

FURANO BIEI TRAVEL MAGAZINE

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- Please note that calls will be answered in Japanese,
though English speakers are available.
- Japanese or English emails OK.

*Please look at farms, flower fields etc. from the car park or a sealed road. Never enter fields
or farm roads.

*The Mapcodes can be used in over half of all current Japanese car GPS systems.

Furano Tourism Association

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Furano Biei International Tourism Centre

Kitanomine 18-1, Furano-shi, Hokkaido 076-0034

Feel free to visit us for pamphlets on the Furano-Biei area, or for information on tourist attractions, accommodation, etc.

We are open every day from 9:00am to 6:00pm.

<http://www.furanotourism.com>



Hoshino Resort Tomamu "Unkai Terrace"

Hokkaido Furano · Biei

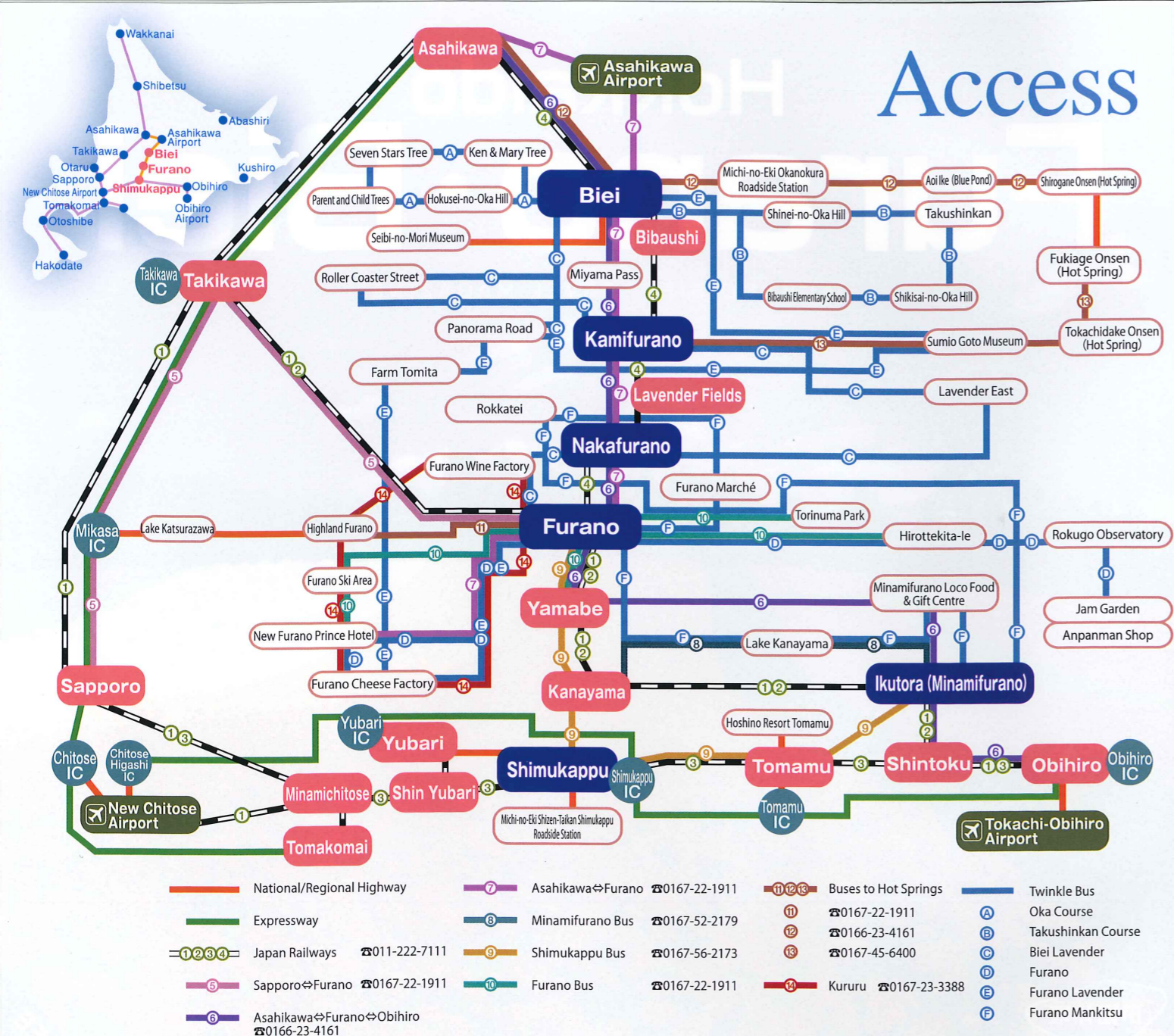
FURANO BIEI TRAVEL MAGAZINE



Relaxed Experience & Cultural Exchange

2012-2013

TAKE FREE
(English)



