

# GO to Northern Hokkaido! From Asahikawa



Your Gateway  
to Tourist Information.

**xix**

**Total 1132 spots**

Asahikawa × 紋別北海道\*

# Northern Hokkaido

## AccessMap



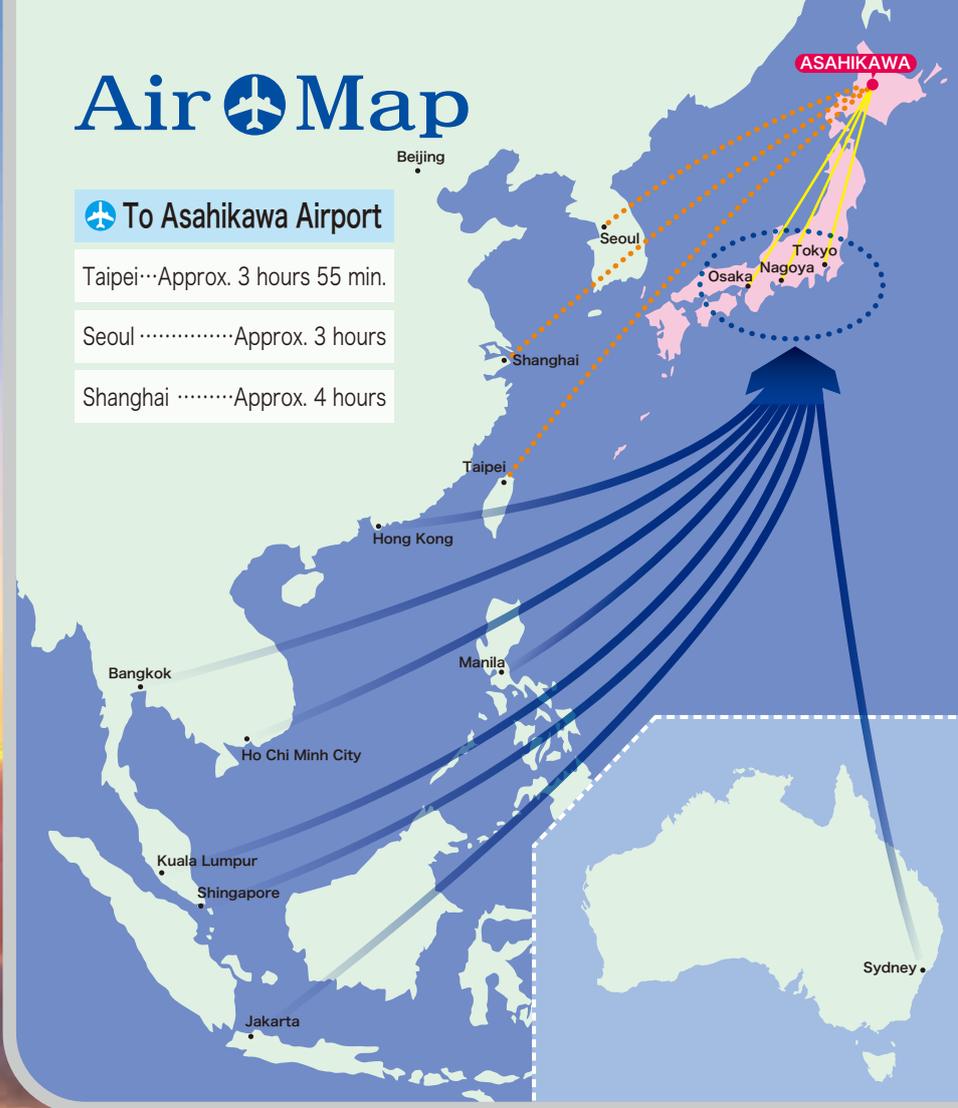
# Air Map

## To Asahikawa Airport

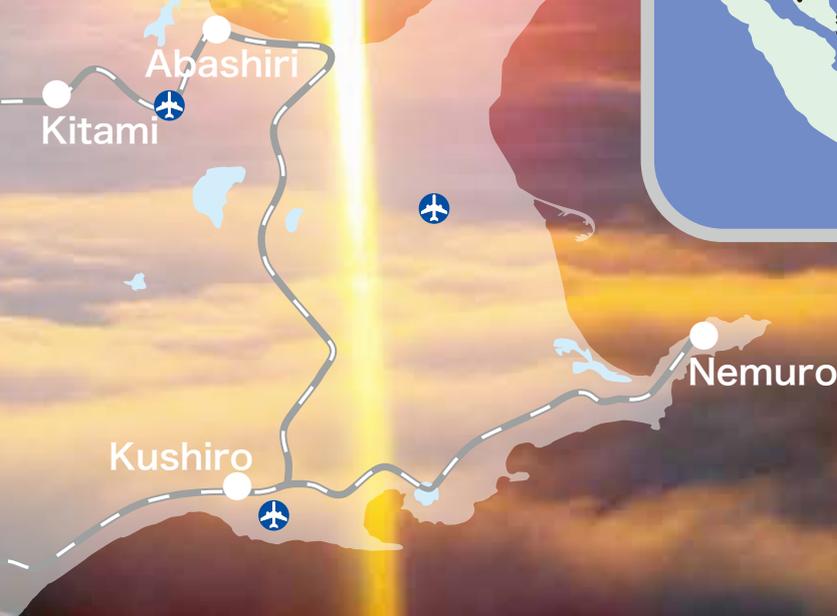
Taipei...Approx. 3 hours 55 min.

Seoul .....Approx. 3 hours

Shanghai .....Approx. 4 hours



etsu



From Asahikawa Airport	Bus	Car
To Sounkyo	•Asahikawa Airport → Asahikawa (Asahikawa Denkkidou Bus / Furano Bus) → Sounkyo (Dohoku Bus)	Prefectural Road 68/37/140→Aibetsu IC → Kamikawa Sounkyo IC→Route39
To Biei / Furano	•Asahikawa Airport → Biei / Furano (Furano Bus)	Route 237
From Asahikawa Station	Bus	JR
To Sounkyo	•Asahikawa → Sounkyo (Dohoku Bus)	Asahikawa→Kamikawa→Sounkyo (Dohoku Bus) Asahikawa→Biei→Furano (Furano Line)
To Biei / Furano	•Asahikawa → Biei (Dohoku Bus) / Furano (Dohoku Bus / Furano Bus)	Asahikawa→Kamikawa→Sounkyo (Dohoku Bus) Asahikawa→Biei→Furano (Furano Line)
From New Chitose Airport	Bus	JR
To Asahikawa/ Sounkyo/Biei	•New Chitose Airport → Sapporo (Hokkaido Chuo Bus / Hokuto Kotsu) →Asahikawa (Intercity Bus) → Sounkyo (Dohoku Bus) →Asahikawa (Intercity Bus) → Biei (Dohoku Bus) •New Chitose Airport →Asahikawa (Asahikawa Denkkidou / Hokuto Kotsu)	New Chitose Airport→Sapporo→Asahikawa New Chitose Airport→Kamikawa →Sounkyo (Dohoku Bus) New Chitose Airport→Sapporo→Asahikawa →Biei
To Furano	•New Chitose Airport → Sapporo (Hokkaido Chuo Bus / Hokuto Kotsu) →Furano (Intercity Bus)	New Chitose Airport→Sapporo→Asahikawa →Furano New Chitose Airport→Sapporo→Takikawa →Furano

