Sightseeing Buses
Various sightseeing buses are in operation according to seasons.

**Summer:** “Pirika-go” – One-day course covering the Kushiro Marsh, Lake Mashu, Lake Kussharo and Lake Akan

**Winter:** “White Pirika-go” – Course aiming to enjoy East Hokkaido in winter by making a tour to Lake Akan, Lake Mashu, etc.

**Akan Bus:** TEL/FAX: 0154-37-2221 / 0154-37-9083
http://www.akanbus.co.jp/

Lake Mashu

Lake Kussharo

Lake Akan

**Access information**

**Lake Mashu**

**Lake Kussharo**

**Lake Akan**

**Climate of Kushiro:**
The average temperature in summer is about 24°C in Kushiro, and a lot of sea fog is generated in coastal areas. In winter, the weather continues and the wind is consistently unstable with little snow.

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Kushiro Marsh Observatory
This building, reminiscent of an old European castle, is full of information on the wetland and is surround-
ed by a boardwalk 2.5 km in circumference. The “satellite square,” located in the middle section of the
boardwalk, offers the best overlooking view west of the Kushiro Marsh. (The boardwalk is partially
closed in winter.)
Access: Take Akan Bus, Tsurui Route, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 40 min.) to Marsh
Observatory Bus Stop
TEL/FAX: 0154-56-2424

The Kushiro Marsh is a wetland registered under the Ramsar Convention and Japan’s largest wetland
with an area of 28,000 ha. Blessed with diverse ecosystems, the park is particularly renowned as a
habitat for the Red-crowned crane, a Special Natural Monument.

Kushiro Shitsugen National Park

Kushiro Marsh Observatory

Onnenai Boardwalk
A wooden walkway with courses ranging from 500 m to 3 km in length. Choose one that best suits your needs, and enjoy observing the wild birds and vegetation. What’s more, the 2 km course is wheelchair accessible. Since snow is not removed in winter, visitors can enjoy cross-country skiing here.
Access: Take Akan Bus, Tsurui Route, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 50 min.) to Onnenai Visitor Center Bus Stop.

Activity
Canoeing (Summer)
Canoeing (Winter)
Winter Canoeing
You can enjoy canoeing year-round in Kushiro. Gaining particular popularity these days is canoeing in the serene winter scenery of snow and ice. If you’re lucky, you may even see Hokkaido sika deer and eagles.

Horseback riding
Horseback riding
Let’s trek through the surrounding area and deep in the wetland on horseback. With easy lessons, even beginners will feel comfortable with horseback riding.
Red-crowned Crane, the Symbolic Bird

Reduced to a population of over a dozen, the Red-crowned crane became endangered as a result of indiscriminate hunting. Thanks to the conservation efforts of neighboring residents, however, the population has increased and the Red-crowned crane was designated as a Special Natural Monument in 1992. Currently, approximately 1,800 Red-crowned cranes live in East Hokkaido throughout the year. The largest bird in Japan, Red-crowned cranes are regarded as birds of love since, once they have found a mate, they remain in pairs for the rest of their lives and cooperate in bringing up their offspring.

Red-crowned Crane can be seen throughout the year.

- Kushiro Zoo
  The Kushiro Zoo has the Red-crowned crane Protection and Propagation Center. In addition to Man’s Fish Wall, Steller’s sea eagles and white-tailed sea eagles, which are all natural monuments, can also be seen here.
  Access: Take Akan Bus, Reife Route or Akahon-cho Route, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 1 hr.) to Dobusuzen (Zoo) Bus Stop
  TEL/FAX: 0154-56-2219 / 0154-56-2216

Wild Red-crowned Cranes a gather in several in the following feeding grounds from late October to late March

- Kushiro Akan International Crane Center (GRUS) / Crane Observation Center
  Japan’s only facility engaging in Red-crowned crane research, education and protection. The facility contains exhibits with commentaries, and Red-crowned cranes can be viewed there all year round in a semi-natural outdoor environment.
  During the November – March period of artificial feeding at the adjacent Observation Center, up to around 300 wild Red-crowned cranes can be seen.
  Access: Take Akan Bus, Akan Route, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 1 hr.) to Tacho no Sato Bus Stop
  TEL/FAX: 0154-66-4011 / 0154-66-4022

- Turumaidai Plain
  Access: Take Akan Bus, bound for Tsurui, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 1 hr.) to Turumaidai Bus Stop

- Tsurui/ho Tancho Sanctuary
  Access: Take Akan Bus, bound for Tsurui, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 1 hr.) to Tsurui Moru Yahaka mac Bus Stop, and walk 15 min.
  TEL/FAX: 0154-64-2201 / 0154-64-2239

Strolling in Kushiro City 5

1. Nusamai Bridge
Nusamai Bridge is one of the top three bridges in Hokkaido, along with Toyohira Bridge in Sapporo and Asahi Bridge in Asahikawa. It is enveloped with white sea fogs in summer and colored red by the setting sun in autumn. It is also one of the best viewpoints to watch the Red-crowned cranes in spring after successful breeding.
  Access: Take Akan Bus, Akan Route, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 35 min.) to Tiam Ken Bus Stop
  TEL/FAX: 0154-56-2219 / 0154-56-2216

