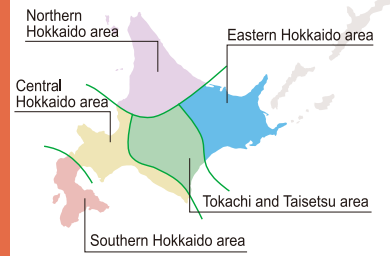


1-3. Regional charms of Hokkaido

Hokkaido is divided up into five areas; Central, Northern, Southern and Eastern Hokkaido as well as the Tokachi/Taisetsu region. The best and most efficient way to plan your driving trip is to decide the main areas you wish to visit. We hope that by choosing target areas based on local major sightseeing spots, you will be able to fully enjoy your holiday in Hokkaido.

Five areas of Hokkaido



Southern Hokkaido area – Experiencing the frontier spirit –



● Onuma Quasi National Park, Tsukimi Bridge (Nanae Town)



● Goryokaku Tower and cherry blossoms (Hakodate)



● Goryokaku (Hakodate)



Quick Tip

There is limited admission for cars between late April and mid October on Mt. Hakodate and roads are closed between 17:00 and 22:00.

Hakodate

The night views visible from Mt. Hakodate are said to be one of the world's three best night views, and it is famous as a sightseeing spot. There are popular fresh seafood restaurants at the Hakodate Morning Market located next to Hakodate Station.

- A** Hakodate Night View (Mount Hakodate Ropeway) ☎ 86 041 003
- B** Goryokaku Park in Hakodate where cherry blossoms are in full bloom in spring ☎ 86 165 027
- C** Yunokawa Hot Spring Resort in Hakodate
- D** Scenery in Motomachi Town at the foot of Mt. Hakodate



Hokuto

The Trappist Butter and cookies, butter candies and jam produced here are famous as souvenirs representative of Hokkaido.

☎ 951 248 298

Trappist Monastery



Matsumae

The town has a place in history as the northernmost domain of the shogunate system during the late Edo period. Matsumae Castle and Teramachi Town are designated as Hokkaido Heritage sites. There are beautiful gardens and various old trees which change with the seasons. Matsumae is covered with cherry blossoms in spring, hydrangeas in early summer, verdure in summer and autumn leaves in autumn. ☎ 862 058 224



Matsumae Castle

Esashi

Esashi Town located in the southwest area of Hokkaido is said to be the birthplace of Hokkaido culture. The Japanese battleship Kaiyo Maru from the Edo period is being restored.

☎ 1108 104 617

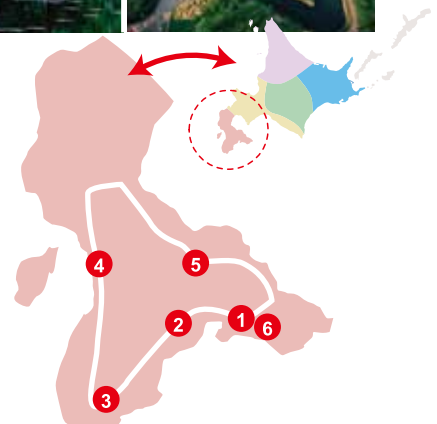
Kaiyo Maru



Onuma Park

Beautiful seasonal scenery can be admired at Onuma Park located one-hour away from Hakodate by car.

Various activities such as ice fishing in winter on ponds (for smelt) are available ☎ 86 815 474



New Chitose Airport → Hakodate Airport

First day **1** Leave Hakodate

☎ approx. 15 km
🚗 approx. 20 min.

Second day **2** Leave Hokuto

☎ approx. 80 km
🚗 approx. 1 hr. 40 min.

3 Leave Matsumae

☎ approx. 60 km
🚗 approx. 1 hr. 10 min.

Third day **4** Leave Esashi

☎ approx. 70 km
🚗 approx. 1 hr. 20 min.

Fourth day **5** Leave Onuma Park

☎ approx. 30 km
🚗 approx. 30 min.

6 Leave Hakodate

☎ approx. 10 km
🚗 approx. 10 min.

To Hakodate Airport ✈️

*Map Code is the registered brand of Denso, Inc.

