

Practical Travel Guide - 104

FURANO, ASAHIKAWA
and SOUNKYO GORGE

JNTO

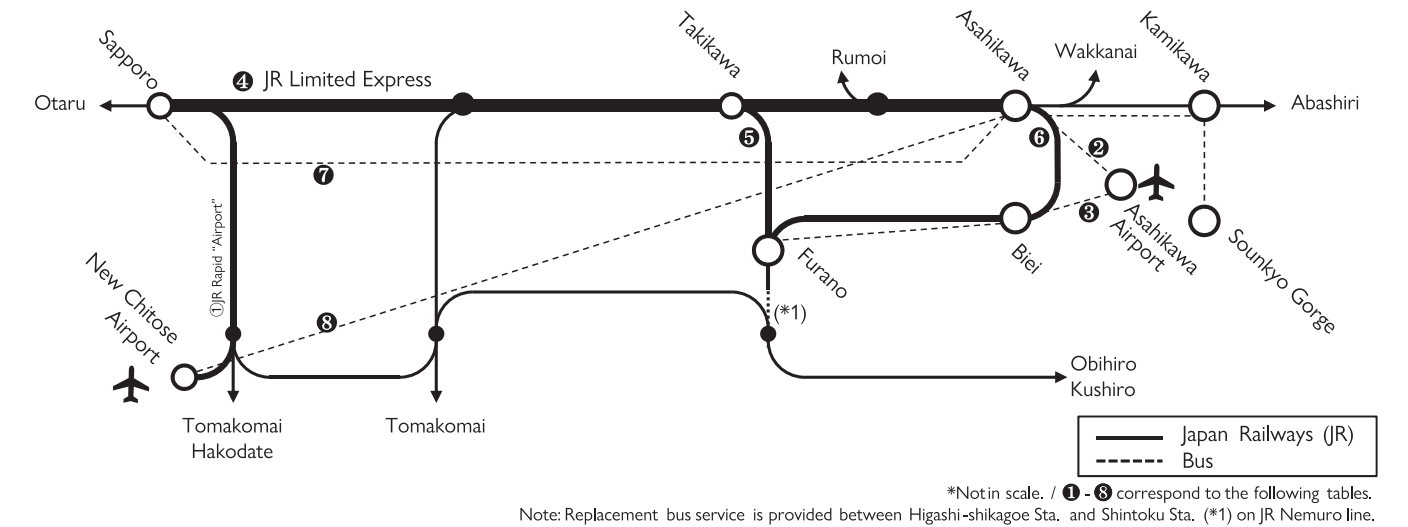
Japan National
Tourism Organization
日本政府観光局

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In collaboration with
Tourist Information Centers in the area

Access to Asahikawa & Furano:



By Air

From	To	Operated by	Approx. Travel Time	Access to Downtown
Haneda (Tokyo) Narita (Chiba)	New Chitose (Sapporo)	JAL / ANA / ADO / SKY JJP / VNL / SJO	1 hr. 30 min. / 1 hr. 35 min.	[To Sapporo Sta.] - By JR Rapid Train "Airport" ① 35 min. ¥1,150 - By Airport Bus 80 min. ¥1,100
Itami / Kansai (Osaka)		JAL / ANA / JJP / APJ	1 hr. 45 min. / 1 hr. 55 min.	
Chubu* (Nagoya)		JAL / ANA / ADO / SKY JJP / WAJ	1 hr. 35 min.	
Haneda (Tokyo)	Asahikawa	JAL / ANA / ADO	1 hr. 35 min.	[To Asahikawa Sta.] - By Airport Bus ② 35 min. ¥630 [To Biei Sta. / Furano Sta.] - By Bus "Lavender" ③ 15 min. ¥380 / 1 hr. ¥790
Chubu* (Nagoya)		ANA	1 hr. 40 min.	

*Chubu Int'l Airport (Centrair).

