

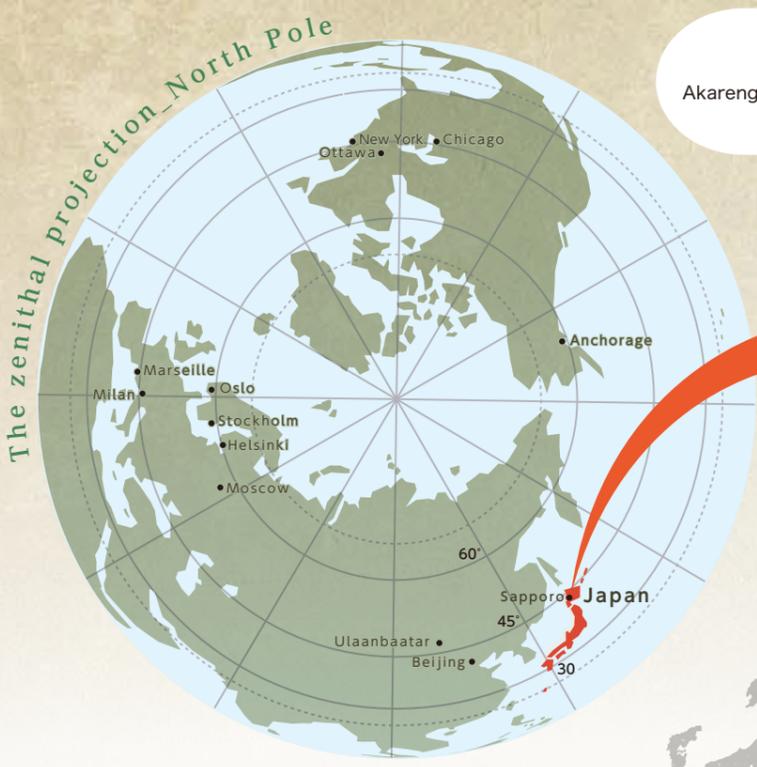
**A Journey
into the History
and Culture
of Hokkaido**



A Journey into the History and Culture of Hokkaido
北海道の歴史文化を巡る旅

The History of Hokkaido

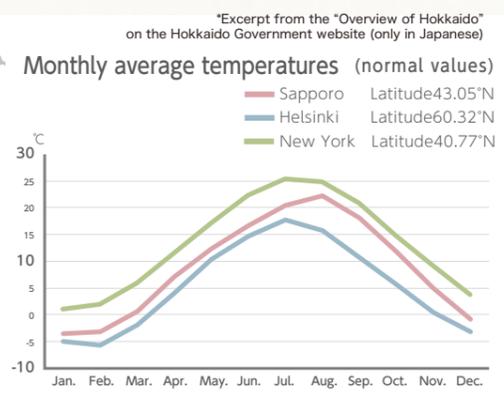
Hokkaido has had a different history from that of the rest of Japan. In sharp contrast to Japan's mainland, where a farming-based culture thrived from early on, Hokkaido maintained Jomon culture characterized by hunting and fishing until about 2,000 years ago, which was then followed by Ainu culture. Ezochi (known today as Hokkaido) was originally inhabited by the Ainu people, but increasing numbers of *Wajin* (Japanese people from mainland Japan) moved to settle in the region. Around 150 years ago, the new Meiji Government started land reclamation in Hokkaido as part of the nation's modernization policy. During Hokkaido's development, many advanced techniques were introduced from Western countries. Today, the heritage of these techniques remains not only in Hokkaido but also in the daily lives of local residents.



◆ **A major source of information on Hokkaido's history and culture**
Akarenga - A portal site for information on Hokkaido's history and culture
<http://www.akarenga-h.jp/en/>



Hokkaido is surrounded by the Pacific, the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk, and its landscapes include magnificent mountains in various forms, vast wetlands, and beautiful lakes and marshes. The region's cool climate with low humidity is hardly affected by the rainy season and typhoons that characterize the rest of Japan during the summer months. Hokkaido is located at the northern tip of Japan at latitudes similar to those of major cities in the U.S. and Europe.



3 Ancient people of the North, with long-lasting respect for nature
The origin of Japan's soul



5 Indigenous Ainu culture
Ainu concepts and culture inherited from the prehistoric times



7 The middle - and early modern-age culture of the Wajin in Southern Hokkaido
Ezo - the secret behind Japan's success

*Wajin: the Yamato race of Japanese



9 Friendship-oriented development of Hokkaido
The legacy of foreign advisors and technicians



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13 Industrial heritage of the North
Hokkaido - a 130-year miracle

A major source of detailed information on Hokkaido's history

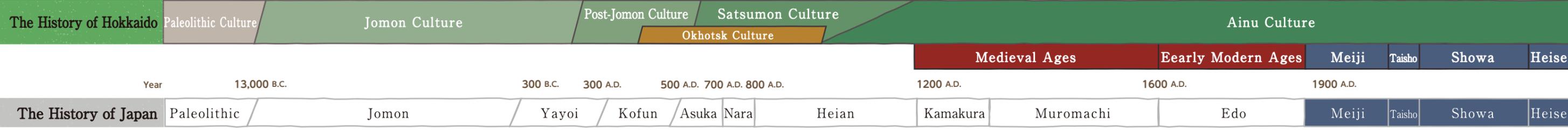
Hokkaido Museum - a showcase of Hokkaido's history, nature and culture

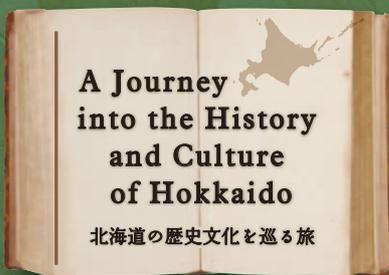


Sapporo Hokkaido Museum
MAPCODE 139 180 060
◆ Atsubetsu-cho Konopporo 53-2, Atsubetsu-ku ◆ TEL/011-898-0466
◆ URL/ <http://www.hm.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/en/>
*Multilingual audio guides available

Hokkaido Museum is a showcase of Hokkaido's history, nature and culture. The exhibition starts with full skeletal reconstructions of two types of elephants that once lived in Hokkaido - the Naumann's elephant that came from mainland Japan (south of Hokkaido) and the mammoth that came from the continent through Sakhalin (north of Hokkaido). Like these elephants, people also traveled between mainland Japan and Hokkaido and between the continent and Hokkaido. The museum highlights the history of Hokkaido over the past 1.2 million years and the culture of the indigenous Ainu through specimens and dioramas. It also offers hands-on exhibits where visitors can touch fossils and learn the Ainu language through games.

MAPCODE Mapcode system Mapcodes are available to set destinations on mapcode-supporting websites and in smartphone apps and car navigation systems.
*MAPCODE is a registered trademark of Denso Corporation.





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北海道の歴史文化を巡る旅

Ancient people of the North, with long-lasting respect for nature



Jomon pottery (unearthed at the Usujiri B Site in Hakodate City)
The term *Jomon* refers to straw rope-pattern impressions or reliefs on pottery.
Photo credit: Hakodate City Board of Education

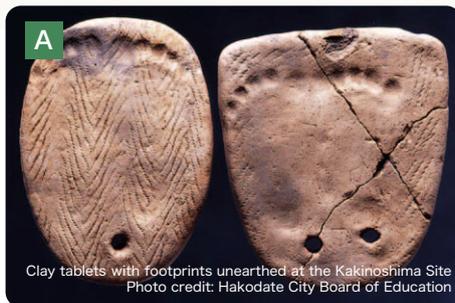


- A** Hakodate Jomon Culture Center
- B** Historic Site: Kitakogane Shell Mound Park/Kitakogane Shell Mound Information Center
- C** Historic Site Tokoro Site/Tokoro Ruins Forest
- D** Moyoro Shell Mound Museum – a branch of the Abashiri Kyodo (Hometown) Museum

The origin of Japan's soul – inheriting the prehistoric spirit –

Jomon culture thrived in Japan for over 10,000 years from about 15,000 years ago to around 2,000 years ago. It was an exceptional prehistoric culture in world history characterized by the absence of major conflicts among people and their harmonious coexistence with nature. People in those days, called the Jomon people, lived in permanent settlements with livelihoods supported by hunting, fishing and gathering (rather than agriculture). Graves, shell mounds and other sites from the period of Jomon culture have produced the remains of people and funerary objects as well as artifacts associated with rituals and ceremonies. The Jomon people – hunter-gatherers who had to depend on nature for their livelihoods – believed that everything in the natural world had a spirit and lived with high levels of environmental adaptation. The ethos of the Jomon people has been passed down to the Ainu (as shown by their religious beliefs) and the Japanese as a whole.