Central Hokkaido area

– A trip to enjoy resorts set in stunning natural environments –



●Mt. Yotei, wheat field (Niseko Town)



●Lake Toya in spring (Sobetsu Town)



●Sapporo Nijo Fish Market



●Odori Park (Sapporo)



Quick Tip

Driving in Sapporo takes concentration due to lots of complicated traffic situations such as one-way traffic.

Lake Toya

This area provided the venue for the Lake Toya G8 Summit in 2008. Visitors can enjoy hot springs and rides on ferries on the lake. ☎ 321 518 499



Niseko

This area has one of the most popular resorts in the country, sprawling at the foot of beautiful Mt. Yotei. Hands-on outdoor sports programs such as mountain climbing, canoeing and rafting in summer are provided. Winter sports at ski fields boasting world-class quality snow are also popular, and the region has various hot springs.



Otaru

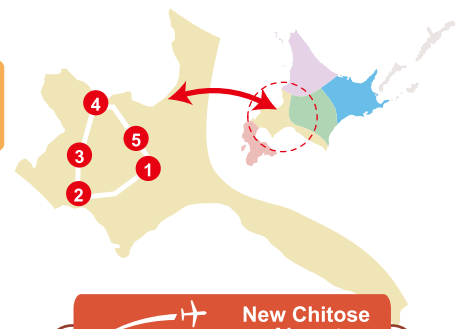
The port town of Otaru is famous as the location site for the film "Love Letter." Otaru's famous symbol, the Otaru Canal, creates a romantic atmosphere as it is illuminated at night. ☎ 493 690 648



Sapporo

A One of Sapporo's famous symbols, the Sapporo Clock Tower, is also beautifully illuminated at night. ☎ 9 522 204

B Odori Park divides the central area of Sapporo into south and north. Hot corn cobs are sold in summer, and their savory smell entices visitors to buy them. ☎ 9 492 819



New Chitose Airport

First day **1** Leave New Chitose Airport
 approx. 120 km
 approx. 1 hr. 30 min.

Second day **2** Leave Toyako-onsen
 approx. 60 km
 approx. 1 hr. 20 min.

Third day **3** Leave Niseko
 approx. 90 km
 approx. 2 hrs.

Fourth day **4** Leave Otaru
 approx. 40 km
 approx. 50 min.

5 Leave Sapporo
 approx. 50 km
 approx. 50 min.
 To New Chitose Airport

*Map Code is the registered brand of Denso, Inc.

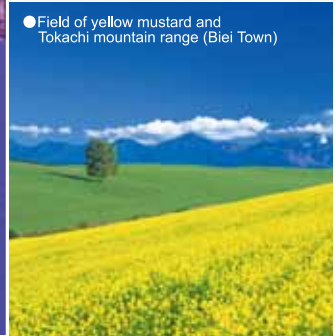
Taisetsu/Tokachi area – A trip to experience the bounty of nature –



●Setting sun in a snowfield (Biei Town)



●Autumn leaves in Sounkyo (Kamikawa Town)



●Field of yellow mustard and Tokachi mountain range (Biei Town)



Quick Tip

The Tokachi area is famous for its long, straight roads. Be careful not to exceed speed limits or have a traffic accident on these roads that command amazing views of the Tokachi Plains.

Asahikawa

- A** Asahikawa ramen which is served with thin noodles is as famous as Sapporo ramen.
- B** The nation's northernmost zoo, which has become famous for showcasing animals' unique behavior 79 358 791



Biei, Furano

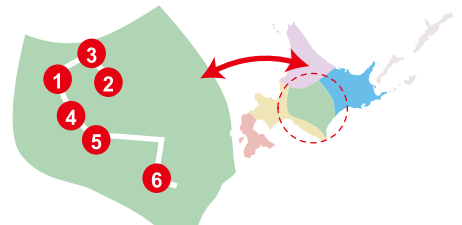
In Biei, located next to Furano, enormous farming fields developed by man have created beautiful scenery. In winter, the silvery landscape can make a deep impression on visitors to this snow country. Also, the lavender season that is very popular with visitors from East Asia produces a landscape of lavender, covering the fields just like a purple carpet.