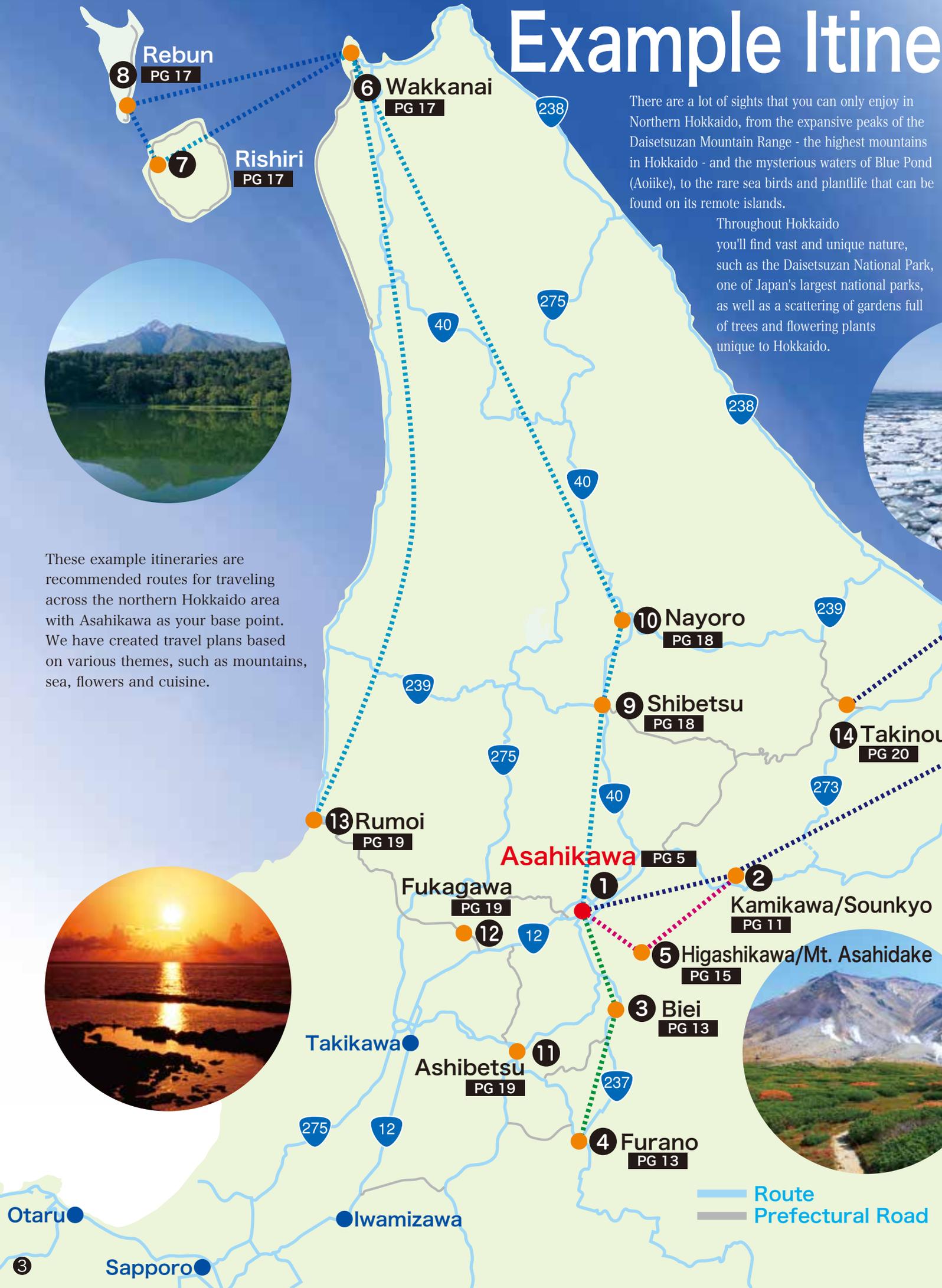
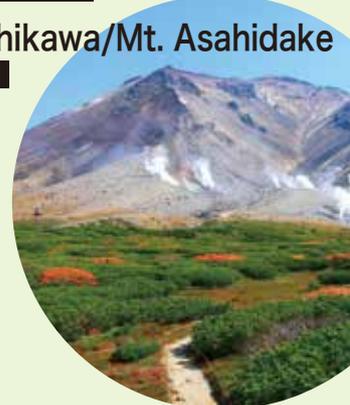
# Example Itine

There are a lot of sights that you can only enjoy in Northern Hokkaido, from the expansive peaks of the Daisetsuzan Mountain Range - the highest mountains in Hokkaido - and the mysterious waters of Blue Pond (Aoiike), to the rare sea birds and plantlife that can be found on its remote islands.

Throughout Hokkaido you'll find vast and unique nature, such as the Daisetsuzan National Park, one of Japan's largest national parks, as well as a scattering of gardens full of trees and flowering plants unique to Hokkaido.



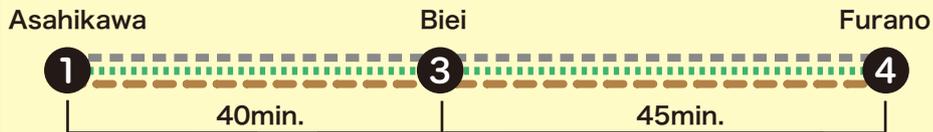
These example itineraries are recommended routes for traveling across the northern Hokkaido area with Asahikawa as your base point. We have created travel plans based on various themes, such as mountains, sea, flowers and cuisine.



Route  
Prefectural Road

## Southwest Course

### Flowers



## Southeast Course

### Mountains



## Northeast Course

### Mountains & Sea



## Northwest Course

### Sea



Travel time between cities is estimated based on travel by car.

These example itineraries are only suggestions - there are many other areas worth enjoying!

Check out the recommendations on each page of this booklet as well as on the Asahikawa Tourist & Convention Association website.

<http://www.atca.jp/>

# Asahikawa



Asahiyama Zoo

Kuranuma, Higashi Asahikawa-cho, Asahikawa City

Tel.:0166-36-1104

Polar Bear House

Asahiyama Zoo is the northernmost zoo in Japan. One of the things that makes this zoo special is that you can see exciting exhibitions that are specially made to showcase each animal's lively natural habits. Let the animals show you their most exciting behavior, whether it's swimming underwater, or actions that can only be seen at night or in the winter. The many highlights include catching a glimpse of the soles of the hippo's feet during a swim, watching the polar bear leap into the water with a big splash to catch his food, and the Penguin March that takes place in the winter snow.

Penguin House



The Red Panda Suspension Bridge



Marine Way at the Seal House



A Howling Wolf



A Floating Hippopotamus



The Penguin March (from late Dec. until around mid-Mar.)

Rows of flower gardens between the Asahikawa Station Building and the river  
(Aune Plaza)



**Asahikawa Kitasaito Garden**  
**Miyamae 2-jo 1-chome, Asahikawa City**  
**Tel.:0166-74-5966**

**An Oasis in the Heart of the City**

Gardens such as Asahikawa Kitasaito Garden are a rarity, even in Japan.