Learning about the ethos of the Jomon people



A Clay tablets with footprints unearthed at the Kakinoshima Site
Photo credit: Hakodate City Board of Education

Footprints – mementoes of deceased children

Clay tablets with infant footprints were unearthed at an archeological site from around 6,500 years ago. It is believed that the tablets were created as mementoes of deceased children and buried along with their parents when they passed away.



A Lacquered spouted vessel unearthed at the Kakinoshima Site
Photo credit: Hakodate City Board of Education

Lacquerware techniques still in use today

Lacquerware, a traditional craft produced in Japan, developed into art during the Jomon period.



A Clay figurine, a national treasure, unearthed at the Chobonaino Site in Hakodate City
Photo credit: Hakodate City Board of Education

Manifestation of the artistic qualities of the Jomon people Clay figurine – a national treasure

Many unglazed clay figurines represent women. This hollow clay figurine, designated as a national treasure, was unearthed at a grave from around 3,500 years ago. Nicknamed *Kakku*, it measures 41.5 centimeters high and 20.1 centimeters wide, and is considered the best clay figurine work from the Jomon period.



B A restored shell midden at the Kitakogane Shell Mound
(Photo credit: Date City Board of Education)

Sites for send-off rituals for souls

Shell mounds from 5,000 B.C. to 3,500 B.C. have yielded graves with human skeletons and former sites for rituals involving animals that included deer skull arrangement, in addition to shells, fish bones, marine mammal bones and other remains. The Kitakogane Shell Mound is thought to have been a site for send-off rituals for the souls of people, other living beings and objects.

Hands-on Jomon Culture programs

Comma-shaped bead making and other hands-on programs are available. They last for approximately 30 minutes to an hour.



For more information about **A** and **B**, contact the Hakodate Jomon Culture Center and the Kitakogane Shell Mound Information Center, respectively.

MAPCODE 744 053 054

A Hakodate Hakodate Jomon Culture Center

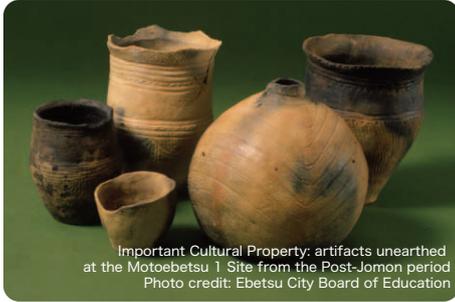
◆Usujiri-cho 551-1 ◆TEL/0138-25-2030
◆URL/http://www.hjcc.jp/index_e.html **EN**

MAPCODE 159 544 019

B Date Historic Site: Kitakogane Shell Mound Park /Kitakogane Shell Mound Information Center

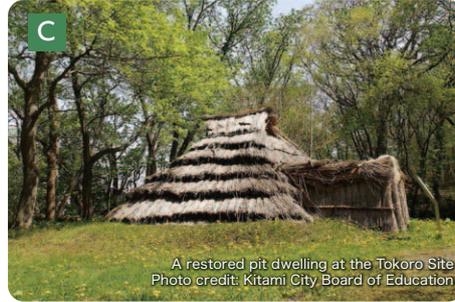
◆Kitakogane-cho 75 ◆TEL/0142-24-2122
(Open: April through November; closed in winter)
◆URL/<http://www.city.date.hokkaido.jp/hotnews/detail/00001560.html>

Reasons for the preservation of the ethos of Jomon culture in Hokkaido



Post-Jomon culture Continued practice of the livelihoods of hunting, fishing and gathering rather than farming

Around 2,000 years ago, Yayoi culture, characterized by paddy rice cultivation and bronze and iron casting, spread from western Japan to the northeastern Tohoku region. The culture failed to reach Hokkaido, where while affected by the culture of mainland Japan, Jomon culture developed into post-Jomon culture, which did not involve farming. Post-Jomon culture ultimately evolved into Satsumon culture, but Okhotsk culture emerged instead in the Sea of Okhotsk coastal areas. It is thought that Okhotsk culture gradually merged with Satsumon culture, which ultimately developed into Ainu culture.



Sites from the Jomon culture to Ainu culture periods

The Tokoro Site is one of Japan's largest archaeological settlements featuring sites from the period of Jomon culture to that of the Ainu culture. Pit dwellings from over 1,000 years ago remain in the settlement in the form of hollows in the ground surface. The site is important for learning about the relationships between Satsumon culture and Okhotsk culture.



The ethos of the Jomon people that was passed to the Ainu

The Ainu believe that everything in the world has a spirit. They revere as *kamuy* the things and phenomena that surpass human capabilities, such as fire, water, animals, plants, everyday implements and weather conditions. The Ainu are considered to have passed down to today the ethos that is also common to the Jomon people.

MAPCODE 525 732 611

C Kitami Historic Site Tokoro Site/Tokoro Ruins Forest
 ◆Sakaura 371, Tokoro-cho ◆TEL/0152-54-3393 ◆URL/http://www.city.kitami.lg.jp/docs/7209/ 

Okhotsk culture introduced from the norther region

By the time post-Jomon culture began to come to an end around the 5th century, people from Sakhalin and other northern places settled in the Sea of Okhotsk area in Hokkaido. These people with northern cultures, referred to as Okhotsk people, were known as a maritime people. They engaged in fishing and hunting of whales, seals and other marine animals. Their bear cult and other customs are said to have affected Ainu culture, which includes bear spirit-sending ceremonies.



Former site of a marine hunters' settlement 1,300 years ago

Moyoro Shell Mound Museum showcases the restored sites of dwellings, a shell mound and graves unearthed in the Sea of Okhotsk area known as Moyoro. Also on display are pottery, harpoons made from bones, bear-shaped clay figures and other artifacts from the same period.

MAPCODE 305 677 623

D Abashiri Moyoro Shell Mound Museum – a branch of the Abashiri Kyodo (Hometown) Museum
 ◆Kita 1-jo Higashi 2-chome ◆TEL/0152-43-2608
 ◆URL/http://moyoro.jp/publics/index/8/ *Multilingual audio guides and multilingual videos are available.

Abashiri Moyoro Hot Pot



A local hot pot featuring seafood from the Sea of Okhotsk that is served in a pot likened to Okhotsk pottery

List of restaurants serving Moyoro Hot Pot
 ◆URL/http://www.abakanko.jp/food/moyoronabe.html
 ◆Inquiries: Abashiri Tourist Association



Jomon archaeological sites in Hokkaido

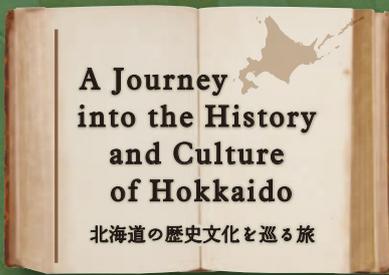
A website featuring initiatives toward the UNESCO World Heritage inscription of Jomon archaeological sites

◆Official website for Jomon Archaeological Sites in Hokkaido and Northern Tohoku
 URL/http://jomon-japan.jp/en 

Learning about archaeological sites in Hokkaido

A website featuring Jomon sites and observation facilities in 27 municipalities in Hokkaido

◆Hokkaido Liaison Committee for Municipalities with Jomon Sites
 URL/http://www.jomon-town.org/site/



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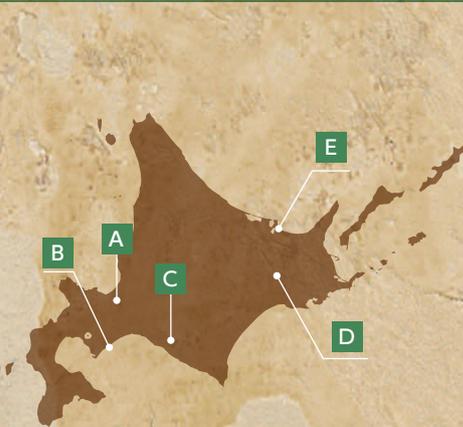
Indigenous Ainu culture



Attus

This is a traditional Ainu garment made from bark fiber.