Near Obihiro

Various seasonal outdoor sports are provided in the Tokachi area. You can travel down the river in a relaxed fashion or you can enjoy the excitement of being pulled on a sleigh by a snowmobile in snow-rafting.

- A** Obihiro is famous for its confectionary, represented by Rokkatei
- B** Kamishihoro Town, Naitai Heights Stock farm 679 103 688
- C** Shintoku soba noodles
- D** Rafting



New Chitose Airport → Asahikawa Airport

First day 1 Leave Asahikawa

approx. 85 km
approx. 1 hr. 30 min.

2 Leave Sounkyo

approx. 25 km
approx. 30 min.

Second day 3 Leave Kamikawa

approx. 70 km
approx. 1 hr. 20 min.

4 Leave Biei

approx. 35 km
approx. 50 min.

Third day 5 Leave Furano

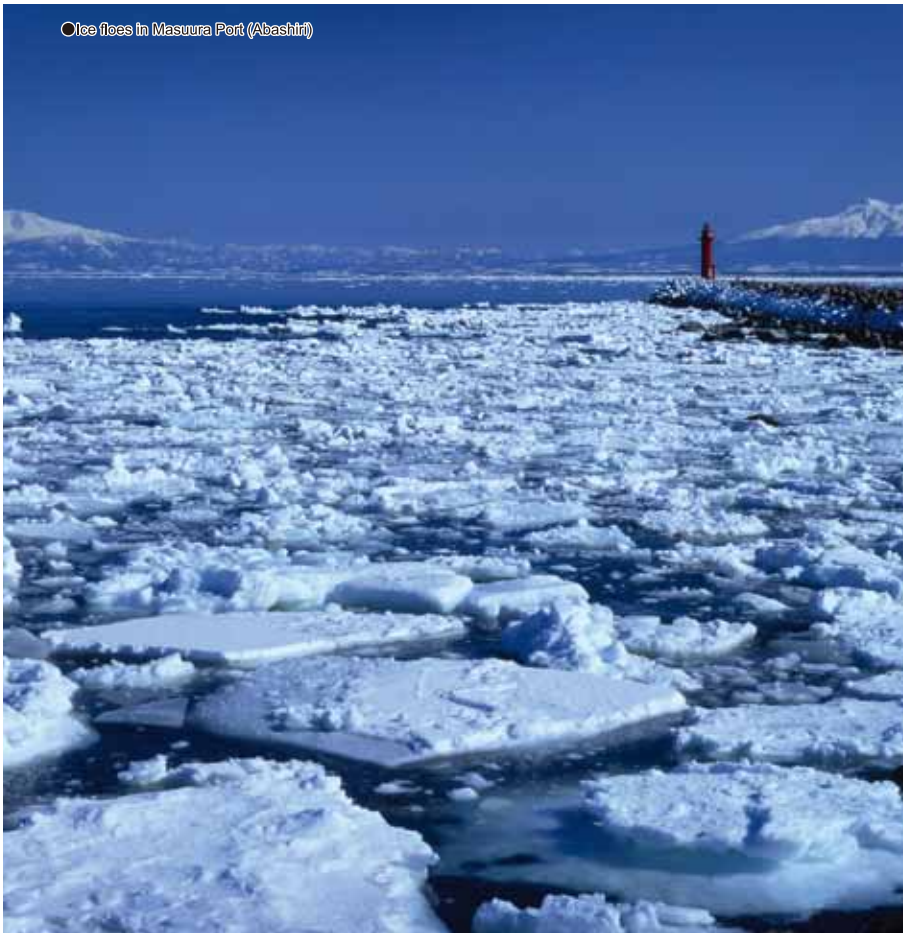
approx. 120 km
approx. 2 hrs.

