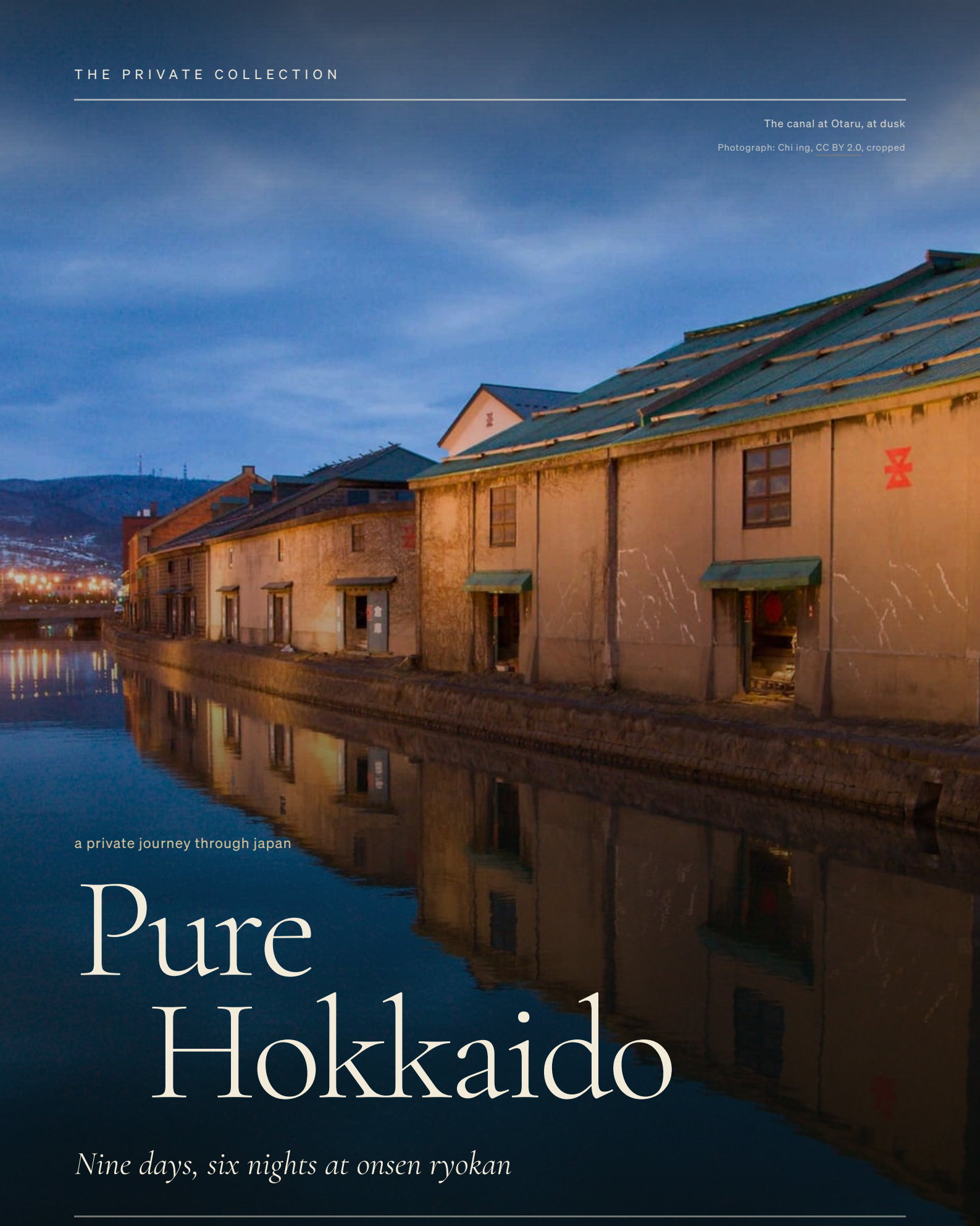
THE PRIVATE COLLECTION



The canal at Otaru, at dusk

Photograph: Chi ing, CC BY 2.0, cropped

a private journey through japan

Pure Hokkaido

Nine days, six nights at onsen ryokan

2 HAKODATE — 2 NOBORIBETSU — 2 OTARU — 2 SAPPORO

$21,600

per person, twin share · nine days

the route

From Hakodate to *Sapporo*

Hakodate, Noboribetsu, Otaru and Sapporo in nine days: the northern island by *private* car, with three ryokan stays and a Tour Director to take care of every arrangement.

