



TOUR GUIDE COURSES IN SHIRAOI

北海道白老町



Spirit of [SHIRAOI AINU] " Immerse in Ainu Traditions" 2 Days (Canoeing, wood carving, Ainu pattern embroidery)

After learning about the history and culture of the Ainu people at Upopoy, you can further deepen your cultural understanding through experiences such as bear wood carving and Ainu pattern embroidery. You can combine multiple types of experience, have a go yourself, and enjoy interacting with local people.

Possible Period April to October

No. of Days 2 days

Highlights

- Ainu culture experience (bear wood carving, Ainu pattern embroidery)
- Canoeing at Lake Poroto
- Ainu cuisine lunch

Day 1

- 10:00 – 13:00 UPOPOY (The Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony) *Dedicated guide available (Japanese)
- 13:10 – 14:00 Enjoy Shiraoi beef yakiniku, hamburgers, and more.
- 14:10 – 15:40 Bear wood carving at Collaborative Folk Crafts Korpokkur
- 15:50 – 17:00 Canoeing at Lake Poroto
- After 17:00 Locally produced, locally consumed food at a Japanese style pub in Shiraoi Town
- Shiraoi Town

Day 2

- 09:00 Departure from hotel
- 09:10 – 10:30 Sendai Clan, Shiraoi Manor House Museum *Curator available (Japanese)
- 10:40 – 11:45 Ainu pattern embroidery in Shiraoi Town
- 12:00 – 12:45 Traditional Ainu cuisine
- 13:00 – 14:00 Shopping at Arai Crafts Museum
- 14:10 – 15:00 Coffee break at a cafe in Shiraoi Town



Lake Poroto Canoe Experience

Enjoy a peaceful canoe ride on Lake Poroto, meaning "large pond" in Ainu. This calm lake, surrounded by nature, is perfect for beginners. Close to the city, it offers wildlife viewing and a unique perspective of Upopoy cultural center. A serene adventure awaits!



Wooden Bear Carving Experience

Try your hand at a traditional Hokkaido craft! Carve fur patterns onto a pre-shaped wooden bear, creating a unique souvenir. This rare opportunity preserves a declining art form, offering visitors a chance to engage with authentic local culture. A memorable and meaningful experience for all!



Kawasho: Family-Friendly Izakaya

Experience warm hospitality at Kawasho, a cozy izakaya known for its fresh, locally-sourced ingredients. The owner personally forages for wild vegetables, mushrooms, and river fish. Don't miss their popular mushroom hot pot and Shiraoi Wagyu beef tripe hot pot. A delightful taste of local cuisine!



Spirit of [SHIRAOI AINU]" Immerse in Ainu Traditions" 2 Days (Ice fishing for smelt, Ainu musical instrument playing experience, hot springs experience)

"After learning about the history and culture at Upopoy and the Sendai Clan, Shiraoi Manor House Museum, you will enjoy a traditional Ainu lunch and then have a cultural experience such as smelt fishing. In the Bekomochi (rice cake) making and Echigo dance activities, you will have the opportunity to experiencedancing while communicating with the local people. This tour has many cultural and educational elements."

Possible Period January to February

No. of Days 2 days

Highlights

- Smelt fishing at Lake Poroto
- Ainu cuisine lunch
- Interaction through bekomochi (rice cake) making and Echigo dance taught by local people

Day 1

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| 10:00 – 13:00 | | UPOPOY (The Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony) *Dedicated guide available (Japanese) |
| 13:10 – 14:00 | | Traditional Ainu cuisine at Minapa Cise |
| 14:15 – 15:45 | | "Smelt fishing" at Lake Poroto |
| 16:00 – | | Kojohama Onsen |

Day 2

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|---------------|--|---|
| 09:00 | | Departure from hotel |
| 09:30 – 10:30 | | Sendai Clan, Shiraoi Manor House Museum *Curator available (Japanese) |
| 10:40 – 11:40 | | Bekomochi (rice cake) making and Echigo dance |
| 11:45 – 12:45 | | Enjoy Shiraoi beef yakiniku, hamburgers, and more. |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | | Shopping at Arai Crafts Museum |
| 14:10 – 15:00 | | Coffee break at a cafe in Shiraoi Town |

Sendai Clan Shiraoi Historical Museum

Explore Hokkaido's rich history at this museum, located at a national historic site. Discover the Sendai clan's life in Ezo (old Hokkaido) and their interactions with the Ainu people. View 300+ artifacts, including maps, documents, and weapons, offering fascinating insights into Japan's northern frontier.



