



Ainu Marimo Festival

14 DAY JAPAN NORTHERN TOUR Platinum AINU MARIMO FESTIVAL 2022

JOIN US ON A SPECIAL NORTHERN TOUR OF JAPAN

- 5-Star Accommodation or best available
- Gourmet dinners and local cuisine
- Ainu Marimo Festival

Learn about the hidden culture of Japan's "Ainu" aboriginal people, with an itinerary organised to coincide with the Ainu Marimo festival in Hokkaido. This Platinum tour has been designed for experienced visitors to learn about the hidden culture of Japan's "Ainu" aboriginal people. Experience the wonderful wild nature of the unspoiled Northern Mountains, the sea and rivers. Tour the Tohoku region, the Northern part of the main island of Japan, which still holds on to its proud history, and retains a very modest, rustic way of life. Visit many hidden places which other package tours do not offer. The tour is also designed to allow you to discover the real Japan by exploring small towns and parks. The Autumn colours at this time of year start in Hokkaido and Kamikochi, the gateway to the Northern Alps' climbing routes. We complete the tour in this famous mountain resort in Nagano, where one can enjoy walking through the vast virgin forests of birch and Japanese larch trees in this glacial valley, or perhaps simply kick back and relax at the Alpine Resort.

Departs Thursday 06 October 2022
Returns Wednesday 19 October 2022

■ AIR PACKAGE DEAL from Sydney

Per person / twin share / land and air package

Economy Class from **\$11,835**

Premier Economy from **\$13,440**

Business Class from **\$15,110**

■ Single room arrangement from \$ 3,200

J&H TOURS



Shiretoko Peninsula

SYDNEY - TOKYO

Day 1 Thu 06 October

Leave from Sydney by All Nippon Airways overnight flight AN880 at 9:30 pm.

TOKYO [D]

Day 2 Fri 07 October

Arrive at Tokyo Haneda airport and on arrival a transfer service will take us to our 5 star hotel, the Imperial Hotel Tokyo, where we check in for 1 night. We will visit a local restaurant for dinner this evening.

Accommodation: 1 night at The Imperial Hotel Tokyo

TOKYO – SHIRETOKO [B, D]

Day 3 Sat 08 October

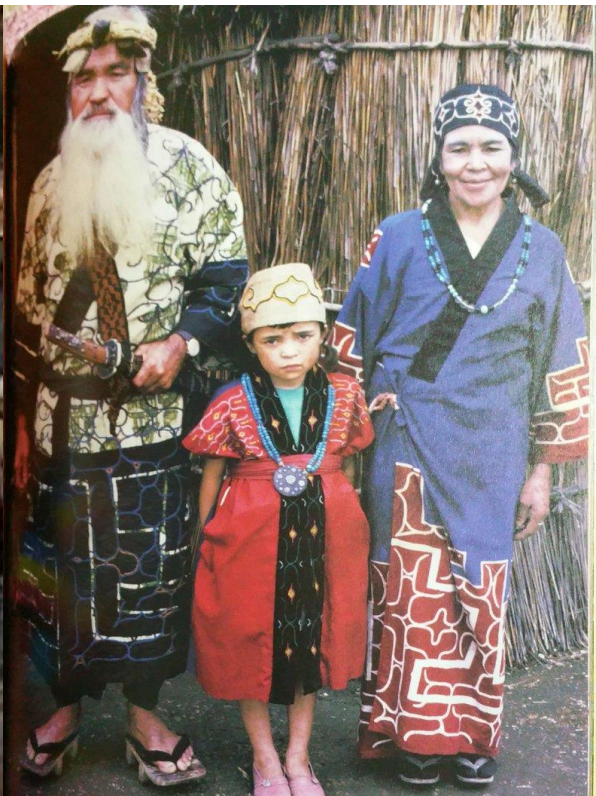
After breakfast, we check out from our hotel. Midday, we fly to Kushiro on the east coast of Hokkaido. Upon arrival, we will be transferred to Lake Akan, the centre of Ainu culture in Hokkaido. Ainu from all over Japan congregate at Lake Akan each year for the ancient Marimo Festival, which we will be enjoying tomorrow. We check-in at the Tsuruga hotel for 2 nights. After dinner at the hotel we will soak up some of the local culture with a walk around the Lake Akan shopping strip, lined with little shops plying handicrafts and sculptures for which the Ainu are so famous.