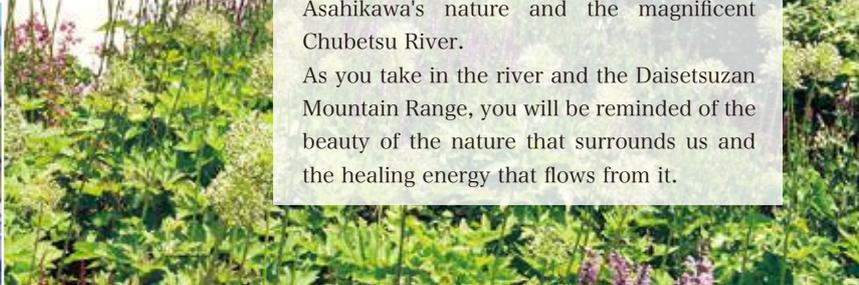
It is located in the center of the city and directly connected to Asahikawa Station.

To the north of the station is the Kaimono Koen Shopping Street, an area with over 100 stores. The garden on the south side lies in stark contrast, featuring a vast expanse of Asahikawa's nature and the magnificent Chubetsu River.

As you take in the river and the Daisetsuzan Mountain Range, you will be reminded of the beauty of the nature that surrounds us and the healing energy that flows from it.



Oike Promenade



**UENO FARM**  
 SINCE 1906

**Ueno Farm (Now Open)**  
**Nagamachō 16-chome, Asahikawa City**  
**Tel.:0166-47-8741**

**Hokkaido Garden**

The Hokkaido Garden at Ueno Farm was created based on English-style gardens, then modified to fit the northern climate and express the untamed freedom of northern Japan. From the garden, you can climb Mt. Shateki. Gaze out over the gardens that stretch out like fields on its slopes and take in the beautiful pastoral landscape from the summit. The adjacent garden shop and café are also popular.



The Gnome's Garden



The Mirrored Borders



NAYA Café



Seasonal Fruit Teas



Taco Rice



Asahikawa Shoyu (soy sauce base) Ramen

# So Many Deli Asahikawa

Walk up to the traditional curtain of one of Asahikawa's many ramen restaurants and you'll smell the scent of soy sauce drifting through the air and mixing with the sweet smell of wheat noodles boiling on the stove.

The distinctive soup and noodles of Asahikawa ramen will whet your appetite.

When you peer inside, you'll see a mix of tourists and locals, their concentration fixed on their bowls as they sip their noodles.

Shio Horumon Yaki (salt-seasoned grilled offal) originated in Asahikawa and is a part of food culture that harkens back to the area's prosperous history of pig farming.

Asahikawa is the originator of Ton Toro, which is similar to Maguro Toro (fatty tuna), because it gets its flavor from delicious fatty cuts of meat.

Shinko Yaki is another popular dish that is served at many places where grilled chicken is served. It consists of a slow-cooked, char-grilled young half chicken served with a choice of either salt or tare dipping sauce.

There are a variety of culinary delights that you'll only find in Hokkaido, such as Genghis Khan (grilled mutton and lamb), all served at amazing restaurants throughout the city!



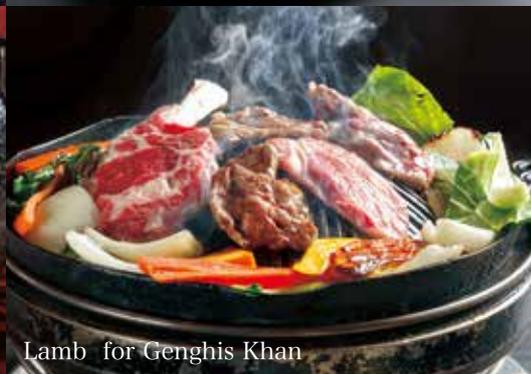
Shio Horumon Sumibi Yaki (salt-seasoned char-grilled offal)



Shinko Yaki (grilled half chicken)



Ton Toro



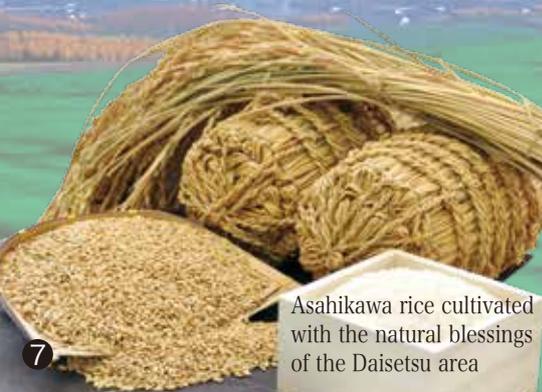
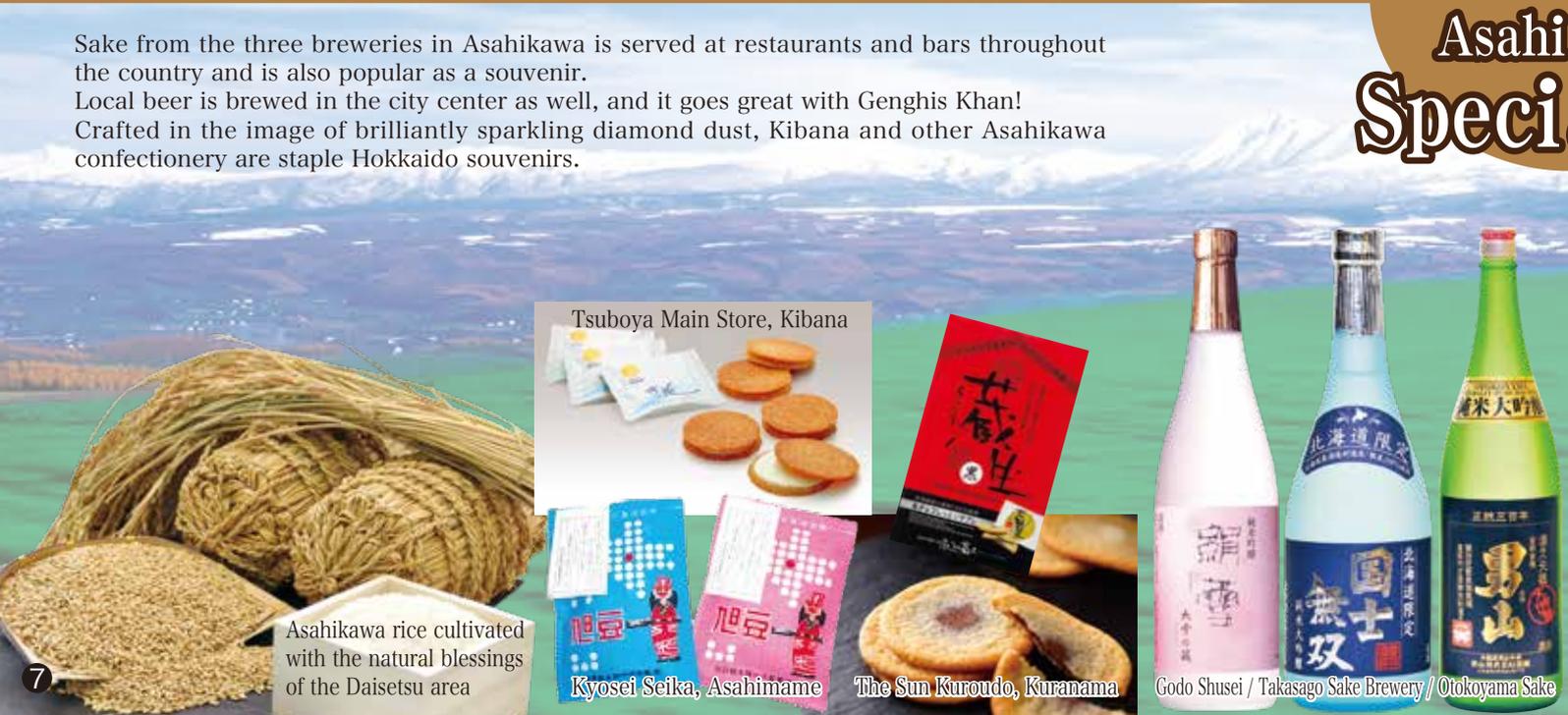
Lamb for Genghis Khan

Sake from the three breweries in Asahikawa is served at restaurants and bars throughout the country and is also popular as a souvenir.

