Unlimited use of Hokkaido’s expressways at a fixed price!

HOKKAIDO EXPRESSWAY PASS

3 ADVANTAGES

1. FIXED PRICE FOR PEACE OF MIND!
   Peace of mind, as no matter how far you travel by expressway in Hokkaido, the price is fixed.

2. NO NEED TO SPEAK OR READ JAPANESE!
   When you use ETC, there’s no need to come to a complete stop at toll booths.
   And you need not worry about communication in Japanese. Please pass through the ETC gate at no more than 20 km/h.

3. SAVE MORE TIME!
   Hokkaido is huge! It’s about 300 km from New Chitose Airport to Hidaka, and about 450 km to Shiribetsu.
   Shorten your traveling time by using the expressways.

With the Hokkaido Expressway Pass, enjoy unlimited use of Hokkaido’s expressways, for one fixed price!
Be sure to rent an ETC card for the Hokkaido Expressway Pass with your vehicle.

PRICE CHART

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of days</th>
<th>2 days</th>
<th>3 days</th>
<th>4 days</th>
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<th>6 days</th>
<th>7 days</th>
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<td>¥3,200</td>
<td>¥4,800</td>
<td>¥6,600</td>
<td>¥7,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Price (yen)</td>
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<td>¥909</td>
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For rental charges for the vehicle and ETC card are not included.
Q: Valid for vehicles classified as “ordinary passenger cars” according to expressway policies.

Website: http://www.driveplaza.com/trip/draw/的世界/hokkaido_exp/express/en.html

Published by Nippon Expressway Company Limited, October 2019

ENGLISH
The expressways of Hokkaido

Map Key

- Do-I-Expressway
- Sapporo Expressway
- Hokkaido Expressway
- Sapporo Ring Road
- Obihiro Expressway
- Obihiro-Kushiro Expressway
- Hokkaido Box Culvert Route
- Route Markings
- Others

Guide to SA/PA Marks

- Information
- Petrol
- Restroom
- Shopping area
- Bus stop
- Free parking
- Others

Beppu-Yokosuka Exit (Hokkaido Station)
Restrooms, restaurants, etc. within walking distance.
Basic Hokkaido knowledge

The four seasons in Hokkaido

Spring with its fresh verdure and beautiful flowers, pleasant and intoxicating summer, autumn with its abundant crops and colorful leaves, and winter smothered in snowscapes. Hokkaido, which has four particularly distinct seasons even for Japan, takes on magnificent charm in each season.

Hokkaido spring

Hokkaido, where cherry blossoms bloom beginning in late April, has the latest cherry blossom viewing season in Japan. The best time to see such blossoms is in mid-April, when you can also try your hand at strawberry picking. In addition to cherry blossoms, there are beautiful tulips and daffodils. Lovely wildflowers like dog-tooth violet and Crepsidum umbilicata also begin to bloom in the fields.

Hokkaido summer

The best time to see such flowers as lavender, blue, sunflowers and sage in Hokkaido is summer. Summer is the outdoor season when you can be active and enjoy nature. Examples of summer outdoor activities include rafting down a river in a large rubber boat and going for a leisurely hike amid beautiful scenery. There are also beer gardens held all over Hokkaido, where you can relish the beer in one hand while tasting delicious Hokkaido specialty dishes.

Hokkaido autumn

Daisetuzan Volcanic Group and Mount Asahi are the first places in Japan where the leaves begin to change color in the fall. In Hokkaido in autumn, not only can you enjoy viewing colorful leaves quite early, but you can also see the full bloom between early September and late October. Autumn is also the season for harvesting various crops from the vast farmlands of Hokkaido, and during this time you can partake of apples and grapes picked in orchards. Seafood is also in season in the fall, including salmon, the most famous Hokkaido fish.

Hokkaido winter

Events related to snow and ice are held throughout Hokkaido in winter, including the world-famous Sapporo Snow Festival. For scenery you can only see in Hokkaido in winter, don’t miss the drift ice in the Sea of Okhotsk. Hokkaido is said to be perfect for skiing and snowboarding because it has less humidity and better quality snow than Hokkaido. Winter activities are wildly popular in Hokkaido, including of course the classic winter sports, but also such sports as snowmobiling and dog-sledding.