Fourth day 6 Leave Obihiro

approx. 30 km
approx. 40 min.
To Obihiro Airport

*Map Code is the registered brand of Denso, Inc

Eastern Hokkaido Area – A trip to the mysterious Shiretoko –



○Ice floes in Masuura Port (Abashiri)



●Ezo deer (Shari Town)



●Setting sun in Utoro (Shari Town)



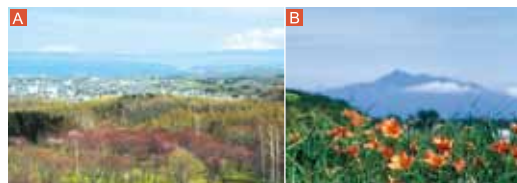
Quick Tip

Since the distances between cities in Eastern Hokkaido are large, it is important not to get tired while driving so make sure you take occasional rest stops. Also you should check the level of your fuel before you depart to drive from one city to another. Remember that the Shiretoko Pass from Utoro to Rausu is closed in winter.



Abashiri

- A** Commanding the Shiretoko Peninsula from the Tenzoan Flower Garden
 - B** Koshimizu Natural Flower Garden
- ☎ 958 079 596



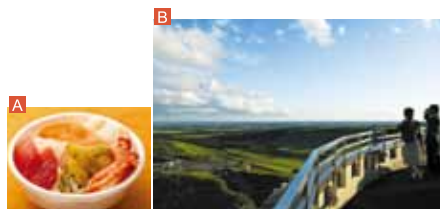
Shiretoko

- A** The Shiretoko Five Lakes are one of the most famous sights in Shiretoko. It takes approximately one hour to drive around all five lakes. However, it takes approximately 30 minutes to drive around just the first and second lakes.
- B** Ice floes in Shiretoko
- C** The Oshinkoshin falls located at the entrance of Utoro on the way to Shiretoko welcome tourists.
- D** The Shiretoko Peninsula can be viewed from the sea on the Shiretoko Cruiser.
- E** Rausu, an area blessed with nature's wonders, is the only area where tourists can enjoy fish taken from nutrient-rich sea water



Kushiro, Nakashibetsu

- A** Nobody knows who named the "Katte-don" in the Kushiro Washo Market ☎ 149 256 390
- B** Scenery from Kaiyodai in Nakashibetsu Town ☎ 658 060 753



New Chitose Airport → Memambetsu Airport

First day 1 Leave Abashiri

☎ approx. 40 km
approx. 50 min.

Second day 2 Leave Koshimizu

☎ approx. 60 km
approx. 1 hr. 10 min.

3 Leave Utoro

☎ approx. 25 km
approx. 30 min.
Notes: Refer to Quick Tip

Third day 4 Leave Rausu

☎ approx. 70 km
approx. 1 hr. 30 min.

5 Leave Nakashibetsu

☎ approx. 100 km
approx. 1 hr. 50 min.

Fourth day 6 Leave Kushiro

☎ approx. 25 km
approx. 40 min.
To Kushiro Airport

*Map Code is the registered brand of Denso, Inc.

Northern Hokkaido Area – A trip to the northernmost region and its naturally beautiful islands –



● The Sea of Japan Ororon Line (Obira Town)



● Rebus Island (Rebus Town)



● Rugosa roses and Mt. Rishiri (Toyotomi Town)



Quick Tip

When taking your car on a ferry, all necessary procedures must be completed 40 minutes before departure. Please complete the process well in advance.

Wakkanai

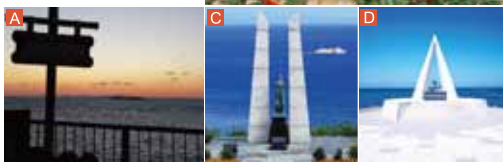
Mt. Rishiri and Rebus Island can be observed from the peninsula protruding into the northwest-most Soya Channel at Wakkanai. At sunset, the sea becomes drenched with orange and the silhouette of Mt. Rishiri can be seen.