Local beer is brewed in the city center as well, and it goes great with Genghis Khan!

Crafted in the image of brilliantly sparkling diamond dust, Kibana and other Asahikawa confectionery are staple Hokkaido souvenirs.

## Asahi Speci



Asahikawa rice cultivated with the natural blessings of the Daisetsu area



Tsuboya Main Store, Kibana



Kyosei Seika, Asahimame



The Sun Kuroudo, Kuranama



Godo Shusei / Takasago Sake Brewery / Otokoyama Sake

# icious Flavors! a Cuisine



Sushi



Etanbetsu Soba Noodles

- Seafood from the ocean and two seas surrounding Hokkaido
- Etanbetsu soba noodles are renowned throughout Japan
- Local sake, wine and spirits accompanied by Etanbetsu cheese
- Enjoy picking a variety of seasonal fruit

The colorful range of ingredients is one of Asahikawa's greatest charms!



Etanbetsu Green Cheese

Etanbetsu Sake Lee Blue Cheese



## kawa alties



### Kita-no-Arashiyama Craft Goods



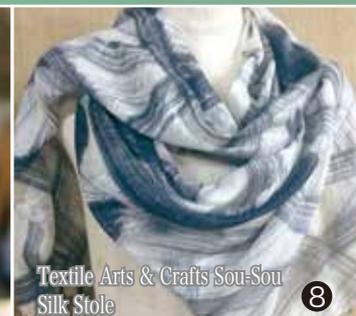
Taisetsu Ji Beer



"Snowfield - Early Spring",  
Glass Studio Juncobo Light



Taisetsugama  
Teacups / Coffee Cups



Textile Arts & Crafts SouSou  
Silk Stole

# Asahikawa Tourist Attractions

## Look



Enjoy different seasonal views during each time of year, from springtime cherry blossoms blooming among the lingering snow atop the Daisetsuzan mountains, to the mountains' first snows falling over the changing fall leaves, to snowy vistas in  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $5^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) weather.

## Learn



Ainu culture once flourished in Asahikawa, and you can look back on the finer points of that history at the Asahikawa City Museum. Check out the newest model telescope and the planetarium at the Asahikawa Science Center (Sci-Pal), or head over to the Teijiro Nakahara Asahikawa Museum of Sculpture.

## Walk



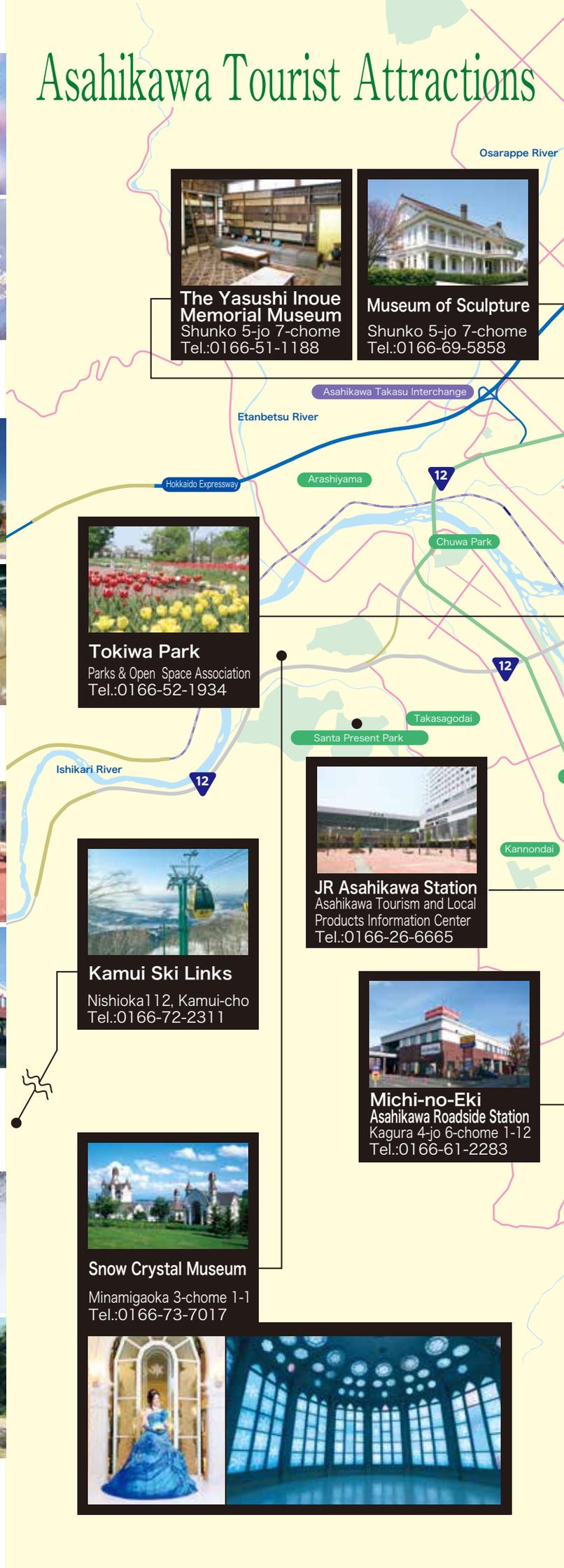
Extending 1km from in front of Asahikawa Station, Heiwa-dori Kaimono Koen is a pedestrian paradise lined with specialty shops and countless sculptures.

At the Michi-no-Eki Asahikawa roadside rest area, you can enjoy Asahikawa ramen or soba noodles at the food court or shop for Hokkaido goods at the bakery and shops.

## Play



Enjoy the powder snow as you get your fill of activities that can only be enjoyed in the snow country, such as skiing and snow rafting. Or spend some time in the city center between the beginning of December and the middle of March to take in the 200,000 beautiful decorative lights.



**The Yasushi Inoue Memorial Museum**  
Shunko 5-jo 7-chome  
Tel.:0166-51-1188

**Museum of Sculpture**  
Shunko 5-jo 7-chome  
Tel.:0166-69-5858

**Tokiwa Park**  
Parks & Open Space Association  
Tel.:0166-52-1934

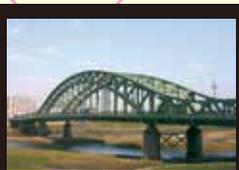
**Kamui Ski Links**  
Nishioka 112, Kamui-cho  
Tel.:0166-72-2311

**JR Asahikawa Station**  
Asahikawa Tourism and Local Products Information Center  
Tel.:0166-26-6665

**Michi-no-Eki Asahikawa Roadside Station**  
Kagura 4-jo 6-chome 1-12  
Tel.:0166-61-2283

**Snow Crystal Museum**  
Minamigaoka 3-chome 1-1  
Tel.:0166-73-7017





### Asahibashi Bridge

This bridge crosses the Ishikari River along Route 40, which connects the Tokiwa Rotary to the Omachi area.



