

Sightseeing Buses

Various sightseeing buses are in operation according to seasons.

Summer: "Pirika-go" – One-day course covering the Kushiro Marsh, Lake Mashu, Lake Kussharo and Lake Akan

Winter: "White Pirika-go" – Course aiming to enjoy East Hokkaido in winter by making a tour to Lake Akan, Lake Mashu, etc.

◆Akan Bus: TEL/FAX: 0154-37-2221 / 0154-37-9083
<http://www.akanbus.co.jp/>

◆Reservations can be made on the following website.(Japanese and English)
<https://akanbus.tourbooking-japan.com/akanbus/v1/index.html>



Lake Kussharo



Lake Mashu



Access information

Climate of Kushiro

The average temperature in summer is below 20°C in Kushiro, and a lot of sea fog is generated in coastal areas. In winter, fine weather continues and the weather is unexpectedly bearable with little snow.

Aug.	Kushiro 21.2°C	Jan.	Kushiro -2.3°C	Annual	Kushiro 1957.6 hrs	Annual	Kushiro 1080.1 mm
Mean	Sapporo 24.6°C	Mean	Sapporo -1.2°C	sunshine	Sapporo 1718.0 hrs	precipitation	Sapporo 1146.1 mm
temp.	Tokyo 29.0°C	temp.	Tokyo 6.6°C	hours	Tokyo 1926.7 hrs		Tokyo 1598.2 mm



SUPER FANTASTIC
Kushiro Lake Akan

For inquiries, please contact : Kushiro Tourism & Convention Association
TEL: 0154-31-1993
FAX: 0154-31-1994
E-mail: mail@kushiro-kankou.or.jp
URL:<http://www.kushiro-lakeakan.com/>

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City of Kushiro

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* The routes of transportation systems included
in this booklet are as of June 2025.

KUSHIRO EAST HOKKAIDO



Thorough Guidebook of Lively Experience in kushiro

Kushiro

Kushiro Shitsugen National Park

The Kushiro Marsh is a wetland registered under the Ramsar Convention and Japan's largest wetland with an area of 28,000 ha. Blessed with diverse ecosystems, the park is particularly renowned as a habitat for the Red-crowned crane a Special Natural Monument.



Kushiro Marsh Observatory

This building, reminiscent of an old European castle, is full of information on the wetland and is surrounded by a boardwalk 2.5 km in circumference. Satellite Viewpoint located, in the middle section of the boardwalk, offers the best overlooking view west of the Kushiro Marsh. (The boardwalk is partially closed in winter.)

Access: Take Akan Bus, Tsurui Route, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 40min.) to Marsh Observatory Bus Stop
TEL/FAX: 0154-56-2424



Kushiro Marsh Observatory



Satellite Viewpoint

This viewpoint sits along the nature boardwalk that begins at Kushiro Marsh Observatory. It offers visitors a close look at the vast landscape reminiscent of African grasslands. The area also has plenty of rest spots, including Aosagi (Grey Heron) Square and Tancho (Red-crowned Crane) Square.

Onnenai Boardwalk

A wooden walkway with courses ranging from 500 m to 3 km in length. Choose one that best suits your needs and enjoy observing the wild birds and vegetation. What's more, the 2 km-course is wheelchair accessible. Since snow is not removed in winter, visitors can enjoy cross-country skiing here.

Access: Take Akan Bus, Tsurui Route, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (Approx. 50min.) to Onnenai Visitor Center Bus Stop.



Hosooka Viewpoint



This observatory is representative of the eastern portion of the wetland. It offers a spectacular view of the Kushiro River meandering through the wetland and the sun as it sets over the wetland with Mt. Oakan and Mt. Meakan in the distance.

Access: Take Senmo Line from JR Kushiro Station (approx. 15min.) to Kushiro Shitsugen Station, and walk for 10 min.

Norokko Train & SL Fuyu-no-Shitsugen Train



Kushiro Shitsugen Norokko Train



SL Fuyu-no-Shitsugen Train

Kushiro Shitsugen Norokko Train, a train slowly running through the green wetland in summer, and the smoke emitting steam locomotive, traveling through white snowfields in winter, have become typical sights of the Kushiro Marsh.

