

# Master Irresistible Gan-Wu: Stargazing, Climbing, Kayaking

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Enjoy guided tours through the Gan-Wu area of Hokkaido, a hidden gem among tourist destinations known for its natural scenery. Satisfy your five senses as you enjoy high-quality food, local culture and lodgings.

See the starry vistas as you stargaze at a mysterious marsh without artificial lights.

Enjoy 360 Degree views of the ocean and a highland marsh as you hike a mountain trail. Seaside cliffs, ocean vistas will show their many sides as you pass by on a Kayaking tour along the blue coasts of Shakotan Peninsula. We invite you to explore the natural wonders unique to this area.

Enjoy local foods fresh from local mountains and the nearby ocean. Experience sushi expertly crafted by an *itamae* chef. Feel ocean breezes as you feast on the local barbeque. Shelling Giant Ezo Scallops, drink local beers brewed with hops grown in the region, there are so many local goods to experience.

Round Trip travel with Japan Railways lowers your carbon footprint. The local trains will show you a slice of local life, and you will experience the pleasure of this journey full of the feeling of people.

## Highlights:

- Natural (Sky) Charms/appeal:Stargazing at Shinsen Marsh
- Natural(Mountain) Wonders: Mountain Climbing on Mt.Iwanai
- Natural(Ocean) Wonders: Experience Sea Kayaking at Shakotan Blue
- Culinary wonders: Michelin Guide Sushi and Barbeque with locally-produced foods
- Local works: Brewery (Iwanai Kogen Hotel), Ezo Scallop Shelling (Sazazuki Terrace)

## Location:

Gan-Wu is located in the Southwestern Hokkaido Area. It is blessed with both mountain and oceanic scenery, Iwanai Town has a long local history. Sapporo, the Largest city in Hokkaido is nearby and the popular tourist destination Otaru is only a 1-2 hour drive away. This area was previously not well-known as a tourist destination. But the less crowded, outdoor venues and natural setting are attracting attention as the world faces the COVID-19 pandemic.

<b>Main Activity:</b>	Mt. Iwanai Mountain climbing	
<b>Difficulty:</b>	3	
<b>Tour Dates:</b>	Jun, 2023 - September, 2023	
<b>Price:</b>	JPY131,000	
<b>Pax:</b>	Minimum 2	Maximum 7

[Route map](#)

[Day-by-day Itinerary](#)

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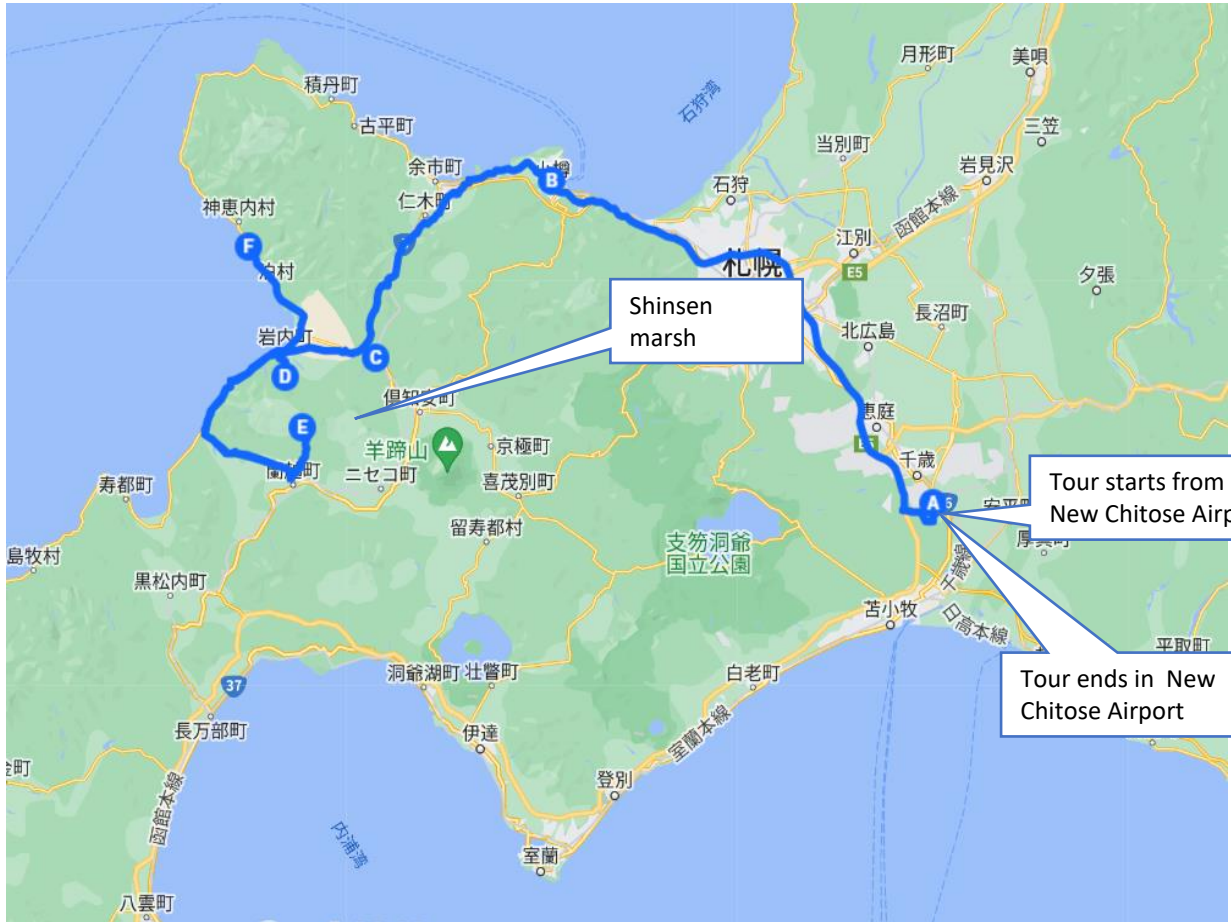
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# Route map



