

# How to Enjoy Hokkaido

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



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## Christmas Fantasy

For a romantic winter date, the city of Hakodate sets a perfect scene, with its stunning night view and its buildings that blend Japanese and Western styles. The annual Hakodate *kurisumasu huantajii* (Christmas Fantasy), an event that began in 1998, is another great photo opportunity. This year's Fantasy features the illumination of a huge Christmas tree—a Hokkaido-grown *todomatsu* (Sakhalin fir)—, a soup bar, and a fireworks display over the harbor. The events are held at the *Kanemori Akarenga Souko* (Kanemori Red Brick Warehouse), now a symbol of Hakodate. To understand the importance of these buildings, remember that Hakodate Port opened in 1859 as one of the first international trading ports of Japan, along with Yokohama and Nagasaki. In 1863, the *kigyouka* (entrepreneur) Kumashiro Watanabe (1840-1907) came to Hakodate from Nagasaki at age twenty-four. He founded a shop for western goods and a shop that supplied equipment for ships. He invested in many public projects such as schools, hospitals, and parks. In 1887, Watanabe began a commercial *souko-gyou* (warehousing business). In 1907, six of the warehouses were destroyed in a huge fire, and the present red brick warehouses were rebuilt in 1909. The warehouses are now a tourist attraction, home to restaurants and souvenir shops. The Kanemori Red Brick Warehouse has four sections. In the Bay Hakodate area, the beautifully illuminated 1888 *unga* (canal) is surrounded by a chapel, an area for boat cruises, and shops. The spacious Youbutsukan building, made up of two warehouses, is filled with cafes and stores selling household goods. In the Kanemori *Hisutorii Puraza* (history plaza), notice the high ceilings and *hinoki-no-hashira* (cypress pillars) as you enjoy draft beer straight from the *jouzouju* (brewery). Finally, there is Kanemori Hall which is used for events such as concerts, plays, exhibits, and receptions. Leave yourself plenty of time to shop, eat, and explore this historical area during the Hakodate Christmas Fantasy! (12/1-12/25. Christmas tree illumination: 16:30-17:45, 18:00-22:00; 12/1 from 18:00 only. Fireworks: 18:00, conditions permitting. Soup bar: 16:30-20:00)

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### 道南の函館市で過ごす特別な冬。

夜景が美しく和洋折衷の建物が立ち並ぶ函館市は、ロマンチックな冬のデートにぴったりです。中でも毎年12月に開催される「はこだてクリスマスファンタジー」は必見!金森赤レンガ倉庫群前の海上に設置されたクリスマスツリーのイルミネーションや、毎日18時頃に港から上がる花火が幻想的で、絶好の撮影チャンスといえるでしょう。会場である金森赤レンガ倉庫は4つの施設からなる函館ベイエリアのランドマークで、レストランや土産物店が集まる観光名所の一つ。ツリーイルミネーションの点灯は16時半開始のため、その前に函館の歴史を感じながら食事や買い物をお楽しみください。開催期間は12月1日～25日、初日のみ18時からの点灯。

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