<http://www.furanotourism.com>

Event Calendar

	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Biei			Healthy Marathon	Biei Fire Festival	Dokanto Festival		Century Ride					
Kami Furano			Mt. Tokachidake Mountain Opening	Shikisai (Colours of the Four Seasons) Festival			Tonton Festival			Kita no Omoji (Northern Letters)		Miyasama Ski Marathon
Naka Furano				Lavender Festival			Rice Festival					Snow Festival
Furano		Yamabe Cherry Blossom Festival	Earth Ride Mountain Opening	Heso (Navel) Festival		Wine Grapes Festival	Cheese Festival					Waiai (Exciting) Festival
Minami Furano				Kosui (Lake Water) Festival			Michinoeki Kanshasai (Gratitude Festival)					High School Skiing
Shimukappu						Furusato (Hometown) Festival	Autumn Leaves Festival					Langlauf
												Ice Village
Flowers												

- By Car**
- New Chitose Airport/Sapporo to Furano
 - Chitose Interchange → Around 34km → Sapporo Interchange → Around 42km → Mikasa Interchange
 - Mikasa Interchange → Around 20km → Prefectural Road No. 116 → Around 24km → Prefectural Road No. 452 → Around 20km → Prefectural Road No. 135 → Furano City Centre
 - Asahikawa to Furano
 - Asahikawa City Centre → Around 59km → Prefectural Road No. 237 → Furano City Centre
- By Bus**
- Sapporo to Furano: Chuo Bus: Kosoku Furano Bus (2 hours 30 minutes) [Inquiries: (0167) 22-1911]
 - Asahikawa to Furano: Furano Bus: Lavender Bus (around 1 hour 30 minutes) [Inquiries: (0167) 22-1911]
 - Obihiro to Furano: Dohoku Bus: North Liner Bus (reservation required for all seats) [Inquiries: (0167) 23-4161]
 - Shimukappu to Furano: Shimukappu Sonei Bus (around 1 hour 10 minutes) [Inquiries: (0167) 56-2173]

- By Train**
- Sapporo to Takikawa: Hakodate Main Line (around 50 minutes by limited express train)
 - Takikawa to Furano: Nemuro Main Line (around 1 hour 10 minutes by local train)
 - Asahikawa to Furano: Furano Line (around 1 hour by local train)
- Taxi Companies**
- Biei: Biei Hire (0166-92-1181), Biei Taisetsu Hire (0166-92-1730)
 - KamiFurano: Tokachidake Hire (0167-45-3147), Kami Furano Hire (0167-45-3145)
 - NakaFurano: Naka Furano-cho Hire (0167-44-2331)
 - Furano: Chuo Hire (0120-41-4848), Furano Taxi (0167-22-5001)
 - Minami Furano: Minami Furano Car Service Area (0167-52-2511), Ikutora Kotsu Hire (0167-52-2011)
 - Shimukappu: Shimukappu Hire (0167-57-2321)

- Bike Rental Companies**
- Biei: Terashima Shokai (0166-92-2191), Matsuura Shoten (0166-92-1415), Takikawa Cycle (0166-92-3448), Sato Shoten (0166-95-2407), Bibaushi Guide Yamagoya (0166-95-2277), Uno Shoten (0166-92-1851), Shirogane Biruke no Mori Information Center (0166-94-3355)
 - KamiFurano: Naganuma Jitensha-ten (0167-45-2417)
 - NakaFurano: Tateno Cycle (0167-44-2777)
 - Furano: Sugimoto Rent-a-Cycle (0167-22-2769), Sogiyama Mishin Shokai (0167-22-2733), Choko Shoten (0167-22-2859), Fujita Cycle (0167-22-2906), Sugimoto Shoten (0167-29-2025)
 - MinamiFurano: Kanayama Lakeside Camp Ground (0167-52-3132)
 - Shimukappu: Alpha Resort Tomamu (0167-58-1111), Shimukappu Bussankan (0167-56-2053), Cycling Terminal (0167-56-2014)

A Life-Changing Drive

Spend a quiet, peaceful time, experience a simpler way of life, become one with the natural splendor around you, and refresh your body and soul.

Travel through a story told by the magnificent nature of Furano and Biei on these six driving routes.

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Spring

In spring, colour returns to the landscape little by little as gentle sunrays warm the area.

The melted snow gathers in rushing rivers, the land of Northern Japan awakens from its deep slumber and new life begins.

The almost nostalgic scenery of the Furano-Biei area will touch your heart.



Cherry Blossoms in the University of Tokyo Botanical Forest (Furano)

The still-snowy Mt. Ashibetsu peeks through the rows of blossoming cherry trees, providing a captivating contrast between the gentle pink of spring and the harsh white of winter. The Yezo mountain cherry blossoms bloom around mid-May.