Photo credit: The Foundation for Research and Promotion of Ainu Culture



- A** Botanic Garden/Natural History Museum, Hokkaido University
- B** Ainu Museum (Shiraoi Poroto Kotan)
- C** Biratori Nibutani Ainu Culture Museum
- D** Lake Akan Ainu Kotan
- E** Hokkaido Museum of Northern Peoples

Ainu concepts and culture inherited from the prehistoric times

– living in harmony with nature –

The nature-embracing Ainu culture originated with the spirituality of Jomon people, and contrasted significantly with that of Japan's *Wajin* mainlanders. Ainu communities in the Middle Ages engaged in trade with people from ancient China (for silk garments) and Japan's main island of Honshu (for lacquerware). Later, *Wajin* settlers in Ezo (as Hokkaido was then known) secured a monopoly on trading rights and increasingly dominated the scene both politically and economically. In 1869, the Meiji government gave Ezo the new name of Hokkaido and implemented policies that would force the Ainu to assimilate into *Wajin* society. However, the unique beliefs and lifestyles of the region's indigenous Ainu people survive today.



Understanding of the spiritual world of the Ainu

The Ainu had a deep reverence for natural resources beneficial to people (such as flora and fauna) and forces beyond human control (such as fire, water and meteorological phenomena), viewing them as *kamuy*, or deities. At a very important ceremony called *iomante*, the spirits of gods that had visited the human world in the form of bears were returned to the divine realm (known as *kamuy moshiri*). Such spirit-returning ceremonies were also held when tools reached the end of their usable life and on various other occasions.



Photo credit: Botanic Garden/Natural History Museum, Hokkaido University

This is a photo of the Ainu bear ceremony being recorded on video for posterity. The video can be seen in the exhibition hall.

Records of the Ainu bear ceremony

The museum in Hokkaido University's Botanic Garden was opened in 1877 as a temporary Sapporo museum facility by the Hokkaido Development Commission. Northern People Museum in the garden exhibits Ainu and other cultural properties collected mostly from the 1880s to the 1930s.

MAPCODE 9 521 295

A Sapporo Botanic Garden/Natural History Museum, Hokkaido University

- ◆ Kita 3-jo Nishi 8-chome, Chuo-ku ◆ TEL/011-221-0066
- ◆ URL/ <http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/fsc/bg/>

Examples of present-day Ainu culture

Traditional Ainu dance

(UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage)

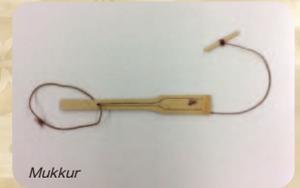
Ainu song and dance were born from relations between Ainu people and the various forms representing deities in the natural environment around them, such as animals and plants. These art forms have been developed and passed down through generations of Ainu.



Traditional Ainu dance
Photo credit: The Foundation for Research and Promotion of Ainu Culture

Mukkur

This is a traditional Ainu musical instrument, known today as a Jew's harp or a mouth harp. They were used in and around Eurasia.



Mukkur

Ainu patterns

These indigenous patterns had a variety of designs featuring spirals, parenthetic shapes and other forms. The former two basic elements can be combined to create a limitless number of designs. The Ainu believed that these patterns protected them from evil and disease.



Ainu patterns
Photo credit: Hokkaido Heritage Council

Place names and the Ainu language

Around 80 percent of place names in Hokkaido are derived from Ainu-language terms, most describing terrain characteristics and locations.

Pirikanoka (nationally designated sites of scenic beauty)

Pirikanoka (meaning "beautiful form" in the Ainu language) is a name assigned to places of scenic beauty associated with Ainu folklore, ancient traditions, places of prayer and language. A total of 10 locations in Hokkaido have been designated as Pirikanoka sites.

◆ Pirikanoka website

<http://www.dokyojoi.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/hk/bnh/pirikanoka.pdf>



Cape Erimo (Onne Enrumu) - designated as a Pirikanoka site
Photo credit: Erimo Town Board of Education



Hands-on learning about Ainu culture



Interactive learning about Ainu lifestyles and culture

This outdoor museum includes a reproduction of a traditional Ainu village and provides visitors with opportunities to watch and try traditional Ainu dance, *mukkur* (Jew's harp) playing and traditional handicrafts. An indoor part of the museum features Ainu lifestyles by highlighting food, clothing, housing and aspects of everyday living, serving as a base for exchanges with indigenous people worldwide.



Traditional Ainu production techniques

The museum displays Ainu folk craft works designated as important tangible folk cultural properties. The region's traditional Ainu craft items, including Nibutani *ita* (wooden trays) and Nibutani *attus* (textiles made from bark fibers), are the only items of their kind in Hokkaido to have received traditional craft industry designation from the Japanese government.



Ainu theater performances

Lake Akan Ainu Theater Ikor in Ainu Kotan is used as a venue for performances of traditional Ainu dance, the Iomante Fire Festival and Ainu puppet shows. The Ainu Folk Memorial Museum highlights the lifestyles and culture of these indigenous people. There are also folk craft shops and a restaurant serving Ainu cuisine.

B Shiraoi Ainu Museum (Shiraoi Poroto Kotan) MAPCODE 545 194 762
 ◆Wakakusa-cho 2-3-4 ◆TEL/0144-82-3914 ◆URL/<http://www.ainu-museum.or.jp/en/> 

*The Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony (incorporating a national museum and other facilities) is scheduled to open in Shiraoi in 2020 as a national center for the revitalization of Ainu culture.

C Biratori Biratori Nibutani Ainu Culture Museum MAPCODE 442 799 101
 ◆Nibutani 55 ◆TEL/01457-2-2892 ◆URL/<http://www.town.biratori.hokkaido.jp/biratori/nibutani/> 

D Kushiro Lake Akan Ainu Kotan MAPCODE 739 341 639
 ◆Akanko-onsen 4-7-84, Akan-cho ◆TEL/0154-67-2727 ◆URL/<http://www.akanainu.jp/>

Information on a resource promoting awareness of Hokkaido Ainu culture

The Foundation for Research and Promotion of Ainu Culture website

◆URL/<http://www.frpac.or.jp/english/index.html> 

This website provides detailed information on modern Ainu culture and on the history and ancient culture of these indigenous people (including language, performing arts and beliefs). An Ainu *mukkur* performance is also featured (appropriate PC audio capability required).



Hokkaido Museum (See page 2)

◆URL/<http://www.hm.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/en/> 

Hakodate City Museum of Northern Peoples

◆URL/<http://www.hakodate.travel/en/things-to-do/museum/hakodate-city-museum-of-northern-peoples/> 

Sapporo Ainu Culture Promotion Center(Sapporo Pirka Kotan)

◆URL/<http://www.city.sapporo.jp/shimin/pirka-kotan/en/> 

Tomakomai City Museum

◆URL/<http://www.city.tomakomai.hokkaido.jp/hakubutsukan/> 

Obihiro Centennial Museum

◆URL/<http://www.octv.ne.jp/~hyakunen/english.html> 

Kushiro City Museum

◆URL/<http://www.city.kushiro.lg.jp/museum/annnai/english.html> 

Makubetsu Tourism & Local Products Association

◆URL/<http://www.makubetsu.jp/kankobussankyokai/english/play/224.html> 

Noboribetsu Bear Park/Yukara-no-sato

◆URL/<http://www.bearpark.jp/sisetsu/index.htm#F> 

Assimilation of northern people's wisdom and techniques



Hokkaido people were influenced by Eurasia. This museum features the cultures of northern peoples around the world, including those of northern Europe, the Russian Maritime Province, Siberia and Alaska as well as Ainu culture and Okhotsk culture. Peoples are classified by food and clothing, and their housing is classified by theme.