Pure Hokkaido is the northern island taken at its own pace: two nights each in Hakodate, Noboribetsu, Otaru and Sapporo, with a private car and driver between them and a Tour Director to take care of every arrangement. Three of the four stays are ryokan with their own hot springs, so the days close in the onsen and at the ryokan table.

The journey is written here from south to north. It runs equally well from Sapporo to Hakodate, and you choose the direction. You book your own flight to Hakodate or to Sapporo, and we advise on the best choice for your dates.

Hakodate
TWO NIGHTS

An onsen ryokan at Yunokawa, the hot spring quarter on the strait, ten minutes from the airport.

Noboribetsu
TWO NIGHTS

A ryokan in the hot spring town below Jigokudani, whose springs feed every onsen in it.

Otaru
TWO NIGHTS

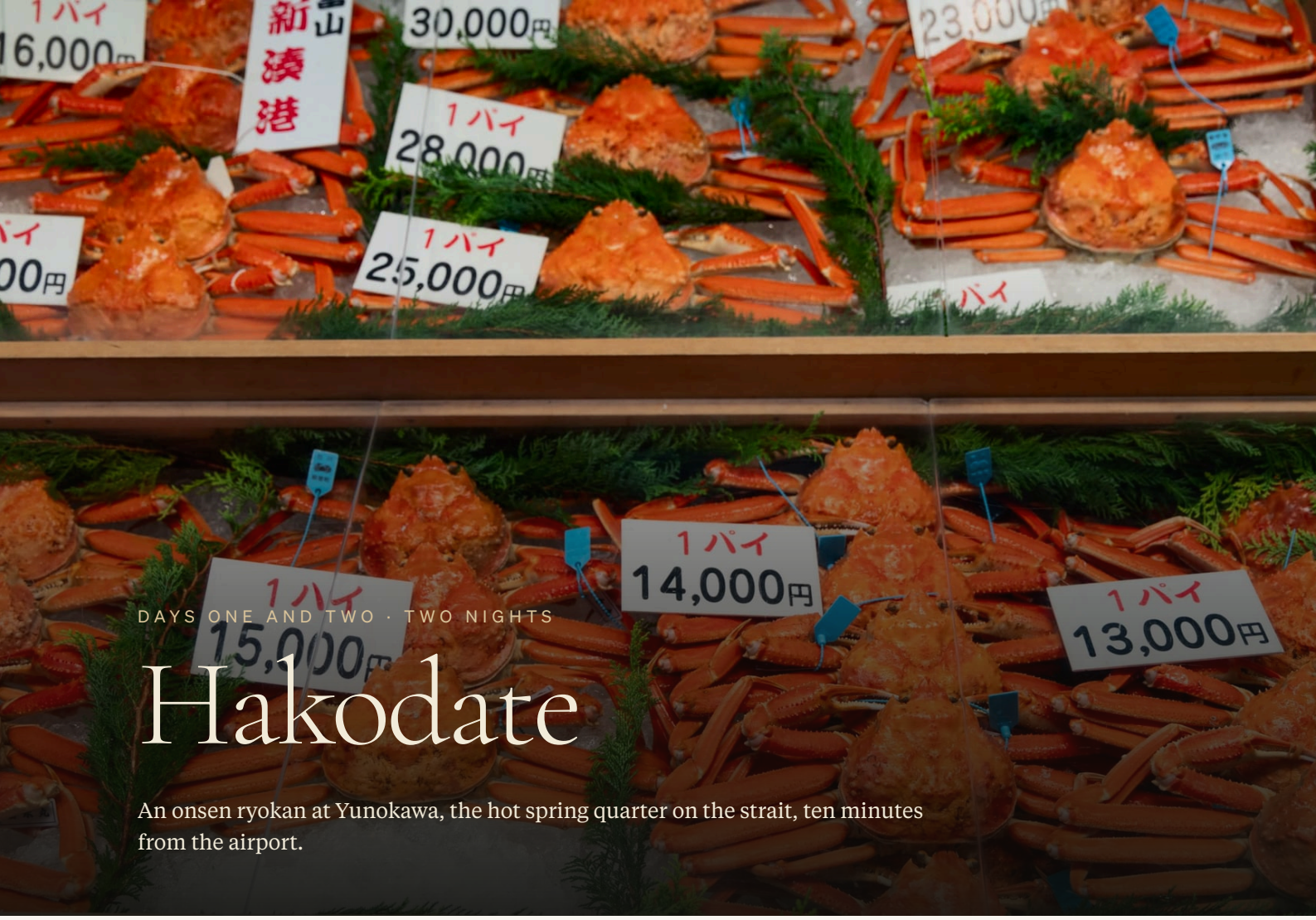
A ryokan at Asarigawa Onsen, in the hills above the port.

