

ZeL CuraTours

Six Lights of Northern Japan

A PRIVATE FAMILY JOURNEY · THE FULL ITINERARY

JAPAN · HOKKAIDO, TOHOKU & TOKYO

DELIVERED · 6 DAYS · 5 NIGHTS

ZeL CuraTours
Operated in partnership with Boustead Travel Services Sdn Bhd · KPK/LN 10169
PRIVATE FAMILY JOURNEY · FULL ITINERARY

The aurora can wait a year. Northern Japan gave them six lights.

A family's Nordic trip had to move. This is what took its place: six kinds of light from Hokkaido to Tokyo, and an onsen every night.

01 **One light a day**

Each light has its own hour, and each day is built backwards from it.

02 **Three things you cannot book alone**

The police-permitted car up Mt Hakodate, the private terrace for the Lake Toya fireworks, and GranClass under the strait.

03 **The bags go ahead**

From day three the big suitcases go by courier straight to the Tokyo airport, and the family travels light.

04 **Ending in Tokyo**

Five days in mountains and onsen, then the last evening in the lights of the city.

What it gives up is staying still: one or two nights in each place, always moving south. What it buys is a light for every day, each one at its own hour.

ZELTS YANG
JOURNEY DESIGNER

THE ROUTE

Hokkaido to Tokyo, heading south.

By private car, under the sea by Shinkansen, and a short flight at the end.



DAY	LEG	HOW
02	Sapporo → Otaru → Lake Toya	Private car
03	Lake Toya → Mt Usu → Hakodate	Private car
04	Hakodate → Sendai → Tendo	Shinkansen GranClass · car
05	Tendo → Mt Zao → Ginzan → Tendo	Private car
06	Yamagata → Tokyo	Domestic flight

DAY 01

WELCOME

NEW CHITOSE • SAPPORO

Arrival in Sapporo

ARRIVAL

A castle garden, then a welcome of three crabs.

MIDDAY	New Chitose Airport	Met privately at arrivals.
	Sea urchin lunch in Sapporo	
AFTERNOON	Shiroi Koibito Park	The castle garden and the chocolate factory.
LATE	Tanukikoji and Odori Park	Free time, with the guide on call.
EVENING	The three-crab dinner	King, snow and hairy crab at a fifty-year-old Sapporo restaurant.





ODORI PARK, SAPPORO

DESIGN INTENT • WHY THE FIRST NIGHT IS DOWNTOWN

After a long flight the elders need a street they can walk, not ceremony. Tanukikoji and the department stores are outside the door.

NIGHT 1

Sapporo Stream Hotel

MEALS • Three-crab dinner

DAY 02

FIREWORKS

OTARU • LAKE TOYA

Otaru → Lake Toya

MORNING AND FIRE

A canal in the morning, fireworks from their own terrace at night.

MORNING	Otaru in kimono	Three vintage rickshaws along the canal and the red-brick warehouses, with a photographer.
LATE	The music box hall	A music box made by hand, with a tutor.
MIDDAY	Lunch by the canal	
AFTERNOON	To Lake Toya	Check in to a lake-view suite.
EVENING	Kaiseki dinner	At the hotel.
NIGHT	Fireworks from the terrace	In yukata, over the lake and the sky at once.





FIREWORKS OVER LAKE TOYA

DESIGN INTENT • WHY THIS HOTEL ON THE LAKE

Its terrace suites face the fireworks launch point, the closest seat on the lake, with no crowd to share it with.

NIGHT 2

The Lake View Toya Nonokaze Resort

MEALS • Kaiseki dinner

DAY 03

NIGHT VIEW

MT USU • HAKODATE

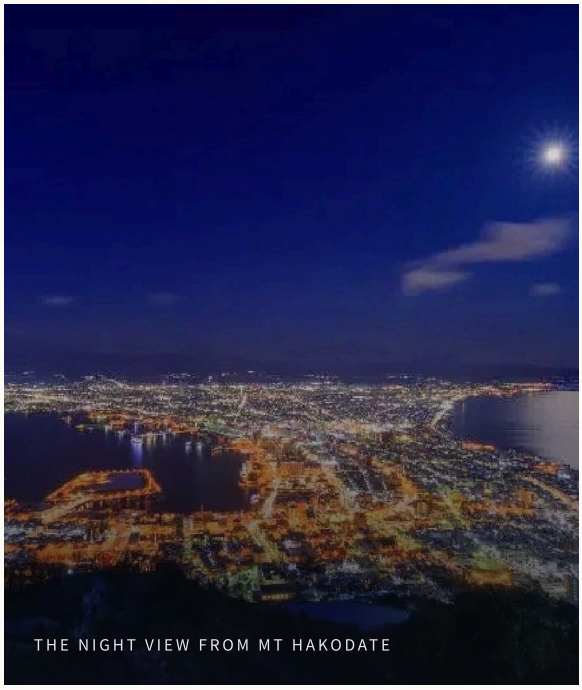
Mt Usu → Hakodate

DUSK

A city lighting up below, at the one minute you could not book yourself.

