

# Nature Parks

Hokkaido is a land of majestic nature and shows a different face each season. To protect and to promote trouble-free use of such magnificent landscapes of Mother Nature, nature parks were developed. Hokkaido has 23 national nature parks where visitors can enjoy nature in countless ways.



**Akan National Park**  
This park boasts of primeval landscapes, a tapestry of forests, lakes and volcanoes, which are peculiar to the northern area. Lake Akan, listed in the "Ramsar Convention of Wetlands," is the only natural habitat of marimo in Japan.



**Shiretoko National Park**  
Shiretoko Peninsula is said to be the only primeval terrain left in Japan. In July 2005, it was listed as a World Heritage Site. The park features a primeval and diverse ecosystem that is concentrated in one area.



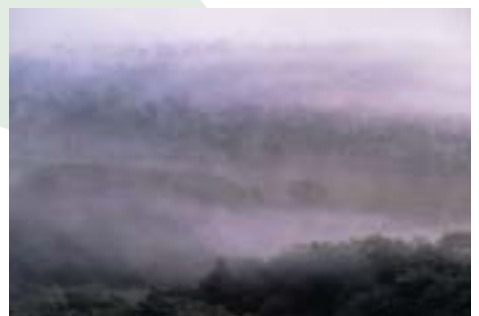
**Daisetsuzan National Park**  
This mountain park features the Daisetsuzan Mountains. The highest peak, Asahidake, is known as the roof of Hokkaido. The park has many scenic spots such as Soukyou and Lake Shikaribetsu.



**Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu National Park**  
This national nature park is situated in the northernmost region of Japan and boasts of diverse landscapes: Rishiri Island, Rebun Island, and the Sarobetsu Plain. The Sarobetsu Plain is a marsh and is listed in the "Ramsar Convention of Wetlands."



**Shikotsu-Toya National Park**  
This park welcomes visitors with unique geographical features and phenomena associated with volcanic activity: two large crater lakes of Shikotsu and Toya, active volcanoes of Usu and Tarumae, and many hot springs with water gushing out of the ground in many places.



**Kushiro Shitsugen National Park**  
This national nature park is unique because most of the area consists of a large marsh that is adjacent to the downtown area. The major area of the marsh is listed in the "Ramsar Convention of Wetlands" and it is also the precious habitat of the sacred Japanese cranes.