E Hokkaido Museum of Northern Peoples

◆Shiomi 309-1, Abashiri

◆TEL/0152-45-3888

◆URL/<http://hoppohm.org/english/index.htm> 

*Multilingual audio guides available

MAPCODE 305 584 311



irankarapte
HELLO

Irankarapte is the Ainu greeting for hello and it conveys a warm, sincere message of "Allow me to softly touch your heart." This word will come to represent the hospitality of Hokkaido.

A Journey into the History and Culture of Hokkaido

北海道の歴史文化を巡る旅

The middle- and early modern-age culture of the *Wajin* in southern Hokkaido

**Wajin*: the Yamato race of Japanese

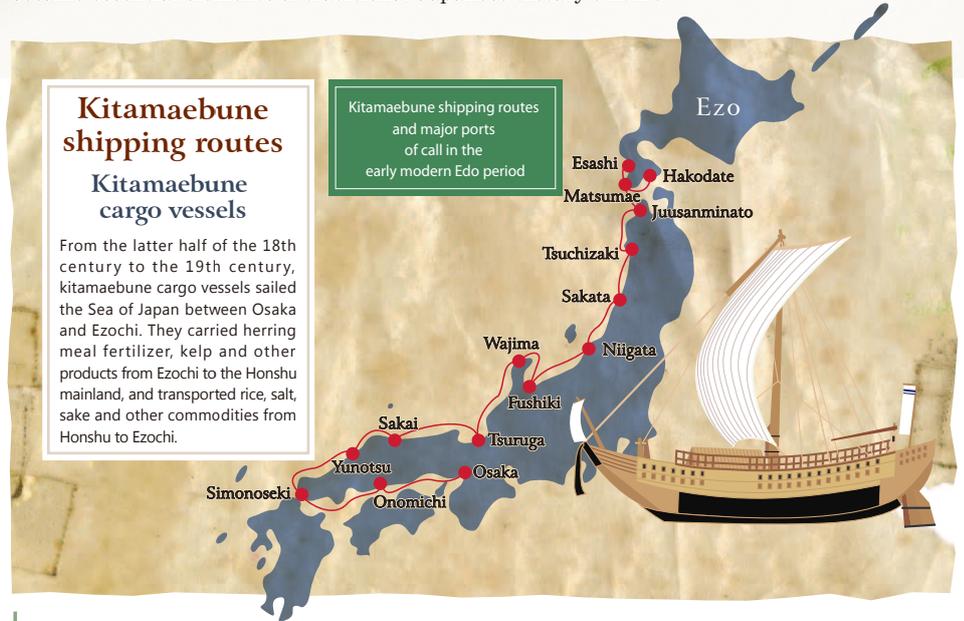


A reconstructed Kitamaebune cargo vessel
This vessel was modeled after the *Shinetsu Maru*, which was constructed by powerful shipping merchant Kahei Takadaya. The photo shows the vessel when it called at Esashi Port in 1986

Photo credit: Hakodate City Board of Education

Ezo – the secret behind Japan's success people, materials, culture – back and forth via the sea

Numerous *Wajin* (Japanese mainlanders) began to settle in southern Hokkaido around the 14th century, building strongholds in places such as Kaminokuni, Hokuto, Matsumae and Hakodate (as they are known today) and establishing their influence. In the early modern Edo period, the shogunate adopted a closed-door policy that limited trade with other parts of the world, and the Matsumae Domain, which controlled Ezochi (as Hokkaido was previously known), monopolized the right to trade there. In the 18th century, increased output of herring, salmon, kelp and other marine products in Ezochi helped to build the prosperity of Esashi, Matsumae and Hakodate, as these items were shipped from the ports there. In particular, Esashi (the terminus for Sea of Japan shipping routes) thrived so much that it was popularly said to be even busier than Edo in May. The herring meal fertilizer carried by Kitamaebune vessels was used for the cultivation of cotton and other plants, and thus contributed to Japan's industrial development. Dried herring and kelp were transported to Kyoto and elsewhere, and became essential elements of traditional Japanese dietary culture.



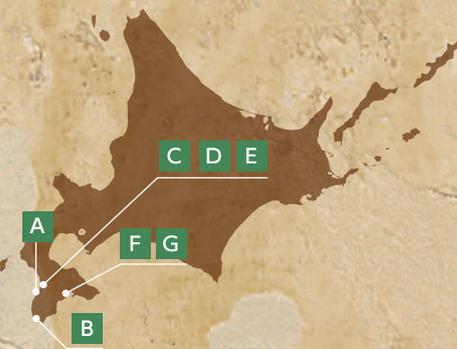
Kitamaebune shipping routes Kitamaebune cargo vessels

From the latter half of the 18th century to the 19th century, kitamaebune cargo vessels sailed the Sea of Japan between Osaka and Ezochi. They carried herring meal fertilizer, kelp and other products from Ezochi to the Honshu mainland, and transported rice, salt, sake and other commodities from Honshu to Ezochi.

Kitamaebune shipping routes and major ports of call in the early modern Edo period

A mountain stronghold of *Wajin* crossing the sea to settle in Ezochi

The Matsumae clan (which controlled the Matsumae Domain) was originally a family of *Wajin* who moved to Ezochi in the 15th century. The Matsumae clan ruled over Ezochi for an extended period from the time when these early settlers built a stronghold near the Amano River in today's Kaminokuni Town to the Meiji Restoration. Artifacts from the time can still be seen in southern Hokkaido.



- A Historic Site: Katsuyamadate – Kaminokuni Fortified Residence Site/Katsuyamadate Guidance Center
- B Historic Site: Matsumae Castle Museum – A Matsumae Clan Castle Site
- C Kamome Island
- D Inishie Road
- E Ubagami-Daijingu Festival
- F Special Historic Site: Goryokaku Fort/Hakodate Magistrate's Office
- G Goryokaku Tower



Historic Site: Katsuyamadate – Kaminokuni Fortified Residence Site/Katsuyamadate Guidance Center
(Photo credit: Kaminokuni Town Board of Education)



Historic Site: Fukuyama (Matsumae) Castle – A Matsumae Clan Castle Site
(Photo credit: Matsumae Castle Museum)

Landscapes enjoyed by Ainu and *Wajin* 500 years ago

The ancestors of the Matsumae clan built a stronghold on a site known as Katsuyamadate halfway up Mt. Iou in the latter half of the 15th century. Its location on a three-terraced slope stirs the imagination regarding what people of the time might have looked out at from there. *Wajin* and Ainu graves stand together behind the site.

Hokkaido's only castle

This Matsumae Domain structure is Japan's northernmost castle and the only one in Hokkaido with a keep. Its Matsumae Park location is a popular cherry blossom-viewing spot known for producing Hokkaido's earliest blooms of the season.

MAPCODE 807 762 602

A Kaminokuni Historic Site: Katsuyamadate – Kaminokuni Fortified Residence Site/Katsuyamadate Guidance Center
◆Katsuyama 427 ◆TEL/0139-55-2400
◆URL/http://www.town.kaminokuni.lg.jp/hotnews/category/131.html

MAPCODE 862 058 253

B Matsumae Historic Site: Matsumae Castle Museum – A Matsumae Clan Castle Site
◆Matsushiro 144 ◆TEL/0139-42-2216
◆URL/http://www.asobube.com/database.cgi?dbnum=8&dbkonum=0



Esashi – even busier than Edo in May

Herring is a harbinger of spring in Japan. Esashi was once a major source of herring during this season, and people flocked there on kitamaebune boats to buy it. Reminders of Esashi's heyday can still be seen in the town.



