



## SEEING JAPAN: Winter 2024

### HOKKAIDO INTENSIVE A CREATIVE IMAGE-MAKING PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

**26 JANUARY – 7 FEBRUARY 2024**

**Robert van Koesveld and Daisuke Kondo**

#### Booking Instructions

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1. Please read the following terms and conditions carefully.
2. To reserve your place on this tour please print, fill out and sign the Booking Form & Acceptance of Risk Form.  
Then scan and return the **TWO** forms via email to: [info@sparkphotography.jp](mailto:info@sparkphotography.jp)
3. Deposits can be made by credit card. \*If you prefer making your deposit by EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) please let us know in advance.
4. Initial Deposit to hold a place JPY200,000 (approx. \$US 1470)
5. Final payments can be made via EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) to our JPY (Japanese Yen) bank account. Bank details are below.
6. Balance Due 120 Days before departure.
7. Please note that tour places are only assured once the booking form and deposits have been received and confirmed by us.

#### Final Payments Bank Account Details

Bank Name:	MUFG BANK LTD.
Branch Name:	SAPPORO Branch
Swift Code:	BOTKJPJT
Bank Address:	3-6, Odori Nishi, Chuo-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido, 060-0042, Japan
Beneficiary's Name:	SPARK PRODUCTIONS KONDO DAISUKE
Beneficiary's Address:	3-25-708, Minami 13 jo Nishi 1 chome, Chuo-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido, 064-0913, Japan
Beneficiary's Account No.:	637-5121625

This photography tour is planned and managed by Spark Photography in collaboration with Robert van Koesveld. All references to “we” or “I” or “us” in the following pages, with the exception of the actual booking form, refers to Spark Photography, their agents, partners and/or employees.

Our Japan Tour operator is  
MY Travel Consulting Inc.  
ANTA3-1049

A member of the All Nippon Travel Agents Association  
254-1, Warabi, Yotsukaido-shi, Chiba, Japan 284-0044  
Certified General Travel Services Manager : Mayumi Kawana  
E-mail : [contact@mytravelconsulting.co.jp](mailto:contact@mytravelconsulting.co.jp)  
TEL : +81-50-3613-8975

Spark Photography is run on the standard Tour Terms & Conditions set out below. By your completion and submission of the Booking form, Acceptance of Risk form and payment of the deposit, you will be taken to have agreed to the Tour Terms & Conditions.

## TOUR TERMS & CONDITIONS

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### PART 1 – GENERAL TERMS THAT APPLY TO ALL Spark Photography Tours & Workshops

**1.1 How to book a tour:** Please email your completed and signed Booking form AND Acceptance of Risk form to [info@sparkphotography.jp](mailto:info@sparkphotography.jp)

The number of participants on a tour is limited and places will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Once we have received and confirmed your Booking and Acceptance of Risk forms, we will send you an invoice for the tour cost. The Deposit must be paid to secure your place on the Tour. Until the Deposit has been paid in full and confirmed by us, your place on the tour is not guaranteed.

**1.2 How to pay for a tour:** Payments must be made by electronic funds transfer to Spark Photography. Full details of how to pay for a tour AND the date by which payment is required by are set out in Part 2.

**1.3 Changes to the Itinerary:** The itinerary for tours is flexible and expressly subject to changes without notice as seen fit by Spark Photography so as to adapt to changing conditions and new options. The aim of the tour is to provide all participants with the best photo opportunities possible under the prevailing circumstances.

**1.4 Health Concerns:** If you have any medical or health concerns please contact us to discuss this prior to sending in your Booking form. It is a mandatory requirement that you disclose all health issues and any physical conditions that could potentially pose a risk to yourself or others on the tour. We cannot accept the responsibility of medical care for any participant and reserve the right to cancel your participation in this tour on that basis.

Our tours are designed for adults in reasonable health and of moderate fitness. The tour may involve walking and hiking on trails, uneven surfaces and up and down inclines. You will be required to carry your own equipment and water.

You may also need to obtain medical vaccinations, depending on the tour location and should seek medical advice to determine if this is needed for you.

