

HOKKAIDO EXPRESSWAY PASS

via ETC

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



Matsumae Castle



Furano



Tokachi-dake



Sounkyo, Kamikawa Ice Fall Festival

Price chart

Vehicle classification	Number of days of use	4 Days	5 Days	6 Days	7 Days	8 Days
Ordinary Passenger Cars	Price (yen)	¥7,700	¥9,600	¥11,600	¥13,500	¥15,400
Light vehicle	Price (yen)	¥6,200	¥7,700	¥9,300	¥10,800	¥12,300

©The rental charges for the vehicle and ETC card are not included.

Scan here for details on
HOKKAIDO EXPRESSWAY PASS
There is the list of our affiliated companies.



Easy and hassle-free with this pass!

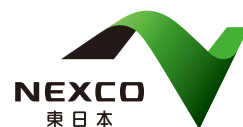
Information on expressways: [DoRaPuRa]

en.driveplaza.com/

DoRaPuRa

SEARCH

あなたに、ベスト・ウェイ。



HOKKAIDO DRIVE GUIDE

JAPAN



THE EXPRESSWAYS OF HOKKAIDO



- 1 P11 Blue Pond
- 2 P11 Otaru Canal
- 3 P11 Sapporo Clock Tower
- 4 P11 Mount Hakodate
- 5 P12 Asahiyama Zoo
- 6 P12 Icebreaker Garinko
- 7 P12 Shiretoko
- 8 P12 Jewelry Ice



Map Key

- E5 DO-O EXPWY
- E5A SASSON EXPWY/SHIRIBESHI EXPWY
- E38 E61 DOTO EXPWY
- E63 HIDAKA EXPWY
- E62 FUKAGAWA-RUMOI EXPWY
- Hokkaido Development Bureau Management Zone (Free)
- JR Track

Interchange
Half-Interchange
Junction
SA / PA with commercial facilities (rest areas)
SA / PA without commercial facilities (rest areas)
SA = Service Area
PA = Parking Area

SA / PA (rest area) symbols

Information	Food court
Accessible toilet	Shopping area
Wheelchair lending (No charge)	Baby-care room
Wi-Fi	Vending machines
Pedestrian entrance	Filling station
Convenience stores	ATM

EV QUICK
Electric Vehicle Fast Charging Station

Michi-no-Eki
(Roadside Rest Areas)

Restrooms restaurants, wi-fi, etc. available.



Hokkaido's four seasons

Spring, fresh green and beautiful flowers. Summer, refreshing and comfortable. Autumn, with its bountiful harvests and beautiful colors. And of course, the all-encompassing snowscape of winter. Hokkaido's seasons are sharply distinct from one another, even for Japan. Each season has its own unique and wonderful beauty.



Shimukappu



Kamikawa



Otaru

❄️❄️❄️

Winter driving memo

🚗

In a typical year in Hokkaido, snow begins falling in mid-October and there is sometimes still snow on the roads in May. During this season be sure to put snow tires on your car and be extra careful when driving on snowy roads.

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 as Yoshino cherry and Sargent's cherry is early to mid May. In addition to cherry blossoms, flowers you can see in Hokkaido in spring include moss phlox, tulips and lilacs. Lovely wild flowers like dogtooth violet and *Corydalis ambigua* also begin to bloom in the fields.



Asian fawnlily / *Corydalis ambigua*

Sargent cherry

Hokkaido summer

The best time to see such flowers as lavender, lilies, 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 hold a beer in one hand while tasting delicious Hokkaido specialty dishes.



Trekking

Sapporo Odori Beer Garden

Hokkaido autumn

Daisetsuzan 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 also cosmos are in full bloom between early September and late October. Autumn is the season for harvesting various crops from the vast farmlands of Hokkaido, and during this time of year you can partake of apple and grape picking in orchards. Seafood is also in season in the fall, including salmon, the most famous Hokkaido fish.



Salmon chan-chan yaki (Steam-fried salmon with vegetables and miso paste)

Grape picking



Snowshoe trekking

Drift ice

Temperature and snowfall in major cities

(*1)	May		Aug.		Oct.		Feb.		Average snowfall (depth) (*2)			
	High temperature (°C)	Low temperature (°C)	High temperature (°C)	Low temperature (°C)	High temperature (°C)	Low temperature (°C)	High temperature (°C)	Low temperature (°C)	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March
Sapporo	19.5	9.9	27.3	20.0	16.8	8.3	0.8	-5.6	11	58	79	59
Hakodate	18.4	8.9	26.7	19.8	17.6	8.0	2.2	-5.3	28	22	28	3
Obihiro	20.1	7.3	26.0	17.5	16.5	5.5	0.4	-11.2	3	36	42	32
Kushiro	13.0	5.2	22.7	16.8	15.8	6.6	0.2	-9.2	4	9	18	13
Asahikawa	19.8	7.4	27.3	17.6	15.0	4.8	-1.3	-10.4	41	50	54	41

(*1) Japan Meteorological Agency (2015-2024), average observed values over a 10-year period
(*2) Japan Meteorological Agency (2022-2024), snow depth on the 15th of each month (3-year average)

Sunrise and sunset times (Sapporo)

Spring, May	Sunrise 4:11	Sunset 18:51
Summer, August	Sunrise 4:40	Sunset 18:37
Autumn, October	Sunrise 5:48	Sunset 16:52
Winter, February	Sunrise 6:34	Sunset 17:05

*National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (2024)
Displays the time on the 15th of each month.

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 cold 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 comfortable wearing a short-sleeve shirt during the day, but after mid-August the temperatures suddenly drop in the morning and evening, so be careful. When you visit cool mountains and lakes, taking a light jacket with you will give you peace of mind.