Arai Craft Gallery

Step through grand doors into a magical world of woodcarving at Arai Craft Gallery. Popular among international visitors, this unique space showcases exquisite wooden artworks. Lucky guests might even witness artisans at work. A must-visit for those passionate about traditional Japanese craftsmanship.



Community Cafe Minapa Cise

"Community Cafe Minapa Cise" was born in the spirit of hospitality with the idea of recognizing and respecting differences, everyone living with a smile, sharing multicultural coexistence from Shadai, Shiraoi Town, inheriting the wisdom of the Ainu people, and providing body-friendly meals. Aside from the food, they also offer enjoyable monthly events. They also sell small articles embellished with Ainu pattern embroidery and the like.



3Days 03 Summer Expedition “Unforgettable Moments in SHIRAOI” 3Days



Enjoy Shiraoi's food, culture, and experiences over a 3-day, 2-night trip. In addition to learning about and experiencing Ainu culture, you can also enjoy food made from the natural ingredients of Lake Kuttara and activities such as night canoeing. This course allows you to fully experience the charm of Shiraoi at your own pace.

Possible Period June to September
No. of Days 3 days

Highlights

- After learning about the Ainu people at Upopoy, you can enjoy traditional Ainu cuisine.
- You can enjoy the bounty of Lake Kuttara with all five senses through food, fishing, and night canoeing.
- As this is a 3-day, 2-night trip, you can have a variety of experiences."



Day 1

- 10:00 – 13:00 ☞ UPOPOY (The Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony) *Dedicated guide available (Japanese)
- 13:10 – 14:00 🍴 Traditional Ainu cuisine at Minapa Cise
- 14:15 – 15:45 ☞ Canoeing at Lake Poroto
- 15:50 – 16:30 🍴 Coffee break in the center of Shiraoi
- 16:40 🍴 Locally produced and locally consumed food at a Japanese style pub in Shiraoi town
- 🏠 Shiraoi Town

Day 2

- 09:00 🏠 Departure from hotel
- 09:10 – 10:30 ☞ Take a stroll around Poroto Forest
- 11:00 – 11:30 ☞ Shiitake mushroom picking (Kikyohara Farm) *You can grill and eat the shiitake mushrooms you pick right there.
- 11:40 – 12:40 🍴 Yamamoto Trout Farm *Rainbow trout dishes and yamame(masu trout)fishing
- 12:50 – 13:30 ☞ Shopping at Nachu no Mori
- 14:00 – 15:00 ☞ Sendai Clan, Shiraoi Manor House Museum
- 15:10 – 16:20 ☞ Collaborative Folk Crafts Korpokkur *Bear wood carving, tea time with horse grape tea
- 16:30 🏠 Shiraoi Town
- ☞ *After dinner, night canoeing on Lake Kuttara (90 minutes between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.)

Day 3

- 10:00 ☞ Departure from hotel
- 10:00 – 11:30 🍴 Outdoor photography walking tour in Kojohama(Uymam Project) *Dedicated guide available (Japanese)
- 12:00 – 13:00 ☞ Enjoy Shiraoi beef yakiniku, hamburgers, and more.
- 13:10 – 14:00 ☞ Shopping at Arai Crafts Museum

A trip to experience Shiraoi Ainu culture and the nature of Shiraoi 1Day (canoeing, trekking)



At Upopoy and Lake Poroto, you can learn about Ainu culture, have an Ainu lunch, and enjoy canoeing. After that, you will head to Inkura-no-Taki (Falls), which has been selected as one of the 100 best waterfalls in Japan. You will walk along the promenade and trek to the second observation deck. In addition, you will have the chance to sweat in the hot springs, which are loved by local residents because they are flowing directly from the source, and heal your tired body.

Possible Period April to October
No. of Days 1 day

Highlights

On this tour, you can learn and experience Ainu culture as well as experience the magnificent nature of Shiraoi Town. Even though it's far away, you can still get a sense of the size of Inkura-no-Taki (Falls). In addition, the thick, natural hot spring water of Shiraoi's Kojohama Onsen, which flows directly from the source, will soothe your fatigue.