Accommodation: 2 nights at Lake Akan Tsuruga Wings





Akan Aino Marimo Festival



HISTORY OF THE AINU PEOPLE

Hokkaido was settled by the Ainu, Nivkh and Orok peoples 20,000 years ago. The population remained small (around 60,000) and largely secluded from the rest of Japan until the mid 1800s. Hokkaido has therefore, for much of the last 20,000 years, remained a wilderness area - a frontier territory famous for its natural beauty and as the last refuge of the indigenous Ainu people

LAKE AKAN [B, D]

Ainu Marimo Festival

Day 4 Sun 09 October

Mid morning, we will take a stroll along the shore of Lake Akan and perhaps visit the Marimo Exhibition and Observation Center on Churui Island. This evening, after an early dinner, we will watch the traditional Marimo festival of the Ainu people (Japanese Aborigines) including the colourful torch-lit parade and ceremonial traditional folk dances of the different Ainu tribes.

LAKE AKAN – SHIRETOKO [B, D]

Day 5 Mon 10 October

We leave the hotel by chartered bus this morning to beautiful caldera lake, Lake Mashu. After viewing the lake and exploring the visitor centre, we head on to the peaceful rustic fishing village of Utoro in the world heritage listed Shiretoko Peninsula National Park, home to deer, foxes and squirrels. We visit Oshinkoshin waterfall and may be able to see the salmon run in the local stream as they head upstream to spawn. We make our way to The Shiretoko Daiichi Hotel and check in for 2 nights.

Accommodation: 2 nights at The Shiretoko Daiichi Hotel

SHIRETOKO [B, D]

Day 6 Tue 11 October

Morning at leisure. This afternoon we board a cruiser to travel around the picturesque Shiretoko peninsula. We will visit Shiretoko Goko (5 lakes) and do a little bush walking along carefully curated tracks and take in the scenery. Dinner at hotel.

SHIRETOKO – SAPPORO [B]

Day 7 Wed 12 October

After checking out from our hotel we travel by chartered coach to Memanbetsu domestic airport to catch a flight for Sapporo to arrive mid afternoon. Upon arrival at Sapporo, we transfer to our hotel and check in for 2 nights. No dinner is organised for this evening, but your tour coordinator will be happy to assist you with your dinner arrangements.

Accommodation: 2 nights at Sapporo Prince Hotel



SAPPORO [B]

Day 8 Thu 13 October

Today we take a train to the picturesque port town of Otaru, spending the day there before returning to Sapporo mid afternoon.

SAPPORO – KAMIKOCHI [B, D]

Day 9 Fri 14 October

We check out from hotel and transfer to Sapporo airport to travel to Toyama, situated in Hokuriku region on The Japan Sea coast. Upon arrival at Toyama, we will be transferred to The Kamikochi Imperial Hotel snuggled in a secluded glacial valley. The Azusa-gawa River valley is known as the gateway to the Northern Alps' climbing routes. We check in for 2 nights. Dinner at the hotel's French restaurant. Imperial Hotel Tokyo's French restaurant "Les Saisons" has been awarded Michelin hats last every year for 17 years since 2005.

Accommodation: 2 nights at The Kamikochi Imperial Hotel

KAMIKOCHI [B, D]

Day 10 Sat 15 October

Today enjoy walking through Kamikochi and across Kappabashi bridge, one of the most scenic spots in Japan. Surrounded by The Hotaka Mountain Range, Mt. Yake-dake and Jonen Mountains, the area features vast virgin forests of birch and Japanese larch trees. Kamikochi is a small basin some 1,500 meters above sea level on the upper stream area of the Azusa-gawa River and was one of Japan's first mountaineering resorts after the country was opened to the west in the late nineteenth century. Tonight enjoy Japanese Traditional Kaiseki Dinner at the hotel.

KAMIKOCHI – TOKYO [B]

Day 11 Sun 16 October

This morning, we check-out from the hotel and travel back to Tokyo. We travel to Matsumoto by chartered coach where we will visit the Matsumoto "Crow" Castle, one of Japan's premier historic castles and which was once the seat of the Matsumoto domain. We catch an express train to Nagano where we change to a Bullet Train to Tokyo. Arriving mid-afternoon in Tokyo, we check in at the Imperial Hotel Tokyo for 2 nights. The remainder of the day is free to either relax or explore a bit of Ginza. Your tour coordinator will help you organise your activities.

Accommodation: 2 nights at The Imperial Hotel Tokyo



Imperial Hotel Kamikochi



Kamikochi Kappabashi



Kamikochi i



Matsumoto Castle

TOKYO [B, Farewell drinks]

Day at leisure. Farewell drinks at the hotel.

Day 12 Mon 17 October

TOKYO – HOME [B]

Today is our last day in Japan, so you might wish to do some last minute souvenir hunting or an optional half day activity. Perhaps follow your escort to the Meiji shrine and Omotesando promenade of Harajuku, where Tokyo's old & new cultures meet. Late afternoon, transfer to Haneda airport. Depart from Haneda by All Nippon Airways flight, AN879, overnight flight at 10:20pm.

