

Miraculous Nature-Wildlife observation in East Hokkaido with Master Guide



If you're interested in Wildlife observation, this extraordinary tour definitely will be an excellent choice! Kushiro Marshland in East Hokkaido is a beguiling natural landscape. In winter, it's a home of various large seabirds. You can get up close to wild animals such as Steller's sea eagle, Ural Owl and the graceful Japanese red cranes. Hokkaido Certified Outdoor Guide Mr. Makoto Ando will show you magnificent nature and explain its important role for humans and for nature. You will served with great care and delicious Japanese home cooked meal at the lodge. It's a great chance to get to know a local about the excitement of the trip and will make your stay an extraordinary experience.

4 Days Brief Itinerary

Day 01: Warmly greeted in Kushiro Airport(D)

Day 02: Wildlife observation at Tsurui Village and Kushiro Marshland(B, L, D)

Day 03: Birdwatching at Nemuro Shunkunitai (B, L, D)

Day 04: Departure from Kushiro (B)

Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)

Highlights:

- Go on a nature tour with Hokkaido Master Guide Mr. Makoto Ando.
- Enjoy birdwatching in Shunkunitai Wild Bird Sanctuary.
- High quality observation experience with Swarovski optik scopes and TSL Snowshoes.
- Enjoy Hokkaido vegetables, cheese, seafood with the philosophy of Slow Food.

Location:

East Hokkaido is located in the eastern part of Hokkaido and can be divided into four areas, Okhotsk, Nemuro, Kushiro and Tokachi. This is one of the few places in Japan where prehistoric nature is still alive.

Main Activity: Miraculous Nature-Wildlife observation in East Hokkaido with Master Guide

Difficulty: 2/5 (Easy active)

Tour Dates: Recommended from December until March

Pax: Minimum 6 Maximum 10

Price: JPY 228,000

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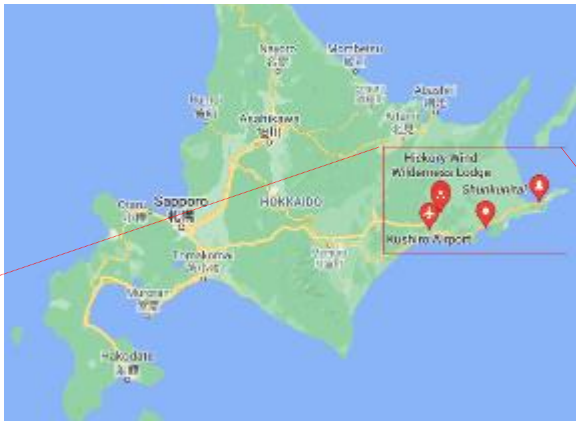
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Route map



Date	Visiting area
Day 01	Kushiro Airport-> Lodge “Hickory Wind”
Day 02	Lodge “Hickory Wind” ->Tsurui Village Setsuri River-> Kushiro Marshland -> Lodge “Hickory Wind”
Day 03	Lodge “Hickory Wind” ->Nemuro Shunkunitai-> Akkeshi -> Lodge “Hickory Wind”
Day 04	Lodge “Hickory Wind” -> Kushiro Airport

Day-by-day Itinerary

Day 1 – Gathering at Wilderness Lodge Hickory Wind

Welcome to Hokkaido! On your arrival in Kushiro Airport at 1pm, we warmly greet you at the airport will depart to “Hickory Wind “.

Let's do an introduction of your guides before the tour starts.

Hickory Wind a lodge run by Mr. Makoto Ando and Mrs. Shinobu Ando. The lodge is like a home for this trip and all breakfasts and dinners will be served here.

Mr. Ando is a nature guide who has been sharing the stories of wildlife in East Hokkaido with people for over 20 years. He is well versed in wildlife, natural ecology and the history and culture of the region. With his years of experience, he is able to recognize the preferences of each tourists and provide the best nature experience for you. He is also a professional photographer who has won awards in world photography contests. If you want to take high-level photos, despite having a professional camera or smartphone, just ask him for advice during your trip.

