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北海道 HOKKAIDO

Hokkaido Shinkansen open on 26 March 2016

On 26th March 2016 JR Hokkaido will launch the Hokkaido Shinkansen service between Shin Aomori and Shin Hakodate Hokuto!!

Watch a short movie on YouTube: https://youtu.be/883LZ0e5GCI

New Shinkansen service available from Shin Aomori to Shin Hakodate Hokuto

Hokkaido Shinkansen is a train route of approximately 350 km between Shin Aomori Station to Sapporo Station including Seikan Tunnel connecting mainland Japan and Hokkaido. And the section of 149 km between Shin Aomori Station to Shin Hakodate Station will be open on 26 March 2016. The section between Shin Hakodate Hokuto to Sapporo is still under construction and it is expected to be open in 2030.

4-hour travel from Tokyo to Hakodate

With the launch of the Hokkaido Shinkansen, you will be able to travel from Tokyo Station to Shin Hakodate Hokuto Station, one of the brand new stations, without transfer for about 4 hours and 2 minutes by Shinkansen HAYABUSA or HAYATE. The Shinkansen has 10 carriages each and the service will be 13 returns per day. From Shin Hakodate Hokuto Station, a connected train "Hakodate Liner" takes you to Hakodate Station for about 17 minutes. For further travel from Shin Hakodate Hokuto to Sapporo you can take LEX Super Hokuto or LEX Hokuto, which has 12 services per day.

Traveling time to Shin Hakodate Hokuto

From	Duration
Shin Aomori	61 min
Morioka	110 min
Sendai	2 H 30
Oomiya	3 H 38
Tokyo	4 H 02

No. of service to Shin Hakodate Hokuto

Name of Shinkansen	From	Service per day
HAYABUSA	Tokyo	10
	Sendai	1
HAYATE	Morioka	1
	Shin Aomori	1

Shinkansen Navi   http://hokkaido-shinkansen-navi.jp/foreign/en_index.html

JR Hokkaido web site   http://www2.jrhokkaido.co.jp/global/english/shinkansen/index.html

Maybe you know the name "Hakodate" but never heard of any other towns nearby?
Here are some suggestions where to explore after you get off Shinkansen.

KIKONAI

When you take a Hokkaido Shinkansen, the first stop in Hokkaido is Kikonai Station. Kikonai is an old town with a traditional event "Kanchu Misogi Festival", a religious ritual held in mid-January every year. This small town also produces good sake and salt.

Opened in January 2016, the new community center "Misogi-no-sato Kikonai" (http://kikonai.jp/) has a souvenir shop with various local products, and tourism concierges who give you travel advice for southern Hokkaido.

http://kikonai-kankou.net/   *Japanese only

MATSUMAE

As the Matsumae Clan arrive in 1604, Matsumae had been prospered as Japan's northern-most castle town. Now the historic town is well known for Matsumae Castle and its beautiful cherry blossom garden. The best time for cherry blossom here is early May.

http://www.asobube.com/

English brochure   English map

ESASHI

The 150-year old battle ship "Kaiyo-maru" is the symbol of this historic port town. The town centre also has traditional atmosphere with historic buildings such as The Yokoyama House and the old Nakamura House. Why don't you have some tea and sweets at one of the Japanese-style café?

http://uu-hokkaido.com/corporate/esashi-kankoukyoukai.shtml

HOKUTO

When you come to Hokuto, Kijihiki Heights is a must-visit place. It is an observatory with splendid view of Hakodate, Onuma ad Mt. Komagadake. When the weather condition is good you might be able to see "unkai", sea of clouds, over Lake Onuma. The observatory is open to public from late April to late October.

The tourist information center in Shin Hakodate Hokuto Station offers many kinds of services such as luggage services, sales of bus tickets and hotel coupons, orders for rent-a-car, activity programmes not to mention tourism information and brochures.

http://hokutoinfo.com/about-en/

ONUMA

Onuma Park is a resort area with lakes of various size, forest, and the beautiful Mt. Komagadake. Here you can try outdoor activities like mountain biking, hiking, canoeing, or just relax on the sightseeing boat. Lovely cafés and restaurants are dotted in the area.

http://www.onuma-guide.com/   *Japanese only

English brochure