Examples of actual problems experienced during driving trips were mainly sourced from a survey of tourists from other countries.

What do you do in such a situation?

● How can I refuel a car at gas stations?
● How can I get on expressways?
● I don’t know Japanese traffic rules.
● What should I do in the event of an accident?
● How do I rent a car?
● Others

As of March 3, 2009
Hokkaido is blessed with natural landscapes and the roads are wide, so you can enjoy a pleasant drive. In such surroundings, however, it is easy to pick up speed and there have been many incidents of car accidents. It is true that a rental car is the most appropriate means of transportation to fully enjoy Hokkaido’s attractions. If you leave the cities and busy traffic to drive along the roads where tour buses do not go you can experience the “beautiful nature” and “lifestyle” unique to Hokkaido. A free and easy car trip will make your stay in Hokkaido more enjoyable.

Be sure to bring a copy of the “Must-have Handbook for Driving in Hokkaido” when driving in Hokkaido!

Features of this handbook and user’s guide

Features

- This guide book has been developed to assist foreign drivers who travel Hokkaido by rental cars to sightsee safely, easily and comfortably.
- In view of the above, all necessary information has been organized in Chapter 1 to Chapter 4.
- When driving in Hokkaido, if you need more detailed information please see the websites of other organizations offering the existing information that are listed in this guide book.

How to use this handbook?

As the contents are based on data collected through actual interviews, this is a book that will certainly help you when you are in trouble and wondering, “What should I do in a situation like this?” It can also be used for point and speak.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Icon</th>
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<tr>
<td>😞</td>
<td>Descriptions of troubles that foreign visitors in Hokkaido actually encountered based on the findings of a survey completed by the foreign visitors are denoted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🌟</td>
<td>Totally lost? Help is here! Introduces the last resort when you have tried everything and nothing worked.</td>
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<tr>
<td>📋</td>
<td>Memo Introduces supplementary information such as description of terms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>📜</td>
<td>Introduces little information unique to the area that will work to your advantage.</td>
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<tr>
<td>🔧</td>
<td>Quick Tip Helpful pointers offered by a master car traveler that will make your Hokkaido trip enjoyable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🎈</td>
<td>Point and Speak Phrases When you are in a bind wondering what to do, you can point at the appropriate phrases listed in this book to communicate with other person. Brief comments are listed.</td>
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Before you leave for a Hokkaido tour by car

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<th>One week before the trip</th>
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<td>Collect information on Hokkaido tours by car</td>
<td>Decide on the route</td>
<td>Collect detailed information and obtain necessary items before you leave</td>
<td>What you absolutely cannot forget</td>
<td>Start driving!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make up a list of places you like to visit, roads you like to take, and other related items and it will be easier to decide on the route.</td>
<td>Decide on the locations to rent and return a rental car. Decide on the number of days and budget for the trip.</td>
<td>What you need to have collected!</td>
<td>The trip itself will not happen unless you have these. When you are going through a procedure to rent a car in Japan, car rental companies occasionally refuse to rent out a car unless you have your passport and international driver's license. So be careful. You will also need these items when you are asked to show the police your driver's license. If you are involved in an accident or traffic violation.</td>
<td>When you have arrived at the airport, go to the car rental booth. From there you will be taken to the office of the car rental company by bus. Be careful since airport offices of car rental companies in Hokkaido are located a little far from the airport. Consult the points of caution for driving in Hokkaido and have a safe and enjoyable drive!</td>
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<td>Make arrangements for air tickets/lodging.</td>
<td>Collecting information and obtaining necessary items before you leave</td>
<td>Traffic rules and quick tips</td>
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<td>Points to consider about winter roads</td>
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<td>Choosing where you stay is a key consideration point when traveling by car. Keep the driving distance within 150 km between the departing location and where your lodging is for the day. If the place you plan to stay for the night is too far, you may end up doing nothing but driving all day.</td>
<td></td>
<td>How to use a car navigation system</td>
<td></td>
<td>If you drive a rental car in winter, information is available on Page 37.</td>
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<td>To make a reservation for the rental car required for touring Hokkaido by car, it is possible to make arrangements by phone or online. Choose a most appropriate plan based on the number of days, people and the route.</td>
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Introduction – To our foreign visitors

Before you leave for a Hokkaido tour by car

Collect information on Hokkaido tours by car

Make up a list of places you like to visit, roads you like to take, and other related items and it will be easier to decide on the route.

Collecting information and obtaining necessary items before you leave

What you need to have collected!

- Driving map of Hokkaido
- Traffic rules and manners

Traffic rules and quick tips

How to use a car navigation system

Websites for information gathering

Telephone numbers and websites of related organizations

What you absolutely cannot forget

The trip itself will not happen unless you have these. When you are going through a procedure to rent a car in Japan, car rental companies occasionally refuse to rent out a car unless you have your passport and international driver's license. So be careful. You will also need these items when you are asked to show the police your driver's license. If you are involved in an accident or traffic violation.

- Passport
- International driver's license issued by a Geneva Convention member country
- A copy of the reservation slip for the rental car
- *Please check the expiry date of your international driver's license.

Points of caution about winter roads

If you drive a rental car in winter, information is available on Page 37.

3-8. Be careful on snowy roads!

In closing
Chapter 1  Let’s drive in Hokkaido!

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Chapter 1 Let’s drive in Hokkaido!

1-1. Vastness of Hokkaido

Hokkaido boasts an incredibly large land area, with horizons that stretch as far as the eye can see and very long roads. It is a place where travelers can fully enjoy the vastness of nature. However, underestimation of how big it is lead to difficulties in the past so you must plan your trip keeping this in mind.

Distance and travel time

While the distance may seem to be short on a map, it might actually be far away in real terms. Since speed limits may change according to climate or road conditions, it is important to plan your driving trip in vast Hokkaido free from time constraints.

The total area of Hokkaido is approximately 83,000 km²

South Korea: 98,000 km², Taiwan: 36,000 km², Hong Kong 1,000 km², Singapore 700 km²

The maps below are on the same scale so that readers can fully understand the vastness of Hokkaido in comparison with Taiwan and South Korea.

How to use the Northern Road Navi system

1. Select the departure place and destination by using the tabs for cities and local attractions.

2. Choose the travel conditions such as "usage of expressways" and "priority of time or price".

3. Search starts

Civil Engineering Research Institute of Cold Region

http://northern-road.naviadmin.jp/

QuickTip

"Midori-net" (green-net) are facilities where travelers can relax safely and freely and allows them to take a comfortable break during long-distance drives. The facility also serves as an information center offering information on sightseeing spots and roads in each area among others.

Naver Map

The information presented here is based on the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, as well as Furano, Abashiri, and other relevant websites.

Arrive at the hotel before sunset.

Hokkaido is a large area, so it is recommended to arrive at the hotel before sunset.

Introduction of model routes

Since there are long distances between the major cities, it is important to plan your driving trip in vast Hokkaido free from time constraints.
Chapter 1  Let’s drive in Hokkaido!

1-2. Seasonal charms of Hokkaido

One of the reasons why Hokkaido is so popular with international drivers is that the four seasons are clearly defined in Hokkaido and visitors can enjoy each season’s natural wonders. If a traveler does not plan with the seasons in mind, their trip will be ruined. It is also important to know what influences seasonal weather conditions such as snow storms and icy roads can have on driving.

Spring – Hokkaido’s charm in spring –  Period: April to June

The first signs of spring are found in Hokkaido in April. Butterbur sprouts come up despite the remaining snow, and visitors can enjoy sunshine while watching rivers swollen with water by the melting of the snow. Spring finally arrives in towns despite snow still on the mountains. Cherry blossoms and ume (plum) blossoms are all in bloom together in early May, and after that, lustrous fresh green leaves start to sprout.

Scenery
Cherry blossoms bloom between late April and mid May. Go to see cherry blossoms in full bloom by checking the flowering-time information on the Web site.

Experience
Part of the charm of Hokkaido’s spring skiing, which can be enjoyed until early May, is that the ski slopes still boast plenty of high-quality snow. Sunglasses need to be worn as Hokkaido’s sunshine in May is strong. Thrilling rafting during the snow thawing season is also fun. In spring, the volume of water due to meltwater flows increases dramatically. Rafting is available from April to late May.

Food
With the melting of the snow, Hokkaido’s delicious seafood and gifts from the land begin to be available and served up on the table. Asparagus that signifies the coming of spring is a product that represents Hokkaido. Although the main food preparation method for asparagus is to fry it in butter, tempura asparagus is also delicious.

Important points regarding driving trips in spring

1. A number of winter-season road closures are applied on some roads until late April.
2. Roads may be frozen up around mountain passes until early May.
3. Roads may be frozen near the entrance of tunnels and on bridges.
4. Be sure to arrive at the places you plan to stay overnight before sunset.
Summer — Hokkaido’s charm in summer —

Period: July to August

Thanks to a non-humid and dry climate, the short summer in Hokkaido creates one of the best summer resort destinations. It is also the most suitable season for driving due to longer hours of daylight.

Scenery

In summer, Hokkaido hosts flowers of red, yellow, pink, purple and other hues all blooming together and painting the vast land with their beautiful colors. All scenery spots of Hokkaido in summer become photo spots.

Experience

Many local and unique events are offered in the regions all over Hokkaido to take full advantage of its short summer. Active outdoor programs are recommended to enjoy the vast nature.

Food

Seafood in Hokkaido increases in flavor in summer. Shrimps, crabs and sea urchins are Hokkaido’s finest products. It is a gourmet season with extra-sweet melons, watermelons and white corn being harvested in the fields.

Basic information on summer

- **Koshimizu-gensei-kaen**
- **Sunflowers in Hokuryu**
- **Water lilies in Onuma**

![Sunset and Sunrise in Hokkaido](image)

- **Sapporo Summer Festival**
- **Sea kayak**
- **Auto-camping**

- **Sea urchin**
- **Hanasaki crab**
- **Corn**
- **Makon (above), Watermelon (below)**

**Important points regarding driving trips in summer**

1. During the Obon holiday, many people go back to their hometowns and also many tourists visit Hokkaido, and so immigration and departure procedures may take longer than usual. Since sightseeing spots are crowded, it is important to plan your driving trip free from time constraints.

2. Roads may be closed (especially when road traffic regulations are introduced) and trains and airplanes can be delayed or cancelled due to natural disasters such as typhoons. ⇒ Refer to Chapter 4.

3. Parking lots at sightseeing spots are often full, and there may be traffic jams (one or two hours waiting in some cases). It is important to plan your driving trip in Hokkaido free from time constraints.
**Autumn – Hokkaido’s charm in autumn –**  
*Period: September to November*

Hokkaido in autumn has colorful autumn leaves and is a treasure house of food with a bountiful harvest being produced from the mountains and seas. Visitors can enjoy Hokkaido’s seasonal products including potatoes, onions, salmon, smelts, apples and grapes. Various festivals are held to celebrate the harvest in the Hokkaido regions, and it is recommended to try the specialties in season.

**Scenery**

Since the best season for autumn leaves differs by area as well as depending on the climate that year, it is essential to do some research on the Web.

**Experience**

Mashike, Yoichi and Niki towns among other areas are famous as places where fruit-picking programs are available, with apples and grapes the main fruits to be harvested. Among other outdoor events, going canoeing on the beautiful lakes is also recommended.

**Food**

Why don’t you find seasonal products that you can eat only at that harvesting area?

### Important points regarding driving trips in autumn

1. **Sunset happens early.** Be careful to know the time for sunset between autumn and winter.
2. **Take care not to slip in the first snows from mid to late October in Northern Hokkaido, in late October in Central and Eastern Hokkaido and early November in Southern Hokkaido.**
3. **The first snow falls on the mountain passes in early October, which is earlier than down on the plains, and some roads are closed for the winter after early November.**
Winter – Hokkaido’s charm in winter –

In December, not only mountain regions but also urban areas are covered with snow. Although it is the beginning of a long and cold winter, travelers have the chance to enjoy driving in winter while visiting a lot of local events that are held only in winter.