By Rail

From	To	By	Approx. Travel Time	Price
Sapporo	Asahikawa	④ JR Limited Express "Kamui", "Lilac" "Okhotsk" & "Soya"	1 hr. 25 min.	¥5,220*
Sapporo	Takikawa		1 hr. 5 min.	¥6,430* (Sapporo – Furano via Takikawa)
Takikawa	Furano	⑤ JR Nemuro Line (Local / Rapid)	1 hr. 5 min.	
Asahikawa	Biei	⑥ JR Furano Line (Local)	1 hr. 10 min.	¥1,290
			35 min.	¥640

*Fare + express charge (with seat reservation, normal season).

By Bus

From	To	Approx. Travel Time	Price	Ticketing & Operator
Sapporo Sta.	Asahikawa Sta.	⑦ 1 hr. 55 min.	¥2,100*	JR Hokkaido Bus Hokkaido Chuo Bus Dohoku Bus
New Chitose Airport	Asahikawa Sta.	⑧ 2 hrs. 45 min.	¥3,800*	Japan Bus Lines (Asahikawa Denkikido Bus & Hokuto Bus)

*Reservation required.

*See p. 6 for admission and opening times.

FURANO and BIEI

Furano (population 21,610) is a “garden city” in a rich natural setting. As well as agricultural products, it is also noted for its wines, cheeses, lavender and other natural produce. Biei, about 15 minutes by car from Asahikawa Airport, is a “hill town” offer-

ing expansive views of beautiful country landscapes. Its magnificent natural setting, so typical of Hokkaido, continues to attract many photographers to the area.

Places of Interest in Furano:

① **Furano Marche** (フラノ・マルシェ): An emporium of local foods just 7 minutes on foot from Furano Sta. Along with its food courts, cafés, souvenir shops and farmers’ markets selling freshly gathered vegetables; this is also where the people of Furano come to relax. Open: 9:00 – 19:00 (May 3 – 5, mid Jun. – end of Sep.), 10:00 – 19:00 Closed: Nov. 26 – 30, Dec 31 and Jan. 1)

② **Farm Tomita** (ファーム富田): A nursery farm to delight tourists, with fields full of lavender and other colorful flowers. The shop has a wide range of souvenirs, including lavender aroma oil, pot pourri and soap. Admission free. 7 min. on foot from Lavender Batake Sta. (only stops in spring and autumn), 25 min. on foot from Naka-Furano Sta. Open: 8:30 / 9:00 a.m. to 16:00 / 16:30 / 17:00 / 17:30 / 18:00 (depending on the season and individual facilities).

③ **Furano Cheese Factory** (富良野チーズファクトリー): Various cheeses using fresh milk produced at Furano farms are made and sold here. Particularly unique is the marbled wine cheddar cheese, made by blending local “Furano wine” into the cheese. Along with the adjacent ice milk factory, hands-on produce workshop and pizza factory, this is a popular tourist destination in Furano. About 10 min. by taxi from Furano Sta. Open: 9:00 – 17:00, – 16:00 (Nov. – Mar.) Closed: New Year holiday

④ **Furano Winery & Furano Wine House** (ふらのワイン&ふらのワインハウス) About 5 min. by taxi from Furano Sta., there is a winery situated on a hill above the town. You can enjoy not only the factory visit but also the view of early-blooming lavender field between late Jun.- mid Jul. “Furano Wine House”, a restaurant 9 min. walk from the winery, offers a panoramic view over the streets of Furano and a full selection of local foods on its menu. Open: [Winery] 9:00-17:00, [Wine House] 11:00-21:00. Closed: New Year holiday.