Activities



Canoeing

Traveling down the Kushiro River, which meanders through the marsh, you can experience the marsh in the same way as flora and fauna in the marsh do.



Winter Canoeing

You can enjoy canoeing year-round in Kushiro. Gaining particular popularity these days is canoeing in the serene wintry scenery of snow and ice. If you're lucky, you may even see Hokkaido sika deer and eagles.



Horseback riding

Let's trek through the surrounding area and deep in the wetland on horseback. With easy lessons, even beginners will feel comfortable with horseback riding.

Red-crowned Crane, the Symbolic Bird



Reduced to a population of over a dozen, the Red-crowned crane became endangered as a result of indiscriminate hunting. Thanks to the conservation efforts of neighboring residents, however, the population has increased and the Red-crowned crane was designated as a Special Natural Monument in 1952. Currently, approximately 1,800 Red-crowned cranes live in East Hokkaido throughout the year. The largest bird in Japan, Red-crowned cranes are regarded as birds of love since, once they have found a mate, they remain in pairs for the rest of their lives and cooperate in bringing up their offspring.

Red-crowned Crane can be seen throughout the year.

•Kushiro Zoo

Kushiro Zoo has the Red-crowned crane Protection and Propagation Center. In addition, Blakiston's fish owls, Steller's sea eagles and White-tailed sea eagles, which are all natural monuments, can also be seen here.

Access: Take Akan Bus, Refre Route or Akanhon-cho Route, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx.1hr.) to Dobutsuen (Zoo) Bus Stop
TEL/FAX:0154-56-2121 / 0154-56-2140

Red-crowned Cranes a gather in several hundreds in the following feeding grounds from mid November to early March*

*The feeding period may vary depending on weather conditions and other circumstances.

•Kushiro Akan International Crane Center (GRUS)

Japan's only facility engaging in Red-crowned crane research, education and protection. The facility contains exhibits with commentaries, and Red-crowned cranes can be viewed there all year round in a semi-natural outdoor environment.

During the mid November – early March period of feeding up to 150 wild Red-crowned cranes can be seen.

Access: Take Akan Bus, Akan Route, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 1 hr.) to Tancho no Sato Bus Stop
TEL/FAX:0154-66-4011/0154-66-4022



•Kushiro Crane Reserve

Here, male and female Red-crowned cranes are raised in an environment similar to their natural habitat. Visitors can see adorable chicks in the spring after successful breeding.

Access: Take Akan Bus, Akan Route, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 55 min.) to Tsuru Koen Bus Stop
TEL/FAX: 0154-56-2219 / 0154-56-2216

•Tsurumidai Plain

Access: Take Akan Bus, bound for Tsurui, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 1hr.) to Tsurumidai Bus Stop

•Tsurui/Itoh Tanchō Sanctuary

Access: Take Akan Bus, bound for Tsurui, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 1 hr.) to Tsurui Mura Yakuba mae Bus Stop, and walk 15 min.

TEL/FAX:0154-64-2620/0154-64-2239

Cool KUSHIRO landmark

The Cool KUSHIRO landmark is a new photo spot at the foot of Nusamai Bridge. As you probably know, the word "cool" means both "moderately cold" and "attractive (slang)." This makes it the perfect term to describe Kushiro, where the maximum average summer temperature is about 21°C. Like Nusamai Bridge, this landmark is illuminated from sunset until midnight, adding to the spectacle. Don't miss out on your chance to take cool photographs in front of this undoubtedly photo-worthy spot.