🍁

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 or coat made with an emphasis on protection against cold, layers that are easy to take off and put on and footwear with good traction. Scarves, gloves and hats are effective for keeping out the cold.

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HOKKAIDO DRIVE GUIDE 4

Drive to a Winery

Wineries with cafe and dining

Winery



Special edition




Drinking
and driving
is strictly
prohibited


Do not enter
the premises
without perm-
ission.

The information posted in this special edition is current as of May 2025.



An up-and-coming winery that opened in 2022. The satellite office next door also offers lodging.

Southern
Hokkaido



Kaminokuni Winery Kaminokuni-Town

Nearest IC: Around 30 minutes by car from Kikonai IC



A winery that opened in January 2022 from an abandoned school in Kaminokuni Town through renovation. It creates new Japanese wines that reflect the local climate, which is blessed with abundant nature, including the sea, mountains, and rivers. Since all processes leading up to commercialization can be inspected and supervised in-house, it offers wines that are made with careful human attention. The winery shop also has a space where you can taste the bottled wine you purchased on the spot. In addition to wine-related products, there are also local products unique to Kaminokuni Town.

It has also launched several unique projects, and the "ART WITH ME × Kaminokuni Winery" collaboration is a big step forward in reducing food waste and promoting sustainability by not discarding grapes that do not meet the company's quality standards (due to high acidity), but instead reviving them as a new alcoholic beverage. Japanese artist GACKT is also working on a wine project where he carefully makes wine even from selecting seedlings.

The winery also has a satellite office. The working space, which is in harmony with nature and has an open feeling, is a space where you can concentrate on your work. There are also eight private rooms with a relaxing atmosphere, equipped with showers, toilets, and beds, ensuring a comfortable stay.

243-4 Yunotai, Kaminokuni-Town

- Features: Winery shop, winery tours (on non-work days except September to November. Reservations are required), satellite office
 - Phone /0139-56-1260
 - Opening hours / 10:00~17:00
 - Closed /Irregular (may be closed due to events, etc.)
 - Parking / Available
- <https://kaminokuni-winery.jp>



Front left "KAMI NO KURENAI" 375ml 1,980yen
Front right "KAMI NO SHIRO NIAGARA 2022" 750ml 3,850yen

Natural gardens and activities A luxurious stay at a winery with a hotel Central Hokkaido Niki Hills Winery

Central
Hokkaido /



NIKI Hills Winery Niki-Town

Nearest IC: Around 10 minutes by car from Niki IC

The winery, which has a brewery, vineyards, natural gardens, a restaurant, and a hotel on its vast grounds, is visited by wine lovers and tourists from Japan and abroad. Winemakers with experience in various countries around the world are taking on the challenge of making world-class wines based on the common knowledge of global cultivation and brewing. The wines brewed from grapes grown in the Niki and Yoichi areas, which have a long history of fruit cultivation, have a beautiful aroma. The winery's flagship wine, "HATSUYUKI," has the acidity characteristic of Hokkaido wines and a refreshing, dry taste that goes well with a variety of dishes and is easy to drink. At the wine shop, you can view the vineyards that stretch as far as the eye can see, the townscape, and Yoichi Bay, and you can buy wine and juice as well as taste them. The staff will explain the wines and introduce rare wines that can only be purchased locally.

Winery tours, which take you around the winemaking facilities and barrel warehouses and learn about the winemaking process, can be booked on the day. After the tour, you can enjoy wine tasting, and those who can't drink wine can enjoy their own original brand of juice. There are also natural gardens that change with the seasons and seasonal activities, so why not stay at the hotel, enjoy garden walks and activities during the day, and indulge in exceptional wine and food in the evening, for a luxurious stay?

148-1 Asahidai, Niki-Town

●Features / Restaurant, shop, hotel, natural garden, winery tour, nature trekking tour, tent sauna (winter only), etc.

●Phone / 0135-32-3801

●Opening hours / Winery/shop 10:00-16:00 (last orders 15:30)

Restaurant Lunch 11:30-last orders 14:00

Dinner 18:00 (all start at the same time reservations are required 3 days in advance)

●Closed / Irregularly

●Parking / Available

<https://nikihills.co.jp/>



"HATSUYUKI"
5,500yen



Enjoy the marriage of the flavors of Hakkenzan with fine wine and cuisine.

Central
Hokkaido /



Hakkenzan Winery Sapporo-City

Nearest IC: Around 1 hour by car from Sapporo Kita IC

This winery is located at the foot of Mt. Hakkenzan, close to downtown Sapporo. They select high-quality grapes and go through a careful brewing process to create high-quality wines with a rich personality. The recommended wine is the "Dam-aged Wine," which is aged in the tunnel at Hoheikyo Dam, which is used as a cellar. Hakkenzan Kitchen, located on the premises, is a restaurant that focuses on using local ingredients, and serves delicious, healthy dishes that go perfectly with Hakkenzan wine.

194-1 Toyama, Minami-ku, Sapporo-City

●Features / Restaurant, market, gallery, walking trail around the vineyards, bonfire campsite, etc.