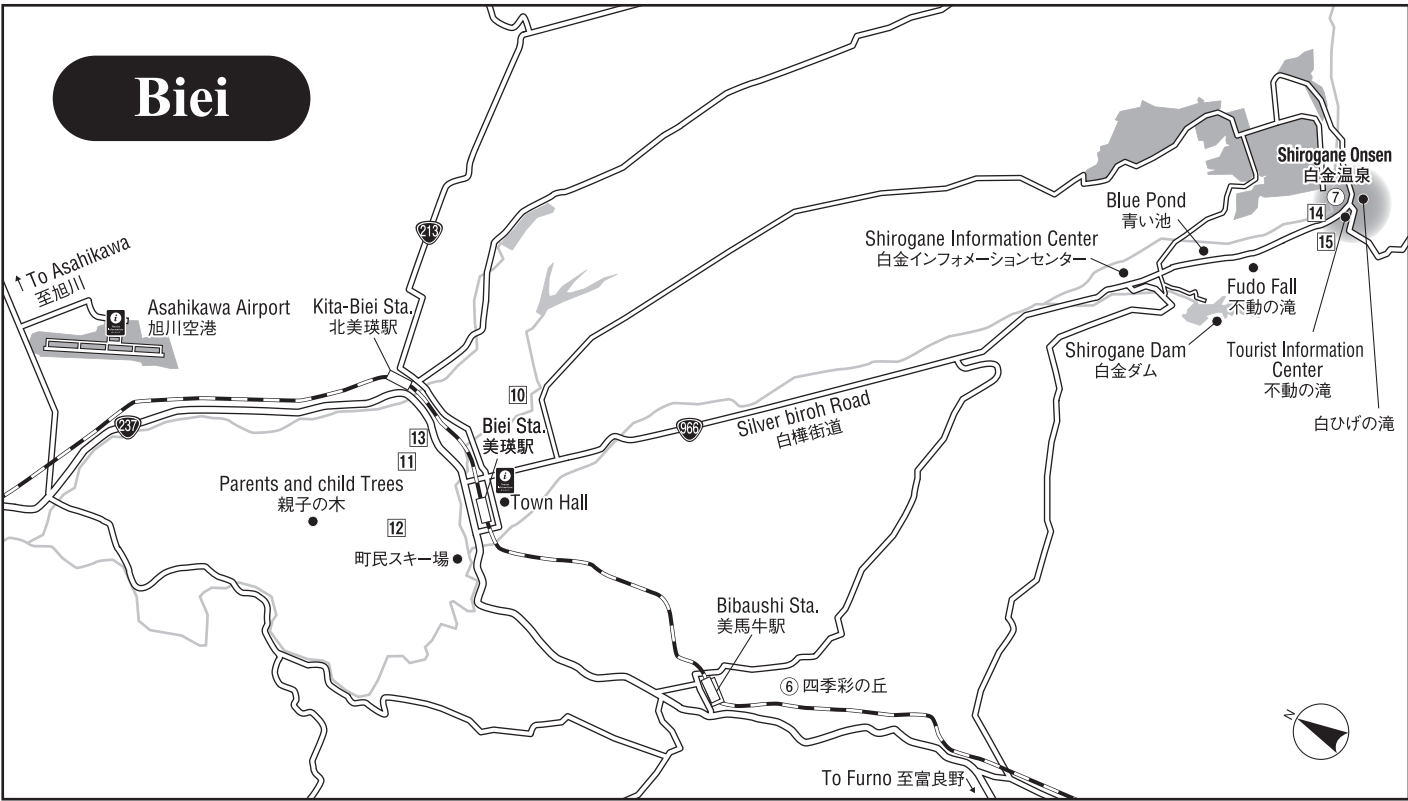
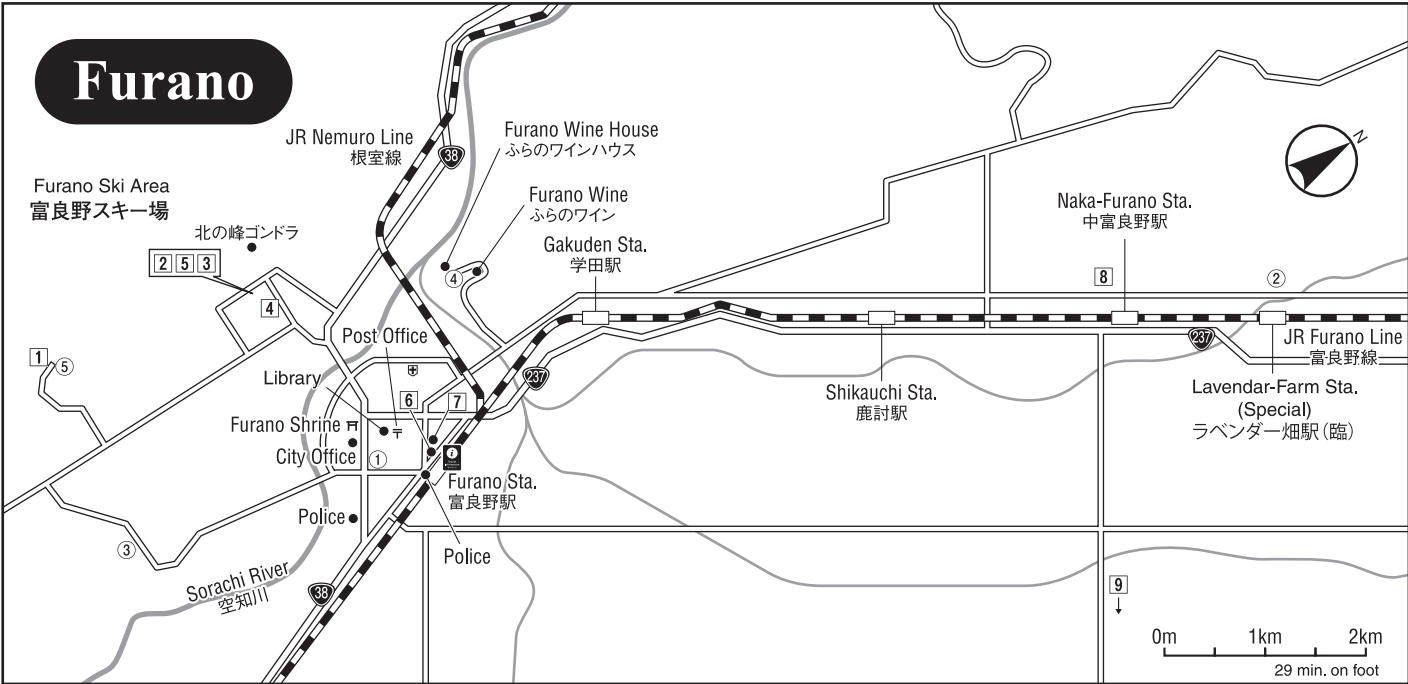
⑤ **Ningle Terrace** (ニングルテラス): Ningle Terrace is a collection of handicraft shops and cafés in 15 log houses scattered around quiet woodland next to the New Furano Prince Hotel. Woodcraft, glass products, candles and others crafted from nat-