# Day-by-day Itinerary

## - Day 1 - Mysterious marshside stargazing

13:15 Meet at the Shin-Chitose Airport. Join with the tour guide that will stay with you for three days. 13:30 Ride JR Airport Limited Express (Reserved seats) Arrive at Otaru Station at 14:46. Transfer to the JR local line. 15:05 board the Hakodate Line. 16:17 Arrival at Kozawa Station. From Kozawa Station take a taxi to Iwanai Kogen Hotel. Arrive at the hotel around 17:00. After checking in, dine at the hotel. Enjoy dining on cuisine made from Locally-grown foods.

After eating, depart for the stargazing tour.(Departure times vary from 18:30-19:00)  
Using a private car, travel about 30 minutes to Shinsen Marsh Rest House Parking Area. From the entrance of the walking course, walk over the raised wooden pathways to Shinsen Marsh. (One-way about 30 minutes on level ground)Travel with renown local cameraman, who will point out and explain the amazing views you will see along the way. There are absolutely no artificial lights used near Shinsen Marsh so it is quite dark, the high-elevation and clear mountain air allows you to enjoy a starry panorama, which is also reflected in the surface of the marsh. The illusory star-scape within the marsh will take your breath away. After viewing at the Marsh for about 30 minutes, travel back along the wooden walkway to the parking area. After that, return to the hotel by a private car. 21:00-21:30 arrival at the hotel. After arrival, please try the hotel Onsen Hot Springs.

### Dinner

Iwanai Kogen Hotel, Japanese Dinner Course.

You will enjoy fine cuisine made using Locally-produced vegetables and seafood.

**Activity:** Stargazing Tour  
Elevation: About 7000m  
Course: Flat, wooden walkway  
Estimated time: One way drive about 30 minutes (1.5km)  
Because it will be nighttime, you will need flashlights and warm clothing.

**Difficulty:** 2

## **- Day 2 - Mt. Iwanai Mountain Climbing and Dinner at Famous Local Sushi Restaurant**

7:00-8:00 Eat Breakfast at the Hotel. 8:00 Meet in the Hotel Lobby.

Meet your dedicated Tour Guide and Guide for the Mountain Climb. Before Departure clothing and supplies will be checked. You will receive a Lunch Box to eat during the hike. (The lunch contains two rice balls and fruit). Everyone will fill a drink container to use during the hike. 8:15 you will depart from the hotel by a private car to the trailhead (Niimi Pass Parking Area). The mountain climb begins at 9:00.

### **Breakfast**

Iwanai Kogen Hotel Japanese style semi-buffet Breakfast.