MORNING	Luggage forwarded to Tokyo	The big suitcases go by courier; the rest of the trip is travelled light.
	Mt Usu ropeway	Showa-Shinzan and the whole of Lake Toya from the top.
MIDDAY	Lake Hill Farm	Hand-churned gelato facing Mt Yotei.
AFTERNOON	To Hakodate	About two and a half hours by car.
DUSK	Mt Hakodate by permitted car	Straight to the summit at the blue hour, past the ropeway queue.
EVENING	Dinner by Hakodate Bay	





THE NIGHT VIEW FROM MT HAKODATE

DESIGN INTENT • WHY THE PERMITTED CAR

The ropeway queue at dusk can take the very minutes the view is at its best. A car with a police permit arrives on time.

NIGHT 3

La Vista Hakodate Bay Annex

DAY 04

CROSSING

HAKODATE • SEIKAN TUNNEL • SENDAI • TENDO

Hakodate → Sendai → Tendo

UNDER THE SEA

The train goes under the strait, and the bags are already at the ryokan.

MORNING	**Seafood breakfast at La Vista**
	Goryokaku, Motomachi, Hachiman-zaka An easy walk.
MIDDAY	**Hayabusa Shinkansen, GranClass** Through the Seikan Tunnel under the strait, back to Honshu.
AFTERNOON	**Sendai** The Great Kannon.
EVENING	**Shouhakutei, Tendo Onsen** A Yamagata kaiseki dinner and the hinoki spring bath in the room.





GRANCLASS ON THE HAYABUSA

DESIGN INTENT • WHY THE STRAIT IS CROSSED BY TRAIN

Going under the sea is the view of the day. GranClass makes the crossing a seat to look forward to rather than a transfer.

NIGHT 4

Shouhakutei Azumaso, Tendo

MEALS • Yamagata kaiseki dinner

DAY 05

LAMPS

MT ZAO • YAMAGATA • GINZAN ONSEN

Mt Zao → Ginzan Onsen

CLEAR AND LAMP

A crater lake in the morning, gas lamps lit one by one at dusk.

MORNING	Mt Zao ropeway	Up to the Okama crater lake, the Witch's Eye.
MIDDAY	A fine Yamagata lunch	
AFTERNOON	Orchard picking	Shine Muscat grapes and early apples.
LATE	Ginzan Onsen	Matcha at a tea house on the Taisho-era street.
DUSK	The lamps	More than a hundred gas lamps lit one by one.
EVENING	Two wagyu dinner	Yamagata and Yonezawa beef over charcoal.





THE OKAMA CRATER LAKE

DESIGN INTENT • WHY TENDO HAS TWO NIGHTS

Mt Zao and Ginzan are day trips from the same ryokan, with no hotel change. Ginzan is kept for dusk, for the minutes the lamps come on.