Scenery

Silvery landscapes of beautiful pure-white snow makes travelers feel as if they have come to another dimension, well beyond the ordinary experience. Mysterious and romantic silvery landscapes attract visitors.

Experience

Various winter events such as the Sapporo Snow Festival are provided in each region in Hokkaido. It may be fun to plan to visit these events during your trip by referring to the Web sites.

Food

Hokkaido’s culture is to live lavishly in winter by eating delicious food. Japanese traditional dishes of various hot-pots using seafood are cooked at the table and warm the cockles of your heart.

Important points regarding driving trips in winter

1. During the Snow Festival season, immigration and departure procedures at airports may take longer than usual. It is important to plan your trip free from time constraints, especially on days of departure and arrival.
2. Road conditions are bad due to compacted snow and ice that looks black on the roads (black ice). Since the traffic moves slowly in urban regions due to traffic jams, it is important to plan your driving trip free from time constraints.
3. Public traffic facilities may be at a complete standstill because of closed expressways due to heavy snow, severe snowstorms, drifting snow, etc. and with aircraft delay and/or cancellation of flights and trains as well. Local streets are also crowded. ⇒ Refer to Chapter 4
THE FOUR SEASONS
OF HOKKAIDO
Chapter 1  Let’s drive in Hokkaido!

1-3. Regional charms of Hokkaido

Hokkaido is divided up into five areas; Central, Northern, Southern and Eastern Hokkaido as well as the Tokachi/Taisetsu region. The best and most efficient way to plan your driving trip is to decide the main areas you wish to visit. We hope that by choosing target areas based on local major sightseeing spots, you will be able to fully enjoy your holiday in Hokkaido.

Southern Hokkaido area  – Experiencing the frontier spirit –

There is limited admission for cars between late April and mid October on Mt. Hakodate and roads are closed between 17:00 and 22:00.

Hakodate
The night views visible from Mt. Hakodate are said to be one of the world’s three best night views, and it is famous as a sightseeing spot. There are popular fresh seafood restaurants at the Hakodate Morning Market located next to Hakodate Station.

A  Hakodate Night View
B  Goryokaku Park in Hakodate where cherry blossoms are in full bloom in spring
C  Yunokawa Hot Spring Resort in Hakodate
D  Scenery in Motomachi Town at the foot of Mt. Hakodate

Onuma Park
Beautiful seasonal scenery can be admired at Onuma Park located one-hour away from Hakodate by car. Various activities such as ice fishing in winter on ponds (for smelt) are available.

Esashi
Esashi Town located in the southwest area of Hokkaido is said to be the birthplace of Hokkaido culture. The Japanese battleship Kaiyo Maru from the Edo period is being restored.

Kamisso
The Trappist Butter and cookies, butter candies and jam produced here are famous as souvenirs representative of Hokkaido.

Matsumae
The town has a place in history as the northernmost domain of the shogunate system during the late Edo period. Matsumae Castle and Teramachi Town are designated as Hokkaido Heritage sites. There are beautiful gardens and various old trees which change with the seasons. Matsumae is covered with cherry blossoms in spring, hydrangeas in early summer, verdure in summer and autumn leaves in autumn.

Quick Tip

A  Hakodate Night View
B  Goryokaku Park in Hakodate where cherry blossoms are in full bloom in spring
C  Yunokawa Hot Spring Resort in Hakodate
D  Scenery in Motomachi Town at the foot of Mt. Hakodate

Matsumae Castle

Onuma Quasi National Park, Tsukimi Bridge (Nanae Town)

New Chitose Airport  →  Hakodate Airport

First day  1 Leave Hakodate
          approx. 15 km
          approx. 20 min.

Second day  2 Leave Kamiiso
            approx. 80 km
            approx. 1 hr. 40 min.

Third day  4 Leave Esashi
          approx. 70 km
          approx. 1 hr. 20 min.

Fourth day  5 Leave Onuma Park
           approx. 30 km
           approx. 30 min.

Sixth day  6 Leave Hakodate
          approx. 10 km
          approx. 10 min.
To Hakodate Airport
Chapter 1  Let’s drive in Hokkaido!

Central Hokkaido area  – A trip to enjoy resorts set in stunning natural environments –

Quick Tip  
Driving in Sapporo takes concentration due to lots of complicated traffic situations such as one-way traffic.

Lake Toya
This area provided the venue for the Lake Toya G8 Summit in 2008. Visitors can enjoy hot springs and rides on ferries on the lake.

Niseko
This area has one of the most popular resorts in the country, sprawling at the foot of beautiful Mt. Yotei. Hands-on outdoor sports programs such as mountain climbing, canoeing and rafting in summer are provided. Winter sports at ski fields boasting world-class quality snow are also popular, and the region has various hot springs.

Otaru
The port town of Otaru is famous as the location site for the film “Love Letter.” Otaru’s famous symbol, the Otaru Canal, creates a romantic atmosphere as it is illuminated at night.

Sapporo
- One of Sapporo’s famous symbols, the Sapporo Clock Tower, is also beautifully illuminated at night.
- Odori Park divides the central area of Sapporo into east and west. Hot corn cobs are sold in summer, and their savory smell entices visitors to buy them.

Odori Park (Sapporo)
Chapter 1  Let’s drive in Hokkaido!  1-3. Regional charms of Hokkaido

**Taisetsu/Tokachi area** — A trip to experience the bounty of nature —

The Tokachi area is famous for its long, straight roads. Be careful not to exceed speed limits or have a traffic accident on these roads that command amazing views of the Tokachi Plains.

**Quick Tip** The Tokachi area is famous for its long, straight roads. Be careful not to exceed speed limits or have a traffic accident on these roads that command amazing views of the Tokachi Plains.

**Asahikawa**

A Asahikawa ramen which is served with thin noodles is as famous as Sapporo ramen.

B The nation’s northernmost zoo, which has become famous for showcasing animals’ unique behavior

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**Biei, Furano**

In Biei, located next to Furano, enormous farming fields developed by man have created beautiful scenery. In winter, the silvery landscape can make a deep impression on visitors to this snow country. Also, the lavender season that is very popular with visitors from East Asia produces a landscape of lavender, covering the fields just like a purple carpet.

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**Near Obihiro**

Various seasonal outdoor sports are provided in the Tokachi area. You can travel down the river in a relaxed fashion or you can enjoy the excitement of being pulled on a sleigh by a snowmobile in snow-rafting.

A Obihiro is famous for its confectionary, represented by Rokkatei

B Kamishihoro Town, Naitai Heights Stock farm

C Shintoku soba noodles

D Rafting

---

**New Chitose Airport ➔ Asahikawa Airport**

- **First day**
  - 1 Leave Asahikawa
    - approx. 85 km
    - approx. 1 hr. 30 min.

- **Second day**
  - 2 Leave Sounkyo
    - approx. 25 km
    - approx. 30 min.

- **Third day**
  - 3 Leave Kamikawa
    - approx. 70 km
    - approx. 1 hr. 20 min.

- **Fourth day**
  - 4 Leave Biei
    - approx. 35 km
    - approx. 50 min.

- **To Obihiro Airport**

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Eastern Hokkaido Area – A trip to the mysterious Shiretoko –

Shiretoko

A. The Shiretoko Five Lakes are one of the most famous sights in Shiretoko. It takes approximately one hour to drive around all five lakes. However, it takes approximately 30 minutes to drive around just the first and second lakes.

B. Ice floes in Shiretoko

C. The Oshinkoshin falls located at the entrance of Utoro on the way to Shiretoko welcome tourists.

D. The Shiretoko Peninsula can be viewed from the sea on the Shiretoko Cruiser.

E. Rausu, an area blessed with nature’s wonders, is the only area where tourists can enjoy fish taken from nutrient-rich sea water.

Abashiri

A. Commanding the Shiretoko Peninsula from the Tentozan Flower Garden

B. Koshimizu Natural Flower Garden

Kushiro, Nakashibetsu

A. Nobody knows who named the “Katte-don” in the Kushiro Washo Market

B. Scenery from Kaiyodai in Nakashibetsu Town

Quick Tip
Since the distances between cities in Eastern Hokkaido are large, it is important not to get tired while driving so make sure you take occasional rest stops. Also you should check the level of your fuel before you depart to drive from one city to another. Remember that the Shiretoko Pass from Utoro to Rausu is closed in winter.
Northern Hokkaido Area – A trip to the northernmost region and its naturally beautiful islands –

Wakkanai

Mt. Rishiri and Rebun Island can be observed from the peninsula protruding into the northwest-most Soya Channel at Wakkanai. At sunset, the sea becomes drenched with orange and the silhouette of Mt. Rishiri can be seen.

- Cape Noshappu
- In Wakkanai, taste fresh king crabs boiled immediately after they have been caught
- Wakkanai Park, Hyosetsu no Mon
- The nation’s northernmost Cape Soya

Rishiri, Rebun

- Rishiri Fuji and flowers can be seen from the Momoiwa observatory on Rebun Island
- Rishiri Island, Himenuma
- Rishiri and Rebun islands’ specialty dish, rice topped with sea urchins uses the sweet Ezo green sea urchin.
- Kutsugata-misaki Park and Rishiri Fuji
- Cycling along the Rishiri Cycling Road is refreshing.

Quick Tip
When taking your car on a ferry, all necessary procedures must be completed 40 minutes before departure. Please complete the process well in advance.
1-4. Useful pieces of knowledge for comfortable driving

There are some things that travelers should know in order to be able to drive comfortably across the vastness of Hokkaido. Learning how to utilize the information centers across Hokkaido as well as how to shop for your daily requirements is essential.

Practical use of Michi-no-eki (information stations)

There are approximately 100 Michi-no-eki along National Roads all over Hokkaido. At each facility, there are lavatories, and local specialty products are sold. In addition, computerized information resources are provided so you can get road information in real time. Some Michi-no-eki offer accommodation facilities, and the number of Michi-no-eki where visitors can access computers and use the Internet freely is steadily increasing. By using Michi-no-eki wisely, you can double the pleasure of your driving trip.

Practical use of convenience stores

A lack of availability of food and drink is one of the difficulties faced during the long distances between urban regions on a driving trip in Hokkaido.

Since convenience stores exist everywhere in Hokkaido and provide toilet facilities to their customers, they really are convenient for long-distance travelers! In addition, they offer various prepared lunches and meals which travelers can buy when they do not have enough time to stop somewhere to eat.

Main convenience stores in Hokkaido

- Hokkaido has its own chains as well so look out for the logos.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Store</th>
<th>Logo</th>
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<td>Seven-Eleven</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunkus</td>
<td><img src="image14" alt="Sunkus Logo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawson</td>
<td><img src="image21" alt="Lawson Logo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Mart</td>
<td><img src="image28" alt="Family Mart Logo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seicmart</td>
<td><img src="image35" alt="Seicmart Logo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hasegawa Store</td>
<td><img src="image42" alt="Hasegawa Store Logo" /></td>
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</table>

Let’s take the chance to learn about life in Hokkaido!

Why don’t you visit supermarkets and markets frequented by Hokkaido residents. The vegetable and fish sections will be interesting and travelers might be surprised by the unique fish on display such as Atka mackerel fish, scallops, salmon, and cod and salmon roe. You don’t need to buy as it is fun just to go and look. And if you do want to try something to eat, boxes of sushi and other kinds of lunchboxes are available.

If you are serious about trying sushi though, why don’t you try going to a sushi restaurant? It is fantastic to go to a local sushi bar and watch the chefs making sushi while you sit at the counter, and it is also fun to go to conveyor-belt sushi bars and choose your favorite sushi as it comes past.
1-5. Observe rules and local customs!

