

Tour Dates

8/20 - 8/31 (11 nights)

Tour Highlights

HOKKAIDO

Daisetsuzan National Park - Hokkaido's largest and wildest national park.

Shiretoko National Park (UNESCO world heritage listed), located at the northeastern tip of Hokkaido. We'll take an easy hike through a natural hot spring creek and bathe in a mineral-rich waterfall and pool.

Akan National Park - famous for its beautiful lakes.

Shikotsu-Toya National Park - the site of 2008 G-8 Summit and home to Noboribetsu, a geothermal wonder and Hokkaido's most famous hot spring resort. Also, famous for Mount Usu - an active and smoldering volcano.

The Rolling hills of Furano & Biei - this area comes alive with color in the summer months.

The Kushiro Marshlands and the open plains of eastern Hokkaido and Obihiro.

Sapporo - Hokkaido's largest city and Japan's fifth largest. We'll dine in the popular Susukino entertainment district.

Otaru - A quaint and charming harbor town located near Sapporo, famous for its great seafood.

Niseko - A booming Aussie ski town.

Mt. Yotei - Hokkaido's Mt. Fuji.

Like seafood? Hokkaido has the freshest!

Loads of flora and fauna. Maybe try your hand at hand-feeding a fox.

TOHOKU

Bandai-Asahi National Park and the lake district of Bandai Kogen Plateau.

Kakunodate - famous for its beautifully preserved samurai district.

Omagari - we'll be in the center of Japan's largest fireworks display and competition. You'll wonder, 'will it ever end?'

Aizu-Wakamatsu - an old castle town, famous for Tsuruga Castle and its historic district.

Yonezawa and Lake Inawashiro (the fourth largest lake in Japan).

Ouchi-Juku - a beautifully preserved 18th century Edo era thatched roof village.

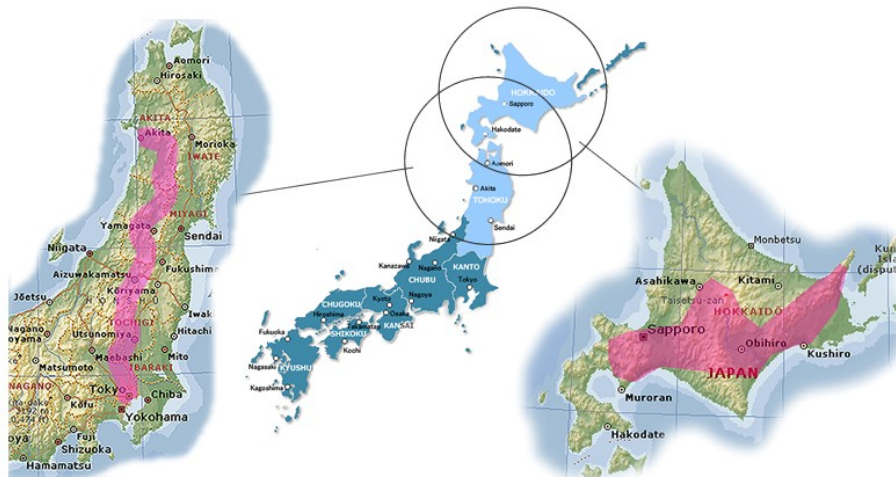
The shrines and temples of Nikko - one of Japan's most ancient and beautiful religious centers.

Hokkaido/Tohoku Tour 2010

"JAPAN - The Ride of a Lifetime!"

Tour Outline

Japan Bike Rentals invites you to join us on this truly outstanding motorcycle tour of Japan's northern frontier. This 12-day tour combines the rugged wilderness, the open plains and the volcanic wonders of the northern-most island of Hokkaido with the rarely explored and fascinating sights of the culturally rich region of Tohoku. A delicate mix of centuries-old traditions, natural beauty, amazing cuisine and unparalleled hospitality in a truly unique and fascinating land; this is what Japan is all about. Once a land closed to the outside world, is now very much open to be explored, and the best way to do it is on two wheels. So come join us for a tour guaranteed to be unforgettable. We're waiting to hear from you.