A Cape Noshappu ☎ 964 092 564

B In Wakkanai, taste fresh king crabs boiled immediately after they have been caught

C Wakkanai Park, Hyosetsu no Mon ☎ 964 005 198

D The nation's northernmost Cape Soya ☎ 998 067 385



Rishiri, Rebus

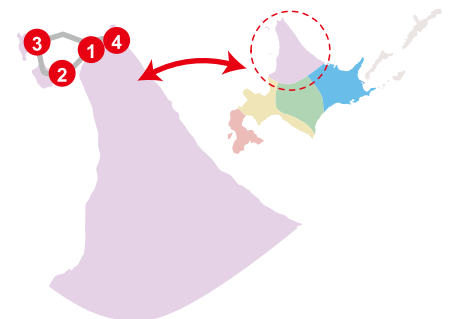
A Rishirifuji and flowers can be seen from the Momiwa observatory on Rebus Island

B Rishiri Island, Himenuma

C Rishiri and Rebus islands' specialty dish, rice topped with sea urchins uses the sweet Ezo green sea urchin.

D Kutsugata-misaki Park and Rishirifuji

E Cycling along the Rishiri Cycling Road is refreshing.



New Chitose Airport → Wakkanai Airport

First day 1 Leave Wakkanai

Ferry landing approx. 15 km approx. 20 min.

Second day 2 Leave Rishiri Island

Ferry landing approx. 30 km approx. 40 min.

Third day 3 Leave Rebus Island

Ferry landing approx. 25 km approx. 30 min.

Fourth day 4 Leave Cape Soya

approx. 25 km approx. 30 min. To Wakkanai Airport

*Map Code is the registered brand of Denso, Inc.

1-4. Useful pieces of knowledge for comfortable driving

There are some things that travelers should know in order to be able to drive comfortably across the vastness of Hokkaido. Learning how to utilize the information centers across Hokkaido as well as how to shop for your daily requirements is essential.

Practical use of Michi-no-eki (information stations)



There are more than 100 Michi-no-eki facilities alongside national highways throughout Hokkaido. At each facility, there are lavatories, and local specialty products are sold. In addition, computerized information resources are provided so you can get road information in real time. More and more Michi-no-eki facilities are installing PCs with free Internet access and wireless LAN (Wi-Fi). By using Michi-no-eki wisely, you can double the pleasure of your driving trip.



Practical use of convenience stores

A lack of availability of food and drink is one of the difficulties faced during the long distances between urban regions on a driving trip in Hokkaido.

Since convenience stores exist everywhere in Hokkaido and provide toilet facilities to their customers, they really are convenient for long-distance travelers! In addition, they offer various prepared lunches and meals which travelers can buy when they do not have enough time to stop somewhere to eat.

Main convenience stores in Hokkaido

– Hokkaido has its own chains as well so look out for the logos.



Seven-Eleven



Sunkus



Lawson



Family Mart



Seicomart



Hasegawa Store (local convenience store chain in Hakodate)

Column

Let's take the chance to learn about life in Hokkaido!

Why don't you visit supermarkets and markets frequented by Hokkaido residents. The vegetable and fish sections will be interesting and travelers might be surprised by the unique fish on display such as Atka mackerel fish, scallops, salmon, and cod and salmon roe. You don't need to buy as it is fun just to go and look. And if you do want to try something to eat, boxes of sushi and other kinds of lunchboxes are available.



Bite-sized information for your enjoyment

If you are serious about trying sushi though, why don't you try going to a sushi restaurant? It is fantastic to go to a local sushi bar and watch the chefs making sushi while you sit at the counter, and it is also fun to go to conveyor-belt sushi bars and choose your favorite sushi as it comes past.



•Hokkaido District Transport Bureau "Sushi Guidebook" (English, Traditional Chinese and Korean)
http://www.ttb.mlit.go.jp/hokkaido/bunyabetsu/kankou/gaikokuzin/sushiguide/index_sushiguide_eigo.html

1-5. Observe rules and local customs!

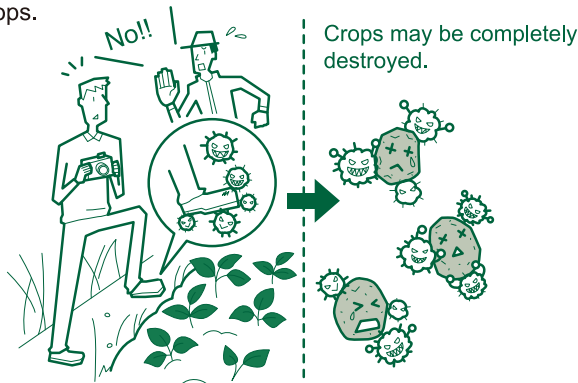
Information to help you avoid trouble in local regions

Hokkaido with its cool climate is very popular with people from subtropical countries and Hokkaido residents want to heartily welcome fans of Hokkaido. However, international travelers to Hokkaido must remember that your behavior will form people's impression of your country. Please enjoy your trip in Hokkaido while paying attention to the points shown below so that you, as a representative of your home country, establish a good relationship.

