

# Fishing in the Wilderness of East Hokkaido

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## Welcome to Eastern Hokkaido!

Enjoy catch and release fishing amid abundant nature with guides who love what they do.

Located in the east of Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan, the Shiretoko and Akan areas are a natural paradise with wetlands, lakes, and diverse flora and fauna. Shiretoko, registered as a World Natural Heritage Site, is blessed with an abundance of untouched nature, from forests to rivers to the Sea of Okhotsk, which is covered with spectacular drift ice in winter. As you cast your line on the peaceful lake, you'll see how the elements of Shiretoko's nature are interconnected.

Your salmon fishing tour will start with some interesting background information about Shiretoko. We'll then head for the Akan area, an area important to the indigenous Ainu people, and try to catch rainbow trout or Japanese char! Fly fishing fans will be in paradise here.

One of the best fishing spots in the area is about 10 minutes drive from the main street where the hotels are located (although we may move to another spot depending on fishing conditions). It's rare to be able to access a place like this without a seaplane or helicopter, making Lake Akan popular with fishing enthusiasts from all over the world.

After your day on the lake, you'll enjoy Hokkaido seafood with the other travelers.

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# Highlights

- Nature walk in Shiretoko ▪ a World Heritage Site ▪ and salmon run tour
- Catching wild rainbow trout and Japanese char
- Fishing for colorful Dolly Varden trout
- Experience Japanese Hot Spring culture
- Interesting commentary from local guides

# Location

Shiretoko, Akan, Eastern Hokkaido

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<b>Main Activity:</b>	Wild Fishing (Lure and Fly)
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<b>Difficulty:</b>	3/5
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<b>Availability :</b>	Recommended from May until September ▪
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<b>Tour Duration :</b>	5Nights 6Days
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<b>Pax:</b>	Minimum 4	Maximum 6
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<b>Price:</b>	JPY 398,000~
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[Route map](#)

[Day-by-day Itinerary](#)

[What' s included](#)

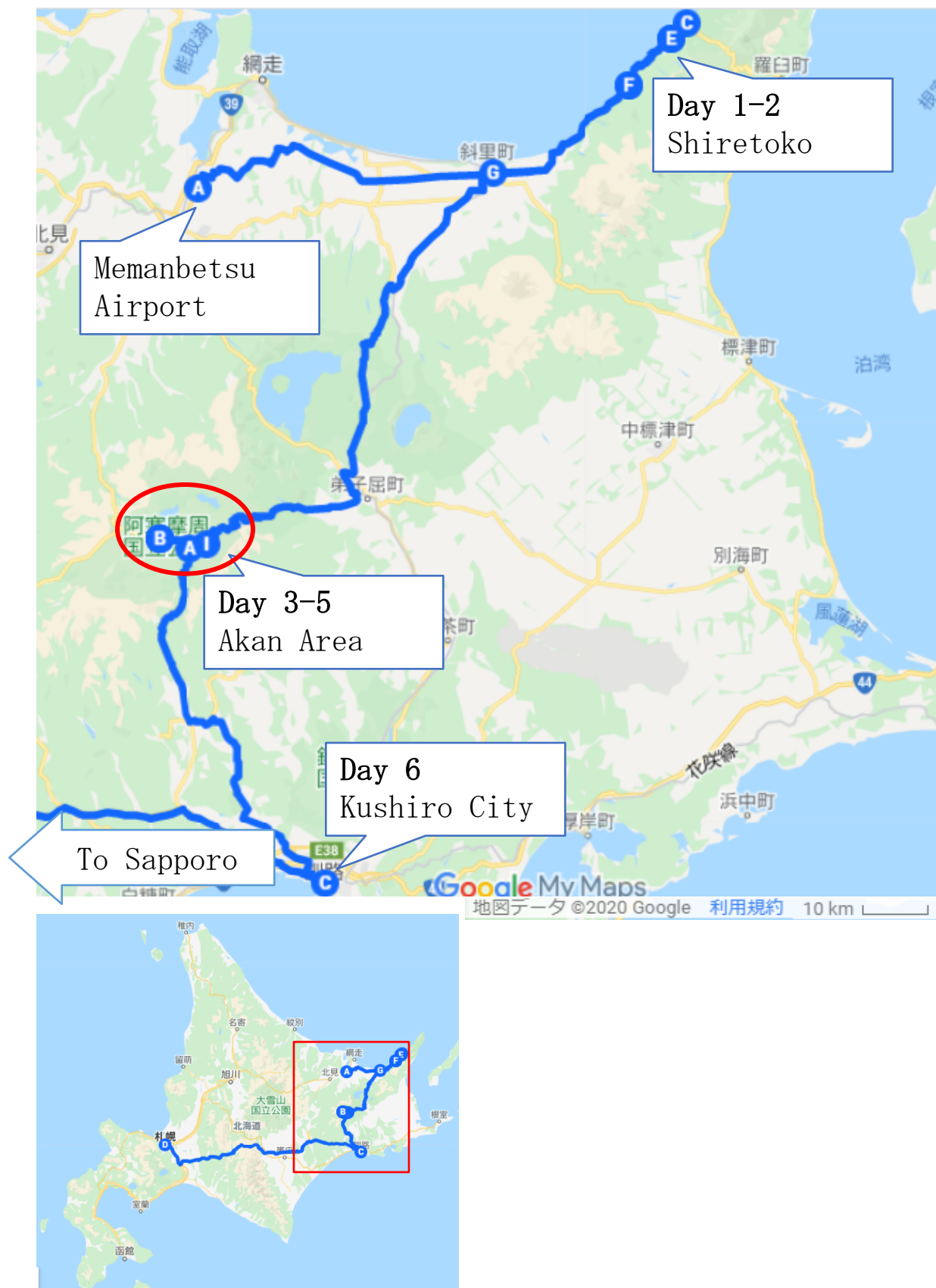
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## Route map



