

OKHOTSK

Hokkaido, Japan

Find out your OKHOTSK colors.



Preface

Okhotsk is located in the part of northeast of Hokkaido. There are rich nature, blue sky, the Sea of Okhotsk having various colors every season, beautiful flowers and forests. We can live well with helping of these great natures. And also these great nature makes beautiful scenery and colors you can see only there. Come and see these Okhotsk colors!
We hope this booklet can be a good first book to understand about **Okhotsk!**

Treasure land Okhotsk



Getting to Okhotsk

By Air

Sapporo (New Chitose Airport)	← app.45min. →	Memambetsu Airport
Sapporo (Okadama Airport)	← app.55min. →	Memambetsu Airport
Tokyo (Haneda Airport)	← app.1hr.50min. →	Memambetsu Airport
Osaka (Kansai Airport)	← app.2hrs.10min. →	Memambetsu Airport
Nagoya	← app.2.hrs. →	Memambetsu Airport
Tokyo (Haneda Airport)	← app.1hr.45min. →	Okhotsk Mombetsu Airport

Japan Airlines (JAL) <http://www.jal.co.jp/en/>

All Nippon Airways (ANA) <http://www.ana.co.jp/eng/index.html>

By Train

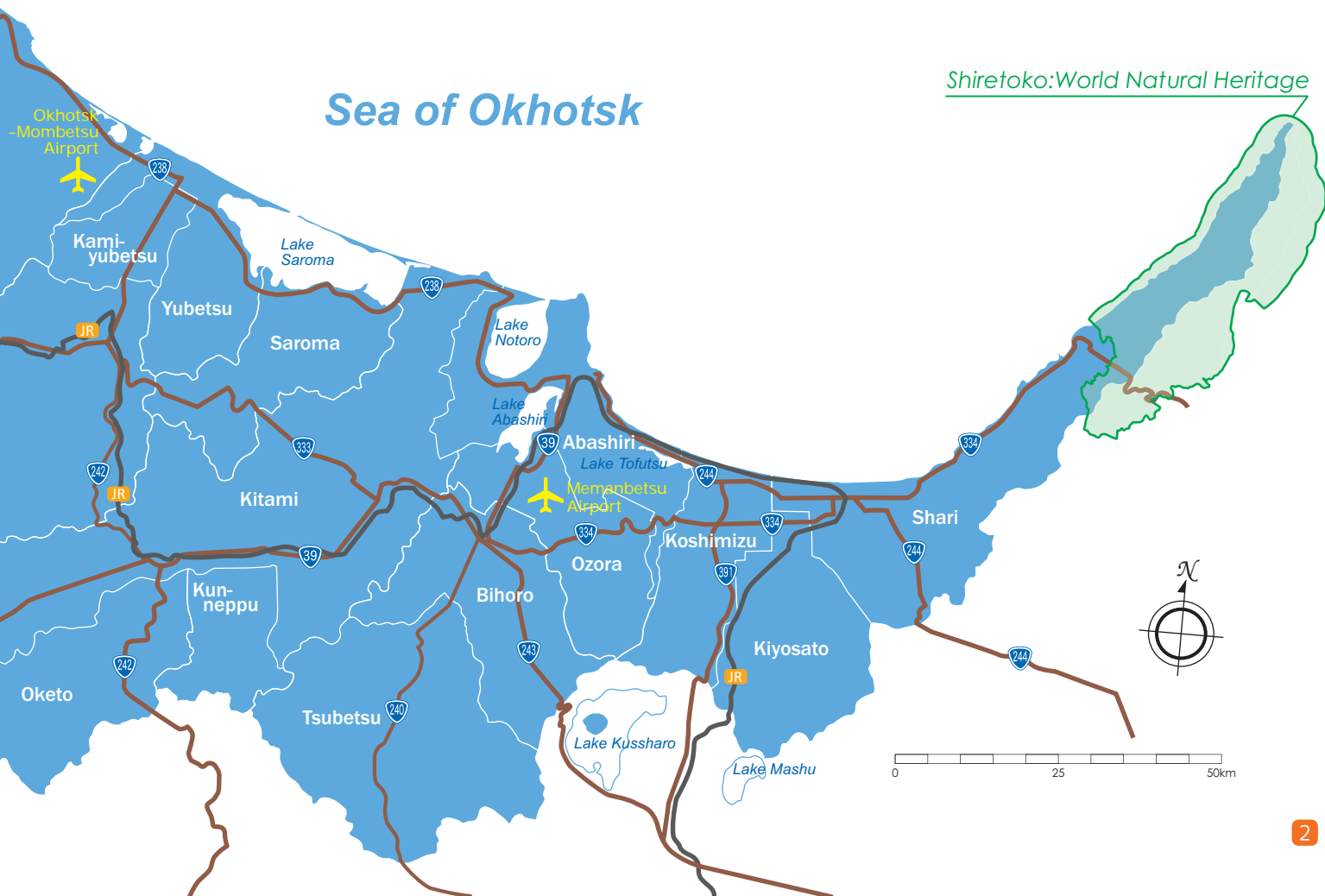
Sapporo	← app.5hrs.20min. →	Abashiri
Asahikawa	← app.3hrs.50min. →	Abashiri
Kitami	← app.50min. →	Abashiri
Kushiro	← app.3hrs. →	Abashiri

