

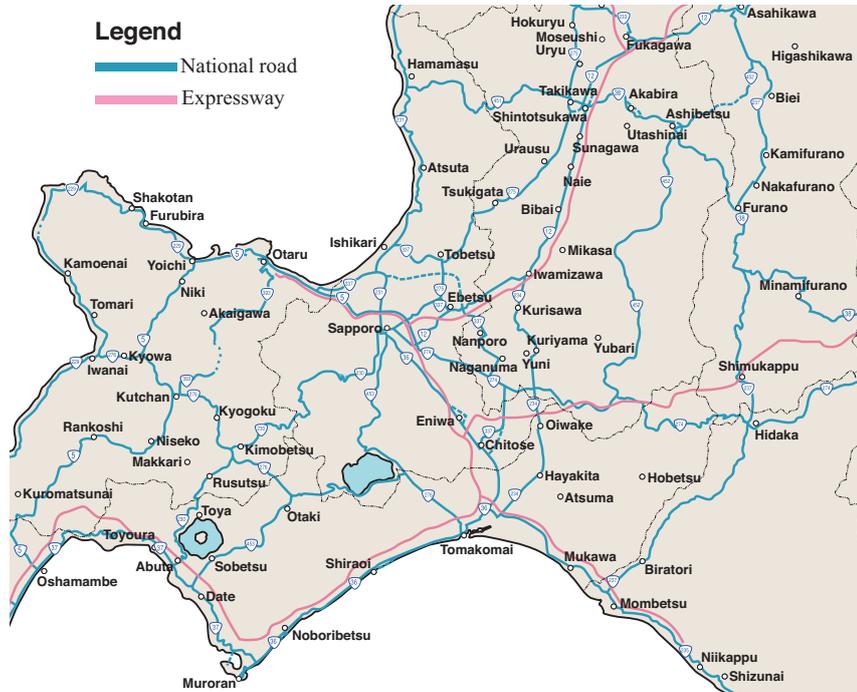
Take to the roads this autumn

Car rentals

Introducing some rent-a-car companies with a good reputation among tourists from overseas. Those with overseas licenses wishing to drive in Japan must produce an international driver's license and their passport.

One of the following licenses is required:

- ① A standard Japanese driving license (for those living in Japan)
- ② An international driving license (of a type issued in a country that is part of the Geneva Convention, based on the regulations of the convention)
- ③ An overseas driving license (issued in Switzerland, Germany, France, Italy, Taiwan or Belgium)



Toyota Rent-A-Lease Sapporo

Kita 5-jo Higashi 2-chome 1, Chuo-ku, Sapporo
Tel: +81-11-241-0100
(Sapporo Reservation Center)

Reception hours: 8:00 to 20:00
<https://toyotarentacar.net/english/>

Honda Rent-A-Lease Sapporo

Nango-dori 3-chome Kita, 1-37, Shiroishi-ku, Sapporo
Tel: +81-11-861-5353

Reception hours: 8:00 to 20:00
<http://www.hondarent.com/english/index.htm>

Otaru

A port famous for its wine, glass workshops and canal. Buildings that speak of the prosperity of the Meiji era are scattered throughout the town, which is often used for film and TV drama locations. Until the boom years of the trade with Russia in the 1920s, Otaru was Hokkaido's second largest community, with a population larger than that of Sapporo, but now that has dropped to approximately 71,000. Conveniently located just a 30-minute train ride away from Sapporo, the town is popular among tourists from both home and abroad. In particular, many visitors arrive from Taiwan, China and Korea throughout the four seasons to enjoy hiking in spring, the beaches in summer, the colorful leaves in autumn, and skiing in winter.

Proceed down the gentle slope in front of Otaru Station towards the port and you will come to the 20m-wide Otaru Canal, a popular Otaru sightseeing spot that was originally twice as wide. The area around the canal is known as the "Wall Street of the North" due to the number of banks, trading and shipping company buildings designed by top-class architects. From the



late 1800s to the early 1900s, Otaru was a port that thrived on the import and export businesses, and many stone warehouses were built in the vicinity of the canal.

At dusk, the canal-side footpath is lit up with gas streetlamps and the waterside stone warehouses are floodlit, creating a romantic atmosphere. The interiors of many of the nearby stone warehouses have been refurbished and now house retro-styled restaurants.