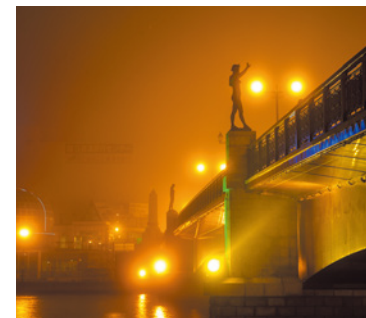
Strolling in Kushiro City

1.Nusamai Bridge

Nusamai Bridge is one of the top three bridges in Hokkaido, along with Toyohira Bridge in Sapporo and Asahi Bridge in Asahikawa. It is enveloped with white sea fogs in summer and colored red by the setting sun in autumn. 15-min. walk from JR Kushiro Station

Statues of the Four Seasons

Bronze statues symbolizing the four seasons of East Hokkaido, made by a sculptor representative of modern Japan, are standing on the rails of Nusamai Bridge.



2.Kushiro Fisherman's Wharf MOO

Representing the waterfront of Kushiro, Fisherman's Wharf MOO consists of restaurants and shops. The wharf accommodates numerous souvenir shops and eateries ranging from large-scale restaurants and outdoor shop and food stalls at the port. (Minato no Yatai) 15-min. walk from JR Kushiro Station
TEL: 0154-23-0600



3.Kushiro City Museum



Located at the edge of Lake Harutori, the Kushiro City Museum building is featured by its shape as a Red-crowned Crane spreading its wings. The museum offers information on the geography, history and climate of Kushiro.

Access: Take Kushiro Bus, Route No. 2, 12, 16, 17, or 55, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 10 min.) to Shiritsu Byoin(City General Hospital) mae Bus Stop, and walk 5 min.

TEL/FAX : 0154-41-5809/0154-42-6000

Tottori Hyakunengan (Tottori Centennial Museum)

This castle inspired by Tottori Castle was built by migrants from Tottori in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of their relocation. It is now used as a museum displaying heirlooms and materials on reclamation brought by the Ikeda clan of the Tottori Domain.

Access:Take Kushiro Bus, Route No.36 or No.38, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx.15min) to Tottori Jinja Bus Stop



Shopping

Showa District

There is a large-scale shopping mall, and surrounding it are drug stores, toy stores and electric appliance shops.

Access: Take Kushiro Bus Route No.28,66,77 or 88 from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 30 min.) to AEON SC(AEON MALL Kushiro Showa) Bus Stop



Kushiro-cho District

Featuring a shopping center with stores that carry brand names popular among young women, men's tailors and sporting goods retailers.

Access: Take Kushiro Bus Route No.10,32,35,55,101 or 102 from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 30 min.) to AEON Kushiro Bus Stop

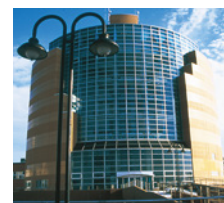
Harutori District

With a shopping complex dealing in stationery, CDs, DVDs and publications on a vast one floor as the core, there are also drug stores, fashion volume retailers and revolving sushi bars, and other restaurants. Adjoining the shopping complex is the Harutori Ice Arena, where you can enjoy ice skating.

Access: Take Kushiro Bus Route No. 16,17 from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx. 20 min.) to Coach & Four Bus Stop



4.Kushiro Lifelong Learning Center (MANABOTTO NUSAMAI)



The Center's appearance is based on the image of a lighthouse. From the restaurant and the observation room on the 9th and 10th floor, you can enjoy not only a panoramic view of Kushiro City, but also the mountains in Akan and Cape Erimo in the distance. Access: 20 minute-walk from JR Kushiro Station
TEL/FAX:0154-41-8181/0154-41-8182

5.Yonemachi Park

The Yonemachi Park area, overlooking the Port of Kushiro, is the birthplace of Kushiro City. On the opposite side of the park is Yonemachi Heritage Museum, the oldest wooden house in Kushiro City.



Kushiro Itsukushima Shrine

As its name suggests, this shrine was established by "inviting" the god from Hiroshima's Itsukushima Shrine, and has been believed to be the guardian angel of Kushiro residents since the Edo period. This shrine, which is Kushiro's oldest, is representative of shrines in Kushiro, and its goshuincho stamp book, the design of which changes every month, is incredibly popular.

Access:Take Kushiro Bus, Route No.1, from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal (approx.7min) to Yonemachikoen Bus Stop



Autumn & Winter Special!

