2018 Fall
Tohoku & Hokkaido Tour #2

Let’s Support Tohoku! “Ganbatte Tohoku!” Explore the less traveled Tohoku region then enjoy a visit to Hokkaido. Enjoy the onsen (hot springs) of Tsunagi and Noboribetsu—a once in a lifetime experience!

9 Nights / 11 Days • 21 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches & 7 Dinners) Escorted from Honolulu • Includes English Speaking Local Guide

October 15 – 25, 2018 • Tour Manager: Wally Mau

VISIT:
Sendai • Matsushima • Kesennuma • Hiraizumi • Tsunagi • Tazawa • Morioka • Oirase Towada • Aomori • Hakodate • Noboribetsu • Lake Shikotsu • Sapporo • Otaru

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:
Matsushima Scenic Cruise • Entsu In Temple • Sendai Shopping Area
Roman Kaiyu 21 • Kadowaki School • Kesennuma Seafood Market • Chusonji Temple
Tatsuko Statue at Lake Tazawa • Oirase Gorge • Lake Towada Cruise • Hirosaki Castle
Nebuta House Warasse • JR Super Express Train Ride • Hakodate Night View Tour
Hakodate Morning Market • Fort Goryokaku • Jidai Mura • Jigokudani (Hell Valley)
Lake Shikotsu • Susukino Shopping Area • Odori Park • Mt. Okura Lift
Otaru Walking Tour • Kitaichi Glass Shop • Le Tao Sweet Shop • Kitakaro Bakery
Nikka Whisky Factory • Asahi Beer Factory • AEON Mall

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES:
Senbei Making

COMPLETE PACKAGE!
$4150*

INCLUDES ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE FROM HONOLULU, 9 NIGHTS HOTEL, 21 MEALS, TIPS FOR LOCAL TOUR GUIDES AND BUS DRIVERS, ALL TAXES & FEES

EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT PER PERSON
SAVE $50
BOOK BY APRIL 30, 2018†

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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. After initial deposit, a $25 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 & 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 and “final” tour itinerary are subject to change. 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: 06/07/18.

† Early Booking Discount is per person. Purchase of Non-Stop Travel’s complete Air & Land package is required.

Special Assistance: You must notify Non-Stop Travel (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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2018 FALL TOHOKU & HOKKAIDO TOUR #2 DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY


Day 2: Tue, Oct 16 – SENDAI. Arrive Sendai. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to hotel. Enjoy a bento dinner this evening enroute to the hotel. HOTEL METROPOLITAN SENDAI (2 Nights) (D)

Day 3: Wed, Oct 17 – 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 Amakusa. The bay is dotted by over 200 small islands covered by pine trees. Embark on an unforgettable sightseeing cruise. Next visit, Ensu In Temple built in 1646 to house the mausoleum of Date Mitsumune, the son of the ruling local feudal lord Date Terumune. Special treat for lunch: Gyutan, a dish consisting of pieces of thinly sliced beef tongue, cooked over a charcoal grill. Before returning to our hotel our guide will give a brief tour of Sendai’s shopping area. Walk to a nearby restaurant for a welcome dinner (B, L, D)

Day 4: Thu, Oct 18 – SENDAI – KESENNUMA – HIRAIZUMI – TSUNAGI. We start the day with a stop at Roman Kiyu 21 for some shopping. Then drive-by the Kadowaki School and witness the devastation caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami on March 11, 2011. We then make way to Kesennuma’s Seafood Market. “Umino Ichi” to see the incredible economic recovery taking place. Known as the “shark fishing capital of Japan”, you may want to try a bowl of shark fin soup or a super-fresh seafood donburi for lunch (on your own). Be sure to explore the many gift items made from shark skins and support the local economy. 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. TSUNAGI OSEN HOTEL SHION (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 5: Fri, Oct 19 – TSUNAGI – TAZAWA – MORIOKA. Start the day with a fun hands-on activity. Learn to make Tezukuri Mura Senbei. Next 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 golden statue of a woman named Tatsuko, the western end of the lake there is a 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. HOTEL METROPOLITAN MORIOKA NEW WING (1 Night) (B, L)

