



# 2026 SPRING BREAK TOHOKU & HOKKAIDO

*Explore the less traveled Tohoku region then enjoy a visit to Hokkaido.  
Enjoy the onsen hot springs of Tsunagi, Kazuno, Hakodate,  
and Lake Toya...a once in a lifetime experience!*

**10 Nights / 12 Days • 24 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches, 6 Dinners)**

**Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide**

**March 12 – 23, 2026 • Tour Manager: Susan Hamada Yee**

**VISIT:** Omiya • Sendai • Matsushima • Rikuzentakata • Hiraizumi  
Tsunagi • Kakunodate • Tazawa • Morioka • Oirase • Towada • Kazuno  
Aomori • Hakodate • Lake Toya • Shiraoi • Sapporo • Ishikari • Otaru

**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:** Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride • Zuihoden • Sendai Shopping Area  
Matsushima Scenic Cruise • Matsushima Fish Market • Zuiganji Temple • Matsushima Museum  
Kanrantei • Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum • Michi-no-Eki Takata Matsubara  
Chusonji Temple • Stroll Around Kakunodate • Aoyagi Samurai Manor Museum  
Lake Tazawa • Tatsuko Statue • Tezukuri Mura • Asabiraki • Lake Towada • Oirase Gorge  
Nebuta Museum WA RASSE • Red Brick Warehouses • Hakodate Night View Tour  
Hakodate Morning Market • Fort Goryokaku • Goryokaku Tower • Michi-no-Eki YAKUMO  
Silo Observatory • National Ainu Museum UPOPOY • TV Tower • Clock Tower  
Former Government Office Building • Odori Park • ROYCE' Cacao and Chocolate Town  
Otaru Canal • Otaru Music Box Museum • Kitaichi Glass Company  
AEON MALL Sapporo Hassamu • Chitose Airport Domestic Terminal Shopping

**HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:** Sasakama Kan (Hand-grilled Fish Cake) Making  
Indigo Dyeing • Ice Cream Making

**COMPLETE  
PACKAGE!**

**\$5,488\***

INCLUDES ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE  
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\* 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](http://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" 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: 10/31/25. NST at its discretion, may use group and individual photos on its website, print, television, and various social media. † Early booking discount is per person. Purchase of NST's complete Air and Land Package is required. ‡ Earn 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.**



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**Day 1: Thur, Mar 12** — HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #71 at 4:10 pm.

**Day 2: Fri, Mar 13** — HANEDA — OMIYA. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 8:10 pm. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to your hotel in Omiya. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure. The hotel is conveniently located a five-minute walk from the JR Omiya Station, which is one of the largest stations in the Saitama Prefecture. There will be various choices for shopping and dining at the train station. PALACE HOTEL OMIYA (1 Night)

**Day 3: Sat, Mar 14** — OMIYA — SENDAI. After breakfast, walk to the Omiya Train Station and depart for Sendai via **Shinkansen Bullet Train**. Upon arrival in Sendai, begin exploring **Zuihoden**, the mausoleum of Date Masamune, one of the most powerful feudal lords of the Edo period. Then, learn how **sasakama kan (hand-grilled fish cake) is made**. Enjoy your grilled fish cakes with lunch. Spend some time in the **Sendai shopping area** before transferring to the hotel for dinner. HOTEL METROPOLITAN SENDAI (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 4: Sun, Mar 15** — SENDAI — MATSUSHIMA — SENDAI. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at hotel depart for a full day of sightseeing to Matsushima. For hundreds of years, Matsushima Bay has been celebrated as one of Japan's three most scenic views alongside Miyajima and Amanohashidate. The bay is dotted by over 200 small islands covered by pine trees. Embark on an unforgettable **sightseeing cruise** before exploring the **Matsushima Fish Market**. Today's lunch includes a special steamed oyster tabehodai. Next visit, **Zuiganji Temple**, one of Tohoku region's most famous and prominent Zen temples. Zuiganji is well known for its beautifully gilded and painted sliding doors. Lastly, visit the **Matsushima Museum**, which houses armor, weapons, tools, and other relics from the feudal times, and the nearby **Kanrantei**, a Momoyama-style tea house for some tea. After returning to the hotel, the remainder of the evening is at your leisure. (B, L)