●Phone / 011-596-5778

●Opening hours / Hakkenzan Kitchen & Market 9:00-16:00
Hakkenzan Gallery 10:00-16:00

●Closed / Hakkenzan Kitchen & Market Thursdays
Hakkenzan Gallery Wednesdays and Thursdays

●Parking / Available

<https://hakkenzanwine.com/>



"Hoheikyo Dam Aged Wine Set" 6,320yen
K-Rouge#1 2020 K-Rouge#2 2020



Enjoy wine made from high-quality grapes, food, and accommodation

Central
Hokkaido /



Domaine Bless Niki-Town

Nearest IC: Around 5 minutes by car from Niki IC

Located in Asahidai, Niki-cho, where fruit cultivation has been thriving since ancient times, the winery is passionate about producing wines of which they are proud. With the motto "good wine comes from good grapes," the winery is committed to cultivating high-quality grapes and brewing with natural yeast. Their proud white wine "MUSUBI" has aromas of yellow citrus fruits, peaches and apples, a gentle and pleasant acidity, a rich flavor from black grapes, and a lingering bitterness of citrus fruits at the end, making it the perfect match for a variety of dishes. In addition to the winery, you can also enjoy meals and accommodation, and the cafe offers cakes and quiches that go well with wine, as well as wine tasting sets.

303 Asahidai, Niki-Town

●Features / Cafe, winery tour, condominium, wedding

●Phone / 0135-31-3311

●Opening hours / Saturday and Sunday 11:00-14:00

●Closed / Winery tour and cafe Monday-Friday,

Winter closed (October-April) *Condominium open all year round

●Parking / Available

<https://domaine-bless.com/>



"MUSUBI"
4,400yen



The oldest winery in Hokkaido, producing world-class wines



Tokachi Wine Ikeda-Town

Nearest IC: Around 20 minutes by car from Ikeda IC

The Ikeda Grape and Wine Research Institute is known as the "Wine Castle" because it resembles a medieval European castle. You can visit the underground aging room where the wine sleeps quietly, and the shopping area has an impressive attraction wall with a row of Tokachi wines. In addition to wine, you can buy Ikeda Town's specialty products, and many products that can only be purchased here. In the restaurant, you can enjoy seasonal ingredients grown in Tokachi and wine. There are free winery tours that you can easily join without making a reservation, and paid tours where you can also experience full-scale tasting.

83-4 Kiyomi, Ikeda-Town

● Features / Wine Castle visit, shopping area, museum -library, restaurant, rooftop observation plaza, winery tour

● Phone / 015-578-7850

● Opening hours / Wine Castle 9:00-17:00
Restaurant 10:30-17:00 (last orders 16:30)

*For details, please check the website

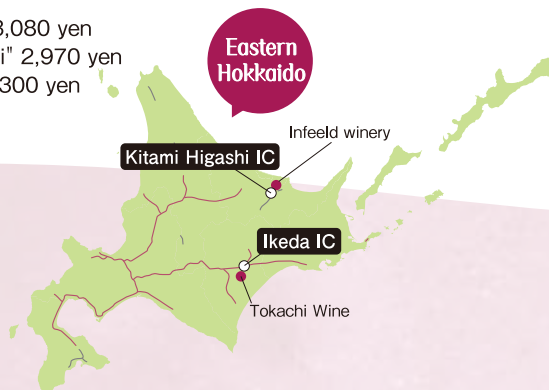
● Closed / Restaurant Tuesdays

● Parking / Available

<https://www.tokachi-wine.com/>



From left
"Kiyomai" 3,080 yen
"Yamasachi" 2,970 yen
"Kiyomi" 3,300 yen



The first winery in Okhotsk Distributing unique wines



Infeeld winery Kitami-City

Nearest IC: Around 30 minutes by car from Kitami Higashi IC

This is the only winery in Japan run by Japanese Black beef farmers, and the first in Okhotsk. They make their wine from 100% Kitami-grown grapes that have survived the harsh cold of Okhotsk. Their recommended wines are "Barrel-Aged Yamasachi," which is aged in oak barrels for about a year, giving it a deep flavor and a gentle taste, and "Yamasachi Rose," which has a light taste but still has a strong fruitiness. Other new products will also be available, so be sure to check the announcements on their website before visiting the wine shop attached to the winery. You may also be able to encounter these wines at events around Kitami.

715-10 Hiushinai, Tanno-cho, Kitami-City

● Features / Shop, event booth

● Phone / 0157-57-2358

● Opening hours / 9:30-16:00

● Closed / Open irregularly (check Instagram for opening days)

● Parking / Available

<https://miraifarm.co.jp/wine/>



Left: "Yamasachi Rose"
3,300 yen
Right: "Barrel-aged
Yamasachi"
4,100 yen



Adorable goats help make mellow wine A sustainable winery that coexists with nature



Domaine Raison Nakafurano-Town

Nearest IC: Around 30 minutes by car from Kitanomine IC

Located along National Route 237, this winery is easy to drop by. They aim to make wine in an environment where humans and nature can coexist. They raise goats, which eat grass and ferment their waste into compost, which is then added to the soil along with the sediment and pomace left over from the fermentation of wine, encouraging the activation of microorganisms. This "sustainable energy cycle" is created, and the power of nature is utilized in winemaking. If you make a reservation for a tour of the winery by the day before, you will be given a guided tour inside, where you will be able to see the brewing machinery and other things that you normally can't see (however, tours may not be possible if there is a large group tour, etc.). There is also an experience where you can feed and milk the adorable goats and interact with them, making it a fun place to visit with the family (some areas require reservations).

The boutique on the premises sells original wines with a refreshing, light taste that can only be achieved in the cool climate. Popular wines are Nakafurano Sauvignon Blanc, which was named the best in Japan in 2024, and Nakafurano Kerner, made from Domaine Raison's signature grapes. The wine is made from grapes with a high sugar content harvested from the vineyards, and in order to give the Kerner a more complex taste, which is known for its rich fruit flavor, it is left on the lees for around six months. At Yagi Cafe, you can enjoy lunch made with plenty of Furano vegetables, soft ice cream made with goat's milk and more, all on the terrace, overlooking the magnificent Tokachi Mountains.

