

Hokkaido University of Education, Hakodate Campus,

Exchange Student Report:

“Mt Hakodate Hike and Night View”

Hello everyone! The three of us are exchange students in the lovely city of Hakodate. The following report will discuss our experience of hiking up Mt Hakodate and viewing its famous night view.

On the day of the first snowfall in Hakodate, the three of us went to Mt Hakodate and enjoyed seeing the Hakodate Night view which is one of the top 3 best night view's in the world. As the sun was due to set at around 4:25pm that day, we began to climb the Mountain at around 3:50. Taking us about an hour to climb, we reached Mt Hakodate's 330m high summit at 5pm.

From the observatory at the summit, we enjoyed the unique and beautiful night view of Hakodate City and then proceeded to wander the souvenir shop which is on the second floor.

Finally at around 7:30pm we took the ropeway back down the mountain and while doing so we're able to once again enjoy the unique beauty of the Hakodate night view that was spread in front of us.



Part 1: Climbing the mountain



While it was still light, the three of us cheerfully began to climb Mt Hakodate together, admiring the Mountain's natural beauty as we went. Full of energy at the beginning, we sang and danced our way up the mountain taking many pictures of our adventure along the way. Gradually, the sun began to set and the mountain around us began to darken, making us feel slightly uneasy, but inspired by the bright lights of Hakodate city in the distance, we continued up the mountain, eager to reach the top.



Part 2: Night view

Laughing and talking as we walked, it took us about an hour to reach the summit. At the summit tourists from all over Japan and around the world were gathered in the warmth of the observatory, to admire the beauty of this night scene. Everyone seemed impressed with the view they saw. The three of us enjoyed chatting and taking a number of pictures as we admired the magical view of this city which we have come to call home.



Part 3: Souvenirs

One thing that you should know about Japan is that they love souvenirs. If you visit any famous place in Japan there will definitely be a shop selling key rings, food souvenir's specific to the area and many other things. So naturally, the three of us figured we better visit the souvenir shop while we were on the mountain.

They sell many beautifully packaged sweets unique to the Hokkaido area such as the popular Shiroi Koi-bito and the Rokkatei brand chocolates. We bought some biscuits called Marusei Butter Sandwich. They have butter and sultanas between the biscuits and taste absolutely delicious. From Key chains, to pens, and snacks to proper food, the souvenir store sells a number of other Hakodate specialties, so we recommend that you definitely take the time to browse the souvenir store at the top of Mountain.



Part 4: Ropeway

During winter, the Ropeway system operates from 10am until 9pm each day, and takes about 3 minutes to reach the top of the mountain. A round trip ticket for an adult costs 1160 yen, and 590 yen for a child (elementary school or younger). If you choose to hike up the mountain as we did, you may purchase a one way ticket; 640 yen per adult and 320 yen per child. Information regarding ropeway hourly operating times, are conveniently displayed on the bulletin board at the Ropeway entrance of both stations. Whilst traveling on the ropeway, you can also see some other tourist attractions in Hakodate such as the Churches in Moto Machi and the Red Brick warehouse district.



When visiting Hakodate, please be sure to visit the mountain at some point during your stay. Whether you choose to take the ropeway or enjoy a scenic hike up the mountain, we guarantee the Hakodate night view will be a fantastic experience you will never forget! We hope you have as much fun as we did!



By Chen Jie, Yimeng Du (China) and Savannah Sense (Australia)