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# Day-by-day Itinerary

## Day 1: Arrival at Memanbetsu Airport

We'll meet you at Memanbetsu Airport ▪ our English-speaking guide will be waiting for you at the arrival gate. You can fly directly from Haneda Airport in Tokyo to Memanbetsu Airport (MMB) on JAL, ANA or AIR DO. Once all of the group has arrived, we'll head for the KITAKOBUSHI SHIRETOKO hotel and resort in Shiretoko, with an orientation provided on the private coach. Dinner will be served at the hotel's buffet restaurant, Terrace Dining Haon, where you'll enjoy authentic Shiretoko cuisine on a modern terrace with a stunning view of Utoro Port.

Terrace Dining Haon's Shiretoko Buffet is a new take on buffets with 50 dishes that defy classification as "Japanese" or "Western". With a delicious array of piping-hot offerings from the live kitchen and open kitchen and a dedicated sweets kitchen with a pâtissier, Kitakobushi's sophisticated buffet is like no other.

Your luxurious hot spring experience will leave you feeling refreshed and full of energy for your tour.



### Dinner

KITAKOBUSHI SHIRETOKO HOTEL

TERRACE DINING HAON

Buffet style dinner

Over 50 dishes.

Enjoy freshly cooked food  
from the live kitchen!

Note: The photo is a sample image.

## Day 2: Easy hiking and lure fishing

Our tour starts with a hike through the nature of Shiretoko, a World Natural Heritage site.

After breakfast at the hotel, you'll attend an orientation for the tour and have time to get to know the other visitors. You'll then go for a walk along the "Animal Trail" with a local guide. As you make your way along the mountain trail, you'll hear the sound of woodpeckers tapping the trees and the rustling of wild animals. The signs of the area's wildlife are everywhere, from footprints to traces of the food each animal eats. As you admire the magnificent trees that can survive Hokkaido's harsh elements, you'll feel like you're in a landscape painting. ▪



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## Lunch

KITAKOBUSHI SHIRETOKO HOTEL

Café and Bar 334

A la carte lunch

Menu changes daily

Note: The photo is a sample image.

Typical meals include pasta, sandwiches, curry and rice and seafood on rice.



After lunch, we'll move to the river to watch the salmon run. Every fall, salmon swim up Hokkaido's many rivers from the sea. We'll take you to a river nearby to observe this wonder of the natural world. You'll also learn about the relationship between salmon and trout, nature and the local community from local guides.

