Blessed with four distinctive seasons, Hokkaido lies closer to the equator than some of the world's largest cities such as Paris, London, Munich, Rome, and Montreal. The island occupies 22.1% of national territory and is 38.1 times the size of metropolitan Tokyo. Featuring a wealth of national parks and quasi-national parks, Hokkaido's rich natural environment includes exceptionally transparent lakes and vast marshland. In particular, eastern Hokkaido offers the Kuroshio Marshland, Lake Mashu, Lake Akan and the easternmost peninsula of Shiretoko from which Nature's splendor can be enjoyed. Winter in eastern Hokkaido starts around Nov. and lasts until May. The drift ice of the Sea of Okhotsk is a winter tourist attraction. It seldom snows in the Kuroshio Marshland on the Pacific coast but the temperature often drops to -20°C.

Access:

By Air

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>By</th>
<th>Approx. Travel Time</th>
<th>Access to Downtown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haneda (Tokyo)</td>
<td>Kuroshio</td>
<td>JAL, ANA, ADO</td>
<td>1 hr. 35 min.</td>
<td>[To Kuroshio Sta.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chubu* (Nagoya) [Via New Chitose]</td>
<td>Kuroshio</td>
<td>JAL, ANA</td>
<td>3 hrs. 20 min.</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Okadama (Sapporo)</td>
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<td>Haneda (Tokyo)</td>
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* Central Japan International Airport (Centrair)

By Train

<table>
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<th>From</th>
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<th>By</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sapporo</td>
<td>Obihiro</td>
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<td>Memanbetsu</td>
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<td>Nemuro</td>
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<td>JR Nemuro Line (Local)</td>
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*Fare + express charge with seat reservation.

By Express Bus

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<td>Bihoro</td>
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<td>Kitami</td>
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<td>Nemuro</td>
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*Reservation required.

KUSHIRO CITY

Places of Interest:

Kushiro, with a population of about 178,000, is the largest city in Eastern Hokkaido. It is known as a base for deep-sea fishing and also as being a “foggy town”. Kushiro is a stepping-off point for tourist spots in eastern Hokkaido like Shiretoko and Akan. Kushiro's popular tourist spots include Washo Market and Kushiro Fisherman's Wharf where you can eat, drink, shop, relax and enjoy yourself.

①Washo Market (和商市場)
Selling fresh seafood for locals such as saury, hairy crab, salmon, shishamo (a kind of smelt), scallop and seaweed. Buy a bowl of rice, top your favorite seafoods on the rice bowl at shops, enjoy your own rice bowl (called "Katte-don")! Hour: [Mon.–Sat.] 18:00–18:00; [Sun.] 8:00–16:00 (Apr. 29–Oct. 28), 18:00 (Dec.) Close: Sun. (irregularly open), New Year holiday.
②Kushiro Fisherman's Wharf MOO（釧路フィッシャーマンズモーフィー）
15 min. walk from JR Kushiro Sta. A popular multi-purpose complex standing beside Nusami Bridge. Everything is fun to do here from shopping to eating and drinking. The entire building is covered with glass in which there is an all-season botanical garden called EGG. Hours: [shopping zone] 10:00–19:00, 9:00–19:00 (Jul.–Aug.), 10:00–17:00 (Dec. 31, Jan. 2–3), [restaurants] 11:00–22:00, -15:00 (Dec. 31). Closed: Jan. 1.

③Nusami Bridge（ヌサマーブリッジ）
15 min. walk from JR Kushiro Sta. It is one of the three best bridges in Hokkaido, and is this city's symbol spanning Kushiro River. Erected on the bridge railings are four bronze statues-maidens of the four seasons created by four well-known Japanese sculptors. You can see the sunset in Kushiro, one of the greatest sunset views of the world.

