



Hokkaido  
Treasure Island  
Travel Inc.

The background of the entire image is a photograph of two Kamoharui (Stellar) eagles on a large, white, snow-covered ice floe. The eagle on the left is perched on a vertical ice spike, facing right with its wings partially spread. The eagle on the right is in mid-flight, facing left with its wings fully extended, showing dark upper wings and white underwings. Both eagles have dark brown heads and bodies with white underparts and large, bright yellow beaks and talons. The ice floe is surrounded by a blueish-grey sea, and the sky is a pale, hazy blue.

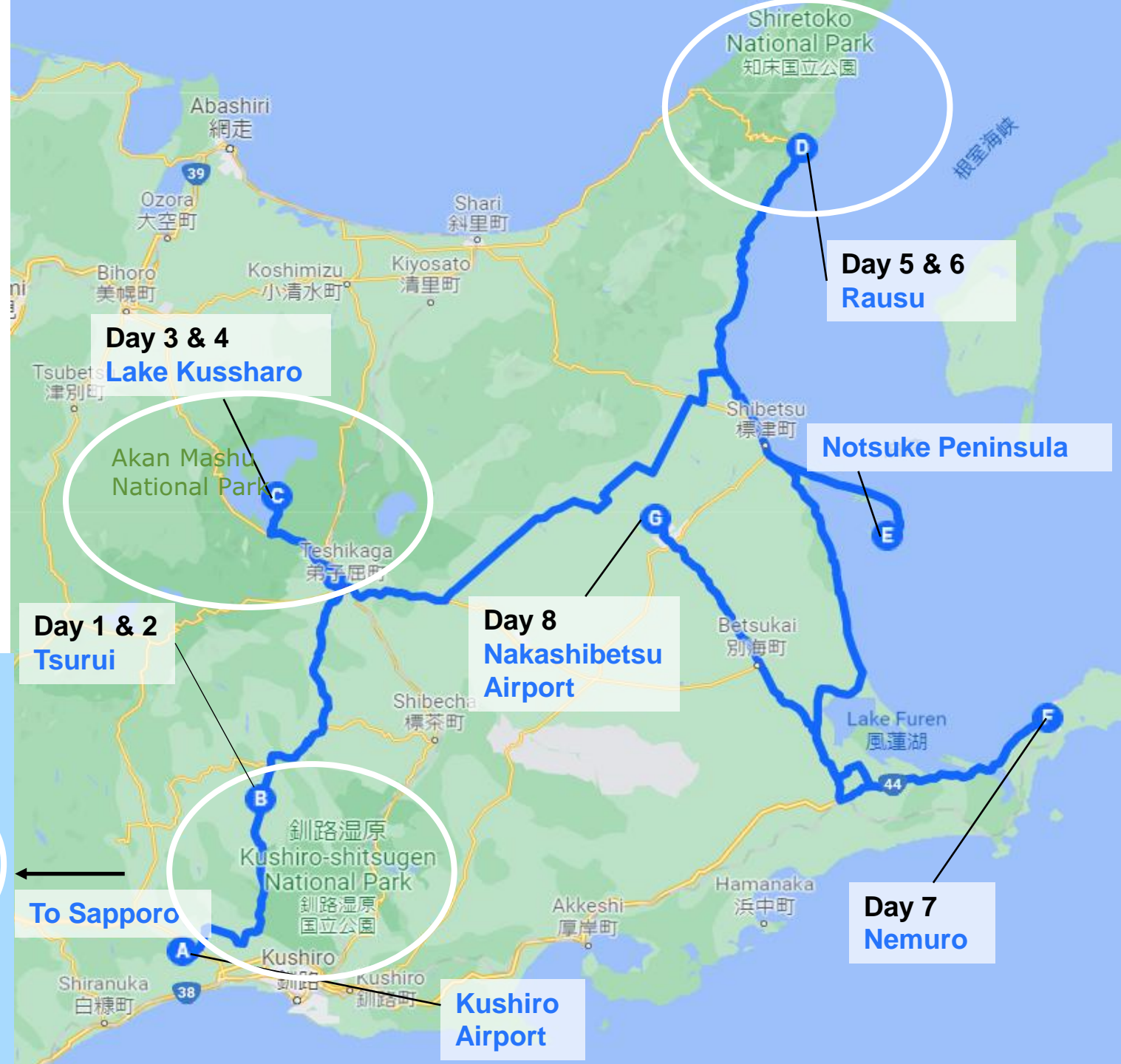
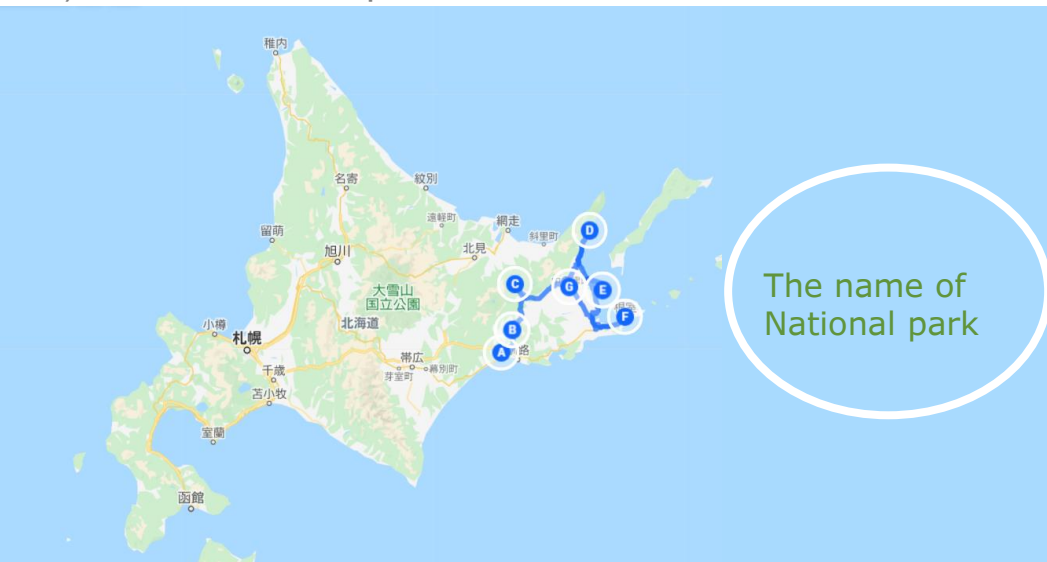
# **Hokkaido Winter Bird Photography Tour**