Temperature and snowfall in major cities

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<td>49</td>
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<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Sapporo Meteorological Observatory Annual 2016-2017, snow depth measured on the 15th of each month (Sapporo average)

Clothing advice

**April-June**

This time of year the sun’s rays get warmer but the winds are often still cold. It sometimes suddenly gets colder in the morning or at night, so it’s a good idea to keep a light coat or jacket with you.

**July-Sept.**

You can be comfortably wearing a short-sleeved shirt during the day, but after mid-September the temperatures suddenly drop in the evening and morning, so be careful. When you visit tourist attractions and after taking a light jacket with you will you please refrain?

**Oct.-Nov.**

During this season, it gradually gets colder in the morning and evening, and the temperature extremes during the day get wider. Have a thin down jacket or thin coat at the ready.

**Dec.-March**

Choose a jacket in coat made with an emphasis on protection against cold, layers that are easy to take off, and put on and footwear with good traction. Sweats, gloves, and hats are especially effective for keeping out the cold.
Hokkaido foods

Delicious food may be the thing you look forward to most when you take a trip to Hokkaido. The prefecture is full of appealing offerings including dishes made using seafood and mountain vegetables, local dishes such as ramen and Jingisukan (grilled mutton with vegetables), and sweets made from fresh dairy products.

**Jingisukan**

About 100 years ago, Jingisukan was created as a dish to use the meat of sheep raised in Hokkaido to produce wool. There are two types of Jingisukan: that made from the meat of sheep aged 1 year or younger and that made from mutton—and there are two ways of eating it: dipping it in sauce after grilling it or seasoning it before cooking it.

**Soup curry**

This is a spicy soups-type curry born in Sapporo in the 1970s. This dish is characterized by smooth soup and dynamic ingredients such as large pieces of vegetables and whole chicken legs, and there are many restaurants that specialize in it. Most people put rice in the soup and heat it up.

**Ramen**

In addition to the big three Hokkaido ramens—Sapporo, miso, Hokkaido salt and Asahidaya soy sauce—there are many varieties with seasonings. The most common ramen is from Hokkaido, which features a variety of soup, noodle, and topping types.

**Cafe sweets**

Hokkaido is also a kingpin of sweets, having a beautifully good selection of ingredients for making them, including fresh milk, butter, cheese and other dairy products, as well as wheat, egg, and adzuki beans. You can satisfy your sweets at various establishments throughout the prefecture, be they softserve ice cream, pudding or cheesecake.

Hokkaido onsen

Hokkaido is sometimes referred to as an onsen paradise. There are popular onsen towns throughout the prefecture with unique water properties, abundant hot spring water, atmospheres that vary with the four seasons, and magnificent views. Why not try relaxing in a hot spring bath at the end of a day of travel?

**Noboribetsu-onsen, the ‘onsen department store’**

Noboribetsu-onsen, which has 10,000 liters of water output per day, is the most famous hot spring town in Hokkaido. Noboribetsu-onsen is sometimes called “the onsen department store” because it has nine types of hot spring water, allowing visitors to easily go around and try different types of hot spring water. The waters sources that support Noboribetsu-onsen, such as Asahigakudani and Oyamaonsen, are also popular tourist destinations.

**Dynamic geysers**

Geysers are hot springs that spout from the ground periodically.

At Shikabe Kanketsusen Park in Ishikari, you can see a highly unusual geyser. Watch the geyser that shoots 100 liters of water 15 meters high every 12 minutes while soaking your feet in a foot bath.

Hokkaido has more hot spring resorts than anywhere in Japan

Tucked away in the mountainous vicinity of Hokkaido is the mountain onsen resort of Shikabe, where the hot water derives from a hot spring at an altitude of almost 1,000 meters above sea level. The water is formed from volcanism, where active volcanoes cool the hot water. The water is a beautiful reddish-brown color, and the hot water is said to have medicinal effects, such as improving circulation and promoting healing.
Learn about Ainu culture

The Ainu people, who have lived in Hokkaido in harmony with nature since before the Japanese arrived, have their own rich culture that includes their own language, oral literature and traditional etiquette. Even today, their precious culture continues to be handed down, such as through a ceremony to welcome new salmon and an Ainu language speech contest.

Appreciate Ainu dance, which conveys a high level of spirituality

Akanko Ainu Theater Ikoro

This is a facility where you can watch traditional Ainu dances, which is registered by the Japanese government as an Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property and by UNESCO on the list of Humanity's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Ainu dancers, who express respect and appreciation for ancestors and gods, has a simple power and mystic beauty and it resonates in the heart of the viewer.