And the other guide is Ms. Kana Yamada. She learned the knowledge of Hokkaido's nature and guiding from Mr. Ando. She will guide you and ensure that you enjoy this trip.

Before dinner, Mr. Ando will give a slide show and team building gather to make everyone know each other better. You will have such a memorable time at Wilderness lodge Hickory Wind!

Dinner

Creative Japanese cuisine using seasonal ingredients and homemade oden (one-pot dish). Oden is a kind of Japanese stew consisting of several ingredients such Japanese white radish, boiled egg, and konjac.

Activity: : -

Activity details: -

Meals provided: Dinner

Accommodation: Wilderness Lodge Hickory Wind



Day 2 – Japanese Red Crane Observation and snowshoeing

We will leave the lodge at 6:00 a.m. to The Setsuri river.

The Setsuri River does not freeze over in winter, and the area becomes a precious roosting place for Japanese red cranes. In early winter morning, Mr. Ando will guide you to the special secret spot where you can see the cranes roosting together and moving slowly on the riverbed. Also you can enjoy the beautiful pink light with the steaming river.

Breakfast

Japanese Congee for a warm and comforting breakfast at lodge.

After breakfast, we will have snowshoeing in Kushiro Marshland.

During winter when the vast Kushiro Marshland is covered in a thick blanket of snow.

Put on your TSL snowshoes across the fields of snow into the forests and enjoy the beautiful winter snow scape. Mr. Ando will show you how to look for Ural owl nest holes and other animals by using the high quality Swarovski optik scopes.

If you are lucky, you may even get to see Ezo Owls, Ezo deers, Black woodpeckers, Long-tailed tits and Red foxes.

Lunch

You will have one of Japan's specialties — Kushiro Ramen for lunch at “Jin”. The noodles will be served in organic soup. You will enjoy every single drop of it.

After lunch, heading back to Lodge Hickory Wind to take a short break or enjoy the Onsen hot spring to get rid of your fatigue here.

Dinner

For dinner tonight, Japanese home cooked meals with local ingredients will be served.

Activity: Wildlife observation and snowshoeing at Kushiro Marshland

Activity details: Difficulty 1/5 (Relaxed / Social)
Japanese red cranes observation time required - approx. 1.5hr
Difficulty 2/5 (Easy active)
Snowshoeing time required – approx.2hr

Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Wilderness Lodge Hickory Wind



Day 3 – Enjoy birdwatching in Shunkunitai Wild Bird Sanctuary

We will leave the lodge at 6:30 a.m. to Nemuro. After 2 hours driving, we will arrive in Nemuro City where you will have birdwatching.

Shunkunitai is known as a wild animal paradise. It is surrounded by the water and has various natural habitats therefore various species of birds, animals, insects and plants can live here, which you might encounter as well as Japanese red cranes, Swans, Steller's sea eagles and White-tailed Eagles in Shunkunitai by using the high quality Swarovski optik scopes.

Lunch

Lunch at Akkeshi Gourmet Park Restaurant "Conchiglie".

You can roast your own oysters on the shell and enjoy grilled oysters, seafood, vegetables and other local ingredients.

Akkeshi is the only place in Japan where oysters are available all year round. Lake Akkeshi, which is a mixture of freshwater rivers containing nutrients from the mountains and marshlands and seawater from the Pacific Ocean, is a blessed natural environment that makes oysters grow plump and sweet.

Before heading back to lodge, you can buy souvenirs at the Akkeshi Fisheries Association direct sales shop.

Dinner

Seafood Okonomiyaki with Tsurui Cheese will be served.

Tsurui Cheese has won the All Japan Natural Cheese Contest for the six time in succession.

Mrs. Shinobu will show you how to make "Okonomiyaki" and it just makes the experience that much more exceptional.