Sapporo
TWO NIGHTS

In the centre of the city, a short walk from Odori Park.



THE ROUTE BY NIGHT, HAKODATE, NOBORIBETSU, OTARU, SAPPORO



DAYS ONE AND TWO · TWO NIGHTS

Hakodate

An onsen ryokan at Yunokawa, the hot spring quarter on the strait, ten minutes from the airport.

Crab at the morning market, Hakodate

Because you choose the dates, we arrange the order of the days around them: several of these places keep a regular closing day (Upopoy closes on Mondays), and the sequence is set so that each is open on the day you visit.

DAY *one*

Your first evening in Hokkaido is at an onsen ryokan on the shore of the Tsugaru Strait: the afternoon in its hot-spring water, and dinner at the ryokan with your Tour Director, the days ahead laid out at the table. A private chauffeur meets you at Hakodate and drives you ten minutes along the shore to Yunokawa.

DAY *two*

The night view from Mount Hakodate at dusk, the lights of the city laid along the narrow neck of land between the bay and the strait. Before it, lunch at the morning market, where squid caught overnight is served still translucent, Goryokaku seen whole from its tower, and the treaty-port slope of Motomachi; dinner is at the ryokan.



DAYS THREE AND FOUR · TWO NIGHTS

Noboribetsu

A ryokan in the hot spring town below Jigokudani, whose springs feed every onsen in it.

A wooden bucket beside an open-air onsen, Noboribetsu

DAY *three*	Jigokudani, Hell Valley, walked on its boardwalks: steaming vents and pale mineral rock above the town, sending some ten thousand tonnes of hot water a day down to the onsen below, your ryokan among them. A private car brings you round the shore of Uchiura Bay to Noboribetsu, and dinner is at the ryokan.
DAY *four*	Upopoy, the National Ainu Museum on the shore of Lake Poroto, keeps the embroidery, carving and song of the island's first people, and lunch is taken there. The afternoon belongs to the onsen at Noboribetsu, and the ryokan serves dinner.



DAYS FIVE AND SIX · TWO NIGHTS

Otaru

A ryokan at Asarigawa Onsen, in the hills above the port.

The canal at Otaru as the gas lamps are lit

DAY *five*	Two nights at a ryokan in the forested hills at Asarigawa, every room with its own onsen, and dinner at the ryokan. A private car brings you north to Otaru, and in the late afternoon you walk the canal, its stone warehouses built for the herring trade, as the gas lamps are lit.
DAY *six*	Whisky tasted at the Nikka distillery at Yoichi, whose pot stills are still fired with coal, and lunch at a sushi counter in Otaru awarded a Michelin star in both of the guide's Hokkaido editions. A glass studio in Otaru, a craft the town grew from its fishing floats and oil lamps, and dinner at the ryokan.



DAYS SEVEN TO NINE · TWO NIGHTS

Sapporo

In the centre of the city, a short walk from Odori Park.

