

# Snowshoe Hiking in the Heart of Winter to Mt. Rishiri in the Northernmost Reaches of Japan

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Experience the breathtaking winter scenery of Rishiri Island, known as the island with a single mountain, at the northernmost point of Japan.

Mt. Rishiri, one of Japan's 100 famous mountains, is transformed into a majestic snow-capped peak rivaling the Himalayas due to the seasonal winds blowing from the sea during the winter, creating impressive snow drifts. In this tour, we will approach its magnificent visage with snowshoes alongside a local guide.

On a weather reserve day, we can take part in a program to make 'Hokke Kamaboko' and get a taste of the island's fishing industry.

On the final day, we will visit the Monument of the Northernmost Point of Japan at Cape Soya in Wakkanai to savor the 'Top of Japan'.



## Highlights:

- ✓ Snowshoe hiking on approach to Mt. Rishiri covered with snow drifts in the heart of winter
- ✓ Making Hokke Kamaboko, a hands-on program to learn about Rishiri Island's key industry
- ✓ Standing at the Monument of Japan's Northernmost Point at Cape Soya, Wakkanai

## Location:

Northern area of Hokkaido , Rishiri Island, Mt. Rishiri, Wakkanai, Cape Soya.

**Main Activity:** Snowshoeing , Getting a taste of the island's fishing industry

**Difficulty:** 2 Easy

**Tour Dates:** Early February to Early March

**Pax:** Minimum 8                      Maximum 14

**Price:** JPY 258,000. ~

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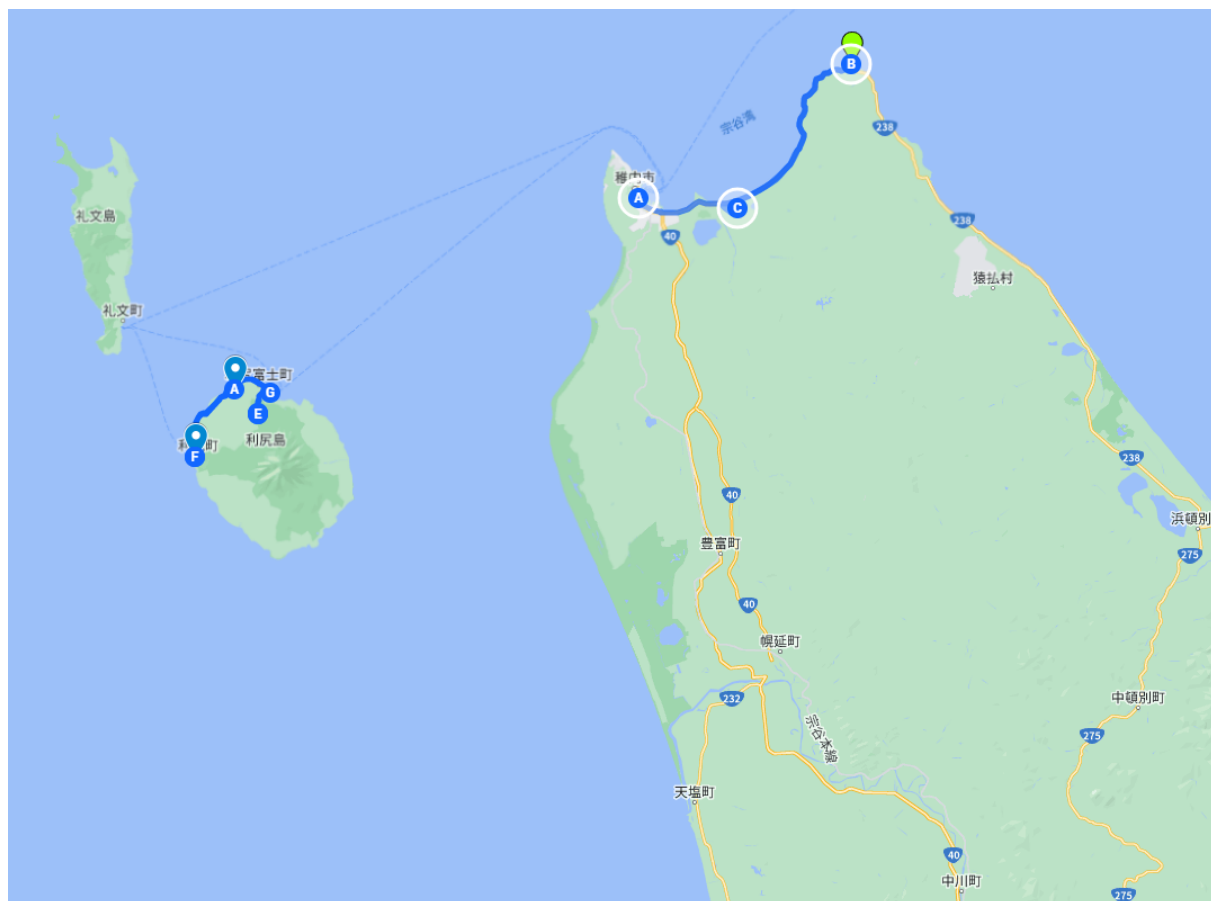
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# Route map



# Day-by-day Itinerary

## Day 1 - Meet at New Chitose Airport and leave for Rishiri Island

We will gather at New Chitose Airport and take a direct flight from Tamaoka Airport in Sapporo city to Rishiri Airport.

We will stay at Nakahara Ryokan, a Japanese inn, in the Kutsugata district on the west side of the island.

### Dinner

Japanese-style course meals featuring local ingredients and seafood

## Day 2 - Snowshoe hike on approach to Mt. Rishiri in the heart of winter

Explore a winter wonderland on a snowshoe hike to Mt. Rishiri.