④Kushiro Children's Museum “KODOMO YUGAKUkan”（釧路市こども遊岡館）
It consists of two main facilities (exhibition halls): “Play Hall” and “Science Museum”. Kodomo Yugakukan is a place where children can play and learn. There also is a planetarium in the facility. Hours: 9:30–17:00. Closed: Mon. (or the following day after the holiday when Mon. falls on a national holiday). New Year holiday. Admission: Exhibition halls ¥590 (adults), ¥240 (high school students), ¥120 (elementary & junior high school students)Exhibition halls (including planetarium): ¥960 (adults), ¥380 (high school students), ¥220 (elementary & junior high school students).

⑤Kushiro City Museum（釧路市立博物館）
In a hill overlooking Lake Harutori, there is a recognizable architecture with its striking image of the Japanese crane. Many valuable collections to know the history of Kushiro are exhibited. Hour: 9:30–17:00. Close: Mon. (or the following day after the holiday when Mon. falls on a national holiday), National holiday (Nov. 4–Mar.), New Year holiday. Admission: ¥470.

The long and narrow Nemuro Peninsula divides the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Okhotsk. Nemuro is Hokkaido's eastern-most city. Right in front of Cape Nosappu lie the Chishima (Kurile) Islands. Nemuro is a small provincial town with a population of 26,030 (Sep. 2018). Most appealing about Nemuro is the rich natural environment surrounding it. The southwestern part of the peninsula is resplendent with verdant woods, scores of lakes, swamps and marshlands, and beautiful coastlines. You can enjoy nature experiences such as cruising, canoeing, horse riding, bird-watching and trekking.

①Hokkaido Museum of Northern Peoples（北海道民族博物館）
15 min. by bus from JR Abashiri Sta. A very rare type of museum dealing with northern ethnic groups of Greenland, and others. State-of-the-art equipment including "Magic Vision." Hours: 9:30–16:30, 9:00–17:00 (Jul.–Sep.). Closed: Mon. (or the following day after the holiday when Mon. falls on a national holiday). New Year holiday. Admission: ¥550.

②Abashiri Prison Museum（博物館網走監獄）
10 min. by bus from JR Abashiri Sta. Located halfway up Mt. Tento, is the original Abashiri Prison building, used as a prison until 1984, that has been moved and opened as a museum. Hours: 9:00–17:00, 8:30–18:00 (May–Sep.). Enter 1 hour before closing. Admission: ¥1,080. URL: https://www.kangoku.jp/multilingual_english/

③Okhotsk Ryu-ryou (drift ice) Museum（オホーツク流氷館）
15 min. by bus from JR Abashiri Sta. A science museum adjoins Tentoan Observatory. A permanent display of real drift ice is maintained. One room enables you to experience drift ice and another room features a three-screen super-wide-vision theater. Hours: 8:30–18:00, 9:00–16:30 (Nov.–Apr.), 10:00–15:00 (Dec. 29–Jan. 5). Admission: ¥540.

④Abashiri Drift Ice Sightseeing & Icebreaker Ship “Aurora”（網走流氷観光破冰船・オーロラ号）
10 min. by bus from JR Abashiri Sta., it departs from roadside station “Ryuhyo Kaido” Abashiri. This cruise ship moves forward by breaking the 80-cm-thick drift ice in front of it. During the one-hour cruise you might see wild eagles and seals. Operating period: Jan. 20–Apr. 4. Fare: ¥3,300. URL: http://ms-aurora.com/abashiri/en/
VICINITY OF KUSHIRO & ABASHIRI

① Kushiro Shitsugen (Marshland) National Park (釧路湿原国立公園)
25 min. by train from JR Kushiro Sta. to JR Kushiro Shitsugen Sta. The nation’s 28th national park, designated in 1987, stretches over several municipalities including Kushiro City. Measuring and occupying 28,788 ha, 10 km east-west by 35 km north-south, this is Japan’s largest marshland.