ural materials are displayed and sold here. 10 min. by taxi from Furano Sta. Open: 12:00 – 8:45, 10:00 – 8:45 (Jul. – Aug.), depending on the weather and individual stores.

Places of Interest in Biei:

⑥ **Shikisai-no-Oka (Flower Park)** (展望花畑 四季彩の丘): A vast 7ha landscape of flower fields, set against the majestic backdrop of the Taisetsu mountain range and scenic hills. Here, up to 30 types of flower are in bloom at various times from spring to autumn. Admission is free, but a donation of around 200 yen per person is requested for the upkeep of the fields. 25 min. on foot from Bibaushi Sta. or 12 min. on foot from Biei Sta. Open: 8:30 – 18:00, 9:00 – 16:00 (Dec. – Feb.), – 16:30 (Nov., Mar.), – 17:00 (Apr., May, Oct.)

⑦ **Biei Shirogane-Onsen Hot Springs** (びえい白金温泉): A hot spring resort in the foothills, with a panoramic view of the Tokachi mountain range. The road from Biei to Shirogane passes through a 4km stretch of silver birch forest, earning it the nickname “Shirakaba Kaido” (Silver Birch Road). The birch forest grew naturally after a volcanic mudflow when Mount Tokachi erupted in 1926. Nearby is “Blue Pond”, so named for the color of its water. 30 min. from Dohoku Bus Biei Sta. Get off at the final stop, “Shirogane-Onsen”.