**1.5 Diet:** If you have special dietary needs or food allergies you must disclose these prior to booking. We will endeavor to cater for special dietary requests, but this is your responsibility and we cannot be held liable for these requests not being met.

**1.6 Travel Insurance:** It is your responsibility to provide for your own travel insurance for the tour. We require confirmation that you have taken out appropriate travel insurance for the tour prior to the start of the

Tour. We recommend that your travel insurance includes emergency evacuation cover, flight and tour cancellation cover.

**1.7 Camera and other Insurance:** We recommend that you also take out insurance to cover your camera and other possessions whilst on the tour.

**1.8 Tour Price and Accommodation:** The Tour price is based upon double/twin share accommodation. If you wish to share accommodation you must nominate another participant (partner or friend) to share with. We will not pair you with another participant who is unknown to you, unless specified otherwise in Part 3 of these Terms & Conditions: *Tour Specific Terms*.

**1.9 Single Supplement Option:** The Single Supplement option entitles you to private hotel rooms for the tour and usually a private bathroom, unless specified otherwise in Part 3 of these terms and conditions. If you are travelling alone, and you are unable to, or do not wish to nominate another participant to share hotel rooms with you, then the Single Supplement component becomes automatically payable, and will be added to your total cost for the tour. In this case, **Twin Share price + Single Supplement = Total Tour Cost**, unless otherwise specified in *Part 3 Tour Specific Terms* of These Terms & Conditions.

**1.10 Bookings and Payments Waiting List:** Should your Booking form be received after the tour has become fully booked, we will contact you and place you on the waiting list. Places on the tour will be booked, and the waiting list maintained in the order booking forms are received. We will keep you up to date if any places become available.

**1.11 General Cancellation & Refund Policy:** We have tried to make our Cancellation & Refund policy as fair and equitable as possible. Circumstances change and unexpected things happen, so the best thing to do is contact us and we will do our utmost to help out.

Our General Cancellation and Refund policy is set out below. Please note that there may be specific Cancellation and Refund policies for your specific tour. Those tour-specific Cancellation and Refund policies are set out in Part 3 with the specific tour information and are in addition to this General Cancellation and Refund policy. If there is any conflict between this clause and the specific tour provisions, the specific tour provisions take precedence.

1. A tour may be cancelled if there is an insufficient number of participants. A decision to cancel a tour for insufficient numbers is at the sole discretion of Spark Photography.
2. Your participation on the tour may be cancelled if we do not receive full payment by the date specified in Part 3.
3. Your participation on the tour may be cancelled if, in Spark Photography's opinion, your behavior adversely impacts, or is likely to adversely impact, any person involved on the tour (including Guides, interpreters or other service providers). Adverse impact includes endangering the health and safety of any person, causing personal injury, or loss of or damage to property of any person involved on the tour.
4. All cancellations requested by you must be made by email to [info@sparkphotography.jp](mailto:info@sparkphotography.jp). Calculation dates will be based on the date we receive your email.
5. If you cancel your place at any time but we manage to sell your spot again and the tour is otherwise filled, we will refund you the full tour cost you have paid to us less (a) the service charge and (b) any reasonable costs incurred in re-advertising and promoting your place.
6. If you cancel your place and the tour does not fill, then you will be refunded according to the following schedule, based on the full cost of the tour:
  - a) Greater than 120 days from the start date of the Tour: Full refund less ¥30,000 service charge.
  - b) Between 119 days and 105 days prior to tour commencement: 75% refund
  - c) Between 104 days and 91 days prior to tour commencement: 50% refund
  - d) Less than 90 days to tour commencement: no refund will be made.
7. **Refund Method:** Refunds will be made by the same method as the original payment and in the same currency. Refunds will be initiated within 14 working days from the time the refund request is approved by us.

All refunds are limited to the Tour cost or paid portion thereof, as outlined in these Terms and Conditions and actually paid to us and in the currency paid to us. No refund of Bank fees, currency

value fluctuation differentials, transfer charges, airfares, insurance or other incidental costs will be made.