Mt. Rishiri is a beautiful mountain offering splendid views from all angles. Depending on the weather and snowfall, your guide will lead you to the best snowshoeing route from the options below. Regardless of the chosen route, you will experience the essence of winter.

Possible routes

[Hokuroku Campground - Ponyama] (2-hour walk / about 300m difference in elevation)

[Hokuroku Campground - Kanro Sensui spring ] (30-minute walk)

[Senposhi Misaki Park] (1-hour walk)

Guide company: Kukiru Inc.

If there is time, we will stop by a hot spring in Rishiri Island and enjoy walking around the town in the afternoon.

### Lunch

Lunch will be served outdoors, cooked in a pot with seafood (traditional local food, Sanpeijiru).\*

\*In case of bad weather, lunch will be held at a restaurant in the town.

\*In case of dietary restrictions, special meals can be provided.

The menu will be different on the backup day.

Menu options : Kelp stew or Ramen

**Activity:** Snowshoeing

**Difficulty:** 2 Easy

### **Day 3 - Backup day for the snow hike, and making Hokke Kamaboko as a souvenir in the afternoon**

If our snow hike attempt on Day 2 was marred by bad weather, we will attempt our snow hike again on Day 3.

The weather in Rishiri during the peak winter months is very unpredictable, and cloud cover varies significantly on each side of the island. We will not provide a fixed itinerary in advance, but will rely on the expertise of the local guide and a dedicated driver to respond flexibly according to the weather and mountain conditions.

The itinerary is spacious in order to ensure that we can view Mt. Rishiri from the best vantage point and also have enough time to take in the views during the harsh winter season.

We will experience a slice of the fishing industry by making Hokke Kamaboko (fish paste cakes) for souvenirs in the afternoon.

#### **Lunch**

Same as previous day

**Activity:** Snowshoeing , Experience of the island's fishing industry

**Difficulty:** 2 Easy

### **Day 4 - From Rishiri Island to Wakkanai by ferry—stand at the northernmost point of Japan**

After checking out from our hotel, we will take the ferry from Rishiri Island to Wakkanai and drive to Cape Soya by private car where we will visit the 'Monument of the Northernmost Point of Japan' in Soya-misaki park and receive a certificate.

You will be able to experience the climate and natural features of the cape and relish that you have stood at the northernmost reaches of the nation.

Next we will transfer from Wakkanai Airport to New Chitose Airport, where the tour will end.

#### **Lunch**

Local restaurant in Wakkai Customer selects from multiple menus

**Activity:** Walk a little

**Difficulty:** 2 Easy

## **Accommodations :**

**Day1** : Nakahara Ryokan Inn / Japanese Ryokan style

**Day2** : same as previous day

**Day3** : same as previous day

## **What's included**

- Accommodation as per itinerary in a double / twin bed room. Single supplement applies for the single room accommodation.
- Transportation as per itinerary.
- English speaking licensed guide throughout the whole tour.
- Meals as listed in the itinerary.
- Program Participation Fee as per itinerary.

# We provide & What to bring

## We provide

- Snowshoes and poles are available free of charge

## What to bring

A list of equipment necessary for snowshoe hiking in the northernmost islands during the peak winter season will be made and distributed in advance for participants to prepare.

The list may include the following:

- Hiking boots suitable for 3-seasons or severe winter conditions
- Mountaineering backpack
- Outerwear, middle wear, underwear (top and bottom for each)
- Gloves, over-gloves
- Warm clothing (sweaters, fleece, down jackets, etc.)
- Socks for mountaineering
- Long spats (gaiters)
- Sunglasses, goggles
- Cap, beanie, balaclava
- Headlamp
- Compass, map
- Toilet paper
- Personal medical supplies
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle (insulated bottle)
- Health insurance card
- Plastic bag
- Trail foods, snacks

## About us

Alpine Tour Service is the tour company in Japan, specialized in the adventure trips which feature hiking, trekking & birding all over the world. We are the one of the oldest tour companies in Japan with more than fifty years of history.

### Guides

- Tour leader: Certified English speaking mountain guide as well as a tour leader.  
Japan Mountain Guides Association (JAMG)  
Mountain Guides Stage 1  
certified first aid
- Local Hiking Guide: Certified guide, certified first aid.



# Information and Requirements

## **Dietary Restrictions**

All meals will also offer a vegetarian menus.

## **Emergency Response Plan**

A first-aid kit will be carried by your tour leader and hiking guide at all times. All those tour leader and hiking guide have finished authorized first-aid course. A support car accompanies throughout the cycling activity. In case of major injuries, contact Fire and Disaster Management and transport to the nearest medical facility.

# Reservation & Cancellation Policy

## Payment Methods

Credit card (VISA MASTER)

## Cancellation

### Deposit

To secure your itinerary we require an initial non-refundable deposit as a booking confirmation fee.

Deposit amount and conditions will be confirmed case by case at the time of travel planning and quoting.

Deposit will be treated as part of the planning fee, tour fee, cancellation fee or penalty fee.

### Payment

Payment of the travel invoice is due no later than 60 days prior to commencement of travel. When settling

the travel invoice, the payment will be reduced by the amount of the deposit.

Where a booking is made within 60 days of commencement of travel, the total trip cost is required at the

time of booking. A travel invoice will be issued and will be immediately payable.

## Disclaimer

Organizers reserve the right to cancel or change the itinerary of the tour at their own discretion.

Organizers are not responsible for compensating any additional costs that may result from any changes.

## Tour Operator / Contact

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