Kamome Island and its favorable natural harbor

Kamome Island, which is 20 meters above sea level and has a circumference of 2.6 kilometers, was once responsible for much of Esashi's prosperity in its role as a base for herring fisheries and trade involving kitamaebune vessels. This beautiful islet is designated as a special region of Hiyma Prefectural Natural Park.

MAPCODE 1108 104 671

C Esashi Kamome Island

- ◆TEL/0139-52-6716
(Tourism Section, Oiwake Tourism Department, Esashi Town Office)
- ◆URL/<http://www.hokkaido-esashi.jp/modules/sightseeing/content0002.html> 



A place as busy as Edo in Ezochi

Inishie Road was created to carry on the history of Esashi, which once thrived on herring fisheries and trade. The Historic Nakamura Residence (a wholesale shop for kitamaebune vessels and a designated national important cultural property), the Yokoyama Residence and various other valuable structures are located along the route.

MAPCODE 482 390 865

D Esashi Inishie Road

- ◆TEL/0139-52-6716
(Tourism Section, Oiwake Tourism Department, Esashi Town Office)
- ◆URL/<http://www.hokkaido-esashi.jp/modules/sightseeing/content0008.html> 



Ubagami-Daijingu Festival – Hokkaido's oldest festival

This summer festival has been held for over 370 years to ask the gods to grant plentiful natural bounties from the land and sea and to ward off illness and misfortune. Extending over the three-day period from August 9, it features three portable shrines and thirteen ornately decorated traditional floats being paraded through the town to festival music.

MAPCODE 482 390 613

E Esashi Ubagami-Daijingu Festival

- ◆TEL/0139-52-6716
(Tourism Section, Oiwake Tourism Department, Esashi Town Office)
- ◆URL/<http://www.hokkaido-esashi.jp/modules/sightseeing/content0028.html> 

Time-honored Esashi Oiwake folk song

The Esashi Oiwake Kaikan museum highlights Esashi Oiwake folk song, which is a globally known form of entertainment today. The museum offers live performances and lessons to visitors interested in this style of singing and displays ornately decorated floats at the town's Ubagami-Daijingu Festival.

Esashi Oiwake Kaikan/Esashi Yama Kaikan

- ◆Nakauta-cho 193-3, Esashi-cho, Hiyma-gun
- ◆TEL/0139-52-0920
- ◆URL/<http://esashi-oiwake.com/>



MAPCODE 482 390 859

Nishin soba – an Esashi specialty

Herring Day

Nishin soba is a dish of hot buckwheat noodles topped with salty-sweet dried herring simmered in sugar and soy sauce. It is a specialty of Esashi – a town that once thrived on herring fisheries and trade involving kitamaebune vessels. In the town, the 24th day of each month is designated as Herring Day.



Esashi Sightseeing Convention Association

- ◆URL/http://www.esashi-kankoukyukai.com/nishin_no_hi/



Samurai warriors' last battle

Goryokaku Fort was built to help defend Japan's northern border and control Ezochi after the opening of Hakodate Port in 1854. Goryokaku was the site of the Battle of Hakodate between forces of the new Meiji government and those of the former shogunate.



A reminder of the last days of samurai fighting

Goryokaku Fort was Japan's first Western-style structure of its kind, and was built in 1864 to help protect Japan's northern frontiers. The Hakodate Magistrate's Office (an administrative institution of the shogunate) was later relocated here. The star-shaped European-style structure served as a base for forces of the former shogunate in the Battle of Hakodate. The present Hakodate Magistrate's Office is the result of a restoration completed in 2010.

MAPCODE 86 166 307

F Hakodate Special Historic Site: Goryokaku Fort

- ◆Hondori 1-chome, Goryokaku-cho ◆TEL/0138-31-5505
- ◆URL/<http://www.city.hakodate.hokkaido.jp/docs/2014011601161/>



MAPCODE 86 166 307

F Hakodate Hakodate Magistrate's Office

- ◆Goryokaku-cho 44-3 ◆TEL/0138-51-2864
- ◆URL/<http://www.hakodate-bugyosho.jp/en/index.html> 
- *English-language guidance and multilingual audio guides available



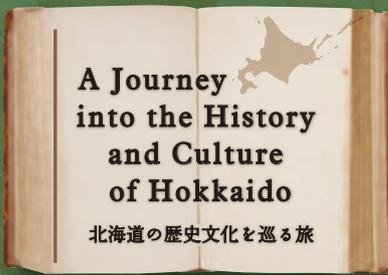
A local landmark overlooking the star-shaped fort

Goryokaku Tower's observatory commands striking views of Mt. Hakodate, the Tsugaru Strait and the star-shaped Goryokaku Fort. The observatory's exhibition space provides opportunities to learn about historical events including the opening of Japan by U.S. Navy Commodore Matthew C. Perry and the Battle of Hakodate.

MAPCODE 86 165 057

G Hakodate Goryokaku Tower

- ◆Goryokaku-cho 43-9 ◆TEL/0138-51-4785
- ◆URL/<http://www.goryokaku-tower.co.jp/html/index/en.html> 



A Journey into the History and Culture of Hokkaido

北海道の歴史文化を巡る旅

Friendship-oriented development of Hokkaido



Former Hokkaido Development Commission Sapporo Office Building

This center for Hokkaido's development was built to the north of today's Former Hokkaido Government Office Building.



- A** Kaitakushi-dori Avenue /Former Hokkaido Government Office Building
- B** Sapporo Factory (Former site of the Hokkaido Development Commission Brewery)
- C** Odori Park
- D** Important Cultural Property: Sapporo Agricultural College Model Barn
- E** Important Cultural Property: Former Sapporo Agricultural College Drill Hall (Clock Tower)
- F** Former Shimamatsu Communication Station
- G** Edwin Dun Memorial Museum

The legacy of foreign advisors and technicians – American and Japanese pioneers in pursuit of a dream

Following the Meiji Restoration, the Japanese government renamed Ezochi Hokkaido and established the Hokkaido Development Commission. To bring American technology to Hokkaido, the Commission's Deputy Director General and later Director General Kiyotaka Kuroda recruited former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Horace Capron and other American experts in agriculture, civil engineering, mining and other fields, and launched Hokkaido's development under their guidance. With their American frontier spirit and their ambition and enthusiasm for Hokkaido's development, these American experts made great contributions during their relatively short stay in the region. The relationship between Japan and the U.S. was characterized by friendships between people of the two countries as equals, and particularly between scholars and engineers. This was in contrast to the relationships linking major powers and their colonies in other parts of Asia in those days. The advanced agricultural technologies and developmental concepts that were brought to Hokkaido as a result influenced the region's industry, culture and lifestyles.

Major American experts who worked for the Hokkaido Development Commission



Horace Capron

Former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Horace Capron served as an advisor to the Hokkaido Development Commission on Hokkaido's development as a whole.

William S. Clark

William S. Clark spent a year teaching at Sapporo Agricultural College. His parting words to his Japanese students – "Boys, be ambitious!" – are well known.



Horace Capron and other experts (1871)
Horace Capron, second from left

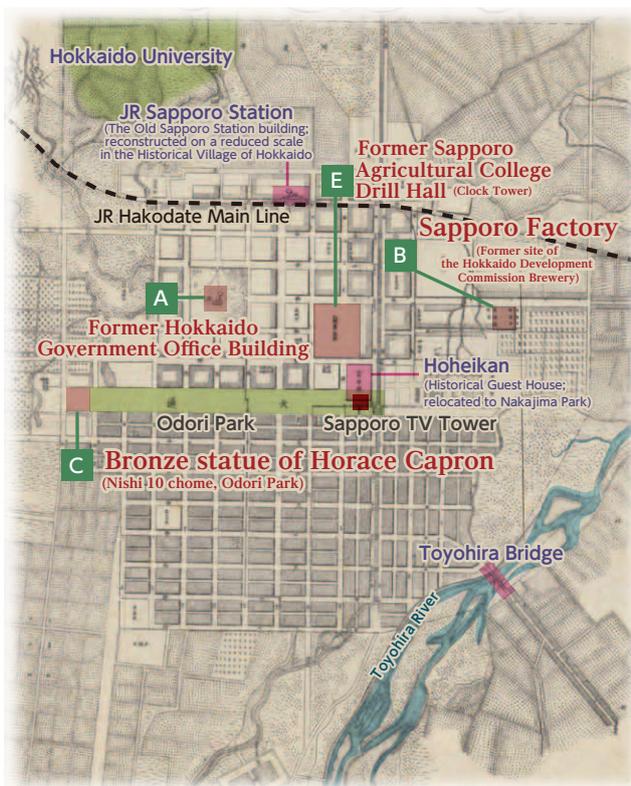
Edwin Dun

Edwin Dun, a veterinarian, gave guidance in agriculture and livestock farming, and introduced Western agricultural methods suitable for Hokkaido's climate.

