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Experience Ainu Cultural in Shiraoi and Hiking at Poroto Forest



The Ainu spirit is still strong in Shiraoi town. UPOPOY National Ainu Museum and Park has been established to promote the Ainu culture to the general public. On this tour, and with the guidance of Ainu people, you will dive into Ainu History and real life of the Ainu. In the Poroto Forest, you may have an opportunity to ponder, “how should we act to become a sustainable society?” by getting hints from how humans and forests relate that the Ainu have cherished.

Highlights:

- Ainu Cultural Experiences at UPOPOY and Shiraoi town
- Hiking at Poroto Forest to see how Ainu culture coexists with nature
- Enjoy the traditional Ainu cuisine and marvel at bamboo chopsticks making

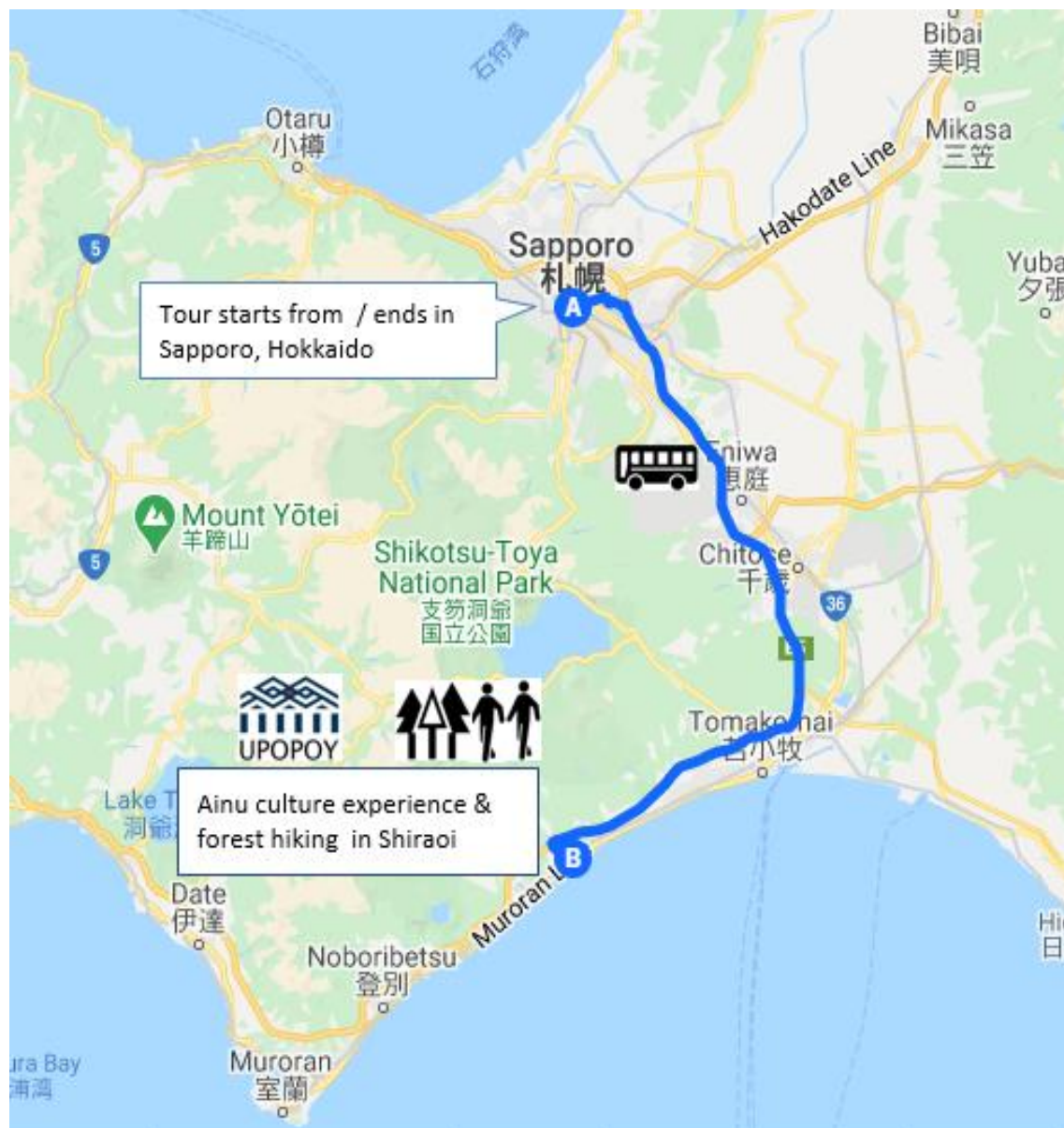
Location:

Hokkaido Shiraoi

Shiraoi is a town located in Iburi and, like the rest of Hokkaido, was populated by the Ainu. According to the town's official website, the name Shiraoi means Rainbows in the Ainu language.

Main Activity: Ainu Cultural Experience and Hiking
Difficulty: 1/5 Relaxed / Social
Tour Dates: 11 September, 2023
Pax: Minimum 4 Maximum 24

Route map



Itinerary

Experience Ainu Cultural & Hiking at Forest Poroto

Welcome to Hokkaido, you will be greeted by our tour guide in Sapporo TV Tower on Oodori Park (7:30am) and then transferred to our destination Shiraoi by private coach.

After a 1.5 hours' drive, we will arrive UPOPOY National Ainu Museum and Park. Your English-speaking Ainu guide will greet you at here and start the Ainu Cultural tour.

UPOPOY consists of the National Ainu Museum and the National Ainu Park in the core lakeside area, along with the hilltop Memorial Site. The Ainu are an indigenous people from the northern region of the Japanese archipelago, and are mostly located in Hokkaido. Traditional Ainu culture is significantly different from Japanese culture and spirituality, as the Ainu believe that spirits dwell in every part of the natural world. UPOPOY park will show you more about the Ainu history and culture while you learn about the Ainu views of the world and nature. UPOPOY enables people of all nationalities and ages to learn about the Ainu's worldview and respect for nature.

Before our lunch break, we will get to experience Bamboo chopsticks making experience at Porto Forest and use them during lunch time. Ainu food culture was rich and vibrant and had a distinct and lasting impact on Japanese cuisine. Learn Ainu culture from dishes which is made with local ingredients and use chopsticks made from bamboo grass.

Lunch

Traditional Ainu cuisine at Forest of Poroto Camping field

Ainu cuisine is the cuisine of the ethnic Ainu in Japan. The cuisine differs remarkably from that of the majority Yamato people of Japan. Raw meat like sashimi, for example, is rarely served in Ainu cuisine, which instead uses methods such as boiling, roasting and curing to prepare meat.

Menu: Ohaw (soup), Sito (dumplings), and other dishes using with local ingredients

After lunch, we will have a 1.5 hours Forest hike on 3.5 km paved trail (asphalt, wood chips) at Shiraoi Furusato 2000 Poroto Forest. It is an easy entry-level hike that anyone from children to elderly people can enjoy.

You can enjoy the nature walks in the forest, and take a walk while looking at the traces of Ainu and encounter Ainu culture in the tranquil forest of Shiraoi. Surrounded by primeval

forest, you can get to know more about the Ainu people, and learn how they maintained their relationship with the forest, which may make you think about how we can learn to do the same.

We will take a 30mins Coffee Break in the Poroto natural forest, serving a cup of coffee made from 100% sap of Itaya maple.

Before returning to Sapporo, we will have 1 hour listening experience with local villagers talking about the grandma's life at Poroto Forest camping plaza. These Ainu have been living as Ainu in Shiraoi Town, and may make you think about the importance of this ancient culture.
Speaker: Ms. Shimako Yamazaki (Ainu people)

A private coach will be waiting for you in Shiraoi Town to take you to Sapporo City (Arrival Scheduled at 6:00pm) as the day ends. We hope that you enjoy the trip, and we are delighted to see you again.