Day 13 Tue 18 October

ARRIVE HOME

9:55am Arrive Sydney.

Day 14 Wed 19 October

14 Day Japan Autumn Northern Tour Ainu Marimo Festival Platinum 2022

TOUR INCLUSIONS

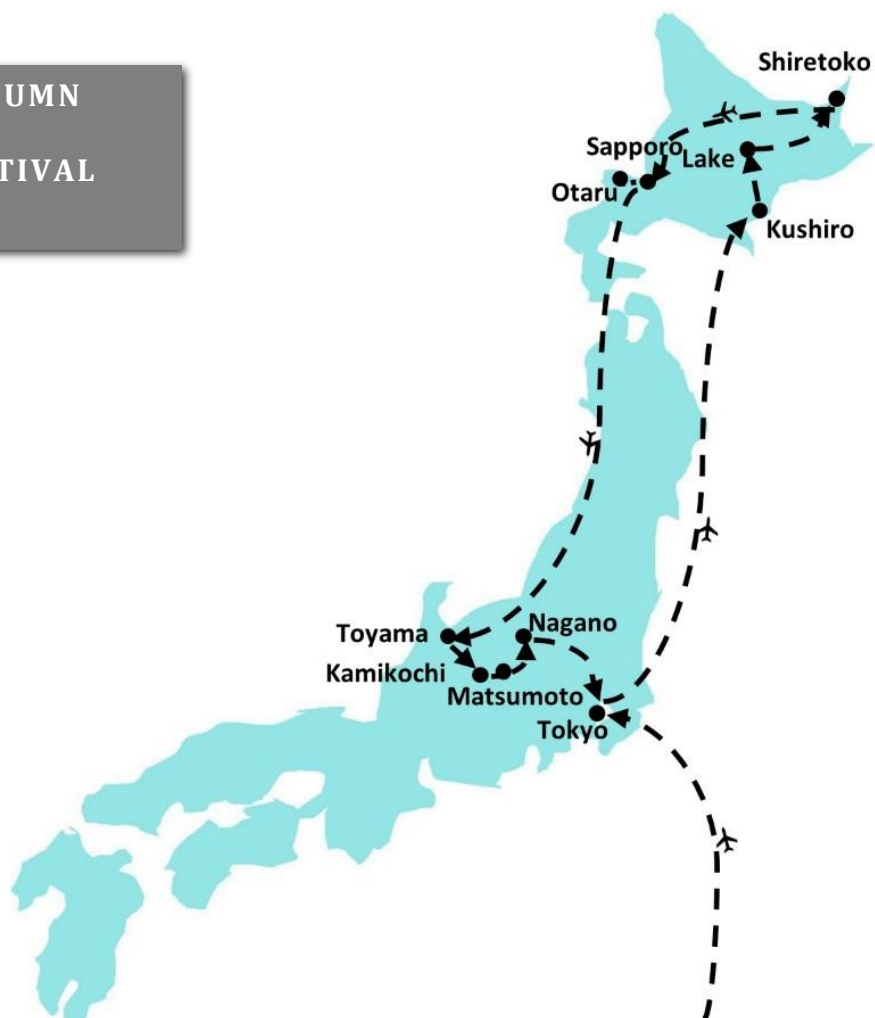
- Fully Escorted
- Return International flights and 3 domestic flights (taxes and charges are not included)
- 5 star accommodation and/or best available rooms at Onsen hot spring resorts.
- Gourmet dinners and variety of local cuisine.
- All transfers, sightseeing and baggage portorage as specified
- Total Meals: 19 meals, Daily Breakfast (11) Lunch (0) Dinner (8)

Exclusions: your travel insurance, beverages during meals (except where specified)

Please let us know your interest as early as possible to secure the air tickets, as the airline will revise the quotation every 3 weeks. Once we lock in the air reservations with a minimum 10 passengers' names, full payments due 45 days before departure.

If either the Japanese or Australian government were to prohibit travel after full payment has been made, payments will be fully refundable. If a passenger cancels, normal cancellation conditions apply.

**14 DAY JAPAN AUTUMN
NORTHERN TOUR
AINU MARIMO FESTIVAL
PLATINUM 2022**



Temperature

| OCTOBER | Kushiro | Shiretoko | Sapporo | Kamikochi | Tokyo |
|---------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|-------|
| Maximum | 16.8°C | 14.4°C | 16.2°C | 13.3°C | 22°C |
| Minimum | 7.4°C | 5.5°C | 7.5°C | 6°C | 15°C |



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