NIGHT 5

Shouhakutei Azumaso, Tendo

MEALS • Wagyu dinner

DAY 06

SKY

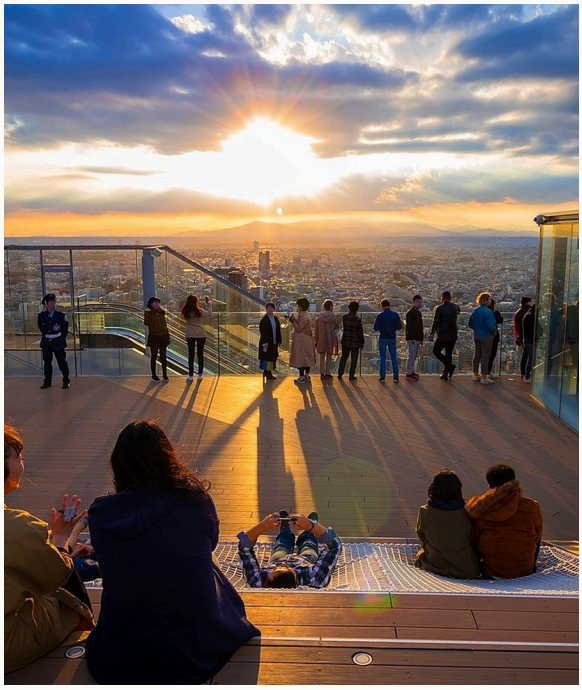
YAMAGATA • TOKYO • KUALA LUMPUR

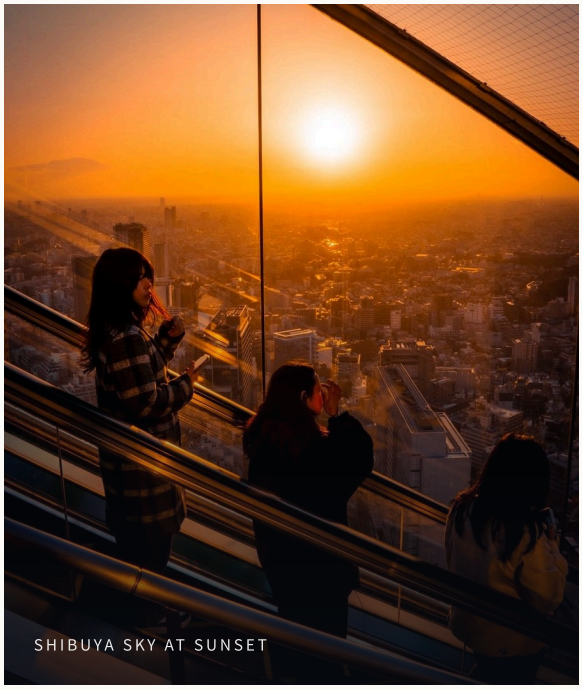
Yamagata → Tokyo → Kuala Lumpur

SKY

Six days of chasing light, ending quietly in Tokyo's dusk.

MORNING	Yamagata → Tokyo Haneda	A short domestic flight.
MIDDAY	Tsukiji Outer Market	An Edomae seafood lunch.
AFTERNOON	Ginza	Free time, with the guide on call.
DUSK	Shibuya Sky	230 metres up on the open roof as the city lights come on.
NIGHT	Farewell dinner, then the flight home	





SHIBUYA SKY AT SUNSET

DESIGN INTENT • WHY THE LAST DAY IS IN TOKYO

Five days in mountains and onsen, then one evening in the city. The last light of the journey is the city's own.

STAY

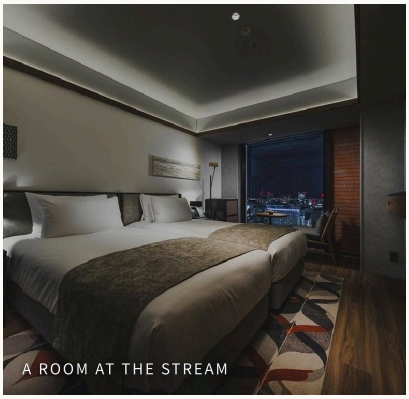
Home

Five nights, four stays.

A city hotel, a lake, a harbour and a ryokan, each chosen for what it looks onto.



SAPPORO STREAM HOTEL

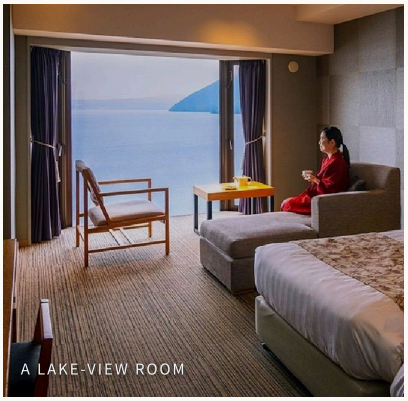

A ROOM AT THE STREAM

NIGHT 1 • SAPPORO

Sapporo Stream Hotel

In the city centre

Tanukikoji and the department stores on foot after the long flight.


A LAKE-VIEW ROOM


A TERRACE SUITE

NIGHT 2 • LAKE TOYA

The Lake View Toya Nonokaze Resort

On the lake

Terrace suites facing the fireworks launch point.

A harbour, then a ryokan.



THE ROOFTOP BATH



HAKODATE BY NIGHT

NIGHT 3 • HAKODATE

La Vista Hakodate Bay Annex

By the old harbour

A rooftop bath facing the bay, and a celebrated seafood breakfast.



A ROOM AT SHOUHAKUTEI



THE HINOKI BATH

NIGHTS 4–5 • TENDO ONSEN

Shouhakutei Azumaso

A traditional ryokan

A hinoki spring bath in the room, and two nights so Zao and Ginzan need no move.



ZeL CuraTours

SIX LIGHTS OF NORTHERN JAPAN

Would you like a journey like this, designed around the people you travel with? WhatsApp us, and we will start from there.

Zelts Yang

JOURNEY DESIGNER

ZeL CuraTours
zelcuratours.com
T +60 17-717 8760 • E hello@zelcuratours.com