After the salmon run tour, you'll try salmon fishing at the mouth of a river in Shari, which has had the largest catch of salmon in Japan every year for 15 years.

The basic method this time is lure fishing. Don't worry if you're a beginner, a local professional guide will teach you how!

Note: We may move to another spot depending on the fishing conditions.



## Dinner

Kaiseki (traditional Japanese multiple course dinner) at KITAKOBUSHI SHIRETOKO HOTEL

Note: The photo is a sample image.

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### Activity

Walking: 3hours/3km/almost no difference in elevation

Lure fishing: 2hours

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### Difficulty

Walking: 1 / 5

Fishing: 3 / 5

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## Day 3: Salmon Fishing (lure fishing)

In the morning, we'll move to another area in Shiretoko to continue salmon fishing. Our local guide will find the best fishing spot for your second day of fishing during the best fishing season of the year.

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### Lunch

Local restaurant

Salmon chanchan-yaki (grilled salmon with vegetables)

Chanchan-yaki is a traditional dish from fishing towns in Hokkaido. According to local lore, fishermen would gather on the beach and cook a huge piece of fresh salmon and vegetables on an iron plate.

After lunch, we will move to the Ainu Kotan village in Akan, where we will spend the night. Accommodation is at Lake Akan's iconic Tsuruga WINGS. This stylish, contemporary hot spring inn features an impressive lobby gallery, including examples of Ainu craftsmanship, and offers a range of healthy cuisine created with an emphasis on natural seasonal ingredients. With hot stone baths featuring a range of temperatures, scents and herbs, the hot spring will rejuvenate your body and soul.

Single rooms are available for you, with amazing views of the primeval nature around Lake Akan. Each room has a bathroom, shower, TV and Wi-Fi.

### Dinner

Hotel restaurant

Kaiseki style dinner

Western-style seating in tatami room.

Note: The photo is a sample image.



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### Activity

Lure fishing for salmon: 6-7hours

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### Difficulty

3 / 5

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## Day 4: Fly fishing in Hyotan Pond

Now you' ll see why Lake Akan is one of the best places for fly fishing! Anglers from Japan and abroad flock to Lake Akan, with many coming back again. Experienced local guide Shigeru (Dameon) Takada will take you on a fly fishing trip like no other.

You' ll start the day with a healthy and delicious breakfast buffet, with 50 Japanese and Western dishes made from seasonal vegetables. The mixed vegetable and fruit juice is the perfect finishing touch.

You' ll then spend the day fly fishing in Hyotan pond at the foot of Mt. Oakan. You' ll be amazed by the wilderness that lies just a 10-minute drive from the main hotel street.

The pond is small, with an average depth of about 1.5 meters, but with primeval forest all around, you' ll be captivated by the natural beauty. It' s very rare to be able to fish in such stunning scenery so close to your hotel.

On this trip, you' ll try to catch rainbow trout (Nijimasu) and the native char (Iwana), symbolic species of Lake Akan.

Whether you are beginner or professional, you' ll have a wonderful time fishing with Dameon.

Note: We may move to another spot depending on the fishing conditions.

### Lunch

Local restaurant

(Your fishing spot may change on the day depending on fishing conditions. Your guide will take you to a local restaurant near the fishing spot.)

### Dinner

Izakaya (Japanese-style pub) in the Akan city center

Note: The photo is a sample image.



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### Activity

Fly fishing: 6-8 hours

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### Difficulty

3 / 5

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## Day 5: Stream fishing in the Akan River (fly fishing)

Today's fly fishing trip will be on the Akan River.

Located just a 10-minute drive from the hotel, this is the best spot for rainbow trout fishing! Your guide from yesterday will take you on a day-long trip on this beautiful mountain stream.

This fishing spot is a designated catch and release area managed by Akan Fishery Cooperative. Dameon will take you fly fishing, but both fly fishing and lure fishing are permitted.

These conditions mean that you'll see many big rainbow trout here. But that doesn't mean the conditions are easy! Dameon will teach you the technique you need to know to get a bite.

You'll finish the day with a buffet-style dinner at Tsuruga WINGS. A delicious, healthy buffet, Tsuruga WINGS offers a new take on buffet-style dinners, with a sophisticated range of 70 dishes that defy classification as "Japanese" or "Western".

