

# HOKKAIDO

Free drive with a rental car

## Must-have Handbook for Driving in Hokkaido

Examples of actual problems experienced during driving trips were mainly sourced from a survey of tourists from other countries.

### What do you do in such a situation?

- How can I refuel a car at gas stations?
- How can I get on expressways?
- I don't know Japanese traffic rules.
- What should I do in the event of an accident?
- How do I rent a car?
- Others

# To help you have a safe, comfortable and pleasant car trip in Hokkaido.

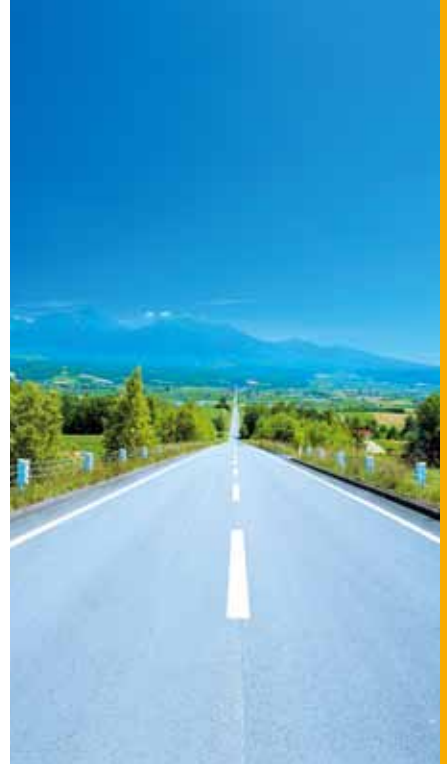
Hokkaido is blessed with natural landscapes and the roads are wide, so you can enjoy pleasant drive. In such surroundings, however, it is easy to pick up speed and there have been many incidents of car accidents. It is true that a rental car is the most appropriate means of transportation to fully enjoy Hokkaido's attractions. If you leave the cities and busy traffic to drive along the roads where tour buses do not go you can experience the "beautiful nature" and "lifestyle" unique to Hokkaido. A free and easy car trip will make your stay in Hokkaido more enjoyable.

**Be sure to bring a copy of the "Must-have Handbook for Driving in Hokkaido" when driving in Hokkaido!**

## Features of this handbook and user's guide

### Features

- This guide book has been developed to assist foreign drivers who travel Hokkaido by rental cars to sightsee safely, easily and comfortably.
- In view of the above, all necessary information has been organized in Chapter 1 to Chapter 4.
- When driving in Hokkaido, if you need more detailed information please see the websites of other organizations offering the existing information that are listed in this guide book.



For your pleasant car trip in Hokkaido



### How to use this handbook?

As the contents are based on data collected through actual interviews, this is a book that will certainly help you when you are in trouble and wondering, "What should I do in a situation like this?" It can also be used for point and speak.

	<p>Descriptions of troubles that foreign visitors in Hokkaido actually encountered based on the findings of a survey completed by the foreign visitors are denoted.</p>
	<p>Introduces the last resort when you have tried everything and nothing worked.</p>
	<p>Introduces supplementary information such as description of terms.</p>
	<p>Introduces little information unique to the area that will work to your advantage.</p>
	<p>Helpful pointers offered by a master car traveler that will make your Hokkaido trip enjoyable.</p>
	<p>When you are in a bind wondering what to do, you can point at the appropriate phrases listed in this book to communicate with other person. Brief comments are listed.</p>

# Before you leave for a Hokkaido tour by car



Two months before the trip	One month before the trip	One week before the trip	Departure!!	Arrival in Hokkaido!!
<p><b>Collect information on Hokkaido tours by car</b></p> <p>Make up a list of places you like to visit, roads you like to take, and other related items and it will be easier to decide on the route.</p> <p>➔ <b>P.04 See Chapter 1</b> <b>Let's drive in Hokkaido!</b></p> <p><b>Decide on the route</b></p> <p>Decide on the locations to rent and return a rental car. Decide on the number of days and budget for the trip.</p> <p><b>Make arrangements for air tickets/lodging.</b></p> <p>Choosing where you stay is a key consideration point when traveling by car. Keep the driving distance within 150 km between the departing location and where your lodging is for the day. If the place you plan to stay for the night is too far, you may end up doing nothing but driving all day.</p> <p><b>Making arrangements for a rental car</b></p> <p>A rental car, which is an essential item for your driving trip in Hokkaido, can be booked online. Choose a most appropriate plan based on the number of days, people and the route.</p> <p>➔ <b>P.20 See Chapter 2</b> <b>Reservation of rental cars</b></p>	<p><b>Collect detailed information and obtain necessary items before you leave</b></p> <p>What you need to have collected!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Driving map of Hokkaido</li> <li>● Traffic rules and manners</li> </ul> <p>➔ <b>P.24 See Chapter 3</b> <b>Traffic rules and quick tips</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How to use a car navigation system</li> </ul> <p>➔ <b>P.22 See Chapter 2</b> <b>Reservation of rental cars</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Websites for information gathering</li> </ul> <p>➔ <b>P.48 See Information</b> <b>Telephone numbers and websites of related organizations</b></p>	<p><b>What you absolutely cannot forget</b></p> <p>The trip itself will not happen unless you have these. When you are going through a procedure to rent a car in Japan, car rental companies occasionally refuse to rent out a car unless you have your passport and international driver's license. So be careful. You will also need these items when you are asked to show the police your driver's license if you are involved in an accident or traffic violation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Passport</li> <li>● International driver's license issued by a Geneva Convention member country</li> <li>● A copy of the reservation slip for the rental car</li> </ul> <p>*Please check the expiry date of your international driver's license.</p> <p>➔ <b>P.21 See Chapter 2</b> <b>Reservation of rental cars</b></p>	<p><b>Start driving</b></p> <p>When you have arrived at the airport, go to the car rental booth. From there you will be taken to the office of the car rental company by bus. Be careful since airport offices of car rental companies in Hokkaido are located a little far from the airport. Consult the points of caution for driving in Hokkaido and have a safe and enjoyable drive!</p> <p>➔ <b>P.24 See Chapter 3</b> <b>Traffic rules and quick tips</b></p> <p><b>Points of caution about winter roads</b></p> <p>If you drive a rental car in winter, information is available on Page 37.</p> <p>➔ <b>P.37 See Chapter 3</b> <b>3-5. Be careful on snowy roads!</b></p>	

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