

Malaysia's Leading Japanese Travel and Lifestyle Magazine

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HOKKAIDO



YOUR NEXT TRAVEL DESTINATION



Jozankei Onsen (Hot Springs)

YOKOSO HOKKAIDO! ONE-STOP CHECKPOINT IN JAPAN

by Amber Cher

With 22% of the total cover land area of the country, Hokkaido is the largest island in Japan, and the 21st largest island in the world. The beauty and the four distinctive seasons in Hokkaido have gifted people with numerous magnificent sceneries. One can experience the many attractions of this island with a blend of traditional cultures, beautiful landscapes, varieties of delicious seasonal cuisine, and a lot of interesting cultural activities that can be done with the locals there. There is no best season to visit Hokkaido as every season has its own distinctive charms. If only we could take a whole year off on holiday so we could experience everything Hokkaido has to offer! Hokkaido welcomes people from all around the world regardless of nationality, religion or ethnicity. This is proven with the famous, heart-warming hospitality of the locals which has gained much satisfaction from visitors. The locals pride themselves upon their responsibility and hospitality towards visitors which has garnered much respect and overwhelmingly positive feedback in return.

Sapporo is the biggest city in Hokkaido and the 5th most populated city in Japan. With a beautifully aesthetic mix of natural and urban surroundings, Sapporo creates an open and welcoming feel. Shopping malls, high-rise buildings and outlets can be seen everywhere in Sapporo and blend beautifully with the surrounding natural scenery. You can get everything you could need in Sapporo without having to go to Tokyo, Osaka or even Kyoto. You can easily enjoy all the leisurely activities that Sapporo has to offer.

“Hokkaido, a breath-taking and unique island which never fails to reward its visitors with some of the best natural beauties that Japan has to offer.”

Donan, which on the Southern part of Hokkaido, is an area rich with historical and cultural values and not forgetting its breathtaking nature and scenery. Hakodate has its popularity due to it being strategically located in the center of the Southern Area of Hokkaido. There are many exotic places to do sightseeing and it is also blessed with an abundance of fresh seafood which will never fail to fulfill your appetite.