Autumn Recommendation

Kushiro sunsets



Kushiro is touted as one of the world's three best places to watch the setting sun, with the other two being Manila Bay in the Philippines and Bali Island in Indonesia.

Kushiro is known for its beautiful sunsets throughout the year, but particularly captivating is the large and clearly defined sun as it sets over Kushiro Port in the autumn-winter period characterized by many crisp, clear days. The city has hosts of sunset-viewing spots, including Nusamai Bridge.



Winter Recommendation Lotus leaf-shaped ice formations

On early winter mornings during periods of extreme cold, lotus leaf-shaped ice formations (a.k.a. pancake ice) appear on the Kushiro River in central Kushiro. Kushiro is the only place in Japan where these lotus leaf-shaped ice formations can be seen in the city center.



Special pass!

Enjoy 5 local sightseeing spots for 5 days at a special low price with the Shitsugen Marshland 55 Pass!

Shitsugen Marshland 55 Pass

Pass Valid At:

- Kushiro Marsh Observatory
- Kushiro Zoo
- Kushiro City Museum
- Kushiro Crane Reserve
- Akan International Crane Center

Cost: 1,030 yen



Learn about wetlands at Kushiro City Museum, enjoy a stroll and marvel at the view from Kushiro Marsh Observatory, meet the inhabitants of the wetlands such as Blakiston's Fish Owl at the Kushiro Zoo, and experience the grace of the spirit of the wetlands, the Red-crowned crane, at the Crane Reserve and Crane Center.

※Prices may change depending on the proposed consumption tax revision.



Soba

Many soba noodle shops in Kushiro serve green-colored soba noodles. This green color comes from mixing chlorella with white buckwheat flour, a characteristic unique to Kushiro.

Sushi

Sushi that uses fresh ingredients from Kushiro's port is exceptional. Sushi in Kushiro is touted as the best in Japan whether you eat it at an exclusive sushi restaurant or a conveyor belt sushi.



Ramen

Kushiro ramen features thin noodles and light soup. It is one of the four major types of ramen noodles, along with Sapporo, Asahikawa and Hakodate ramen.

Kushiro's Flavors and Dishes

Sweets

Kushiro has a wide variety of sweets, ranging from ice cream abundant in high-quality locally produced raw milk to cake made with local sake.



Robata

Kushiro is believed to be the cradle land of hearthside barbecue. Fresh seafood grilled over charcoal fire is delicious beyond expression.



Washo Ichiba Market

Accommodating approximately 40 shops, Washo Market is considered to be the kitchen of the residents of Kushiro City. Crabs, salmon and other fresh seafood landed in Kushiro as well as processed seafood can be bought here. In recent years, "Katte-Don (as you wish DON)" has been very popular among tourists. Access: 2 min.-walk from JR Kushiro Station



Katte-Don

Top your steamed rice, available at the food court, with your choice of sashimi (sliced raw seafood) from a variety of stores.



Local Sake

Locally-brewed sake "Fukutsukasa" was born out of the tasty waters in Kushiro and rice produced in Hokkaido.



Zangi

Deep-fried chicken is called "zangi" in Hokkaido. The people of Kushiro dip zangi into sauce, which is so simple in taste so that they can eat a lot.

Akan

Akan-Mashu National Park

Akan-Mashu National Park features a rich natural landscape of primeval forests surrounding crater lakes that were formed by volcanic activities. This park is also renowned as a hot spring resort.

Lake Akan

Lake Akan is well known for its Marimo(moss ball), a Special Natural Monument. The lake is enjoyable throughout the year, with ice breaking in spring, mountains covered with verdure and mysterious blue lake surfaces in summer, beautiful leaves in autumn and numerous events on the thick frozen ice in winter.

Feel and experience the nature of Akan



Akankohan Eco-museum Center

An Akan Mashu National Park facility exhibiting materials on the natural environment of the Akan area and *marimo* (moss balls) from Lake Akan. The Center serves as a visitor showcase for the local region.
TEL/FAX: 0154-67-4100 / 0154-67-2568



Special natural monument, marimo (moss balls)

Appreciate marimo, a special natural monument, by excursion boat. Lake Akan is the only site in the world where beautiful round marimo can be found living in clusters.