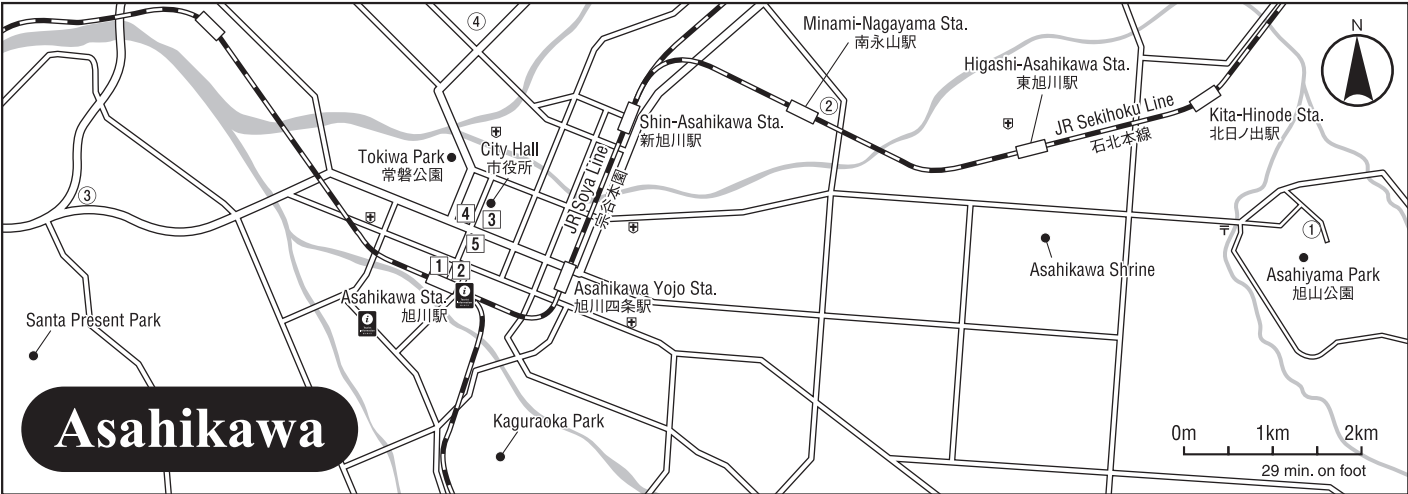


Asahikawa

- ① **Asahiyama Zoo** (旭山動物園): Japan’s northernmost zoo, opened in 1967. Noted for its introduction of “behavior displays” showcasing the animals’ natural activity and lifestyle, this is now one of Asahikawa’s best-known sightseeing spots. Animals can be seen in thrilling close-up, whether in the Seal Aquarium cylindrical tunnel (“Marine Way”), the giant pool in the Polar Bear Aquatic Park or the underwater tunnel in the Penguin Aquarium. 35 – 40 min. by bus from Asahikawa Sta. Take bus 41, 42 or 47 from bay 6. Open: <Summer> End of Apr. – Early Nov., 9:30 – 17:15 (enter by 16:00), <Winter> Mid Nov. – Early Apr., 10:30 – 15:30 (enter by 15:00) Admission: adults (above high school students): ¥820, children (below high school students): free

② **Asahikawa Ramen Village** (旭川ラーメン村): Inside the massive shopping center “Asahikawa Western Powers”, eight Asahikawa ramen restaurants vie for your custom. You can fully enjoy Asahikawa ramen here. 5 minutes walk from Minami-Nagayama Sta. (It takes about 15 min. from Asahikawa Sta.) Open: 11:00 – 20:00 Closed: Jan. 1.
- ③ **Snow Crystal Museum** (雪の美術館): This museum provides opportunities to learn about the beauty of the world of snow. 15 min. by car from Asahikawa Sta. Open: 9:00-17:00. Closed: New Year holiday.

