

4-DAY TRAVEL GUIDE

4-Day Hokkaido Summer Itinerary: Sapporo to Noboribetsu

A 4-day Hokkaido summer itinerary through Sapporo, Otaru, Biei, Furano, Noboribetsu, and Lake Toya.



AT A GLANCE

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04	<i>Day Four</i> Noboribetsu & Lake Toya	Noboribetsu Hell Valley / Ogunuma Brook Natural Footbath / Lake Toya and Mount Usu

ODORI · SUSUKINO · MT. MOIWA

Day One: Sapporo's Top Sights



STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Sapporo Clock Tower

The Sapporo Clock Tower is worth visiting for a quick but fascinating peek into the city's past. This little white wooden landmark started life as a drill hall for Sapporo Agricultural College in 1878, and I loved poking...

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STOP 2 / 10:30 AM

Sapporo TV Tower & Odori Park

Sapporo TV Tower is this 144-meter city landmark with an observation deck where you look out over central Sapporo and the mountains in the distance. It was...

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03

STOP 3 / 11:30 AM

Sapporo Chikagai AURORA TOWN underground shopping arcade

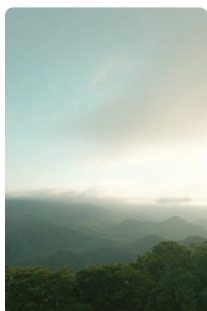
Aurora Town is an underground shopping arcade connected to Odori Station, packed with food, fashion, cosmetics, and anime shops. We wandered through it while exploring central Sapporo, popping into stores...

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STOP 4 / 1:00 PM

Tanukikoji Shopping Street

Tanukikoji is a seven-block covered shopping street with around 200 shops, from department stores and anime stores to casual food stops. It's the kind of place where you can wander for ages and keep finding something new. We...



STOP 5 / 2:00 PM

Mt. Moiwa

Mt. Moiwa is a forested mountain above Sapporo with gorgeous views over the city, Ishikari Bay, and the surrounding ranges. To reach the summit, take the ropeway from Moiwa Sanroku Station, then transfer to the little Mo-risu...

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STOP 6 / 3:30 PM

Sapporo Genghis Khan Juttetsu

Genghis Khan-tender mutton grilled on a dome-shaped skillet-is one of those meals you HAVE to make room for in Hokkaido. Juttetsu is just one of many Genghis Khan restaurants around...



STOP 7 / 4:30 PM

Susukino nightlife district - barhopping!

Susukino is Sapporo's neon-lit nightlife hub-tightly packed streets full of restaurants, bars, karaoke, and late-night food, all in one area. And those...

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SHUKUTSU · OTARU CANAL · SAKAIMACHI

Day Two: Otaru Aquarium, Canal & Sakaimachi



Photo: Klook

STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Otaru Aquarium (Winter Penguin Walk)

Otaru Aquarium sits right on the Sea of Japan, with cold-water marine life, seals, sea lions, and penguins against a dramatic coastal backdrop. In winter, th...

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STOP 2 / 11:30 AM

Otaru Canal

Otaru Canal feels like the heart of the city because its stone warehouses, gas lamps, and old port setting preserve the history that shaped Otaru. We walked along the water, slowed way down, and I really enjoyed taking in the...

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03

STOP 3 / 12:30 PM

Otaru Denuki Koji

Otaru Denuki Koji is a tiny retro food alley directly across from Otaru Canal, packed with around 20 small restaurants along narrow, old-fashioned lanes. You can browse seafood counters, izakaya, ramen shops, and snack stands,...



STOP 4 / 1:30 PM

Kamaei Factory Outlet

Kamaei Factory Outlet is this super-casual Otaru stop where the fish cakes are fried fresh on-site. You can look through the huge factory window and literally watch them being made from scratch-which we did before eating



STOP 5 / 2:30 PM

Kitaichi Glass

Kitaichi Glass is a sprawling collection of shops and studios filled with Otaru's locally made glasswork. I loved seeing how much artistry went into every piece-the tiny details make browsing feel almost like walking through a...



STOP 6 / 3:30 PM

Otaru Steam Clock

The Otaru Steam Clock is a 5.5-meter bronze landmark outside the Otaru Music Box Museum, right in the middle of Sakaimachi's shopping streets. Every 15 minutes, steam sends a melody through five whistles, even though the clock...