**Day 5: Mon, Mar 16** — SENDAI — RIKUZENTAKATA — HIRAIZUMI — TSUNAGI. We start the day with a stop at **Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum** to learn about the 2011 tsunami that devastated this area. A stop will be made at **Michi-no-Eki Takata Matsubara**, a roadside station, for a brief break and lunch (on your own). Hiraizumi's most famous attraction, **Chusonji Temple** was established in 850 as a temple of the Tendai sect of Buddhism. The temple came to prominence when the northern branch of the Fujiwara clan moved their base to Hiraizumi. At peak, the temple consisted of a large network of dozens of buildings. Enjoy a soak in the luxurious **onsen hot springs** and a gourmet **Kaiseki Dinner**. HOTEL SHION (1 Night) (B, D)

**Day 6: Tue, Mar 17** — TSUNAGI — KAKUNODATE — TAZAWA — MORIOKA. Start the day taking a stroll around **Kakunodate** — a former castle town and samurai stronghold. Once housing about 80 families, Kakunodate is one of the best examples of samurai architecture and housing in the country. Visit **Aoyagi Samurai Manor Museum**, one of the best examples of how middle class and wealthy samurai families might have lived. After lunch, visit **Lake Tazawa (Tazawako)**. A scenic caldera lake that has not been overly developed and retains a natural and rustic atmosphere. At the western end of the lake there is a famous **golden statue of a woman named Tatsuko** that has become a local symbol. According to legend, Tatsuko was a beautiful girl who prayed to retain her beauty forever but was instead cursed and turned into a dragon and eventually sunk to the bottom of Lake Tazawa. In a fun hands-on activity at **Tezukur Mura**, a traditional arts and craft village, you'll **learn how to dye using indigo** before transferring to the hotel in Morioka, where the remainder of the day is at your leisure. HOTEL METROPOLITAN MORIOKA NEW WING (1 Night) (B, L)

\*Baggage will be sent from Morioka to Hakodate, skipping Kazuno. Prepare an overnight bag for one night.

**Day 7: Wed, Mar 18** — MORIOKA — OIRASE — TOWADA — KAZUNO. Begin the day **learning about sake** at **Asabiraki**. After lunch, visit **Lake Towada**, the largest caldera lake on Honshu, Japan's main island. It is characterized by