### Hokuchin Museum

Next to the JGSDF Asahikawa Base, Shunko-cho Tel.:0166-51-6111

Otokoyama Nature Park



### Otokoyama Nature Park

Higashiyama Tel.:0166-57-2131



### Asahikawa Design Center

Nagayama 2-jo 10-chome Tel.:0166-48-4135



### Tetsuro Nishikawa Literature Museum

7-jodori 8-chome 38-10 Tel.:0166-25-8700



### Asahikawa Ramen Village

Nagayama 11-jo 4-chome 119-48 Tel.:0166-48-2153



### Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art

Inside Tokiwa Park Tel.:0166-25-2577



### Asahiyama Zoo

Kuranuma 11-18, Higashi Asahikawa-cho Tel.:0166-36-1104



### Heiwa-dori Kaimono Koen

From Miyashita-dori to 9-jodori 7/8-chome, Asahikawa City Tel.:0166-26-0815



### Asahikawa City Museum

Kagura 3-jo 7-chome Tel.:0166-69-2004



### Asahikawa Science Center (Sci-Pal)

Miyamae 1-jo 3-chome 3-ban 32-go Tel.:0166-31-3186



### Asahikawa Airport

Higashi 2-sen 16-go, Higashikagura-cho Tel.:0166-83-3939

Ubusu River



### Miura Ayako Literature Museum

Kagura 7-jo 8-chome 2-ban 15-go Tel.:0166-69-2626



### Kawamura Kaneto Aynu Museum

Hokumon-cho 11-chome Tel.:0166-51-2461



To Shujitsu-no-Oka Hill



# A Panorama of Magnificent Natural Scenery

Water creates rainbows as it falls from the cliffs of Sounkyo where two famous falls are nestled close together.

In the graceful Ginga-no-Taki Falls, it streams down countless paths like white thread, whereas in Ryusei-no-Taki Falls, the waters rush down in one thick current. There are no words for the beautiful scenery in autumn when the leaves change.



## Sounkyo Onsen Ice Fall Festival

This festival uses an area of 10,000 square meters (2.5 acres) around the Ishikari Riverbed to create a world of ice, from pillars and tunnels to domes, with the main ice sculptures boasting heights of approx. 13 meters (42 feet). The area is illuminated at night, creating a sense of wonder and magic, and fireworks light up the night sky throughout the event period. This long winter event runs through the most bitterly cold time of the year, from the end of January until mid March, making use of the deep canyon area through a variety of activities. Heed the call of the colored lights that reflect off crystal ice sculptures and beckon you into a world of fantasy.



Challenge yourself to some ice climbing!



Nothing compares to taking in the magnificent scenery while relaxing in a hot spring



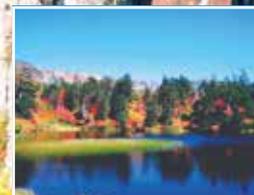
Allow the beautiful blooms of the Daisetsu Mori-no Garden to relax you

# Kamikawa/Sounkyo

The Kamikawa area has long been beloved as the gateway to Japan's largest mountain park, the Daisetsuzan National Park, and for being the home to three hot spring areas, Aizankei Onsen, Kogen Onsen and Sounkyo Onsen. Particularly spectacular is Sounkyo Onsen, a hot spring resort where hotels and bed and breakfasts line a canyon with sheer cliffs that stretch for 24km (15 miles) on either side. The location attracts 2 million visitors a year from both inside Japan and abroad.

The area is also internationally renowned as a sightseeing spot due to its abundance of natural beauty, including Daisetsu Kogen Asahigaoka, which offers an up close view of the Daisetsuzan mountains; Ginga and Ryusei-no-Taki Falls, which were selected for Japan's 100 Best Waterfalls; and autumn leaves at Mt. Daisetsuzan, which is the earliest and most beautiful place in Japan to view fall foliage.

The area has four distinct seasons, with leisurely mild summers and winters packed with winter sports such as skiing and skating.



## Recommendations

A ropeway runs halfway up Mt. Kurodake from the Sounkyo Onsen hot spring resort at the base of Mt. Kurodake in Daisetsuzan National Park. If you board the Mt. Kurodake Ropeway in the early morning between June and October, you may get to see a sea of clouds below your feet.

In August there is about a 40% chance of this phenomenon occurring, so you should definitely try taking an early morning ride on the Mt. Kurodake Ropeway!

**Sounkyo Tourist Association**  
Tel.:01658-2-1811  
<http://www.sounkyo.net/>



Each time you look,  
the scenery looks a little  
different. You'll want to  
come back again and again!

Word has spread between photographers about the dream-like scenery created by the dead conifers and other trees protruding from Blue Pond (Aoiike). Things will run more smoothly if you come before around 10 am, so we recommend staying overnight in Biei and taking an early-morning stroll. The atmosphere is quite different in the winter, when the frozen-over pond is blanketed in winter snow and lit up in various patterns of light.



### Shirahige Falls, Biei

This spiritually powerful area stretches out over both sides of the Blue River Bridge, just a 5-minute walk from the Biei Shirogane hot spring district.

This is an area you can enjoy during any season, and is said to be the origin of the one-of-a-kind 'Biei Blue' that continues downstream to Shirogane Blue Pond.



### Furano Lavender Fields

The fields of lavender in Furano are something anyone who comes to Hokkaido has to see at least once. The best time to visit depends on which variety of lavender you would like to see. The earliest blooms can be spotted in late June, and late-season flowers can be enjoyed until early August. The scenery is best from mid to late July.



Take a refreshing bike ride amongst nature



The view from the summit of the Furano Ski Ground will be a high point of your trip!



Enjoy a panoramic view from a hot air balloon

# Furano/Biei



Biei Tonteki (Pork Steak)



Furano Wagyu Beef Fillet Steak

The city of Furano is a tourist spot that is visited by many people throughout the year. It became well-known all over Japan after being used as a location in the television drama *Kita-no-Kuni Kara* (From the North Country).

The Furano Ski Area is a leading ski area in Hokkaido, where skiers and snowboarders from all over the world gather to take in the panoramic view as they enjoy the world-renowned champagne powder snow.

The town of Biei attracts many tourists from both inside and outside Japan due to its close resemblance to a European farming village. The area is also well-known as the 'Town of Hills' and for its 'Patchwork Road'. But Biei's biggest draw is its stunning hilly landscape, where successive generations have raised fields of crops such as potatoes and wheat.



## Recommendations

Traveling by bike will allow you to savor the pastoral scenery and abundant nature of the Furano / Biei area at a leisurely pace and make even the transit to your destination truly wonderful.

This area is known for having many spots with incredible spring water, so we recommend traveling the area and trying them all for a different kind of sight-seeing. Using a pedelec (pedal electric bicycle) is a great way to traverse the rolling hills of Biei. Take a rest at one of the restaurants or cafés dotted through the area and admire the wonderful scenery.