Information to help you avoid trouble in local regions

Hokkaido with its cool climate is very popular with people from subtropical countries and Hokkaido residents want to heartily welcome fans of Hokkaido. However, international travelers to Hokkaido must remember that your behavior will form people’s impression of your country. Please enjoy your trip in Hokkaido while paying attention to the points shown below so that you, as a representative of your home country, establish a good relationship.

**Do not enter farmland**

Hokkaido farmers take much care in producing their farm products.

Do not enter farms (unless invited) as there is the possibility that disease-bearing soil on the soles of your shoes may lead to the complete destruction of crops.

**Be careful with wild animals**

There are a lot of wild animals inhabiting Hokkaido. Since wild animals live in their own fragile ecosystem, interference by human beings may affect their ability to survive, and also cause them to threaten our way of living. Wild animals should be seen from a distance so do not get near wild animals and definitely do not feed them.

**No littering**

Sightseeing spots are everyone’s assets. Garbage should be thrown away in trash cans. If there are no garbage cans, take your rubbish with you until you can dispose of it.

**Rules regarding sorting rubbish**

Garbage should be sorted, and local rules followed regarding its disposal. Empty cans and bottles as well as plastic bottles should be separated.

**How to use toilets**

Since toilets are public facilities, you must keep them clean for the next user. Toilets in convenience stores are provided for customers. There are various signs for toilets.

*Example: Powder room, lavatory, WC, Toilet, etc.*

**How to take a hot spring bath**

As many local people bathe together and relax in public baths at hot springs, please observe the following etiquette and usage rules.

- **Rule 1** Bathing suits are prohibited
- **Rule 2** Don’t put face or bath towels in the water.
- **Rule 3** Don’t wash yourself in the bath (wash first, in the shower area.)
Chapter 1 Let's drive in Hokkaido!

### Information on useful Web sites

- **Portal sites of Hokkaido tourism information**
- **Drive route**
  - Fly & Active Drive HOKKAIDO: [http://www.hkd.mlit.go.jp/zigyoka/z_doro/pamphlet/index_e.html](http://www.hkd.mlit.go.jp/zigyoka/z_doro/pamphlet/index_e.html)
  - (Japan Tourism Association)
- **Hokkaido event calendar**
  - Hokkaido, Flowery continent, Hokkaido: [http://kanko.pref.hokkaido.jp/flower/english/tabi/access2_i.html](http://kanko.pref.hokkaido.jp/flower/english/tabi/access2_i.html)
- **Web site on Hokkaido’s local tourism information**
  - City of Sapporo (Welcome to Sapporo): [http://www.scenicbyway.jp/english/index_e.html](http://www.scenicbyway.jp/english/index_e.html)
  - Chitose Tourist Association: [http://www.1000sai-chitose.or.jp/english/](http://www.1000sai-chitose.or.jp/english/)
  - Sapporo Jozankei Sightseeing Information Museum: [http://www.sta.or.jp/english/](http://www.sta.or.jp/english/)
- **Niseko Town**
  - Local tourism information: [http://www.town.niseko.hokkaido.jp/welcome/eng/index_e.html](http://www.town.niseko.hokkaido.jp/welcome/eng/index_e.html)
- **Kutchan Town**
- **Biei Tourist Association**
  - Local tourism information: [http://www.bieihokkaido.jp/](http://www.bieihokkaido.jp/)
  - (Website using an automatic English translation function)
- **Kamifurano Tokachi-dake Tourism Association**

*There are other various multilingual Web sites provided by each region and local tourist associations.

---

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<tr>
<th>Chapter 1 Let's drive in Hokkaido!</th>
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**Visit Japan Information Network**

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<tr>
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* C: Chinese; E: English; F: French; G: German; K: Korean

**Other information centers supporting foreign languages**

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**Inquiry counters, such as tourist associations, for problems**

Information office that offers service in foreign languages: [http://kanko.pref.hokkaido.jp/flower/english/tabiti/access2_i.html](http://kanko.pref.hokkaido.jp/flower/english/tabiti/access2_i.html)
Chapter 2  Reservation of rental cars

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Chapter 2  Reservation of rental cars

2-1. Basic information on rental car services

Rental cars are necessary for Hokkaido driving trips. Please remember the basics of renting a car in Japan. In particular, you should make sure you clearly understand the insurance and compensation system as well as what you will be financially liable for in the event of an accident.

How to make a reservation

You can make a reservation by telephone or via the Internet. Some car reservation centers have staff who speak foreign languages so please confirm which ones do via their web sites. Some rental car companies also have English web sites so that travelers from other countries can make reservations via the Internet.

How to calculate the rate

Obviously rates differ from company to company and depend on which model and class you request, however rates can be basically calculated as follows:

\[
\text{Total amount} = \text{Basic daily rate (24 hours)} + \text{Incidental fee} + \text{The number of days} + \text{Hourly rate}
\]

Fees for optional extras such as not returning the car to the same location (drop-off charges) or child seats are added to the above.

Car insurance is included!

Japanese major rental car companies always include automobile liability insurance and automobile damage insurance in the basic contract charges. In the event of a car accident or damage to another car or people, insurance companies will pay the compensation up to the limit of liability. Insurance coverage should be confirmed before making a reservation.

What is the excess fee system?

All insurance has a set excess amount for which the customer (the rental car user) is responsible for paying. Some rental car companies provide better deals with “Recommended Courses” that do not have an applicable excess charge and provide for high compensation pay-outs. As these courses usually offer emergency roadside assistance and telephone directory assistance, they are recommended for users who want to feel safe and secure.

What is NOC? (Non operation charge)

In the event of a car accident, compensation for any third party is automatically covered by insurance. However, if a car needs to be repaired and/or cleaned due to damage to a car, the following fee will be charged to recompense the rental car company for business lost during the time of repairing/cleaning. If the car can still be driven, the charge is roughly 20,000 yen, but if the car is so damaged it cannot move, the charge will be around 50,000 yen. Rental car users need to know this rule.

Things you need to communicate to make a reservation?

1. Your Name
2. Contact phone number
3. Departure date/ Pick up location
4. Return date/ Return location
5. Desired car model (class/ model name)
6. The number of passengers
7. Desired option(s) (4WD, Child seat, etc.)

One-way charges (Drop-off charges)

Rental car users are basically asked to return their car to one of the following eight cities; Hakodate, Sapporo/Chitose, Asahikawa, Wakkanai, Obihiro, Kushiro, Kitami, Nakashibetsu/Nemuro, in Hokkaido. Returning cars to shops outside these cities will incur a one-way (drop-off) charge of 3,000 yen to 8,000 yen for passenger cars.

The following limits of liability are often standard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compensation up to the limit of liability of an insurance company (example)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bodily injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property damage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car damage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passenger injury coverage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the event of traffic accidents

e.g.: In the event of minor accidents in which your and the other person’s cars are damaged, insurance will cover any damage to property and cars (in case that the rental car is not returned by its own ability). The user will be liable for a charge of up to 150,000 yen, constituting of the amount of excess for both cars (50,000 yen each), and 50,000 yen as NOC (loss of business charge).
### System for picking up a car

Let’s look at the standard process for renting a car at a rental car office at the airport and setting out on a driving trip. Many rental car office sites are a distance from the airport. As a result, customers are usually driven by shuttle bus to the office after completing procedures at the car rental counter at the airport.

#### Steps:

1. **Reservation**
   - Complete procedures at the car rental counter in the airport
   - Be transported by shuttle bus to the office.

2. **Procedures (1)**
   - Own country’s driver’s license
   - International driver’s license or Japanese translation of foreign driver’s license
   - Passport and credit card
   - Reservation confirmation certificate

3. **Procedures (2)**
   - Checking of details of the paperwork
   - Travel insurance discussed
   - Explanation of NOC
   - All necessary documents signed

4. **Handing over helpful tools**
   - Road maps
   - Explanation of how to use Navi system
   - Other tourism-related information

5. **Checks made before getting in the car**
   - Move to the car
   - Explanation of the basic operation of the car and the navigation system
   - Final confirmation of existing scratches on the car
   - Handing over of the car registration

6. **Your own checks**
   - Conduct an inspection before driving
   - Confirm you understand how to drive the rental car

#### Memo:

**Regarding the driver’s license**

Visitors from South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong have to bring the standard international driver’s license (as set out by the Geneva Convention) and tourists from Taiwan must bring their Taiwanese driver’s license with an appropriate translation. A translated version of their Taiwanese license can be issued at the translation administrative office in Taiwan by completing an application form for a Japanese translation of the driver’s license.

**Confirm how to drive a rental car**

Put the bags in the car, and confirm you know how to drive the car. Users who are driving a Japanese car for the first time or themselves own left-hand-drive cars should take care to ensure they understand how to handle the car. As the positions for the wipers and winker switches are the opposite to normal for drivers used to driving left-hand-drive cars, you will need to be especially careful. In addition, it is a good idea to check whether your gas tank is on the right or left hand side.

**Car return procedures**

Users should return the cars to the shop as originally planned and give their contract to the staff at the rental car office. Procedures are over after the user has paid any time-extension charges and the car has been checked for scratches and dents. Offices situated at airports will then take you to the airport by shuttle bus.

**Is the tank full?**

Users should fill the tank when returning the car. If the user forgets to fill the tank, a fee for gas will need to be paid based on the cost per liter as determined by the rental car company.

**Business hours of rental car companies**

Make sure to ask the business hours of your rental car company. In the event of emergencies, such as traffic accidents and when you are delayed returning the car, it is handy to know the company’s office hours in order to be able to telephone them. In addition, keep the telephone number noted somewhere easy to access so you can find it quickly.

**Allow enough time for returning a rental car at the airport**

When a user returns a rental car to offices at airports, the office staff will take the user to the airport by shuttle bus. You must therefore keep in mind how much time it will take to get to the airport and return the rental car with plenty of time to spare.

**Sapporo Rental Car Association (Japanese, English)**

http://sapporo-renta.com/english/

(How to make reservations etc.)
2-2. How to use car navigation systems

If you get lost, not only will you lose time but you are more likely to speed to reach your destination before sundown and this can be dangerous. Before anything else, you, should confirm your present location on a map, and use the car navigation system (GPS) in the car. Although a GPS system is included as standard equipment in rental cars, renters should make sure it’s provided at the time of the reservation. These systems are very useful devices, but they are not infallible. Users should not put too much confidence in these devices and understand their limits.

The way to utilize car navigation systems differs according to the manufacturer and the model, but the basic functions of most systems are almost always the same. The standard operating method for these systems is explained below.

**Basic functions** Car navigation systems has functions other than guiding you towards your destination.

1. **Map display, vicinity map, information to guide you to your destination**
2. **FM/ AM radio**
3. **Music CD player**

The function of “Information to guide you to your destination” is focused on here.

**Ways to input your destination**

You can input the telephone number of the place you are planning to visit (restaurant/hotel/tourist spot) by touching the telephone number button.

You can input a six- to ten-digit number created for each tourist destination through the “Map Code” button.

**What is a Map Code?**

Map Codes are the six- to ten-digit numbers (in case of standard Map Codes) created to help people search for destinations across Japan using car navigation systems. *Map Code is the registered brand of Denso, Inc.

Don’t put too much confidence in car navigation systems.

When utilizing the device, you may find that it can only take you to roughly the right location when using the telephone numbers function and it does not take you exactly to your destination. Also, if you set the wrong destination, the system may take you in a completely different direction. Users may not realize their mistake for some time and end up somewhere many kilometers away from their destination. This can mean that they end up having to check-in to a hotel in the middle of the night and other bad situations. As stated earlier, these systems are very useful, but they are not infallible. Users should not put too much confidence in these devices and understand their limits. Users must use them in conjunction with maps. It is also recommended to check your present location on the system against the names of towns you go through and route numbers you pass as you are driving.

**Useful function**

1. **Indication of distance to be travelled is useful**

By setting the destination, the GPS will show the distance to your destination, which allows users to calculate the time required to reach the destination. It generally takes one minute to travel one kilometer when driving at an average speed of 60 km per hour. However, the speedometer is not always reliable because it does not take into account stops at traffic signals and the amount of traffic. It is better to calculate your traveling time on the basis that one kilometer will take one minute plus a bit extra.