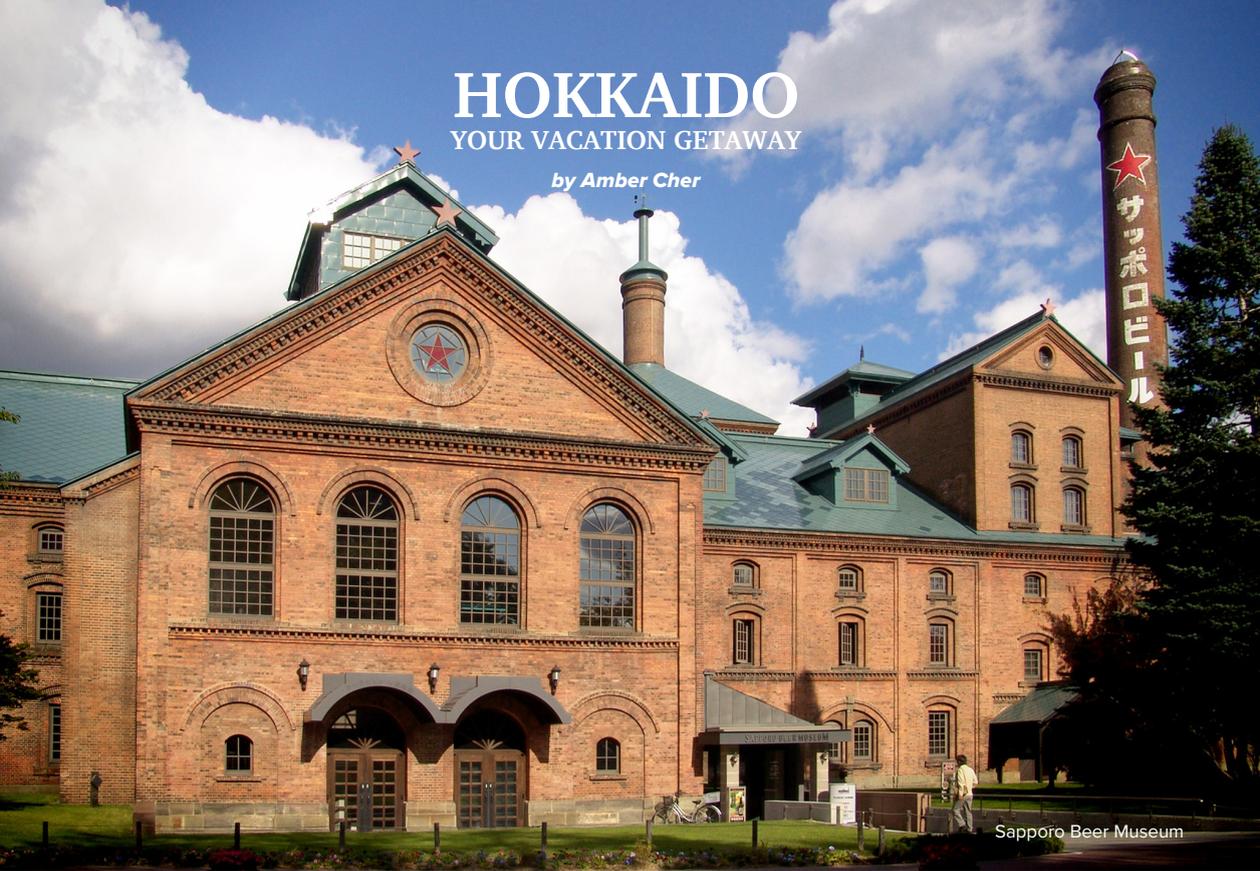
On the other side, if you want to experience the pure Hokkaido nature, the Northern Area is always your best choice to visit with its majestic mountains and rugged coastlines. If you are lucky enough, you may also get the chance to enjoy the flower blooming seasons. Moreover, an outdoor onsen (hot-spring) is a must to try in Hokkaido, especially when you have the view of the mountains around you. You will definitely fall in love with Hokkaido, a breath-taking and unique island which never fails to reward its visitors with some of the best natural beauties that Japan has to offer.

There are a number of ways to reach Hokkaido, firstly you can fly straight to the New Chitose Airport or if you'd rather take the more scenic route, Hokkaido is also accessible by car, ferry and the world famous bullet train. Yokoso Hokkaido!

HOKKAIDO

YOUR VACATION GETAWAY

by Amber Cher



Sapporo Beer Museum

Start your Journey from these Must-Visit Places

Sapporo Beer Museum has become a must-visit place when traveling in Hokkaido as it was registered as one of Hokkaido's Heritage sites since 2004. It provides visitors with an introduction to the history of the oldest and most popular beer in Japan and the detailed processes in beer making and brewing! To get there you may take the Loop 88 Factory Line bus that stops among other places such as Odori station and in front of the Seibu department store near Sapporo Station. It departs every 20 minutes and costs 210 yen per ride.

By taking the Tozai Subway Line to the western terminal Miyanosawa Station, you will get to access the well-known Hokkaido confectionery space known as Shiroi Koibito Factory and its theme park Shiroi Koibito Park. You can savour the famous Shiroi Koibito cookies while enjoying the facilities and the deliciousness that fills the

atmosphere there. A fun activity you can do there with family and friends and a sweet memory to remember your visit by, is making personalized 14-cm heart-shaped Shiroi Koibito cookies adorned with your own messages and designs made with all the original ingredients of the Shiroi Koibito cookies such as the same dough and chocolate.

Otaru Canal symbolizes Otaru, a port city located on the northernmost part of Hokkaido, as it serves as the main site of the town's Snow Light Path Festival which is held annually during winter in February. During this time lanterns placed in the canal and gracefully float around. Lanterns are also placed within beautiful hand made snow sculptures and they line along the sides of the canal. The snow sculptures and floating lanterns beautifully illuminate the canals, creating an awe-inspiring and magical scene. You just need a ten minute walk down a sloping road from the

“the best spot to view the spectacular flower fields with a wide range of different species.”

JR Otaru station to reach the canal and it will be definitely hard to miss especially in the evenings. This festival is a must-see for visitors in the area.

