Feature

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In Muroran, discover A new way of traveling!

Northern travel calendar
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In Muroran, discover
A new way of traveling!

As industrial tourism is drawing more and more attention around the nation, Muroran stands out because it boasts of having one of the four greatest industrial nightscapes in Japan that is unique from other nightscapes. With the addition of Bolta figures and local cuisine, this steel town is now the center of attention.

The explosive popularity of industrial nightscapes was first ignited in the capital region.

Recently, many guide books, introducing “factory tours”, are becoming the topic of conversation. The books were sold out within five days after hitting the stores, and within a month and a half over 200 thousand copies were issued, revealing the height of popularity.

Besides factory tours, a new style of tourism called “Industrial Tourism”, which offers knowledge on the history and beauty of creating things, is drawing much attention. The genre spreads across many fields, among which factory tours to confectioneries and dairy companies are most popular among women, and are often incorporated into tour itineraries.

Alongside the factory tours, appreciation of the factory view itself is also gathering attention in the capital region, and is expressed as “Kojo Moe”, or a “special passion for factories.” Of these, the most popular are the industrial nightscapes, and Kawasaki, Yotsukaichi, Kita Kiyusuh and Muroran are considered to be the four major industrial nightscapes of Japan.

When speaking of nightscapes in Hokkaido, the view from Mt. Hakodate is most famous, but the illuminated factories, Mt. Sokuryo and Shiratori Bridge of Muroran are recently the talk of the town.

Although nightscapes can be seen year round, due to the fog that hangs over Muroran during the summer, springtime, when the air is clear, is a better choice for nightscapes.

There are many nightscape spots scattered around Muroran city.

One cannot speak of Muroran’s industrial nightscapes without speaking of its historical background and contributions to modernization as an industrial city of Hokkaido. Due to the development of the Sorachi coal mine and Yubari coal mine in 1889, a railway opened in 1892, connecting Iwamizawa and Muroran, and Muroran became the loading and shipping port for coal. Later in 1906, the first conglomerate company in Japan, The Japan Steel Works, Ltd., was founded in Muroran, changing the course of industry toward steel production. Thus, Muroran flourished as a city of steel works.

We asked Mr. Kenichi Nakajima, the secretary general of the Muroran Tourist Association, how Muroran became one of the four major industrial nightscapes in the nation.

“Mr. Nakajima has two certificates in nightscape approval and knows everything there is to know about nightscapes. We asked him what is most charming about Muroran nightscapes.

“Muroran’s geography is similar to that of a mortar, which is why there are many nightscape spots scattered around the city.”
Due to the difference in height, depending on the spot you are at, not only can you look down upon a nightscape but you can see nightscapes on the same eye level and above you as well, allowing for a variety of vantage points, something that is typical of a Muroran nightscape. Also, the safety lights that are installed all over the factory give off orange and white light, sparkling like jewels against the night sky. With the added elegant illumination of the Shiratori Grand Bridge to the lights of the factories, the nightscape becomes a unique and fascinating sight."

But still, what is it about industrial nightscape that draw the attention of so many people?

"Perhaps it is because the combination of geometric shapes of inorganic smokestacks and pipes and night lights create a futuristic image, and is completely different from the ordinary scenes of daily life in residential areas and even the city."

Check out the nightscape spots by car.

The Muroran Tourism Promotion Communication Board issues a map of all of the nightscape spots in Muroran. In all, 9 spots are introduced on the map, and of these Mr. Nakajima recommends the observatory on Mt. Sokuryo, where you can see the representative facilities of Muroran and the observatory in Shukutsu Park.

If you wish to see the major sights of Muroran such as the factories, Shiratori Grand Bridge and Muroran Port, then the observatory on Mt. Sokuryo is best. You can see the lit up factories surrounding Muroran Port and the illumination of Shiratori Grand Bridge reflected on the water surface. On the summit, seven radio towers are illuminated with colorful lights, and can be seen from all over the city. For a donation of 4,000 yen per time, a message can be added to the illumination, and is called the “Light of Hope”, a signature feature of a city known for nightscapes.

From the observatory in Shukutsu Park, as you look from Mt. Sokuryo toward Hakacho Grand Bridge, you will see the elegant line of the Hakacho Grand Bridge, which, as its name suggests, resembles a swan spreading its wings, and the JX Nikko Nissaki Energy Co., Muroran Plant and its lights. Besides this there are spots where the factories are the main feature of a spot, or spots where the lights dance on the surface of the ocean, as well as a variety of other nightscapes, which is why many people can be seen carrying a camera with them.