2. **Search the surrounding facilities**

“Surrounding facilities” function can be useful to search for the nearest facilities along with searching for your destination. E.g. If you want to know the location of the nearest gas station, touch

   (1) “Destination” button (2) “Surrounding facilities” button (3) “Car” button (4) “All gas stations” button (5) “Select among several proposed gas stations” button

3. **Listen to CD**

Users can listen to CDs with the car navigation system. Many people question where the insertion slot is as it is very hard to see. (1) Push “Tilt” or “Eject” buttons (2) Insertion slots will appear behind the screen (3) Insert a CD into the player (4) Operate using the CD operation screen
Chapter 3  Traffic rules and quick tips

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3-2. Traffic rules in Japan you need to know ....................... 25
3-3. Use expressways! .................................................. 33
3-4. How to use gas stations .......................................... 35
3-5. Be careful on snowy roads! ...................................... 37
3-1. Before driving in Hokkaido

In the event of a car accident, where you injure a third party or damage property, the duty and responsibility for this incident rests on your shoulders. The driver may be prosecuted on charges of dangerous driving resulting in injury or death as well as corporate manslaughter, both of which carry serious criminal penalties. Appropriate knowledge and orderly behavior are essential to avoid causing traffic accidents.

**Quick Tip**

Understand the important points of Japanese traffic rules.

**Yield to pedestrians**

In Japan, a driver must pay careful attention to pedestrians when driving a car. If a pedestrian is injured, the driver is primarily at fault for not avoiding the danger. When turning at intersections, drivers must stop to allow pedestrians to cross before going ahead.

**Quick Tip**

Learn carefully about driving conditions unique to Hokkaido.

**The number of deaths due to traffic accidents is high in Hokkaido!**

Although the total number of traffic fatalities has recently decreased in Hokkaido, 2008 witnessed 228 traffic accident fatalities, making it the third ranking worst place in the nation – that’s worse than Tokyo! Since Hokkaido has many long and wide roads, drivers are apt to drive too fast. This occurs particularly on roads with fewer cars, but the excessive speeds are leading to traffic accidents that involve death. Don’t drive too fast.

**Skills are required for driving on snowy roads! (November – April)**

Hokkaido is one of the world’s top-class snow-covered regions. It is difficult to drive on winter roads because they are slippery, covered with snow and there can be near-whiteout conditions. You must acquire the appropriate knowledge and take the necessary measures to prevent traffic accidents. Useful ideas are also introduced in this handbook. (For further information, refer to page 37)

**Be careful when driving a car at night!**

Roads far from towns have few streetlights and are very dark. In the darkness, it may take you longer to see pedestrians and bicycles, and also the number of wild animals near the roads is much higher. Special care is required for drivers who are used to only driving on well-lit roads in towns. Since the sun sets earlier during autumn and winter, plan your driving trip as far as possible free from time constraints.

**Lots of accidents in the countryside!**

Hokkaido witnesses many traffic accidents at intersections where there are no traffic lights. Accidents in the countryside most often become fatal accidents. Maintain the speed limits and make sure you check both right and left before crossing at any intersections to make sure you stay safe.
3-2. Traffic rules in Japan you need to know

Although travelers from South Korea and Taiwan may be afraid of driving on the left in Japan at first, they will gradually get used to doing so when driving on ordinary roads. However, the driver may slip back into their normal habit at a critical moment, so it is important to remain calm but cautious while driving.

1. **Left-hand traffic!**
   Japan basically has a left-hand traffic system.

2. **Right-turning cars must wait!**
   Oncoming cars driving straight and turning left have right of way in principle. Right-turning cars must wait for oncoming vehicles to go through/past before turning.

3. **Never fail to stop when a traffic light is red.**
   When a traffic signal is red, not only cars going straight but also ones turning left must stop.

4. **Obey arrow traffic lights.**
   Although a traffic light is red, cars which are turning in the direction of a green arrow traffic signal may make a turn.

5. **Always pay attention to speed limits! Legal speed limit is 60 km/h!**
   Speed limits on roads without traffic signs are 60 km/h on public roads and 100 km/h on expressways.

6. **Pay attention to no-overtaking zones!**
   Do not overtake in the no-overtaking zones.

7. **Bring your car to a complete stop at stop signs and in front of train crossings!**
   In Japan, you must stop your car at stop signs, and it is a traffic violation not to stop completely. Drivers must also stop in front of train crossings.

8. **Watch the traffic light in front carefully, and do not start to move before the traffic light turns green!**
   There are traffic lights on busy streets, which stay green for longer than usual. In addition, there are a number of unique intersections which are set up so that pedestrians and vehicles are never crossing at the same time as the traffic signals for pedestrians only come on when all vehicles are stopped.

9. **Never drink and drive!**
   Not drinking and driving is obvious but please note that sober passengers who travel with a driver who has been drinking, and who may have encouraged the driver to drink will also be punished.
The basic points for driving in Japan are introduced here. Exclamation marks have been used for points which may differ greatly from the rules in travelers’ own countries.

1. **Left-hand traffic!**
   Roads in Japan use a left-hand traffic system. Since right-turning cars may be waiting in the right hand lane of a two-lane road, keep driving in the left lane if you do not intend to turn right. Don’t forget to use your indicators when changing lanes so that cars behind know your intentions.

2. **Right-turning cars must wait!**
   Drivers are asked to give way to oncoming vehicles in principle when the driver intends to turn right. Make right turns after oncoming cars have traveled past or turned left. Priority is given to left turns in Japan. There are no rules regarding giving way to right-turning cars.

3. **Never fail to stop when a traffic light is red.**
   In Japan, there are hardly any roads or intersections that are “Turn left anytime” and that allow left-turning cars to turn left even if the traffic light is red. When the traffic light turns red, not only left turning cars but also oncoming cars have to stop. Wait until the traffic light becomes green.

4. **Obey arrow traffic lights.**
   When the traffic light is red, all cars must in principle stop. However, where there are arrow traffic lights provided below or at the side of the traffic lights, you may turn in the direction the arrow points when it is green. Right-turn arrow traffic lights are the most prevalent. When a right-turning arrow is shown, turn quickly while paying full attention to oncoming vehicles. Many intersections where this type of traffic light is provided have right-turn-only lanes.
5 Always pay attention to speed limits! Legal speed limit is 60 km/h!

As there are many wide and long roads with few buildings lining them in Hokkaido, it is easy to lose a sense of your speed, and drivers may press down on the accelerator without thinking. Speed limits are set between 30 and 50 km/h in urban areas, and 60 km/h in the suburbs and on main roads. It is usually 100 km/h on expressways, but it may be limited to 50 km/h in case of strong winds and/or blizzards. Due to the large number of long roads, there are many public roads and expressways with long distances with no signs indicating speed limits or with electric signs that are showing no speed limits. On such roads, drivers are asked to obey the legal speed limits (60 km/h for public roads, 100 km/h for expressways). Focus first on making a safe driving trip while paying attention to speed limits.

6 Pay attention to the no-overtaking zones!

Don’t pass other cars in no-overtaking zones. It is because it is dangerous to do so that the zone was established. For example, the roads may have obstructed views or sharp curves ahead. Wait until the no-overtaking zones is finished and it is safe for a driver to pass others to pass other vehicles.

7 Bring your car to a complete stop at stop signs and in front of train crossings!

In Japan, it is a strictly enforced rule that you must bring your car to a stop at stop signs, and halfway stops are not permitted. A “stop” means that a car completely stops and the driver looks left and right. In addition, since V-shaped signs are peculiar to Japan, remember what they mean. Usually, no “Stop” signs are located on roads which cross other roads with V-shaped signs. In other words, cars are traveling at high speeds on the road you need to cross. In the event of an accident, full responsibility is apportioned to the driver who did not stop their car. Pay full attention and make sure you stop the car completely.

Drivers must completely stop their car in front of train crossings to confirm that no trains are coming from left and right and the car can move forward safely. If the traffic over the train crossings is backed up, the car will not able to move over the crossing for a long time.
Chapter 3  Traffic rules and quick tips

3-2. Traffic rules in Japan you need to know

Traffic rules in Japan

Watch the traffic light in front carefully, and do not start to move before the traffic light turns green!

What is a time-difference traffic light?
When the traffic light for the lanes in your direction is red, the signal for the oncoming lanes is usually red, too. Time-difference traffic lights, however, are set to be green for busy lanes longer than for the other lanes.

What are separate traffic signals for pedestrians?
There are separate traffic signals for pedestrians in areas where there are many pedestrians in order to be able to keep pedestrians and vehicles separate. When traffic lights for vehicles are green, all the traffic signals for pedestrians are red. Then, when all the traffic lights for vehicles turn red, the intersections are open for pedestrians to walk.

Never drink and drive!
All over the world it is now considered common sense not to drive a car under the influence of alcohol. It is the same in Japan, however enforcement of the law and penalties for breaking it are stricter here. If alcohol is detected by a breath test, you will be penalized with imprisonment of up to three years or a fine of up to a 500,000 yen. Even more severe penalties are imposed for driving while intoxicated. In Japan, drivers who refuse to take a breath test are also punished. Sober passengers who ride together with a drunken driver as well as those who encouraged a driver to drink will also be punished. Never drink and drive.

Position of traffic signals
International drivers should initially pay attention to the position where they should stop their car. Please note that traffic lights in Japan are located on the front side of intersections and you must stop your car rather far from

Pay attention to the differences from your own country.

International comparison of traffic lights

Bite-sized information for your benefit

Never drink and drive!

Pay attention to the differences from your own country.

Bureau of Lifestyle Improvement, Department of Environment and Lifestyle, Hokkaido Government "Basic knowledge of traffic safety" (Japanese, English, traditional Chinese, Korean)
http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ks/ksa/saftydrive/eng/

Toyota Rent a Car (English)

Totally lost? Help is here!
What do you do if you cannot make a turn because the road you want to turn into is a one-way street?

One-way streets can be frequently found in downtown areas and on busy streets. To reach your destination, you will have to pass the one-way street and drive in a round-about way to your destination. In the central part of Sapporo, one-way streets run from south to north alternating. Drivers should learn the layout of roads at least in the central part of the city.

What do you do if you cannot make a turn because the road you want to turn into is a one-way street?

That is, if a driver plans their driving routes by themselves, the total distance of the trip should not exceed 150 kilometers per day. The total number of hours spent driving should also be less than three to four hours on public roads. Even if you include time for meals and sightseeing, the total driving time should not exceed the figure above. Design the trip with spare time built in to take side trips. In addition, it is recommended to calculate the distance between the places where you intend to stay and plan with that information in mind. Careful selection of places to stay will have an important effect on your driving trips.

Buckle up to save your life! Never forget.

It is the responsibility of not only the driver but also passengers to fasten their seatbelts. In 2008, passengers became legally required to fasten their seatbelts, even in the back seat. All children under 6 must be seated in child seats. Since rental car companies rent child seats at relatively low prices, make sure to reserve them in advance.

For comfortable driving in Hokkaido

The total distance you cover in a driving trip should not exceed 150 kilometers per day.

That is, if a driver plans their driving routes by themselves, the total distance of the trip should not exceed 150 kilometers per day. The total number of hours spent driving should also be less than three to four hours on public roads. Even if you include time for meals and sightseeing, the total driving time should not exceed the figure above. Design the trip with spare time built in to take side trips. In addition, it is recommended to calculate the distance between the places where you intend to stay and plan with that information in mind. Careful selection of places to stay will have an important effect on your driving trips.

Avoid driving at night!