Clean eating is a focus, with minimal preservatives and dyes to allow the natural tastes of the ingredients to take center stage. Make your own menu with this new way to dine in Hokkaido.

### Lunch

Local restaurant

(Your fishing spot may change on the day depending on fishing conditions. Your guide will take you to a local restaurant near the fishing spot.)

### Dinner

Buffet-style dinner at Tsuruga WINGS, where you can show each other your catches!

Tsuruga WINGS offers a new style of buffet dinner with a range of about 70 dishes that transcends the boundaries between Japanese and Western cuisine. Enjoy delicious Hokkaido dishes created with an emphasis on using healthy seasonal ingredients without artificial preservatives and coloring. Note: The photo is a sample image.



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### Activity

Whole day fly fishing

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### Difficulty

3 / 5

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## Day 6 : Transfer to Sapporo

After breakfast, you' ll check out of the inn and depart for Kushiro, where the train station is located, by car. There' ll be time before your train to explore Kushiro, a city that flourished through its fishing industry.

### lunch

Free time in Kushiro City  
(lunch is not included in the cost of the tour)

We' ll then leave Kushiro for Sapporo.  
It takes about 4 and a half hours by train.

## Accommodation

### Kitakobushi Shiretoko Hotel and Resort

Private room

- Wi-Fi available
- A laundromat is available 24 hours a day on the first floor  
(washing machine: 500 yen per use / drier: 200 yen for 50 minutes)
- Hot spring on the 8th floor.

### Akan Yuku no Sato TSURUGA

Private room

- Wi-Fi available
- A laundromat is available 24 hours a day on the first floor  
(washing machine: 300 yen per use / drier: 100 yen for 30 minutes)
- Hot spring on the 1st and 8th floor.

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# About Japanese culture

## Japanese-style inns (ryokan)

No other country has accommodation quite like ryokan, which reflect Japan's unique style of hospitality. Stylistic elements of traditional Japanese culture can be seen in every element, including the architecture, garden design, cuisine, hot springs (onsen) and rooms.

## Hot springs (onsen)

When you stay in a Japanese-style inn, choose one with a hot spring if you can. Each hot spring has different minerals depending on the source of hot water from underground, which have a variety of health benefits. In fact, hot springs were once used as a medical treatment because of their efficacy. Hot springs are usually communal, and 99% are gender segregated. The hot springs you will stay at in Shiretoko and Lake Akan are colorless, transparent and gentle on the skin, making them popular among children and the elderly.

## Traditional Japanese cuisine (washoku)

Traditional Japanese cuisine, known as *washoku*, was registered as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2013.

*Washoku* is known for its healthy dishes, subtle seasonings that draw out the flavor of the ingredients and beautiful presentation. Each cooking method—grilling, cooking in broth, deep-frying, sashimi, fermenting and stir-fry—is its own work of art. The food culture varies from one area to another, with many different local specialties made with each region's seasonal ingredients.

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## What's included

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- ï English speaking guide and experienced activity guides
- ï 5 nights of accommodation
- ï Meals (5 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 5 dinners)
- ï Coaches between the airport and Sapporo Station (first and final day)
- ï Safety equipment
- ï Activity fee and basic fishing equipment  
(except for wader, which costs 2,200 yen per day)

## What's not included

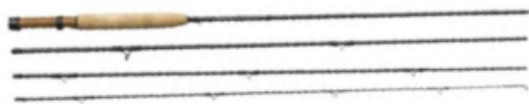
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- ï Personal expenses
- ï Alcoholic beverages
- ï Travel insurance

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## What we provide

- ī Safety equipment
- ī First aid and repair kit
- ī Basic fishing equipment



TIEMCO EUFLEX INFANTE #6 9' 0"  
TIEMCO EUFLEX INFANTE #5 8' 6"



TIEMCO ORCLE SINGLE HAND VI  
TIEMCO ORCLE SINGLE HAND V

## What to bring

**\*Please bring any prescription medication, asthma inhalers or epi-pens that you need.**

### Cash

small shops and restaurant can only accept cash, so we recommend exchanging money after arriving at the airport in Japan.