JR Hokkaido

<http://www2.jrhokkaido.co.jp/global/index.html>

By Bus

Sapporo	← app.5hrs.50min. →	Abashiri
Sapporo	← app.4hrs.30min. →	Kitami
Sapporo	← app.4hrs.30min. →	Mombetsu
Sapporo	← app.7hrs. →	Utoro/Shiretoko



Introduction of OKHOTSK

What's Okhotsk?

"Okhotsk" is not a city name, but the area name with 19 cities, towns and village. This Okhotsk region is 12.8% of Hokkaido -10,689 square kilometers, and 320 thousand people live there. Okhotsk faces the Sea of Okhotsk. The climate is calm from spring to autumn and the annual average rainfall is little -around 800mm. The hours of sunlight is long, so you can see a pure blue sky named "Okhotsk Blue" when it is fine day. This pure blue sky make natures like forests, flowers, lakes, seas to signalize these colors. You will be surely touched with these Okhotsk colors. Floating ice flows into the Sea of Okhotsk in every winter season (January to March). Here is the southernmost place to see the floating ice and it is one of the features in this region. Regarding to the local basic industries, here is proud of its No1 fishing catches in fishery throughout of Hokkaido. Besides the fishery, here is also famous in Japan for its extensive and high quality resources in the farming areas and forests. Due to these sufficient natural resources, many attractive products can be created and used extensively by people. The blue sky of Okhotsk makes forests, flowers, lakes, and oceans much brighter. In addition, the beautiful nature makes a vivid impression on people.



Shiretoko Goko Lakes with lotus flower



(Shari)

About 4 Seasons



Spring

After snow melts, skunk cabbage is bloomed. We can know spring comes and enjoy the tender perfume of them.

In April, pink-colored moss phlox begin to bloom on hills.

Then every plant also begins to come into bud, and the land of Okhotsk changes into fiery greenness.



Summer

At the Natural Flower Gardens in Koshimizu and Wakka, colorful pretty flowers bloom there. Okhotsk becomes best colorful season because of flowers, blue of seas and lakes, green of plants... There are various kinds of events and festivals like International Okhotsk Cycling Competition and Summer festival etc. So many visitors come there.



Autumn

Lake Notoro and Lake Saroma are surrounded with common glasswort.

At Engaru Town, you can see 10 million cosmos, waving by autumn breeze.

Mountains a flame with red and yellow leaves are like works of art. And also autumn is prolific season. We can harvest onion, potato, pumpkin and so on.



Winter

The season when Okhotsk gets white... However, we can enjoy winter season cheerfully because of various events.

In January, floating ice are floated to the shore from Siberia. These floating ice with faint blue is special color... It's not blue and not white... We can't show you its wonderful color even if we fill pictures. Do come to see the wonder there!



About Nature

There are beautiful nature like Shiretoko National Park registered on UNESCO's World Natural Heritage, Lake Tofutsu and Abashiri quasi-national park registered on Ramsar Site. We will introduce Shiretoko National Park and Lake Tofutsu here.

The World Heritage & Ramsar site in Okhotsk

Shiretoko: World Natural Heritage

Date of inscription on the World Heritage List: 17th July 2005

The gross area of property 71,000ha

Shiretoko Peninsula that projects into the sea of Okhotsk is located in the part of northeast of Hokkaido.

High mountains are in the center part of the peninsula.

Bluff dotted the coastline and various kinds of natures like deep forests, seas, rivers, high mountains, marsh, and floating ice are condensed into Shiretoko Peninsula. These nature protects wildlife and make unique ecosystem. Therefore, Shiretoko is registered on World Natural Heritage in 2005.

Shiretoko: A paradise of wild animals

Many kinds of wildlife still live in Shiretoko.

The density of brown bears is top level in the world, and also you can find ezo shika deer, ezo red fox, seal and so on.

You can see 270 kinds of birds there, too. Especially, shapes of steller's sea eagle and white-tailed eagle are really graceful.