It is hard to find destinations in places you do not know at the best of times but as drivers face increased difficulties in finding landmarks in darkness after sunset, the chances of getting lost increase. Hokkaido roads in the suburbs usually have no or few street lights, and they may be darker than you imagine. Be careful especially about driving in autumn and winter when the hours of daylight get shorter.
When a penalty sticker is affixed to your car

As parking violations are stringently policed in Japan, be sure to park your car in appropriate parking areas or assigned lots when leaving your car, even for a short time. When a penalty sticker is affixed to your car, payment of a fine between 10,000 yen and 18,000 yen will have to be made (in the case of passenger cars).

When a parking fine sticker is attached to a rented car

1. **Reporting to a police station**
   Report to the police station indicated on the parking sticker immediately.

2. **Pay the fine**
   When you go to the police station, complete the necessary documents and you will receive a payment notice. Pay the illegal parking fine at the nearest financial institution (bank etc) and get a receipt.

3. **Report to the rental car company**
   Present the completed forms for the penalty and your receipt.

Make a phone call to the number shown here.

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**Memo**
You must inform the rental car company of any parking fines!

When a parking fine sticker is affixed to a car, the owner is contacted and informed of the violation through the license plate (in this case, the rental car company). Go through the formalities by following the instructions of the police before returning your rented car.

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**Make sure you know the areas in which parking is banned**

There are many people from other countries who violate the parking regulations in Japan. According to a survey by rental car companies, the arrest rate for illegal parking by people from abroad is eight times the rate of Japanese. Check the areas where parking is banned by checking traffic signs and lane markings.

**The policing of on-street parking is very stringent. Where, then, should a driver park their car?**

The policing of parking and penalties for violation became very stringent after revision of the law in June 2006. A driver cannot park their car just anywhere, so please park your car after checking the parking signs. When a parking fine sticker is affixed to your car, payment of a fine between 10,000 and 18,000 yen is required (in the case of passenger cars). From the start, park your car in parking lots.

**Small soba noodle shops or curry-and-rice restaurants in regional towns may provide no or few parking lots. Even in these cases, never park your car on the road. As the shop may provide parking lots a little further from the shop, ask the shop staff for information.**

- **Bite-sized information for your benefit**
- **No Parking and No Stopping**
  This sign indicates an area where parking and stopping is prohibited. Drivers cannot park or even stop their car on roads with this sign. The “8-20” in the upper part of the sign indicates the time of day for which this sign is applicable, i.e. between 8:00 – 20:00.

- **No parking zone**
  This sign indicates a no parking zone. On roads with this sign, a driver cannot park the car except to let off passengers or take on or drop off things. The “8-20” in the upper part of the sign indicates the time of day for which this sign is applicable, i.e. between 8:00 – 20:00.
Use pay parking meters!

If you wish to park your car temporarily, use pay parking meters. It is relatively easy to find and use pay parking meters. Parking spaces are marked with white enclosing lines drawn on the streets in the area where the sign at right is posted. A fee must be paid in advance and you can only pay for a fixed amount of time.

1 Park your car in a designated space.
2 Insert coins in the parking ticket vending machine.
3 A parking ticket will be dispensed.
4 Affix the parking ticket inside the windshield so that it is visible from outside.
5 Check the expiration time for the ticket. You need to be careful as it will be a parking violation if your car is parked more than 60 minutes.

Use both private and public parking facilities!

Parking fees vary among locations. In this handbook you will be given information on parking fees in Sapporo’s city center, the hardest place to find parking in Hokkaido. The department stores and shopping malls you may visit will have contract parking lots. Be sure to check in advance if they offer free parking if you spend a certain amount of money in their shop. Fee structures vary from one parking lot to the next. Some parking lots charge a flat all-day rate (about 1,000 – 2,000 yen) whether you park for a short period (around 20 minutes) or hours.

Regarding the current going rates (as of January 2009), fees around Sapporo Station are roughly 100 yen for 20 minutes and 300 to 340 yen an hour, whereas in the Odori area, fees range from 100 yen for 15 minutes and 400 to 500 yen an hour. Needless to say, there are cheaper places to park outside the center city area.

Public Underground Parking Lots

There are three large underground parking lots in central Sapporo. They are so large and spacious that you can easily find a parking space but if you do not remember to note where you parked (such as noticing the number on the column nearest your car) you may be unable to find your car, so be careful.

Sapporo Station North Exit Underground Parking Lot ¥170 per 1/2 hr.
Mon – Sat 8:00 – 22:00

Kita Ichijo Underground Parking Lot ¥190 per 1/2 hr.
7:30 – 22:00

Sapporo Odori Underground Parking Lot ¥380 per hr.
08:00 – 22:00

Multilevel/Tower Parking Garages

There are no large parking lots in the city center where there is a lack of space. Most parking lots are either multilevel or tower parking lots.

Multilevel Parking
Get a ticket at the entrance gate. Drive into the lot, ascend the spiral ramp and park in an available space. To exit, drive your car down the spiral ramp, insert your ticket and money in the machine.

Tower Parking
Following the attendant’s instructions, cars need to be driven onto a platform that will be lifted like an elevator. To retrieve your car, give the ticket you received from the attendant when parking back to him/her and your car will be brought back down to the main level.

Self-Service Coin Parking

There are inexpensive self-service coin parking lots that allow you to park near the street. After you park your car, wheel-clamps will automatically rise into place to keep your wheels from moving. To remove your car, go to the car park pay meter, enter the stall number where you parked using the numeric keys and pay the parking fee. This will automatically release the wheel-clamps.

Other

There are, of course, the good old conventional parking lots with a pay booth at the entrance with an attendant sitting inside and you leave your car key with him/her. If you wish to obtain information on the area, it may be a good idea to use this type of parking lot so you can ask the attendant questions.

Sapporo Parking Information System
http://parking-info.jp/sapporo/pc/index.php
It is a Japanese only website, but the maps and photos are helpful.
COMFORTABLE DRIVING
IN HOKKAIDO
3-3. Use expressways!

Since Hokkaido is big, it is often necessary to travel large distances to move from one place to the next. In particular, if your plans include driving across some large cities with many traffic lights and heavy traffic, using expressways will lead to substantial time savings. Use them wisely.

If you make sure in advance that you know: 1. Your present location, 2. The location of the entrance, and 3. The name of the exit you need to take, you will be alright.

1. Confirm where the entrance to the expressway is, which will be on a green sign.
2. Obtain a ticket at the General Gate (一般).
3. Proceed in the direction of your destination.
4. Be sure to know the exit for your destination and get off the expressway by following the green signs.
5. After leaving the expressway, pay the applicable fee at the tollbooth.

Where is the entrance?
Enter the expressway at the entrance referred to as IC (interchanges) such as “Chitose IC.” All the road signs for local streets are blue in color, however, since all the locations for interchanges are marked in green, look out for green signs while driving.

Which gate should I use?
There are general lanes, ETC lanes and dual use lanes at the entrance. The ETC lanes require an ETC card which foreign visitors cannot obtain so use the green “general lane.”

Which way should I go?
After passing the gate, the road will split in 2 directions. You must choose the lane that will take you in the direction of where you wish to go. As the signs show the names of cities, it is a good idea to check the geographical location of the major city and IC (interchange) in advance. If, by any chance, you find yourself heading in the opposite direction from where you intended to go, stay calm, get off the expressway at the next IC and start over again.

The reason why you cannot use the ETC only lanes
An ETC Card is used exclusively to pay expressway tolls and other related fees. It identifies the payer and the payment is automatically charged to the user’s credit card or bank account that has been registered with the ETC system. However, since the ETC Card requires the user to have a bank account in Japan or be authenticated by a Japanese credit card company, it will take time to have one issued. Hence, unfortunately it is difficult for a visitor to obtain an ETC Card as things currently stand. Be careful of the ETC lanes as only cars that are set up to use the ETC Card system can use these lanes.
The flat rate toll used in Sapporo must be pre-paid!

At the IC entrances in Sapporo, a toll booth and not a ticket dispenser will greet you immediately. The system here calls for a prepayment of the flat fee (¥400 for passenger cars).

This is how the tolls in Sapporo work!

**Speed Limit**

Speed limits are variable and will change depending on the weather and/or road conditions. If there are no signs, the speed limit is 100 km/hr. Always check the speed limit signs while driving.

**Toll Booths**

To use expressways, users obtain a ticket from a dispenser at the entrance gate and pay the applicable toll, which varies by the distance traveled, to an attendant at the exit. To pay, cash or the following credit cards are accepted (no need to sign the transaction slip):

- JCB Card
- NICOS Card
- American Express Card
- Diners Club Card
- VISA Card
- MasterCard

Drive in the Cruising Lane (Keep Left!)

A 2-lane expressway is divided into the “cruising lane” and “passing lane.” Under normal conditions, stay in the cruising lane on the left hand side (keep left). Only pass in the right-hand lane. As this road traffic (expressway) regulation is strictly enforced, it is advisable to return to the cruising lane after having passed another vehicle.
3-4. How to use gas stations

gas stations are called “GA-SO-RI-N SU-TA-N-DO” in Japan. There have been problems due to confusion over the names of the various types of fuels, so learn what they are beforehand.

*The abbreviations GS for gas stations or SS for service stations will be used below.

Where are gas stations?

Gas stations can be commonly seen in urban areas or along the busy main roads, but they are rarely found once you are away from a city or along a road with very little traffic. There are more GS along highways with 2 or more lanes and other roads which large-sized vehicles such as trucks utilize. Regarding operating hours, you should be aware that while some GS are open 24 hours a day in urban areas, some gas stations in the countryside where there is little traffic may close after 18:00 during the week and may not be open at all on weekends. Rather than waiting until you are running very low on gas to fill up, it is advisable to fuel up often.

There are two types of gas stations.

There are two types of gas stations: a. “Full Service” where sales staff are always present and refuel for you and b. “Self Service” where you refuel your own car. Prices are slightly cheaper at self-service stands. At full service stands, all you have to do is to tell the staff what kind of gas you want and how much, either in liters or yen. If you want a full tank, just say “MA-N-TA-N” (full tank). The staff will refuel your car and offer services such as wiping your car’s windows. Every once in a while, you will be offered a free map or pack of tissues.

There are three types of fuel with two types of gasoline.

Fuel comes in three types including “HI OKU” (high octane), “regular” and “diesel.” Rental cars in Japan, for the most part, have gasoline engines and require “regular” gasoline. There are virtually no rental cars with diesel engines so under no circumstances should you use diesel fuel in a rental car. The car will not run if it has been filled up with diesel fuel. Additionally, gasoline sold in Japan is virtually all lead-free.

Types of fuel (gasoline)

Generally speaking, “regular” means gasoline with an octane value of approximately 90, whereas, “Hi-Oku” (high octane) means gasoline with an octane value ranging between 98 and 100. Depending on the gas stations, “Hi-Oku” will have a unique product name such as “Premium,” “Super,” “F1,” “Vigo,” “Super Magnum” or “Shell Pura” that identifies the high octane gasoline as a product that improves fuel efficiency, ensures optimum engine performance and has energy and environmental qualities.

The colors of gasoline stand nozzles are standardized across the country with red being “regular”, yellow being “high octane” and green being “diesel”.

| Oil type & price |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Signage</th>
<th>Taiwan</th>
<th>Hong Kong</th>
<th>Japan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ultimate unleaded*</td>
<td>98無鉛汽油</td>
<td>高級汽油</td>
<td>ハイオク(HA-1-O-KU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unleaded</td>
<td>92無鉛汽油</td>
<td>普通汽油</td>
<td>レギュラー(RE-GYU-RA-A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diesel</td>
<td>柴油</td>
<td>柴油</td>
<td>軽油 (KE-1-YU)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Depending on the stand, “Ultimate unleaded” may be called “Plus unleaded,” “Super unleaded,” or “Premium unleaded.”
Refuel at a self-service gas station!

Here is an introduction about how to use self-service gas stations.
*Since the system may be different depending on the gas stations, we are giving you just one example here. At some gas stations, drivers pay the amount they owe for the gasoline to the staff at the register after refueling.