The marshland is a natural paradise inhabited by over 2,000 species of animals and plants, and also provides good wintering grounds for Tancho cranes, designated as a Special Natural Monument. You may see their biology closer from some designated observation facilities in the park or at Kushiro Japanese Crane Reserve (釧路市丹頂鶴自然公園), a nature park breeding some of them for conservation all year round (10 min. by car from Kushiro airport).

You can enjoy the great view from observation decks such as Hoso-oka Observatory (細岡展望台), 10 min. walk from JR Kushiro Shitsugen Sta., and Kushiro Marsh Observatory (釧路市湿原展望台), about 40 min. by bus from Kushiro Sta.

For the updates and seasonal features around the park, please visit Tourist Information Centers before you visit.

② Tsurui Dosanko Ranch (鶴居どさんこ牧場)
50 min. by bus from JR Kushiro Sta. and 10 min. by shuttle bus service (reservation required) from Tsurumidai Bus Stop. You can ride a horse or hike to enjoy the natural splendor of the Kushiro Marshland. Hours: 9:00–17:00

③ Cape Kiritappu ( "$\text{cape} \times 1\text{\ km}^2\text{\ p}\text{\ p}$)
25 min. by bus from JR Hamanaka Sta., it is officially called Cape Tofutsu. From the lighthouse standing on the tip, you can see the Ainu-Kubiwa rock as well as the magnificent ocean view.

④ Cape Aikappu (愛冠岬)
10 min. by bus bound for Kiritappu from JR Akkeshi Sta. Representative sightseeing spot in the town of Akkeshi. The islands Daikokujima and Kojima, famous for their wild seals, can be seen just offshore. The "Bell of Love" called Bell Arch on the cape is popular among young couples.

Kitahama Station (北浜駅)
17 min. by JR Semmo Line from Abashiri Sta. The station in the film "Abashiri Bangaichi" was modeled on Kitahama and Mokoto Sta. The inside walls of Kitahama Sta. are covered with stamps and name cards pasted by travelers. A tearoom sits next to the station.

Lake Saroma (さロマ湖)
1 hr. by bus from JR Abashiri Sta. to Saromako-Sakaeura Bus Stop at the northeastern shore of the lake. The largest lake in Hokkaido and the third largest in Japan. The sunset viewed from the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk is breathtaking.

Goodwill Guide Groups offer tourists from overseas local tours guided in English or other languages. The guides are registered with JNTO and display the badge shown. As they are volunteers, there is no charge for their service. You are only expected to pay for their transportation, admission to tourist facilities if you visit any and their meals if you eat with them.

JNTO Website
Lake Mashu (摩周湖)
Take the JR Semmo line and get off at Mashu Sta. Lake Mashu prides itself as being one of the clearest lakes in the world. It features the most beautiful transparent emerald-colored surface that changes moment by moment. The Ainu people have revered this lake as the "lake of the gods" from ancient times. You cannot go down to the lakeshore, but you can enjoy a splendid view from 3 observatories. Another special feature of this lake is that it is always covered with mist, thereby also being called "Misty Lake Mashu". Near Lake Mashu is Mashu Onsen (hot spring) located around the station.

Observatory No. 1 at Lake Mashu (摩周湖第一展望台)
25 min. by local bus "Mashu-sen" (available between late Apr. and early Oct.) from Mashu Sta. to "Mashu-ko Dai-i-chi Tembodai" bus stop. On the observatory at the south side of Mashu Lake, is a souve-nir center. To the right is Kamuioinupuri (Mashu Peak) and in the center of the lake is Kamuiushu Island.

Teshikaga Eco Passport (弟子屈えこパスポート) offers unlimited ride on extra & regular buses connecting Lake Mashu and Lake Kussharo in summer and winter.
http://www.eco-passport.net/

Lake Akan (阿寒湖)
1 hr. 10 min. by Akan Bus bound for Akanko Bus Terminal from Kushiro Sta. Lake Akan sits in a resplendent natural setting surrounded by Meakan Peak and Oakan Peak running from east to west. Marimo (a type of green algae), considered to be the nation’s commemorative plant, exists here. There are 4 islands in the lake, and from early May to Nov., there are lake cruises on the lake. On the southern lakeshore is Akan Onsen Town, a prominent tourist destination.