8. **Part-Refunds:** No part-refunds will be made for unused portions or services of the tour.
9. **Refunds and responsibility:** Spark Photography is not responsible for, and will not provide, any refund for portions of the tour itinerary or services missed due to delayed or cancelled air services, third party travel arrangements or any other circumstances beyond our control. This includes but is not limited to cancellations or delays due to weather, road conditions, mechanical breakdowns, quarantine or other health regulations, war, political instability and “acts of God”.

**1.12 Privacy:** Spark Photography will not share your personal information with any third party other than to the extent necessary for the operation of the Tour.

**1.13 Image Release:** During the tour, Spark Photography may take photographs of you and other participants of the tour for publicity purposes. You agree to the taking and publication of photographs of you by Spark Photography solely for publicity purposes.

## PART 2 – RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY

**2.1** The liability of Spark Photography is strictly limited.

**2.2** Spark Photography organises, operates, promotes and sells photography tours and workshops that consist of goods and services purchased from various other suppliers. Spark Photography does not own, operate or have a financial interest in any of these suppliers and as such is not responsible for any negligent act, failure or omission of said suppliers. By signing up and agreeing to take part in this tour you agree to indemnify Spark Photography, its directors, its agents, partners, employees or associates from any failings of such suppliers.

**2.3** Spark Photography, its directors, agents, partners, employees or associates cannot be held responsible for losses or extra expenses caused by but not limited to, weather conditions, change in travel schedules, transportation services, illness or injury, or other factors that may affect participants’ travel plans or arrangements, or loss or damage to personal items including but not limited to camera and computer equipment. All such losses are the sole responsibility of the participant.

**2.4** Spark Photography reserves the right to cancel any tour, or your place on any tour, during or prior to commencement.

**2.5** In the event we cancel the tour or your place on the tour, you will be refunded according to the General Cancellation and Refund policy and any specific cancellation policies for your Tour (found in Part 3 of this document). All refunds are limited to the Tour cost or portion of tour cost actually paid and will be refunded in the original manner and currency paid to us. We are not liable for bank fees, currency value fluctuation differentials, transfer charges or other incidental costs or extra travel arrangements such as but not limited to flights, insurance and additional accommodation arrangements.

**2.6** Spark Photography reserves the right to substitute accommodation of a similar kind for those indicated in any issued itinerary and to alter said itinerary or transport arrangement where it deems necessary.

**2.7** Spark Photography also reserves the right to alter the program and substitute any activities where weather, other forces of nature, or local conditions, including but not limited to wars or political instability, prohibit the originally planned activities, or they are deemed unsafe or ill-advised.

**2.8** Spark Photography reserves the right to replace any tour leader at any time due to unforeseen incidents, or events. Medical incidents or limitations, to the tour leader, or sickness to the leaders close family members may require a leader to be replaced. In the event of such an incident a leader will be sought who has the same skill set and knowledge of the country and the locations, but this cannot be guaranteed. If a leader has to be replaced, there are no grounds for refunds or cancellations.

**2.9** Spark Photography reserves the right to cancel or otherwise alter the nature of this tour if any danger to participants should be identified. Spark Photography also reserves the right to remove any participant from this tour if they are perceived to pose a hazard to themselves or any others. Spark Photography assumes no liability for any personal loss, damage or injury resulting while on this tour.

**2.10 Force Majeure:** Except where otherwise expressly stated in these booking conditions, we regret we cannot accept liability or pay any compensation where the performance or prompt performance of our obligations under our contract with you is prevented or affected by or you otherwise suffer any damage, loss or expense of any nature as a result of “force majeure”. In these booking conditions, “force majeure” means any event which we or the supplier of the service(s) in question could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. Such events may include, whether actual or threatened, war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, pandemics, epidemics, spread of infectious disease, natural or nuclear disaster, adverse weather conditions, the closure of international borders, imposition of travel bans or travel restrictions by governments, fire and all similar events outside our control.

**2.11** Signed originals of the Booking and Acceptance of Risk forms must be received from each participant, (via scanning and email), prior to the commencement of this tour or workshop. This is mandatory.

**2.12** The Booking and Acceptance of Risk forms must be complete and unaltered, no variations will be accepted.

**2.13** If a participant takes part in a tour or workshop without signing an Acceptance of Risk form, their attendance is deemed to confirm their acceptance and full agreement with all parts of these terms and conditions and the terms in the Acceptance of Risk form including the release.