**Furano Tourism Association**  
Tel.:0167-23-3388

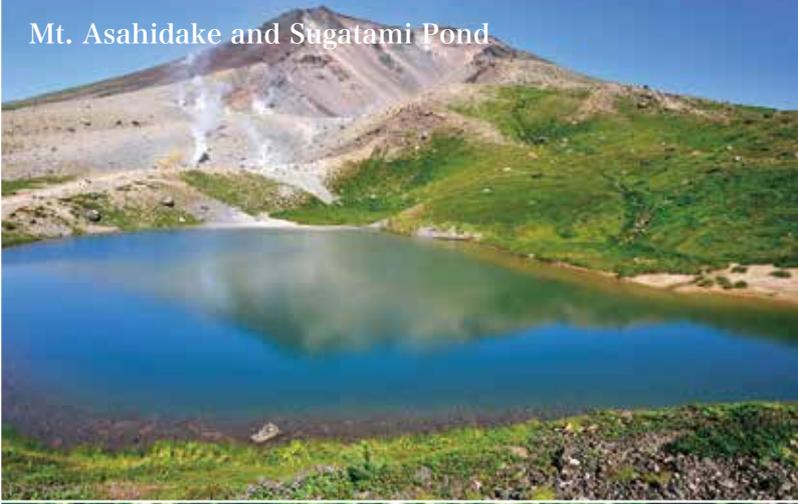
<http://www.furanotourism.com/jp/>

**Town of Biei Tourism Association**  
Tel.:0166-92-4378

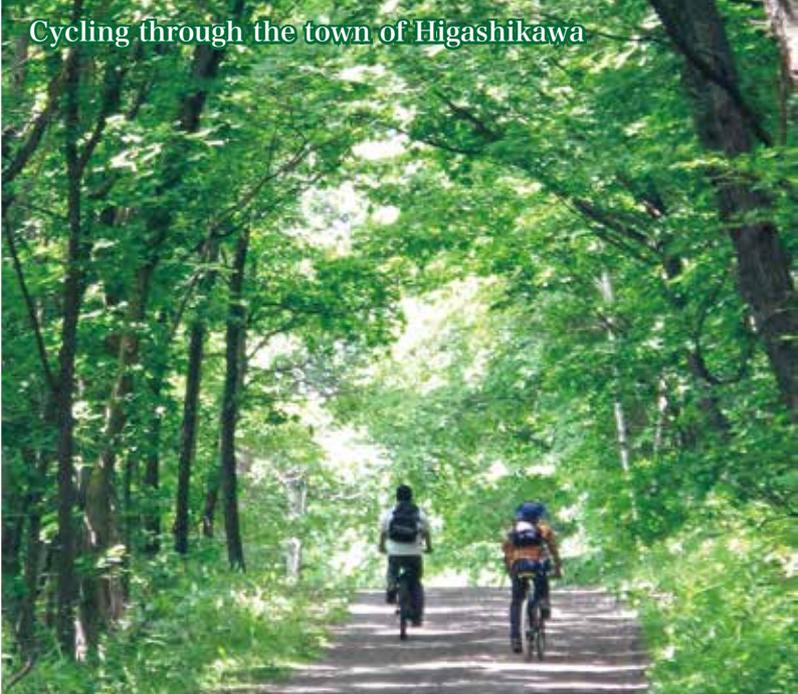
<http://www.biei-hokkaido.jp/>



Hagoromo Falls



Mt. Asahidake and Sugatami Pond



Cycling through the town of Higashikawa



Looking at the snowy scenery while soaking in a hot spring is a particularly relaxing way to end a fun-filled day of hiking or skiing through the mountains.



**Kitoushi Forest Park**  
Campsites and cabins for group use by multiple adults are available. Take a relaxing walk through the woods and see if you can catch a glimpse of Hokkaido squirrels and wild birds, or enjoy some park golf.

## Café Tour

Time slows down to a leisurely pace amongst the abundant natural beauty of Higashikawa. Make the most of it by touring the town's many charming cafés, bakeries, and galleries owned by local craftspeople. Looking for your new favorite shop is a great way to enjoy your time here.



The calming vibe inside a café



Big 'Sara-Burg' Hamburger Plate



Brown-rice 'Omusubi' rice balls stuffed with local ingredients

# Higashikawa/Mt. Asahidake/Tenninkyō Valley



Mt. Asahidake in Daisetsuzan National Park is the tallest peak in Hokkaido. Each season brings a different sight, from the snow that lingers on the mountain peak even in the height of summer, to the earliest fall leaves in Japan. Take the ropeway up to Sugatami Station and travel the path through the vast fields of chinguruma, Ezo kozakura and other colorful Hokkaido alpine flowers. Be sure to check out Mt. Asahidake and Tenninkyō Valley, two hot spring areas that have been established to make the most of the abundance of natural hot waters bubbling up from the base of mountain.



## Recommendations

[Fall Leaf-viewing on Mt. Asahidake]

The fall season starts early on Mt. Asahidake - between early and late August depending on the weather - turning the plants various hues of red and gold.

Many tourists from both inside and outside Japan travel here during mid to late September, when the view is said to be at its peak.

**Higashikawa Tourism Association**  
Tel.:0166-82-3761  
<http://www.welcome-higashikawa.jp/>

# Wakkanai/Rishiri/Rebun



Wakkanai, Rishiri and Rebun make up the northernmost part of Hokkaido and are blessed with an abundance of natural beauty.

The city of Wakkanai is situated on the northernmost edge of Japan.

The island of Rishiri is home to a mountain of the same name which has been included in the 100 Famous Japanese Mountains.

The island of Rebun is known as a 'hana-no-ukishima' (floating island of flowers) because you can find over 300 varieties of alpine plants in full bloom. Welcome to a paradise where nature continues to flourish untouched by human hands. Take your time and enjoy the northern tip of Japan.



Wakkanai Port  
North Breakwater Dome

## Cape Soya

Cape Soya is just 43km from the opposite shore on Sakhalin, and you can easily make out the island's shape when the weather is clear.

Three monuments have been built together at the park on the tip of the cape: the Northernmost Point in Japan Monument, the Rinzo Mamiya Statue and the Cape Soya Musical Monument. The hilltops in the area are also dotted with landmarks and memorial statues, keeping the area lively with tourists.



## Rishirifuji and Himenuma Marsh (Rishiri Island)



Cape Sukai (Rebun Island)



Momoïwa Rocks (Rebun Island)

## Recommendations

[Former Seto Family House]

The Former Seto Family House was built in 1952 as the home of Tsunezo Seto, who worked in the trawl fisheries in the area.

On June 21st, 2013 this site was registered by the government of Japan as a Tangible Cultural Property (Registered name: Main House of the Former Seto Family Dwelling).

Early post-war construction and the history of the Wakkanai fishing industry are preserved in this house.



**Wakkanai Tourist Association**

Tel.:0162-24-1216

<http://www.welcome.wakkanai.hokkaido.jp/>

# Nayoro/Shibetsu

The city of Nayoro's winters can be colder than 30°C below freezing (-22°F). In the depths of the harsh winter, you may be able to see the mysterious sun pillar phenomenon. This area is also said to be home to the silkiest snow in all of Japan. When summer comes, fields of sunflowers stretch out as far as the eye can see.

1,100 Suffolk sheep are raised in the nearby city of Shibetsu.

You can pet the sheep in a pasture open to tourists or enjoy other tourist activities such as shearing demonstrations and sheepdog shows. In the city center you can enjoy original dishes made of rare Shibetsu lamb.



## Recommendations

At Nayoro Observatory Kitasubaru, you can use telescopes with the largest aperture in all of Japan to gaze upon a night sky so filled with stars you will lose track of their numbers as you look out in wonder.