④ **Asahikawa Museum of Sculpture** (旭川市彫刻美術館), 25 min. by bus from Asahikawa Sta., exhibits 12 sculpture works by Teijiro Nakahara, an influential sculpture artist lived in the city during his young days in early 20th century, and corrects artworks related with sculpture. The building, designated as an Important Cultural Property, was built in 1905 as a military club, and is still remaining the original atmosphere in the time.



Sounkyo

The Sounkyo Gorge (層雲峡), spread across the foothills of the Daisetsu (or Taisetsu) mountain range, has been created through centuries of erosion by the Ishikari River. As well as **Access to Sounkyo:**

having its own Onsen (hot spring), it is also popular as an entrance to **the Daisetsuzan National Park** (大雪山国立公園) and its climbing trails.

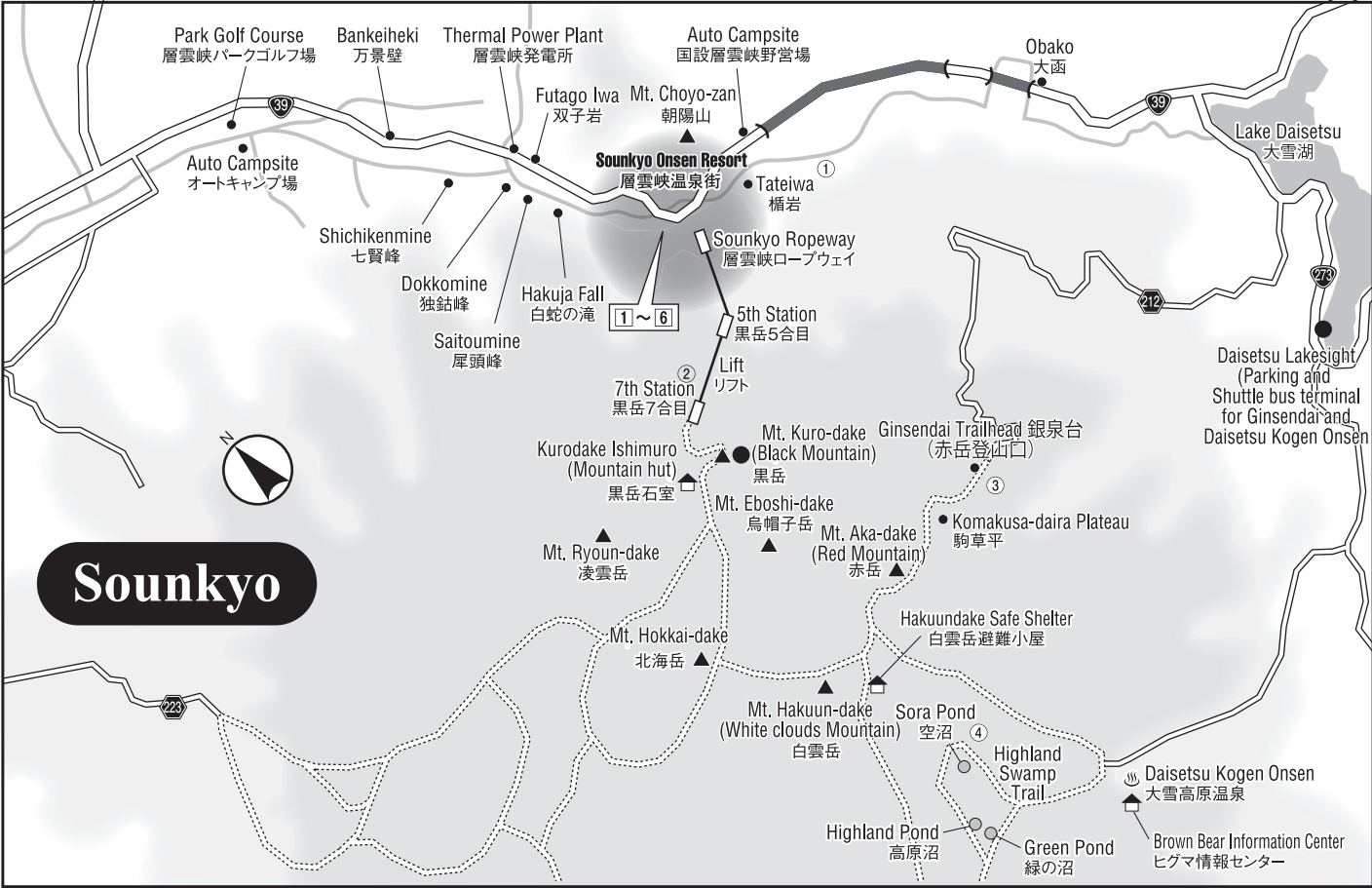
From	To	By	Approx. Travel Time	Price
Asahikawa	Kamikawa	JR Ltd. Exp. Train “Okhotsk”, “Taisetsu”	45 min.	¥2,450*
		JR Local Train (Sekihoku Line)	1 hr. 20 min.	¥1,290
Kamikawa	Sounkyo	Dohoku Bus	30 min.	¥890
Asahikawa			1 hr. 55 min.	¥2,140