**2.14** These Terms & Conditions and Booking and Acceptance of Risk forms are governed by the laws of Japan and in all cases will be interpreted in accordance with those laws and any dispute is subject to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of Japan.

**2.15 Printing Errors and Cost Revisions:** Spark Photography reserves the right to correct printing errors or cost calculation mistakes at any time as well as make revisions to the Terms & Conditions as required.

### **PART 3 – SPECIFIC TERMS FOR THE *Seeing JAPAN Photo Tour 2024***

**3.1** Your tour is **SEEING JAPAN: Winter 2024 Hokkaido Intensive**.

**3.2 Tour start date & location:**  
26<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 in Sapporo, Japan.

**3.3 Tour end date & location:**  
7<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 in Abashiri, Japan.

**3.4 Tour leaders:** Robert van Koesveld and Daisuke Kondo

**3.5 Number of Tour Participants:** This tour will have a maximum number of six participants. In addition to the six participants there will be the Tour leaders. A minimum number of four participants is required for the tour to run, although Spark Photography may, at its discretion, run the tour with less than four participants, or may, at its discretion, run the tour with seven participants in the event there is just one place remaining and a couple wishes to book.

#### **3.6 Tour details Pricing & Inclusions:**

- Tour price: **¥995,000** per person (in Japanese Yen). Twin Share. (see Twin Share details following)
- Single Supplement: **¥80,000**, additional to the Twin Share price per person.
- Deposit to confirm your place: **¥200,000**

**a) The above Tour price includes:**

- All ground transport during the tour by private van.
- All breakfasts and dinners (excluding drinks).
- Hotel accommodation throughout the tour (12 nights).
- Entrance fees for all included locations.
- Expert photography coaching from two leaders and key cultural briefings.
- Use of individual "Yak Tracks" to attach to your boots and access to snow-shoes.
- Review, post-processing and image design sessions during the tour.
- One-on-one session to deepen use of light and composition, story-telling and post-processing.
- Specially developed notes and materials specific to your tour.

**b) The above Tour price does not include:**

- International and domestic airfares and visas if required.
- Lunches.
- Personal expenses including laundry, snacks, drinks and extras you might choose to buy along the way.
- Transfers between the start and finish hotels and airports etc. (people often have independent plans) .
- Travel Insurance for cancelation, health and travel (required as a condition of booking).
- Camera and other gear insurance.
- Costs arising from unforeseen circumstances or factors beyond our control.

### 3.7 Payment for the Tour

1. The full Tour price must be paid by 5pm (AEST) , 120 days prior to the tour commencing. The payment date will be set out on the Invoice we send you after we receive your Booking form.
2. Payment Options.
  - a) You must pay by electronic funds transfer in **Japanese Yen (¥)** to our **JPY Bank account**.
  - b) We do not accept payments in any other currency or any other method. The **JPY** amount of funds received in our account must match the amount due exactly. We are not responsible for any fees that may be incurred with Electronic Funds transfer from your Bank or any intermediary Bank to our bank account. Please ensure that all Bank and transfer fees are paid at your end of the transaction and are not deducted from the total figure transferred. This is a common mistake and results in incomplete payment. Payment shortfall arriving in our bank will be reflected in the invoice for final balance of payments.

### Why do we only accept EFT and not Credit Cards? for the final payment?

Our aim is to deliver the best value tour or workshop possible. That means cutting out unnecessary costs. Electronic Funds Transfer is the most cost-efficient method to transfer money nationally and internationally. Credit Card companies charge substantial hidden fees. You won't see the fee when you pay, the fee is deducted at our end as a percentage. As these tours and workshops involve substantial payments, the credit card fees are substantial too. We then need to add that fee back to the cost of the tour, and the tour price goes up accordingly. Not the outcome we are after.

### 3.8 Booking Your Travel Arrangements to Japan

The tour begins in **Sapporo** and ends in **Abashiri**, Japan. You will need to arrange your own flights to and from Japan plus any additional nights of accommodation and meals not specifically listed as included in the tour price. It is your responsibility to ensure you arrive at the hotel in Sapporo in a timely manner prior to the commencement of the tour. Daisuke & Robert are happy to discuss this with you to offer suggestions and advice at the time of booking. We recommend that you do not book any flights or other travel arrangements until we confirm to you in writing that the tour has sufficient numbers and is going ahead as planned. Please note that we will not be responsible for any costs incurred by you for any travel arrangements.