Names	Municipalities
Akan National Park	KUSHIRO BIHORO TSUBETSU KIYOSATO KOSHIMIZU OZORA ASHORO SHIBECHA TESHIKAGA SHIRANUKA NAKASHIBETSU
Daisetsuzan National Park	FURANO HIGASHIKAWA BIEI KAMIKAWA KAMIFURANO MINAMIFURANO SHIROHO KAMISHIHO SHIKAOI SHINTOKU
Shikotsu-Toya National Park	SAPPORO CHITOSE ENIWA TOMAKOMAI NOBORIBETSU DATE NISEKO MAKKARI KIMOBETSU KYOGOKU KUTCHAN SOBETSU SHIRAOI TOYAKO
Shiretoko National Park	SHARI RAUSU
Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu National Park	WAKKANAI HORONOBE TOYOTOMI REBUN RISHIRI RISHIRIFUJI
Kushiro Shitsugen National Park	KUSHIRO KUSHIRO SHIBECHA TSURUI
Abashiri Quasi-national Park	ABASHIRI KITAMI SHARI KOSHIMIZU SAROMA YUBETSU OZORA
Onuma Quasi-national Park	NANAE SHIKABE MORI
Niseko-Shakotan-Otaru Kaigan Quasi-national Park	OTARU RANKOSHI NISEKO KUTCHAN KYOWA IWANA TOMARI KAMOENAI SHAKOTAN FURUBIRA YOICHI
Hidaka Sanmyaku-Erimo Quasi-national Park	OBIIHORO HIDAKA BIRATORI NIKAPPU URAKAWA SAMANI ERIMO SHINHIDAKA SHIMIZU MEMURO NAKASATSUNAI TAIKI HIROO
Shokanbetsu-Teuri-Yagishiri Quasi-national Park	ISHIKARI SHINTOSUKAWA URYU HOKURYU MASHIHE HABORO
Akkeshi Prefectural Nature Park	KUSHIRO AKKESI HAMANAKA
Furano-Ashibetsu Prefectural Nature Park	YUBARI ASHIBETSU MIKASA FURANO MINAMIFURANO
Hiyama Prefectural Nature Park	YAKUMO ESASHI KAMINOKUNI OTOBE OKUSHIRI SETANA
Esan Prefectural Nature Park	HAKODATE NANAE SHIKABE
Notsuke-Furen Prefectural Nature Park	NEMURO BETSUKAI SHIBETSU
Matsumae-Yagoshi Prefectural Nature Park	MATSUMAE FUKUSHIMA SHIRUCHI
Kita Okhotsk Prefectural Nature Park	SARUFUTSU HAMATONBETSU ESASHI
Nopporo Shirui Kouen Prefectural Nature Park Nopporo Forest Park	SAPPORO EBETSU KITAHOSHIMA
Karibae-Motsutsu Prefectural Nature Park	SETANA SHIMAMAKI SUTTSU
Shumanai Prefectural Nature Park	SHIBETSU HOROKANAI HABORO EBETSU
Teshiodake Prefectural Nature Park	SHIBETSU SHIMOKAWA TAKINOUE NISHIOKOPPE
Sharidake Prefectural Nature Park	SHARI KIYOSATO SHIBETSU

# Model Itineraries

- 1 Sapporo-Otaru-Hakodate Course (4 days & 3 nights)**  
Visit three popular cities!  
Hakodate (stay) → Onuma Quasi-national Park → Lake Toya (stay) → Noboribetsu → Sapporo (stay) → Otaru
- 2 Southern Hokkaido Course (4 days & 3 nights)**  
A journey full of romantic and historic scenes of Hokkaido's development  
Hakodate (stay) → Kamito → Matsumae (stay) → Esashi (stay) → Onuma Quasi-National Park
- 3 Sapporo-Asahikawa-Furano Course (4 days & 3 nights)**  
Enjoy the popular venues of Asahikawa's Asahiya Zoo and Furano  
Sapporo (stay) → Asahikawa (stay) → Biei → Kamifurano (stay) OR Furano (stay)
- 4 Taisetsu-Tokachi Course (4 days & 3 nights)**  
Four days to savor the gifts of Hokkaido's bountiful nature  
Asahikawa → Soukkyo (stay) → Kamikawa → Biei → Furano (stay) → Tokachi Onsen (stay) → Obihiro
- 5 Kushiro-Akan-Mashu-Abashiri Course (4 days & 3 nights)**  
Take a trip around eastern Hokkaido!  
Kushiro → Lake Akan (stay) → Lake Kushnaro → Kawayu (stay) → Lake Mashu → Abashiri (stay)
- 6 Abashiri-Shiretoko Course (4 days & 3 nights)**  
A journey to visit the unspoiled region of Shiretoko  
Abashiri (stay) → Koshimizu → Utoro (stay) → Rausu → Nakashibetsu → Kushiro (stay)
- 7 Okhotsk Course (4 days & 3 nights)**  
Uplifting cities in the northern area and Okhotsk Sea  
Kitami → Omoyoi Onsen (stay) → Kutahara → Engaru → Lake Saroma (stay) → Mombetsu (stay)
- 8 Wakkanai-Rishiri-Rebun Course (4 days & 3 nights)**  
A journey to the northernmost isolated islands with abundant nature  
Wakkanai → Rishishi Island (stay) → Rebun Island (stay) → Cape Soya → Wakkanai (stay)

# Be eco-friendly drivers.

Global warming has become a worldwide problem. To protect and ensure that coming generations can also enjoy nature, let's be eco-friendly.  
Eco-driving is:  
○Friendly to the globe—reduces CO2 and noise.  
○Friendly to the wallet—saves fuel costs.  
○Friendly to everyone—contributes to safe driving.