Odori Park at night, Sapporo

DAY *seven*	Odori Park with your Tour Director, the green avenue a kilometre and a half long that divides Sapporo into north and south, with the clock tower of 1878 two blocks away. A private car brings you from Otaru in about forty minutes, and the evening is yours, with your Tour Director's recommendations booked on request.
DAY *eight*	Nijo Market late in the morning with your Tour Director: crab, salmon roe, and a sea urchin opened at the stall to be eaten where you stand. The afternoon at your leisure, and the farewell dinner to close the journey.
DEPARTURE *nine*	A last breakfast, and a private chauffeur to New Chitose for your flight.

where you sleep

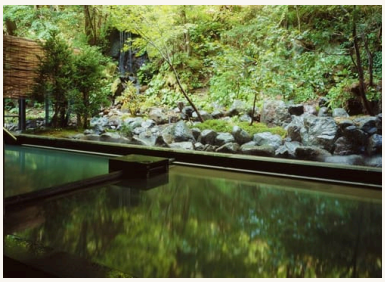
The hotels and *ryokan*

Hakodate

HAKODATE · TWO NIGHTS

An onsen ryokan at Yunokawa

The two nights in Hakodate are spent at an onsen ryokan at Yunokawa, the hot-spring quarter on the shore of the Tsugaru Strait, ten minutes from the airport and a short drive from the morning market and Mount Hakodate.



Photograph: Takinoya

NOBORIBETSU · TWO NIGHTS

Takinoya

Takinoya is a ryokan at the centre of Noboribetsu Onsen whose onsen draw on the springs of the valley above it, with an open-air onsen set in the green of its Japanese garden.

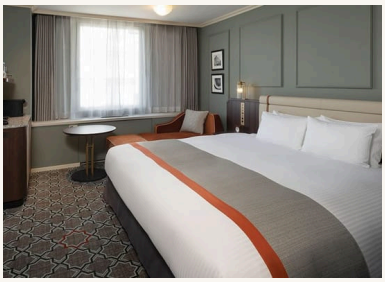


Photograph: Kuramure, Otaru

OTARU · TWO NIGHTS

Kuramure

Kuramure stands by the river in the forested hills at Asarigawa Onsen above Otaru: nineteen rooms of dark timber, stone and tall windows onto the trees, each with its own onsen, a quarter of an hour by car from the canal.



Photograph: Sapporo Grand Hotel

SAPPORO · TWO NIGHTS

Sapporo Grand Hotel

The Sapporo Grand Hotel stands at the centre of the city's grid, a short walk from Odori Park, the clock tower and the old red-brick government office.

what is included

What the price *covers*

EIGHT NIGHTS	An onsen ryokan at Yunokawa, Hakodate, two nights Takinoya, Noboribetsu, two nights Kuramure, Otaru, two nights Sapporo Grand Hotel, Sapporo, two nights
MEALS	Breakfast every day. Seven dinners: six at the ryokan, and the farewell dinner in Sapporo. Three lunches: at the Hakodate morning market, at Upopoy, and at a sushi counter in Otaru awarded a Michelin star in both of the guide's Hokkaido editions.
TRAVEL	A private luxury car and chauffeur for each couple to and from the airport. A private car and driver between the four towns and on every day out. Luggage sent ahead between hotels.
EXPERIENCES	A whisky tasting at the Nikka distillery in Yoichi. A glass studio visit in Otaru. The market walks at Hakodate and Nijo with your Tour Director. The Goryokaku tower, Mount Hakodate, Jigokudani and Upopoy. Every entry on the plan.
YOUR TOUR DIRECTOR	A Tour Director who takes care of every arrangement, fluent in Japanese and English, who speaks for you at every door, desk and counter.

The *price*

$21,600

per person, twin share · nine days

$21,600 per person, twin share. One inclusive price: all breakfasts, and all other meals as detailed in the itinerary. The journey is for one guest, a couple, or a party of up to four in two rooms, and four in two rooms pay the twin-share price each. Prices are per person.

BOOKING

A deposit of $3,500 per person confirms your dates; the balance is due 95 days before you travel.

The journey is taken on dates of your choosing. Tell us when you would like to travel, and we confirm your dates with you and advise on the flight that suits them.

Tipping is not customary in Japan. In restaurants and hotels the service is in the bill. A gratuity for your Tour Director at the end is standard practice and welcomed.

Your enquiry

Write to us at bookings@luxuryjapantravel.com with the dates you have in mind, or enquire from the journey's page at luxuryjapantravel.com/private-collection/pure-hokkaido. We reply in person.

A guest who would like a journey shaped around them is welcome on the Custom Tour of Japan.

With our compliments,

Luxury Japan Travel

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Jigokudani, the valley of steaming springs above Noboribetsu