2. Kushiro Fisherman’s Wharf MOO
Representing the waterfront of Kushiro, Fisherman’s Wharf MOO consists of restaurants and shops. The wharf accommodates numerous souvenir shops and ranges from large-scale restaurants and outdoor shop and food stalls at the port. (Minato no Yata) 10-min. walk from JR Kushiro Station TEL: 0154-23-6000

3. Kushiro City Museum
Located at the edge of Lake Harutori, the Kushiro City Museum building is featured by its shape as a Red-crowned crane spreading its wings. The museum offers information on the geography, history and climate of Kushiro.
  Access: Take Kushiro Bus, Route No. 2, 12, 16, 17, or 55, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 10 min.) to Shiritsu Byoin (City General Hospital) mac Bus Stop, and walk 5 min.
  TEL/FAX: 0154-51-5809 / 0154-42-6000

4. Kushiro City Lifelong Learning Center (MANABOTTO NUSAMA)
The Center’s appearance is based on the image of a lighthouse. From the restaurant and the observation mirror on the 9th and 10th floor, you can enjoy not only a panoramic view of Kushiro City, but also the mountains in Akan and Cape Erimo in the distance.
  Access: Take Kushiro Bus Route No. 16, 17 from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 20 min.) to Coach & Four Bus Stop

5. Yonemachi Park
The Yonemachi Park area, overlooking the Port of Kushiro, is the birthplace of Kushiro City. On the opposite side of the park is Yonemachi Heritage Museum, the oldest wooden house in Kushiro City.

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Colored Red-crowned Crane landmark

The Cool KUSHIRO landmark is a new photo spot at the foot of Nusamai Bridge. As you probably know, the cool ‘cool’ winter here ‘mildly cold’ and ‘amazing calm.’ This makes it the perfect term to describe Kushiro, where the minimum average summer temperature is about 21°C. Like Nusamai Bridge, this landmark is illuminated from sunset until midnight, adding to the spectacle. Don’t miss out on your chance to take cool photographs in front of this undoubtedly photo-worthy spot.

Shopping

- Showa District
  Shopping with a shopping complex dealing in stationery, CDs, and DVDs and publications on a vast one floor as the Center’s appearance is based on the image of a lighthouse.
  Access: Take Kushiro Bus Route No. 16, 17 from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 20 min.) to Coach & Four Bus Stop

- Kushiro-cho District
  With a shopping complex dealing in stationery, CDs, and DVDs and publications on a vast one floor as the Center’s appearance is based on the image of a lighthouse.
  Access: Take Kushiro Bus Route No. 16, 17 from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 20 min.) to Coach & Four Bus Stop

- Harutori District
  With a shopping complex dealing in stationery, CDs, and DVDs and publications on a vast one floor as the Center’s appearance is based on the image of a lighthouse.
  Access: Take Kushiro Bus Route No. 16, 17 from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 20 min.) to Coach & Four Bus Stop

- Tottori Hyakuenkan (Tottori Centennial Museum)
  The castle-inspired Tottori Castle was built by Tottori feudal lord Noda Katsuie in 1578. Noda Katsuie was the 4th lord of Tottori Castle and the son of Hiyamizaki Noda Katsue. He was succeeded by his son Noda Katsuie II.
  Access: Take Tottori Bus, Route No. 30, 38, or 68, from JR Tottori Station Bus Terminal (approx. 10 min.) to Tottori Jaga Bus Stop

- Shitsugen Marshland 55 Pass
  The Shitsugen Marshland 55 Pass is located at the edge of Lake Harutori, the Kushiro City Museum building is featured by its shape as a Red-crowned crane spreading its wings. The museum offers information on the geography, history and climate of Kushiro.
  Access: Take Akan Bus, Akan Route, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 1 hr.) to Dobusuzen (Zoo) Bus Stop
  TEL/FAX: 0154-56-2219 / 0154-56-2216

- AEON SC(AEON MALL)
  A large-scale shopping mall, and surrounding it are drug stores, toy stores and electric appliance shops.
  Access: Take Kushiro Bus Route No. 26, 68, 77 or 88 from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 30 min.) to AEON SC(AEON MALL)

- Kussharo Showa Bus Stop

The Center’s appearance is based on the image of a lighthouse. From the restaurant and the observation mirror on the 9th and 10th floor, you can enjoy not only a panoramic view of Kushiro City, but also the mountains in Akan and Cape Erimo in the distance.
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  TEL/FAX: 0154-54-8090 / 0154-42-6000

- Yonemachi Heritage Museum
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- Kushiro Crane Reserve
  Here, male and female Red-crowned cranes are raised in an environment similar to their natural habitat. Visitors can see adorable chicks in the spring after successful breeding.
  Access: Take Akan Bus, Akan Route, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 35 min.) to Tiam Ken Bus Stop
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Kushiro is believed to be the cradle land of hearthside barbecue. Fresh seafood grilled over charcoal fire is delicious beyond expression.

