Useful Telephone Numbers

Tourist Information Center (Inside JR Hakodate Station Building)
12-13 Wakamatsu-cho, Hakodate  TEL: 0138-23-5440

Motomachi Tourist Information Center
12-18 Motomachi, Hakodate  TEL: 0138-27-3333

Hakodate International Tourism and Convention Association
33-14 Motomachi, Hakodate  TEL: 0138-27-3535

International Tourism Section, Tourism Department, City of Hakodate
4-13 Shinonome-cho, Hakodate  TEL: 0138-21-3479

Travel Hakodate
http://www.hakodate.travel/en/

Hakodate - Southern Hokkaido Tourist Guide

By Air
30min from Okushiri
40min from Sapporo
80min from Tokyo
90min from Nagoya
100min from Osaka
150min from Seoul
190min from Tianjin
220min from Taipei

By JR
4hrs from Tokyo (Hokkaido Shinkansen)
220min from Sapporo

By Ferry
4hrs from Aomori
2hrs from Ōma

By Car
5hrs from Sapporo

WELCOME TO HAKODATE
THE CITY COMMITTED TO INTERNATIONAL TOURISM

City of Lights and Hospitality
International Tourism City Hakodate

ROMANTIC HAKODATE

Published in 2016

Tourism Symbol of Hakodate
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International Tourism Section, Tourism Department, City of Hakodate
Produced by Gyosei
Photo Gallery
THE CITY IN COLOR

Morning in orange light
The Trappistine Convent emerges
In the silhouette in the transparent morning sun.
It’s a time to contemplate
The constants and changes since the Meiji Era.

Afternoon in pale blue
The sky and the sea become one
In the bright Sunday afternoon.
The church bells of Gan-gan dera
Pealing solemnly at the foot of Mt. Hakodate.

Welcome to Hakodate
From the misty dawn to the deep of night when the sky and the sea melt into each other, Hakodate’s sky has an astonishingly wide range of colors. We invite you to enjoy this ever-changing light show in Hakodate.

Dust in dark red
As you watch the darkening streets
Rattling by the tram window,
You feel like a traveler
Lost in an unknown land.

Night in indigo blue
The dark horizon of Tsugaru Strait
Is scattered with fishing boats,
Blurred and shimmering
Like starts in the sea.

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● The sea behind you, a mountain up above…13

Many of Hakodate’s tourist spots have been awarded stars by Michelin Green Guide Japon. Look for the ★ marks!
A trip on a tram

Motomachi, the Bay Area, Goryokaku and finally Yunokawa; Most Hakodate tourist spots are just a tram ride away. With a relaxing pace and atmosphere it’s a great way to get around.

Hakodate Haikara-go

A replica Taisho era tram provides a chance to experience early 20th century travel. The sound of its bell is the signal for departure.

The Soma Company Building ★

This striking wooden building was constructed in 1913 and is still in use.
Looking for History

Even for first time visitors, the depth of history in Hakodate is apparent. Motomachi, in particular, has an atmosphere which feels, for many Japanese, quite foreign. It was a landing point for the Western-style clothes and food that we now take for granted.

Old Hakodate Public Hall ★★
A Nationally Designated Important Cultural Property. The balcony on the second floor commands a full view of the port. Built in 1910.

Hakodate Orthodox Church ★
A Nationally Designated Important Cultural Property. Also called Gan-gan dera.

Motomachi Roman Catholic Church (Interior ★)
A City Designated Historic Building. The rooster on the spire is the landmark.

Hakodate Episcopal Church
The roof is shaped like a cross when viewed from above.

Higashi Hongan-ji Temple, Hakodate Betsuin ★

Old British Consulate
A City Designated Tangible Cultural Property. The tea room is open for visitors.

Old Russian Consulate
Built in 1908.

Irifune-ban’ya
A unique dining experience where the squid a customer catches from the tank is prepared and served on the spot by fishermen’s wives. Open on Saturdays and Sundays, June through December during lunch time at Irifune Branch of Hakodate Fisheries Cooperative.
Red Brick Warehouses
Inside the warehouses are a beer hall, restaurants and various shops.

