

How to Enjoy Hokkaido

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



写真提供:北海道芸術花火事務局



Hokkaido Hanabi

When visiting Sapporo, a friend of mine who is a professional photographer in Tokyo sometimes goes to Moerenuma *Kouen* (Park) to take stunning photos. In fact, the scenery is so *inshou-teki* (striking) that even if you're not a professional photographer, you will likely get some good photos. This vast park is on the site of a former *gomi-shori-ba* (waste disposal facility). It was designed by Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988) a renowned American sculptor. Noguchi used *kikagaku-teki* (geometric) shapes to create somewhat *chuu-shou-teki* (abstract) scenery that combines nature and art. A glass structure—somewhat like a pyramid—over 30 meters high. A cone-shaped man-made mountain over 50 meters high. A large circular fountain with a *chokkei* (diameter) of 48 meters. No matter where you point your camera, you will be able to create artistic photographs at any time of the year. And if you are able to visit the park on September 6th, you will also be able to photograph beautiful *hanabi* (fireworks) brightening up the night sky! Moerenuma Park is the site of Hokkaido Hanabi 2025. This is not a simple, old-fashioned fireworks display. Rather, advanced techniques have elevated the display to the level of art. Japan's top fireworks artists work together to create Hokkaido *Geijutsu* (artistic) Hanabi. This production with fireworks and music also incorporates references to Hokkaido. The fireworks are carefully programmed to *douki-suru* (synchronize) with the rhythm and melody of the music. About 20,000 people are expected to attend this event, yet it feels welcoming. The reason is that this event is mostly run by local *borantia* (volunteers). Volunteers have worked hard to set up the venue with both *shiba-seki* (lawn seating) and reserved chairs. During the production, over 500 staff members—mainly volunteers—will be on hand to welcome you. You can either bring your own food and drinks or buy them on-site. The day after the production, the volunteers even participate in *gomi-hiroi* (trash pick-up). They call it the world's most fun *gomi-hiroi*. Knowing how careful Japanese audiences are, I guess that the clean-up is quick! (Saturday 9/6. Open: 16:00. Fireworks: Approximately 19:15 to 20:15.) Advance tickets are required, so buy your tickets to *Hokkaido Geijutsu Hanabi* as soon as possible. If you miss the event this year, hope to see you there next year! Keep an eye on the website for ticket sales about two months before the event. J

プロの写真家をも魅了するモエレ沼公園で、極上の芸術花火をご覧ください。

自然と一体になれるガラスのピラミッドや高さ50mを超える円錐型の山、直径48mの巨大噴水など訪れる人を魅了する施設が集まる「モエレ沼公園」。20世紀を代表する彫刻家イサム・ノグチによってゴミ処理場の跡地が美しく生まれ変わり、プロの写真家も撮影に訪れる場所となっています。そこで9月6日(土)に行われるのが「北海道芸術花火2025」。日本を代表する花火師が集結し、音楽のリズムや曲調に合わせてプログラムされた打ち上げ花火や北海道への想いが込められた演出など、高度な技術によって魅せられる、まさに「芸術花火」を堪能することができます。全チケット制で小学生以上はチケットが必要のため、気になる方は購入をお早めに!

文＝米坂スザンヌ(米国カリフォルニア生まれ、フランス語学士、英語修士、1983年から札幌在住。北海学園大学名誉教授。)

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