Day 1

- 10:00 – 12:15 🏠 UPOPOY (The Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony) *Dedicated guide available (Japanese)
- 12:15 – 13:00 🍴 Ainu cuisine at Cafe RIMSE in Upopoy
- 13:10 – 14:15 🚣 Canoeing on Lake Poroto
- 14:45 – 14:30 🚶 Walk along the Inkura-no-Taki (Falls) promenade
- 16:15 – 17:15 🚿 Kojohama Onsen or Ayoroh Onsen (day trip bathing)

Upopoy: National Ainu Museum and Park
Opened in 2020, Upopoy is a cultural hub celebrating Japan's indigenous Ainu people. This national center showcases Ainu history, language, and traditions. Visitors can explore exhibits, performances, and workshops, gaining insight into this unique culture. A must-visit for an authentic Japanese cultural experience.



A trip to learn about Shiraoi Ainu culture from the salmon upriver 1Day (Trekking, fishing, wood carving)



Salmon swim upstream in the Uyoro River. You will trek along the river while watching the salmon swim upstream, learning from a dedicated guide about the life of the Ainu people and their views on nature. For lunch, you will catch fish raised in the river-bed water of Lake Kuttara and eat them. You can also experience Ainu culture by learning at Upopoy and experiencing bear wood carving.

Possible Period April to October

No. of Days 1 day

Highlights

Trekking on the Uyoro River is a special experience where you can learn about Ainu culture from a dedicated guide while watching the salmon swim upstream. This tour allows you to see and experience the culture of the Ainu people, who live in coexistence with nature.

Day 1

10:00 – 12:15 ☞ UPOPOY (The Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony) *Dedicated guide available (Japanese)

12:15 – 13:00 🍴 Ainu cuisine at Cafe RIMSE in Upopoy

13:10 – 14:15 ☞ Canoeing on Lake Poroto

14:45 – 14:30 ☞ Walk along the Inkura-no-Taki (Falls) promenade

16:15 – 17:15 ☞ Kojohama Onsen or Ayoroh Onsen (day trip bathing)



Yamamoto Trout Farm

Located near Lake Kuttara (Kuttara-ko), famous for its exceptionally clean water, Yamamoto Trout Farm offers a delightful blend of nature and gastronomy. The farm raises cherry salmon and trout in pure spring water from the lake, which once ranked first in Japan for water quality.



1Day 06 Ice Fishing and Shiraoi Ainu Culture Trip 1Day (Ice Fishing)



Smelt fishing on a frozen lake in winter. It is a popular activity in Shiraoi Town. You can enjoy the special experience of eating the smelt you catch on the spot. You can also learn about the history of the Ainu people and the retainers of a daimyo at the Sendai Clan, Shiraoi Manor House Museum, and take photos of yourself wearing replica armor. At Upopoy, you can also watch local folk dances.

Possible Period April to October
No. of Days 1 day

Highlights

The best part of smelt fishing on ice is not only the fun of fishing, but also being able to eat the fish you catch on the spot. It is a special experience to eat the fish you have just caught. Furthermore, taking photos of yourself wearing armor at the Sendai Clan, Shiraoi Manor House Museum is a rare opportunity to experience the culture of the retainers of a daimyo.



Day 1

- 10:00 – 11:30 🎣 Smelt fishing at Lake Poroto
- 11:45 – 12:45 🍴 [Lunch] Enjoy Shiraoi beef yakiniku, hamburgers, and more.
- 13:00 – 14:00 🎣 Sendai Clan, Shiraoi Manor House Museum *Dedicated guide available (Japanese)
- 14:10 – 17:00 🎣 UPOPOY (The Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony) *Dedicated guide available (Japanese)



Access to Shiraoi

✈ Access by Airplane



🚆 Access by JR

Sapporo	approx. 60 min (by limited express use)	JR Shiraoi Station
Chitose	approx. 60 min (by limited express use)	
Hakodate	approx. 2 hours 30 min (by limited express use)	

🚗 Access by Car

Sapporo	approx. 60 min (by DO-O EXPWY use)	the Central Part of Shiraoi
New Chitose Airport	approx. 45 min (by DO-O EXPWY use)	
Hakodate	approx. 4 hours (by DO-O EXPWY use)	



<https://shiraoi.net/en/>