The hike begins at an elevation of 744m. The morning is a mostly ascending route and the climbing guide will give you explanations of the mountain vistas and the plant life along the way. After about two hours (around 11:00) you will arrive at the summit of Mt. Mekunnai. From this 1220m high mountain peak you can take in a panoramic 360 degree view of the ocean and surrounding mountains while enjoying your lunch box. The hike down begins at 12:00.

### **Lunch**

2 rice balls and fruit:( you will receive a lunch box at the hotel in the morning.)

The afternoon route begins with a descent through a highland marsh Panke Mekunnai Marsh, where you can see unique high-altitude vegetation. After that the course ascends again for the summit of Mt. Iwanai. After arriving at the summit and enjoying the view, you will hike back to Iwanai Kogen Hotel. From the summit it is a mostly descending course. After passing through the Iwanai Campground you will head back toward the hotel. (218m)

Arrive at the hotel around 15:00. Rest and enjoy the hotel hot springs.

The afternoon route begins with a descent through a highland marsh Panke Mekunnai Marsh, where you can see unique high-altitude vegetation. After that the course ascends again for the summit of Mt. Iwanai. After arriving at the summit and enjoying the view, you will hike back to Iwanai Kogen Hotel. (218m) From the summit it is a mostly descending course. After passing through the Iwanai Campground you will head back toward the hotel. (218m) Arrive at the hotel around 15:00. Rest and enjoy the hotel hot springs. 16:00-17:00

Visit the Arai Art Museum located on the hotel grounds. Enjoy paintings by renowned local Gan-wu artists Nishimura Keiyu and Kida Kinjirō. Take in the character and fascination of the locale. 17:00-18:00. Enjoy beer at the first local brewery, opened by the hotel in 2022. Take in sights of local beer production and enjoy tasting the three craft brews produced here. A little known fact about Iwanai is that hops, vital to the production of beer, are grown here. 18:00 take a taxi from the hotel to dinner at Takezushi, a local sushi restaurant. 18:15 arrive at Takezushi. Takezushi was selected to appear in the 2017 Michelin Guide to Hokkaido and is famous in the area. 20:30 Finish Dinner. Return to the hotel by taxi. Arrive at the hotel at 20:45.

## Dinner

At Takezushi try the daily recommended sushi platter (Extra Special with 12 different kinds of sushi)+appetizer+soup+dessert. Enjoy watching it being prepared fresh in front of you by the Itamae sushi chef.

**Activity:** Mt. Iwanai Mountain climbing

Elevation: Beginning at 744m(Niimi Pass)-Highest Elevation  
1220m(Mt. Mekunnai summit)-Arrival point 218m (Iwanai Hotel)  
Walking Route: Ascending about 758m  
Descending : About 1258m  
Walking Distance (Niimi Pass parking lot-Mt.Mekunnai Summit-  
Iwanai Kogen Hotel): About 10km  
Estimated Travel time: About 6 Hours

**Difficulty:** 3

## - Day3 - Shakotan Blue Sea Kayaking and Barbeque

7:30-8:30 Eat Breakfast at the Hotel. After checking out gather in the Hotel lobby at 8:30. Meet your dedicated tour guide and travel by taxi to Sakazuki Terrace in Tomari Village. Enjoy the Japanese style semi-buffet at Iwanai Kogen Hotel.

### Breakfast

Iwanai Kogen Hotel Japanese style semi-buffet Breakfast.

Arrive at Sakazuki Terrace at 9:00. After arrival there will be a briefing.

You will change into wetware in Sakazuki Terrace and bring your kayak to the edge of the beach. At 9:15 an instructor will teach you how to row your kayak. After that the kayaking route and safety points will be shared. At 9:30 begin kayaking. (usually a kayak seats 2, this is ocean kayaking) The course will be in the calm waters of the bay and kayaking around Benten Island counterclockwise. While kayaking, enjoy not only views of the coastal cliffs but also the crystal clear waters through which you can watch fish and sea life.

Try fishing a bit as you row around the island. While you get used to handling your kayak pass through an area that was once the center of fishing in the area. You can get a taste of what fishing used to be like in olden times.

Around 11:30 return to the start to end your sea Kayaking tour.

Pull the Kayak ashore and get changed. For those interested there is a Scandanavian Sauna available to use and you can bring your body temperature up and feel refreshed.

12:30 gather on the beach and for a barbeque (It can be held indoors in the event of inclement weather) Also before lunch try shelling Giant Ezo Scallops to experience a taste of the modern fishing industry here. 13:30 Lunch is concluded.