1. Stop your car alongside the petrol pump
Stop your car alongside the petrol pump keeping in mind which side your petrol tank is on. Make sure you know in advance which side your petrol tank is on. Park the car and turn off the engine.

2. Pay first
The fee should be paid beforehand, and cash and credit cards may be used.
(1) Cash: Insert the amount of money in the loading slot.
If a driver intends to refuel by 30 l, insert approximately 5,000 to 6,000 yen in bills. The cost is calculated by multiplying the unit costs (per liter) by the amount of gasoline (l) you used, and any change owed will be repaid into the coin return slot.
(2) Credit card: Activate the card by inserting it.
Insert your credit card into the appropriate slit and swipe it through the reader to load the data.

3. Select the gasoline type and the volume (number of liters)
Select the gasoline you wish to use by pushing the button for either premier, regular or light gasoline. Rental car users usually choose regular. The amount of petrol can be selected in two ways: choose one of 10 l, 20 l, 30 l... 50 l options or select 1,000 yen, 2,000 yen, 3,000 yen... 5,000 yen. If a driver wants to fill their car up, MA-N-TA-N should be selected.

4. Refueling
Open your petrol tank, pick up the nozzle for the gasoline you have selected, insert the nozzle into your tank firmly. There are usually three types of nozzles, so make sure you select the right type of petrol. Petrol types are always indicated by the same colors. Pull the lever to start refueling. When you have finished refueling, the petrol will stop automatically (The driver cannot pull the lever anymore).

5. Refueling completed.
Return the nozzle to the pump, and close the cap of your petrol tank firmly. Confirm the amount of gasoline and the charge shown on the display. Don’t forget to pick up your change when you pay by cash. A receipt is printed out automatically for use of both cash and credit cards.

Quick Tip
Gasoline is dangerous!
Needless to say, fire, such as cigarettes, must be put out while you are filling your car. If gasoline catches fire, it will be very dangerous. As static electricity is also dangerous, do not forget to touch a static electricity removal sheet before starting to refuel. Use of mobile phones is also prohibited.
Knowledge about winter driving

Compacted-snow roads are roads on which snow has fallen and then been pressed down and compacted by the movement of vehicles. Icy roads (Eisbahn) are those that are covered with thin ice formed by the refreezing of snow that fell and then melted on the roads, and these are especially slippery. Winter roads are very dangerous, because once a car skids, it is hard to control it.

Don’t be tricked by black icy roads (Eisbahn)!

Black Eisbahn is the worst type of icy roads. The road is covered with refrozen melted snow after rain. They look a little like wet roads, however, they are the slipperiest roads. Be very careful on black shiny roads in winter!

It’s impossible to see!

Strong snowstorms can obstruct your view forward and snow being blown up from the road may also lead to low visibility. In addition, your range of vision may be reduced suddenly due to powdery snow blown up by oncoming trucks. Drivers just have to slow down in such situations.

Getting stuck!

If you drive into deep snow, you may not be able to get your car out. As far as is possible, find cleared roads or drive along wheel tracks left by other cars.

Things you must not do!

“Sudden braking,” “Sudden acceleration,” “Abrupt steering” Your wheels will lock up (continue to slide without your tires moving) if you brake suddenly and your car get out of control so avoid this.

Three key points to driving in winter

Drive slowly
The basic point is not to increase your speed. Driving slowly will give you time to avoid danger should the need arise.

Keep a safe distance between cars.
Keeping a safe distance between you and the car ahead gives you enough time to react and cope with emergency situations.

Understand the traffic conditions ahead
Many winter traffic accidents are caused by a delay in drivers understanding traffic conditions ahead. Pay attention to the brake lamps of the front two cars as well as traffic conditions ahead.

Learn how to use the engine to brake!

Cars accelerate automatically on down grades. In such cases, drivers should use not brakes but the engine to brake to control the speed. Using the engine to control speed is achieved by utilizing the power of the gears and changing the mode of the automatic transmission from D (drive) to S (or 3 or 2 according to models). Be sure to change the gear slowly while slowing the car down.
### Tips about winter driving

**1. Windshield wipers are frozen and they don’t work**
Wet wipers will get stuck to the windshield when frozen. You can avoid this by lifting the wiper arms off the windshield and leaving them like that overnight.

**2. It is bright on sunny days**
It is very dazzling when the sun reflects off the snow in winter. It is a good idea to carry sunglasses to combat the glare.

**3. Clumps of snow come crashing down onto the car roof**
Before driving be sure to remove any snow that has accumulated on the car roof. Otherwise clumps of snow may slide down the windshield without warning while driving and may block your view.

**4. How slippery is it?**
If you test your brakes while driving at a low speed and where you know it is safe to do so, you will learn how slippery the road is that day. Don’t ever do this when there are cars in front of or behind you.

**5. Melted snow from the car in front is showering your car**
There are times when melted snow off the car in front or splashed up by oncoming vehicles covers your windshield and reduces visibility. Be sure to maintain a sufficient amount of windshield washer fluid in your car at all times. A winter formula that provides anti-freeze protection can be purchased at auto supply shops and home centers.

**6. Everywhere is white and I cannot tell where the road is**
In blizzard conditions, you cannot see what is ahead. Blowing snow caused by strong winds may reduce visibility. Drifting snow blown up by oncoming trucks will also obstruct your view for a moment. In these situations, remember to reduce your speed and drive slowly.

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### Stay home when the weather is bad!

In winter, weather conditions can change suddenly in some areas. Also, some areas do not have reception for cell phones. If you are stranded in one of these places you will be unable to call for help and will freeze in the extreme cold. It could take hours before the rescue party arrives and your life will be at risk. If bad weather is forecast therefore, do not go out even if this means you have to change your plans.

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For more information on things to keep in mind about winter driving

  
Chapter 4 What should you do in a situation like this?

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Chapter 4  What should you do in a situation like this?

4-1. If you are in a car accident or have committed a traffic violation

You never think that you will run into trouble during your vacation but that is actually what you should be concerned about most. If you know how to handle emergencies, you will be anxiety-free and able to act without panicking in extreme situations.

I don’t understand Japanese. What should I do?  ➞See Page 46

First, ask a Japanese person who is on the scene for help. He/she should be able to explain the situation at the scene to the police and fire department personnel. If there is no one nearby, call the police and tell them the “situation” and “location.” Stay calm and check the car navigation system for the location.

What if I had an accident?

If you had a major accident in which you are seriously injured, you will have no choice but to wait for someone to help. The question is what you should do when you hit another car or hurt someone. It is important to deal with the situation calmly.

First of all, it is essential to ensure that a second accident will not occur. You should learn the following procedure:

What to do when an accident happens

1. Make the area as safe as possible
   Look around you and make an assessment as to what actions are necessary to make the area safe, such as moving your car so that it is not blocking traffic, moving any injured person(s) to a safe location, and so on.

2. Dial 119 to call an ambulance
   Call an ambulance if someone is injured. It may be necessary to give the injured person first aid in order to stop bleeding while waiting for an ambulance.

3. Dial 110 to call the police and follow their instructions
   Call the police and give a detailed description of the accident. Be sure to contact the police as you will need an accident report for compensation at a later date.

4. Contact your car rental company
   Finally, call your car rental company and follow their instructions. The car rental company will make all arrangements including contacting the insurance company, moving your car, and other related matters.

Be sure to report it no matter how small the accident is

Even if you had a single car accident and your car is still road-worthy, be sure to report it to the car rental company. It may be necessary to report to the police as well in some cases.

Information you should give when calling 110 and 119

See Page 46 for “Phrases to use (by pointing) in Emergency Situations.” "There was an accident and 'x' number of people were injured. The location is …. (give location) my name is …. My phone number is ……, and cell phone number is …….

Do not negotiate a settlement on the scene.

In the case of a minor accident, the other party may offer to settle the matter with cash on the spot. However, you will be at a disadvantage if you are unfamiliar with the rules and regulations involved. It is safer to decline his/her offer and follow the instructions of the car rental company.

Be sure to identify the other party

Give the other party your information and obtain the other party’s information. Additionally, if you have a camera, it would be a good idea to take photos of the scene.

• Your name, address and phone numbers and those of the other party
• Your driver’s license number and that of the other party

Quick Tip

On expressways, use the “Emergency Telephone!”

If you have an accident or if your car breaks down on an expressway, make the area safe by parking your car on the shoulder and turning on your emergency blinkers or use a triangle reflector to alert other vehicles of the emergency situation, then contact the road authorities. If you use the “Emergency Telephone” instead of your cell phone, your present location will automatically be notified to the rescue crew. “Emergency Telephones” are installed every 1 km so you will be able to find one within 500 m, either ahead of you or behind.

Status of accidents involving foreign visitors using rental cars

Watch out when you have become familiar with your vehicle and an area.

Be more careful in the latter part of your trip than at the start

Accidents happen when foreign visitors move into the opposite lane after making a right/left turn (due to being used to right-hand lane traffic.) Having entered the wrong traffic lane, foreign visitors can panic and collide with oncoming cars or cars behind them.

Pay attention to the differences from your own country.

Taiwan  Korea

The accident that happens most frequently in parking lots is caused by drivers not checking to see what is behind their cars.

Cars are parked very close to each other and visibility is often poor in parking lots due to dim lighting. Additionally, being in an “unfamiliar car” may contribute to errors in perception regarding the width of the vehicle. The most frequent cause of accidents is a lack of sufficient attention to things behind the car. If you park forwards, you will need to back out when you leave. This means that you will have many blind spots and it is highly possible that you will end up in an accident. If possible, park by slowly backing into a space so you can leave the parking space in a forwards direction and be able to see clearly.

Report it to the police even if it is a small accident!

Although you have insurance, it will not apply if you do not report an accident. You will become responsible for the full cost of the accident. Therefore, be sure to report any accident to the police however minor it may seem.
Chapter 4  What should you do in a situation like this?

4-2. If you have an injury or illness

What should you do if you are injured or suddenly become ill while driving?
How you handle a situation where you are injured or become ill during the trip will vary depending on time, place and your symptoms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check your symptoms</th>
<th>Check your symptoms calmly and work out how to handle the situation. *If you have a pre-existing medical condition, be sure to consult with your family physician prior to the trip.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Go to the hospital
Don’t continue on regardless but instead put the trip on hold and go to the nearest hospital. Generally Japanese hospitals are open to outpatients during the week.

If you are injured or ill during non-business days or after hours
Go to an emergency center or to a doctor on call
For people seeking medical care outside business hours, emergency medical facilities (emergency centers and other related facilities) or doctors on call are available in Japan. Ask the Japanese people around you and they should be able to suggest an appropriate hospital. It is also safe to ask people at a tourist bureau or stores.

What about paying the doctor’s fee?
Since the Japanese health insurance system applies only to Japanese people, you will be charged the full amount for any medical treatment received. The amount will vary depending on the symptoms, treatment and any medication that is issued. You may have to be prepared to pay in the range of tens of thousands of yen. Since virtually no hospitals yet accept credit cards, you will have no choice but to pay by cash. If you have overseas travel insurance, you should be able to claim a refund from the insurance company later. Ask the hospital to fill out the insurance claim form or to issue a medical certificate. Keep your receipt for the medical costs in a safe place.

There is 3-Way Phone Interpreting Service!
Some of the major car rental companies offer a 3-way phone interpreting service! This is a 3-way simultaneous conference call system which uses an operator who can translate your conversation.

1. User calls the car rental company. User hangs up the phone.
2. The car rental company dials the special number for the 3-way conference call.
3. User receives the call and the 3-way conversation begins.

Quick Tip
Get a cell phone before coming to Japan!
The number of pay phones has steadily decreased as cell phones became more popular in Japan. Be sure to carry a “cell phone” as a means of communication in case of emergencies.

If your cell phone supports “GSM 3G,” you can use it as it is in Japan. Before you leave your country, check with your cell phone service provider as to whether your cell phone is set up for international roaming. If your cell phone cannot be used, you can rent one that supports 3G at the airport or other places.