On your way home, if you drive across the Hakacho Grand Bridge toward the Muroran IC, you will be surprised to see a fortress of powerful lights on your left. These are the lights that illuminate the JX Nikko Nissaki Energy Co., Muroran Plant. With the steam that rises from nearby facilities, the scene is fantastic, almost like that of a film set for a science fiction movie. There is a sense of technology mingled with wisdom that is present in the sparkling light of an industrial nightscape, which is perhaps what stirs emotions within the hearts of people.

View an industrial nightscape from the sea, Nightscape cruising

Exploring nightscapes from the sea allows the viewer to see a different angle of the site that cannot be seen from land, which is why night cruising is a pleasant experience.

Within the port, many ships of all sizes come and go, their lights adding a special glow to the factory lights and glittering on the water surface. This can only be seen from the ocean.

Further, because the cruise takes you right near the Japan Steel Works, Nippon Steel Corporation and Nittetsu Cement, you can see the enormous buildings up close, and will be awed by their magnificence.

After the cruiser leaves the factories, it heads toward the Hakacho Grand Bridge. The bridge is 1380 meters in length, the center span 720 meters, the largest in Japan.

As the cruiser passes under the bridge, the JX Nikko Nissaki Energy Co., Muroran Plant comes into view. The shining lights of this plant are impressive when seen from land, but leave one at a lost for words when viewed up close. Occasionally, the orange and blue flames of a flare stack can be seen shooting out of the smoke stack.

The cruiser finally changes course passing under the Hakacho Grand Bridge once again, and the hour-long cruise comes to an end. This is an impressive cruise on which, recently, couples are said to get married with the sparkling nightscape in the background.

■ Inquiries: Star Marine Company
  ☎ 0143-27-2870 ☎ 090-1644-6793
  Fares/ Adults 3,000 yen (Jr. high and older), Children 1,000 yen
Muroran Gourmet,
The source of energy for the people

After you have enjoyed the industrial nightscapes, you will want to taste the local cuisine of Muroran. The three major local gourmet foods include Muroran Yakitori, Muroran Curry Ramen and Schlegel's black rockfish.

Muroran Yakitori is made not from chicken and leeks, but from pork and onions and is dipped in horse radish. Secret sauces differ with each shop. The combination of meat slowly grilled over coals, dipped in the secret sauce and topped with a little spicy horse radish is one of the gourmet foods Muroran boasts. Scattered around the city, Muroran has the most Yakitori shops in the country, and one can enjoy trying different tastes at different shops.

There are approximately 50 ramen shops in Muroran, a sixth of which serve Muroran Curry Ramen, a local gourmet food loved by the people of Muroran. The curry spices compliment the rich soup, and the dense soup mingles well with the noodles. Those who try this spicy ramen soon become addicted to the taste.

The Schlegel’s black rockfish is a designated fish of Muroran, and is farmed there as well. It is served often in Japanese cuisine in the shape of Sashimi or stewed but is also popular served Chinese or Western style.

Nature co-existing with factories
Creates a unique and beautiful landscape

Muroran is a city surrounded on three sides by ocean, thus blessed with natural beauty; the co-existence of nature and factories is a unique feature of Muroran.

Along the coast of the peninsula in Muroran, lies a beautiful stretch of cliffs, 14km long and around 100m high. Cape Chikyu is especially a beautiful scenic spot chosen as the most beautiful landscape out of “The One Hundred Natural Beauties of Hokkaido.” From the observatory a grand panorama spreads before the eye, and one can sense how the world is round. The contrast of the white light house is also pleasant.

During the cherry blossom season, you’ll want to visit the cherry tree that stands solo in Sakimori Town, and which became famous when it was used in a television commercial. Bright pink flowers of the single cherry tree stand out against the continuous green of vast pastures, bringing joy to those who view the landscape.

Muroran Tourist Association: ☎ 0143 - 23 - 0102

Let’s go meet the lovable “Bolta” characters!

Recently, a character named Bolta is gathering attention. Bolta are figures made from nuts and bolts, typical ingredients of a steel town, and although they are made with inorganic materials, they are so unique and full of expression that they are quickly gaining fans across the nation.

There are figures in over 100 poses, and have very cute stories that will make you laugh. Bolta even has a girlfriend named “Nutty.”

Bolta figures can be purchased at the “Bolta Studio”, “Puratto Tetsu ichi” and at the Road Station Mitara Muroran.