Benjamin S. Lyman

Benjamin S. Lyman, a geologist and mining engineer, published the first comprehensive geological map in Japan, "A Geological Sketch Map of the Island of Yesso, Japan" and discovered a coal deposit in the Horonai region.

*Of the 78 foreign experts hired by the Hokkaido Development Commission, the number of Americans was the largest with 48 (accounting for 70 percent of the total).



Map of facilities in central Sapporo during the pioneering era

Black font: contemporary buildings
Blue font: buildings relocated for restoration or reproduced

Map of central Sapporo (1889)

Map possessed by the Sapporo Municipal Central Library (partially revised)



Central Sapporo, a place representing Horace Capron's guidance



The starting point of Hokkaido's modernization

Kita 3-jo-dori Avenue extending eastward from the Red Brick Building (near the Former Hokkaido Development Commission Sapporo Office Building) was lined with factories for government projects in the latter half of the 19th century, when the Hokkaido Development Commission spearheaded the region's land reclamation efforts. The avenue is also called Kaitakushi-dori (Hokkaido Development Commission) Avenue.

A	Sapporo	MAPCODE 9 522 335
Kaitakushi-dori Avenue/ Former Hokkaido Government Office Building		
◆URL/ http://www.welcome.city.sapporo.jp/find/culture/former_hokkaido_government_office/?lang=en 		



Brewery opened by the Hokkaido Development Commission

Sapporo Factory commercial complex, located at the eastern end of Kaitakushi-dori Avenue, is the former site of the brewery opened in 1876 by the Hokkaido Development Commission. The brick building reminiscent of those days remains at the site.

B	Sapporo	MAPCODE 9 524 510
Sapporo Factory (Former site of the Hokkaido Development Commission Brewery)		
◆Kita 2-jo Higashi 4-chome, Chuo-ku ◆TEL/011-207-5000		
◆URL/ http://sapporofactory.jp/foreign/english/index.html 		



Bronze statues representing the friendship that led efforts for Hokkaido's development

Odori Park in central Sapporo divides the area into north and south sections. The park's open space in the 10-chome area features bronze statues of Hokkaido Development Commission Director General Kiyotaka Kuroda and Horace Capron.

C	Sapporo	MAPCODE 9 491 734
Odori Park		
◆Odori Nishi 1 chome - 12-chome, Chuo-ku ◆TEL/011-251-0438		
◆URL/ http://www.sapporo-park.or.jp/odori/en/ 		



Following the footsteps of Dr. William S. Clark



Contributions to the spread of Western agricultural methods

The Sapporo Agricultural College Model Barn was established under the tutelage of Dr. Clark as a model facility for livestock farming in Hokkaido. A total of nine remaining buildings, including the Model Barn (Japan's oldest Western-style agricultural building) and the Corn Barn, were collectively designated as an Important Cultural Property in 1969.

D	Sapporo	MAPCODE 9 581 487
Important Cultural Property: Sapporo Agricultural College Model Barn		
◆Kita 18-jo Nishi 8-chome, Kita-ku ◆TEL/011-706-2658		
◆URL/ http://www.museum.hokudai.ac.jp/display/dai2noujou.html		



A clock that has been ticking since Hokkaido's pioneering era

The Sapporo Clock Tower was built in 1878 as a drill hall of Sapporo Agricultural College based on advice from the college's first Vice Principal, Dr. William S. Clark. The design of this wooden structure was typical of that found in the U.S. during its pioneering years. The clock tower includes an exhibition room showcasing its history.

E	Sapporo	MAPCODE 9 522 206
Important Cultural Property: Former Sapporo Agricultural College Drill Hall (Clock Tower)		
◆Kita 1-jo Nishi 2-chome, Chuo-ku ◆TEL/011-231-0838		
◆URL/ http://sapporoshi-tokeidai.jp/english/ 		
*English-language guidance available		



The place known for the phrase "Boys, be ambitious!"

Designated as a historic site, Former Shimamatsu Communication Station was used for transportation, accommodation and postal affairs during the Meiji era. It is also where Dr. William S. Clark, on his way back to the U.S., called out to his Sapporo Agricultural College students, "Boys, be ambitious!"

F	Kitahiroshima	MAPCODE 230 304 569
Former Shimamatsu Communication Station		
◆Shimamatsu 1 ◆TEL/011-373-0188		
◆URL/ http://www.city.kitahiroshima.hokkaido.jp/kyoiku/detail/00007660.html		



Legacy of Edwin Dun in Sapporo



Learning about the life of Edwin Dun

The Edwin Dun Memorial Museum showcases his achievements and the history of Sapporo's development. The museum building is a reconstruction of the cattle ranch office he established for the Hokkaido Development Commission. The adjacent Edwin Dun Memorial Park has a bronze statue of Dun in his youth.

G	Sapporo	MAPCODE 9 252 351
Edwin Dun Memorial Museum		
◆Izumi-machi 1-chome 6-1, Makomanai, Minami-ku ◆TEL/011-581-5064		
◆URL/ http://www.welcome.city.sapporo.jp/find/culture/edwin_dun_memorial_museum/?lang=en 		

Bust of Dr. William S. Clark at Hokkaido University



The bust of Dr. William S. Clark at Hokkaido University is a popular tourist destination.

Tondenhei farmer-soldiers

Early Hokkaido
– developed by samurai



Tondenhei farmer-soldiers, who underwent military drills while engaging in land reclamation. Photo credit: Hokkaido Tonden Club

Amid the colonial expansion of Western powers into Asia, the Japanese government faced the urgent task of reclaiming Hokkaido to protect the country. To promote the settlement of Japanese mainlanders in Hokkaido, the government established a settlement policy known as the Tondenhei farmer-soldier system, under which settlers were tasked with developing and defending the nation's northern frontier. Many of the farmer-soldiers who initially settled in Hokkaido were former samurai warriors with no experience of farming. This was partly because the system was also intended to recruit such warriors whose livelihoods had been lost to the Meiji Restoration. Tondenhei farmer-soldiers' duties were to engage in farming primarily and to be mobilized as soldiers in case of emergency. Their settlement and land reclamation efforts began in Sapporo and gradually spread across Hokkaido.

Resource centers for learning about the history and lifestyles of Tondenhei farmer-soldiers



Historic Site: Kotoni Tondenhei Village Site and Barracks



Yubetsu Town Museum
Photo credit: Yubetsu Town Museum

The barrack constructed in 1874 conveys the atmosphere of those days.

This local history museum showcases the history and lifestyles of Tondenhei farmer-soldiers in today's Yubetsu Town in eastern Hokkaido.