Activity: Birdwatching in Shunkunitai

Activity details: Difficulty 1/5 (Relaxed / Social)
Time required - approx. 1.5hr

Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Wilderness Lodge Hickory Wind



Day 4 – Four seasons of East Hokkaido

It is the last day of this tour. Japanese congee breakfast with natural ingredients will be served at the lodge.
After breakfast, Mr. Ando will introduce wildlife and scenery that can only be seen in other seasons through photographs and video in the wilderness of East Hokkaido, which shows the varying expressions of the four seasons.

We will drive you to Kushiro Airport. Hope to see you soon on your next trip!

Activity: -

Activity details -

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation information:

Lodge Name	Name of the Room	Room type	WiFi
Hickory Wind	Birch	Single with barrier-free sink and toilet (1F)	O
	Hickory	2 × single bed with sink, bath and toilet (1F)	O
	Oak	2 × single bed Shared sink and bathroom (1F)	O
	Iris	Max 4 persons (Japanese-style bedding) Shared sink and bathroom (1F)	O
	Larch	Double bed Shared sink and bathroom (2F)	O
	Tancho	2 × single bed Shared sink and bathroom (2F)	O

What's included

- Well-experienced activity guides
- Necessary equipment for Wildlife observation
- Meals included in the itinerary
- Transports included in the itinerary
- 3 nights accommodation as outlined in the itinerary

What's not included

- Costs of a Personal purchases
- Alcohol

We provide & What to bring

We provide

- Swarovski Optik Scopes
- TSL snowshoe



What to bring

- Earth-colored clothing and sneakers that are okay to get dirty or wet
- Winter clothing
- Waterproof shoes or boots
- Hat
- Gloves
- To protect the animals, please wear earth-colored clothing and do not use umbrellas

Recommended or Optional items:

- Personal first aid kit
- Sunscreen

About us

ANA X Inc. handles ticket sales and travel business operations for the ANA Group. Our mission is to provide high quality of service and products and to deliver the most satisfying travel experience.

ANA has been highly commended by SKYTRAX for its consistently superior quality of service and for its dedication towards the further improvement of the overall passenger experience, in order to meet the needs of global customers. Furthermore, ANA is currently the only airline in Japan that has achieved the exclusive 5-star status for 8 consecutive years.

Using the ANA Group motto “Trustworthy, Heartwarming, Energetic!” as the foundation of our operations, we will continue to treat our customers sincerely and provide safe travel products with high added value, while further improving our services through the united efforts of all of our employees.

Guides

Activity Guide



Makoto Ando

- Hokkaido Certified Outdoor Guide(Master Guide)
- Hokkaido Certified Excellent Outdoor Business in Hokkaido
- Winner of the Nature Photography Award
"Wildlife Photographer of the Year" in 2020
- 5 times winner of the Nature Photography Award
"Nature's Best Photography Contest"
- Nikon Professional Service Members
- FUJIFILM Professional Service Members
- Panasonic Lumix Professional Services Members
- SWAROVSKI OPTIK Support Professional Guide



Kana Yamada

- Hokkaido Certified Outdoor Guide
- Certificate of Advanced First Aid Course

Tour coordinator

Our English-speaking and experienced guide provides you the best service, support and assistance during your tour with us.

Food



Shinobu Ando

- Hokkaido Food Meister' qualification
- Member of 'Slow food friends Hokkaido'.

Mrs. Shinobu Ando ensures that visitors to Lodge Hickory Wind have the best dining experience possible.

Her motto is "Eat delicious food and relax".

Using local ingredients in season to create dishes that will soothe your body and soul. Since there were many international visitors to the lodge, Mrs. Ando is good at sensing the guests preferences and providing them with suitable meals. There is no doubt that you will enjoy your meals at the lodge.



Information and Requirements

Dietary Restrictions

Please inform us of any food allergies or special dietary requirements and we will be happy to accommodate you. However, there is no guarantee that we will be able to accommodate all food intolerances or special diets.