Yabu soba (dark, sweet noodles made from the whole buckwheat grain) is the mainstay soba in Kushiro and is characterized by its unique strong taste and sweet dip. Dishes unique to Kushiro, such as egg-mixed buckwheat noodles and sobu zushi (buckwheat noodle rolls), are also available.

Deep-fried chicken is called “zangi” in Hokkaido. The people of Kushiro dip zangi into sauce, which is so simple in taste so that they can eat a lot.

Kushiro has a wide variety of sweets, ranging from ice cream abundant in high-quality locally produced raw milk and other dairy products to Japanese bean and pea based confectionaries.

Locally-brewed sake “Fukutsukasa” was born out of the tasty waters in Kushiro and rice produced in the famous paddies of Tohoku.

Ramen
Kushiro ramen features thin noodles and light soup. It is one of the four major types of ramen noodles, along with Sapporo, Asahikawa and Hakodate ramen.

Sushi
Sushi that uses fresh ingredients from Kushiro’s port is exceptional. Sushi in Kushiro is touted as the best in Japan whether you eat it at an exclusive sushi restaurant or a conveyor belt sushi.

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Sweets
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Local sake
Locally-brewed sake “Fukutsukasa” was born out of the tasty waters in Kushiro and rice produced in the famous paddies of Tohoku.

Robata Hearthside barbecue
Kushiro is believed to be the cradle land of hearthside barbecue. Fresh seafood grilled over charcoal fire is delicious beyond expression.

Zangi
Deep-fried chicken is called “zangi” in Hokkaido. The people of Kushiro dip zangi into sauce, which is so simple in taste so that they can eat a lot.
Feel and experience the nature of Akan

Lake Akan
Lake Akan, which is located in the Akan-Mashu National Park, is known as the ‘Blue Jewel’ of the natural environment. The lake has a 25 km circumference and an area of 78 square km. It is a place where you can enjoy a full view of the blue lake surfaces in summer, beautiful leaves in autumn and numerous events throughout the year. In winter, the lake is covered with a thick layer of ice, and in spring, the ice begins to break and you can enjoy a panoramic view of the surrounding forests with fields of snow-white cherry blossoms blooming. It is a popular destination for canoeists, walkers and nature lovers. You can enjoy a wide range of water sports such as boat trips, fishing, water skiing and windsurfing. In the winter, you can enjoy snow-sports, such as skiing and snowboarding, or a winter tourist resort experience on the ice. Lake Akan is a place where you can feel the arrival of spring, as well as the coming of the new year. The lake is also a place where you can enjoy a taste of Ainu culture, with Ainu performances taking place every year as part of the Lake Akan Ainu Theater Festival. Lake Akan is also a place where you can appreciate the beauty of nature, from the blue lake surfaces in summer to the winter’s snow-covered forests. Lake Akan is a place where you can enjoy the best of both worlds, combining the beauty of nature with the charm of Ainu culture.

Akan-Mashu National Park
Akan-Mashu National Park is a national park located in the southernmost part of Hokkaido, Japan. The park is known for its diverse landscape, including its forests, lakes, and mountains. It is a place where you can feel the beauty of nature, from the blue lake surfaces in summer to the winter’s snow-covered forests. The park is also a place where you can appreciate the beauty of Ainu culture, with Ainu performances taking place every year as part of the Lake Akan Ainu Theater Festival. Lake Akan is a place where you can enjoy the best of both worlds, combining the beauty of nature with the charm of Ainu culture.

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Mashu

Lake Mashu
Lake Mashu is the largest lake in Hokkaido, where 675 m of smoke emerges from white.
Access: Approx. 30 min. by car from JR Mashu Station

Kussharo

Lake Kussharo
Lake Kussharo is the second largest lake in Hokkaido, where 250 m to 300 m of smoke emerges from White.
Access: Approx. 30 min. by car from JR Kussharo Station

Activity
Various activities to experience the magnificent nature around Mashu

Lake Mashu Sea of Clouds Tour
Lake Mashu Star-Watching Tour
Kushiro River Headwaters Canoe Tour

Lake Mashu Tourism Association
TEL:015-482-2200
FAX:015-482-1877

Mt. Io
Mt. Io is a live volcano and emits a great deal of smoke.
Access: Approx. 20 min. by car from JR Mashu Station

Simplified table of distances between major cities and towns
Estimated travel times listed below are calculated based on the average speed.

Mizu no Kamuy Tourism Area
Located in Eastern Hokkaido and encompassing the Kushiro Shitsugen Wetland, Lake Akan and Lake Mashu, the Mizu no Kamuy Tourism Area is filled with vast and beautiful natural landscapes.
Map of Kushiro District

Enlarged View of Kushiro City (downtown)