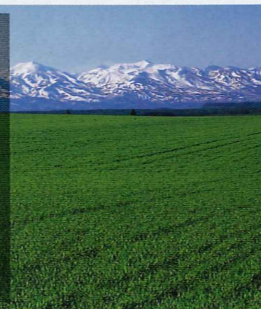
Shikisai-no-Oka Hill (Biei)

Look out over a 7-hectare (17-acre) area of the Daisetsuzan mountains – three times the area of the Tokyo Dome! In spring, the flowering cherry trees make a happy pink heart shape. (TEL0167-95-2758)



Green Wheat and the Tokachidake Mountain Range (Biei)

The view of green wheat fields at the foot of the Tokachidake Mountain Range is the perfect example of the magnificence of spring. (To prevent damage to important crops, please refrain from entering any of the fields.)



Field Mustard

See nature at its most vibrant: green wheat, yellow field mustard and white patches of unmelted snow.



Scenery of Melting Snow

In late March and early April you can see local farmers scattering snow melting agents, creating patterns in the snow that are a telltale sign that spring is just around the corner.



Golf Courses

Greenery and clear skies as far as the eye can see – you'd swear that these luxurious courses were prepared for you by Mother Nature herself. Whether you're with family, friends or that special someone, there's no better place for a good game of resort golf.



Outdoor & Sports

Mountaineering & Trekking

(Biei - Shimukappu)

With the Daisetsuzan and Tokachi mountain ranges to the north and Mt. Ashibetsu and Mt. Yubari-dake to the south, the Furano-Biei area is surrounded by majestic mountains. In summer, the mountaintops are resplendent with fields of alpine flowers, and you'll see many beautiful waterfalls and highland marshes in the Genshigahara Wetland. Veteran skiers flock to the vast snowy mountains in the winter.



Cycling

Experience the magnificent nature of Hokkaido up close. With the endless green fields, fresh air and variety of birds, flowers and greenery of Furano as a backdrop, you can enjoy cycling at its most relaxing and nature at its most awe-inspiring.



Nordic Walking

As you walk with a pole in each hand, you'll find yourself standing up straight, taking big strides and feeling the cool breeze. Originally a Northern European form of ski training, you can enjoy Nordic walking through the natural landscapes of the Furano-Biei area year-round.



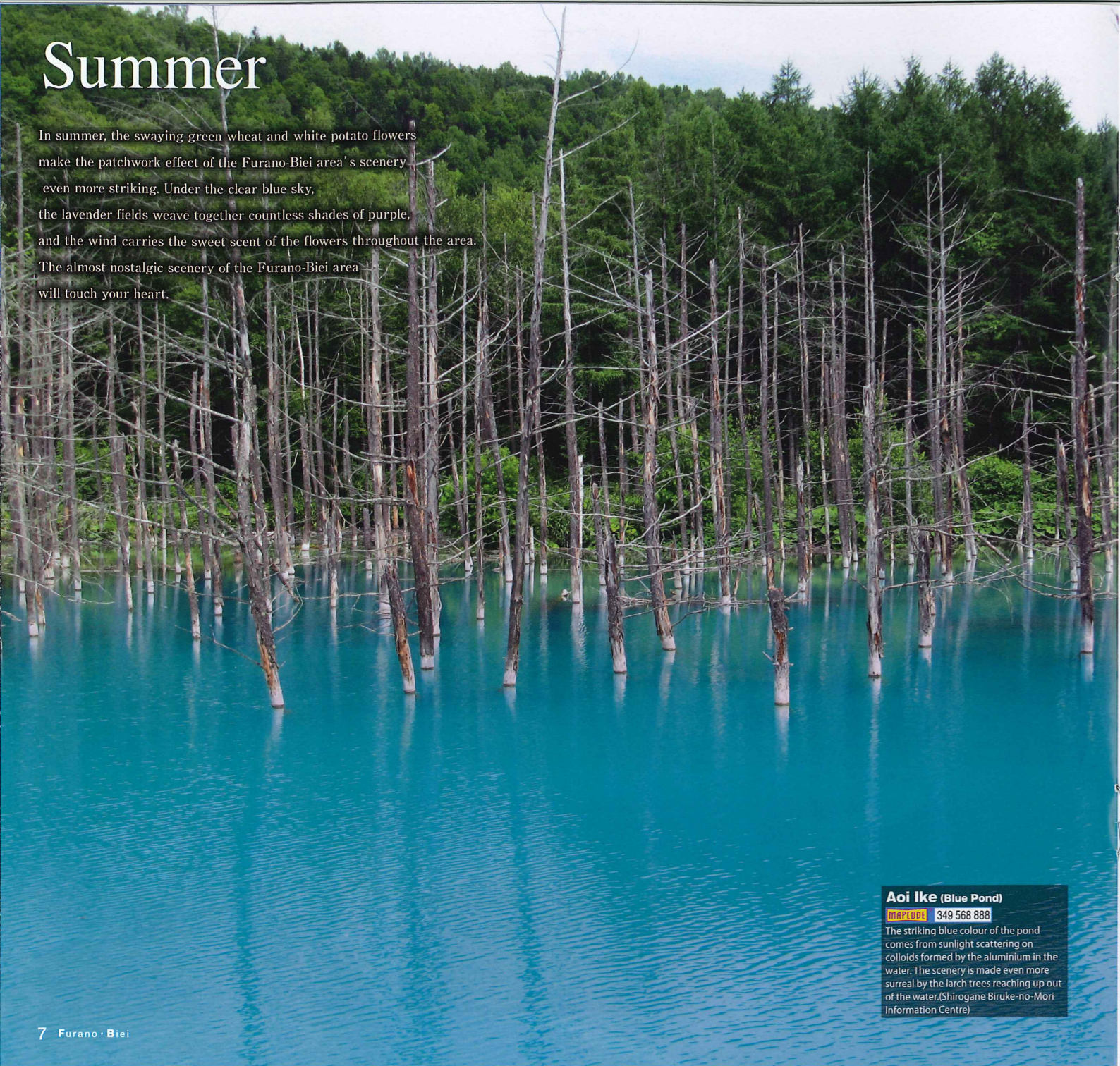
Mt. Tokachidake Observatory (Biei)