Emergency Response Plan

First-aid kit is always be prepared during the tour. Adventure guides and activity guides are certified Hokkaido Certified Outdoor Guide or have completed Certificate of Advanced First Aid Course. They have sufficient skills and knowledge in first aid. Also, our East Hokkaido Branch of our company is located near activity spots, so our staff can provide appropriate assistance in an emergency.

Hospitals near activities spots are as follows.

- Kushiro : Kushiro City General Hospital, about 40-minute drive away.
- Nemuro : Nemuro City Hospital, about 30-minute drive away.

Weather Conditions

- Kushiro

Spring in Kushiro is often characterized by cyclical changes in sunny and rainy days. Occasionally, the characteristics of winter and summer appear, and weather changes are significant, such as sudden rises and falls in temperature, unseasonably heavy snow and rain, and strong winds. In the summer, the fog season starts, and it is a natural summer retreat, as it is cooler than Sapporo and Obihiro, with no noticeable rise in temperature. When autumn arrives, the weather is neither hot nor cold, the air is dry, and the weather is refreshing. And in winter, the days are sunny, the air is dry and windy. Although Kushiro is located on the coast, the temperature is quite cool. The days are sunny, but the wind is strong.

	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Average temperature (° C)	-2.6	-6	-5.8	-1.4
Average low temperature (° C)	-5.7	-9.7	-9.9	-4.9
Average high temperature (° C)	0.6	-2.2	-1.9	2.3
Average Precipitation (mm)	76	54	44	71

Reservation & Cancellation Policy

Payment Methods

Once booking is confirmed, we will inform you the payment procedure by email. You can settle the payment by credit card ("Visa" or "Master").

Cancellation

<u>Cancellation date</u>	<u>Cancellation charge</u>
21 or more days prior to the starting day of the tour	Free
20 to 8 days prior to the starting day of the tour	20% of the Tour Fare
7 to 2 days prior to the starting day of the tour	30% of the Tour Fare
1 day prior to the starting day of the tour	40% of the Tour Fare
On the date of departure	50% of the Tour Fare
Cancelled after the start of the tour Failure to show without notice	100% of the Tour Fare

*Refund process may take up to 1 to 2 months depending on when the refund request is received, and the closing date and refund processing procedure conditions of the applicable credit card company. It will be credited to your credit card when the time you purchased the package.

Reservation & Cancellation Policy

Disclaimer

ANA X reserves the right to change these guidelines and disclaimers at any time.

- You specifically acknowledge that ANA X is not liable for defamatory, offensive, infringing or illegal materials of any third party, and ANA X reserves the right to remove such materials without liability.
- In performing its obligations under the terms of its tour contract, should ANA X cause damage to the customer through willful negligence or fault, ANA X shall be liable for such damages. However, this only applies if the damage report is made within 2 years reckoned from the day following the occurrence of the damage.
- ANA X should not be liable for damages incurred by customers as stipulated above if any of the following reasons applies.
 1. Nature disaster, war, civil unrest, and alteration or cancellation of tour itinerary due to such causes.
 2. Cessation of services related to transportation or accommodation facilities, and tour itinerary alteration or cancellation owing to such causes.
 3. Governmental orders, or isolation resulting from infectious diseases.
 4. Accidents occurring during free time.
 5. Food poisoning.
 6. Theft.
 7. Delays, stoppages, changes of schedule and route in relation to transportation facilities, and tour itinerary alterations and/or shortened stays at destinations owing to such causes.
 8. Any matter beyond ANA X's (or its licensees' or licensors') reasonable control. Even if such party has been advised of the possibility of such.
- Please be aware that you may encounter risks in the activities included in this tour. We do not guarantee that there will be no accidents on the tour. You must follow the attention and instructions of each guide. We reserve the right to terminate the travel contract if you cause a disturbance to other guests or interfere with the smooth conduct of group activities.

Tour Operator / Contact

ANA X Inc.

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Contact: inb03@ana-x.co.jp