Kita 4-go 1-sen Higashi Nakafurano-Town

● Features / Cafe, boutique (shop), winery tour, goat petting experience, blueberry harvesting experience

● Phone / 0167-44-3035

● Opening hours / 10:00-17:00

● Closed / End of April-end of October Tuesdays, July-August every day open, winter period Tuesdays and Wednesdays

*For details, please check the website

● Parking / Available

<https://domaine-raison.com/>



"Nakafurano Kerner 2023" 3,300 yen



Recommended sightseeing spots in Hokkaido

Hokkaido is a treasure trove of natural wonders. Beautiful scenery that changes colors with the seasons can be found all over Hokkaido. This includes natural phenomena that can only be seen in winter and one-of-a-kind, picturesque scenery that makes for wonderful photos. If you're traveling through Hokkaido, you also have to see its historic buildings that bring history life.

Photo Journey through Hokkaido

NEXCO EAST publishes images of beautiful scenery changing colors in each of the four seasons, vast nature scenes in which you can feel the spirit of the earth, urban scenes with beautiful decorative lighting, and other photos that make you feel as though you are traveling across Hokkaido. Please enjoy the journey.

Access the website here >



Blue Pond

A picturesque spot where the blue water surface and withered Japanese larch trees create a storybook landscape. In the spring, the pond sparkles a green-blue color, and in summer and autumn the vivid flora strike a beautiful contrast. In winter, the blue-tinted water surface and snowscape strike a mystical tone.

[Location] Shirogane, Biei Town
[Hours] Parking lot: 7:00 - 19:00 (May to October),
8:00 - 21:30 (November to April) *There is a fee to use the parking lot.
[Access] Approx. 40 km from downtown Asahikawa City, or approx. 60 min. by car
[URL] <https://www.biei-hokkaido.jp/ja/sightseeing/shirogane-blue-pond/>
☎ 349 569 814*43



Asahiyama Zoo

Japan's northernmost zoo attracts crowds of tourists from throughout Japan. It is especially popular for its "behavioral exhibits" that bring out animals' natural qualities, and visitors can see animals like polar bears and lions at close quarters. There's also an adorable "Penguin Walk" event in winter.

[Location] Kuranuma Higashi-asahikawa-cho, Asahikawa City
*Zoo hours and zoo opening/closure dates differ from year to year.
Refer to the website for more information.
[Access] Approx. 10 km from downtown Asahikawa City, or approx. 30 min. by car
[URL] <https://www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/asahiyamazoo/> ☎ 79 358 812*26



Otaru Canal

Sightseeing spot with historic warehouses made of stone that is especially popular even in Otaru. This nostalgic and atmospheric scenery is beautifully picturesque when shot from any angle. After nightfall, 63 gas lights turn on to illuminate the path and cast the canal and warehouses in a romantic mood.

[Location] Minatomachi, Otaru City
[Access] Approx. 40 km from downtown Sapporo City, or approx. 40 min. by car
[URL] <https://www.city.otaru.lg.jp/docs/2020100900367/>
☎ 493 690 444*66



Sapporo Clock Tower

A popular sightseeing spot that serves as a symbol of Sapporo. Designated an Important Cultural Property by the national government, the toll of the tower's bell has struck at noon for Sapporo City residents for over 130 years. Inside the tower, visitors can examine the reverberating bell and learn about the history of Hokkaido's development and the clock tower itself.

[Location] 2-chome Kita 1 Jonishi, Chuo Ward, Sapporo City
[Hours] 8:45 - 17:10 (Entry allowed until 17:00)
[Fee] ¥ 200 for adults; free for senior high school students and younger
[Closed] New Year's (January 1-3)
[Access] Approx. 1 km from downtown Sapporo City, or approx. 3 min. by car
[URL] <http://sapporoshi-tokeidai.jp> ☎ 9 522 206*01



Shiretoko

Shiretoko is a UNESCO World Heritage Site full of untouched nature. See animals such as brown bears and yezo sika deer, as well as countless breathtakingly beautiful spots such as Furepe Falls and Lake Rausu. The various activity tours are recommended for sightseeing, and information on those can be picked up at the Shiretoko National Park Nature Center and elsewhere.

Shiretoko National Park Nature Center
[Location] Iwaubetsu 531 Onnebetsumura, Shari, Shari District
[Hours] 8:00 - 17:30 (Apr. 20 to Oct. 20); 9:00 - 16:00 (Oct. 21 to Apr. 19)
[Access] Approx. 80 km from downtown Abashiri City, or approx. 90 min. by car
[URL] <http://center.shiretoko.or.jp> ☎ 757 603 607*38



Mount Hakodate

The Hakodate City nightscape is counted among one of the Three Major Night Views of the World, and the view from the observation deck reached via ropeway at the summit of Mount Hakodate is one of the most stellar. In addition to its nighttime view, Mount Hakodate is also beautiful during the day. Enjoy the sight of cherry blossoms blooming in spring and the changing colors of the leaves in autumn.

Mount Hakodate Ropeway
[Location] 19-7 Motomachi, Hakodate City
*Hours vary from year to year. Refer to the website for more information.
[Fee] Round trip: 1,800 yen for adults (Junior high or older); 900 yen for children
[Access] Approx. 2 km from downtown Hakodate City, or approx. 5 min. by car
[URL] <https://334.co.jp> ☎ 86 041 004*66



Jewelry Ice

This stunning sight can be seen only between mid-January and mid-February on the sandy beaches near the estuary of the Tokachi River in the town of Toyokoro. Clear ice washed up all across the coast sparkles under the sun's light, making it look just like so many gems. This location is inaccessible using public transportation, so a guided tour is recommended.