- Start the engine just before you depart!**  
In summer, park in the shade and/or open the windows before departing to keep the inside cool. Reduce idling time and the use of the air-conditioner.  
Idling consumes more fuel than necessary. Have everything ready and start the engine just before you depart.
- Start the engine and accelerate gradually!**  
Make a time-flexible plan that you can drive and be at ease with yourself.  
A sudden start and acceleration have only bad effects and no benefits whatsoever. Step on the accelerator softly and press down gradually.
- Keep a constant speed!**  
Keep your distance so you do not have to slam on the brakes or accelerate unnecessarily.  
The more the speed increases or decreases, the more fuel is consumed. Especially in the suburbs, keep the speed as constant as possible.
- Use engine braking!**  
The use of engine braking on downward slopes can decrease the heating effect of too frequent braking (Prevent the foot brake from heating up).  
The use of engine braking reduces the consumption of fuel. When you slow down or stop, release the accelerator and use engine braking effectively.

# Hokkaido in winter

Hokkaido is a winter enthusiast's wonderland. Forgive the cold and take in this world blanketed in white and full of winter amusements. Put on warm clothing and enjoy to the fullest the powder snow and beautiful landscapes that you can see only in winter.

- Ice fishing**  
Ice fishes can be seen in the sea areas around Hokkaido such as off the shore of the Okhotsk Sea. You can see and enjoy ice fishes from an icebreaker or from a train window.
- Diamond dust**  
On some rare and very cold days in winter, ice crystals form in the air, are reflected by the sunlight, and glow like diamonds floating in the air.
- Fishing for wakasagi (Japanese smelt)**  
Drill a hole in a frozen pond and enjoy wakasagi fishing.
- Skiing, snowboarding and riding snowmobiles**  
For about half a year, from November through May at the latest, Hokkaido enjoys skiing, snowboarding and riding snowmobiles.

# Winter roads are extremely slippery.

- Vehicles are prone to skid on snow and ice. Even with winter tires, vehicles are five times more prone to slip than in summer. Especially in winter, refrain from speeding and keep your distance while driving.
- No "sudden" maneuvers**  
A sudden start, a sudden turn of the wheel, sudden brakes and sudden acceleration... Such "sudden" maneuvers are especially dangerous on winter roads. Maneuver and drive slowly.
- Black ice is dangerous.**  
Frozen road surfaces are polished by the tires and shine like mirrors. This is particularly dangerous on winter roads. Drive at a moderate speed.
- Uneven breaking is a signal of danger.**  
In the event of a skid or slip, the braking sets off the ABS, and then the vehicle automatically increases the brake force under control in the best way possible. When this happens, the brake pedal touch feels uneven or trembles to warn the driver. Even if the pedal feels uneven or trembles, continue pushing on the brake pedal firmly.
- The ABS prevents the tires from locking but does not shorten the distance to a full stop. Setting-off the ABS means that the tires have exceeded their limits. Therefore, reduce speed and continue to drive slowly.