Take in a panoramic view of the whole of the Biei-Furano area, with Shokambetsu in the distance. There's also a trail where you can enjoy a slightly challenging hike.



Summer

In summer, the swaying green wheat and white potato flowers make the patchwork effect of the Furano-Biei area's scenery even more striking. Under the clear blue sky, the lavender fields weave together countless shades of purple, and the wind carries the sweet scent of the flowers throughout the area. The almost nostalgic scenery of the Furano-Biei area will touch your heart.



Aoi Ike (Blue Pond)
MAPLEDE 349 568 888
The striking blue colour of the pond comes from sunlight scattering on colloids formed by the aluminium in the water. The scenery is made even more surreal by the larch trees reaching up out of the water. (Shirogane Biruke-no-Mori Information Centre)

Shikisai-no-Oka Hill (Biei)

The 7-hectare or 17-acre area of the Daisetsuzan mountains (three times the area of the Tokyo Dome!) that can be seen from this hill is covered with dozens of kinds of flowers from spring through autumn. In winter, you can ride through the area on a snowmobile. (TEL0166-95-2758)



Tomita Farm

Beautiful flowers of all different colours can be seen from spring through autumn. In summer, the wind carries the sweet fragrance of lavender. (TEL0167-39-3939)



Flower Land Kamifurano (Kami Furano)

With 15,000 flowers of almost every kind Hokkaido has to offer, there's always something to see! Flowers such as German irises, lavender, poppies and lupins bloom in turn between June and September.



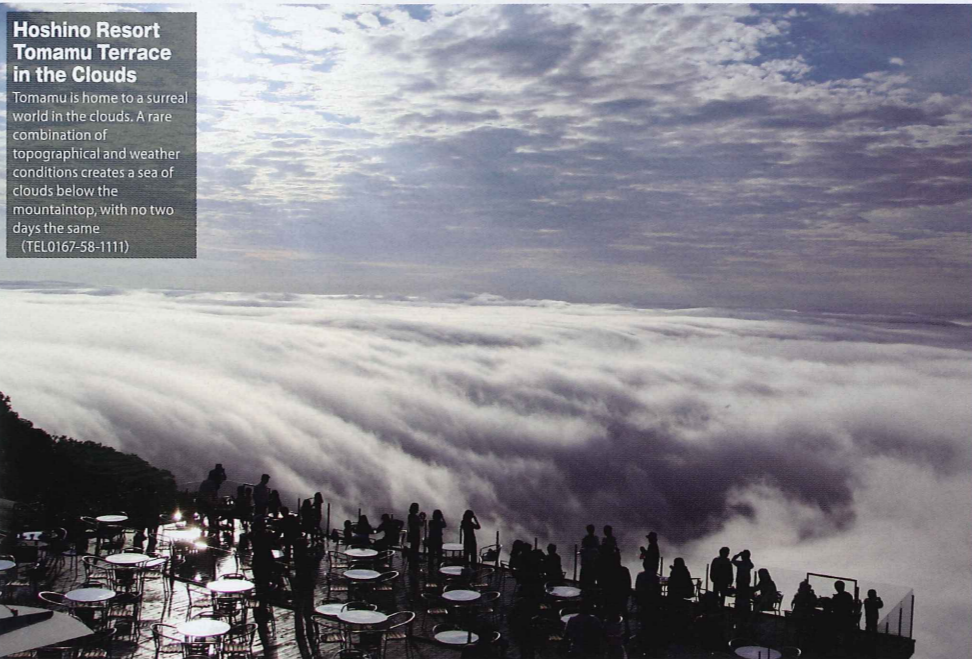
Kaze-no-Garden (Furano)