Quick Tip
Using a cell phone while driving is strictly prohibited!
What should you do if the road is closed due to heavy rainfall or a blizzard?

If by any chance the road is closed, it is important to gather as much information as you can. Since weather information may be available only in Japanese, ask the Japanese people around you for help.

1. Gather information
   First of all, gather: 1. weather information, 2. road information and 3. information on the public transportation system. Be especially careful to do this if it is the last day of your trip and you have your flight home to catch. Check to see if there is any other means of transportation to make your return flight.

2. Travel by an alternative method of transportation
   Consider alternative means of travel if there is no hope of a road closure being lifted or weather conditions improving. If public transport is available, return the rental car to the nearest office and switch to public transport such as trains or airplanes. The first thing you will need to do will be to secure some reservations/tickets.

3. Make all the necessary phone calls
   Contact the car rental company if you are returning your vehicle to the nearest office. Contact the airlines that are operating your return flight and let them know beforehand your present situation, what time you expect to arrive at the airport, and that you will be delayed. Additionally, if it doesn’t seem like you will make the return flight, discuss a reservation change with the airlines. If you are in transit, don’t forget to contact the hotel that you have booked for that night and report your situation to them.

There are two major poor weather conditions that have a major impact on transportation systems in Hokkaido

Blizzards
During the winter between December and March, the winter pressure pattern sets in and creates an atmospheric pattern of “western highs and eastern lows.” When this happens, the wind will pick up and will often bring blizzard conditions. Caution is needed when this happens.

Typhoons
Typhoons are not very common in Hokkaido but there have been more incidents of them in recent years. There may be some major rainstorms and windstorms in August and September. Caution is needed and you should check traffic information for landslides during heavy rainstorms.

*Other: Although they are not common, localized snowstorms and rainstorms can occur throughout Hokkaido. Be careful since the transportation system may be paralyzed in such circumstances.

If a blizzard or typhoon is forecast, it will influence traffic conditions significantly, so be sure to check road information right away.

Take advantage of Michi-no-Eki (Road Stations)
Information terminals offering road information are available in Michi-no-Eki (Road Stations). If you have no other access to the internet, you can check road information there.

How do I find road information or details of weather/road conditions in the mountains?

In Hokkaido, there are many summits when traveling over a big mountain range and, due to the high elevation, weather conditions around the summit areas can be completely different from that on the plains. As weather conditions can change suddenly, be sure to have sufficient information at all times and be sure also to learn the names of the major summits that are included in your planned route. Information on snowfalls and gale winds are essential for winter driving and must be checked before you start a trip. Consider changing the route or plan, if necessary.

1. Weather information is available in English on the websites at right.
   - Japan Meteorological Agency
     - http://www.jma.go.jp/jma/indexe.html (English only)
   - Weather information for the summit areas and road information are available in foreign languages on the website given below:
     - Northern Road Navi

2. Road information and summit information are available on the websites at right.
   - Flight information for arrivals/ departures is also available:
     - New Chitose Airport Terminal Building (English, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese and Korean)
   - Operating conditions for public transport is available on the website at right.
     - Japan Weather Association
     - http://www.jma.go.jp/jma/indexe.html (English only)

3. Information on the operating conditions for public transport is available on the website at right.
   - Although it is available only in Japanese, the following websites are the most useful to get the latest information on road closures and other related matters:
     - Hokkaido Development Bureau Hokkaido Regional Road Information
     - http://info-road.hdb.go.jp/index.html (Japanese only)
   - Operating conditions for the railways are available only in Japanese but it can be useful to check the headings.
     - JR Hokkaido (English, Traditional Chinese and Korean)
     - http://www2.jrhokkaido.co.jp/global
Chapter 4  What should you do in a situation like this?

4-4. If your car breaks down

Car problems and what to do

You may run into various car troubles including a dead battery, keys locked inside the car, driving into ditches, etc. First of all, the top priority is to contact your car rental company but please note that services to help fix these problems are not free and you will be charged.

Are there stress-free service offerings that help you deal with emergency situations?

Service plans offered by major car rental companies

Companies offer various service plans called “Stress-Free Plan” and other product names that offer roadside services, road information service, etc., so make sure you take advantage of them.

Consult with the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF)

Japan Automobile Federation (JAF) is open 24 hours a day/7 days a week and offers nationwide roadside services. They will come to your location to assist with a dead battery or keys locked in free of charge if you are a JAF member. JAF also offers various services to non-members for fees.

Be sure to carry proof of your membership in the Automobile Association!

Members of automobile clubs participating in reciprocity agreements with the Federation Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA) can receive the JAF roadside service under the same conditions as JAF members. If you are a member of the Hong Kong Automobile Association (HKAA) or Automobile Association of Singapore (AAS), be sure to bring proof of your membership.

Reciprocal services of Federation Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA)

Automobile clubs affiliated with FIA in each country/region offer services to their mutual members under the FIA reciprocal agreement. Automobile clubs in over 60 countries worldwide are now offering various services to their members under the umbrella of FIA following the terms of the membership agreement.

*With respect to Taiwan and Korea, while they are affiliated with FIA, they are not participating in the reciprocal agreement. Hence, as a general rule, members in those countries are ineligible to receive services in Japan.
Chapter 4 What should you do in a situation like this?

What if your car hits a wild animal?

Hokkaido is rich in wildlife. Caution is needed while driving as wild animals such as foxes and raccoons may run across the road.

There are many ezo deer in Hokkaido (particularly in eastern Hokkaido.) While ezo deer may look adorable from a distance, they are actually large animals. Some of them weigh more than 100 kg and there have been fatal accidents caused by cars hitting ezo deer crossing the road. If your car hits an ezo deer, it will be an “accident” causing property damage. You certainly should contact the police if this happens (particularly as it will be necessary to “report to the police” to have damage insurance cover the car repairs.) When making a report to the police, you can ask the police to contact the road authorities for that jurisdiction for the removal of the dead deer as it may cause additional accidents if it remains on the road.

Seasons for ezo deer sightings

- **April – June:** Be aware that ezo deer come down to the foot of the mountains from the summit areas where they ordinarily live.
- **October – March:** Watch for ezo deer while driving over the summits. The number of accidents peaks during October and November.

Times of day when most accidents happen that involve ezo deer

Many accidents happen between 16:00 – 20:00 around sunset, and 4:00 – 6:00 a.m., around dawn.

Areas where ezo deer-related accidents happen the most frequently.

A map of accident sites (examples)

A map of ezo deer-related accident sites in Kushiro and Nemuro
Excerpts from the website of Kushiro Development and Construction Department
http://www.ks.hkd.mlit.go.jp/road/eto/shika/shika_top.html

A map of ezo deer-related accident sites in the Kitami City area
Excerpts from the website of Abashiri Development and Construction Department
http://www.ab.hkd.mlit.go.jp/topics/kitami_ezosika/

Be careful if you see this road sign.

There are a variety of signs warning of ezo deer crossing the road in addition to the road signs. Most are pictorial signs and they are easy to understand.

Read the “When you drive, be aware of deer!” section in the “Shiretoko Eco-Road” information on the Abashiri Development and Construction Department’s website
http://www.ab.hkd.mlit.go.jp/douro/ecoroad/eco_e_06.html
(English, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese and Korean)
(1) Phrases to use (by pointing) in an emergency · · · · · · · · · · 46
(2) Telephone numbers and websites of related organizations · · 48
(3) Helpful information · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · 51
Phrases to use (by pointing) in an emergency

In emergency situations, try to convey what you want to say by speaking Japanese no matter how rudimentary it may be while pointing at the phrases on this sheet.

### “Car Accident” Section

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>情報を伝える</th>
<th>警察を呼んでください</th>
<th>救急車を呼んでください</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seeking help</td>
<td>keisatsu wo yonde kudasai</td>
<td>kyukyusha wo yonde kudasai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't speak Japanese.</td>
<td>Please call the police.</td>
<td>Please call an ambulance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>交通事故です</td>
<td>There has been an accident.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kousuu jiko desu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t know where I am.</td>
<td>Please tell me the address of this location.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ここがどこかわかりません</td>
<td>kokga dokoka wakarimasen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>koko ga dokoka wakarimasen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are injured persons.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>この住所を教えてください。</td>
<td>kokono jusho wo oshiete kudasai</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeking the conditions and location</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### “Injury/Sudden Illness” Section

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>情報を伝える</th>
<th>具合が悪いです</th>
<th>医者に診てもらいたい</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explaining the conditions</td>
<td>guai ga warui desu</td>
<td>isha ni mite moraitai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel unwell.</td>
<td>I want to see a doctor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ところがしまして</td>
<td>I have allergies.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arerugii ga arimasu</td>
<td>Please fill out this form for insurance claim.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have allergies.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>交通機関に連れて行ってもらえませんか？</td>
<td>hoken seikyu no tame ni, kono youshini kinyuu shite kudasai</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>byoin ni tsurete itte moraemasenka?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you take me to the hospital?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>我がダメ出しています</td>
<td>I have a temperature.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chi ga deteimasu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am (he is/ she is) bleeding.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>皿を打つましした</td>
<td>atama wo uchimashita</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I (he/she) hit my (his/her) head.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am hurt.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>頭をつり</td>
<td>I feel dazed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My neck hurts.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>体が動きません</td>
<td>te / ashi ga ugokimasen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I cannot move my hand(s)/foot (feet).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel unwell.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>手／足が動かせません</td>
<td>kubi ga itai</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am hurt.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>お腹が痛い</td>
<td>onaka ga itai</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel unwell.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>いくらか出ます</td>
<td>seki ga demasu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am coughing.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>牙痛 / 頭痛 / 腹痛</td>
<td>hakiga shimasu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel nauseous.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel dazed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>体が熱しています</td>
<td>netsu ga arimasu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have a temperature.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>膨れています</td>
<td>harete imasu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand/foot/face is swollen.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel nauseous.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>牙痛 / 頭痛 / 腹痛</td>
<td>samukega shimasu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel chilled.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>眼が痛い</td>
<td>te / ashi ga uchimashita</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel dazed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>手／足が動かせません</td>
<td>kubi ga itai</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am hurt.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Phrases to use (by pointing) in an emergency**

### “Traffic Jam” Section

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>通行止めはありませんか？ tsuuukoudome wa arimasuka?</td>
<td>Are there road closures?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>午後2時までに千歳空港に行きたい gogo niji madeni chitose kuukou ni ikite i kaite i</td>
<td>I have to be at Chitose Airport by 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>列車の時間が早いかですか？ ressha no hou ga hayai desu ka?</td>
<td>Will it be faster to take the train?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>道路が通行止めです doro ga tsuukoudome desu</td>
<td>Road is closed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### “Parking” Section

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>駐車場はありませんか？ chushajo wa arimasuka?</td>
<td>Where is a parking lot?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>車はどこに停めばいいですか？ kuruma wa dokoni tomereba ii desu ka?</td>
<td>Where should I park my car?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### “Fueling” Section

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>レギュラー満タン！ regyuraa mantan</td>
<td>Fill up with regular!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>レギュラー 20リッター！ regyuraa niju ritta</td>
<td>20 liters of regular!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### “Car Trouble” Section

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>故障しました kosh shimashita</td>
<td>My car broke down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>車が動かない kuruma ga ugonanai</td>
<td>My car does not work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ガス欠です gasuketsu desu</td>
<td>I ran out of gas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>バッテリーが上がりました batterei ga agarimashita</td>
<td>The battery is dead.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### “Wild Animal” Section

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>狂うぶつかりました shika ni butsukarimashita</td>
<td>My car hit a deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ここは知床峠です kokowa shiretoko toge desu</td>
<td>I’m at Shiretoko Pass.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consult the “Point at the Sentence Travel Conversation Booklet” listed under Tourism Brochures in the “Hokkaido Gururi-Tabi” website. [http://www.visit-hokkaido.jp/en/siryo/pamph.html](http://www.visit-hokkaido.jp/en/siryo/pamph.html)
1. List of relevant telephone numbers

- Police (110)
- Ambulance (119)
- Directory Assistance (104)
- Hokkaido Emergency Medical Treatment Information Center (0120-20-8699 (Toll Free), 011-221-8699)
- Japan Road Traffic Information Center (0570-011-011, Speed number 8011)
  * Hokkaido Regional Information (011-281-6511)
- Road Emergency Number (Speed number 9910)
- JAF Roadside Service (0570-00-8139, Speed number 8139)

2. List of related websites

**Hokkaido District Transport Bureau**
- Notification/Application Information
- Vehicle Registration
- Tourism Promotion
- Press Release

**“Northern Road Navi”**: Civil Engineering Research Institute of Cold Region
- Distance and time search function is available
- Many links to websites for sightseeing by car

**“Basic knowledge of traffic safety”**: on the website of Safe Living Environment Promotion Division
- Driving safely
- Basic rules and manners
- Driving on winter roads
- What to do in a traffic accident

**“Hokkaido Gururi-Tabi”**: Hokkaido Tourism Organization
- Hotels/Ryokan
- Events & Festivals
- Route Search
- Travel & Transport
  * “Point at the Sentence’ Travel Conversation Booklet” and “Hokkaido Festival Guide” can be downloaded from the English and Chinese (Traditional and Simplified) web pages.

