

Fishing in the Wilderness of Eastern Hokkaido



Welcome to Eastern Hokkaido!

Enjoy a variety of fishing styles amid lush nature with guides who love what they do.

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

Your salmon fishing tour starts with some interesting background information about Shiretoko. You then head for the Akan area, important to the indigenous Ainu people, to try your hand at catching rainbow trout and whitespotted char. The area is a mecca for fans of fly fishing.

One of the best fishing spots in the area is about 10 minutes drive from the main street where the hotels are located (although the location may vary depending on fishing conditions). It is usually difficult to access such a location as this without a seaplane or helicopter. This makes Lake Akan popular with fishing enthusiasts from all over the world.

After a day spent on the lake, enjoy a dinner rich in seafood, fish and seasonal vegetables with your fellow travelers.

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Highlights:

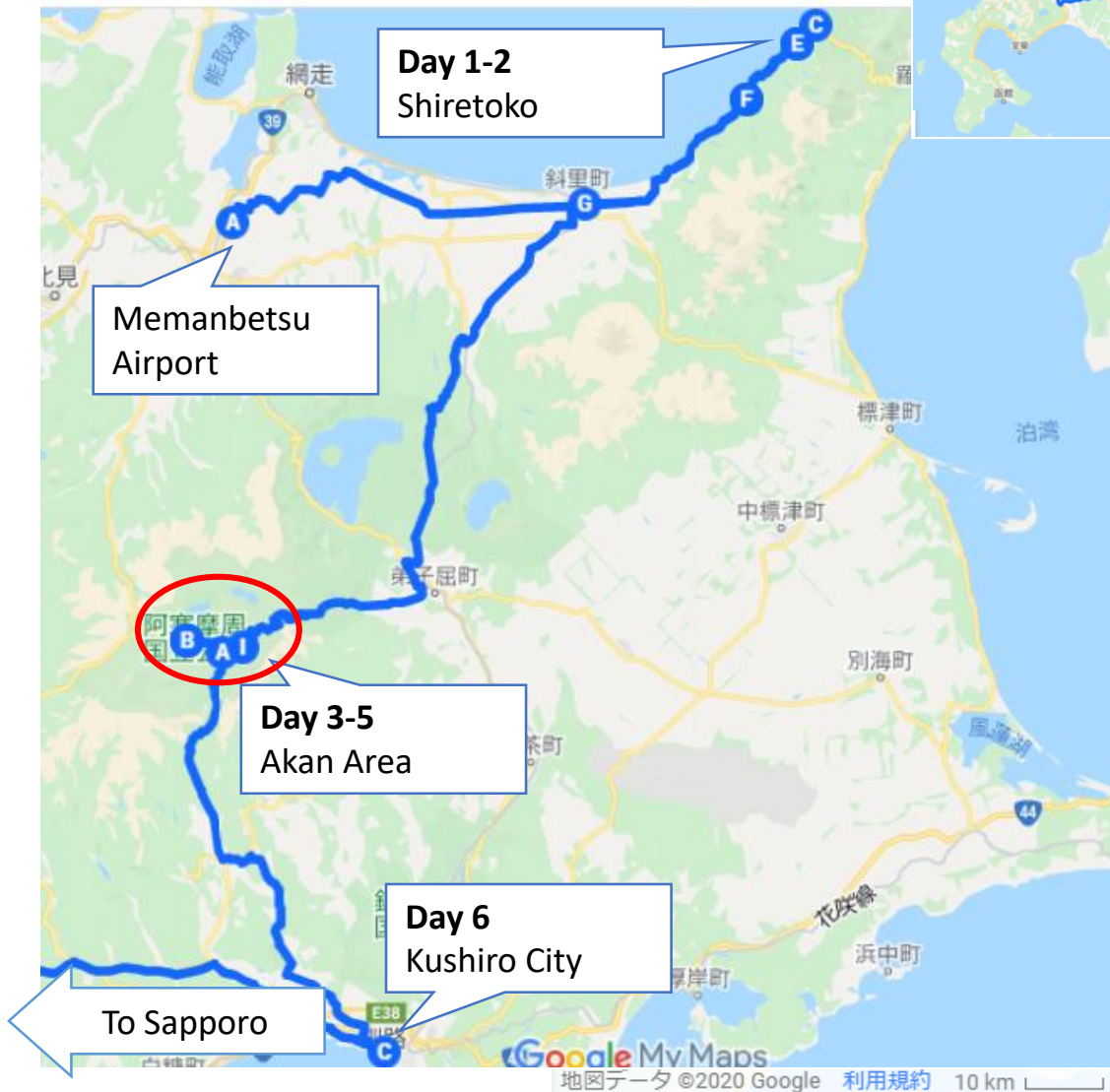
- Nature walk in Shiretoko — a World Heritage Site — and salmon run tour
- Catching wild rainbow trout and whitespotted char
- Fishing for colorful Dolly Varden trout
- Experience Japanese hot spring culture
- Enjoy fascinating commentary by local guides

Location: Shiretoko, Akan, Eastern Hokkaido

Main Activity: Wild Fishing (Lure and Fly)

Difficulty: 3/5

Route map



Contents:

Route map

Day-by-Day Itinerary

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Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1:

Arrival at Memanbetsu Airport

Meet your guide at the arrival gate. JAL, ANA and AIR DO have direct flights from Haneda Airport in Tokyo to Memanbetsu Airport (MMB). Once all members have arrived, leave by private vehicle for Kitakobushi Shiretoko Hotel and Resort. A short itinerary orientation is provided.