Bolta craft experiences are also popular; you can choose from 3 poses and using a soldering iron and pliers create your own Bolta within an hour. Try your hand at making this character that is loved by all genders, old or young.

Inquiries/Reservations: Tetsunomachi Project Bolta Studio ☎ 0143 - 47 - 8233
Craft Experience Prices (Prior reservation necessary) 2,100 yen (4th grade and older)

“Confessing Bolta”
The story...
On a month, a day Bolta mustered up all of his courage and went to confess his love! His facial expression was as bright as flames! Days later, Bolta was spotted walking and crying by many.”

The “hot spring Bolta” sold exclusively at hot spring resorts such as Noboribetsu Hot Springs
The new “Bolta and Nutty” series

Namasu 2012 Spring
A new shape of Industrial Tourism
A steel and coal port – A story of three modern cities of the North

By visiting the greater areas, Your hobbies will deepen.

Much of industrial tourism consists of factories and facilities that are presently in operation. However, content that drifts back and forth in time, taking you back through the history or allowing you to imagine the future, or further expanding the area you visit, is beginning to draw attention.

One example is the “Steel and Coal Port – The Story of Three Modern Cities of the North.” By visiting each one, from the coal industry of Sorachi to manufacturing and port services in Otaru to the steel industry and tourism related industry in Muroran, there is a new movement to learn about the three cities that contributed to the modernization of Hokkaido, and how the connection of these cities changed over time.

Since 2010, Sorachi, Muroran and Otaru have held workshops, events and tours on various themes. Last November, a “study tour” that allowed for visitors to tour the industrial tourism of Sorachi, Muroran and Otaru was held. People departed from each city and observed the areas of each other’s city, then commenced in Sapporo to hold a workshop, enjoy fellowship through dining together.

Seeing the different industrial heritages such as the old coal mines and hearing the guide explain about the history of each area stimulates intellectual curiosity, and was most popular among the middle aged and elderly.

The details of this year’s event will be decided in May. Art projects and city walks are being planned, so you will want to check it out.

Inquiries: NPO Coal Mine Remembrance Promotion Enterprise
0126 - 24 - 9901

Let’s learn about the food and history of Hokkaido!
Here a portion of industrial tourism implemented here in Hokkaido, such as confectionery tours and facilities that allow you a close up view of historical and cultural heritage, are introduced. There are many other facilities of various genres that you will want to check out so you can become an expert on Hokkaido!

Shiroi Koibito Park

Here you can view the Shiroi Koibito product line, and the “Chocolate Time Tunnel” that introduces the chocolate factories of England from the 19th century. In the area that does not require admission fees, there are shops and restaurants, and for an extra charge you can try your hand at making confections. A recommended souvenir is the Shiroi Koibito original cup with your picture!

• Inquiries: 011-696-1851
• Business Hours: 9:00 – 18:00 (Last admission is 17:00)
• Closed: Never

Hokkaido Kombukan

Introducing the history of Kombu (kelp) fishing, the connection between Kombu and people, and the eco system of Kombu through visual, audio, panels and tools that were actually used. You can also view how the Oobo Kombu is manufactured. There is a great line of original Kombu products, and you can even try Kombu soft cream (for a price), a very rare treat.

• Inquiries: 011-356-2030
• Business Hours: 9:00 – 17:00
• Closed: Never

Ikeda Wine Castle

Ikeda Grapes and Wine Research Center

The sight of the center is almost as though it were an old castle in Medieval Europe. In the exhibition room you can learn in detail about growing grapes, wine making, the barrels and corks, and everything else there is to know about Tokachi Wine. You can also peak inside the underground maturing room where the wine quietly sleeps. You can also experience the light arting atmosphere. There is also a sampling corner where you can taste Tokachi Wine for free.

• Inquiries: 015-672-4877
• Business Hours: 9:00 – 17:00
• Closed: Never

Hokkaido Historical Village

Sapporo

Standing on the vast premises of the park, 82 replicas of buildings that were built between Meiji and the beginning of Showa express the flowing changes of culture in Hokkaido. It is an outdoor museum where an entire village is on display, and one can get a feeling of what life was like during the pioneer days. During summer there is a carriage ride, and in winter, horse-drawn sleighs, among other seasonal events, to look forward to.

• Inquiries: 011-489-8892
• Business Hours: 9:00 – 18:30 (Last admission is 17:00)
• Closed: Mondays (closed the week before following a Monday that falls on a holiday)

Sapporo Beer Museum

The only beer museum in Japan. The museum introduces ingredients, the manufacturing process, line of the beer industry in Japan, and mention the connection between beer and people and the History of Sapporo Beer and exhibits retro Sapporo Beer posters that fans love! You can also pay for a sample of freshly brewed beer.

