

Paradise of abundance wilderness of HOKKAIDO, Japan in Autumn

14Oct – 21Oct 2018



On this active and varied 7 day tour, you'll experience a wide range of Hokkaido culture, nature and cuisine. We've combined a series of beginner-level hikes, top sightseeing, fishing village and coastal road drives, and much more to create a wonderful, off-the-beaten-track tours. You will be going as far as the **most eastern part of Hokkaido at Shiretoko Peninsula which is Hokkaido's only UNESCO World Heritage site**, if we are lucky, we will be able to spot the infamous brown bear, watch the wild salmon and trout swarming up river to spawn, could be an incredible sight. At **Furano & Biei**, Hokkaido's best mountain towns, you'll see the **iconic Biei Blue Pond** and be mesmerized by the fall flowers at top flower fields.....hopefully, to get to taste the ever sweet melon that melts in our mouth. And to that, to include some of top foliage spots of Hokkaido like the **Sounkyo of Daisetsuzan National Park, hidden gem of Jozankei** are some byways in Japan which could totally blow your mind during the fall season in this collection. **Join us now to discover the paradise of abundance wilderness of Hokkaido in autumn.**

Flight Details : D7550 KULCTS 14OCT 2335 0810 (arriving 15Oct)

D7551 CTSKUL 21OCT 0920 1700



DAY 01 Oct 14 Kuala Lumpur – Chitose (Hokkaido)

Depart KLIA2 on Air Asia X Flight D7550 ETD 2335

DAY 02 Oct 15 ARRIVAL CHITOSE ETA 0810 (MOB/early Lunch / Dinner)

Meet & Greet by our local guide.

Drive to Utoro.

Enroute for an **early lunch at Obihiro**, a small agriculture town famous for its tasty food like **PorkRice Bowl** and **it's good quality BBQ raw lamb meat**. Obihiro is about 2hr 30min drive from Chitose airport.

Early lunch (11.30am) at a local restaurant. If time permit, explore this little town of Obihiro for a while.

Continue our road journey to **UTORO** which takes about 3.5 hours. Paxs can rest in the journey plus enjoy the road journey . UTORO is the getaway to the Hokkaido only UNESCO Heritage Site of Shiretoka Peninsular.

Upon Arriving UTORO, drive straight to **Yuuhidai**, just on time **to watch the setting sun** - from spring to autumn, the setting sun casts a deep orange color on the surface of the sea.

Enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant before checking in the Hotel.

Overnight in UTORO. Have an early rest





DAY 03 Oct 16 UTORO – SHIRETOKO - UTORO (B/Lunch /seafood dinner)

After an early breakfast, we shall explore the wilderness of Shiretoko, designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 2005. Mid October is the best time to see autumn foliage.

- i) Explore watching the wild salmon swimming up river at **Salmon – Trout Run Observatory Onnebetsu River** (happening from Sept to early of Nov only, normally)
In the fall of Shiretoko, salmon and trouts return to their homes in the rivers and swim up the streams after spending 4 years of their lives in the ocean. When they come back, they are preyed upon by brown bears or raptors, and their remains return to the soil of the forests. This is a symbol of the circle of life of the sea and forests, which was a factor that led to the recognition of Shiretoko as a natural world heritage.
- ii) Take a slow drive across the **Shiretoko Pass** to enjoy the autumn colours of the area & view of Mt Rausu. Photo-stop wherever possible. Shiretoko Pass (a winding road) that connects Utoro in Shari and Rausu is seen to be one of best ways of enjoying a drive along with experiencing fall colors in the **Shiretoko Peninsula**. The drive along this pass is an excellent way that offers you a magnificent outlook of stunning autumn foliage in every direction.
- iii) Continue to explore **the Shiretoko Five Lakes** Spend some time walking on the wooden path to see one lake after another. To finish the 5 lakes will take about 3 hours, a distance of 3km walk. On some days, brown bears can be observed from the safe elevated pathways.
- iv) On the way back to Utoro, if time permit, stop by at the **Cape Puyuni** to watch the setting sun over the cape. Setting sun by 1700 in autumn.

Dinner with their local famous seafood at a local restaurant before returning to our hotel in UTORO.



Optional : additional cost @ 3000 yen (about MYR 120.00) per person (excluded in the Main tour fare)

Shiretoko Night Tour : Milky way & Starry sky without artificial light tour operated by Shiretoko Naturalist Association. Subjected to the availability and this will be an optional but participation must be confirmed and paid before the Main tour begins. As sighting of milky way & the starry sky or some animals depends on the local & weather condition at the point of visit, as such there is No guarantee.

Pick up from our hotel. Tour starts at 2000.

Overnight in UTORO.

DAY 04 OCT 17 UTORO – SOUNKYO Daisetsuzan National Park (B/L/D)

After breakfast, take a quick stop to view the **Utoro Harbor** and stop by the seafood market for some local products shopping.

