

# How to Enjoy Hokkaido

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



写真提供: 合同会社 小樽カルポート



## Canal cruise

A short train ride from Sapporo, the city of Otaru has become an enormously popular tourist destination. From the mid-1800's to the early 1900's, Otaru was the center of Hokkaido's business and trade. Banks and trading companies built beautiful stone buildings which have since been transformed into hotels, museums, restaurants, and shops. Step back in time as you explore Sakaimachi Street, a well-preserved merchant street. If you love glassware, this is the place to buy some! You should also see Otaru's most visited destination, the Otaru Unga (Canal). This narrow, gently curving waterway was created between the shoreline and an umetate (land reclamation) project in the harbor. Completed in 1923, the canal allowed the hashike (barges) to go directly to nearby souko (warehouses). In the 1960's, it was decided to umeru (fill in) the canal, torikowasu (demolish) the warehouses, and expand the highway. However, in response to public pressure, eventually part of the canal was nokosareta (left intact), and the area's historic value finally became recognized. Today, the main canal runs from north to south for just over a kilometer—as you stroll along it, you will certainly find a perfect spot for photos. After so much sightseeing and shopping, you might want to take a break—with a boat cruise! For instance, the Otaru Unga Kuruuzu (Otaru Canal Cruise) takes you around the Otaru Canal and port for approximately 40 minutes. This tour allows you to enjoy the canal's scenery from a completely different perspective. The boats are environmentally friendly, and they are specially designed so that they can easily koukou (navigate) the narrower parts of the Otaru Canal. If you take a day cruise, you can get a good view of Otaru's historical buildings and of its beautiful natural surroundings. And for a romantic date, take a night cruise with the canal reflecting the light of the old-fashioned gas gaitou (streetlamps). Of course, the scenery changes dramatically depending on the season, so you might want to return again in winter. Detailed audio guides are available in English, Chinese and Korean. These will let you learn so much more about Otaru and its canal than you could by simply aruki-mawaru (wandering around) the area on foot. Tickets may be purchased at the ticket center next to the Chuo Bridge on the Otaru Canal, but reservations are recommended. **J**

### 小樽の歴史と美しい景色を堪能できる約40分間の船旅。

今や一大観光地となった小樽市。かつて北海道の商業と貿易の中心となった街です。中でも絶好の写真スポットとして人気を集めるのが、南北1kmにわたって緩やかなカーブを描く小樽運河。地上からの景色はもちろん水上からも楽しめるのが魅力の一つで、小樽運河と港を巡航する「小樽運河クルーズ」は、昼間なら小樽の歴史的建造物や美しい自然を眺められ、夜ならガス灯の灯りが水面に映る幻想的な世界に包まれます。英語・中国語・韓国語の音声ガイドも利用できるので、徒歩で散策するよりも街や運河の歴史をわかりやすく知ることができます。チケットは当日でも購入可能ですが予約がおすすめ。約40分間の船旅で小樽の魅力を再発見してみてください。

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