

## Otaru & the Herring Mansion



Approximately 3 Hours



\$\$\$



Be the first to [write a review](#)

Visit the Nishin Goten (Herring Mansion)--second home of an Otaru herring fisheries owner. It took 6½ years for the miyadaiku (carpenters specializing in shines and temples) to complete the construction that was ludicrously lavish and expensive even at the time. Herring fisheries were extremely prosperous during the Meiji and Taisho eras. The two- story wooden house was built in 1922 and measures 53,000 square feet. It features a lacquer floor, whitewashed walls and zelkova corridors. Sliding doors are adorned with works by the premiere painters and calligraphers of the day. Next you will see the main landmark of Otaru City--the Otaru Canal. This is a historic ¾-mile canal that provides both a nostalgic look at the Otaru of yesteryear and interesting shopping and dining experiences. The canal was created by a land reclamation project beginning in 1914 and is lined with stone warehouses from that time. The shipping warehouses have been preserved and the canal is photogenic in every season. The promenade along the canal boasts numerous fancy shops and fine restaurants and is illuminated by a series of gaslights.

## Otaru & the Herring Mansion with Ornament Decorating



Approximately 3½ Hours



\$\$\$\$



Be the first to [write a review](#)

Visit the Nishin Goten (Herring Mansion)--second home of an Otaru herring fisheries owner. It took 6½ years for the miyadaiku (carpenters specializing in shines and temples) to complete the construction that was ludicrously lavish and expensive even at the time. Herring fisheries were extremely prosperous during the Meiji and Taisho eras. The two- story wooden house was built in 1922 and measures 53,000 square feet. It features a lacquer floor, whitewashed walls and zelkova corridors. Sliding doors are adorned with works by the premiere painters and calligraphers of the day. Next you will see the main landmark of Otaru City--the Otaru Canal. This is a historic ¾-mile canal that provides both a nostalgic look at the Otaru of yesteryear and interesting shopping and dining experiences. The canal was created by a land reclamation project beginning in 1914 and is lined with stone warehouses from that time. The shipping warehouses have been preserved and the canal is photogenic in every season. The promenade along the canal boasts numerous fancy shops and fine restaurants and is illuminated by a series of gaslights. Then, visit the Otaru Canalside Glass Factory. You'll have a chance to decorate a glass ornament with dried flowers.

## The Best of Sapporo



Approximately 7 Hours



\$\$\$\$



Be the first to [write a review](#)

Visit Sapporo's Nijo Ichiba Market, famous supplier to the restaurants and kitchens of Sapporo. Freshly-caught seafood and fresh vegetables are displayed in rows, and buyers and sellers negotiate energetically. This market offers a true glimpse of local lifestyle and business. Continue to Hitsujigaoka Observation Hill on Sapporo's outskirts, affording a beautiful view of pastureland with grazing sheep. The hill, part of the Hokkaido Agricultural Experimental Station of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, was opened to visitors in 1959. A statue of Dr. William Clark stands on the hill. Dr. Clark, an American, taught English and Botany at Sapporo Agricultural College in 1876. The college was the forerunner of Hokkaido University. Although he was only a member of the faculty for nine months, he is remembered for his parting words, "Boys, be ambitious!" The nearby Historic Village preserves the lifestyle of 19th-century and early 20th-century Japan. The 60 structures, painstakingly reproduced from traditional models, reflect life in a typical small town, fishing village, farming village and mountain hamlet. Your tour includes folk art demonstrations and folkloric performances. You

will drive by Sapporo Odori Park as you head east-west through downtown Sapporo. This pretty park includes flower beds, fountains, a shallow water play zone for children and various monuments and statues, including Black Slide Mantra by world famous sculptor Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988). Constructed in 1871 as a firebreak, Odori Park now plays a key role in major Sapporo events. The park is the site for numerous festivals throughout the year and is especially renowned for the Sapporo Snow Festival in February. The park is always home to numerous food vendors who fill the air with the aromas of roasting chestnuts, corn and other delicacies. At the eastern end of the park stands the 482-foot-tall Sapporo TV Tower, which offers a dynamic view of the city.

### The Otaru Gourmet: Sushi & Sake



Approximately 3 Hours



\$\$\$\$



Be the first to [write a review](#)

Visit a sake brewery to observe the procedure of making Japan's iconic rice wine. You'll be able to sample sake and shop all in the same building. Then, drive to a local restaurant for a fun, hand-on sushi-making experience. A sushi chef will explain and demonstrate the procedure, then you'll spend a half hour making sushi. When you're finished, you can eat your own masterpiece. After the class, you'll head to the famous fish market and see the catch of the day being sold to local restaurateurs and housewives.