White-tailed eagle



Brown Bear



Seal



Ezo shika deer



Steller's sea-eagle

Shiretoko: Eight great scenic points

Waterfalls plunge from the cliffs to the sea, hot springs gush forth naturally, sunsets tinge Shiretoko with red.... Beginning with Shiretoko Goko lakes, "Shiretoko's 8 great scenic points" are beautiful, unique and absolutely unforgettable scenic spots, even when compared to the generally unusual scenery in Shiretoko.

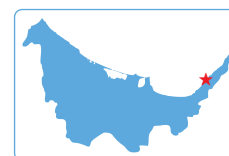
They include Oshinkoshin Falls, Oronkoiwa Rock, Furepe Falls, Yuhidai , Shiretoko Pass, Kamuiwakka Falls and Cape Puyuni.

■ Shiretoko Goko Lakes (Shari)

Surrounded by indigenous forests, these five lakes of various sizes create a fantastic atmosphere. The tranquil appearance, with the Shiretoko Mountains reflected on their surfaces, is stately in a way that makes it seem like they have represented the spirit of the area since ancient times. In autumn, the trees around the lakes turn red, and the surface of the water reflecting the color can be seen at walking trails.

■ Shiretoko Pass (Shari)

You can see Mt. Rausu, the sea of Okhotsk and also Kunashiri Island, one of the Northern Territories.



(Shari)



Shiretoko Goko Lakes



Oshinkoshin Falls



Shiretoko Pass

Tofutsu-ko (Lake Tofutsu) : Ramsar site

Lake Tofutsu has a circumference of 27.3km and covers an area of 900 hectares. Originally a bay of the Okhotsk Sea, it would become a lake at low tide when a sand bar would cut it off from the sea. Over time, the sea stopped coming over the sand bar and Lake Tofutsu was born. Even now, part of the Lake is connected to the Sea of Okhotsk and so there is a combination of both river and sea water in the Lake. As a result, the plants around the Lake have characteristics of those from both fresh water and salt water marsh areas and along with Koshimizu Natural Flower Garden, the resulting abundance of flowering plants draws many tourists. In addition, there are many shellfish in the Lake like Japanese corbicula and oysters and many varieties of insects that can only be seen here. Wild ducks and swans fly here while in the winter white-tailed eagle and steller's sea eagle migrate here.



View of Mt. Shari from Lake Tofutsu



(Abashiri)

About ONSEN (Hot Springs)

Even in Hokkaido, which is acknowledged as the place in Japan with the most onsen (hot springs), Okhotsk is blessed with the most and the best onsen, such as Shiretoko Utoro Onsen, Onneyu Onsen, Abashiri Lakeside Onsen. Almost all the onsen use 100% naturally occurring spring water and are rich health benefits. Why don't you come and relax your whole mind, body and spirit and enjoy a fabulous time with us?

Okhotsk also offers great food. The same natural environment that experiences enormous extremes in temperature, has floating ice in the sea, and enjoys sparkling clean air and water, produces the most delicious food.



Onneyu Hot Springs (Kitami)

Abashiri Kohan Hot Springs (Abashiri)

Shiretoko Utoro Hot Springs (Shari)

About Food

Okhotsk is like a treasure house of delicious foods. There is a big difference in temperature and the sea of Okhotsk with full of floating ice, clear air and water... These nature give us delicious foods.

■ Farm products

The Okhotsk area is blessed with bountiful forests and a pleasant climate featuring relatively low precipitation, and vegetables of many kinds are harvested here. These include potatoes, pumpkins, corn, onions, carrots, burdocks, Japanese radishes, Chinese yams and Chinese cabbages.

■ Marine products

Drift ice, the mild climate and the area's natural abundance make the Sea of Okhotsk a good place for fishing. The cornucopia of marine products offers large quantities and many kinds of catch including salmon, Atka mackerel, flatfish, kichiji rockfish, Japanese ice fish, Hokkai-shrimp, crabs, oysters, scallops and farmed laver.

■ Meat

Bountiful forests and the mild climate also help in the production of beef, pork and chicken in the Okhotsk area. The main beef breed in the area is the Japanese Black Cattle.

■ Dairy products

In this area blessed with natural abundance, milk and other dairy products are also popular. The number of milk cows raised by each farming household is relatively small, which is one reason for the high quality of the milk produced in the area. Natural cheese produced by these local farming households attracts attention from specialists in such products because of its quality.