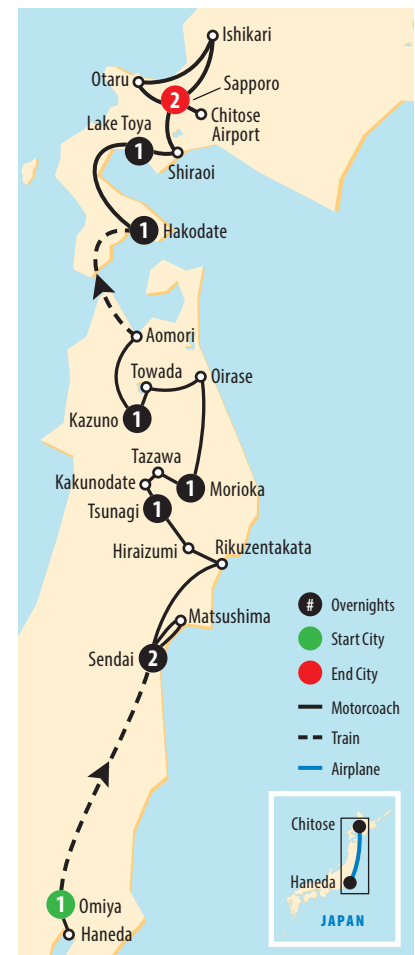
two large peninsulas, which extend nearly a third way across the lake. Oirase Stream is a picturesque mountain stream in Aomori Prefecture that is one of Japan's most famous and popular destinations. The stream flows along the floor of the Oirase Gorge, winding among trees which, while a lush green in spring and summer, turn brilliant shades of red, yellow and orange from late October through early November. Over a dozen waterfalls cascade down into the stream all along its length from the walls of the gorge. Take a relaxing **walk around Oirase Gorge**. This evening enjoy a **Kaiseki Dinner** at the hotel. The **onsen hot springs** — 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. OYU ONSEN HOTEL KAZUNO (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 8: Thur, Mar 19** — KAZUNO — AOMORI — HAKODATE. This morning we make our way to Hakodate. En route, stop at **Nebuta Museum WA RASSE**, an interesting museum dedicated to the city's famous Nebuta Matsuri which is held annually in early August. The museum attempts to capture the spirit of the festival and gives visitors a taste of its lively atmosphere, history and traditions. Transfer to Hakodate by **Shinkansen Bullet Train**. Enjoy a bento box lunch onboard the Shinkansen. To travel between the islands of Honshu and Hokkaido, trains pass through the Seikan Tunnel, the longest seabed tunnel in the world. Upon arrival, spend some free time at the **Red Brick Warehouses**. Renovated in 1909, these buildings now house trendy souvenir and fashion shops, sweet shops, restaurants, and a beer hall. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before enjoying a spectacular, **night-view tour of Hakodate**. Don't forget to try out the various **onsens** at the hotel. CENTURY MARINA HAKODATE (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 9: Fri, Mar 20** — HAKODATE — LAKE TOYA. After breakfast, visit the world famous **Hakodate Morning Market**, where a variety of freshly caught seafood will be on display. Visit the **Fort Goryokaku**, a massive, star shaped, Western-style citadel, which was built in the last years of the Edo Period for the defense of Hakodate against the imperialist threat posed by the Western powers. After the fort had lost its military importance, it was turned into a public park. Visit the 107 meter high **Goryokaku Tower**, located within the park grounds. Make a stop after lunch at **Michi-no-Eki YAKUMO**, before continuing on to Lake Toya. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. Tonight is the last night to spend time relaxing in the hotel **onsen**. Don't miss your chance! THE LAKE VIEW TOYA NONOKAZE RESORT SPA RESORT BUILDING (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 10: Sat, Mar 21** — LAKE TOYA — SHIRAOI — SAPPORO. Start the day by taking in the view from the **Silo Observatory** — where you can see panoramic views of Lake Toya, Nakajima Island, Mt. Usu, and Mt. Showa Shinzan. It is one of Japan's leading photography spots. While here, you'll **learn how to make fresh ice cream**. After lunch, learn about Japan's local Ainu population at 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. Upon arrival in Sapporo, get a brief city tour. Drive by the **TV Tower, Clock Tower, Former Government Office Building, and Odori Park**. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure. Your Tour Guide will have many suggestions for dinner and shopping. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL SAPPORO (2 Nights) (B, L)

**Day 11: Sun, Mar 22** — SAPPORO — ISHIKARI — OTARU — SAPPORO. After breakfast, depart Sapporo for Otaru. En route, stop for lunch. **Pick out "LIVE" crabs** from the tanks, to enjoy with a special kaisendon (fresh seafood over rice) lunch. After lunch, stop at the new **ROYCE' Cacao and Chocolate Town** to learn how the famous ROYCE' chocolate treats are made. Precisely crafted using only the highest quality ingredients, ROYCE' has been making exquisite, world-class confections in Hokkaido. Hokkaido is best known for its cool climate and rich natural resources, making it an ideal place for producing chocolates



of excellent quality. The philosophy of ROYCE' for constantly producing perfect chocolates still holds true, and the result is a brand that people around the world have come to love. Receive a complimentary sample at the end of the tour. Otaru served as a major trade and fishing port in the 1800s. After arriving in Otaru, take 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. Enjoy dinner before returning to the hotel in Sapporo. (B, L, D)

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

**Day 12: Mon, Mar 23** — SAPPORO — CHITOSE — HANEDA — HONOLULU. After breakfast, depart the hotel for one last shopping stop at **AEON MALL Sapporo Hassamu** before checking in for the flight home. Arrive early at the Chitose Airport and begin exploring the **shopping mall located within the Domestic Terminal**. Consisting of our 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 the Chitose Domestic Airport via Japan Airlines flt #516 at 3:50 pm and arrive at the Haneda Domestic Airport at 5:35 pm. Depart the Haneda International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #74 at 9:00 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 9:00 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)