*Fare + express charge (with seat reservation).

Places of Interest in Sounkyo:

- ① **Ryusei and Ginga Waterfalls** (流星・銀河の滝): Two waterfalls tumbling down a sheer cliff face skirting the Ishikari River. The graceful appearance of the “Ginga (milky way) Waterfall”, its waters falling like fine strands of cotton, contrasts with the manly power of the “Ryusei (shooting star) Waterfall” with its single heavy flow. You can enjoy the great view of two waterfalls, included in Japan’s 100 best waterfalls, from the Sobakudai (双瀑台) observation deck. 10 min. by car or 30 min. walk from Sounkyo bus terminal to a rest house, the gateway toward the observation deck. (Shuttle bus service is available from Jul. to Sep.) And next 25 min. walk to the deck. *The observation deck is cut off by snow in Winter.
- ② **Mt. Kurodake** (黒岳): The ropeway takes you to the 5th Sta., the gateway to the summit (1,984 m). Although climbing gears are required for walking on the trails, you may enjoy a short walk in designated routes around the 5th Sta. in warmer season. Sounkyo visitor center, near the ropeway station, will assist your nature experience in the area. [Ropeway] Open: 8:00-16:00 (vary on climbing & red leaves seasons). Fare: ¥2,400 for round trip. Closed: Mid winter due to heavy snow.
- ③ **Ginsendai** (銀泉台): About 50 min. by car from Sounkyo town. A trek of about 3-4 hrs. to the summit. Enjoy alpine

- flowers in summer and Japan’s earliest red leaves in autumn. The vivid combination of reds, yellows and greens is definitely worth seeing. Open from late Jun. to early Oct., and the best is between mid and late Sep.
- ④ **Daisetsu Kogen Onsen Numa-meguri trail**, or Highland Swamp Trail (大雪高原温泉 沼めぐり): 40 min. by car from Sounkyo Onsen resort area to Daisetu Kogen Onsen. A trekking course connecting over ten ponds and marshes. The beauty is not only in autumn when colored leaves are reflected in the water surface but also in early summer time when alpine plants start to bloom. Visitors have to attend the introductory talk at the Higuma (Brown Bear) Information Center, the entrance of trails, before setting off. Water-proof long shoes or climbing shoes are required. [The Brown Bear Information Center and trail entrance] Open: 7:00-13:00 between late Jun. to early Oct.
- [Note for autumn leaves viewing] Traveling by car is restricted during the peak season between mid and late Sep. every year. Shuttle bus services are available from Sounkyo bus terminal to the Daisetsu Lakesight parking area. You can transfer to the next shuttle bus going to ③ / ④ at there. Please visit your nearest Tourist Information Center and reconfirm the updates before you visit.