### Lunch

Beginning with locally caught seafood (Giant Ezo Scallops, squid, shrimp, seasonal fish), meat and locally grown vegetables will be barbecued on a charcoal grill.

13:30 Take a taxi from Sakazuki Terrace to JR Kozawa Station. 14:00 arrive at Kozawa Station. 14:22 Change to the JR Hakodate Line bound for Otaru Station. Arrive at JR Otaru Station at 15:26. 15:33 Take the Airport Limited Express Train departing from JR Otaru Station. 16:50 arrive at Shin-Chitose Airport. (The tour can be ended at Sapporo upon request)

**Activity:** sea kayaking in the Shakotan blue sea

**Difficulty:** 2

**Accommodations :**

First day : Iwanai Kogen Hotel (Western-style room or Japanese-Western style room with bath and toilet)

Second day : Iwanai Kogen Hotel (Western-style room or Japanese-Western style room with bath and toilet)

## What's included

- Transportation costs: JR train tickets and other fares as indicated on the itinerary
- Lodging costs: 2 nights hotel stay
- Food costs: breakfast (2), Lunch (2), Dinner (2)
- Tour Guide Fees: Dedicated tour guide (for transportation from Shin-Chitose Airport, Mountain Climbing Guide)
- Tour fees: Stargazing, Museum Ticket, Brewery tasting fees, sea kayaking course



# We provide & What to bring

## We provide

- First aid kit (when climbing or kayaking)
- Daily drinking water (replenishment for each person's own bottle)
- Simple maps and guidebooks for each area
- PFD (life jacket): Up to Height 190 cm, weight 90 kg(kayak)

## What to bring

Observation of the starry sky on the 1st day, mountain climbing on the 2nd day, and belongings during sea kayaking on the 3rd day is shown below. In addition, this tour uses public transportation and taxis, so we recommend to prepare a compact suitcase or shoulderbag.

Example below:

climbing

- Trousers and long sleeve jumper
- Hat, gloves, bag, water bottle
- Trekking shoes, trekking pole
- Waterproof like GORE-TEX jacket/coat/trousers will be ideal, rain shoe covers
- Insect repellent spray, bear bell
- Portable toilet will be useful as there is no toilet on the trekking route
- Trekking poles or raincoats can be rented separately upto large size (approx. 190 cm )

Kakaking

- Shorts & t-shirts / Trousers & warm sweater / socks for changing
- Strap-on sandals / crocs or shoes that can get wet
- Towel, clothes that can get wet (except jeans)

## About us

JTB -- "Perfect moments, always."

The JTB Group traces its roots back to 1912 when "Japan Tourist Bureau" was formed to attract international travelers to Japan and assist with their travel needs. While our activities and clientele have expanded greatly since then, the JTB Group remains aligned around a core purpose: bringing people, places and possibilities together. Developing innovative services and solutions that enable our customers to connect more deeply and meaningfully. Contributing to the creation of sustainable communities and a more peaceful and interconnected planet.

No matter how the world changes, the JTB Group remains as committed now as 108 years ago to delivering unrivaled excitement, value and satisfaction. At its essence, JTB's legacy resides in the bonds of trust we have forged with our customers, communities and stakeholders.

### Guides

Our experienced English speaking guides will conduct the tour.

Dedicated tour guide : Masuya Aya who holds qualifications as a National Government Licensed Guide Interpreter (English EN00233), Sapporo City Licensed Guide Interpreter (English), Hokkaido Outdoor Guide (Nature), Itinerary control management license.

\* In the event that the above guide is not available, a similarly qualified guide will be provided.

Mountain climbing guide : Iori Tsunehiro who holds the following qualifications as a Japan Mountain Guide Qualification, Mountain Climbing Guide Stage 2, Skiing Guide Stage 1, Hokkaido Outdoor Guide, Mountain guide (Summer and Winter seasons)

Your stargazing guide: Ishizuka Takahiro. He is renowned as a local cameraman known for his high-quality photos of the night sky. He will join you briefly during the Stargazing tour.

# Information and Requirements -day by day- \* (Second day)Mt. Iwanai Mountain Climbing

## **Emergency Response Plan**

In the event of various accidents or disasters, mountaineering guide will provide explanations and instructions, such as guidance and emergency response.