• Inquiries: 011-745-1876
• Business Hours: 9:00 – 19:00 (Last admission is 17:30)
• Closed: Mondays (closed the week before following a Monday that falls on a holiday), Open on Mondays in Feb, Jul, Aug, and Sep.

Abashiri Prison Museum

The old Abashiri Prison was relocated and set up as a Historical-outdoor museum open for public viewing. In the Futsumagak farm mess hall in the old Abashiri prison, you can pay for a recreational menu of what the prisoners actually ate when they were locked up. Guided tours are provided without the need for prior reservation.

• Inquiries: 0155-454-811
• Business Hours: 9:00 – 17:00 (Open between 8:00 – 18:00 from Apr to Oct. Last admission is one hour before closing)
• Closed: Never

Kunimame Sake Brewery

Founded in Meiji 15 (1882), Kunimame is the northern-most sake brewery in Japan. Besides tours of the Kura where the tanks of sake are stored, on display in the museum are numerous tools and materials used for sake brewing, and even old labels. In the sampling room you can sample all 16 labels of sake for free.

• Inquiries: 0164-553-3355
• Business Hours: 9:00 – 17:00 (Last admission is 16:30)
• Closed: Never
Northern travel Calendar

Hokkaido, where the great outdoors and frontier spirit are deeply rooted. Discover the culture and food nurtured by the land and the people, as you embrace the four seasons of the north.

Southern Hokkaido

Experiences

The SL Hakodate Onuma

A steam locomotive mightily passes through the Onuma and Komagatake area where spring has finally arrived.

Onuma Quasi-National Park is the only quasi-national park in southern Hokkaido. There are over 126 islands large and small poking their heads out of Onuma and Komuna, and the walkway that was built to connect the islands is a very popular sightseeing course in Onuma that attracts many visitors each year. Mori is also a favorite sightseeing spot in southern Hokkaido that is famous for cherry blossom viewing.

If you plan to travel during Golden Week around southern Hokkaido, the temporary spring SL Hakodate Onuma is a good choice. It is a train that takes you from Hakodate to Onuma, circles Mt. Komagatake, and takes about 1 hour from Hakodate Sta. to Onuma Sta. From Onuma Sta. to Mori Sta. takes about half an hour. Because the route to and from Hakodate is different, a diversity of landscape can be enjoyed. Inside the train, the staff, dressed in a retro outfit, explains the sights along the train line such as the blooming season of the skunk cabbages in Onuma Park and the famous spots in Mori for cherry blossom viewing. Added excitement is brought to the journey on the SL with the sale of original products and onboard events.

This year the train is in operation between April 28 and May 6. Train fare between Hakodate and Mori is 1700 yen for adults, 900 yen for train fare and 800 yen for the reserved seat and 850 yen for children (450 yen for the train fare, and 400 yen for the reserved seat).

JR Telephone Information Center (Tel: 011-222-7111)

Sightseeing

Cherry Blossoms in Mori

Various colors of cherry blossoms, including a one in the world variety, all bloom at the same time.

Last fall the Mori IC was opened, making access to Mori by expressway more convenient. Mori is known in Hakodate as one of the famous sites for cherry blossom viewing. The cherries begin blooming as early as the beginning of May, and last until the late bloomers begin to bloom in late May. Inside Aobagoa Park there are Somei Yoshino cherries that were planted in 1914 (the 3rd year of Taisho) and well over 100 years old, and other varieties such as “Mori Komachi” and “Aoba Shidare.” Inside the Onishii Park there are cherries unique to Mori such as the “Hori Hizakura” and “Komami Zakura”, in all, 150 cherry trees to be viewed. Between May 3rd and 20th, the “Morimachi Cherry Blossom Festival” will be held, and on the 13th, guests like Rumiko Koyanagi and Two-toned Aoki will set the stage alight with their singing.

Experiences

Hokkaido “Women’s Sumo Tournament”

A women’s only sumo tournament held in the hometown of the Yokozuna.