MAPCODE 9 546 770

Sapporo Historic Site: Kotoni Tondenhei Village Site and Barracks

- ◆Kotoni 2-jo 5-chome 1-12, Nishi-ku
- ◆TEL/011-621-1988
- ◆URL/http://www.city.sapporo.jp/ncms/shimin/bunkazai/bunkazai/syousai/14k_ktondenheiat.html

MAPCODE 404 550 814

Yubetsu Yubetsu Town Museum

- ◆Kitaheison Ikku 588
- ◆TEL/01586-2-3000
- ◆URL/http://www.town.yubetsu.lg.jp/st/jry



A major source of information on Hokkaido's pioneering era

Historical village of Hokkaido
– outdoor museum featuring the landscapes of Hokkaido in its pioneering era

Historical Village of Hokkaido is an outdoor museum opened in Noppo Forest Park to mark the centennial anniversary of Hokkaido's foundation. It houses historical buildings relocated from across Hokkaido for restoration or reproduced to highlight the industry, lifestyles and culture in the area's pioneering years (Meiji era [1868–1912], Taisho era [1912–1926] and early Showa era [1926–1989]). The museum holds events for visitors to experience the culture in those days, such as making traditional play equipment and creating straw works.

MAPCODE 139 150 422

Sapporo Historical Village of Hokkaido

- ◆Konopporo 50-1, Atsubetsu-cho, Atsubetsu-ku
- ◆TEL/011-898-2692
- ◆URL/http://www.kaitaku.or.jp/info/info.htm



Former Hokkaido Development Commission Sapporo Office Building (reproduction)



The Old Sapporo Station building (smaller scale reproduction)



Horse-drawn trolley and urban district



Fishing village with a view of the Aoyama Family Structure for Herring Fishing

Photo credit: Historical Village of Hokkaido

The rural landscape

The Rural landscape of Hokkaido – 130 years of effort



Aerial view of farmland in Hokkaido

One of Hokkaido's attractions for tourists from other countries is beautiful rural landscapes supported by different types of agriculture (e.g., paddy rice, upland crop and dairy farming) combined with a vastness not found in rural areas elsewhere in Japan. The development of these landscapes was made possible thanks to the early introduction of advanced Western agricultural techniques under the bold land reclamation policy involving the Tondenhei farmer-soldier system and other initiatives undertaken by the Meiji and subsequent governments. Other factors that helped develop the landscapes include the untiring efforts made by local residents to use the vast land area to ensure a stable food supply.



Grid-pattern land areas for settlers – the starting point of large-scale farming in Hokkaido

What draws attention in Hokkaido's rural landscapes is expansive farmland neatly divided into a grid pattern. The land demarcation was based on that for Tondenhei farmer-soldier villages by the Hokkaido Development Commission and subsequently spread across Hokkaido when land was uniformly demarcated for settlements. In particular, farmland in the Konsen, Okhotsk, Tokachi and Kamikawa regions was developed on the basis of this type of land demarcation.



Views from the Kaiyodai Viewing Platform
Photo credit: Nakashibetsu Town Office

This viewing platform affords a view of grid-pattern farmland developed in the Konsen region.

MAPCODE 976 104 357

Nakashibetsu Kaiyodai Viewing Platform

- ◆ Mataochi 2256-17
- ◆ TEL / 0153-73-4787 (Nakashibetsu Tourist Office)
- ◆ URL / http://www.nakashibetsu.jp/kankou/kankou_jouhou/kaiyoudai



Beautiful rural landscapes developed by agriculture that took advantage of natural terrains

Rural landscapes in Biei and Furano – tourist destinations popular among overseas tourists – are based on reclaimed land in hilly areas rather than in plains. When land reclamation began in the Meiji era, slopes and other challenging terrains were left uncultivated due to their inferior conditions for farming. However, the untiring efforts of local residents turned the wilderness into fertile farmland, creating today's beautiful rural landscapes that are in harmony with natural surroundings.



Rural landscape – hills in Biei

Biei is popular for its beautiful landscape of undulating hills. Don't miss the Taku-shin-kan photo gallery showcasing beautiful rural landscapes in Biei.

MAPCODE 349 704 272

Biei Taku-shin-kan (Photo Gallery)

- ◆ Takushin ◆ TEL / 0166-92-3355
- ◆ URL / <http://www.biei-hokkaido.jp/en/search/shop/souvenir/000052.html>



The Ishikari Plain – transformation into a leading rice-producing area

The cultivation of rice – the dietary staple of the Japanese – did not work out as expected in Hokkaido due to its cold snowy winters. However, local farmers never gave up on rice cultivation. The area's wilderness was steadily developed into increasing areas of paddy rice fields centering around the Ishikari Plain and the Kamikawa Basin. A hundred and several decades of years later, the region developed into one of Japan's leading rice-producing areas.



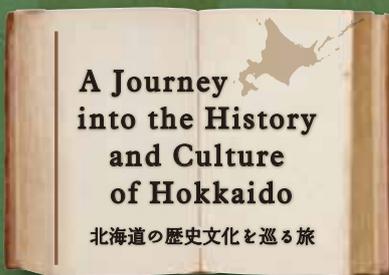
Views from Roadside Station Maoi no Oka Park
Photo credit: Naganuma Tourist Association

The observation platform affording sweeping views of the Ishikari Plain provides visitors with an opportunity to see three types of farms – those for paddy rice, upland crop and dairy farming.

MAPCODE 230 416 643

Naganuma Roadside Station Maoi no Oka Park

- ◆ Higashi 10 Minami 7
- ◆ TEL / 0123-88-2111 (Naganuma Town Office)
- ◆ URL / <http://www.nitto-sougyou.co.jp/naganuma/maoikouen.htm>



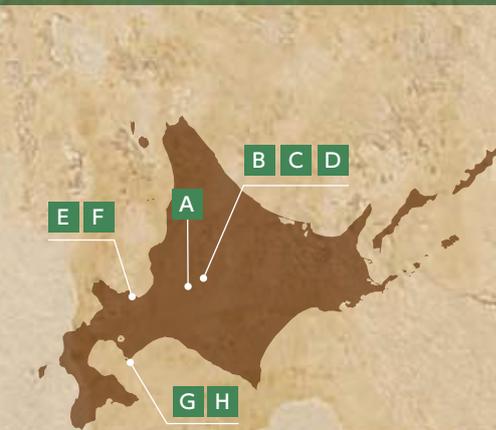
Industrial heritage of the North



Hokutan Horonai Coal Mine Shaft Tower

The term *shaft* (vertical or otherwise) refers to a passage used to shuttle workers and materials in mine cages to and from underground areas.

Photo credit: NPO Hokkaido Coalmine-Heritage Association



- A** Sorachi Mining Memories Management Center
- B** Horonai Coal Mine Landscape Park
- C** Mikasa Geopark
- D** Mikasa Torokko Railway
- E** Otaru Museum
- F** Otaru Canal
- G** Muroran Factory Night View
- H** Former Muroran Branch of Mitsubishi Limited Partnership Company

Hokkaido – a 130-year miracle – it all began with coal

Coal mining in Hokkaido played an essential role in Japan's industrialization. The Hokkaido Development Commission launched a mining project at the government-operated Horonai Coal Mine in 1879, and three years later opened the Horonai Railway to carry its output to the port in Otaru. The Commission also built a series of government-run textile mills, paper mills and other production facilities, and Hokkaido's development turned into a major national project. New mines were developed and railroads were extended across various parts of Hokkaido over the 11 years following the launch of the coal mining project. Consequently, Muroran thrived as a coal shipping port on a par with the major Otaru Port, and witnessed the start of iron manufacture using coal. The development of coal mines supported progress in inland areas, where roads were built, rivers were improved for flood control and other elements of infrastructure were developed. Hokkaido used to be an undeveloped island inhabited only by indigenous Ainu people and a small number of *Wajin* (Japanese people from mainland Japan), but evolved to support a population of 5.5 million in only 130 years. Hokkaido's modernization is owed to industrial development based on coal mining.



Tracing the history of industry

Coal mining in the Sorachi region supported Japan's industry over a long period from the nation's modernization to its post-war reconstruction. The numerous coal mine heritage resources found here afford a glimpse into the history of modernization in Hokkaido.



Sorachi Mining Memories Management Center
Photo credit: NPO Hokkaido Coalmine-Heritage Association



Hoisting machine concrete base
Photo credit: NPO Hokkaido Coalmine-Heritage Association

A one-stop information center for coal mine heritage resources

The center provides information on coal mine heritage resources in the Sorachi region. It highlights the history of local mines with a showcase of related equipment and other exhibits including photographs, films and publications. Guided tours of coal mine heritage sites are also offered (reservations required).