In 2008, this garden was the set of Kaze-no-Garden, a TV drama written by So Kuramoto. An English garden was created over a period of two years, and the greenhouse remains as it was in the drama. Enjoy the calming power of each season's flowers. (TEL0167-22-1111)



Hoshino Resort Tomamu Terrace in the Clouds

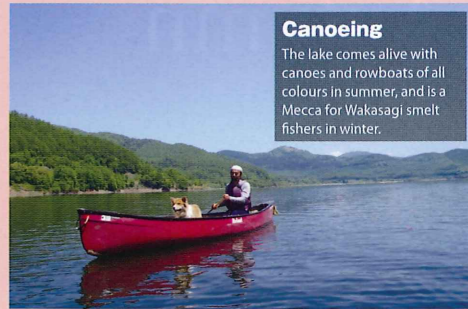
Tomamu is home to a surreal world in the clouds. A rare combination of topographical and weather conditions creates a sea of clouds below the mountaintop, with no two days the same. (TEL0167-58-1111)



Outdoor & Sports

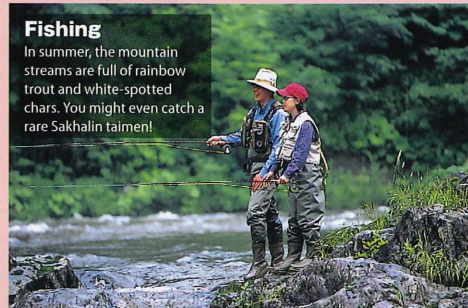
Canoeing

The lake comes alive with canoes and rowboats of all colours in summer, and is a Mecca for Wakasagi smelt fishers in winter.



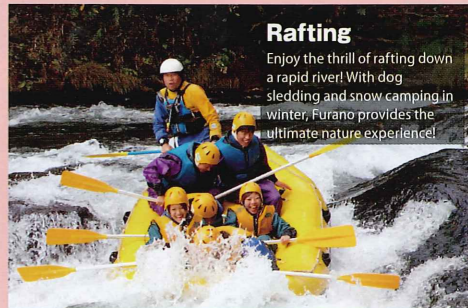
Fishing

In summer, the mountain streams are full of rainbow trout and white-spotted chars. You might even catch a rare Sakhalin taimen!



Rafting

Enjoy the thrill of rafting down a rapid river! With dog sledding and snow camping in winter, Furano provides the ultimate nature experience!



Hot-Air Ballooning (Furano)

There's no better way to see the vast Furano Basin than from the sky. What could be more calming than viewing the beautiful natural landscape from the peaceful sky?



Autumn

In autumn, the larch and white birch leaves turn yellow and orange, bringing the Tokachi Mountain Range alive with colour.

The sunsets are at their most beautiful in autumn, with the low sun turning the hills bright red and casting long shadows on the bountiful harvest-time land.

The almost nostalgic scenery of the Furano-Biei area will touch your heart.

Autumn leaves on Mt. Tokachidake (Kami Furano)

The Tokachi Mountain Range sees Japan's first autumn leaves of the year – from mid-September to early October – and the best place to see them is Tokachidake Hot Springs. Located 1,270m above sea level, the resort offers a breathtaking view of the colourful leaves with the snowcapped Mt. Tokachidake as a backdrop. In the early morning, you can even look down on a sea of clouds.

Outdoor & Sports

Footpath (Biei - Shimukappu)

An English-style footpath through scenery resembling European farmland. From spring through autumn, you can stroll through the fields of the Furano-Biei area, map in hand, feeling the sun and the breeze.



Tonashibetsu Gorge (Minamifurano)

This spectacular gorge begins near the Hagoromo Bridge, around 8km up the Tonashibetsu River, a tributary of the Sorachi River, from the centre of Kanayama in Minami Furano. The gorge is at its most awe-inspiring in autumn, covered by colourful leaves set against the deep blue of the river. The Tonashibetsu River also has a romantic, little-known history as a gold-mining area.



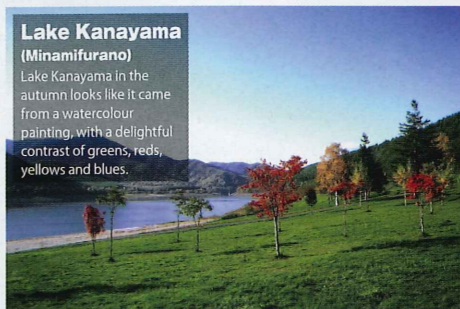
Akaiwa Seigankyo Gorge (Shimukappu)

A village nature park, Akaiwa Seigankyo Gorge will captivate you with its cluster of red and blue rocks and the forceful rush of the crystal-clear Mukawa River.