Drive to **Lake Notoro** – (this Lake connects to the Sea of Okhotsk) for the coral grasses that turns into beautiful bright red plant that grows in the lake in early autumn.



Drive to **Sounkyo – part of Daisetsuzan National Park**, the largest national park in Hokkaido region and the top on the list for autumn leaves appreciation.

- (i) Visit OOBAKO – Daihoko one of the most interesting part of Sounkyo Valley.
- (ii) Walkway of Momijidani
- (iii) Take Sounkyo / Kurodake Ropeway to the 5th station
- (iv) If time permit, visit the Photo Museum of Sounkyo that features many photos of Mt Taisetsu by Ichinei Koustsu

Overnight in Sounkyo. Dinner at the hotel.



DAY 05 OCT 18 SOUNKYO – Kamishihoro – Biei (Blue Pond) – FURANO (B/L/D)

Morning visit the Ginga no Taki / Ryusei no Taki Falls in Sounkyo.

Drive to Kamishihoro to take a slow journey across the beautiful autumn leaves forest through the **Mikunitoge Pass**.

Photo-stops where possible and also make a stop at the observation platform, where the Matsumi Bridge crosses over a thick forest giving us yet another stunning view with golden leaves colour in autumn.

Move on to Biei to visit the **Shirogane Blue Pond**. The Shirogane Blue Pond is a manmade body of water in the eastern part of the town of Biei. The beautiful, mysterious & fantastic turquoise blue water surrounded by golden leaves during autumn season makes this pond a stunning view, not to be missed.

Drive to **Furano** to overnight, en-route to visit some Sunflowers farm for photo-stop. Catching up the setting sun over the farm land along the way to Furano from Biei, which is famous for their picturesque rolling fields of farms, providing an amazingly photogenic natural phenomena over this scenic rural area.

Dinner and overnight in FURANO





DAY 06 OCT 19 FURANO – SAPPORO (B/L/ -)

Morning, visit the **Tomita Melon House**, subjected to availability(for some taste of the melon on pax’s own account) and the next door **Tomita Farm** to enjoy the autumn flowers there.

Drive to Sapporo, upon arrival, lunch at a local restaurant.

Visit the **Nakajima Park** and take a walk along the **Hokkaido University Ginkgo Avenue** that stretches from Kita-jusanjo Gate to Ono Pond.

Have a walk at the **Odori Park** and thereafter, check into hotel.

Today, dinner is on our own where we can either eat while at Odori Park or after checking in, walk to **Tanukikoj Shopping street** where you can also dine there on your own.

Overnite in Sapporo



DAY 07 OCT 20 SAPPORO – JOZANKEI ONSEN – CHITOSE (B/L/ D)

Early morning visit the nearby **NIJO Market** for some dried seafoods and local products)

Take an hour drive to the exciting **Jozankei Onsen**, considered one of the hidden gems of Hokkaido.

Continue to explore **the Hoheikyo Dam** through the tunnel to the Dam area, where in autumn, surrounded by golden leaves. Hoheikyo Dam was created for irrigation as well as flood control along the Toyohira river.

After our exploration of this hidden gem of Hokkaido, we shall drive to Chitose to overnight as our departure flight on Air Asia is at 0920 the next day.

If time permit, we shall visit the Chitose Salmon Aquarium to understand more of the salmon lives. (close at 1700).

Have a farewell dinner before checking in our hotel in Chitose.



DAY 08 OCT 21 CHITOSE Departure (packed breakfast)

(We shall have either an early breakfast or packed breakfast)

Early transfer to the airport for our departure flight at 0920.

Costing : based on a min. pax of 20 Adults

- a) Ground Arrangement Twin sharing @ MYR 6,390.00 per person
- b) Single Supplement @MYR 1,600.00
- c) Air ticket AIR ASIA KUL – CTS – KUL estimated at MYR 2,400.00**

Rate is based on exchange rate of 1JPY:0.36MYR and is subjected to change accordingly.

**Air Asia air ticket cost is an estimation only and is subjected to the rate as per AirAsia website at the time of booking. It can be lower or higher.

Ground Arrangement Including

- 1) English speaking local Japanese guide
- 2) One bottle of drinking water per person per day
- 3) Meal Menu – local dishes as per itinerary
- 4) 6 nights Hotel accommodation with daily breakfast..... Good local 3*
- 5) Entrance fee & Green Bus as per itinerary
- 6) Tipping to local guide & driver

Excluded: any item not mentioned above.

The Itinerary may subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the local operator and EL SOL Travel's control like local conditions, restriction imposed by the local authority and weather at the time of visit, while every effort will be made to operate the tour itinerary as planned.



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Booking

- a) 1st payment @MYR 3,000.00 per person
- b) Balance of Payment : by end of August 2018

If you preferred to make the air ticket booking on your own, the deposit payment will be MYR1,000.00 only, **BUT**, please do not book the air ticket first until you received a confirmation of booking from us to ensure the departure date is a confirmed departure tour.

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