

outline of Hokkaido

In Hokkaido, the language and culture are different from your own. We will provide basic information on Hokkaido so that you can get a picture of the island before traveling by car.

History of Hokkaido

In Hokkaido, the Ainu have long lived and created their own culture and history, with natural blessings as the basis. Some 130 years ago, many people from Honshu, the largest Japanese island, immigrated to Hokkaido to begin large-scale development. Many places in this prefecture are dotted with monuments, statues and museums related to the Hokkaido Development Commission. At present, dairy farming and upland-field farming are actively conducted, making the use of the vast land. Hokkaido, a treasure trove of nature, attracts many tourists from all parts of Japan and other countries.

Hokkaido Information Websites English pages available

Each website provides information that is useful for tourists driving in Hokkaido. These informative websites are filled with an assortment of information that introduces you to Hokkaido's splendid landscape and enables you to determine destinations, distances and travel times, in addition to providing you with seasonal event information and proposing travel plans. Why not make use of those useful websites when traveling in Hokkaido?



Scenic Byway Hokkaido

This website introduces scenic spots and provides tourist information primarily for areas along the routes designated in the Scenic Byway Hokkaido scheme.
http://www.scenicbyway.jp/english/index_e.html



Northern Road Navi

As a website that provides general information on roads in Hokkaido, this convenient site also enables you to find out the distance to your destination and the travel time.
<http://northern-road.jp/navi/eng/index.htm>



Hokkaido Government

This website provides information on events and sightseeing in Hokkaido. You should visit it to get a picture of Hokkaido.
<http://www.pref.hokkaido.jp/index-e.html>



Hokkaido GURURI-TABI

Input your destination and purpose of travel, and this website will provide an itinerary for you. This is a useful website for strangers to Hokkaido.
<http://www.visit-hokkaido.jp/en/>



Standard distances and travel times between major cities in Hokkaido

Sapporo - Chitose	: 40 km (approx. 45 min.)
Sapporo - Hakodate	: 245 km (approx. 4 hr. 55 min.)
Sapporo - Noboribetsu	: 115 km (approx. 2 hr. 20 min.)
Sapporo - Furano	: 135 km (approx. 2 hr. 40 min.)
Sapporo - Wakkanai	: 315 km (approx. 6 hr. 20 min.)
Sapporo - Kitami	: 295 km (approx. 5 hr. 55 min.)
Sapporo - Mombetsu	: 280 km (approx. 5 hr. 35 min.)
Sapporo - Nemuro	: 470 km (approx. 9 hr. 25 min.)

Expressways in Hokkaido

These are motor highways for cars to drive at a high speed. In expressways, there are no traffic signals, and the speed limit is set higher than that of ordinary roads.

《Dooh Expressway》◆ Fees and distances between main cities/ I.C. on the Dooh Expressway

CHITOSE ⇄ MURORAN MURORAN ⇄ TOYA SAPPORO ⇄ CHITOSE

Sapporo Minami I.C. ⇄ Chitose I.C. ¥850 (27.4 km)
 Kitahiroshima I.C. ⇄ Chitose I.C. ¥750 (22.9 km)
 Chitose I.C. ⇄ Muroran I.C. ¥2,350 (84.9 km)
 Chitose I.C. ⇄ Abuta-Toya I.C. ¥2,900 (109.1 km)