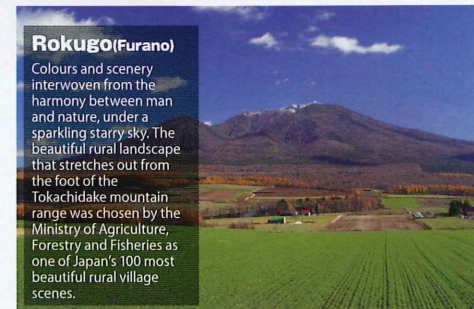
Fukiage Hot Springs (Kamifurano)

This free mixed outdoor bath was catapulted to fame after it appeared in the TV drama Kita no Kuni Kara, with visitors flocking there on weekends and holidays. The colourless, odourless mountain spring water contains calcium sulfate and sodium chloride.



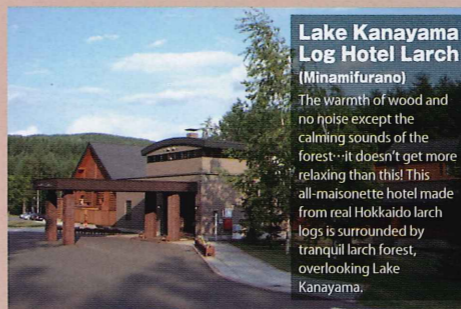
Lake Kanayama (Minamifurano)

Lake Kanayama in the autumn looks like it came from a watercolour painting, with a delightful contrast of greens, reds, yellows and blues.



Rokugo (Furano)

Colours and scenery interwoven from the harmony between man and nature, under a sparkling starry sky. The beautiful rural landscape that stretches out from the foot of the Tokachidake mountain range was chosen by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as one of Japan's 100 most beautiful rural village scenes.



Lake Kanayama Log Hotel Larch (Minamifurano)

The warmth of wood and no noise except the calming sounds of the forest – it doesn't get more relaxing than this! This all-maisonette hotel made from real Hokkaido larch logs is surrounded by tranquil larch forest, overlooking Lake Kanayama.



Roller Coaster Road (Kamifurano)

MAPCODE 349 667 278

A 2.5km straight stretch of road with ups and downs like a roller coaster.



Morning Mist over Tokachidake Mountain Range

On clear, still mornings, steam rising from the rivers and ponds cools suddenly to form a thick mist, enshrouding the Furano Basin in mysterious, magical cloak.

Winter

Winter brings freezing air and dazzling diamond dust.

Covered in pure white snow,

the land of Northern Japan sleeps peacefully,

bathed in the gentle light of snow candles.

The almost nostalgic scenery of the Furano-Biei area

will touch your heart.



Skiing and Snowboarding

The Furano-Biei area has top-quality powder snow, and a large number of ski fields are open between mid-November and early April. There's something for everyone, from novices and families to experts – you can try powder skiing and even take a helicopter or snowcat tour!

Outdoor & Sports



Furano Ski Area (Frano)

Furano Ski Area is one of the most renowned ski areas in Japan having hosted World Cup competitions 12 times. The ski area is famous for its blue bird days and lack of wind. Due to its inland location, Furano receives abundant quantities of some of the lightest and driest powder snow that you will ever ski on.



Tomamu Ski Ground (Shimukappu)

This ski ground is hugely popular for its vast slopes and powder snow you can only find in a region as cold as this. There are 17 courses for everybody from novices to experts, and all of the courses are suitable for snowboarding.

Hot-Air Ballooning (Naka Furano, Furano)

Looking down on the landscape from the sky, you'll feel like a bird. Moored flights can be taken year round in times with no wind, such as early mornings or evenings. On winter mornings, you can take to the skies on a free flight.



Kan Kan Mura (Furano)

The perfect place for truly enjoying Hokkaido's winter. Try the unique experience of making a glass of ice or eating and drinking in the ice and snow igloo, which makes a beautiful romantic backdrop when lit up at night.



Ski Marathon

Overcome Nature and be the Champion of Shirogane! With the Tokachidake mountain range in the distance, have your fill of fun and adventure racing through the tree-lined hills of Shirogane!



Fukiage Hot Springs (Kami Furano)

MAPCODE 296 031 083

This free mixed outdoor bath was catapulted to fame after it appeared in the TV drama Kita no Kuni Kara, with visitors flocking there on weekends and holidays. The colourless, odourless mountain spring water contains calcium sulfate and sodium chloride.



Dog Sledding (Minami Furano)

What could be more exciting than zipping through the snow on a sled pulled by strong and adorable huskies? This winter fun comes in all sizes, from small rides at ski grounds to long tours for the ultimate experience.



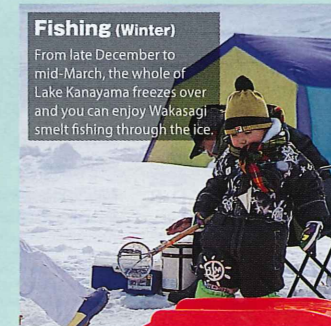
Curling (Minami Furano)

In winter, Sports Link in Ochiai, Minami Furano gives you the opportunity to try curling, with instructors to show you how it's done. Played by sliding a stone across the ice and directing it using a broom, curling is not physically hard, but is a very complex, strategic sport.