Hakodate Seibuchiku Bar-gai
For one night only each spring and fall, selected restaurants and cafe turn into Spanish-style bars and serve drinks with a pincho (appetizer) to ticketholders. It’s a popular local event, and a great way to explore the old town while enjoying delicious food and drinks. Advance purchase of ticket books is recommended. Twice a year in spring and fall.

The Tachikawa Family Residence and Store
The century-old building, a designated National Important Asset, now has a chic cafe.

Hakodate Community Design Center
Housed in a former department store built in 1923. The hand-operated elevator is the oldest of its kind in the north of Tohoku.

Hakodate Meijikan (Old Hakodate Post Office)
Built in 1911, it’s now a popular shopping area.
Bay Area

This is the landing place of foreign culture.

Hakodate, along with Yokohama and Nagasaki, became Japan’s first international trading ports of the Meiji Era in 1859. These red brick warehouses, built around 1907, stand here to watch the changing times while conveying the atmosphere of old days.

Christmas in a port city with lights shimmering on the water

Hakodate Christmas Fantasy
A gigantic Christmas tree on the harbor and nightly fireworks light up the winter.

Monument to Commemorate the First Step onto Hokkaido
An anchor and a bear were erected in 1968 to commemorate the centenary of the Meiji government’s opening of Hokkaido.

Monument to Commemorate Jo Niijima’s Going Abroad
The founder of Doshisha University set off for America from here.

Excursion Boat, Blue Moon
The night cruise of Hakodate bay attracts many tourists.

The Glass Studio in Hakodate
A City Designated Historic Building. Why not try your hand at glassblowing?
A star-shaped fort in cherry blossoms and in lights as seen from Goryokaku Tower

The final battle ground of the Battle of Hakodate now is colored in pink in spring and lit up in the night in winter. It also provides the center stage for a historical pageant in summer.

**Birthplace of Hokkaido’s coffee culture**

Coffee was initially believed to prevent the condition of dropsy.

*Tips for roasting coffee beans were included in a government issued publication from 1857. (Hokkaido Prefectural Archive Collection)*

**Hakodate Magistrate’s Office**

Hakodate Magistrate’s Office built inside the Goryokaku towards the end of the Edo era at the time of the port opening, has been faithfully reconstructed.

**EVENT**

**Open-Air Theater Hakodate Yagaigeki**

Many important scenes from Hakodate’s history are re-enacted in Goryokaku on a spectacular scale most weekend evenings during July and early August. 2012 marked the 25th anniversary of this historical pageant. Most of the 500 or so cast and production staff are volunteers, including some willing tourists!
Hakodate Goryokaku Festival
A Toshizo Hijikata look-alike contest and Ishin (Meiji Restoration) Parade are the main attractions in this festival held in mid May.

The Special Historic Site Fort Goryokaku (Goryokaku Park) ★★
Some 1,600 cherry trees bloom from late April to early May each year.

Statue of Toshizo Hijikata
Hijikata, the Vice Commander of Shinsengumi, perished in the Battle of Hakodate at the age of 35.

Hoshi no Yume
The 1.8 kilometer moat surrounding the star-shaped fort is illuminated during this festival.
Yunokawa Hot Spring Area
A hot spring area with a history extending back more than 350 years! Day visits are also available at selected hotels and locations.

Fishing Lights
Lights that fishing boats use to lure squid are seen in Tsugaru Strait from summer through winter.

Yunokawa Onsen Fireworks Show
Floating lanterns in the Matsukura River, fireworks, and mikoshi (a miniature shrine) parade are the main attractions.

Enjoy hot spring bath while counting the fishing lights on the horizon.

At the end of the tram line is a relaxing hot spring area.

Yunokawa Onsen is an easy walk from the tram stop and was once a retreat for injured soldiers during the Battle of Hakodate. Why not recharge yourself while enjoying fantastic views of the isaribi (squid fishing boats' lights)?

Footbath
A free hot spring for your feet near the Yunokawa Onsen tram stop. (Open 9am-9pm.)

Yukura Shrine
A monument to the source of the Yunokawa hot spring.
Hakodate MOMI-G Festa

An event held every fall in Kosetsuen. The maple trees and the garden are lit up. Mini concerts are held in Midori no Center.