Lake Onneto

Onneto is a lake that looks like it is from a different world. Autumn leaves there are breathtakingly beautiful.
Access: Approx. 30 min. by car from Lake Akan

Bokke and the nature trail

Bokke, one of the volcanic vents created by a past eruption, is a small mud volcano. The Bokke area is complete with a nature trail, along which visitors can enjoy a panoramic view of the surrounding forests, lakes and mountains of Akan. On summer nights, visitors can also delight in experiencing Ainu myths through fantastic digital arts – Kamuy Lumina.



Ainu Feel and experience Ainu culture

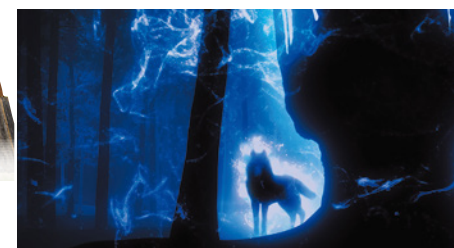


Lake Akan Ainu Theater<Ikor>

Where traditional Ainu dance, Lost Kamuy and Dancing Under a Full Moon can be enjoyed at the Akanko Ainu Kotan.
TEL/FAX: 0154-67-2727 / 0154-67-2657



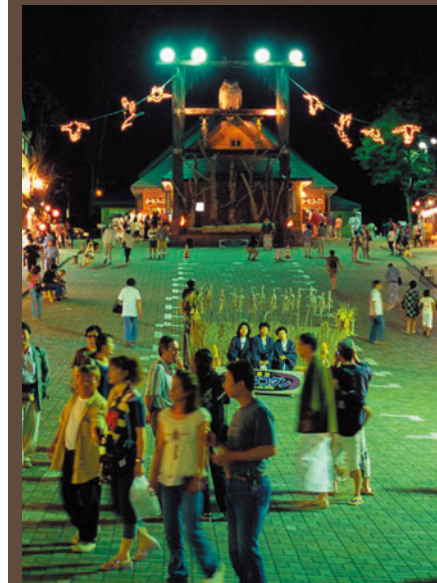
Traditional Ainu dance



Lost Kamuy

This stage performance showcasing the coexistence between the Ainu people and wolves is produced by combining traditional dance, contemporary dance and digital art based on the teachings and legends of the Ainu, allowing visitors to experience the world view of the Ainu.

Ainu Kotan



In the Ainu language, Ainu and Kotan mean a human being and a village, respectively. There are approximately 30 souvenir shops, standing side by side, where you can come in contact with the Ainu culture here.