At the Hitsuji-to-Kumo-no-Oka (Hill of Sheep and Clouds) tourist attraction, there is a pasture for tourists to check out the sheep, as well as other facilities such as an exhibit of rare sheep from around the world (Sekai-no-Menyo-kan) and a place where you can try your hand at shearing (Menyo Kogei-kan Kururun).

Nayoro Sightseeing & Town Planning Association  
Tel.:01654-9-6711 <http://nayoro-kankou.com/wp/>

Shibetsu City Economics Division,  
Department of Commerce, Labor and Tourism  
Tel.:0165-23-3121 <http://www.city.shibetsu.lg.jp>

# Ashibetsu



The city of Ashibetsu's skyline at night

Ninety percent of the city of Ashibetsu's 865 km<sup>2</sup> (approx. 247 acres) is forested, which keeps the air clean and crisp. Ashibetsu has been named "the city of starry skies" by the Ministry of the Environment.

The area is famous for Gatatan, a thick stew made from chicken and pork stock and filled 10 different kinds of meats and vegetables. In the summer, you can enjoy cherry-picking at the area's orchards, which are home to 50 over varieties of cherry, including some unique species.

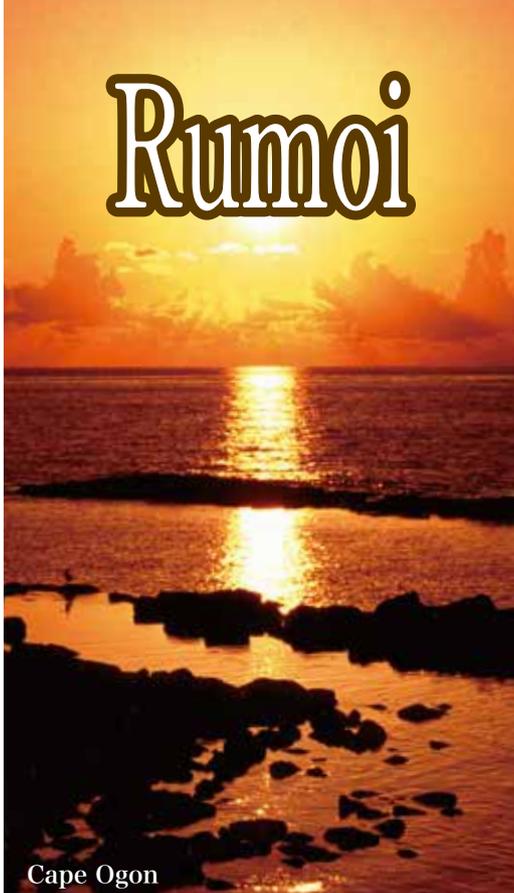
**City of Ashibetsu Department of Commerce and Tourism**  
Tel.:0124-22-2111  
<http://go-to-ashibetsu.com/>



Gatatan Ramen



# Rumoi



Cape Ogon

Rumoi is renowned for its herring roe and sunsets. Places such as Senbodai and Cape Ogon were selected for inclusion in Japan's Best 100 Sunsets. The city is also home to attractions such as one of the largest beaches in northern Hokkaido, Golden Beach Rumoi, as well as Umi-no-Furusatokan, where you can learn about Rumoi's rich history and culture. Take in a lovely view of the water as you enjoy Rumoi hama-yaki (seafood barbecue), or pick up some flavorful souvenirs on sale around the city, such as salted herring roe, of which Rumoi is the number one producer in Japan.

**Rumoi Tourist Association**  
Tel.:0164-43-6817  
<http://rumoi-rasisa.jp/rumoi/>



Seafood-don Rice Bowl



# Fukagawa



Michi-no-Eki Riceland Fukagawa

A popular spot in the city of Fukagawa is Michi-no-Eki Riceland Fukagawa, which welcomes one million visitors a year. It is popular throughout Hokkaido as a place to purchase specialties such as Fukagawa rice, soba, apples, rice bran oil and uroko dango dumplings, or enjoy kamameshi (a kind of pilaf) made with Fukagawa rice. The view of the sunset and night sky from Totoro Pass, near the expressway interchange, is very popular as well.

Fukagawa is easy to get to from any part of Hokkaido, as it is on the limited express train route between Sapporo and Asahikawa.

**Fukagawa City Department of Commerce, Industry, Labor and Administration**  
Tel.:0164-26-2264  
<http://www.city.fukagawa.lg.jp/kankou/>



Uroko dango dumplings



# Mombetsu / Yubetsu Takinoue

This is the only place in Japan where you can see drift ice on the Sea of Okhotsk. There are lots of things to do in the city of Mombetsu during winter. Take a ride on the Garinko-Go ice breaker as it uses its massive drill to pierce the ice in its path, or watch the marine wildlife swimming through the frozen waters from Okhotsk Tower. Experience the harsh -20°C (-4°F) winters of the area any time of year at the Drift Ice Science Center, or get up close with adorable seals at places like Azarashi Land and Azarashi Sea Paradise.. From early May to early June, the outskirts of Mombetsu are some of the best places in Japan to see gardens of shibazakura (creeping moss) and tulips. Every year 100,000 people visit Kamiyubetsu Tulip Park in Yubetsu to see about 200 varieties of tulips in bloom over 7ha of fields. At Shibazakura Takinoue Park in the town of Takinoue, 100,000mof fields are filled with beautiful pink flowers beneath a panorama of mountain peaks tipped with the last remnants of winter snow.



A giant crab claw figure is lit up at night, and is a popular place to take souvenir photos of Mombetsu.

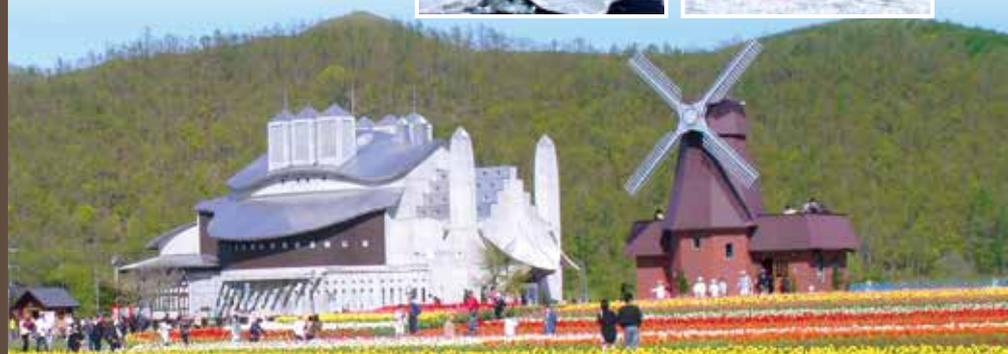


## Recommendations

[Mombetsu Drift Ice Festival (mid Feb)]  
This festival boasts lots of activities on streets lined with sculptures crafted from natural ice, such as the ice-holding endurance competition and an ice slide. The ice sculptures are lit up at night in all the colors of the rainbow to create a fantastic atmosphere completely different from that of the daytime.



Mombetsu Tourism  
Promotion Corporation  
Tel.:0158-24-3900  
<http://mombetsu.net/>



Kamiyubetsu Tulip Park



Shibazakura Takinoue Park

## JANUARY-MAY

### Ice Fall Festival



This long-running ice festival takes place at Soukyo Onsen in the town of Kamikawa for two months beginning in late January. Even the waterfall is frozen over, and the whole event is lit up in a rainbow of lights that create a fantasy scene at night.

