

How to Enjoy Hokkaido

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



写真提供:NPO法人市民創作「函館野外劇」の会



One advantage to growing up in California was that I was able to see many excellent theatrical performances. Among those, I experienced two types of *yagai-geki* (open-air theater). The first type is traditional—a *geki* (play) by Shakespeare at a small *enkei-gekijou* (amphitheater) which is, of course, outdoors. A completely different type was the Renaissance Faire. This is a large festival celebrating the English Renaissance. There I experienced plays, music, *ningyou-geki* (puppet shows), and other entertainment of that period. The artists—and most guests—dressed in costumes of the 1500's. The fair was an immersive experience long before *kosupure* (cosplay) existed. Somewhere in-between these two types of theater are historical dramas, which have become popular worldwide. Historical dramas present local history by *amachua* (amateur) actors in a natural setting. They often feature music, dance, and other spectacles such as sword-fighting. If you love such entertainment, then please visit Hakodate. Hakodate's *yagai-geki* (open-air theater) premiered in 1988, and it now hosts the largest historical play in Japan. This hour-long spectacle of Hakodate history is supported by about 1,500 local residents of almost all ages, from Grade 5 in elementary school on up! Three cheers for the volunteer performers who speak their lines, sing, dance, and do sword-fighting. And thumbs up for the volunteer staff behind the scenes who wrote the *serifu* (dialog), created costumes, set up the venue, and much more. Luckily, there is no language barrier, thanks to a free *douji tsuuyaku* (simultaneous interpretation) system, so you can use your smartphone to access audio or subtitles. This year's play unfolds in about ten scenes, beginning in the Jomon period. It celebrates the *kaifuku-ryoku* (resilience) of the people of southern Hokkaido who overcame repeated hardships such as wars and fires. The play introduces you to figures who impacted the city of Hakodate, from Perry who arrived in 1854, to Carl Raymon (1894-1987) who introduced the habit of eating *kakou-niku* (processed meat) such as sausages to Japan. Performances at the Ichinohashi Square in Goryokaku Park: Sun. 7/6, 7/13, 7/20, and 7/27; 16:00-17:00. Performances at the *Hakodate-shi Geijitsu-hooru* (Hakodate Performing Arts Center): Sat. 8/9; 18:00-19:00 and Sun. 8/10; 15:00-16:00. Advance tickets: SHS and over ¥1,000; JHS and younger ¥500; Same-day tickets: SHS and over ¥1,200; JHS and younger ¥600. **J**

あふれる臨場感!函館・五稜郭で楽しめる市民創作の野外劇

世界的に人気を博す時代劇。音楽や舞踊を盛り込んだ壮大な剣劇を、道南の函館市では、特別史跡「五稜郭」を舞台に延べ1,500人の函館市民が参加します。その名も「市民創作 函館野外劇」。1988年の初演以来、質の向上や規模の拡大を続け、現在では国内最大規模の歴史劇となっています。函館の歴史を題材にすることが多く、今年は7月6日(日)より、縄文時代から始まる10の演目で、加工肉食を日本に広めたカールレイモン(1894-1987)氏をはじめとする函館や道南に大きな影響を与えた人物が紹介されます。無料の同時通訳システムがあるため外国人も安心。前売り券が発売中なので、気になる方は公式サイトをご覧ください。

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