Ainu cuisine



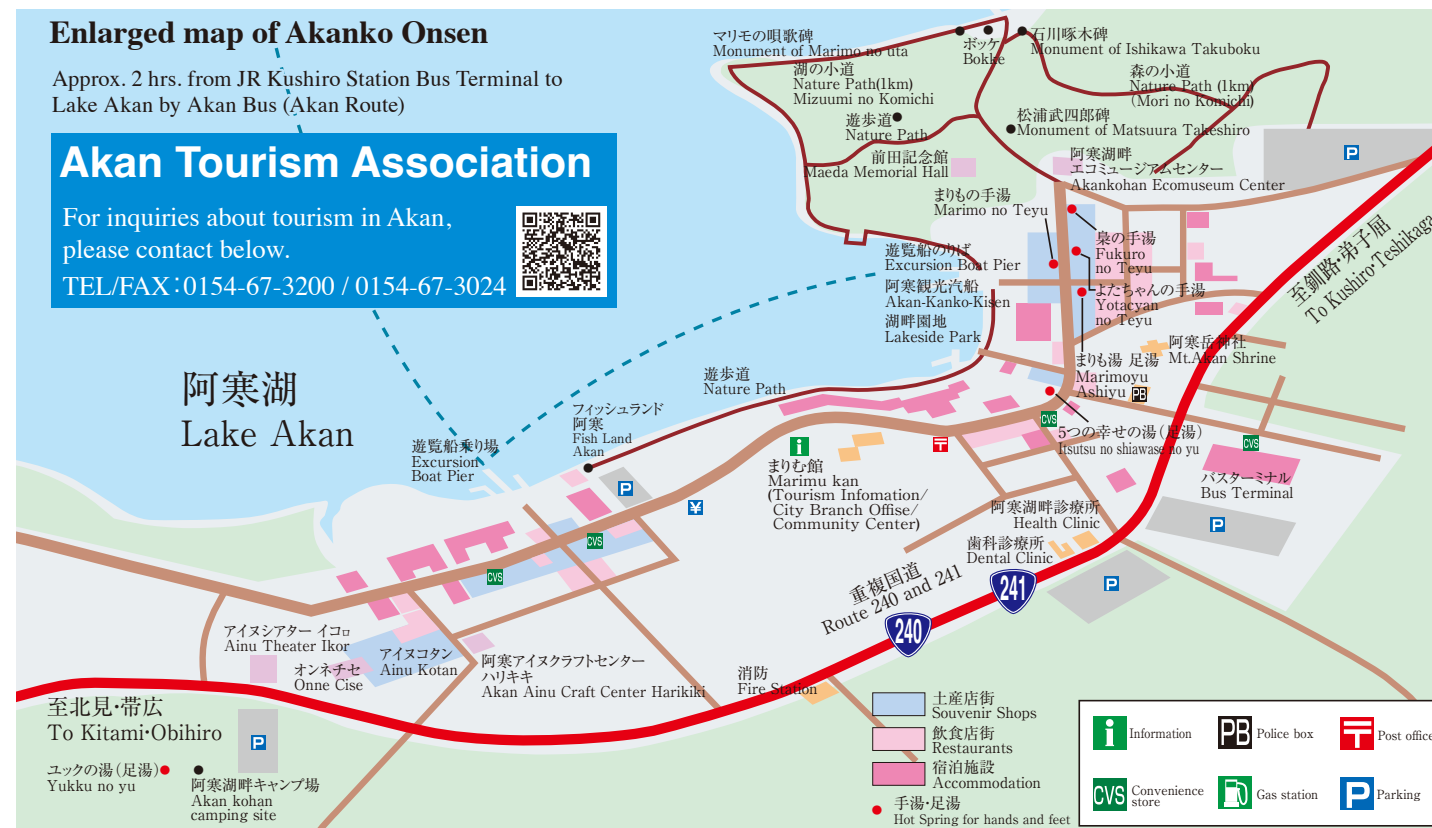
Enlarged map of Akanko Onsen

Approx. 2 hrs. from JR Kushiro Station Bus Terminal to Lake Akan by Akan Bus (Akan Route)

Akan Tourism Association

For inquiries about tourism in Akan, please contact below.

TEL/FAX: 0154-67-3200 / 0154-67-3024



Mashu

Lake Mashu

Lake Mashu is mysterious and one of the world's most transparent lakes.
Access: Take Senmo Line from JR Kushiro Station to Mashu Station (approx. 1 hr. & 30 min.) Take Akan Bus bound for Lake Mashu Observatory No.1 from JR Mashu Station (approx. 25 min.)

Lake Kussharo

Lake Kussharo is the second largest lake in Hokkaido, where 400 to 500 whooper swans come in winter.
Access: Approx. 20 min. by car from JR Mashu Station

Kussharo

Lake Mashu Tourism Association

TEL:015-482-2200
FAX:015-482-1877



Mt. Io

Mt. Io is a live volcano and emits a great deal of smoke.
Access: Approx. 20 min. by car from JR Mashu Station