Blooming Okhotsk

with OKHOTSK BLUE Sky



Tulip
(Tulip Park)
Mid to Late May



(Kamiyubetsu)



Moss Phlox
(Takinoue Park)
Mid May to Early June



(Takinoue)



Ezosukashiyuri
(Ikushina Primeval Flower Garden)
Late June to Mid July



(Shari)



Lily
(Koshimizu Lily Park)
Mid July to Early September



(Koshimizu)



White Mustard
August



(Abashiri)



Primeval Flowers
(Koshimizu Primeval Flower Garden)
Late June to Mid July



(Koshimizu)



Potato Flower
Mid July



(Kiyosato)



Glasswort
Mid to Late September



(Saroma)

The OKHOTSK Colors



Sunrise at Cape Notoro



(Abashiri)



Barley field



(Abashiri)



Meruhen-no-Oka in Winter



(Memanbetsu)



Twilight in Lake Chimikeppu



(Tsubetsu)

Event & Festival

Spring

May 1 - early June: Tulip Fair	(Kamiyubetsu)
Early May - early June: Nonky Land Moss Pink Festival	(Ozora)
Early May: Onneyu Hot Springs Azalea Festival	(Kitami)
Early May - early June: Moss Pink Festival in the Fairy Tale Village of Takinoue	(Takinoue)



International Okhotsk Cycling

There is a Cycling competition that races from Oumu to Shari, approximately 212 kilometre sand taking 2 days. The objective of this race is not just to make the best time but to enjoy the scenery and the interaction with the other competitors while completing the race. Travelling with the fresh Okhotsk wind, the route takes cyclists past the Okhotsk Sea, Lake Saroma, Lake Notoro, and Lake Abashiri.

Summer

Mid-June: Dekkaido Okhotsk March	(Kitami, Abashiri)
Mid-July: International Okhotsk Cycling	(Oumu-Shari)
Late July: Mombetsu Port Festival	(Mombetsu)
Late July: Shiretoko Shari Neputa Festival	(Shari)
Late July-Mid October: Abashiri Kando Morning Fair	(Abashiri)

Autumn

Early September: Taiyo-no-oka Cosmos Festa	(Engaru)
Mid-September: Glasswort Festival	(Abashiri)
Early October: Mombetsu Gourmet Festival	(Mombetsu)
Early October-mid-November: Come Back Salmon to Lake Abashiri	(Abashiri)
Mid-to late October: Kitami Chrysanthemum Festival	(Kitami)



(Oumu-Shari)

Winter

Late December-late February: Lake Oketo Pond Smelt Fishing	(Oketo)
Late December-mid-March: Abashiri Lakeside Pond Smelt Fishing	(Abashiri)
Late December-late March : Snowmobile Land Koshimizu in Lily Park	(Koshimizu)
Early January-late March : Pond Smelt Fishing at Lake Abashiri	(Ozora)
Late January-early March: Snowmobile Land in Lake Saroma	(Kitami)
Early February-early March: Drift ice Iceland Republic	(Mombetsu)
Late February-late March: Discovery of New Northern Land!/ Attaka Abashiri	(Abashiri)
Early February-late March: Shiretoko Fantasia	(Shari)
Mid February: Abashiri Okhotsk Drift Ice Festival	(Abashiri)
Mid February: Mombetsu Drift Ice Festival	(Mombetsu)



Shiretoko Fantasia

This is one of the largest winter festivals in the Okhotsk area, and is held over a long period from early February to early March. Its main event is the Aurora Show, conducted in Drift Ice Nature Park. In the show, the Shiretoko night sky is lit up with brightly colored aurora, and the glitter of lasers creates fantastic dramas on the vast sea of drift ice.



(Shari)



Published by
Hokkaido Government Abashiri Sub-prefectural Office
Address: Kita 7 jo Nishi 3 chome, Abashiri, Hokkaido,
093-8585, Japan
TEL: (+81)-152-41-0639
E-mail: abashiri.shoko2@pref.hokkaido.lg.jp

Tourist information

<http://www.abashiri.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ss/srk/kanko/> (Hokkaido Government Abashiri Subprefectural Office)
<http://www.okhotsk.org/news/ok.htm> (Okhotsk Area Tourist Association)
<http://www.city.kitami.lg.jp/e/index.htm> (Kitami City)
<http://www.kitamikanko.jp/> (Kitami Tourist Association)
<http://www.onneyuonsen.jp/> (Onneyu Onsen Tourist Association, Hotel Association)
<http://abashiri.jp/tabinavi/> (Abashiri City)
<http://www.mombetsu.jp/english/index.html> (Mombetsu City)
<http://www.town.shari.hokkaido.jp/> (Shari Town)
<http://www.kamiyu.org/> (Kamiyubetsu town)
<http://town.takinoue.hokkaido.jp/> (Takinoue town)
<http://www.vill.nishiokoppe.hokkaido.jp/> (Nishi Okoppe Village)

Front cover: Wild birds at Lake Tofutsu

Back cover: Tulips at Kamiyubetsu Tulip Park