Day 6: Sat, Oct 20 – MORIOKA – OIRASE – TOWADA. 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. After lunch, enjoy a sightseeing cruise on 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. This evening enjoy dinner at your hotel. OYU OSEN HOTEL KAZUNO (1 Night) (B, L, D)

(*Baggage will be sent from Towada to Noboribetsu, skipping Hakodate. Prepare an overnight bag.)

Day 7: Sun, Oct 21 – TOWADA – AOMORI – HAKODATE. This morning we make way to Aomori. Hirosaki Castle was built in 1611 by the Tsugaru Clan. A three-story castle tower, fortified moats, castle gates and some corner turrets (yagura) survive or were reconstructed. Next visit the Nebuta House Warasse, 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. After lunch at a local restaurant, transfer to Hakodate by JR Super Express Train Ride. To travel between the islands of Honshu and Hokkaido, trains pass through the Seikan Tunnel, the longest seabed tunnel in the world. After dinner at your hotel enjoy a spectacular, “night-view tour”. LA VISTA HAKODATE BAY (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 8: Mon, Oct 22 – HAKODATE – NOBORIBETSU. After breakfast, visit the world famous Hakodate Morning Market. Sample a variety of freshly caught seafood. Next visit, 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. Now make way to Noboribetsu Jidai Mura, a history theme park highlighting the Edo Period, one of the most attractive era in Japanese history. Step back in time to enjoy traditional games, activities, theaters, street performances and more. The charm of ancient Japan is abundant as you mingle with the Ninja and Daimyo courtiers so symbolic of the Edo Period. Next visit, Jigokudani or “Hell Valley”. A spectacular, appropriately named valley just above the town of Noboribetsu Onsen, which displays hot steam vents, sulfurous streams and other volcanic activity. It is a main source of Noboribetsu’s hot spring waters. This evening enjoy a soak in the onsen (hot springs) and a Crab and Seafood Buffet. HOTEL MAHOROBA (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 9: Tue, Oct 23 – NOBORIBETSU – LAKE SHIKOTSU – SAPPORO. Lake Shikotsu is located in southwestern Hokkaido, west of the city of Chitose. It is a crater lake that was formed over 40,000 years ago by volcanic activity, and it has a maximum depth of 363 meters, making it the second deepest lake in Japan. Now we make way to Sapporo. First we stop at the Sushukino Shopping Area for a lunch break at the famous Ramen Alley (on your own). A stop will be made at Odori Park before departing to enjoy the spectacular views from the top of Mount Okura. The 90 meter ski jump competitions of the Winter Olympics 1972 were held in the Okurayama Ski Jump Stadium. Nowadays, when the stadium is not being used for World Cup or other ski jump events, the Okurayama Observatory at the top of the hill can be accessed via a chair lift for spectacular views of Sapporo. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL SAPPORO (2 Nights) (B)

Day 10: Wed, Oct 24 – SAPPORO – OTARU – SAPPORO. This morning visit Otaru which served as a major trade and fishing port in the 1800s. The Otaru Canal makes for a pleasant stroll. Enjoy a walking tour with your tour guide. Visit Kitaichi Glass Shop, Le Tao Sweet Shop, Otaru Canal, and Kitakoro Bakery. On our way back to Sapporo, stop at Nikka Whisky Factory. This evening let’s celebrate new friendships and discoveries at our farewell dinner! (B, D)

Day 11: Thur, Oct 25 – SAPPORO – HONOLULU. After breakfast we make our way way to Chitose. Visit the Asahi Beer Factory then one last shopping stop at Sapporo AERON Mall before checking in for our flight home. Depart Sapporo and arrive Honolulu the same day. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B)