



Arctic experience in Abashiri and Shiretoko – 3 Days

In the north of Hokkaido, Abashiri is the coldest city of Japan. Here you will see spectacular winter scenery and the impressive phenomenon of drift ice (Ryuhyo in Japanese). The Sea of Okhotsk is known as the southernmost point of drifting sea ice originating from the Arctic.

From January 20 to March 10, you can board an icebreaker and observe the dynamic drifting ice up close, and in certain areas, you can even experience walking on the packed ice.

Day 1: Haneda / Memambetsu / Abashiri / Shiretoko

Morning flight from Haneda to Memambetsu.

Transfer by limousine bus to Abashiri Drift Ice Sightseeing Ship (Abashiri Michinoeki).

The day is dedicated to the discovery of the mysterious beauty of drifting ice.

Meals at your convenience

*The town of **Abashiri** is located on the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk, 350km from Sapporo in the north-east of the island of Hokkaido. This city is known for being home to the northernmost prison in Japan, as well as for the natural ice floes which attracts many tourists in winter.*



Aurora cruise on drifting ice

Visit Suggestions:

- **Okhotsk Ryuhyo Museum**

Science museum on drifting ice and the Sea of Okhotsk. This visit is highly recommended to understand the phenomenon before cruising on the icebreaker.



Activity Suggestions:

✧ **Aurora Cruise**

Cruise on an icebreaker Ship. Cruises to discover drifting ice leave every hour from the port aboard one of the two icebreakers.

Transfer by coach from Abashiri to your hotel in Shiretoko.

Dinner and night at the hotel in Shiretoko.

Day 2: Shiretoko / Abashiri

Breakfast at the hotel.

Day dedicated to the visit of Shiretoko, lunch included.

*The **Shiretoko Peninsula** is located northeast of the city of Shari, facing the Sea of Okhotsk. The Shiretoko Peninsula contains many prehistoric remains dating back thousands of years. It is also a testament to the magnificence of nature. In the heart of winter, it hosts an absolutely incredible ice festival called Shiretoko Ryûhyô Fes (Shiretoko Drifting Ice Festival). It takes place on the evenings during the month of February. Let yourself be enchanted by its magical images!*

Excursion Suggestions:

• **Walking on drifting ice**

This activity is only available for about a month of the year, and only in the Sea of Okhotsk, east of Hokkaido. In order to walk on the ice floe, you must wear a special wetsuit to keep you warm. You can even take a dip in the icy waters!

• **Excursion to the Furepe Waterfall**

Your guide will lead you across the forest to one of Shiretoko's main attractions: the Furepe waterfall. Winter transforms the waterfall into mysteriously shaped pillars of aqua blue ice.



Drifting ice



Return to Abashiri by bus and train. dinner at your convenience and night at your hotel.

Day 3: Abashiri / Memambetsu / Haneda

Breakfast at the hotel.

Day dedicated to the visit of Abashiri, meals at your convenience.

Visit Suggestions:

- **Moyoro museum**
Museum on the culture and history of the Moyoro people, who lived here during the Jomon period.
- **Abashiri Prison museum**
A large open-air museum, which allows visitors to immerse themselves in the period of Hokkaido's development at the end of the 19th century, while discovering the living conditions of the former prisoners of the Japanese far north. Since 2016, eight of the buildings preserved in the museum have been designated as Important Cultural Property by the Japanese government. The highlight of the visit remains the original wooden prison buildings, on a star-shaped plan copied from that of the prison in Leuven, Belgium. It is a Ducpétiaux-type plan, in which a central guard house can watch over all the alleys at a glance.



Ryuhyo Okhotsk Museum



Abashiri Prison Museum

Return to the hotel, pick up your luggage and take the shuttle to Memambetsu Airport for your flight back.



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