《Sasson Expressway》

◆ Fees and distances between main cities/ I.C. on the Sasson Expressway

SAPPORO ⇄ OTARU

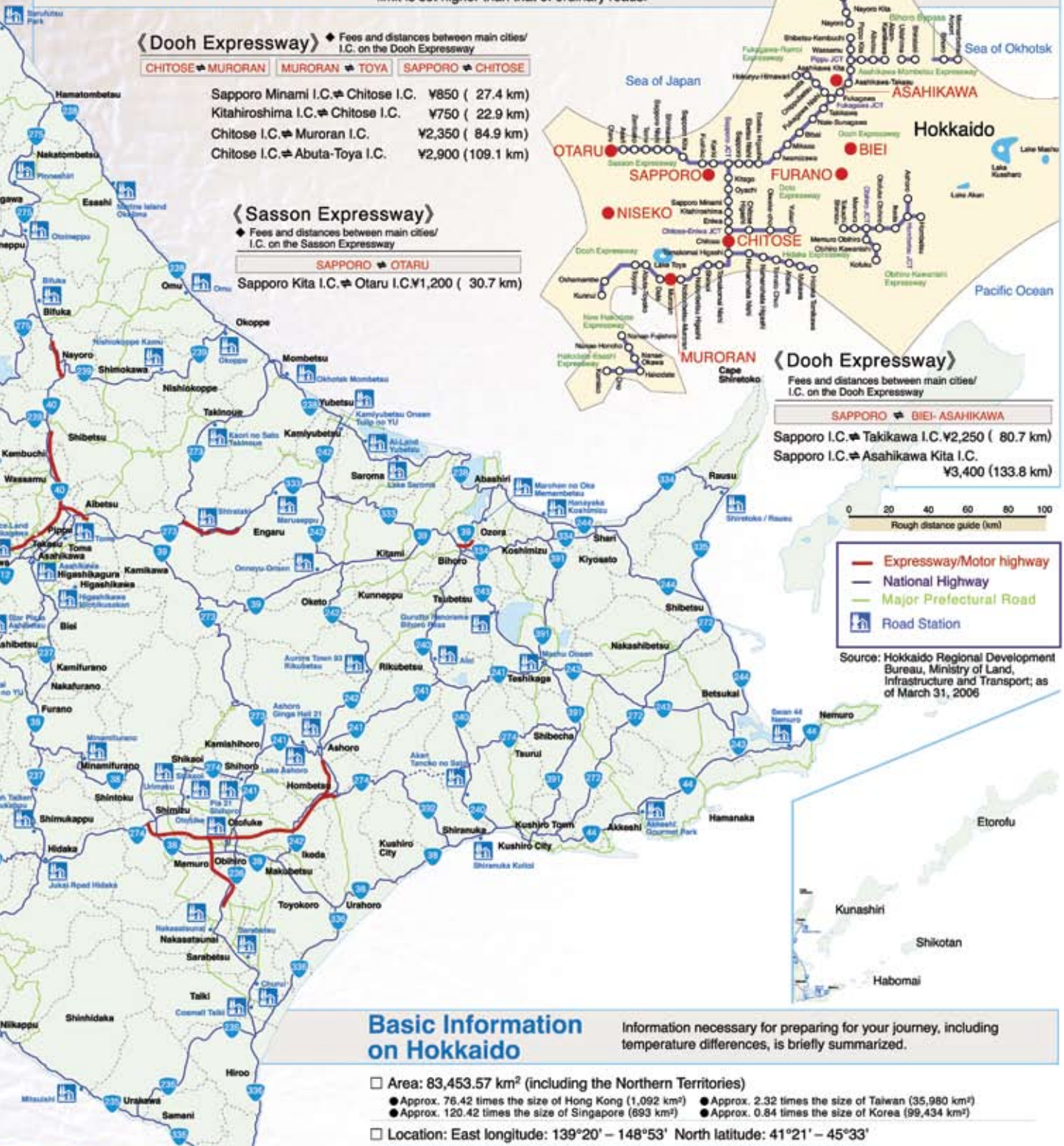
Sapporo Kita I.C. ⇄ Otaru I.C. ¥1,200 (30.7 km)

《Dooh Expressway》

◆ Fees and distances between main cities/ I.C. on the Dooh Expressway

SAPPORO ⇄ BIEI- ASAHIKAWA

Sapporo I.C. ⇄ Takikawa I.C. ¥2,250 (80.7 km)
 Sapporo I.C. ⇄ Asahikawa Kita I.C. ¥3,400 (133.8 km)



Source: Hokkaido Regional Development Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport; as of March 31, 2006

Basic Information on Hokkaido

Information necessary for preparing for your journey, including temperature differences, is briefly summarized.

- Area: 83,453.57 km² (including the Northern Territories)
 - Approx. 76.42 times the size of Hong Kong (1,092 km²)
 - Approx. 120.42 times the size of Singapore (693 km²)
 - Approx. 2.32 times the size of Taiwan (35,980 km²)
 - Approx. 0.84 times the size of Korea (99,434 km²)
- Location: East longitude: 139°20' – 148°53' North latitude: 41°21' – 45°33'
- Population: 5.68 million (approximately 4.5% of Japan's total population)
- Power source/voltage: AC 100V □ Frequency: 50 Hz
- Climate: The climate is temperate and less humid, with only two months in a year when average temperature exceeds 20°C. Less affected by typhoons or the rainy season, the climate of Hokkaido is characterized by the four distinct seasons, short summers and long winters.

Monthly average temperatures in Sapporo
 Mean temperature: 9.1°C
 *Surveyed in 2002

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
-2.5	-0.6	2.5	9.6	13.6	15.9
July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
20.5	20.1	17.7	12.0	2.8	-3.0

Travel times between

Sapporo – Otaru	: 40 km (approx. 45 min.)
Sapporo – Muroran	: 135 km (approx. 2 hr. 40 min.)
Sapporo – Asahikawa	: 135 km (approx. 2 hr. 40 min.)
Sapporo – Biei	: 140 km (approx. 2 hr. 50 min.)
Sapporo – Obihiro	: 215 km (approx. 4 hr. 20 min.)
Sapporo – Abashiri	: 375 km (approx. 7 hr. 30 min.)
Sapporo – Kushiro	: 345 km (approx. 6 hr. 55 min.)
Hakodate – Nemuro	: 665 km (approx. 13 hr. 20 min.)