[Location] Otsu Motomachi, Toyokoro Town
[Access] Approx. 50 km from downtown Obihiro City, or approx. 60 min. by car
[URL] <https://www.toyokoro-kankoh.com/>
☎ 511 078 059*27

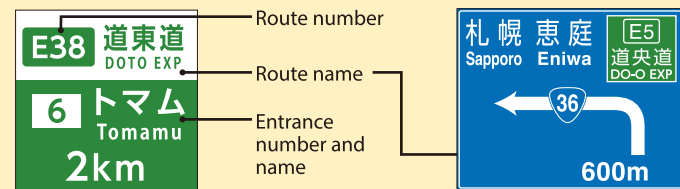


How to use expressway in Japan

1 How to Read road signs

Entrance signs

These signs are placed near where freeway entrances and ordinary roads intersect.



Exit signs

These signs are placed near freeway exits.



Rest facilities sign

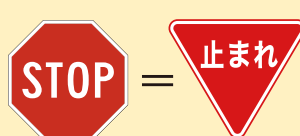
Types of facilities available

Rest stop name



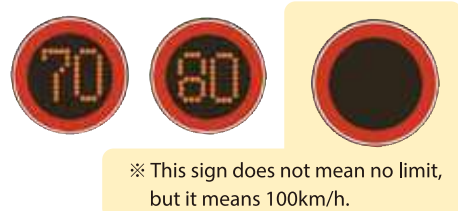
Pay attention to this sign!

Some interchanges have stop signs. Where you see these signs, you must stop even if there is no traffic light, and make sure it is safe before starting again (the same applies to ordinary roads).



2 Refrain from your driving speed

Obey the speed limits displayed on speed control signs. Additionally, speed limits may be set lower than normal when weather or road conditions are poor. Pay attention to speed limit signs and drive at a safe speed appropriate to road conditions.



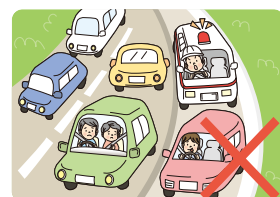
3 Keep Left, Let others pass

If there are multiple lanes, the right lane must be left open because it is the passing lane. Do not change lanes excessively or recklessly.



4 No parking on the expressway

Parking or stopping a car on an expressway is a violation of the Road Traffic Act. You are not allowed to stop your car on an expressway except parking at a facility such as a service area or parking area, or in the event of a traffic jam or breakdown.



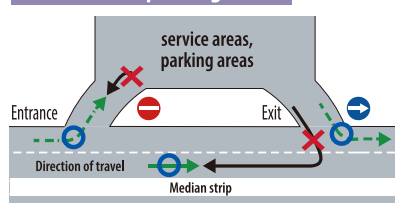
5 Do not drive on the shoulder

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.

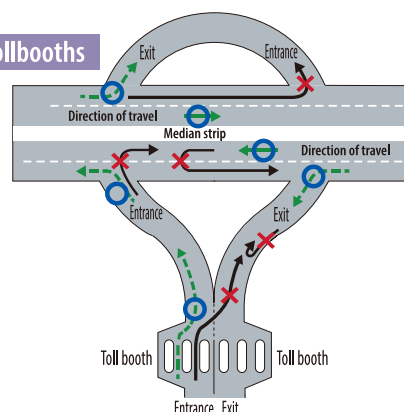
6 No wrong-way driving

There have been several serious accidents caused by cars reversing on the expressway. Only drive on the expressway in the indicated direction. Pay close attention to traffic signs, guidance signs, and road markings.

At service or parking areas



At interchanges and tollbooths



7 Always keep your seatbelt fastened

Death rates for non-seat belt wearers is **Approximately 17 times** that of seat belt wearers. All riders in all seats are legally required to wear their seat belts. Children younger than six must be placed in a child seat. *(Source: Traffic Statistics (2022 edition), Traffic Accident Analysis Center)



8 Keep a safe distance from the other vehicles

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 is 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.



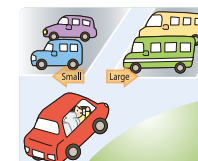
9 Don't cut in front of other vehicles.

Cutting in front of another vehicle will cause the driver of that vehicle to swerve or break suddenly and could result in an accident. Always make sure there is plenty of space between your vehicle and the one behind you when changing lanes.



10 Parking Rules in Rest Areas

When stopping in service or parking areas, be sure to park your vehicle squarely in a parking space. Also, be sure to match the size of the parking space you choose to the size of your vehicle: small parking spaces for small vehicles and large parking spaces for large vehicles.



11 Stay focused while 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 In case of emergency

① Provide warnings to the vehicles behind you!

Help make other drivers aware of the situation.

When setting up warning signals, stay off the roadway and behind the guardrail or median strip when moving toward the rear of your vehicle.

*Most cars have a holder for road safety flares in the footwell of the front passenger seat.

Three kinds of warning signals

- 1 Turn on your hazard lights
- 2 Light safety flares and place them in the road
- 3 Set up emergency warning triangles or other safety markers.



② Seek refuge in a safe location and then report the accident.

There are three ways to report an accident in Japan.

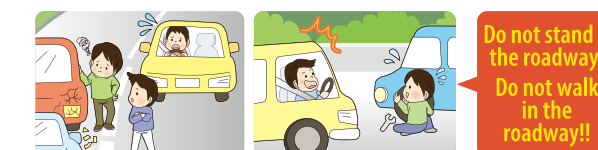
- 1 Dial 1-1-0 from any land line
- 2 Use one of the emergency freeway telephones that are installed along the freeway*
- 3 #9910



*1 Emergency freeway telephones are located every kilometer along the freeway and every 200 meters in tunnels. Just pick up the receiver to be connected immediately to a traffic control center. Emergency telephones are equipped with pushbuttons that will enable you to request emergency response for a mechanical failure, an accident, an injury, or fire without speaking.

