

# How to Enjoy Hokkaido

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



Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church of Hakodate

## Step back in time

For Japanese and overseas visitors alike, the *Motomachi* (Old Town) area of the city of Hakodate is a *hikken* (must-see) spot. You'll find plenty of historical sights, fun shopping, and amazing food all over Hakodate, but Motomachi is certainly a good place for starting to get a sense of the city. Its steep hills overlook the harbor, bringing to mind tourist spots such as San Francisco and Nagasaki. What a wonderful place to stroll around! Its streets are lined with buildings that blend *kako no* (old-time) Japanese and Western *kenchiku* (architecture). Anywhere you look is a perfect photo opportunity, so you might see some visitors dressed up in old-fashioned Western clothes or kimono for photos. Adding to Motomachi's foreign atmosphere are its churches, such as the *Hakodate Harisutosu Seikyoukai* (Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church of Hakodate). Completed in 1916, it is an excellent example of Russian *bizanchin* (Byzantine) architecture. Be sure to step inside to view the *ikon* (icons) that shine with gold in the *usugurai* (dimly-lit) church. There are too many historical buildings to describe here, so I introduce only a few. The last time I took a visitor to Motomachi, we really enjoyed exploring the *Kyuu-Hakodate-ku-Koukaidou* (Old Public Hall of Hakodate Ward). It was built in 1910 and designated as a national important cultural property in 1974. It is now one of the city's leading tourist attractions, with about 150,000 visitors yearly! The building is stunning—a beautiful slate-blue with yellow trim. The interior has gorgeous furnishings such as high ceilings, elegant furniture, and decorative wallpaper. Be sure to check out the view of the harbor from the balcony. A costume rental service even allows visitors to experience the glamor of society at the time. (April–October: Tuesday–Friday 9:00–18:00; Saturday–Monday 9:00–19:00; November–March: 9:00–17:00; Adults: ¥300, Others: ¥150). After that, drop by the *Hakodate-shi Kyuu-Igirisu Ryoujikan* (Former British Consulate of Hakodate) to view the exhibits. (April–October: 9:00–19:00; November–March: 9:00–17:00; Adults ¥300, Others ¥150). Or visit both buildings for only ¥500! While you are there, I recommend relaxing over the delicious traditional afternoon tea set at the tea room that overlooks the rose garden (10:00–18:00; last order 17:00). After a day spent stepping back in time, you will be ready for Hakodate nightlife!

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### 必見&必聴の洋館を訪ねて。函館・元町エリアの観光案内

北海道を代表する観光地・函館市。中でも歴史的建造物や異国情緒ただよぶ街並みが魅力的な元町はおおすすめの観光エリアです。人気スポットは「函館ハリストス正教会」。1860年に日本初のロシア正教会聖堂として建立され、幾度かの大修復工事を経て、1916年に現存する聖堂が完成しました。1974年には国の重要文化財に指定され、現在では入館者年間約15万人が訪れます。ドーム状の小塔と十字架の装飾が目立つ外観は青緑色の銅板を用いた屋根と漆喰塗り仕上げの白壁が美しく、聖堂内部は煌びやかな家具や絵画が並び、まさに神聖な空間。地元住民には「ガンガン寺」の愛称で親しまれ、「日本の音風景100選」にも認定された鐘の音は必聴です。

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