Activities Various activities to experience the magnificent nature around Mashu



Mashu and Kussharo Sea of Clouds Tour

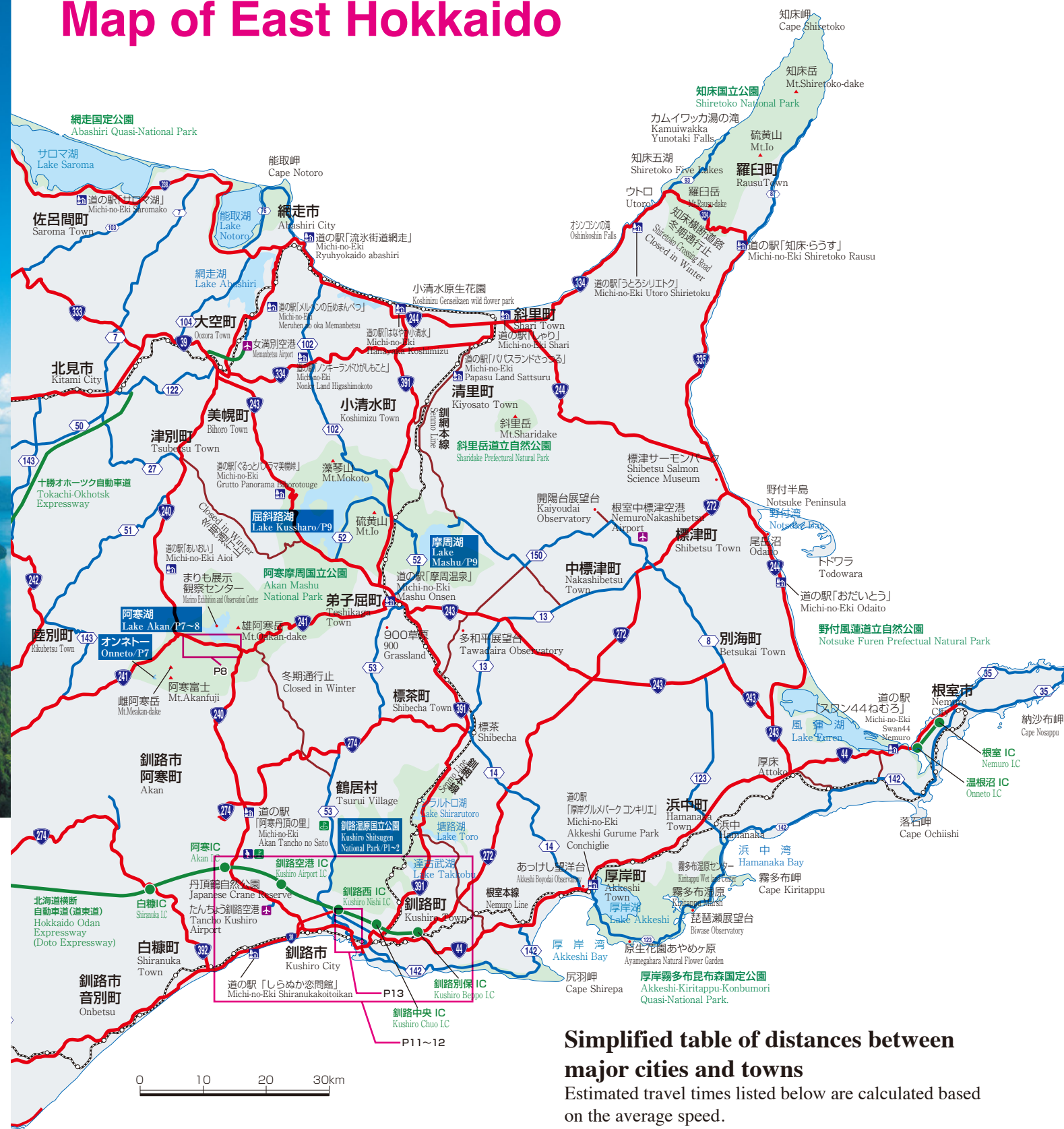


Lake Mashu Star-watching Tour



Kushiro River Headwaters Canoe Tour

Map of East Hokkaido



Simplified table of distances between major cities and towns
Estimated travel times listed below are calculated based on the average speed.