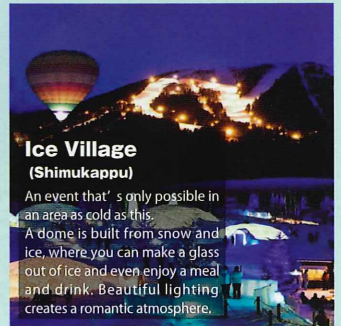
Fishing (Winter)

From late December to mid-March, the whole of Lake Kanayama freezes over and you can enjoy Wakasagi smelt fishing through the ice.



Ice Village (Shimukappu)

An event that's only possible in an area as cold as this. A dome is built from snow and ice, where you can make a glass out of ice and even enjoy a meal and drink. Beautiful lighting creates a romantic atmosphere.





Furano Theatre Factory MAP C-3

In addition to performances, Furano Theatre Factory provides a backstage view of the work that goes into large props, costumes and even the sound equipment. The creator (artistic director) is So Kuramoto, the writer of the TV drama Kaze no Garden.



Goto Sumio Museum MAP B-2

See 130 pieces by Sumio Goto, one of Japan's greatest contemporary painters, including some of his most famous works.



Takushinkan (Photo Gallery) MAP B-2

This gallery was opened in 1987 by the late world-renowned Japanese landscape photographer Maeda Shinzo. He converted the gym of the disused Chiyoda Elementary School into this gallery to create a place where people can view photography at their leisure.



Seibi-no-Mori Museum MAP B-3

An art museum converted from the former Seibi Elementary School, with around 100 watercolour paintings by the actor Takaaki Enoki, 22 oil paintings by Daijiro Yokoyama and 54 illustrated poems by Katsuhiko Ohno.



Ningle Terrace MAP C-3

Ningle Terrace is a shopping road in the forest created by So Kuramoto, the writer of Kaze no Garden. The road is lined with 15 log-house craft studios making and selling a variety of unique Furano souvenirs. There's even a café.



Water Church MAP E-1

In Hoshino Resort Tomamu, you'll find a truly unique church, designed by architect Tadao Ando. The Water Church coexists with the nature surrounding it, with the cross standing in a lake and each season bringing a new and beautiful visage to the church. Enjoy a ceremony like no other.



Mori-no-Garden Art Museum MAP C-3

A nostalgia-themed garden art museum created amid the rich natural landscapes of Furano. As you enter the museum you'll be greeted by the "caretaker" made of terracotta pots and moss. Become one with the natural beauty surrounding you at this art museum that changes with the seasons.



Museum of Soils and Ploughs of the World MAP B-3

Opened by a specialist manufacturer of soil ploughs, this museum will teach you about the hard labour of our forefathers, the connection between the soil and mankind, and the importance of the natural environment. The museum has a variety of fascinating exhibits, including a Canadian steam tractor from 100 years ago.



Anpanman Shop (Furano) MAP D-2

A shop run by Takashi Yanase, the creator of the famous cartoon Anpanman. As well as a gallery with a collection of Anpanman pictures on paper and celluloid, you'll find the biggest Anpanman merchandise shop in Hokkaido, a theatre showing numerous clips, and an art corner and playground.



Furano Field (Furano) MAP C-3

A nature restoration and environmental education project created in a disused golf course by the non-profit organization C.C.C. (Creative Conservation Club) Furano Field. Furano Field was created to inspire people to think about the environment by sharpening all five senses amid the rich natural beauty of Furano.



Kaiku Kiln MAP B-1

This ceramic and pottery studio was opened in 1988. One of its pieces, GAZE 975, was featured in the 27th Japan Fine Arts Exhibition. The artist, Seigo Minami, lived in India for four years, which has lent a unique influence to the creative pieces displayed in the gallery. You can even make your own ceramics!



Candle Shop MAP C-3

Original hand-made candles capturing the feel of each of Furano's four seasons. Exactly made so that the scent and color complement each other perfectly, these candles will delight all five senses.



Trick Art Museum MAP B-3

Look, touch and take pictures in this world of mystery and amazement. The trick art at this museum was created using just five colours of paint and one brush.



North Land Gallery MAP B-3

For seventeen years, Masumi Takahashi has photographed the natural beauty of the vast, unspoiled hills that extend from Biei to Furano. The photographs in his gallery capture a wealth of natural beauty, from sunlight glinting on the ground to fierce wind and drifting clouds.



Hokkaido Landscape Gallery MAP C-3

See beautiful paintings of the Furano landscape in a gallery surrounded by the real thing. This is the studio of Furano-based painter Shuichi Okuda (formerly Mae Elementary School), opened to the public as a one-man gallery.