Address: 746 Akanko-onsho-cho, Abashiri-shi, Hokkaido
Chosen Hippo Hall Annex
Operating hours: Require for details
http://www.ainu-aika.jp/

Come into contact with the culture and life of the Ainu people

Many and various display items that teach about Ainu life

Sapporo Ainu Cultural Promotion Center ‘Sapporo Pirka Kotan’

Because you can take photos of and touch Ainu traditional handicrafts and the clothes in this facility, you can feel closer to the Ainu culture. There are also Ainu cultural workshops available (for a few reservations required). They include embroidery with Ainu designs and making mudAN (Ainu mouth cups).

Address: 27 Kogayamacho, Minami, Sapporo
Chosen Aihou-cho, Sapporo
Chosen Aihou-cho, Sapporo
awning and New Year holidays 2023 to 2027
Operating hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
http://www.city.sapporo.jp/shiren/pirka-kotan/

Nikutani Ainu Culture Museum

This museum is divided into four zones: ‘Kotan’, a collection of everyday items that have become folk art; ‘Kotan’, where you encounter spiritual culture such as prayer and bath; ‘Mitukor’, which relies on farming, hunting, fishing and the rice and ‘Mokot’, which focuses on Ainu designs. In total, about 6,000 items are on display.

Address: 55 Nikutani Boshi-cho, Domae-cho
Open every day April 16 to Nov.15 and closed on Mondays from Nov. 16 to April 15.
Closed: Dec. 23 to Jan. 1
Operating hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
http://www.town.britann.hokkaido.jp/britann/britann/

Learn about the history of Hokkaido’s settlement

When the new Meiji government was established in 1868, Yoro was renamed Hokkaido, and in 1869, the Hokkaido Development Bureau was established. The main objective of the Hokkaido Development Bureau was developing resources for modernization. Because advanced technology in such areas as agriculture, architecture and public works was needed to develop Hokkaido, officials invited foreign engineers from the United States and elsewhere. At first, the Hokkaido Development Bureau was located in Hakodate, which was a hub of interaction with foreign countries because it had one of Japan’s first ports. However, in consideration of geographical balance, a decision was made in 1873 to move its base of operations to Sapporo. Otata, which has a port and is near Sapporo, finished at this time. Otata, which grew as a stopover for maritime transportation, was called “the Wall Street of the North” because of the rapid development of its financial industry. The Hokkaido Government Office was inaugurated in 1886 to replace the Hokkaido Development Bureau, which had been abolished in 1882. The Hokkaido Government Office building completed in 1888 is now the Red Brick Office. The development of Hokkaido involved a succession of hardships. The efforts of pioneers who overcame unquenchable nature and cleared primeval forest built the cornerstone of the Hokkaido of today.

Retains the appearance of Otata from when it was a financial center

The Bank of Japan Otata Museum retains the appearance of Otata from the days when it was called “the Wall Street of the North.” Today it is open to the public as a historical museum that teaches about Otata’s role in the history of Japan and financial mechanisms. It has a popular section where you can experience how heavy 1886 bank notes.

Address: 15-16, Meiyacho, Otata
Closed: Wednesdays, and New Year holidays, between December and March. www.city.sasayama.lg.jp/touhyo/bank/

Take a trip back to the Hokkaido of yore in this village full of historical buildings

Historical Village of Hokkaido

This outdoor museum teaches about industry, arts and culture during Hokkaido’s pioneer era. This site is so large it takes half a day to tour, a daunting task. Historical buildings from all over Hokkaido have been dismantled and reerected here, where they are being preserved. We recommend you go around by horse-drawn tram in the summer and snowshoes in the winter.

Address: Kinugawa-cho, Asahidai-cho, Sapporo
Open: every day from May to September and Mondays October to April. Closed for the New Year holidays Dec. 29 to Jan. 3
Operating hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
http://www.hokkaidomura.org/

Encounter the history of Hakodate, which flourished as an international trade port

Former British Consulate in Hakodate

This is a building that was built in 1853 and used as the British Consulate until 1954. Since 1992 it has been open to the public as a museum to commemorate the opening of the port, and you can enjoy teas in the front flower room while gazing at an English garden.

Address: 33-12 Motomachi, Hakodate
Open: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. per month, seven days per week
Operating hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed from November to March. https://hokkaido-kokusai.com/jr/
Enjoy Hokkaido as depicted in stories

Hokkaido is the setting of various movies, TV dramas and anime, with its beautiful, magnificent scenery, atmospheric buildings and other features. Become the character and set out on a dramatic trip to weave a story of your own.

