

Wattletree Garden Tours

Autumn Colour Hokkaido - Japan



*Extended visit to Hokkaido at the best time - Autumn!
Abashiri, Sapporo, Hakodate, Aomori, Tokyo, Mt Fuji,
Nagoya and Lake Kawaguchi*



Join Brian Sams
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Japan Hokkaido Tour highlights:

- Beautiful hotels
- Autumn colour like in overdrive
- Mt Fuji in autumn
- Bullet train transportation x 2
- Local and international food
- Sumo show
- Private coach and local guide
- Spectacular light show in Nagoya
- Japanese culture and cuisine
- 7 nights in Traditional Ryokan and Japanese resorts
- Autumn illumination shows in several towns and cities
- A heap of special gems off the tourist track....

Brian Sams is a Toowoomba based horticulturist involved in running gardening workshops and organizing and leading garden based tours. Brian has been leading garden tours overseas and within Australia since 2006.

Why? He loves it!

This will be Brian's 12th visit to Japan with the itinerary including many new and interesting spots!

Day 1 Tuesday 19th October Brisbane to Tokyo (meals in flight)

Fly from Brisbane International to Tokyo and upon arrival transfer to our hotel.

Hotel: Tokyo Dome Hotel or similar 2 nights

Day 2 Wednesday 20th October - Tokyo B, L, D

Today we will explore Tokyo with a visit to the Nakamise Arcade area and the Tokyo SkyTree for wonderful views over the city. We will also visit one of the best bonsai gardens in Japan as well as the Rikugien garden well known for tranquil ponds and autumn colour. Around lunch time we see a Sumo Show – an iconic part of Japanese culture. Tonight we will have an informal welcome dinner in the hotel.

Day 3 Thursday 21st October – Tokyo to Kushiro and stay Abashiri B, D

This morning we will first walk down to the nearby Koishikawa Korakuen garden. This is a lovely oasis garden in the heart of the city and should have some beautiful autumn colour. Later check out of our hotel and transfer to Haneda airport for our flight north to Hokkaido landing in Memanbetsu Airport in Ozoro – the northern part of the island. We will then check into our traditional resort accommodation on Lake Abashiri and have dinner.

Hotel: Hokuten No Oka Lake Abashiri Tsuruga Resort or similar for 2 nights

Day 4 Friday 22nd October Ashibiri B, L, D

First stop will be the Ashibiri National park for a walk to see some autumn colour. Looks spectacular. We will then visit the small but interesting Okhotsuk Chipmunk Park before lunch in a local restaurant. Later visit the infamous Abashiri Prison established in 1890 and known as the Alcatraz of Japan. Next is the interesting Museum of northern peoples which explores culture of people such as Ainu, Inuit, and Sámi from places as diverse as Greenland, Alaska and northern Japan. Dinner in the hotel tonight.

Day 5 Saturday 23rd October Ashibiri to Shiretoko B, L, D

A day exploring the natural beauty of this part of Hokkaido to include the Oshinkoshin Waterfall and a cruise the Shiretoko Peninsula which should be clad in autumn colour. After lunch we will visit the Shiretoko National park. Dinner is included in our rather lovely hotel tonight.

Hotel: Shiretoko Daiichi Hotel or similar for 1 night

Day 6 Sunday 24th October – Shiretoko to Asahikawa B, D

We leave the hotel today towards Asahikawa stopping to take the Kurodake Ropeway which has great views over Daisetsuzan national park also well known for autumn colour. We will have a relatively short walk in the park to visit the Sounkyo Gorge before checking into our hotel for dinner.

Hotel: Sounkau Mountain Resort or similar for 1 night

Day 7 Monday 25th October – Asahikawa to Sapporo B, D

Our travels will take us to Sapporo stopping to see the rather spectacular Biei Shirogane Blue Pond along the way. Worth Googling! Later visit the Ueno farm and garden before checking into our city hotel for dinner.

Hotel: Keio Plaza Hotel Sapporo or similar for 2 nights

Day 8 Tuesday 26th October – Sapporo B

A day to get to know Sapporo. We will see the Art park and have a Chocolate /cooking -making experience in Shi-roi Koibito Park. Later visit the botanical gardens, Hokkaido University along with some other well known spots for autumn colour in the city. Later return to the hotel with a free evening.



Day 9 Wednesday 27th October – Sapporo to Onuma B, D

Today we drive to Hakodate via Onuma and visit the Noboribetsu Jigokudani which is an active hot springs area that provides wonderful contrast between the stark volcanic rocks and lush autumn tones of the forest. Later visit Onuma Park, a national park well known for its beautiful ponds, mountains and lush forests. Continue to our nearby beautiful hotel for dinner.

Hotel: *Prince Hotel Hakodate-Onuma or similar for 1 night*

Day 10 Thursday 28th October – Onuma to Hakodate B, L, D

We will visit a little more of the Onuma Quasi national park before continuing the short drive to Hakodate to tour the Goryokaku fort and tower. This is a massive, star-shaped Western-style citadel built in 1864. It was the site of the battle of the Boshin War and is now a lovely public park. Lunch is included today before visiting the Kanemori Red Brick Warehouse district. Originally a commercial entity now converted to restaurants, shops and bars. We will also take in the spectacular night view of Hakodate City from Mount Hakodate.