# Hokkaido Event Calendar

- Matsumae Cherry Blossom Festival
- Otaru Snow Festival
- Hokkaido Heso/Bellybutton Festival
- Kamiyubetsu Tulip Fair
- Hokkaido Balloon Festival
- Marimo Festival

Name	Municipalities	Seasons
Matsumae Cherry Blossom Festival	MATSUMAE	Late April to late May
Esashi Owake National Championship	E S A S H I	Mid-September
Hakodate Christmas Fantasy	HAKODATE	December 1st to 25th
Lake Toya Long-run Fireworks Displays	T O Y A K O	Late April to late October
Otaru Ushio Festival	O T A R U	Late July
Sapporo Summer Festival	S A P P O R O	Late July to mid-August
Noboribetsu Jigoku Matsuri (Hell Festival)	NOBORIBETSU	Late August
Sapporo White Illumination	S A P P O R O	Mid-November to mid-February
Chitose-Lake Shikotsu Ice Festival	C H I T O S E	Late January to mid-February
Sapporo Snow Lit-Up Venues	S A P P O R O	Early to mid-February
Otaru Snow Festival	O T A R U	Early to mid-February
Showa-Shinzan International Yukigassen (Snowball Fight)	S O B E T S U	Late February
Kamifurano Lavender & Fireworks Festival	KAMIFURANO	Mid-July
Nakafurano Lavender Festival	NAKAFURANO	Mid-July
Hokkaido Heso/Bellybutton Festival	F U R A N O	Late July
Soukyou Hyoubaku Matsuri (Frozen/Waterfall Festival)	KAMIKAWA	Late January to late March
Asahikawa Winter Festival	ASAHIKAWA	Early to mid-February
Kamiyubetsu Tulip Fair	KAMIYUBETSU	Early May to early June
"Nonky Land" Moss Phlox Festival	O Z O R A	Early May to early June
Fairy Tale Village Takinoue Moss Phlox Festival	TAKINOUE	Early May to early June
Abashiri Okhotsk Ice Floe Festival	ABASHIRI	Early to mid-February
Momobetsu Ice Floe Festival	MOMBETSU	Early to mid-February
Shiretoko Fantasia	S H I R I	Early February to late March
Hokkaido Balloon Festival	KAMISHIHO	Early August
Autumn Wine Festival	I K E D A	Early October
Shikaribetsu Kotan (Igloo Village)	S H I K A O I	Mid-January to late May
Marimo Festival	K U S H I R O	Early October
Akkeshi Oyster Festival	A K K E S H I	Early October
Diamond Dust in KAWAYU	TESHIKAGA	Late December to late May
Akan Frozen Lake Festival	K U S H I R O	Late January to late May

## Daytime-Lights-On Movement

Daytime-Lights-On Movement is a campaign to promote the prevention of traffic accidents by driving with lights on during the daytime.

**By driving with lights on:**

- Drivers raise their own awareness of safe driving.
- Drivers draw the attention of other drivers and pedestrians.
- Drivers make it easy for others to notice the existence and position of their cars.

**While driving, always keep the car lights on.**

## Safe, secure, and comfortable driving using MAPCODE and the car navigation system

MAPCODE is an up-to ten-digit number that identifies locations. By inputting into the car navigation system the MAPCODE of the place you want to visit, you can easily set a destination and view the route. By using MAPCODE, you will have a safe, secure, and comfortable drive.

**1. User registration**  
The issuance of MAPCODE requires membership registration. Please access the MAPCODE homepage on the internet and register.

**2. MAPCODE issuing service**  
After user registration, an ID and a password will be sent by e-mail. The MAPCODE issuing service is available at "User Confirmation" on the homepage.

**3. Input into car navigation system**  
Input into your car navigation system the MAPCODE of the place you want to visit.

**4. Route guidance**  
The car navigation system will guide you to your destination.

**5. Safe driving**  
You have arrived!

References: Hokkaido Tourist Association <http://www.visit-hokkaido.jp/>

# Hokkaido food

Crabs and salmon-gifts from the bountiful seas that surround the island. Melons and potatoes-gifts from the verdant pastures. Hokkaido is a treasure house of the very finest food available. Savor them all to the fullest.

