

Shiretoko Rausu Whale & Birdwatching Hamanasu Cruise

Welcome to Hamanasu Cruise! We offer whale and birdwatching cruises in Rausu, along the UNESCO World Heritage Shiretoko Peninsula. Join us and we will introduce you to a myriad of fascinating sea creatures and marine birds. Depending on the season, you may encounter, Killer Whales, Sperm Whales, Fin Whales, Minke Whales, Baird's Beaked Whales, Dall's Porpoises, Pacific White Sided Dolphins, as well as Steller's Sea Lions, Fur Seals, Ribbon Seals and Spotted Seals. During winter, the ocean becomes a white wonderland of drift ice, and Rausu becomes home to one of the largest raptors in the world, the Steller's Sea Eagle and the White-tailed Eagle.

Drift Ice

The drift ice that can be seen is Rausu, originates from the Amur River and drifts through the Sea of Okhotsk to reach the Shiretoko Peninsula. Typically, the drift ice in Rausu can be seen from mid January to mid February. The seasonal flow of drift ice brings a vast amount of phytoplankton that feeds the food chain, and sustains the incredibly rich biodiversity and pristine ecosystem of Shiretoko. While Sea Angels (Clione) dance below the ice, Seals, Steller's Sea Eagles and Foxes may be observed above the ice.

Animal Calendar	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Killer Whale										
Sperm Whale										
Minke Whale										
Baird's Beaked Whale										
Dall's Porpoise										
Pacific White Sided Dolphin										
Steller's Sea Lion										
Spotted Seal										
Ribbon Seal										
Northern Fur Seal										
Steller's Sea Eagle										
White-Tailed Eagle										
Drift Ice										

 Rare Sightings  Common Sightings * Please use this calendar as a rough guide.

Cruise Information

Our 2~3 hour whale and dolphin watching cruise will take you along the coast of the Shiretoko Peninsula, and back along the midline between Japan and Russia. If the weather is clear, the beautiful snow capped Shiretoko Mountain Range and the Kunashiri Island can be seen.

Scheduling & Pricing			
Adults (over 13 year olds) 8000 yen	Children (Under 13 year olds) 4000 yen		
Departure Times			
Cruise Time 2.5 ~ 3 hours	Morning Cruise 9:00am	Afternoon Cruise 13:00pm	
High Season Departure Times			
Cruise Time 2 ~ 2.5 hours	8:30am	11:30am	14:00pm
<p>Please arrive at the Hamanasu Office 30mins prior to the departure time.</p> <p>Even during summer it is very cold! Please dress warm and be prepared for cold winds and rain.</p>			
Drift Ice Watching (January ~ Late March)			
Adults (over 13 year olds) 8000 yen	Children (Under 13 year olds) 4000 yen		
* Please contact us for departure times.			

* Please understand that we will not operate unless we receive a minimum of 5 passengers.

* The price is negotiable for bookings of over 10 people.

Reservations: Please email us at hamanasu@marble.ocn.ne.jp for reservations. Let us know your preferred date, time and passenger number! If you make your reservation before 5pm, you will be able to board the morning cruise on the following day.

Cancellations: We do not charge any cancellation fees, however, please let us know as soon as possible. If for any reason we need to cancel a cruise, we will give you a call an hour before departure!

Private Charters: We also offer private charters for groups of up to 60 passengers. Students, tour groups, photographers, videographers welcome!

Contact & Address

Email: hamanasu@marble.ocn.ne.jp

Address:

Hamanasu Whale Watching Office
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JAPAN