### Clothing

- ī Hat or Cap
- ī Comfortable clothing (long sleeved shirts and long pants)
- ī Cold weather gear (such as a fleece jacket)
- ī Gloves
- ī Polarized sunglasses
- ī Reusable water bottle (please avoid single-use bottles if possible!)
- ī Rain jacket
- ī Towel
- ī Fishing equipment
- ī (If you would like to use your own gear, please bring it. We prepare basic fishing equipment)
- ī Waders (This is not included the gear we provide)  
These can be rented for 2,200 Japanese yen per day)

## Optional

- ī Camera
  - ī Sunscreen
  - ī Windbreaker
  - ī Binoculars
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## About us



JTB -- “Perfect moments, always.”

The JTB Group traces its roots back to 1912 when “Japan Tourist Bureau” was formed to attract international travelers to Japan and assist with their travel needs. While our activities and clientele have expanded greatly since then, the JTB Group remains aligned around a core purpose: bringing people, places and possibilities together. Developing innovative services and solutions that enable our customers to connect more deeply and meaningfully. Contributing to the creation of sustainable communities and a more peaceful and interconnected planet.

No matter how the world changes, the JTB Group remains as committed now as we were 108 years ago to delivering unrivaled excitement, value and satisfaction. At its essence, JTB’s legacy resides in the bonds of trust we have forged with our customers, communities and stakeholders.

The JTB Group is poised to embark on the next exciting chapter in its incredible journey, staying attuned to and aligned with the evolving needs of a new era, maintaining its position as a digital trailblazer, and delivering real value that our customers can feel.

### SHINRA

Based in the Utoro area of Shari Town on the Shiretoko Peninsula, SHINRA has been providing guided nature tours in Shiretoko National Park and its surrounds for over 20 years.

With tours every day of the year, there's something for every season, from forest walks to fishing and salmon watching in fall and Drift Ice Walks in winter. See the natural wonders of Shiretoko up close.

### NAO IWAYAMA

I was born in Tokyo in 1964. I loved nature from a young age, spending many a happy day observing insects on nature walks with the Japan Naturalist Society. I was drawn to the Shiretoko region and have taken many pictures of the wildlife here, although my favorite pastime these days is simply spending time in the forest or river with my son and daughter.

As a former caregiver for people with disabilities, I'm passionate about providing accessible tours.

- Certified as a Hokkaido Outdoor Guide (Nature Guide, No. 217) in 2003
- Licensed Guide in Shiretoko Five Lakes area as of 2021

### MASAKI HATAYA

I was born in 1973. I became interested in nature as a young child, when my family moved to a rural rice farming area and I swapped my Tokyo nursery school for the flora and fauna of the foothills. Each day at elementary school was followed by time in the great outdoors at Boy Scouts or on a mountain bike trail. As a teen, I decided to follow in the footsteps of writer Takeshi Kaiko, known for his love of nature. After graduating from nature school, I worked for an outdoor brand before joining SHINRA in 2001. I am the father of two children, and my motto is *Yuyu toshite isoge* (slow and steady), famous words from my idol Takeshi Kaiko.

My father was born and raised in Hokkaido, and I see it as fate that I myself now live here as a nature guide. I love cold places in fall and winter leave me feeling energized somehow. When I look back on my childhood, I know without a doubt that it was meant to be.

The nature that surrounds me in Shiretoko fills me with wonder and excitement, whether it's a forest that is home to brown bears or the drift ice that covers the sea, and I love helping people see those wonders for themselves.

- Certified as a Hokkaido Outdoor Guide (Nature Guide, No. 365) in 2004
- Licensed Guide in Shiretoko Five Lakes area as of 2021

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# Guides

## MASAKI HATAYA

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# Guides

## MASATO YOSHIDA (Fishing)

I was born in 1988. I loved playing in nature from a very young age, and I love that I still get to spend my days in nature as an adult (especially fishing!)

Utoro in Shiretoko is where my parents are from, and while I myself was born and raised in Tokyo, I'm a Shiretoko man at heart!

I now live here, grappling with raising two wild cubs of my own! *(laughs)*

I love taking people to see the vivid landscapes of Shiretoko and the fascinating wildlife that lives here. My tours are all about taking it easy, enjoying the silence and the magical sights of the forest or sea.