③ Don't walk around while waiting!

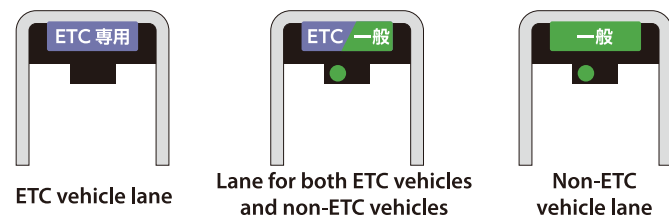
Many serious traffic accidents on expressways involve vehicles hitting people. While waiting, do not walk around under any circumstances; wait for rescue in a safe place, such as outside the guardrail.



Do not stand in the roadway!
Do not walk in the roadway!!

How to pay the Express toll

1 Toll booth lanes



ETC vehicles: Vehicles equipped with ETC★ ETC vehicles can use entrances and exits without stopping.

Non-ETC vehicles: Vehicles not equipped with ETC Non-ETC vehicles must take a toll road ticket at the road entrance and pay by cash or credit card at the exit.

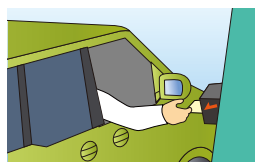
[Entry toll booth]

When you're driving a car with ETC

Enter at less than 20 km/h and drive slowly through the ETC lane. If the word "STOP" is displayed, do not back up. Turn on your hazard lights and wait where you are until a clerk arrives.

Non-ETC vehicles

Stop at the entrance toll booth and take a toll ticket from the automated ticket machine. You will pay when exiting the expressway.



[Exit toll booth]

When you're driving a car with ETC

Enter at less than 20 km/h and drive slowly through the ETC lane. If the word "STOP" is displayed, do not back up. Turn on your hazard lights and wait where you are until a clerk arrives.

Non-ETC vehicles

Stop at the exit and hand over your toll road ticket at the exit toll booth. Pay the toll road ticket in cash or with a credit card. Use the lane marked "一般 精算機" and pay using the self-operated toll machine.



The toll between Sapporo-Nishi and Sapporo-Minami ICs is a flat fee.

Otaru IC⇄Sapporo-Nishi IC The Sapporo Nishi Interchange entrance has no toll booth, so drivers will pay the toll at the exit.

2 ETC★ (Electronic toll collection)

This expressway toll payment system allows your vehicle to pass through the tollgate and pay the toll without stopping. Securely insert your ETC card (an IC card) into the ETC device in your vehicle. When the device transmits your ETC data to the receiver at the toll booth, your toll is paid and the tollgate opens.

- If your vehicle is ETC-equipped, use an ETC lane "ETC専用" or a lane open to both ETC "ETC一般" and non-ETC vehicles.
ETC専用 ETC一般 Look at the signage in the lane to determine what type of lane it is.
- There are boom barriers installed at entrance and exit lanes. If there is some problem with the wireless ETC signal, the roadside display will flash "STOP" and the barrier will not be raised.
- If the ETC lane is 閉鎖中, use the non-ETC lane.
• If the entrance is 閉鎖中, take a toll road ticket in the non-ETC lane; and then at the exit, make sure that you use the non-ETC lane and hand over your ETC card. (You cannot use the ETC lane to exit the expressway)
- If the exit is 閉鎖中, use the non-ETC lane and hand over your ETC card. Signs and signals indicating whether a lane is ETC専用 ETC一般 can be found above each lane.
- If you accidentally enter the ETC lane in a non-ETC vehicle, turn on your hazard lights and wait in place for a service member to respond.

ETC precautions

- Is your ETC card properly inserted into the ETC device?
If you forget to insert your ETC card into the device or if it is only partially inserted, the barrier will not rise. Ensure that the card is properly inserted into the on-board device while driving.
- Stay a reasonable distance behind the vehicle in front of you.
The vehicle driving in front of you may suddenly come to a stop. Stay a reasonable distance behind the vehicle in front of you and remain under 20 km / hr.
- Absolutely never put your vehicle in reverse in the lane!
Even if you have stopped your vehicle in the ETC lane, putting your vehicle in reverse may result in you running over service staff or crashing into the vehicle behind you. Please simply wait for a service member to come to your vehicle.



3 What is "Smart ICs"?

A Smart Interchange (Smart IC) is an interchange that is only open to ETC vehicles. There are two Hokkaido Smart ICs in Hokkaido: Wattsu Smart IC and Sunagawa SA Smart IC.

- Wattsu Smart Interchange and Sunagawa SA Smart Interchange only use ETC.
(A vehicle with an ETC card but no ETC transponder can't use a smart IC gate.)
- ETC only works at this gate when the vehicle is stopped. The gate will not open if you do not stop your vehicle. Be sure to stop.