**BOOKING FORM: Participant 01 -** *One form per person please. Details as per your passport.*

First Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: dd/mm/yy \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Preferred first name on tour \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: dd/mm/yy \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Postal Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary requests or food allergies:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Any medical conditions that may impact on your ability to participate in this tour:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Next of Kin Details (Not somebody who is accompanying you on this tour)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Accommodation Options for 13-day tour - Please tick *one*:**

- ( ) Twin Share: price per person: ¥995,000
- ( ) Single Traveler: additional supplement: ¥80,000

Twin Share partner's name: \_\_\_\_\_



**ACCEPTANCE OF RISK FORM: Participant 01** – *One form per person* please

First Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Acceptance of Risk**

1. The information I have provided to Spark Photography on the Booking form is true and correct and I understand that Spark Photography is relying on that information.
2. I have been advised of the inherent risks, if any, associated with the Tour and I voluntarily choose to participate in the Tour accepting any risks.
3. I have read and understood all the Terms and Conditions in relation to my participation in, and the conduct of the Tour, and the costs associated with the Tour.

**Release and Discharge**

4. I unconditionally release and discharge Spark Photography from all liabilities, claims and causes of action that may arise from any act, omission, default, failure or error on the part of Spark Photography occurring during the course of the Tour or whilst in transit to or from the Tour.
5. I acknowledge and agree that this is in addition to any other release and indemnity provided by me by agreeing to the Terms and Condition of my participation in the Tour.

**Indemnity**

6. I agree to indemnify and keep indemnified Spark Photography from any liability, costs, damages, claim or cause of action that may be brought against Spark Photography as a result of or in connection with any act, commission, default, failure or error on the part of Spark Photography during the course of the Tour including transit to or from the Tour.
7. I waive any right to claim and agree that Spark Photography will not be liable for any loss or damage for any default, failure, negligence or error on the part of Spark Photography, personal injury, death, economic loss or consequential loss in or, contract.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_





**BOOKING FORM: Participant 02 -** One form per person please. Details as per your passport.

First Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: dd/mm/yy \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Preferred first name on tour \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: dd/mm/yy \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Postal Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary requests or food allergies:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Any medical conditions that may impact on your ability to participate in this Tour:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin Details (Not somebody who is accompanying you on this tour)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodation Options for 13-day tour - Please tick *one*:

( ) Twin Share: price per person: ¥995,000

( ) Single Traveler: additional supplement: ¥80,000

Twin Share partner's name: \_\_\_\_\_



**ACCEPTANCE OF RISK FORM:** Participant 02 – *One form per person* please

First Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Acceptance of Risk**

1. The information I have provided to Spark Photography on the Booking form is true and correct and I understand that Spark Photography is relying on that information.
2. I have been advised of the inherent risks, if any, associated with the Tour and I voluntarily choose to participate in the Tour accepting any risks.
3. I have read and understood all the Terms and Conditions in relation to my participation in, and the conduct of the Tour, and the costs associated with the Tour.

**Release and Discharge**

4. I unconditionally release and discharge Spark Photography from all liabilities, claims and causes of action that may arise from any act, omission, default, failure or error on the part of Spark Photography occurring during the course of the Tour or whilst in transit to or from the Tour.
5. I acknowledge and agree that this is in addition to any other release and indemnity provided by me by agreeing to the Terms and Condition of my participation in the Tour.

**Indemnity**

6. I agree to indemnify and keep indemnified Spark Photography from any liability, costs, damages, claim or cause of action that may be brought against Spark Photography as a result of or in connection with any act, commission, default, failure or error on the part of Spark Photography during the course of the Tour including transit to or from the Tour.
7. I waive any right to claim and agree that Spark Photography will not be liable for any loss or damage for any default, failure, negligence or error on the part of Spark Photography, personal injury, death, economic loss or consequential loss in or, contract.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_