Daily Itinerary

Day 1 (Aug 20) JBR office to Oarai ferry port (128 km)

We're loading up and moving out at 3pm. Located about 120km NE of Tokyo is our ferry terminal in Oarai, Ibaraki where we'll depart for Hokkaido at 6:30pm. Dinner and drinks in the lounge will commence and we'll discuss our itinerary in detail for the next couple of days. We will be sleeping on the ferry.

Day 2 (Aug 21) Tomakomai to Obihiro (181km)

After a good night's rest, breakfast and a dip in the ferry's relaxing ocean-view bath, we'll arrive in Tomakomai, Hokkaido at 1pm. We'll be heading through the Hidaka mountain range (great twist and turns here) until we reach the famous Tokachi Plain and Obihiro, the agricultural heartland of Hokkaido. Our first night will be spent here, strategically located for some great riding in the morning.



Day 3 (Aug 22) Obihiro to Kushiro (197km)

We'll spend the morning heading through the wide open spaces of the Tokachi Plain. You'll feel like you're in the US mid-west, with a unique Japanese twist. Next it's up into the hills and over toward the Pacific coast. We'll follow the rugged coastline for a while with a stop at the Marshlands observatory where we'll try our hands at bird watching. This area is famous as a habitat for the endangered Japanese Crane as well as many other species of birds. Next up, today's final destination of Kushiro.

There are a limited number of spaces available on this popular tour, so please **BOOK NOW!**



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- ✓ Soothing hot springs everyday at our hotels.
- ✓ Exceptional riding EVERYWHERE!
- ✓ Outstanding meals EVERYDAY!

Daily Itinerary

Day 4 (Aug 23) – Kushiro to Shiretoko (205km)

We'll get an early start today heading through the Marshlands and then onto the eastern plains. When we hit the east coast of Hokkaido, you'll have some views of the disputed Russian island of Kunashiri off to the East. From here, we will continue into the UNESCO world heritage listed Shiretoko National Park, where we will experience a fantastic hike through a hot spring creek and a bath in a very unique hot spring at the top. Don't forget the swimsuit.

Day 5 (Aug 24) – Shiretoko to Akan (215km)

The theme of today is volcanic lakes. We will leave the Shiretoko National park by heading along the coastline of the Sea of Okhotsk. We'll pass through a number of small fishing villages en route toward Lake Kussaro and Lake Masshu, considered by many to be the most beautiful lakes in Japan. From here we'll continue through Akan National Park to the smoldering Mt. Akan and Lake Akan where we'll be staying the night.



Day 6 (Aug 25) – Akan to Biei (240km)

Great riding all day today as we head through the less traveled interior. We will cut a course through the Mikuni Pass and then into Daisetsu National Park where we'll have lunch at Sounkyo Onsen, taking in the splendor of the steep and dynamic peaks in the area. Time permitting, we'll take the cable car to the top for some great views. We'll continue our journey, making our way around the other side of Daisetsu and into the scenic little town of Biei, located just outside of Furano.



Day 7 (Aug 26) Biei to Otaru (213km)

The morning will be spent weaving our way through farmland and soaking up the beauty of Furano. From here it's up into the mountains and across to the highway where we'll cruise past Sapporo, and into the charming old fishing port of Otaru. We plan get in early, so as to give you some time to wander around the canal district and pick up some souvenirs if you wish. Dinner tonight will be in Sapporo in the bright lights of the entertainment district of Suskino.