- Crabs**  
Hokkaido is famous for horsehair crabs, king crabs and snow crabs. The taste of fresh crab is superb.
- Sushi**  
Hokkaido is surrounded by bountiful seas on all sides. Indulge yourself in the gifts from the seas.
- Ramen noodles**  
Famous varieties: miso ramen of Sapporo, soy sauce ramen of Asahikawa, salt ramen of Hakodate and thin ramen noodles of Kushiro. Each shop has its own special taste. It is fun to compare the ramen served in various shops and regions.
- Fruit and vegetables**  
Sweet melons, juicy apples, crisp potatoes and savory corn. In-season fruit and vegetables are truly magnificent.
- Soft ice cream**  
Full of fresh milk from cows raised on Hokkaido's lush green pastures.
- Jingiskan (lamb barbecue)**  
Hokkaido's signature dish: lamb roasted dynamically on a dome-shaped pan. The vegetables cooked together with the lamb also taste superb.

# Onsens in Hokkaido (Hot Springs)

Hokkaido, a hot spring paradise, has nearly 800 facilities that can accommodate stays and one-day visits. Hot springs vary in quality according to location and region. All across Hokkaido, we can enjoy both famous and unrequented hot springs in harmony with their landscapes.

Names	Municipalities	Names	Municipalities
Yunokawa Onsen	HAKODATE	Tenninkyu Onsen	HIGASHIKAWA
Mizunashi Kaihin Onsen	HAKODATE	Asahidake Onsen	HIGASHIKAWA
Nigorikawa Onsen	M O R I	Shirogane Onsen	B I E I
Ginkonyu	Y A K U M O	Tokachidake Onsen	KAMIFURANO
Hiratanai Keikoku Kumanoyu	Y A K U M O	Fukiagerotomoyu	KAMIFURANO
Kenichi Onsen	Y A K U M O	Toytotomi Onsen	TOYOTOMI
Futamata Radium Onsen	OSHAMANBE	Onneyu Onsen	K I T A M I
Okupirika Onsen	I M A K A N E	Abashiri Kohan Onsen	A B A S H I R I
Jozankei Onsen	S A P P O R O	Kamiyukawa Yunotaki	S H A R I
Shikotsuko Onsen	S A P P O R O	Utoro Onsen	S H A R I
Asarigawa Onsen	O T A R U	Tokachigawa Onsen	O T O F U K E
Niseko Yumoto Onsen	RANKOSHI	Nukabira Onsen	KAMISHIHO
Niimi Onsen	RANKOSHI	Shikaribetsu Kohan Onsen	S H I K A O I
Niseko Yakushi Onsen	RANKOSHI	Kanno Onsen	S H I K A O I
Konbu Onsen	RANKOSHI	Tomuraushi Onsen	SHINTOKU
Niseko Goshiki Onsen	N I S E K O	Akankohan Onsen	K U S H I R O
Hirafu Onsen	K U T C H A N	Kawayu Onsen	TESHIKAGA
Noboribetsu Onsen	NOBORIBETSU	Mashu Onsen	TESHIKAGA
Karurusu Onsen	NOBORIBETSU	Kushharoko Kotan Onsen	TESHIKAGA
Kita Yuzawa Onsen	D A T E	Yorouushi Onsen	NAKASHIBETSU
Kojohama Onsen	S H I R A O I	Kumanoyu	R A U S U
Toiyako Onsen	T O Y A K O	Rausu Onsen	R A U S U
Soukyou Onsen	KAMIKAWA		

## Drunk driving and penalties

Legal definitions	Penalties
Driving in the state of having 0.15 mg or more of alcohol in one liter of exhaled breath, or 0.3 mg or more of alcohol in one milliter of blood.	Imprisonment up to 3 years and/or a fine up to 500,000 yen
Driving in the state of being drunk. (Being unable to drive normally due to the influence of alcohol)	Imprisonment up to 5 years and/or a fine up to 1,000,000 yen
Driving a vehicle in the state where normal driving is difficult due to the influence of alcohol.	Imprisonment up to 20 years

References: Hokkaido Tourist Association <http://www.visit-hokkaido.jp/>