5-DAY TRAVEL GUIDE

5-Day Hokkaido Summer Itinerary: Furano & Lake Toya

A 5-day Hokkaido summer itinerary covering Sapporo, Otaru, Biei, Furano, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, and major cultural sights.

AT A GLANCE

01	*Day One* **Sapporo City Highlights**	Sapporo Clock Tower / Sapporo TV Tower & Odori Park / Mt. Moiwa
02	*Day Two* **Otaru Aquarium, Canal & Sakaimachi**	Otaru Canal / Kitaichi Glass / Otaru Music Box Museum
03	*Day Three* **Flower Fields & Blue-Water Views**	Panoramic Flower Gardens, Shikisai-no-oka / Shirogane Blue Pond (Aoiike) / Farm Tomita
04	*Day Four* **Noboribetsu & Lake Toya**	Upopoy National Ainu Museum and Park / Noboribetsu Hell Valley / Lake Toya and Mount Usu
05	*Day Five* **Sapporo Art, History & Local Icons**	Head Buddha / Big Buddha / Historical Village of Hokkaido / Sapporo Beer Museum

ODORI · SUSUKINO · MT. MOIWA

Day One: Sapporo City Highlights

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...

BOOK THIS STOP >

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...

BOOK THIS STOP >

03

STOP 3 / 11:30 AM

Sapporo Chikagai AURORA TOWN underground shopping arcade

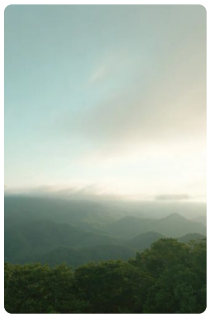
Aurora Town is an underground shopping arcade connected to Odori Station, packed with food, fashion, cosmetics, and anime shops. We wandered through it while exploring central Sapporo, popping into stores...

BOOK THIS STOP >

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...

BOOK THIS STOP >

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...

BOOK THIS STOP >

SHUKUTSU · OTARU CANAL · SAKAIMACHI

Day Two: Otaru Aquarium, Canal & Sakaimachi

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...

BOOK THIS STOP >

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...

BOOK THIS STOP >

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...

BOOK THIS STOP >

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...

BOOK THIS STOP >

STOP 3 / 11:30 AM

Shirahige Waterfall (□□□□□)

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

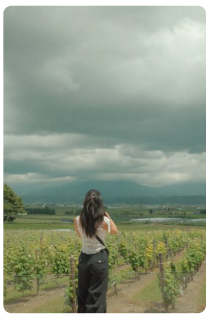
Farm Tomita is filled with sweeping lavender fields and colorful seasonal flowers set against Furano's mountains. Walking around honestly felt like a dream-every angle was so picturesque and aesthetic! It's such a beautiful...

BOOK THIS STOP >

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 (□□□□□□□), 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...

BOOK THIS STOP >

SHIRAOI · NOBORIBETSU · LAKE TOYA

Day Four: Noboribetsu & Lake Toya

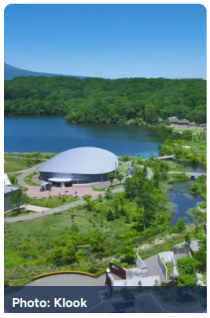


Photo: Klook

STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Upopoy National Ainu Museum and Park

Upopoy is a lakeside cultural center in Shiraoi where Ainu history, language, culture, and life today all come together. You can wander from the national...

BOOK THIS STOP >

STOP 2 / 10:30 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...

BOOK THIS STOP >

STOP 3 / 11:30 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 4 / 1:00 PM

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...

Photo: GetYourGuide

STOP 5 / 2:00 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...

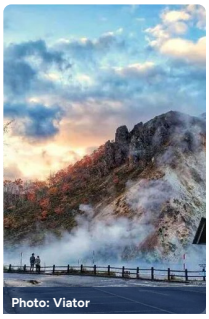


Photo: Viator

STOP 6 / 3:30 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...

BOOK THIS STOP >

MINAMI · ATSUBETSU · HIGASHI

Day Five: Sapporo Art, History & Local Icons

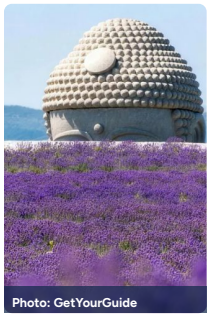


Photo: GetYourGuide

STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Head Buddha / Big Buddha

Head Buddha, officially the Hill of the Buddha, is a Tadao Ando-designed worship hall where only the statue's head rises above a lavender-covered hill. You circle a water garden and walk through a curved concrete tunnel before...

BOOK THIS STOP >

STOP 2 / 10:30 AM

Katsutoku Toyohira (□□□□ □□□)

Katsutoku Toyohira is a sit-down tonkatsu spot serving crispy breaded pork cutlets with rice, cabbage, soup, and all the usual accompaniments. We stopped here for lunch in Sapporo, and...

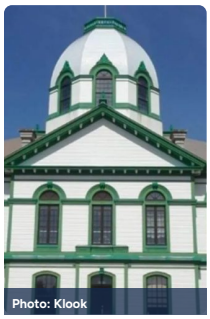


Photo: Klook

STOP 3 / 11:30 AM

Historical Village of Hokkaido

Historical Village of Hokkaido is an open-air museum that brings the island's Meiji, Taish□, and early Sh□wa eras to life through more than 50 historic buildings....

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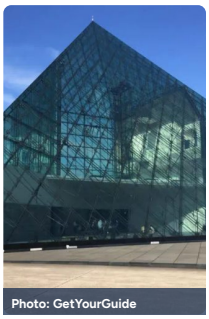
Photo: GetYourGuide

STOP 4 / 1:00 PM

Moerenuma Park

Moerenuma Park is this enormous Isamu Noguchi-designed park in Sapporo, with geometric hills, playful structures, fountains, woods, and a striking glass pyramid. You can walk or cycle between Mount Moere, the Sea Fountain,...

Photo: GetYourGuide

STOP 5 / 2:00 PM

Sapporo Beer Museum

Sapporo Beer Museum fills a red-brick former brewery with exhibits tracing how beer developed in Japan alongside Sapporo Breweries. You can follow the story through the historic building, then finish with a tasting. Choose the...

Photo: Viator

STOP 6 / 3:30 PM

Shiroi Koibito Park

Shiroi Koibito Park turns Sapporo's famous chocolate-filled cookies into a full sweets experience. You can watch the production lines, explore the chocolate exhibits, then wander through European-style gardens, shops, and...