Winter road awareness

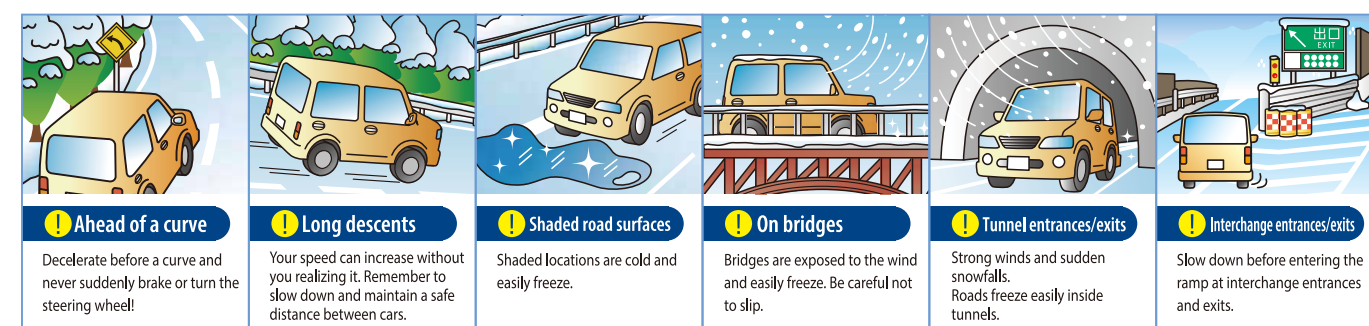
In the winter season, you absolutely must ensure that you slow down and that you maintain a reasonable distance between vehicles.

Watch out for blizzards and snow blown on the ground by winds from the northwest. Even if the weather is relatively good, visibility can suddenly worsen. To be able to cope with sudden weather changes, be mindful of gathering information, slowing down and maintaining a safe distance between cars.



In Hokkaido in winter, the number of accidents caused by steering and braking errors is about four times higher than from spring to autumn! (Based on NEXCO East Japan research)

In the typical year, road accidents spike around the beginning of winter in November. Winter roads become covered in snow and ice, making them extremely slippery. Driving on such roads in the same way as you would in summer – at the same speeds and with the same handling – is extremely dangerous. Drive carefully and avoid sudden turns, sudden acceleration, and sudden braking.



Important Notice: Anti-icing and snow removal work

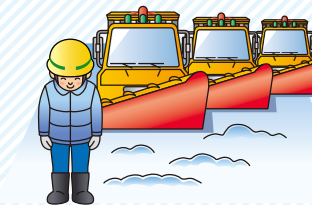
Winter roads become covered in snow and ice, making them extremely slippery. Please take extreme caution when driving on such roads.

1. Snow removal work

Removing newly fallen snow



Passing other cars is not allowed while this work is underway.



Snowplows will periodically stop snow removal operations and allow the vehicles behind it to pass.

Do not pass a snowplow while it is performing snow removal operations.



Safety first: never pass a snowplow while it is performing snow removal operations.

2. Anti-icing work

Roads are salted (with sodium chloride, or salt) to prevent road surfaces from freezing over. Please be careful when passing a work vehicle spraying antifreeze as there is a risk of the antifreeze getting onto your vehicle.



National Expressway information site
ドラぷら E-NEXCO Drive Plaza

Five languages
English, traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese, Korean, Thai

Access



SA・PA (Rest area) MAP

Hours are subject to change from those listed in this guidebook. Refer to DoRaPuRa for up-to-date hours.



Speed-limit
segment

70 km/h
speed limit

80 km/h
speed limit

100 km/h
speed limit

Sunagawa SA (downbound)

7 a.m.-7 p.m. April-Nov.
9 a.m.-7 p.m. Dec.-March

6 a.m.-10 p.m. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Note: You can use a fast charger at Sunagawa Highway Oasis.

Smart IC

Iwamizawa SA (downbound)

7 a.m.-7 p.m. April-Nov.
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec.-March

24 hours

Nopporo PA (downbound)

24 hours

Kanayama PA (downbound)

24 hours

Kanayama PA (upbound)

24 hours

Wattsu PA (downbound)

8 a.m.-8 p.m. April-Nov.
9 a.m.-7 p.m. Dec.-March

24 hours

Smart IC

Tarumae SA (downbound)