Accommodations:

Name of facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)	Name of facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)
Furano:				Asahikawa:			
① New Furano Prince Hotel (H)	(0167)22-1111	(0167)22-1189	¥¥	① JR In Asahikawa Hotel (H)	(0166)24-8888		¥
② Furano Guest House (P)	(0167)39-1551	(0167)39-1552	¥¥	② Court Hotel Asahikawa (H)	(0166)26-0510	(0166)26-9479	¥¥¥
③ Fresh Powder Apartment (P)	(0167)23-4738	—	¥¥	③ Hoshino Resort OMO7 Asahikawa (H)	(0166)29-2666	(0166)24-2114	¥
④ Alpine Backpackers (YH)	(0167)22-1311	(0167)23-4385	¥	④ Hotel Cresent Asahikawa (H)	(0166)27-1111	(0166)29-2222	¥
⑤ Hotel Naturwald Furano (P)	(0167)22-1211	(0167)22-1212	¥	⑤ Kuretake Inn Asahikawa (H)	(0166)27-9111	(0166)27-9100	¥
⑥ Natulux Hotel (P)	(0167)22-1777	—	¥				
⑦ Sumire Inn (P)	(0167)23-4767	(0167)23-4754	¥	Sounkyo:			
⑧ Furano Youth Hostel (YH)	(0167)44-4441	(0167)44-4521	¥	① Sounkaku Grand Hotel (H)	(01658)5-3111	(01658)5-3302	¥¥¥
⑨ Akane Yado (G)	(0167)44-4177	(0167)44-4177	¥	② Hotel Taisetsu (H)	(01658)5-3211	(01658)5-3420	¥¥¥
Biei:				③ Sounkyo Kanko Hotel (H)	(01658)5-3101	(01658)5-3362	¥
⑩ Natsumi no Sato (P)	(0166)92-2773	(0166)92-2884	¥¥	④ Choyo Tei (H)	0570-026572	—	¥
⑪ Pension Ken & Mary (P)	(0166)92-4194	—	¥¥	⑤ Mount View Hotel (H)	(01658)5-3011	(01658)5-3010	¥¥
⑫ Biei Potato no Oka (P)	(0166)92-3255	—	¥	⑥ Sounkyo Hostel (G)	080-2862-4080	—	¥
⑬ The Small Inn Poplar (P)	(0166)92-0127	—	¥¥				
⑭ Shirogane Park Hills (H)	(0166)94-3041	(0166)94-3236	¥				
⑮ Taisetsuzan Shirogane Kanko Hotel (H)	(0166)94-3111	(0166)94-3117	¥				

Remarks:

Rate per person.

H = Hotel
 P = Pension
 G = Guest House
 YH = Youth Hostel

¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen
 ¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen
 ¥ = 8,000 yen or less

[Good to know] Hiking / Trekking / Climbing safety:

- Most of the routes pass through habitats of bears and other wild animals.
- To ensure a safe visit for both you and the wildlife, please make an effort to prevent unwanted wild animal encounters.
- Stopping by the nearest tourist information center / a park visitor center is highly recommended to have the practical tips.



 Japan Official Travel App






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 spots, 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.japan.travel/en/plan/tic/>



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

<https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/list-of-volunteer-guides/>

[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.

**TOURIST INFORMATION in the area****Furano Biei Tourism Centre (JR Furano Sta.):**

1-30 Hinode-cho, Furano city, Hokkaido

Hours: 9:00-18:00

Tel.: 0167-23-3388

Asahikawa Tourism & Local Products Information Center (JR Asahikawa Sta.):

8-3-1 Miyashita Dori, Asahikawa city, Hokkaido

Hours: 8:30 (Jun. - Sep.), 9:00 (Oct. - May) -19:00

Closed: Dec. 31 to Jan. 2

Tel.: 0166-26-6665

To find

other Tourist Information Centers,
 visit <https://tic.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 November 2019, 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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