**The Doto Area**

*If You Are the One*

The setting for the latter half of the Chinese movie "If You Are the One," when the story reaches its climax, is the Doto area of Hokkaido. The film impregnated in the minds of many the quiet, beautiful scenery of such places as Kushiro, Abashiri, Shari and Nikka and set off a boom in Chinese tourism to Hokkaido.

**Lake Toya**

*Gin Tama*

In "Kintama," the anime whose live-action film version was a smash hit, the wooden sword of the main character has the character for "Lake Toya" carved into it. This wooden sword is an extremely popular souvenir and gift among visitors to Lake Toya. The Toyako Manga-Anime Festival held every June at Lake Toya, and nearly 80,000 people attended in 2018.

**Otaru**

*Love Letter*

The live story "Love Letter" which impressively depicts the streets of Otaru in winter, still enjoys greatly rooted popularity more than 20 years after its release. Why not take a walk through Otaru to check out the locations used in the movie — Mount Yen, the former Otaru Branch of Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Coral Plaza, Otaru City Hall and more — while remembering scenes from the film.

**Abashiri Prison Museum**

*Golden Kamuy*

In the adventure survival story "Golden Kamuy," which aired in Hokkaido in the last days of the Meiji era (1868-1912), it is Abashiri Prison that serves as the backdrop, and there is a lot of information about the prison and prison-related events. The prison was later converted into a museum and is designated as an important cultural property.

**Kushiro Shitsugen National Park**

*When Marnie Was There*

The anime film "When Marnie Was There" was based on a children’s novel of the same name by British novelist Joan G. Robinson. The setting of the story shifts from England to Hokkaido, but the main setting is the Kushiro wetlands. The Bear Den of the old Western-style house Marnie lived in is said to be modeled on Lake Mashūkūpu.

**Kushiro**

*Peppermint Products*

Kushiro is famous for growing a variety of vegetables used to produce more than 70 percent of the country’s peppermint. Products with the flavor of peppermint, which contain a lot of essential components, are popular gifts purchased in Hokkaido. These products include peppermint oil, peppermint cakes and peppermint rhymes made from leaves.

**Lupin the Third**

Lupin the Third

The Kaitappu area of Hamanaka, the hometown of original "Lupin the Third" creator Monkey Punch, was also the setting for the TV special "Lupin III: Evisceration of the Frog." In Kaitappu you will find many familiar characters from the manga around town. Take some photos with Lupin and the other characters.

Address: Kaitappu, Hamanaka-cho, Shippei 055-62-2511
Lupin the Third Takayama Gallery
http://www.hamanakakaitappu.com/
Sample Itineraries for the Northern/Eastern Areas

Northern Area
Sample itinerary

The natural environment, which is severe even for Hokkaido, created the wild, beautiful scenery. Seafood reared in the northern sea and produce and dairy products raised on abundant, vast land are delicacies that can only be tasted here.

Day 1
New Chitose Airport
40 min.

Day 2
Asahikawa
13 km/20 min.

Day 3
Otaru
31 km/45 min.

Day 4
Hakodate
66 km/1 hr 10 min.

Day 5
Sapporo
2 km/5 min.

Eastern Area
Sample itinerary

The magnificent scenery everyone imagines when they hear the name Hokkaido can be found here. Fully experience the charms of travel through the Eastern Area’s world-famous nature, delicious food, unique and abundant hot springs and more.

Day 1
New Chitose Airport
144 km/2 hrs 10 min.

Day 2
Otaru
13 km/20 min.

Day 3
Lake Akan
53 km/1 hr 5 min.

Day 4
Shiretoko
93 km/1 hr 30 min.

Day 5
From Sapporo Onsen
75 km/1 hr 10 min.
How to use expressway

1. Learn road signs

- Entrance signs: These signs are placed where freeway entrances and ordinary roads intersect.
- Exit signs: These signs are placed near freeway exits.

2. Obey the speed limit

The legal speed limit is 100 km/h, but when there is a speed limit specified on a sign, you may not exceed it.

3. Cars normally drive in the left lane (cruising lane)

When there are multiple lanes, the right lane must be left open for passing. Do not change lanes thoughtlessly.