### **Guide brings:**

Zeltsack (portable tent for 3-4 people)

Gas & Kocher (cooker/kettle) & Emergency Food

First aid (Sling, Cardiopulmonary resuscitation mouthpiece, Glucose, Vinyl gloves, Poison remover, Waterproof adhesive plaster & second skin, gauze, Leg cramps Chinese ne, Painkiller (over-the-counter medicine), Sam Sprint, Hiking Belt, etc.), Head lamp x 2, Extra batteries, Rescue sheet, Bear spray, Extra drinking water, 7mm rope, 10m Carabiner & sling)

\*For emergency, contact an emergency call center (a fire station) rescue team, including dispatching a helicopter.

# Information and Requirements -day by-day- \*(Third day) Shakotan Blue sea kayaking

## Emergency Response Plan

In case of emergency, a marine adventure operator or tour guide will provide explanations and instructions in English, such as guidance and emergency response.

Displayed the accident / disaster manual (or illustration) in the facility.

In the early morning of the tour, check the sea visually and make sure the weather forecast of the Japan Meteorological Agency, also taking into consideration the wind conditions, we carefully judge whether the tour can be carried out or not. At the time of the event, we will explain the above precautions and disclaimers to the customer, ask to fill out the participation application form, and comply with the appropriate experience implementation. The customer declares and informs us his / her physical and medical condition to let us understand, observe reasonable tours. Before activity starts, lecture on kayaking, equipment, and how to deal with accidents.

Items of your guides carries: (during sea kayaking and snorkeling in a waterproof bag)

First Aid Kit (for injuries)

1. 1 x disinfectant spray
2. 1 x box of first-aid adhesive plaster waterproof type (Band-Aid)
3. 1 x bandage
4. 2 x pieces of gauze
5. 2 x slings
6. 1 x roll of taping tape
7. 1 x scissors
8. 1 x face shield
9. 1 x latex glove
10. Mobile jacket for cold weather

Mobile phone (register the phone numbers of fire station, police, medical institutions, etc.)

Inside the local facility in Shakotan “Sakazuki-Terrace”

AED / Disinfectant products for Meal

# Information and Requirements -whole-

## **Dietary Restrictions**

If you have dietary restrictions, an allergy to nuts or seafood, or need vegetarian, vegan, or gluten-free meals, please let us know in advance and we will provide you alternatives to the best of our abilities.

## **Emergency Response Plan**

There is mobile phone reception at all accommodation facilities. In the event of an accident, your guide will respond promptly in cooperation with local medical personnel. In the event of problems such as broken gear or minor mechanical problems, please rest assured that we will assist you.

## **Weather Conditions**

In Eastern Hokkaido it rains a lot in September, and it can get quite cold in the morning and evening. It might be chilly sometimes, so it is a good idea to have a warm, thick coat or sweater such as a fleece.

The average temperature is around 16 degrees Celsius, with an average high of 20 degrees and an average low of 10 degrees.

# Reservation & Cancellation Policy

## Payment Methods

Trip Price: JPY131,000

Only payments by credit card will be accepted.

The due date for the payment is August 1st, 2021. Please note that payments will not be accepted after this date.

How to pay by credit card

Visa, MasterCard®, JCB, AMEX and Diners Club are accepted.

Your credit card statement will show that the payment has been made to JTB Corp., the agent handling registration.

## Cancellations

\*In the event of a cancellation, your deposit will be refunded after deducting the cancellation fees shown below.

\*JTB will refund the remainder of the tour fee within 7 days of the day after cancellation if the refund is requested before the departure of the tour.

\*Cancellation fee when notice is given:

21 or more days prior to the departure date of the tour	
8-20 days prior to the departure date of the tour	20% of the tour fee
2-7 days prior to the departure date of the tour	30% of the tour fee
1 days prior to the day of departure	40% of the tour fee
On the day of departure	50% of the tour fee
After the day of departure, or if no notice is given	100% of the tour fee

## Disclaimer

Trip Cancellations: JTB reserves the right to cancel or change the itinerary of a tour. In the event that we need to cancel a tour, we will refund 100% of your costs. Weather conditions are almost never severe enough to warrant cancelling a tour; cancellations only occur as a result of truly exceptional events that could not be predicted.

JTB is not responsible for compensating any additional costs such as flights.

## Terms and Conditions for Agent-organized Tours

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### Tour Operator / Contact



*Perfect moments, always*

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