Fukushima town, the home of Yokozuna Chiyonofuji and Chiyonoura, is the venue for a women’s sumo tournament held every year on Mother’s Day. This year commemorates the 21st tournament, welcoming Umanosuke Batai as the master of ceremonies and speaker. His funny Shikona name he gives to the wrestlers is sure to make the crowds laugh, so not only those participating, but those observing will enjoy the tournament as well. The number of contestants is limited to 64, and anyone of any nationality 18 and up may participate. The cost of participating is 2,000 yen, but the prize for participating is 10 thousand yen, and 100 thousand yen for the winner, plus many other prizes, which is why it attracts so many participants. This year the tournament will be held on May 13th; recruitment for participants begins in early March.

Fukushima Tourist Association (Tel: 0139-47-3004)

New

Hakodate Jomon Cultural Exchange Center

The first national treasure of Hokkaido is on exhibition at the museum which conveys Jomon Culture.

The Minami Kayabe area in Hakodate, formerly known as Minami Kayabe Town, was the setting for which the Jomon culture flourished over a period of 7000 years from the beginning to the end of the Jomon Era. Many ruins have been discovered here and the Hakodate Jomon Cultural Exchange Center was founded in 1975 and registered in Oct. 2007 as a facility to exhibit and introduce national treasures such as hollow stone figures as well as other Jomon culture. Besides tours through the facility, there are hands-on activities such as Jomon weaving and miniature stone figure crafts. Admission is 300 yen for adults, 150 yen for students and children. The museum is closed between March 5 and 19 for the reorganization of materials.

Hakodate Jomon Cultural Exchange Center (Tel: 0138-25-2030)
Hokkaido Garden Show

The new style of Hokkaido gardens, shaped by the fusion of Hokkaido nature and the unique character of a writer.

Seven gardens, created through the utilization of climate and landscape, are scattered across Asahikawa, Furano and Tokachi and connected by one road called the Hokkaido Garden Road. These gardens have been drawing much attention, and as a new approach for Hokkaido gardens, the “Hokkaido Garden Show” will begin this June at the Tokachi Millennium Forest.

First, you will want to focus on four gardens that were created on a theme of “agriculture”, which is an essential element in the connection between man and nature, along with three natural elements, land, forest and wildflowers. The four gardens will be created by world class garden designer Dan Pearson, the Landscape Architect Group and Takano Landscape Planning and promises visitors a garden experience that brings to life the works of nature.

One of the highlights of the event is a garden that will be jointly created on the stage adorned with a more than 70 year old oak, a Japanese elm broad leaved forest and a babbling brook by Haruki Shirai, Koichiro Nakatani, and Hitoshi Taketani, three designers that represent Japan, and world class designer Dan Pearson and Nobuo Nagasawa, an Art Installation artist. Also on exhibit will be the top eight gardens which received the most overseas votes out of 81 competing gardens chosen from two of the seven competition gardens in the Hokkaido Garden Show, “Lovers Garden” and “The Garden where the sheep play”.

Many other events are scheduled for the duration of the festival, so you will want to sharpen your senses and fully indulge in one of the largest garden shows in the nation that takes advantage of the vast natural environment to its fullest.

Prices are as follows: Adults 1,500 yen, junior high and high school 500 yen, elementary school and under, no charge. The event is held between June 2 - October 8.

Higashi Mokoto and Takinoue, famous site for moss phlox.

A carpet of pink moss phlox covers the entire park.

In Hokkaido, between May and early June, the moss phlox is in full bloom. Among the many sites, Higashi Mokoto Shibazakura Park of Ozora Town and the moss phlox in Takinoue Park, Takinoue Town, that covers an area of over one hundred thousand square kilometers, is the largest in the nation. During the height of the season, many events take place at each park such as karaoke contests and illumination at Higashi Mokoto Park, and games at Takinoue Park. You can also enjoy a helicopter tour at both parks.

- Higashi Mokoto Shibazakura Park Maintenance Office (Tel. 0152-66-3111)
- Takinoue Tourist Association (Tel. 0158-29-2730)

Clam digging at Lake Notoro

Recapture your youth by digging in the sand for clams.

Lake Notoro is famous for the common glasswort that transforms the lakeside into a carpet of crimson every fall. Lake Notoro is a lake 35 km, in circumference, separated from the Sea of Okhotsk by a sand bar. It is also a treasure trove of all sorts of fish, and between April 15 and October 15 clam digging is allowed by the West Abashiri Fisheries Cooperative for free. However, if you dig up any other type of shell fish it will be considered fish poaching so you must take caution, and remember to keep to the rules not to take baby clams and not litter.

- West Abashiri Fisheries Cooperative (Tel. 0152-61-3311)

Banei Horse Racing

The only horse race in the world where the horse draws a sleigh of up to one ton.