Walking on the fallen leaves through the tunnel of golden foliage

The Old Iwafune Garden (Kosetsuen), Miharashi Park ★

Inside Miharashi Park is Kosetsuen, an authentic Japanese garden with some 150 different kinds of trees. The nightly illumination of trees starts in late October.

The Trappistine Convent

Japan’s first convent was founded in 1898. The forecourt and an information center are open to the public.

Hakodate Bicycle Race Track

Japan’s northernmost bicycle race track was also the first to feature night races. It is converted into an ice skating rink in winter.

Hakodate City Tropical Garden

Japanese monkeys enjoy the hot spring in winter.

Hakodate Airport

The gateway to Hakodate is close to the city, with regular connections by shuttle bus.

JRA Hakodate Race Course

The only horse racing track in Japan with a view of the sea. Races held from June to September.

Takuboku Park

This statue of poet Takuboku Ishikawa, who once said “I wish to die in Hakodate”, is located by Omori-hama Beach.

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The night view of Hakodate is considered to be the best in the world. The lights scattered all over the peninsula are like constellations on the ground. It’s great fun to take a walk while tracing the illuminated buildings at the foot of the mountain.
Promenade of Lights

1. Hakodate Community Design Center (Old Branch Office of the City Hall in Suehiro-cho)
2. The Hakodate Church (United Church of Christ in Japan)
3. Hakodate Episcopal Church
4. Hakodate Orthodox Church
5. Motomachi Roman Catholic Church
6. Old Colonial Commission Archive
7. Old Hakodate Public Hall
8. Old British Consulate
9. Chinese Memorial Hall
10. Hakodate Seaside Marine Institute (Old Hakodate Nishi Police Station Building)
11. The Soma Company Building
12. Old Pier
13. Hakodate Meijikan (Old Hakodate Post Office)

*The lighting up project was started in 1990 and now 28 sites are lighted. We selected popular sites for you.

★ Other Light-up Spots

Suggested Routes

Lighting up Spots

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The Soma Company Building

Old Pier

Hakodate Meijikan (Old Hakodate Post Office)
Hachiman-zaka Slope with a view of Hakodate Port
The stone pavement descends into the sea.

【Uomi-zaka Slope】
This westernmost slope leads to the Foreign Cemetery.

【Saiwai-zaka Slope】
Named after Saiwai-cho (present Benten-cho).

【Yayoi-zaka Slope】
Named Yayoi (the month of March) in a wish for the return of prosperity after the great fire of Hakodate.

【Hiyori-zaka Slope】
Named hiyori (weather) because the slope had a great view of the look of the sky.

【Funami-zaka Slope】
Ships coming in and out of the port were viewed from this slope. Funami means 'ship-watching'.

【Sugatami-zaka Slope】
Once the site of a red light district, beautifully dressed women used to be seen around here. Sugatami means 'full length mirror'.

【Motoi-zaka Slope】 ★
So called because it was the starting point of the old highway to Sapporo. Motoi means 'a basis'. It was also once called "Magistrate's Slope."

【Hachiman-zaka Slope】 ★
Often used as a movie or TV location, this stone-paved slope epitomises Hakodate for many.
Motoi-zaka Slope was called Magistrate’s Slope during Edo era. Right on top of the hill stands Old Hakodate Public Hall of Hakodate Ward.

Walking around Hakodate’s many steep streets is a delight. If you stop and turn around in the middle of the street, A breathtaking marine blue vista spreads right before your eyes.

**[Daisan-zaka Slope]**
Lined with churches, this beautiful slope was selected as one of Japan’s Hundred Most Famous Roads.

**[Nijukken-zaka Slope]**
Named when the road was widened to 20 ken (about 36 m) to help protect the city against fire.

**[Chacha-nobori Slope]**
Chacha means “an old man” in Ainu. This slope is so steep you will bend over like an old man to walk uphill.

**[Gokokujinja-zaka Slope]**
Also called Shiomi-zaka. At the top of this slope is the distinctive red torii (entrance gate) of the Gokoku Shrine.

A guide to Hakodate’s steep streets
At the base of each slope is a signpost with the slope’s name. Which one is your favorite?
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