

How to Enjoy Hokkaido

How to enjoy Hokkaido on the cheap! Tips for visitors from abroad!



写真提供:一般社団法人 登別国際観光コンベンション協会



Amazing Autumn

The ultimate Japanese experience may be viewing *kouyou* (autumn colors) at an *onsen* (hot springs). Hokkaido is a great place to do this, as it is known for its plentiful *onsen*. One of these, Noboribetsu Onsen, is world-famous for its wide variety of hot springs occurring in one area. However, its walking course for viewing the autumn colors is less well known. The course covers about 6 kilometers, depending on your starting point and how many detours you make. The autumn colors of *nanakamado* (Japanese rowan), *dakekanba* (Erman's birch) and *yama-urushi* (Japanese sumac) are striking against the rugged volcanic landscape of Noboribetsu. First, follow Noboribetsu Onsen Town's main street up to *Jigokudani* (Hell Valley). As you follow the trails and wooden pathways, you will be impressed by the boiling springs and steaming vents. Walk along the mountain path, passing Nanakamado Square, where your *kouyou* experience begins with the vivid red leaves and berries of *nanakamado*. As you descend, you can see the sulphurous hot pool of Okunoyu and Oyunuma Pond, where the *kouyou* on Mt. Hiyori contrasts with the steam below. Continue to enjoy the autumn woodlands as you follow the trail overlooking Oyunuma River and descend to the natural *ashiyu* (footbath). Go ahead! Take off your shoes and socks, roll up your pants, and immerse your feet in the *futoumei* (opaque), gray water. It took me a bit of courage to dip my feet in, and indeed, the water felt very hot until I got used to it! But your tired feet will appreciate the natural spa treatment before you return to town. On the way back, enjoy the *kouyou* as you discover shrines, demon statues, and lookout points. You might even run into, as I did last summer, an enormous *Ezo shika* (deer) with wide antlers, nibbling the grass by the side of the road. He looked at me mildly, as if to say "Welcome to Noboribetsu!" If you spend the night at an *onsen* hotel, venture out again between sunset and 21:30, to see "Onibi no Michi: Valley of Illusions and Mysteries" when *Jigokudani* is illuminated, creating a magical atmosphere. Best time to see autumn leaves: approximately mid-to late October, depending on climate conditions. J

昼と夜で違う景色が楽しめる、登別温泉での紅葉鑑賞

この季節ならではの特別な体験といえば、温泉街での紅葉鑑賞かもしれません。日本有数の温泉地である登別温泉にはナナカマドやダケカンバ、ヤマウルシなどが生い茂る約6kmの遊歩道があります。源泉が湧く「地獄谷」や「大湯沼」の湯煙と紅葉の美しいコントラストが楽しめるほか、大湯沼から流れ出す温泉の川「大湯沼川」の天然足湯で足の疲れを癒すこともできます。さらに日没から21時半までは「鬼火の路 幻想と神秘の谷」として地獄谷の遊歩道がライトアップされ、荒々しくも幻想的な、昼間とは全く違う表情を見せてくれます。紅葉の見頃は10月中旬～下旬。気候条件により多少変動しますが、この時期に登別温泉へ行くことをお勧めします。

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