Day 8 (Aug 27) Otaru to Tomakomai (271km)

First up, a ride into the hills and over to Mt. Yotei (Hokkaido's Mt. Fuji). We'll have lunch in the mountain ski resort town of Niseko. After lunch we'll swing by the gorgeous Lake Toyako and then on to Noboribetsu, famous for its steaming volcanoes and hell-like scenery. We'll have a light meal here before heading to the ferry terminal in Tomakomai, where we will board our ferry at 7:30pm, bound for Akita on the west coast of Honshu. We'll be sleeping on the ferry.

Day 9 (Aug 28) Akita to Omagari (86km)

After an early breakfast aboard our ferry, we pull into Akita at 7:45am. Our morning destination is the town of Kakunodake where we'll take a leisurely walk around and explore the samurai houses and tree lined streets. After lunch we will head to Omagari and prepare for Japan's largest fireworks display. The best of the best will be fighting it out to win the all Japan fireworks competition. You have never seen anything like this before.



Day 10 (Aug 29) Omagari to Yonezawa (277km)

With our cars still ringing from the night before, we'll get an early start as today is one of the biggest riding days of the trip. Today you'll see parts of Japan that have seldom been visited by tourists. We'll be cruising our way off the beaten track along some great country roads, through rice fields and mountain passes, in an area where the dialect spoken requires some translation even for Japanese living in Tokyo. We'll be staying in Yonezawa, just north of the mountainous Bandai region, which we will be exploring tomorrow.

Day 11 (Aug 30) Yonezawa to Nikko (220km)

First up today we'll head into the colorful Bandai Lake district – each lake reflecting a different color. We will continue through Bandai National Park and then stop in at Wakamatsu Castle for a look around. Our lunch stop will be the very charming town of Ouchi Juku, a historic Edo style postal town. We'll finish off another great day of riding, by cutting a path through this very mountainous area into Nikko, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of Japan's most religious areas. We will be staying here tonight and celebrating with a magnificent dinner to polish off what will have been an outstanding tour.



Day 12 (Aug 31) Nikko to Tokyo (163km)

On our final day of the tour, we'll spend the morning exploring some of the temples and shrines in Nikko and then after lunch, we'll take the highway back into Tokyo. Be prepared for some heat as we make our way out of the mountains and into one of the world's most densely populated cities. Expect to be back around 3pm.

For inquiries, bookings and more information on this exciting Japan tour of Hokkaido and Tohoku please contact Japan Bike Rentals at info@japanbikerentals.com or give us a call at +81-3-3584-5185. We hope you'll join us for an unforgettable motorcycle touring experience.

What's Included

- ✓ **Motorcycle Rental Fees + Full Comprehensive Insurance**
- ✓ **Bike Luggage** (All bikes include Top Case, Side Cases and Tank Bag)
- ✓ **Protective riding gear** (including jacket, helmet, gloves, and rain gear)
- ✓ **Hotel Fees** (we'll be staying at some great hotels and Japanese inns in the area)
- ✓ **All Meals** (except daily lunches and all meals onboard the ferries)
- ✓ **Ferry Fees**
- ✓ **Expressway Tolls**
- ✓ **Onsen (hotspring) Fees**
- ✓ **Park and Museum Entrance Fees**
- ✓ **Support Vehicle** (There will be a van with us along the tour route to carry extra luggage and any pillion passengers that wish to take a break from the excitement)

NOT Included

- Gasoline fees
- Fees for any traffic violations
- Daily lunches and meals on ferries
- Alcohol
- Riding boots
- Riding Pants
- Airfare to and from Japan



Prices

Departure: 8/20/10 - 8/31/10

Trip Length: 11 nights - 12 days

Price per rider: from 800,000 - 870,000 yen.
(add passenger + 570,000 yen)

800,000 yen price based on economy-class bike (Yamaha XT250) and shared accommodations.

820,000 yen price based on mid-class bike (BMW F650GS/ Honda CB750 Four) and shared accommodations.

870,000 yen price based on large-class bike (BMW K1200GT, BMW R1200RT, BMW R1150GS) and shared accommodations.

*For single room supplement please add +66,000 yen per person.

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