Akan Ainu Kotan (阿寒湖アイヌコタン)
15 min. walk from Akanko Bus Terminal. In the largest Ainu village located just outside hot-spring village toward the west are about 36 houses in which reside about 120 people. On the west side of the village street are about over 20 folk craft shops crammed shoulder to shoulder. Traditional Ainu dances, which have been designated as an Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property, can be seen in theater named "Ikor" (which means "treasure" in the Ainu language). This theater was built to pass on Ainu history and culture to coming generations and is expected to attract more tourists to the area.

Akan Sightseeing Cruise (阿寒観光遊覧船)
You can enjoy the great view of Lake Akan from the boat. The boat cruises around a number of tourist sites. Fare: ¥1,900. Time required: 85 min. Operating season: May 1–Nov. 30.

Lake Kussharo (屈斜路湖)
20 min. by car from JR Mashu sta. This is a crater lake with a circumference of 57 km. There is also a central island floating on the lake with a circumference of 12 km. This is Hokkaido’s largest fresh water lake, and is second to Lake Saroma among lakes in the prefecture. On the eastern cliff there are outdoor baths.

Sunayu Onsen (砂湯温泉)
As one of the most luxurious destinations, this is a very popular outdoor bathing site on the shores of Lake Kussharo. As there are too many tourists already using the ready-made bathubs, the best thing to do is to go as far as back as possible, dig your own hole, and make your own bathtub. Don’t forget to bring your own bucket and shovel so that you can adjust the temperature with your shovel and lake water.
**Kawayu Onsen** (川湯温泉)
25 min. by bus from JR Kawayu-Onsen Sta., and get off at Taiho Sumo Memorial Museum Bus Stop. This is a hot-spring town located northeast of Lake Kussharo. The spring quality is of strong sulphuric hydrogen, which is rare in Hokkaido, and it acts as an antibacterium. It is especially effective against athletes foot and skin disorders.

**Atosanupuri** (アトサヌプリ)
20 min. walk from Kawayu-Onsen Sta. Atosanupuri (“Naked Mountain” in Ainu language) or Mt. lo is a slightly elevated active volcano 508 m above sea level, located south of Kawayu Onsen. It erupted about 600 years ago. At the foot of the mountain there is a group of azaleas. From mid-Jun. to mid-Jul., the pure white flowers are in their full glory.

**Bihoro Pass** (美幌峠)
1 hr. 50 min. by Akkan Bus from “Kawayu-eki-dori” bus stop (except autumn & winter). From the 525-m observatory, you can have a splendid view of Lake Kussharo on which Nakajima Island floats. If the weather is clear, you can also see Lake Mashu and Shari Peak.

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**Shiretoko Peninsula**

The rising mountains of Shiretoko is home to the cliffs and waterfalls, species of seabirds and sea kelp fish. The entire peninsula is designated as a national park, and the interior of which is said to be an unexplored primeval forest. This peninsula was designated as the World Natural Heritage in 2005.

**Utoro** (ウトロ)
Located on the west coast of Shiretoko Peninsula, Utoro serves as a base to explore untouched places such as Kamuiwakka Hot Falls and the Shiretoko Five Lakes. Utoro is a hot-spring town and there are about 25 Japanese inns, hotels and Minshuku.

**Kamuiwakka Hot Falls** (カムイワッカ湯の滝)
1 hr. by shuttle bus bound for “Kamuiwakka-yu-no-taki” bus stop from Utoro Onsen Bus Terminal (operated in mid-Aug.), get off at the terminus and a 30-min. walk upstream. When you go up the river, you will notice that the basin of the waterfall has been made into an outdoor hot spring. This waterfall is a natural hot spring, which comes from inside Atosanupuri mountain.