Dinner is served at Terrace Dining Haon, the hotel's buffet restaurant. Enjoy authentic Shiretoko cuisine on a chic terrace with stunning views of Utoro Port. The buffet offers a new take on the established dining style, with 50 dishes that defy classification as Japanese or Western. With a delicious array of piping-hot servings from the open kitchen and a dedicated sweets kitchen with a pâtissier, Kitakobushi's buffet is like no other.

Spend a luxurious time at this hot spring and feel 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

Your tour starts with a hike through the natural landscape of Shiretoko, a World Natural Heritage Site.

After breakfast at the hotel, attend an orientation for the tour and get to know your fellow travelers before leaving for a guided hike along the so-called Animal Trail. As you make your way along the mountain trail, listen for the sounds of woodpeckers and the rustle of wild mammals. Signs of wildlife are everywhere, from footprints to traces of food the animals eat. The magnificent trees, which survive Hokkaido's harsh elements, resemble 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 a break for lunch, head to the river to watch the salmon run. Each fall, salmon swim up Hokkaido's many rivers from the sea. Learn from your local guides about the relationships between salmon and trout, and the local community and nature.

At the mouth of a nearby river in the Shari district try your hand at salmon fishing. Shari has had the largest annual catch of salmon in Japan for the past 15 years. The fishing here is with lures. A local professional guide is on hand so even beginners can enjoy the experience.

Please note: The location may vary depending on fishing conditions.



Dinner

Kaiseki (traditional Japanese multiple course dinner) at
<KITAKOBUSHI SHIRETOKO HOTEL>
Note: The photo is a sample image.

Activity Walking: 3hours/3km/almost no difference in elevation
Lure fishing: 2hours

Difficulty Walking: 1 / 5 Fishing: 3 / 5

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Day 3:

Salmon Fishing (fishing with lures)

In the morning, head to another Shiretoko area recommended by the local guide for more salmon fishing. Your second day of fishing is at one of the best places during the best fishing season of the year.

Lunch

<Local restaurant>

Salmon chanchan-yaki (grilled salmon with vegetables)

Chanchan-yaki is a traditional Hokkaido dish. According to local lore, fishermen would once gather on beaches and cook huge chunks of fresh salmon and vegetables on iron plates.

After lunch, travel to the Ainu Kotan village in Akan. Accommodation is at Lake Akan's iconic Tsuruga Wings. This stylish, contemporary ryokan features an impressive lobby gallery, as well as fine examples of Ainu craftsmanship, and offers a variety of cuisine created with an emphasis on natural seasonal ingredients. With hot stone baths featuring a range of temperatures, scents and herbs, this hot spring rejuvenates both body and soul.

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

Dinner

<Hotel restaurant>

Kaiseki style dinner

Western-style seating in tatami room.

Note: The photo is a sample image.



Activity Lure fishing for salmon: 6-7hours

Difficulty 3/5

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Day 4:

Fly fishing at Hyotan Pond

Discover why Lake Akan is one of the best places in the world for fly fishing.

Anglers from all around the world come to Lake Akan again and again.

Experienced local guide Shigeru (Dameon) Takada takes you on a fly fishing trip like no other.

Start the day with a hearty breakfast buffet, with a choice of 50 Japanese and Western dishes and seasonal vegetables. A mixed vegetable and fruit juice makes the perfect finishing touch. Spend the day fly fishing at Hyotan Pond at the foot of Mount Oakan. The wilderness is only 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, the beauty is captivating. Appreciate the rarity of being able to fish among such stunning scenery so close to your hotel.

The fish to catch are rainbow trout (nijimasu) and whitespotted char (iwana). Both are symbols of Lake Akan. Whether beginner or professional, look forward to a fun day fishing with Dameon.

Please note: The location may vary depending on 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.



Activity Fly fishing: 6- 8 hours

Difficulty 3/5

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Day 5:

Stream fishing in the Akan River (fly fishing)

Located only a 10-minute drive from the hotel, the location on Akan River is best for rainbow trout fishing. Dameon, your guide from the previous day, leads you on a daylong fishing trip by this beautiful mountain stream.

This particular location is a designated catch-and-release area managed by Akan Fishery Cooperative. This means that there are many big rainbow trout around. But that doesn't mean fly fishing here is easy. Learn from Dameon the best techniques to get a bite.

Lunch is at a local restaurant.

The day ends with a buffet-style dinner at Tsuruga Wings, which offers a choice of 70 dishes that defy classification as Japanese or Western. Clean eating is the focus here, with minimal preservatives and dyes used to allow the natural tastes of the ingredients to take center stage. Create your own menu with this new style of Hokkaido dining.

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.



Activity Whole day fly fishing

Difficulty 3/5

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Day 6:

Transfer to Sapporo

After breakfast, check out of the ryokan and depart for Kushiro Station by private vehicle. While waiting for the train, spend time exploring the city of Kushiro, which once had a flourishing 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

Day1-Day3 (two nights): 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.

Day3-Day6 (three nights): 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.