Oka-no-Shashinkan Photo Gallery MAP C-3

See Furano landscapes from all four seasons at the photo gallery of Kenji Atsumi. The gallery is surrounded by forest, just a short walk from the walking track of the cheese factory.



Art Farm Nanyokan MAP D-3

In 1998, the late painter Shuichi Ono and three other artists opened this studio in a disused elementary school building. Community development through art encounters is the core concept of the studio's activities.



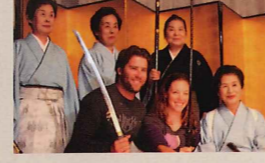
Mori-no-Shashinkan Photo Gallery MAP C-2

This gallery is located in Rokugo-no-Mori Forest, where the TV drama Kita no Kuni Kara was filmed. See beautiful photographs of Furano landscapes taken by Furano-born photographer Yutaka Nasuno.



Furano Glass Studio MAP C-3

Located in a field 7-8 minutes from Furano Station, Furano Glass Studio's exhibits include glass jewellery, watches, vases, wind chimes and trophies, made with fresh air of Furano. You can even make your own watch!



Live cultural performances

These shows are performed by local volunteers and are the highlight of many visitors' ski trip. Japanese flower arrangement, calligraphy, Japanese harp instruments, singing and dancing are just some of the things you will be able to experience with Furano locals. Do not miss this opportunity for a great night out.

Hot Spring



Mori-no-Ryotei Biei
Aza Shirogane, Biei
TEL0166-68-1500



Fukiage Hot Springs Recreation Centre Hakugin-so
Fukiage Onsen, Kami Furano
TEL0167-45-4126



Natulux Hotel
Asahimachi 1-ban 35-go, Furano
TEL0167-22-1777

Shopping



Michinoeki Biei "Oka-no-Kura" Roadside Station MAP A-3
This roadside station was converted from a Biei freestone warehouse built in the 1910s. Enjoy snacks such as soft-serve icecream and croquettes made from all local ingredients, and buy processed produce and crafts. There is also a hands-on experience facility where you can try your hand at processing produce.



Furanoble Matsuo MAP B-3
A shopping area over 330m2 large! In addition to foods from seafood to Furano-grown potatoes, corn and muskmelon, you can buy lavender fragrance products and a variety of other lavender products in the bustling atmosphere of a souvenir village.



Farm Tomita (Shop) MAP C-3
Take in the vivid colour and refreshing fragrance of natural lavender. Farm Tomita's shop offers a variety of lavender products, from seedlings (potted or for replanting) to dried flower bunches and arrangements to pot-pourri products such as fragrance sachets. It also delivers muskmelon and vegetables grown right here in Naka Furano.



Taisetsuzan Shirogane Kanko Hotel
Aza Shirogane, Biei
TEL0166-94-3111



Yumoto Ryoukaku
Tokachidake Onsen, Kami Furano
TEL0167-39-4111



Lake Kanayama Recreation Centre
Aza Higashi Shikagoe, Minami Furano
TEL0167-52-2223



Fuku-no-Yu
Nishi Asamachi 2-30, Furano
TEL0167-22-4465



Michinoeki Minami Furano Roadside Station MAP E-2
You'll find a wide range of local specialties in the distinctive canoe-shaped building of Michinoeki Minami Furano Roadside Station. You'll be greeted by a tank of rare Sakhalin taimen fish at the entrance and can try the new local dish, Minami Furano Yezo Outlet Curry, at the restaurant.



Shirogane Shiki-no-Mori Hotel Park Hills
Aza Shirogane, Biei
TEL0166-94-3041



Tokachidake Onsen Kamihoro-so
Tokachidake Onsen, Kami Furano
TEL0167-45-2970



Hotel Bell Hills
Kitanomine 20-ban 8-go, Furano
TEL0167-22-5200



Yu-no-Sawa Hot Springs Shimukappu
Aza Shimukappu, Shimukappu
TEL0167-56-2311



Furano Marche MAP C-3
Furano Marche showcases all the delicious things Furano has to offer. A wide range of events are held in the event plaza, such as the Furano Local Specialties Fair.



Yumoto Shirogane Onsen Hotel
Aza Shirogane, Biei
TEL0166-94-3333



Hutte Barden Kamifurano
Tokachidake Onsen, Kami Furano
TEL0167-45-2225



New Furano Prince Hotel
Naka Goryo, Furano
TEL0167-22-1111



Hoshino Resort Tomamu Kibayashi-no-Yu
Aza Naka Tomamu, Shimukappu
TEL0167-58-1111



Michinoeki Shizentaikan Shimukappu Roadside Station MAP F-3
See exhibition panels about the flora and fauna of Shimukappu and receive local tourist information at the information corner. You can also enjoy a variety of foods from soft serve ice cream to soba noodles, and buy the hugely popular souvenir of Sansho-zuke pickled mountain vegetables and mushrooms from the shop.