	釧路 Kushiro	厚岸 Akkeshi	根室 Nemuro	中標津 Nakashibetsu	標茶 Shibecha	弟子屈 Teshikaga	鶴居 Tsurui	阿寒湖 Akanko Onsen	羅臼 Rausu
厚岸 Akkeshi	49km 1hr								
根室 Nemuro	124km 2hr.30min	79km 1hr.35min							
中標津 Nakashibetsu	91km 1hr.50min	76km 1hr.30min	78km 1hr.35min						
標茶 Shibecha	50km 1hr	38km 45min	117km 2hr.20min	46km 55min					
弟子屈 Teshikaga	75km 1hr.30min	63km 1hr.15min	118km 2hr.20min	45km 55min	25km 30min				
鶴居 Tsurui	35km 40min	72km 1hr.25min	151km 3hr	80km 1hr.35min	37km 45min				
阿寒湖 Akanko Onsen	74km 1hr.30min	103km 2hr	158km 3hr.10min	65km 1hr.20min	40km 50min	77km 1hr.30min			
羅臼 Rausu	154km 3hr.5min	140km 2hr.50min	133km 2hr.45min	67km 1hr.20min	110km 2hr.10min	105km 2hr.5min	154km 3hr.5min	125km 2h.30min	

Mizu no Kamuy Tourism Area

Located in Eastern Hokkaido and encompassing the Kushiro Shitsugen Wetland, Lake Akan and Lake Mashu, the Mizu no Kamuy Tourism Area is filled with vast and beautiful natural landscapes.



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HOKKAIDO

Map of Kushiro Marsh and Places Where Red-crowned Cranes Can be Seen



[illegible]

Enlarged View of Kushiro City (downtown)

This map provides an enlarged view of downtown Kushiro City, Japan. It shows a grid of streets with major thoroughfares highlighted in red. Key landmarks and facilities are labeled in both Japanese and English. The map includes a legend in the top right corner, a scale bar in the bottom right, and various symbols for points of interest.

Legend:

- Information (i)
- Police box (PB)
- Souvenir shop (S)
- Rent a car (R)
- Post office (T)
- CVS Convenience store (CVS)
- Gas station (G)
- Rest room (R)
- 水のkamui観光園 (Mizu no Kamuy Tourism Area) FREE Wi-Fi
- Map symbols hotel (H)
- Downtown (D)

Key Locations and Landmarks:

- 三十三間道 (Sanjyukken Douro Street)
- 地下道 (Underground passage)
- 歩道橋 (Pedestrian bridge)
- 北大通 (Kita-odori Ave.)
- 和商市場 (Washo Ichiba Market)
- 中央郵便局 (Central Post office)
- くしろたんちよう市場 (Kushiro Tancho Ichiba Market)
- 幸町公園 (Saiwaicho Park)
- 鋼路地方合同庁舎 (National Gov't Bldg. of Kushiro district)
- あすなろ会 (Asunarokai)
- こども遊学館 (Kodomo Yugakukan)
- 鋼路警察署 (Kushiro Police Station)
- 交流プラザさいわい (Kushiro Koryu Plaza Saiwai)
- NTT
- 鋼路市役所防災庁舎 (City Hall Annex)
- 鋼路市役所 (Kushiro City Hall)
- 鋼路市観光国際交流センター (Kushiro Tourism & International Relations Center)
- 道立鋼路芸術館 (Kushiro Art Museum)
- 旅客船ターミナル (Quake-Resistant Cruise Ship Terminal)
- バス専用 (Bus only)
- 漁師の漁場 (Fisherman's Wharf MOO)
- EGG (Garden)
- 幣舞観光ガイドステーション (Nusamai Tourist Guide Station)
- 鋼路川 (Kushiro River)
- 幣舞橋 (Nusamai Bridge)
- ぬさまい河畔広場 (Nusamai Riverside Square)
- Cool Kushiro モニュメント (Cool Kushiro monument)
- 鋼路川 (Kushiro River)
- Robunkan(Museum) 港文館
- The Chamber of Commerce & Industry 鋼路商工会議所
- 花時計 (Flower Clock)
- 幣舞公園 (Nusamai Park)
- 生涯学習センター (Life Long Learning Center(MANABOTTO))
- 3F市立美術館 / 3F City Museum of Art

Scale: 0 50 100m