Activity: Hiking at Poroto Forest

Course Guide: Difficulty: 1
Distance: approx. 3.5km
Time required: approx. 1.5hr
Start / Finish: Poroto Forest

Meals provided: Lunch



Porto Forest information

Geographical/topographical features

Poroto Recreation Forest encircles Lake Poroto (Poroto means “big lake” in the Ainu language) with a circumference of about 4 km and an area of around 33 ha. This hilly forest, while located adjacent to the urban district of Shiraoi town, has a primitive and ancient air to it. Bougakudai Observation Platform offers panoramic views of mountains, including Mt. Tarumae, Mt. Horohoro and Mt. Shiraoi, and magnificent vistas of Pacific Ocean and its coastline.

Historical/cultural features

Before its designation as a Recreation Forest in 1976, Poroto forest served as a sapling nursery, where trees were grown for planting in the mountains. Among the trees cultivated here were todomatsu and Todo fir (*Abies sachalinensis*). In 2020, the Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony (National Ainu Museum and National Park for Ethnic) opened in an adjacent site, so this area is expected to become a center for disseminating Ainu history and culture.

Map



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Web site

https://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/e/national_forest/recreation_forest/poroto.html#anc12

What's included

- English-speaking guides who are familiar with Ainu culture
- Visit to UPOPOY park
- Poroto Forest hiking
- Bamboo chopstick-making experience
- Lunch in the camping field of Poroto Forest with traditional Ainu cuisine
- Transport between Sapporo and Shiraoi

What's not included

- Personal expenses
- Alcoholic drinks

What We provide & What to bring**We provide**

- First aid kit
- Bear deterrent spray
- Bug spray
- Wasp deterrent spray
- Medical Epipen (Medicines used for emergency adjunctive treatment of anaphylaxis due to bee stings, food allergies, etc.)

What to bring

- Windbreaker (nylon top and bottom clothes)
- Sports shoes or boots for hiking
- Hat, towel, and gloves
- Water bottle
- Raincoat(while we do provide rental raincoats for rainy days., numbers are limited)

Recommended/Optional items:

- Personal first aid kit - On each walk a first aid kit is carried but you should have your own blister kit, supply of band-aids, aspirin, or other personal essentials.

About us

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

The Leisure Travel Business Division develops and markets original tour products. We are committed to fulfilling the expectations of our customers and offering unique and attractive and original tour products.

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 to meet the growing needs of global customers. Furthermore, ANA is currently the only Japanese airline to have 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 our employees.

Guides

Your guide will share first-hand knowledge and unique insights so that you experience new cultures and discover authentic experiences.

Explore guide

Your explore guides have deep knowledge and insights of the Ainu culture. Ms. Yamada knows well about Ainu’s traditional cuisine and dance. Some of them have experiences interacting with indigenous people abroad such as in the United States and New Zealand. They will take you to explore the Ainu's history and culture. Through the experience, you will learn how they live with the nature.

Through guide

Through guide is our experienced and fluent English-speaking staff who is familiar with this region. Our guide will be there to support during your trip, make sure the tour is as safe as possible for all the time and provide you with a wonderful travel experience.

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/special diets.

Emergency Response Plan

All guides of this tour will be trained in Advanced First Aid Course or Standard First Aid Course given by a municipal fire department of Japan. We will prepare the first aid kit for the tour and establish guidelines for emergency situations, including contacting medical facilities and transport procedure. UPOPOY park has an AED and First aid room. Spots of our activities are close to Shiraoi Municipal Hospital (doctors of internal medicine, surgery and pediatrics are registered) which takes about 8 minutes by car. An English-speaking guide will accompany you and provide support, such as filling out the medical questionnaire.

Weather Conditions

Hokkaido is the northernmost region of Japan. Shiraoi has an oceanic climate and is mild when compared to the rest of Hokkaido. Weather in Shiraoi in September is slightly rainier and has cooler temperatures. Morning and evening temperatures fall quite sharply and feel a lot colder than the rest of the day.

Shiraoi Weather Data of September

Average temperature: 17.2° C

Average low temperature: 13.4° C

Average high temperature: 21.1° C

Precipitation: 161mm

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 two 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 (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.

Partner Company

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Tour Operator / Contact



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