Yunokawa, one of the famous hot spring resorts in Southern Hokkaido, is known for its great healing power since its first recognition in 1653.



Yunokawa Hot Springs



Shiroi Koibito Park



Farm Tomita



Otaru Canal

The relaxing spa, the exquisite atmosphere and also the local scenic beauty of Yunokawa have left tourists and locals who also love to visit with everlasting memories and a great impression on this amazing resort.

The Furano's lavender usually starts blooming from late June till the mid-August every summer. Farm Tomita is the best spot to view the spectacularly colourful flower fields with a wide range of different species to discover. It provides free entrance to the public and there are also cafes and shops that sell enticing lavender scented perfumes, dried lavenders and even light purple lavender soft serve ice-cream!



Travel Guide on Niseko Ski Resort

by Sue Thang

Niseko Ski Resort
PHOTO: Niseko Ski Holidays

Niseko Ski Resort is Japan's number one snow resort which occupies the northern side of Hokkaido. It is comprised of 4 ski resorts – Grand Hirafu, Hanazono, Niseko Village and An'nupuri. It is called the "powder capital of the world" as many say it offers the driest and most powdery snow around the world.

BEST TIME TO VISIT:

Early season (Dec)

It is easier to get deals on accommodation. However, there might be days where there is very little snow.

Mid-season (Jan – Feb)

The peak powder season, which is the best time to go. They are hardly any days without fresh snowfall during this period. However, it can get very busy at this time of the year so bookings should be made well in advance.

Late season (Mar – Apr)

Can be an excellent time to visit, especially in the first half of this season. You still get decent snowfall with the occasional sunny day here and there. Best part is - it is a lot quieter when compared to mid-season.

NISEKO ACCOMMODATION:

At the Niseko Ski Resort, there are a wide range of apartments, resort homes, hotels and lodges. Ranging from ski-in/ski-out to a shuttle bus ride away, most lodging here have easy access to the ski lifts. Accommodation prices starts from around 7,000 JPY per person per night.

Ski lift prices:

The Niseko All Mountain (ski-lift) Pass provides access to all 4 ski



Niseko Grand-Hirafu Lift Ticket Office
PHOTO: Oga

villages. With this pass, you will also enjoy unlimited rides on the free bus shuttle service provided by Niseko United Shuttle too.

Adults: 4,000 JPY onwards

Children: 3,000 JPY onwards

HOW TO GET THERE:

Niseko Ski Resort is only 2.5 hours away from Sapporo New Chitose Airport. Transportation options include :

1. Buses from 8,800 JPY Return Per Person
2. Private transfers from 29,300 JPY One Way for two people.

NOTE: It is best to reserve your ticket prior to your arrival to avoid disappointment!

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.niseko.ne.jp/en/>



View of Mount Yotei from Niseko Ski Resort
PHOTO: Douglas P Perkins

TOP 5 MUST EAT Foods in Sapporo

by Sue Thang

1

Miso Ramen by Menya Saimi

★★★★★

Located within a 5 minute walk from Misono Station, you'll see long queue outside this small restaurant throughout their opening times. The tonkotsu-based miso ramen RM28 (¥750) brings out the best of both worlds - the sweet and rich taste.



2

Crab Buffet at Suntory's Garden Sora

★★★★★

Located conveniently near to Sapporo station, this is the place to go to try 3 major types of crabs (the hairy, the snow and red king crab). Limited only to dinner time, this 90-minute buffet session RM121 (¥3,240 per pax) only serves customers with reservations.



3

Cream Puffs by Milk Kobo

★★★★

This place is on almost all tour group's itineraries! Try their famous cream puffs RM5.60 (¥150) filled with thick, milky cream that melts in your mouth within seconds!



3

4

Sapporo Beer at Sapporo Beer Museum

★★★★

What's better than tasting Sapporo beer at its own brewery? Get a combo of 3 different beers at only RM 22.40 (¥600)!



4

5

Hokkaido Milk Soft Cream by Missue House

★★★

These milk ice creams RM 13.80 (¥370) produced by Hokkaido-quality cows is famous with its blue honeysuckle topping - a special type of berry found in Hokkaido.



5

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