**Rausu** (羅臼)
Rausu, located on the east coast of Shiretoko Peninsula, is reached in 3 hrs. 40 min. by bus from Kushiro Sta., or 50 min. by bus from Utoro, which operates from mid-June to mid-October. Shiretoko Crossroad, which is closed during winter, connects Rausu with Utoro. This is a port town famous for its Rausu sea kelp. Here you can enjoy fresh seafood and king crab. The outdoor baths and hot springs in Aidoami and Seseki offer a pastoral perfect setting. Aidoami is the terminus of the route stretching across the eastern coastal along the Nemuro Strait from Rausu.

**Mt. Rausu** (羅臼岳)
10 min. walk from Rausu Onsen Bus Stop to the beginning of the mountain trail. Mt. Rausu, the highest peak in the Shiretoko Mountains Range with an altitude of 1,661m, is known as Shiretoko’s Mt. Fuji. At the end of July, you can see alpine plants in full bloom. From the summit, you have a 360° panoramic view, in which you can clearly see as far as Kunashiri Island.

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**Shiretoko Five Lakes** (知床五湖)
30 min. by Shari Bus bound for Shiretoko-Goko from Utoro Onsen Bus Terminal which is operated from late April to the end of October. Shiretoko Five Lakes are located in an untouched primeval forest. Taking approx. 1-hr. walk to complete the walk, it is a popular spot where a mysterious landscape unfolds every season. Hours: depends on the season. Closed: mid Nov.–mid Apr.

URL: https://www.goko.go.jp/multilingual_eng/
**Sightseeing Bus Tours:**

**Pirika (by Akan Bus)**
(Stops at: Lake Akan, Mt. Iou, Lake Mashu, Lake Kussharo and Kussharo Marshland Observatory, etc.)
Operating Season: late Apr.–early Nov. Fare: ¥4,600
Departure Time: 8:00 (JR Kushiro Sta.) Time required: 9 hrs.
URL: http://www.uu-hokkaido.info/corporate/akanbus.shtml

**Shiretoko Roman Fureai-go (by Shari Bus)**
(Stops at: Shiretoko Pass, Kamuiwakka Falls, Shiretoko 5 Lakes, etc.)
Operating Season: Apr. 28–Oct. 31. Fare: ¥1,800 from Shari (1 hr.), ¥3,200 from Utore (4 hr. 05 min.).
Departure Time: 8:40 (Shari Bus Terminal) or 10:05 (Utore Onsen Bus Terminal).
URL: http://www.uu-hokkaido.info/corporate/sharibus.shtml

**White Pirika (by Akan Bus)**
(Stops at: Lake Akan, Lake Kussharo, Observatory No. 1 at Lake Mashu, Mt. Iou, Kussharo Airport, etc.)
Operating Season: mid-Jan.–early May. Fare: ¥4,600
Departure time: 8:30 (JR Kussharo Sta.) Time required: 9 hrs. 30 min.

**Ride the Winter Tancho with your Shitsugen 55 PASS (by Akan Bus)**
(Stops at: Akan International Crane Center, Kussharo Marshland Observatory, etc.)
Fare: ¥4,000. Departure time: 8:50 (JR Kussharo Sta.).
Time required: 7 hrs. 10 min.

[Note] Reservations are required for all tours in advance.

