the hotel's onsen. HOKUTEN NO OKA ABASHIRIKO (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 8: Mon, Feb 09 – ABASHIRI – LAKE AKAN. En route to Lake Akan, stop at Mt. Io. Mt. Io is a volcano with the highest concentration of sulfur in Japan. Once you take a breath, you will readily see why it is called "sulfur valley." Referred to as "naked mountain" by the local Ainu people, the brownish-red mountain is covered by the white steam, which boasts over 1,500 larger and small volcanic craters. Depart Mt. Io and visit Lake Kussharo Sunayu (Swan Lake). While the surface of the lake freezes over during the winter, a hot spring gushes at lake side, creating a bath area for the swans that flock to the lake. After lunch, learn to make ice cream with fresh Hokkaido milk! Then head to Lake Akan. After enjoying dinner at the hotel this evening, walk to the nearby LAKE AKAN WINTER FESTIVAL WITH FIREWORKS? The completely frozen over lake offers you an unique event experience. Watch the "fuyu-hanabi" fireworks festival set on the ice. Warm up after the festival at the hotel's onsens. AKAN YUKUNO SATO TSURUGA (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 9: Tue, Feb 10 – LAKE AKAN – TOKACHIGAWA. This morning experience ice pond fishing for wakasagi (smelt fish) on Lake Akan. Enjoy freshly made wakasagi tempura. After lunch, stop at the Ryugetsu Sweetpia Factory, famous for their gift sets of cookies and pastries. Upon arrival in Tokachigawa, enjoy a dinner at the hotel. After dinner, explore the TOKACHIGAWA SWAN FESTIVAL? Don't forget to warm up in the hotel onsen. TOKACHIGAWA ONSEN DAIICHI HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 10: Wed, Feb 11 – TOKACHIGAWA – LAKE SHIKOTSU – NOBORIBETSU. Depart Tokachigawa for Noboribetsu. En route, visit Ikeda Wine Castle to learn about wine making and take a tour of their facilities. Enjoy lunch while there. After lunch, explore the LAKE SHIKOTSU ICE FESTIVAL<sup>o</sup> – a fantastic world of ice featuring various snow and ice sculptures created from the water of the nearby lake. Arrive in Noboribetsu. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel tonight. Tonight is your last chance to indulge in the healing waters of Hokkaido's onsens. Don't miss out! NOBORIBETSU DAIICHI TAKIMOTOKAN (1 Night) (B, L, D)



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**Day 11: Thur, Feb 12** – NOBORIBETSU – SHIRAOI – SAPPORO. After breakfast, depart Noboribetsu for the **National Ainu Museum UPOPOY**. Officially opened on July 12, 2020, the mission of the new National Ainu Museum 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. Return to Sapporo, for an evening of leisure. SAPPORO GRAND HOTEL (2 Nights) (B, L)

Day 12: Fri, Feb 13 – SAPPORO – OTARU – SAPPORO. After breakfast, depart Sapporo for Otaru. En route, stop at the Tanaka Sake Brewery to learn how sake is made and sample some of their tasty products. After lunch, arrive in Otaru. Begin with a stroll around the Otaru Canal. Then stop at the Otaru Music Box Museum. A visit to the Kitaichi Glass Company will delight your eyes with beautiful creations. Return to Sapporo. The remainder of the evening is at leisure. (B, L)

Day 13: Sat, Feb 14 - SAPPORO - CHITOSE - HANEDA - HONOLULU. After breakfast, depart the hotel for an AEON MALL for last minute shopping and lunch (on your own). Depart for the airport. Arrive early 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 café (fees may apply) or the Pokémon store UNIOLO 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 9:40 am 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-cruiseline" 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" cruise or 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: 09/25/25. NST at its discretion, may use group and individual photos on its website, print, television, and rewards every time you refer a friend. For each "New-to-NST" 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. 051325