**“Fly and Active Drive Hokkaido”**
[http://www.hkd.mlit.go.jp/zigyoka/z_doro/pamphlet/index_e.html](http://www.hkd.mlit.go.jp/zigyoka/z_doro/pamphlet/index_e.html)
- (Hokkaido Regional Development Bureau)
- (Japan Tourism Association, Inc.)
- City Information
- Area Information
- Driving Information
- Driving Manners
2. List of related websites (continued)

Public agencies/services

Hokkaido Prefectural Police
http://www.police.pref.hokkaido.jp/english/eng.htm
★Outline of Hokkaido ★Outline of Hokkaido Prefectural Police
★Area Map of Police Stations

Japan Automobile Federation (JAF)
http://www.jaf.or.jp/e/
★Roadside service call ★Translation of driver’s license
★Traffic manual sales ★International reciprocal service among partners

Post Office
★Sending/receiving letters and parcels ★About international mail

Scenic Byway Support Center
http://www.scenicbyway.jp/english/index_e.html
★Introducing 7 scenic routes

Airports

Hokkaido Tourism Organization
http://www.visit-hokkaido.jp/en/
★Tourist route information ★Seasonal information
★Map of major expressways ★“Hokkaido Festival Guide” and “Point at the Sentence: Travel Conversation Booklet” can be downloaded.

NEXCO Eastern Japan
http://www.e-nexco.co.jp/road_info/
★Search fares/routes ★Downloadable fare schedules
★Traffic congestion information

Scenic Byway Support Center
http://www.scenicbyway.jp/english/index_e.html
★Introducing 7 scenic routes

New Chitose Airport
★Flight information ★Timetable ★Information for international flight customers ★Information on airport facility

Asahikawa Airport
http://www.aapb.co.jp/
★Access map to the airport ★Information on airport facility
★Tourist Information

Tokachidake-Obihiro Airport
★Timetable ★Access map to the airport ★Information on airport facility
★Tourist information

Hakodate Airport
http://www.airport.ne.jp/hakodate/en/
★Timetable ★Access map to the airport ★Information on airport facility

Tokachi-Obihiro Airport
★Timetable ★Access map to the airport ★Information on airport facility
★Tourist information

Kushiro Airport
http://www.kushiro-airport.co.jp/
★Timetable ★Access information ★Information on airport facility
★Tourist information

Memaike Airport
http://www.mmb-airport.co.jp/
★Timetable ★Access information ★Information on airport facility
★Tourist information

Wakkanai Airport
http://www16.ocn.ne.jp/~wk.air/
★Timetable ★Access map to the airport ★Information on airport facility

Nemuro-Nakashibetsu Airport
http://www.nakashibetsu-airport.jp/
★Timetable ★Access information ★Information on airport facility
★Tourist information
★Access information

Memanike Airport
http://www.mmb-airport.co.jp/
★Timetable ★Access information ★Information on airport facility
★Tourist information

Hokkaido Prefectural Police
http://www.police.pref.hokkaido.jp/english/eng.htm
★Outline of Hokkaido ★Outline of Hokkaido Prefectural Police
★Area Map of Police Stations

Scenic Byway Support Center
http://www.scenicbyway.jp/english/index_e.html
★Introducing 7 scenic routes

Supported languages: Japanese English Traditional Chinese Simplified Chinese Korean
2. List of related websites (continued)

- **Transport organizations**
  - **Car rentals**
    - Toyota Rent a Car
      - [Website](http://rent.toyota.co.jp/en/index.html)
      - First time users, Rates and car models, How to make a reservation, International licenses, Illegal parking, Non-operation charges (NOC)
    - (Toyota Rent a Car Sapporo)
      - [Website](http://www.toyotarentacar.net/english/)
      - Location of the New Chitose Airport sales counter and rental procedures, Branch locations, Rates, How to use the car navigation system
    - (Toyota Rent a Car Shinsapporo)
      - [Website](http://toyota.rent-a-lease.com/english/)
      - Location of the Chitose Airport sales counter and rental procedures, Insurance and options, Safe Driving Guidebook, Branch locations
    - Nippon Rent a Car
      - [Website](http://www.nipponrentacar.co.jp/english/)
      - Rental rates, From reservation to return, Rates, fees, services, provisions, etc., Pick up
    - Honda Rent a Car
      - [Website](http://www.hondarent.com/english/)
      - Car rates, How to make a reservation, When renting and returning a vehicle, For safe driving
    - Mazda Rent-a-Car
      - [Website](http://www.mazda-rentacar.co.jp/www/genre/0000000000000/1157608717919/)
      - When renting a car, Compensation (Exemptions and NOC)
    - Sapporo Rent-Car Association
      - [Website](http://sapporo-renta.com/english/)
      - Monitor report, From reservation to return, About the use of expressways

- **Ferries**
  - Heart Land Ferry
    - [Website](http://www.heartlandferry.jp/english/)
    - Operating conditions, Timetable, Fare and Rate Table, How to make a reservation, Boarding procedures
  - JR Hokkaido
    - [Website](http://www2.jrhokkaido.co.jp/global/)
    - Timetable, Route Map, Travel Information, Model Course, Visitors Information Desk

- **Weather**
  - Japan Metrological Agency
    - [Website](http://www.jma.go.jp/jma/indexe.html)
    - Warnings/Advisories, Weather conditions, Typhoon information, Flood forecasts, Tsunami warnings/advisories, Earthquake information
  - Japan Weather Association
    - [Website](http://www.njwa.jp/eweather/)
    - Hokkaido weather forecast, 7-day forecast for Hokkaido, Weather forecasts for tourist destinations, Airport weather

- **Road and Traffic Information**
  - Northern Road Navi
    - [Website](http://northern-road.jp/navi/eng/)
    - Route maps, Driving information, Road/mountain pass (blizzard) information, Winter driving guide, To search distance and time, click here, [Website](http://time-n-rd.jp/)
  - JR Hokkaido
    - [Website](http://www2.jrhokkaido.co.jp/global/)
    - Timetable, Route Map, Travel Information, Model Course, Visitors Information Desk

- **Taiwan**
  - Ministry of Transportation
    - Offers a detailed explanation of the traffic rules and regulations in Japan
      - [Website](http://eweb2.thb.gov.tw/movie/foldout/foldout-c1.htm)
      - [Website](http://eweb2.thb.gov.tw/movie/foldout/foldout-c2.htm)

- **Korea**
  - The website of the Korean Embassy in Japan
    - Offers information on road conditions in Japan
      - [Website](http://jpn-tokyo.mofat.go.kr/kr/)

“Drive Hokkaido”: Hokkaido Safe Living Environment Promotion Division, Department of Environment and Lifestyle

“Drive Hokkaido” is available only in “English” and “Traditional Chinese” on the website: Hokkaido Safe Living Environment Promotion Division, Department of Environment and Lifestyle

“Drive Hokkaido” Traditional Chinese characters (Front)
“Drive Hokkaido” Traditional Chinese characters (Back)

How to handle an accident: Checking for casualties and reporting to the police and car rental companies

Michi-no-Eki (Road Station) information: Map codes are listed. You can reach your destination by following michi-no-eki.

Distance/Time between cities: Distance and time between major cities in Hokkaido are listed.

Road signs in Japan: Main road signs in Japan are introduced.

What to watch for in winter driving: Main points/Issues are introduced

Sample routes: 8 sample routes based on a 3 nights/4 days plan are listed.

For safe driving: Basic rules and regulations such as yielding to pedestrians, no use of cell phones while driving, and other related items.

“Enjoy Driving in HOKKAIDO”: Hokkaido District Transport Bureau

How to reserve a rental car: Who to contact, what you need, important points to consider when renting a car and other related matters.

Size of Hokkaido: Comparison against the size of Taiwan by using maps of the same scale.

Distance/Time between major cities: Distance and Time are shown on the map.

Notes of caution about driving: Right-hand steering wheels and left-hand traffic. Parking violations and other related items.

Notes of caution about road signs/fueling: Notes of caution about no overtaking, small animals crossing and fuel types.

Driving manners: Handling accidents.

Driving on snow-covered roads: Driving techniques for snow-covered roads

“Expressways in Hokkaido”
Available from NEXCO East (East Nippon Express Company)/car rental offices

How to read expressway signs and other signage
Explanations of how to enter an expressway, how to pay tolls, handle ETC and other related matters
Expressway toll schedule
How to handle accidents and other troubles

“Pamphlet for Taiwanese”
A pamphlet developed in collaboration by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the National Police Agency

“Rules of the Road” in foreign languages
Sold at all JAF branch offices

The Japan Automobile Federation (JAF) publishes and sells “Rules of the Road” translated into five languages for foreign motorists. It is designed to promote safety on the road and to prevent traffic accidents involving foreign residents in Japan. The price is 1,000 yen per copy (including consumption tax – add postage) in any language.

Languages supported:
English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese and Hangul
In closing

This publication, the “Must-have Handbook for Driving in Hokkaido” was developed following the findings of the 2008 Study of Hokkaido’s Development Plan – Strategic Investigational Study to Promote Car Tourism by Foreign Visitors in Hokkaido.

When developing this handbook, we received cooperation from the Hokkaido District Transport Bureau, the Government of Hokkaido, the Hokkaido Prefectural Police, the Hokkaido Tourism Organization, Hokkaido District Rent-a-Car Association, Chitose Airport Rent-a-Car Liaison Council, Japan Automobile Federation, the Eastern Nippon Expressway Company Hokkaido Office, TOYOTA Rent-A-Lease Sapporo Co., Ltd., TOYOTA Rent-A-Lease Shinsapporo Co., Ltd., Nippon Rent-A-Car Hokkaido Co., Ltd., the Civil Engineering Research Institute for Cold Region, the tourism-related and other related agencies/organizations in the Furano-Biei-Asahikawa region, the tourism-related and other related agencies/organizations in the Niseko-Kutchan region, and the tourism-related and other related agencies/organizations in the Abashiri-Rausu region.

The Study of Hokkaido’s Development Plan was set up to conduct the necessary research to design, plan and promote a comprehensive development strategy for Hokkaido. In addition to the fundamental studies of Hokkaido’s socioeconomic structure, there have been pioneering/experimental studies concerning the creation of industrial clusters, utilization of IT technology, and the utilization of clean energies such as biomass and the like. In 2008, a pioneering study began that aimed to harness Hokkaido’s unique characteristics in keeping with the strategic objectives/key measures of the “new comprehensive Hokkaido development plan to lead an era of global environment”.

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