As someone who used to work at a travel agency, I'm great at keeping group tours and school excursions running smoothly.

Hobbies: Fishing, spending time outdoors in nature

Good at: Finding wildlife (I might be the best at this out of all the guides!)

Favorite food/drink: Anything sweet, and craft beer!



### Shigeru (Dameon) Takada

I'm a huge fan of fly fishing. People come from all over Japan and even overseas to enjoy fishing with me on Lake Akan ■ some even come back multiple times.

My family moved to Lake Akan for my father's job when I was three. I spent almost every day picking wild vegetables, fishing or hunting with my family, and I base my guiding on those early trips. I played rugby at college and made it to the Japanese championships twice. After graduating, I was hired by Rugby Canada to work as a high school rugby coach in Prince George, British Columbia, Canada. I spent all my free time fly fishing and hunting under the midnight sun, another experience that I bring to my guiding today.



After returning to Japan, I began working as a fishing guide alongside a job in hotel management for the Tsuruga Group. To put Lake Akan's fly fishing on the map, I invited fishing legends and top Japanese professional fly fishers to Lake Akan for two conferences. In 2018, I opened Tsuruga Adventure Base SIRI. With stringent safety standards and amazing lake and forest scenery, there's no better way to enjoy the nature of Lake Akan.

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# Information and Requirements

## Dietary Restrictions

If you have dietary restrictions, an allergy to nuts or seafood, or need vegetarian, vegan, or gluten-free meals, please let us know in advance and we will provide you alternatives to the best of our abilities.

## Emergency Response Plan

There is mobile phone reception at all accommodation facilities. In the event of an accident, your guide will respond promptly in cooperation with local medical personnel.

In the event of problems such as broken gear or minor mechanical problems, please rest assured that we will assist you.

## Weather Conditions

### Spring(April-May)

Snow melts and spring comes in April, you can feel warm during the day. Temperature drops to around 8 degrees, you can get chilly in the evenings.

### Summer(May-August)

You may have an image that summers in Japan are humid and muggy, but summers in the Eastern Hokkaido area are about 10 degrees cooler than in Tokyo, and the average temperature in August is about 17.5 to 20 degrees, which can be chilly. This microthermal climate fascinate lots of people from outside Hokkaido to stay in the area as a summer retreat. There are few summer days when the temperature exceeds 25 degrees Celsius. Breeze in here is so comfortable to stay.

### Autumn(September-October)

Temperature drops to around 10 degrees and it rains a lot. Please bring Jacket or fleece for outdoor activity.

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# Reservation & Cancellation Policy

## Payment Methods

Trip Price: JPY398,000

Only payments by credit card will be accepted.

The due date for the payment is one month prior to departure. Please note that payments will not be accepted after this date.

How to pay by credit card

Visa, MasterCard<sup>®</sup>, JCB, AMEX and Diners Club are accepted.

Your credit card statement will show that the payment has been made to JTB Corp., the agent handling registration.

## Cancellations

\*In the event of a cancellation, your deposit will be refunded after deducting the cancellation fees shown below.

\*JTB will refund the remainder of the tour fee within 7 days of the day after cancellation if the refund is requested before the departure of the tour.

\*Cancellation fee when notice is given:

21 or more days prior to the departure date of the tour	
8-20 days prior to the departure date of the tour	20% of the tour fee
2-7 days prior to the departure date of the tour	30% of the tour fee
1 days prior to the day of departure	40% of the tour fee
On the day of departure	50% of the tour fee
After the day of departure, or if no notice is given	100% of the tour fee

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## Disclaimer

Trip Cancellations: JTB reserves the right to cancel or change the itinerary of a tour. In the event that we need to cancel a tour, we will refund 100% of your costs.

Weather conditions are almost never severe enough to warrant cancelling a tour; cancellations only occur as a result of truly exceptional events that could not be predicted.

JTB is not responsible for compensating any additional costs such as flights.

## Terms and Conditions for Agent-organized Tours

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### Tour Operator / Contact



*Perfect moments, always*

JTB Corp. HOKKAIDO Branch

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