## FEBRUARY

### Asahikawa Winter Festival



The fireworks launched from some of the world's largest ice sculptures are just one of the festival's highlights. You can also enjoy other winter-only activities, such as a 100m-long (328ft) ice slide and an enormous ice maze.

## FEBRUARY

### Yuki Hane (Snow Shoveling) International Championship



In this timed snow-shoveling competition in the city of Shibetsu, contestants send approximately 6,000l (1,500gal) of snow flying as they search for the flag that will make them the winner. This event has been held more than 60 times in its proud history.

## FEBRUARY

### Japan Cup Dogsled Competition, Wakkanai



Often called the Koshien for dogs (after the famous National High School Baseball Championship at Koshien Stadium), this event is held in the city of Wakkanai at the end of February and draws participants from all over Japan. There are a myriad of competitions, and the breathtaking sight of the dogs and their masters working as one always fills the spectators with awe and excitement.

## FEBRUARY

### Mombetsu Drift Ice Festival



Rows of ice sculptures in all sizes are lined up on stages and other platforms in this mid-February event in the city of Mombetsu. There are various other activities to enjoy during the event, such as an ice cutting competition and a crab and scallop barbecue.

## MARCH

### Vasaloppet Japan



Certified by the FIS and SAJ and held in early March in the city of Asahikawa, this event is one of the largest international skiing competitions in Japan. The event draws many participants every year with both competitive and non-competitive cross-country skiing events, with participants taking in the scenery around Asahikawa Station as they ski.

March

April

May

June

July

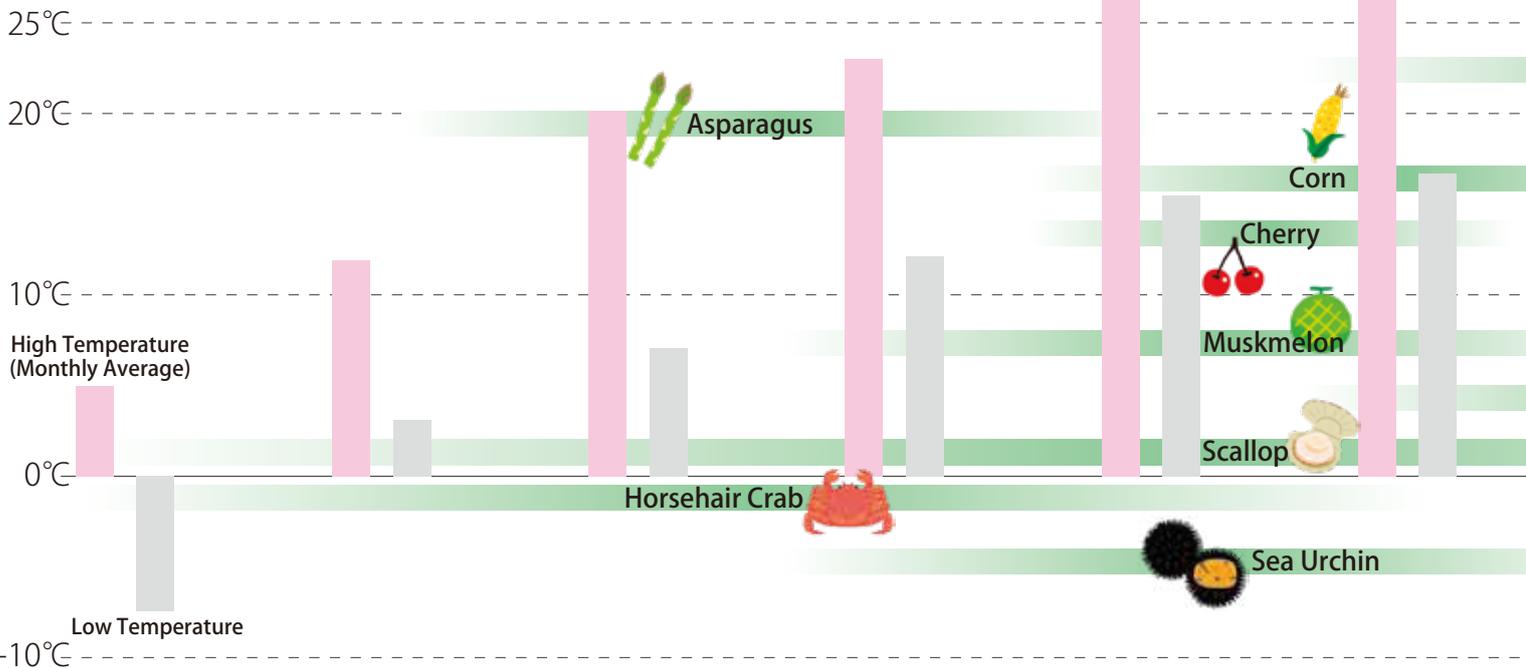
August



Snow Season



Flower Season



# N D A R

MAY

Shibazakura Festival



This event is held between early May and early June. The entire area is covered in flowers, making the area look like it is covered in a pink carpet. Try taking a helicopter ride to get an incredible aerial view.

JULY

Bellybutton Festival (Hokkai Heso Matsuri)



Whether you watch or jump in and dance along, you're sure to enjoy this late July festival in Furano. Participants paint a face on their stomachs and dance in a procession down the streets of the city in this unique festival during the height of summer.

September

October

MAY

Tulip Fair



This event is held between early May and early June. 1.2 million tulips of 200 different varieties bloom across 7ha of land, including some directly imported from the Netherlands, making the windmill-shaped observation area look like it is floating in a sea of tulips.

SEPTEMBER

Asahikawa Half Marathon



Run through various points around the city of Asahikawa, such as Asahibashi Bridge and Tokiwa Park, on this 21.0975km (13.1094mi) race at the end of September. People on the streets will cheer you on as you pass various structures, sculptures and other sights of historical significance.

November

December

MAY, JUNE, JULY

Umaiyo! (Delicious!) Rumoi Market



This market is held every May, June and July and features Rumoi seafood at special prices, such as all-you-can-carry sales events for scallops, shrimp and more. Plus, you can enjoy hama-yaki by cooking up ingredients you've purchased at the market right on site!

SEPTEMBER

Kita-no-Megumi Tabo Marche



This city market features all of the foods that are the pride of northern Hokkaido. Over one million people visit the over 300 stalls that line the streets. The stalls start in the plaza in front of Asahikawa Station and continue through Heiwa-dori Kaimono Koen and 7-jo Ryokudo, then on to Tokiwa Park, making this one of the biggest food events in Hokkaido.

January

February



Snow Season

Autumn Leaves Season



Potato



Apple



Grape



Saury



Salmon



Oyster



Snow season lasts 10 months. The first snows settle on the mountain tops in the beginning of September and remain until June. The cities see their first snowfall around November.

Flower season begins in April with Asian fawnlilies and skunk cabbage blooming. The cherry blossoms bloom around mid May, and the months of July and August bring fields of lavender, sunflowers and flowering buckwheat among the other magnificent varieties.

The first fall leaves will begin to turn on the mountains around mid September. The changing leaves will descend over time into lower altitudes, finally finishing in the cities at the beginning of November.



For more information:

## Asahikawa City Tourism Department

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**MOUNTAIN CITY RESORT**  
HOKKAIDO TAISETSU KAMUIMINTARA