Experiencing the past and the present with a hike on an old coal mine site

The old Horonai Coal Mine site is now a landscape park where the facility's substation, the oldest minehead in Hokkaido and other structural elements can still be seen today. Surrounded by mountains, the park provides outstanding opportunities for photography and walks in a natural environment.



Coal bed appearing vertically on the earth's surface
The old Ikushunbetsu Coal Mine's Nishiki Mine Pit
Photo credit: Mikasa Geopark Promotion Council

A chance to see real black gold

Mikasa Geopark is Japan's only facility of its kind where coal beds can be viewed. The headframe of the former Ikushunbetsu Coal Mine's Nishiki Mine Pit in the park's Open-air Museum area is the oldest of Hokkaido's remaining shaft towers. The geopark also contains a minehead connected to the underground mine pit.

Joseph Crawford - the Father of Hokkaido Railroads

American railroad civil engineer Joseph Crawford made a significant contribution to the development of railroads in Hokkaido. Coal mined in Horonai was originally slated to be transported by rail up to the Ishikari River and then along the river to Otaru on the Sea of Japan. However, the railroad was instead extended to carry coal all the way from Horonai to Otaru Port via Sapporo on Crawford's advice. Had it not been for his input, Sapporo might not be the city it is today.



Statue of J. Crawford (Otaru Museum)

MAPCODE 180 121 174

A Iwamizawa Sorachi Mining Memories Management Center

◆1-jo Nishi 4-chome 3 ◆TEL/0126-24-9901 ◆URL/http://www.mc.soratan.com/

MAPCODE 180 199 346

B Mikasa Horonai Coal Mine Landscape Park

◆Horonai Honsawa-cho ◆TEL/0126-24-9901 (Sorachi Mining Memories Management Center)
◆URL/http://www.sorachi.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ts/tss/yama/resource/mi_002.htm

MAPCODE 180 326 814

C Mikasa Mikasa Geopark

◆TEL/01267-2-3997 (Mikasa Geopark Promotion Council) ◆URL/http://www.city.mikasa.hokkaido.jp/geopark/detail/00003758.html



Following the coal-shipping routes in olden times

The old Horonai Railway connected Otaru and Horonai, both of which have railway museums. They are ideal places for a day of family activities (including a steam locomotive ride) and for learning about the history of railways.



Torokko tram on the old Horonai Railway
Photo credit: Karamatsu Train Co., Ltd.



The Iron Horse steam locomotive
Photo credit: Otaru Museum



Otaru Canal
Photo credit: Otaru Tourism Association

A ride through verdant surroundings on a Torokko tram

Visitors can ride a Torokko tram along the disused Horonai Railway (2.8 km). A variety of trains are displayed outdoors both at the old Mikasa Station near the start point of the Torokko Railway and at Mikasa Railway Museum at its terminus. In summer, rides on a steam locomotive are provided.

Steam locomotives – a development as historic as that of shinkansen trains

This museum in the compound of the old Temiya Station (the start point of the Horonai Railway) showcases exhibits on Hokkaido's railroad history. In summer, visitors can take a ride of around 20 minutes on the US-made Iron Horse steam locomotive.

Walking and cruising along Otaru Canal

The canal is lined with 1920s warehouses that have been turned into restaurants and cafés. A canal cruise here is a must on any visit to the city.

MAPCODE 180 255 566

D Mikasa Mikasa Torokko Railway (from late April to mid-October)

- ◆Honcho 971-1 ◆TEL/01267-2-2255 (Karamatsu Train Co., Ltd.)
- ◆URL/http://www.karamatsu-train.co.jp/mikasa/mtr.html

MAPCODE 493 750 078

E Otaru Otaru Museum

- ◆Temiya 1-chome 3-6 ◆TEL/0134-33-2523 ◆URL/https://www.city.otaru.lg.jp/simin/sisetu/museum/EN

MAPCODE 493 690 675

F Otaru Otaru Canal

- ◆TEL/0134-33-2510 (Otaru Tourism Association) ◆URL/http://otaru.gr.jp/welcome_en/EN



Time-honored industries – a magnet for visitors

The industries that have continued since the area's pioneering days have continued to build on their history, creating a new kind of appeal matching the times.



Night view as seen from Mt. Nabeshima
Photo credit: Muroran Tourism Promotion Council



Former Muroran Branch of Mitsubishi Limited Partnership Company
Photo credit: Muroran Century-old Building Preservation and Utilization Association

The Muroran Factory Night View – one of the Seven Best Factory Night Views in Japan

Iron manufacture began in Muroran during the Meiji era (1868 – 1912). Having thrived on the iron and steel industry, the city is today home to factories of varying sizes, including steelworks run by Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation and the Japan Steel Works, Ltd. These factories along the bay create spectacular night views, and bus tours highlighting these sights are popular among visitors.

Candles illuminating a century of Muroran history

The Western wooden structure here used to be Former Muroran Branch of Mitsubishi Limited Partnership Company, where coal quality was analyzed and procedures for coal shipment were undertaken. Constructed in 1915, this city landmark is still used as an office building (although for a different company) and is open for tours. It also serves as a candle museum today.

Former Muroran Branch of Mitsubishi Limited Partnership Company Candle Museum



Handmade candles creating a universal image

MAPCODE 159 251 355

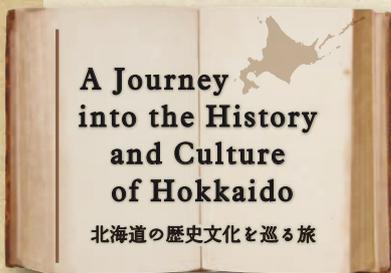
G Muroran Muroran Factory Night View

- ◆TEL/0143-23-0102 (Muroran Tourism Promotion Council)
- ◆URL/http://muro-kanko.com/yakei/

MAPCODE 159 251 886

H Muroran Former Muroran Branch of Mitsubishi Limited Partnership Company

- ◆Midori-cho 2-1 ◆TEL/0143-24-4660 (Muroran Century-old Building Preservation and Utilization Association)
- ◆URL/http://murooran100.com/



A Journey into the History and Culture of Hokkaido

北海道の歴史文化を巡る旅

Useful information for a journey into the history and culture of Hokkaido

Good Day Hokkaido

Website featuring tourist information about Hokkaido
(information on tourist destinations and events across Hokkaido, travel plans, etc.)

◆URL/<http://www.visit-hokkaido.jp> 

.....Hokkaido Tourism Organization

JNTO Tourist Information Offices

List of tourist information offices with multilingual staff

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

.....Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO)

Must-have Handbook for Driving in Hokkaido

A handbook for a safe, comfortable and pleasant car trip in Hokkaido
(basic rules and manners, rental cars, traffic rules, driving on winter roads, how to deal with problems, etc.)

◆URL/<http://www.hkd.mlit.go.jp/topics/toukei/chousa/h20keikaku/handbook.html> 

.....Hokkaido Regional Development Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

Drive Hokkaido – Basic knowledge of traffic safety

Information for driving safely in Hokkaido
(safety-minded driving, basic rules and manners, driving on winter roads, what to do in a traffic accident, major road signs and traffic lights in Japan, etc.)

◆URL/<http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ks/dms/saftydrive/> 

.....Hokkaido Government

Northern Road Navi – Road and Traveler Information in Hokkaido

Hokkaido road information
(road maps, information on driving, information on roads and mountain passes (blizzards), information on winter roads, travel time and distance searches, etc.)

◆URL/<http://northern-road.jp/navi/> 

.....Civil Engineering Research Institute for Cold Region (CERI), Public Works Research Institute (PWRI)

JR Hokkaido

General information
(timetables, route maps, fares, etc.)

◆URL/<http://www.jrhokkaido.co.jp> 

.....Hokkaido Railway Company