Hotel: *Yunokawa Onsen Umi to Akari/ Hewitt Resort or similar for 2 nights*

Day 11 Friday 29th October – Hakodate B, D

This morning we will visit the morning market for a little retail therapy. Next is a visit to the city museum and then the Kosetsuen Garden known as a favored autumn viewing spot. We will this evening visit the Momiji Festa which is a celebration of autumn with market stalls and illuminated Japanese Maples

Day 12 Saturday 30th October - Hakodate to Aomori B, D

Today we board the Shinkansen (bullet train) from Hakodate to Aomori which will take around 1 hour. We will then visit a number of beautiful scenic spots including the Jigokunuma pond before riding the Hakkoda Rope Way with great views over the landscape. We then head into Aomori and will visit the main sites including the Jogakura Ohashi Bridge which does look spectacular in autumn.

Hotel: *Art Hotel Hirosaki City or similar for 2 nights*

Day 13 Sunday 31st October Aomori B

Quite a varied today with a visit to the Nebuta museum, the famous Apple park and the Hirosaki chrysanthemum festival which also includes illumination this evening. The Nebuta museum is dedicated to the Aomori Nebuta festival with a series of futuristic animated displays housed in a fabulous looking modern building.

Day 14 Monday 1st November Aomori to Nagoya B, D

This morning we leave the north of Japan to fly to Nagoya and on arrival will visit the beautiful Nagoya castle which should also have a number of autumn festival attractions in full swing. We will then check into our nearby hotel located above the main railway station. Dinner tonight is in the hotel.

Hotel: *JR Gate Tower Nagoya or similar for 2 nights*

Day 15 Tuesday 2nd November Nagoya B, D

We will visit a few of the festivals around Nagoya Castle area before driving about 40 minutes into the surrounding countryside to visit the fabulous Nabana No Sato garden. This is a large show garden which has a wonderful flower display greenhouse area. We will have dinner in the garden before the gardens highlight – an illumination show which is simply stunning. Later head back to our Nagoya hotel.

Day 16 Wednesday 3rd November Nagoya to Lake Kawaguchi B, D

This morning we will catch the Shinkansen (bullet train) from Nagoya to Mishima in the Mt Fuji area. We will meet our coach and then visit the Hakone glass museum. This museum is dedicated to Venetian glass and looks great. Next a natural springs area where you can sample eggs boiled in the sulfurous springs. Later on to Lake Kawaguchi to check into our family run traditional Ryokan with fabulous views to Mt Fuji.

Hotel: *Koraku Onyado Fuji Ginken or similar for 2 nights*

Day 17 Thursday 4th November Lake Kawaguchi B, D

A leisurely start before we explore Mt Fuji territory. We will venture to station 5 on Mt Fuji with great views over the surrounding autumnal countryside and lakes. We will then visit Oshinohakkai, a small very scenic village with natural ponds and great views of Mt Fuji. We will have a little free time to sample the street food available to for sale in the village. We will also visit the Kawaguchiko Music Forest Museum and a final autumn Momiji festival in the Lake Kawaguchi area. Our farewell dinner is in the inn.

Day 18 Friday 5th November –Lake Kawaguchi to Ashikaga flower park to Narita B, D

This morning we will have a later check out before heading to the outskirts of Tokyo to visit the superb Ashikaga Flower park. This large show garden has wonderful floral displays year round and I am looking forward to see what is on offer in autumn! We will have some free time for lunch in the park before meeting to transfer towards Narita. We will have dinner near the airport before our evening overnight flight home.

Day 19 Saturday 6th November – Arrive Australia – meals in flight

We will arrive in Australian home ports.

Quality matters!

- ⇒ Good well located hotels
- ⇒ Experienced tour guide and tour company (China Travel Service)
- ⇒ The food will be safe, diverse and interesting to make sure we enjoy the local cuisine.
- ⇒ We will have enough time to experience each region
- ⇒ We always seem to have a wonderful, friendly & fun group to travel with!

Land only price including internal airfares and all ground transportation (fully inclusive see below for details)	\$14495
International Airfare - Australia to Tokyo.	At cost on booking
Deposit pp (deductible from tour prices above)	\$500
Single supplement - if you wish to twin share please let us know and we will put you in contact with others who are keen to share.	\$4400

Pricing details

Important dates

1. Deposit – Please complete a booking form and send together with deposit to secure a place as seats are limited
2. Final payment around 90 days before departure with an invoice to be issued around one month prior

The tour prices include:

- First Class hotel accommodation
- Internal airfares - Tokyo to Hokkaido and Aomori to Nagoya
- Internal exclusive coach travel
- Bullet train journey x 2
- All tipping for national guides, drivers and portorage where available
- Entry to all sightseeing and gardens as detailed in itinerary
- Quality meals listed in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L = Lunch, D=Dinner) - 36 in total
- English speaking guide for the entire tour in Japan.
- Accompanied all the way with Australian garden guide – Brian Sams
- Taxes where appropriate (but subject to change based on prevailing rates)
- Airport transfers (for whole group only-other arrangements to be made as required)

The tour price excludes:

- International airfare
- All items not stated as included
- Travel insurance - recommended for all travelers. Please discuss if you need help to organize.

Full terms and conditions are on the booking form.



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