The Banei horse race features horses drawing an iron sleigh and dashing across the distance of 200 meters, going over obstacles (hills) set up in two locations on the course. In this race that requires not only speed but stamina, a type of horse called the “Banba”, 2 times the size of an ordinary horse, races across the course. Admission is 100 yen. The race track was also the filming location for the program “Daichi no Fanfare” starring Kengo Takara, which is scheduled to be aired in March. Guided tours to the backyard, where ordinary people are usually not allowed, are possible, and better yet, free of charge.
Sunagawa Sweet Road

Sweet Road is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Sunagawa, the place where this original taste is found.

There are eight major manufacturers in Sunagawa that make cakes, Japanese sweets and bread; among these 7 of the companies have 10 shops in the city. Some have been in business for over 100 years, and some continue to try baking new cakes. There are many shops along a 5 km. span on Route 12, competing with each other over originality and taste. The name “Sunagawa Sweet Road” was given to the stretch in 2002, with a catch phrase emphasizing that the area would “bloom with sweets.” It has been 10 years now, and the sweet city is now gathering much attention.

Sunagawa Sweet Road Committee (Sunagawa Town Hall) (Tel.0125-54-2121)

Ashibetsu famous Gatatan

Voluminous soul food made up of over 10 types of ingredients

Stock made from pork and chicken is the base of the salt flavored soup. Add cabbage, carrots, squid tentacles, pork, mountain vegetables, Dango and other ingredients, throw in an egg and you have Gatatan. It is based on a Chinese home cooked meal, and served at 12 different shops in the city, some of which serve a variation of ramen and fried rice as well.

Ashibetsu Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Department (Tel.0124-22-2111)

Spring skiing in Niseko!

The last chance to ski in spring when you can enjoy the mountains bathed in sunlight.

Great snow quality brings skiers from all over the world to Niseko. Snow fall is heavier than other areas and most of the resorts keep the slopes open until the holiday season in May. Spring items, including the snow board park and Bug Jump, also appear. From mid March, prices are lowered to off season prices, and various campaigns and events are held on the slopes, in the hotel and in the restaurants.

Niseko Promotion Board (Tel.0136-21-2551)

Vasaloppet Japan

The largest cross-country ski tournament in the nation that can be enjoyed by beginners as well as hard-core skiers.

The largest cross-country ski tournament in the nation is held on two days, March 10th and 11th. On the 10th is the hard-core ski tournament, and on the 11th a cross-country ski tournament that allows same-day entries is held. From this year, the venue for cross-country skiing will be moved to the Kitasaito venue in the center of the city where 5 km. and 10 km. courses are set up, as well as a 1 km. mini Vasaloppet course for small children, so that more people can enjoy skiing. On site, a cafeteria for participants, serving Swedish blueberry soup and other foods, will be set up and events featuring casual character mascots will be held. Participation in the ski tournament is 2,500 yen for adults, 1,500 yen for seniors over 70, 1,000 yen for high school students, and 500 yen for junior high students. Elementary and under is free.

Vasaloppet Japan Organization Committee (Tel.0166-23-1944)

Teshio is not only known for basket clams but Octopus Kimchi Rice Bowls, too.

An encounter of the three specialties of Teshio; the spicy kimchi harmonizes with the seafood.

Northern Pacific giant octopus, caught in Teshio, minced and made into croquettes are combined with bonito stock and kimchi, then mixed with egg and placed on a bowl of rice; this is the new local specialty of Teshio. Another specialty, basket clam soup, and pickled vegetables and octopus rice make the meal. It is served at seven locations throughout the city for 950 yen.

Teshio Octopus Kimchi Rice Bowl Promotion Committee (Tel.01632-2-2700)

Suffolk Land

Enjoy a variety of lamb cooking in Shibetsu, the city of sheep.

Suffolk sheep have black faces and limbs. Here in Shibetsu they are the face of Shibetsu. Observe the Suffolk sheep on the “Sheep and Cloud Hill” or see other worldwide varieties of sheep at the “World Sheep Hall.” Taste high grade Suffolk lamb at 4 restaurants located throughout the city.

Shibetsu Tourist Association (Tel.0165-29-2225)
The largest outlet mall in Hokkaido

Over 4 hundred brands are available at everyday outlet prices at 145 stores.

Rera is close to both the airport and train station.

Chitose Outlet Mall Rera
JR Minami Chitose Station
TEL: 0123-42-3000
www.outlet-rera.com

Business Hours
10:00～20:00
* Some restaurants open from 11:00 AM
* Subject to change with seasons