# Welcome to Eastern Hokkaido

Eastern Hokkaido is where the Okhotsk Sea meets the Pacific. The southernmost point in the northern hemisphere, where drift ice can be seen, and it is an area with abundant marine life. This sets the perfect stage for various kinds of birds to gather and settle for a few months.

- A) Kushiro - The gateway city to Eastern Hokkaido and the Kushiro Wetlands
- B) Tsurui in the Kushiro Wetlands: Red-crowned cranes
- C) Lake Kussharo - Hot springs melt parts of the frozen lake and attract swans
- D) Rausu – Boat Cruise from a small port town: White-tailed Eagles, Steller's Sea Eagles on drift ice.
- E) Notsuke Peninsula – Picturesque Sand Spit with various wildlife
- F) Nemuro – The eastern town of the Japan
- G) Nakashibetsu Airport





## Concept

See the diversity of animals and nature up close in the eastern part of Hokkaido including the last frontier of Japan, “Shiretoko.” This word is a word from the Hokkaido indigenous people Ainu: “Sir etok” in English “the end of the earth.”

The drift ice that annually reaches the shores of Eastern Hokkaido in winter is initially formed in the great Amur River at the border of Russia and China. Steller’s Sea Eagles, White-tailed Eagles and more follow the drift ice and arrive in Hokkaido. Being the southernmost place where drift ice reaches, this is the southernmost place where we can see those birds on the ice.