24 hours

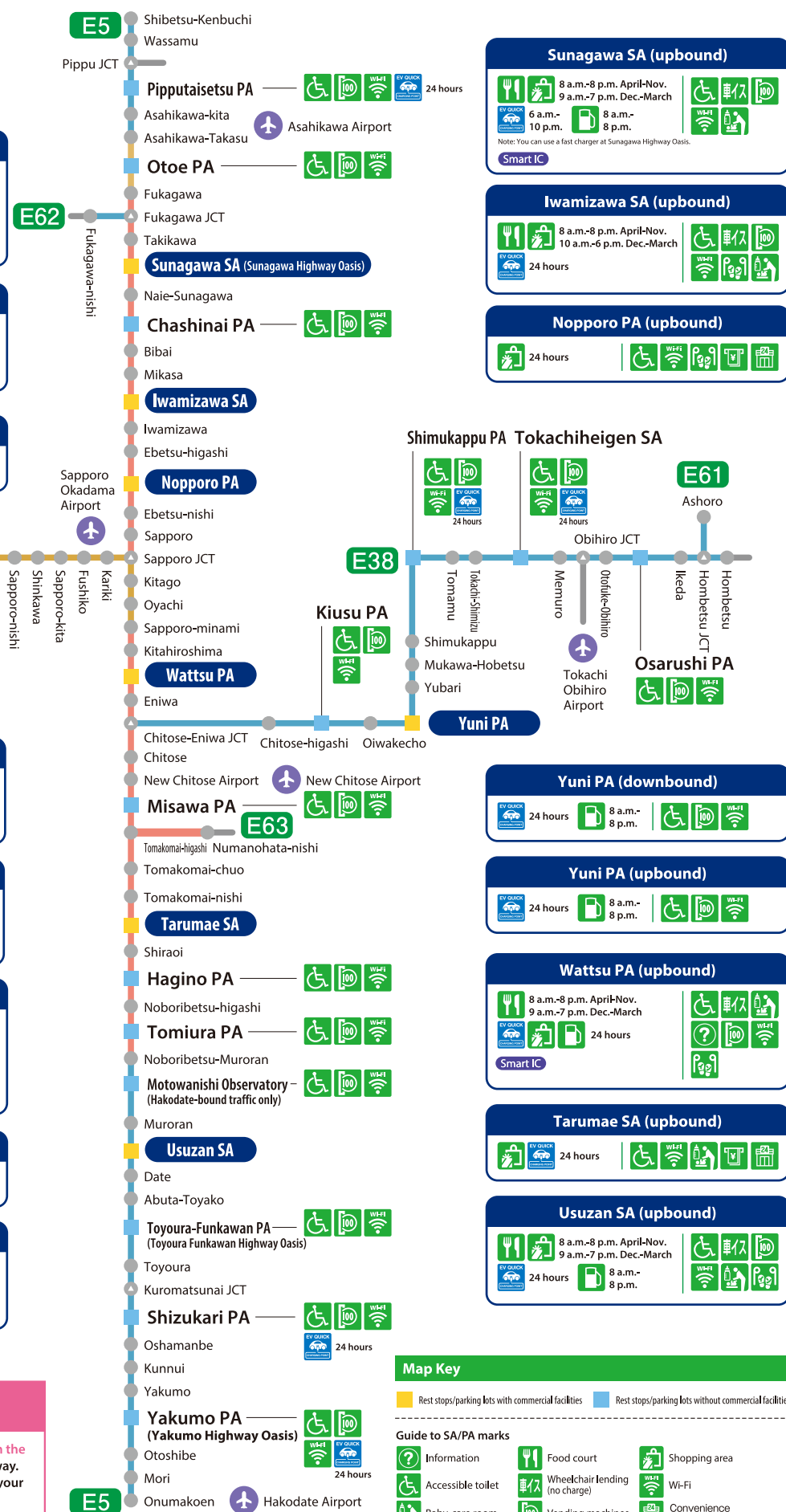
Usuzan SA (downbound)

8 a.m.-8 p.m. April-Nov.
9 a.m.-7 p.m. Dec.-March

24 hours

Fuel your car early

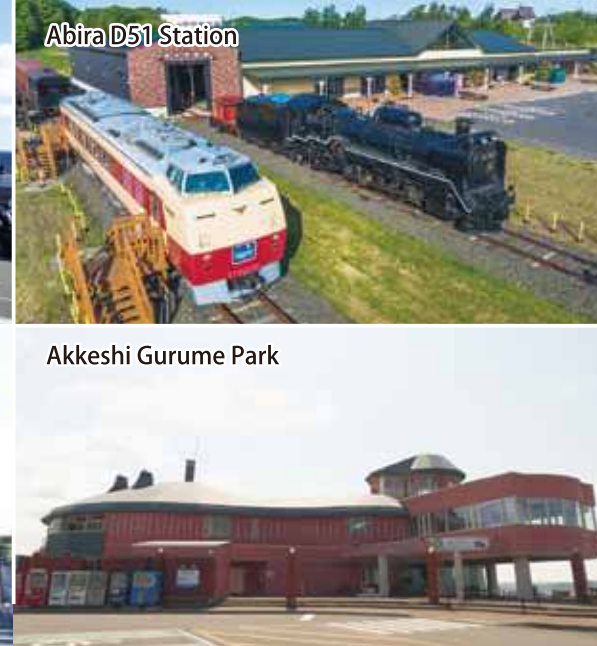
- The Yuni Parking Area is the final gas station in the Obihiro-bound direction of the Doto Expressway. Pay close attention to how much gas is left in your tank.
- Every gas station but Wattsu PA has limited operating hours, so if you will be driving at night, fuel your car early.



Rest facilities for
enjoying long-distance
drives in Hokkaido



Michi-no-Eki
(Roadside Rest Areas)



These are rest areas for long drives in vast Hokkaido. Michi-no-Ekis(roadside rest areas) offer various services to support pleasant driving.

1

Parking

24 hours

2

Toilets

3

Telephone

Information

Free Wi-Fi

Shop

Restaurant

Coffee

Official website 'Kita no Michi no Eki' Compatible with smartphones.

<http://www.hokkaido-michinoeki.jp/en/>

This page is in English.



Scenic Byways Hokkaido

In an e effort led by Hokkaido residents, we began the excellent roads program "Scenic Byways Hokkaido" in 2018 on a trial basis on 15 freeway segments throughout the prefecture. The purpose of the campaign is to preserve the region's attractive roadside scenery. It is a joint effort with companies, government and regional road managers that aims to energize the region and create beautiful scenery and attractive tourist spaces in Hokkaido, a place of scenic byways.



Shikotsu-Toya-Niseko Scenic Byway
Niseko Yotei area
国道276号 倶知安町・京極町・喜茂別町



Kushiro Marsh-Akan-Mashu Scenic Byway
国道273号 弟子屈町



Soya Scenic Byway
国道238号、道道889号、市道 稚内市

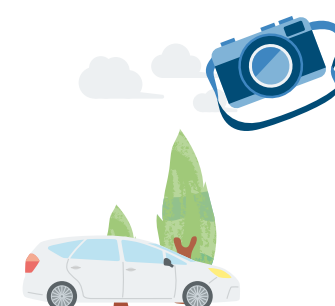


Photo Journey through Hokkaido

NEXCO EAST publishes images of beautiful scenery changing colors in each the four seasons,vast nature scenes in which you can feel the spirit of the eart urban scenes with beautiful decorative lighting,and other photos that make yo feel as though you are traveling across Hokkaido. Please enjoy the journey.

Access the website here ▶

