

## A spring-only pleasure

## Pink Bibai Tunnel

From Mikasa IC to Bibai IC



Bibai Tunnel entrance (in the direction from Sapporo to Asahikawa) has been planted with moss phlox in places. When you drive toward Asahikawa in the spring, you can enjoy the pink tunnel.



## Height 9.5 meters, width 14 meters

## Crab tunnel

From Noboribetsu Mutoran IC to Motowanishi Observatory

When you drive toward Hakodate, you will see a cute crab on Kamishiro tunnel entrance.

At the time discussions were underway on how this tunnel 4 kilometers before the cities past Mutoran IC could be used for tourism PR for Mutoran, Oshamanbe and Hakodate. Many candidates were considered, including Hakucho Bridge, Mount Usu and Cape Chikyu, but because the expressway runs along Uchiura Bay, it was decided to create a monument using the image of a crab in relief. The crab is a famous marine product of Uchiura Bay. Thus appeared this huge crab 9.5 meters tall and 14 meters wide.



## Protecting birds

## A bridge lined with 4 meter poles

Between Otoshibe IC and Mori IC

The animals whose bodies are most frequently recovered on Hokkaido expressways are birds.

Birds of prey have a behavior of catching river fish while flying at low altitudes. Placing 4 meter poles at 2 meter intervals on both sides of bridges over the rivers that are their feeding grounds causes them to fly so as to avoid the poles and prevents collisions with cars.



## A stone circle from some 4,000 years ago

## Washinoki Ruins above the tunnel

Between Otoshibe IC and Mori IC

Washinoki Ruins are a stone circle and pit cemetery from first half of the latter part of the Jomon Period (some 4000 years ago) discovered when the expressway was being built in 2002.

The stone circle is made up of approximately 600 stones of 20 cm to 60 cm in diameter, and the elliptical shape of 37 meters by 34 meters is one of the largest in Hokkaido. It is thought to have been a holy place for religious ceremonies and rituals.

In 2005, due to the tunnel construction method, it was decided to preserve the ruins in their present condition. Carefully carrying out the construction, the crew succeeded in preserving it with sinkage of just 1 cm.

The town of Mori is responsible for managing the ruins. Because the ruins are being preserved using a waterproof canvas, they are not currently open to the public.

In 2006, Washinoki Ruins became a nationally designated historic site, and in 2009, they were added to the UNESCO World Heritage provisional list as part of "the Jomon Archaeological Sites in Hokkaido, Northern Tohoku, and other regions."



The Washinoki Ruins

## Enjoy Tokachi to the fullest

## The Hidaka Mountains and the Tokachi Plain

Between Tokachi-Shimizu IC and Tokachiheigen SA



When you head west from Memuro IC toward Sapporo and pass Tokachiheigen Service Area, the Doto Expressway runs across the Tokachi Plain. The land on each side of the expressway is covered with fields of wheat, beats, beans and other crops. At harvest time each has its own color and the land appears clothed in patchwork. After a while you will see right in front of you the Hidaka Mountains, which are known as the backbone of Hokkaido. That sight seen from the expressway is a highlight and it will truly make you feel you have driven across Hokkaido. The Doto Expressway makes you hold the island of Hokkaido in awe and allows you to fully experience scenery of a different kind from Honshu's.

## Green and orange light

## LED snow poles

"LED snow poles" are equipment designed for safe driving on the expressways of Hokkaido in winter. They are installed every 50 meters as eyemarks for drivers (visual guidance) for times of poor visibility due to thick fog, snowstorms and blizzards.