The endangered Red-crowned crane is the bird of Hokkaido. Now we can appreciate this beautiful bird thanks to the local's dedication to protect them. This is the only area we can see so many Red-crowned crane in the snow.

Whooper swan flock together in the hot spring spot at the edge of the frozen caldera lake. Ezo owl and Blakiston’s fish owl find their cozy spot every year and settle down. Ezo deer and Red fox are strolling around everywhere. All these are animals you have a chance to take with your camera in this season.

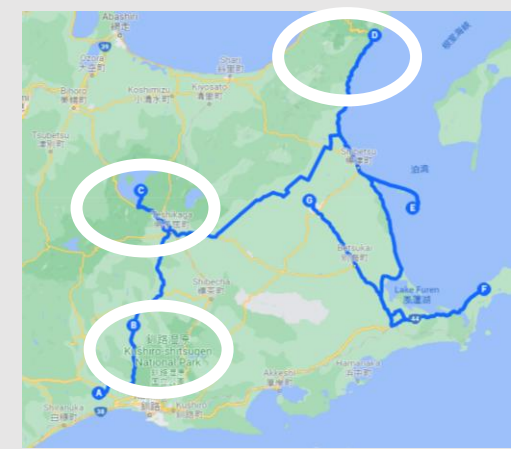
**Season:** February – Early March

**Tour Length:** 8 days

**Price Range:** Please contact us

**Included:**

- 7 nights’ accommodation
- 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners
- All the activity fees mentioned in the itinerary
- All transport as described in the itinerary
- Snacks and refreshments
- English speaking Japanese guides who know all the best spot for shooting photos.



## 7days Schedule

- ① Kushiro Shitsugen National Park/ Kushiro- Tsurui (Red-crowned crane)
- ② Tsurui (Red-crowned crane)
- ③ Akan Mashu National Park/ Lake Kussharo (Whooper Swan)
- ④ Lake Kussharo (Whooper Swan)
- ⑤ UNESCO Shiretoko National Park/ Rausu (Eagles)
- ⑥ Rausu (Eagles)
- ⑦ Nemuro (White-tailed Eagle, Steller's Sea Eagle)

**Main Activity:**

Wildlife Viewing

**Difficulty:**

3(Moderate)

**Min 8 Max 14**



# Highlights

## What's special

1

### Eagles on the drifting ice

Wake up before sunrise for a Bird Watching Cruise along Shiretoko Peninsula.

Taking a picture of an eagle on drift ice with the sun rising in the background is just majestic. You can have a chance to see the White-tailed Eagle, Stellar's Sea Eagle, Pelagic Cormorant, various types of ducks and occasionally the Spotted Seal and the Giant Beaked Whale. \*Chartered boat available on request



2

### Whooper Swan on the frozen lake, Ezo deer in the desolate landscape

Lake Kussharo is known to attract migrating birds that stop by in winter. Parts of the lake stay relatively warm even in winter thanks to the volcanic activity. The lake is famous among nature photographers as a great location for photographing whooper swans.

You will encounter typical Hokkaido wild animals like Ezo deer and Red fox at Notsuke Peninsula, the name is derived from the Ainu language "notkeu," purportedly due to the landform's visual resemblance to the jawbone of a whale. The curved peninsula, the longest sandspit in the country, with a length of some 28 km.



3

### Red-crowned cranes in Tsurui

The Red-crowned crane is one of the rarest cranes in the world. The Red-crowned crane was believed to be extinct in Japan, until in the 1920s around 20 birds were discovered in the Kushiro area.

Nowadays there are winter feeding sites for the birds and the marshland area they need is under special protection. Today, there are still less than 3000 red-crowned cranes in the world, out of which over half live in East Hokkaido. You will have a chance to take photos of the cranes from the early morning until the sunset.