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**Accommodations:**

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<th>Tel.</th>
<th>Fax.</th>
<th>Room rate ($)</th>
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<td><strong>Abashiri City</strong></td>
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<td>2. Comfort Hotel Kushiro (BH)</td>
<td>(0154)21-5711</td>
<td>(0154)21-5712</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>17. Abashiri Central Hotel (H)</td>
<td>(0152)44-5151</td>
<td>(0152)43-5177</td>
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<td>4. Lasting Hotel (BH)</td>
<td>(0154)21-9111</td>
<td>(0154)21-9113</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Abashiri Ryuhyo no Oka (Y)</td>
<td>(0152)43-8558</td>
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<td>5. Hotel Rasso Kushiro (BH)</td>
<td>(0154)23-3311</td>
<td>(0154)23-6433</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Abashiri Senseikan (Y)</td>
<td>(0152)46-2630</td>
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<td>8. ANA Crowne Plaza Kushiro (H)</td>
<td>(0154)31-4111</td>
<td>(0154)24-8640</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>23. HOKUTEN NO OKA</td>
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<td>9. Hotel Crown Hills Kushiro (H)</td>
<td>(0154)22-0109</td>
<td>(0154)24-5498</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Lake Abashir Tsuruga Resort (H)</td>
<td>(0152)48-3211</td>
<td>(0152)48-3220</td>
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<td>10. Kushiro Prince Hotel (H)</td>
<td>(0154)31-1111</td>
<td>(0154)31-1202</td>
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<td>Rausu Onsen in Shiretoko Peninsula</td>
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<td><strong>Nemuro City</strong></td>
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<td>24. Minshuku Yonemaru (M)</td>
<td>(0153)87-6110</td>
<td>(0153)87-6111</td>
<td>¥</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Hotel New Nemuro (BH)</td>
<td>(0153)24-4141</td>
<td>(0153)24-1271</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>25. Business Hotel Isabri (BH)</td>
<td>(0153)87-2533</td>
<td>(0153)87-2641</td>
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<td>12. Ebiyua (M)</td>
<td>(0153)24-5743</td>
<td>(0153)24-5743</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>26. Takashimaya Ryokan (R)</td>
<td>(0153)87-2191</td>
<td>(0153)87-2191</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. East Harbor Hotel (BH)</td>
<td>(0153)24-1515</td>
<td>(0153)24-0835</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Hotel Minenouy (H)</td>
<td>(0153)87-3001</td>
<td>(0153)87-3025</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Nemuro Green Hotel (BH)</td>
<td>(0153)24-7711</td>
<td>(0153)24-7722</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>28. Rausu Dai-ichi Hotel (R)</td>
<td>(0153)87-2239</td>
<td>(0153)87-2277</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Nemuro Grand Hotel (H)</td>
<td>(0153)24-6611</td>
<td>(0153)23-3593</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Hotel Saksey (BH)</td>
<td>(0153)87-2171</td>
<td>(0153)87-5017</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Rausu Ono yado Marumi (M)</td>
<td>(0153)88-1313</td>
<td>(0153)88-2128</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Remarks:**

1. 3 – 5 correspond to those on the maps on page 2/6, 3/6 & 5/6
H = Hotel
R = Ryokan
BH = Business Hotel
¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen
¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen
¥ = 8,000 yen or less

**[Good to know] Admission and opening times at tourist attractions:**

- Last entry to the most of attractions is 30 min. before the closing time.
- In general, if their weekly closing day (most are on Mon.) falls on a national holiday, they are open on the day and are closed on the following day after the holiday(s).
- Most are closed throughout a part of New Year holiday period (especially Dec. 29—Jan. 3).
- Please visit the official website of each place / your nearest tourist information center for the updates.

**JNTO TIC (Tourist Information Center)**

TIC of Japan National Tourism Organization is your helping hand while in Japan. Its main services are providing travel information and free literature on Japan such as tourist transportation, and suggesting tour itineraries, etc.

1F, Shin-Tokyo Bldg., 3-3-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0005
Tel. 03-3201-3331 (in Japan)
Open daily from 9:00 to 18:00 (Closed on Jan. 1)
https://www.jnto.go.jp

JNTO Website: https://www.jnto.go.jp

All information, including transportation schedules, fares, prices and accommodation charges which is contained in this leaflet is based on data as of December 2018, and is subject to change without notice. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, regrettably errors do occasionally occur. Therefore, you should check with organizations concerned for updated and accurate information on your chosen destination. JNTO shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature that may arise as a result, directly or indirectly, from the use of any of the information or material contained in this leaflet.

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