Do not enter farmland

Hokkaido farmers take much care in producing their farm products.

Do not enter farms (unless invited) as there is the possibility that disease-bearing soil on the soles of your shoes may lead to the complete destruction of crops.



Be careful with wild animals

There are a lot of wild animals inhabiting Hokkaido. Since wild animals live in their own fragile ecosystem, interference by human beings may affect their ability to survive, and also cause them to threaten our way of living. Wild animals should be seen from a distance so do not get near wild animals and definitely do not feed them.



No littering

Sightseeing spots are everyone's assets. Garbage should be thrown away in trash cans. If there are no garbage cans, take your rubbish with you until you can dispose of it.

Rules regarding sorting rubbish

Garbage should be sorted, and local rules followed regarding its disposal. Empty cans and bottles as well as plastic bottles should be separated.



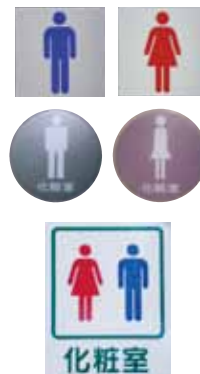
Recyclable garbage

Burnable garbage

How to use toilets

Since toilets are public facilities, you must keep them clean for the next user. Toilets in convenience stores are provided for customers. There are various signs for toilets.

e.g.: Powder room, lavatory, WC, Toilet, etc.



Quick Tip

A leaflet published by East Nippon Expressway Company (English, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese and Korean)

How to take a hot spring bath

As many local people bathe together and relax in public baths at hot springs, please observe the following etiquette and usage rules.

Rule 1 Bathing suits are prohibited



Rule 2 Don't put face or bath towels in the water.



Rule 3 Don't wash yourself in the bath (wash first, in the shower area).



Information on useful Web sites

(Examples of multilingual Web sites are introduced here.)

●Portal sites of Hokkaido tourism information

Hokkaido Tourism Organization

<http://en.visit-hokkaido.jp/>

●Drive route

Civil Engineering Research Institute for Cold Region, "Kita-no-michi Navi. (Northern Road Navi)" (search for distance and time)

<http://northern-road.jp/navi/eng/>

Scenic Byway Hokkaido

<http://www.scenicbyway.jp/>

●Web site on Hokkaido's local tourism information

City of Sapporo (Welcome to Sapporo)

<http://www.welcome.city.sapporo.jp/?lang=en>

Taisetsu Sightseeing Navigation

<http://www.asahikawa-daisetsu.jp/>

Sapporo Tourist Association

<http://www.sta.or.jp/english/>

Kamifurano Tokachidake Tourism Association

<http://www.kamifurano.jp/exlang/>

Chitose Tourist Association

<http://1000sai-chitose.or.jp/en/>

Furano Tourist Association

<http://www.furanotourism.com/en/>

Niseko Resort Tourist Association

<http://www.niseko-ta.jp/en/>

East Hokkaido Sightseeing Development Council

<http://www.easthokkaido.com/english/>

Niseko Promotion Board

<http://www.nisekotourism.com/>

Kitami Tourist Association

<http://kitamikanko.jp/en/index.html>

Niseko Town

<http://www.town.niseko.lg.jp/english/>

Abashiri City

<http://abashiri.jp/tabinavi/en/>

Kutchan Town

<http://www.town.kutchan.hokkaido.jp/>

*There are other various multilingual Web sites provided by each region and local tourist associations.



**Quick
Tip**

The following Tourist Information Centres have staff who can speak foreign languages

●Japan National Tourist Organization (JNTO) "Tourist Information offices"

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/arrange/travel/guide/voffice.php>