STOP 7 / 4:00 PM

Otaru Music Box Museum

Okay, picture a historic brick building at Marchen Crossroads surrounded by music-box shops and exhibits-that's the Otaru Music Box Museum. You walk into this timbered main hall and find thousands of music boxes packed inside,...



STOP 8 / 5:00 PM

LeTAO Main Store

LeTAO Main Store is Otaru's famous pastry shop, packed with cakes, chocolates, and gift sweets. We HAD to try a few pastries, then took them over to the nearby Steam Clock-so you're eating sweets while it puffs steam and...

BIEI · NAKAFURANO · FURANO

Day Three: Flower Fields & Blue-Water Views



STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Panoramic Flower Gardens, Shikisai-no-oka

Shikisai-no-oka is this huge sweep of striped flower fields across Biei's rolling hills, with the Tokachi mountains behind them. Even though the flowers weren't...

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STOP 2 / 10:30 AM

Shirogane Blue Pond (Aoiike)

Shirogane Blue Pond in Biei has bare larch trees rising from this crazy, almost otherworldly blue water. The color comes from light scattering off tiny particles...

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STOP 3 / 11:30 AM

Shirahige Waterfall (白ひげの滝)

Shirahige Waterfall is a gorgeous 30-meter cascade where thin white streams spill from a cliff into the cobalt-colored Biei River. From the bridge, you can look into the gorge and see exactly why thos...



STOP 4 / 1:00 PM

Farm Tomita

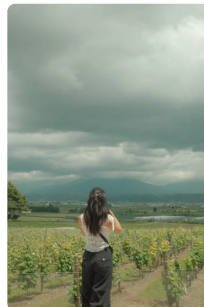
Farm Tomita is filled with sweeping lavender fields and colorful seasonal flowers set against Furano's mountains. Walking around honestly felt like a dream-every angle was so picturesque and aesthetic! It's such a beautiful...

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STOP 5 / 2:00 PM

Tomita Melon House

Tomita Melon House is a Furano farm shop where you can bounce from fresh melon slices to soft-serve and baked treats. But the melon slice? I am not exaggerating when I say it was the juiciest, sweetest fruit of my...



STOP 6 / 3:30 PM

Campana Rokkatei

Campana Rokkatei feels tucked away on a random hill, but that remote setting comes with gorgeous elevated views over the vineyards, fields, and surrounding mountains. Their biscuits and cookies are well known and make



STOP 7 / 4:30 PM

Ningle Terrace (ニングレテラス), Furano

It's this tiny forest village beside the New Furano Prince Hotel, with timber craft huts connected by wooden boardwalks. We wandered through the woods and...

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NOBORIBETSU · LAKE TOYA

Day Four: Noboribetsu & Lake Toya



STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Noboribetsu Hell Valley

Noboribetsu Hell Valley is a volcanic landscape filled with steaming sulfur vents, hot streams, and rust-colored earth. I loved wandering the wide, well-maintained trails and watching the vents send steam into the air with the...

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STOP 2 / 10:30 AM

Oyunuma Brook Natural Footbath

It's a natural foot-soak tucked into the forest, with mineral-rich volcanic water flowing from Oyunuma Pond through an actual riverbed. I followed the Noboribetsu Onsen trails to the simple...



STOP 3 / 11:30 AM

Dosanko Pudding Soup Curry & Pudding Shop

It's this little restaurant in Noboribetsu Onsen where you get two Hokkaido specialties on the same menu: soup curry, plus pudding made with Noboribetsu milk and eggs from nearby...



STOP 4 / 1:00 PM

Lake Hill Farm

Lake Hill Farm is a working dairy farm above Lake Toya, where fresh-milk gelato comes with wide mountain views and flower gardens. Grab a scoop, wander the peaceful grounds, and say hi to the resident goat—it feels like a...



STOP 5 / 2:00 PM

Lake Toya and Mount Usu

Lake Toya and Mount Usu make one seriously dramatic volcanic stop: a caldera lake wrapped in mountains and hot-spring towns, with an active volcano rising right beside it. You can wander the lakeshore, cruise toward the...

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