4. No stopping in main lanes

Stopping or parking an automobile on a freeway is against the law. Unless you are parking in a parking area or similar facility or stopping because of a traffic jam or breakdown, you may not stop your car on a freeway.

5. No driving on the shoulder

Cars may at times be forced to stop on the shoulder because of a breakdown, and police cars, ambulances and other emergency vehicles may have to drive on the shoulder at times. When the shoulder is blocked, it hinders the work of such emergency vehicles, so never drive on the shoulder, even during times of traffic congestion.

6. Don’t drive into oncoming traffic!

If you see the opposite direction lane to your left, you are going the wrong way. Pay attention to traffic rules signs, guidance signs and markings on the road surface. Stop in a safe place and turn on your hazard lights.

7. Wear a seatbelt in all seats

The fatality rate when not wearing a seatbelt is about 14 times that when wearing a seatbelt. Wearing a seatbelt is required in all seats. A child seat is required for children ages 3 and under.

8. Maintain a safe distance between cars

Leave about 100 meters between your car and the one ahead of you when driving 100 km/h and 80 meters when driving 80 km/h. Double that distance in necessary when the road surface is wet from rain. On ice and snowy roads, normally leave 2 to 4 times that distance between your car and the one ahead of you.

9. Do not cut in front of another car

Drivers who cut off others suddenly turn the steering wheel or put on the brakes, which can result in accidents. You may not pass on a segment of freeway with just one lane in each direction.

10. Park in proper parking spaces

If a standard-sized vehicle parks in a large space or a large vehicle parks in a standard-sized space, it may inconvenience other drivers. Please park properly within a parking space appropriate for the size of your vehicle. (An attendant may direct you to a suitable parking space.) Drive slowly in the parking area. Watch out for pedestrians and other cars.

11. Avoid inattentive driving

Inattentive driving is often the direct cause of accidents. Do not look at scenery or use your mobile phone or smartphone while driving.

12. If you have an accident or breakdown...

1. Pull over onto the shoulder of the road
2. Report it
3. Get to a safe place

- If your car is still able to move, use emergency lights to warn other drivers.
- If your car cannot move, use emergency lights, set the parking brake, and move all passengers to the shoulder.

Discover Hokkaido Driving
Discover Hokkaido Driving helps everyone from novices to seasoned travelers enjoy the region. From routes to rental cars, our site is packed with everything you need to know before you get behind the wheel.

Go here for other detailed information on safety while traveling in Hokkaido:
http://safety-travel.jp
Winter freeway awareness

In winter, slowing down and maintaining a safe distance between cars are absolute requirements when driving on expressway!

Be careful!

About twice as many accidents take place in Hokkaido in the winter than between spring and fall!

Accidents suddenly increase around November in a typical year. In the winter, roads are covered in snow and ice and are extremely slippery, so it is extremely dangerous to drive on them with the same speed and handling as in summer. Always think about the worst case scenario and drive with great care.

Find the ETC gates or

Waterfall before a curve

Long descent

Hard shoulder

On bridges

Intersection/exit

Shine down before entering the ramp at interchange entrances and exits.

‘Hey, they’re doing snow removal.’ When this happens ...

Snow and ice countermeasures are taken 24 hours per day so drivers can more safely and comfortably use roads. Depending on road conditions, work may continue even after the weather has improved.

Do not pass snowplows during snow removal work.

Various snow and ice countermeasures

General snow removal

We clear snow using three snowplows and one sign vehicle that move at 60 km/h or slower. Drive with plenty of distance between cars.

We temporarily halt work so customers’ cars can proceed

Passing is prohibited during snow removal work, so we periodically stop that work for a set period of time and move our snowplows to the side of the road to allow customer cars to proceed.

Ice control work

To prevent ice from forming on road surfaces, we scatter antifreeze (sodium chloride). Antifreeze could get on your car, so when you pass, maintain a safe distance while driving until the work is finished.

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Various snow and ice countermeasures

General snow removal

We clear snow using three snowplows and one sign vehicle that move at 60 km/h or slower. Drive with plenty of distance between cars.

We temporarily halt work so customers’ cars can proceed

Passing is prohibited during snow removal work, so we periodically stop that work for a set period of time and move our snowplows to the side of the road to allow customer cars to proceed.

Ice control work

To prevent ice from forming on road surfaces, we scatter antifreeze (sodium chloride). Antifreeze could get on your car, so when you pass, maintain a safe distance while driving until the work is finished.