Every year in February the canal becomes the main venue for the Otaru Snow Light Path Festival, where buoys containing candles float on the surface of the water to create the beautiful yet mystical scene that has come to represent

Otaru in winter.

Otaru is also famous for glassware and orgel music boxes. Some workshops offer hands-on glass craft sessions, where visitors can blow sand onto the surface of the glass to create their very own patterns. The Orgel Doh was built in 1970 and provides a nostalgic space with a comforting atmosphere. Why not spend some time amid the sounds of the music boxes as they mingle with the sounds of the floor, which squeaks when you walk?

Otaru Tourism Association

<http://otaru.gr.jp/en/>

Sapporo and Jozankei



Since the establishment of the Hokkaido Colonial Commission in 1869, Sapporo has been the political, economical and cultural center of Hokkaido, and has grown to become Japan's 5th largest metropolis, with a population of over 1.9 million. This modern city, with its skyscrapers and contemporary architecture, also boasts an abundance of green parks and historical heritage, attracting large numbers of tourists throughout the year. The city is also a focal point of delicious cuisine from around the region, making it a gourmet's paradise.

Among the delicious treats, here are a few that you simply must try while you're here:

- ① Dishes and sushi made with fresh seafood such as crab, *uni* (sea urchin), salmon roe and the like



Niseko

The mecca of powder snow, Niseko has lots to offer in autumn, too. For cyclists, the green season in Niseko provides the perfect environment for two-wheeled travel: cross-country and downhill mountain bike courses, not to mention miles and miles of smooth roads with no signals, enabling roadies to whizz along with the wind, surrounded by nothing but nature. The route around the base of Mt. Yotei is highly recommended. Stop along the way at Fukidashi Koen – a park where cool, fresh water springs from the ground – and fill up your bottles with delicious Niseko water.

- ② Miso, shoyu (soy sauce flavored), shio (salt flavored) and prawn flavored Sapporo ramen
- ③ Genghis khan at the Sapporo Beer Garden
- ④ Soup curry brimming with Hokkaido vegetables
- ⑤ Hokkaido sweets such as Shiroikoibito or LeTAO cheesecake



Sapporo has many attractions, but the observatories at Mt. Moiwa and Okurayama Jump Stadium are highly recommended for their panoramic views of this modern city and its abundant nature. The 160-m-high JR Tower Observatory above Sapporo Station is also a great place to view the city streetscapes

Historical structures include the Former Hokkaido Government Office, which was built in 1888 and modeled on the Massachusetts State House; Sapporo Clock Tower, which was constructed in 1878 as a drill hall for the Sapporo Agricultural College – the predecessor to Hokkaido University; and the avenues of poplar and ginkgo trees on the campus of Hokkaido University itself, which was established in 1876 and whose first



vice-principal was Dr. William Smith Clark, whose famous phrase “Boys, be ambitious” remains synonymous with Sapporo.

In Odori Park in the center of the city, autumn delicacies such as grilled and boiled corn-on-the-cob can be enjoyed while sitting around the fountains. The brightly lit Susukino is Hokkaido's largest entertainment district, with over 3,500 establishments serving food and alcoholic beverages from around the world. The streets are among the safest anywhere, but try not to be tempted by obstinate barkers who try to lure passers-by into establishments. Norbesa, a building complete with a Ferris wheel on top, is worth a visit as meals in restaurants there can be enjoyed while taking in nighttime views of the city.

Approximately one hour from downtown Sapporo is the spa district of Jozankei Onsen. The hot springs were first discovered there in 1866, and now the spa resort in Sapporo's back yard has almost 20 hotels. Nearby are Hoheikyo Dam and Shikotsu-Toya National Park, which are both famous for their beautiful autumn leaves.

Sapporo Tourist Association

[http://www.sta.or.jp/english/Jozankei Tourist Association](http://www.sta.or.jp/english/Jozankei%20Tourist%20Association)
<http://jozankei.jp/en/>

Niseko's hot springs too, are known for their “beautifying water qualities,” and are made up of multiple springs, including sulfuric, bicarbonate sulfate and calcium sulfate springs as well as body warming chloride springs and gentle, comforting “beautifying water” to enable bathers to enjoy spiritual relaxation. Hop in the bathtub and feel as if you're floating in the forest.

At the Niseko Goshiki Onsen Inn you can enjoy free-flowing water direct from the source, for a beautifully smooth and moist skin tone.



Niseko Resort Tourist Association

<http://www.niseko-ta.jp/en/>