

# Experience Ainu culture

Hokkaido has long had a culture developed by the Ainu. It is a unique culture developed in harmony with the nature of the northern land. This leaflet introduces facilities where visitors can experience Ainu culture.



## Dancing



Emus rimse (sword dance)



Sarovun cikap rimse (crane dance)

Traditional Ainu dancing has been protected in various parts of Hokkaido and designated as a national intangible folk cultural asset. There are a variety of dances, from ones that mimic animal movements and express daily labor to ones just for entertainment. Visitors can always see such dance performances at Akan Ainu Kotan and Poroto Kotan (Ainu Museum) in Shiraoi.

## Clothing

The Ainu used to wear tree fiber, fish skin and animal skin clothes. However, when cotton became available to them as a material, they began making more decorative garments, which are still used even now for rituals and dancing.



Rauupe (cotton garment)



Atus (tree fiber garment)

Y Admission L Opening hours C Closed  
\*Please contact each facility for group rates.

## Shiraoi



Overview of Poroto Kotan



Exhibition of ethnic materials



Traditional dance



Traditional dance

### Poroto Kotan (Ainu Museum)

Wakakusa-cho 2-3-4, Shiraoi-cho, Shiraoi-gun, 059-0902  
Tel.: 0144-82-3914

Y Adults: 800 yen; high school students: 600 yen; junior high school students: 500 yen; elementary school students: 350 yen

L 8:45 - 17:00 C Dec. 29 - Jan. 5



Marimo Festival

## Language



Lake Poroto



Emneenupuri

(Place names) The Ainu have a unique language, and Ainu words are found in our immediate surroundings as place names. Many place names in Hokkaido are derived from the Ainu language, revealing clues about the Ainu way of thinking and lifestyles.

(Stories) Nonliterate Ainu have orally handed down many stories, in which deities act freely as lead characters and convey lessons to live by.

## Carving



Ita (tray)

Ainu men used to create a variety of patterns on items using only a knife. Such traditional patterns can be seen on knives, trays and ritual tools. New patterns based on this tradition are still being created today, showing a broadening of Ainu culture.



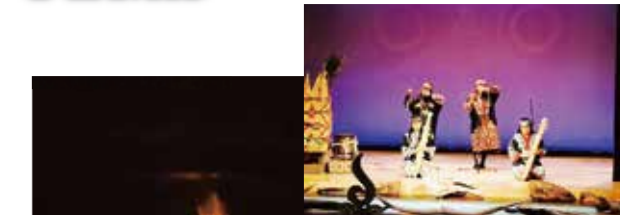
Carving a pattern



Makiri (knife)

Ita (tray)

## Akan



Tonkor and mukkur



Iomante Fire Festival



Kotan Plaza



Ainu Theater "Ikor"

### Akan Ainu Kotan

Traditional Ainu dancing performances and puppet plays, Iomante Fire Festival (spring, summer and autumn), Ainu cultural experience programs, etc.

Akanko Onsen 4-chome 7-84, Akan-cho, Kushiro, 085-0467 Tel.: 0154-67-2727

Y Adults (junior high school students and older): 1,080 yen; elementary school students: 540 yen (Discount tickets can be purchased at accommodation facilities and the Kotan shop.)

L 9:00 - 21:30

The content and times of performances differ depending on the season. For more information, please contact the Kotan.

C Closure schedule varies.

## Biratori



Cise - traditional Ainu houses



Exhibition of ethnic materials



Cipsanke (boat-launching ceremony)

### Biratori Nibutani Ainu Culture Museum

Nibutani 55, Biratori-cho, Saru-gun, 055-0101 Tel.: 01457-2-2892

Y Adults: 400 yen; elementary/junior high school students: 150 yen

L 9:00 - 17:00 (last admission: 16:30) C Dec. 16 - Jan. 15 (facility improvement); Mondays between Nov. 16 and Apr. 15

### Kayano Shigeru Nibutani Ainu Museum

Nibutani 79-4, Biratori-cho, Saru-gun, 055-0101 Tel.: 01457-2-3215

Y High school students and older: 400 yen; junior high school students and younger: 150 yen (tickets also valid for the Biratori Nibutani Ainu Culture Museum available)

L 9:00 - 17:00 C Open all year round in principle (prior contact necessary between Nov. 16 and Apr. 15)



# Experience Ainu culture

**1 Hakodate City Museum of Northern Peoples**

Suehiro-cho 21-7, Hakodate, 040-0053  
Tel.: 0138-22-4128



- Y Adults: 300 yen; students: 150 yen
- L Apr. - Oct.: 9:00 - 19:00; Nov. - Mar.: 9:00 - 17:00
- C Dec. 31 - Jan. 3 and during certain other periods

**2 Yakumo Folk Museum/Kiborikuma Museum**

Suehiro-cho 154, Yakumo-cho, Futami-gun, 049-3112  
Tel.: 0137-63-3131 (Community Hall extension: 231)



- Y Free
- L 9:00 - 16:30
- C Mondays; national holidays; Dec. 29 - Jan. 5

**3 Noboribetsu Bear Park Yukar Village/Ainu Folk Museum**

Noboribetsu Onsen-cho 224, Noboribetsu, 059-0551  
Tel.: 0143-84-2225



- Y Adults (junior high school students and older): 2,592 yen; elementary school students and younger: 1,296 yen (admission fees for Bear Park)
- L 8:30 - 16:30 (varies depending on the season; for more information, see the website)
- C Late Oct. - Mid-Apr. (Please inquire about the opening hours and closed days of Bear Park.)

**4 Chiri Yukie Memorial Museum**

Noboribetsu Honcho 2-chome 34-7, Noboribetsu, 059-0465  
Tel.: 0143-83-5666



- Y Adults: 500 yen (250 yen for Noboribetsu residents); high school students: 200 yen; elementary/junior high school students: 100 yen
- L 9:30 - 16:30 (last admission: 16:00)
- C Tuesdays (excluding national holidays); Dec. 28 - Jan. 5

**5 Tomakomai City Museum**

Suehiro-cho 3-9-7, Tomakomai, 053-0011  
Tel.: 0144-35-2550



- Y Adults: 300 yen; university/high school students: 200 yen; junior high school students and younger: free
- L 9:30 - 17:00
- C Mondays (the following Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday); Dec. 29 - Jan. 3

**6 Shin-Hidaka Town Ainu Museum**

Shizunai Mauta 7-1, Shin-Hidaka-cho, Hidaka-gun, 056-0011  
Tel.: 0146-43-3094



- Y Free
- L 9:00 - 17:00
- C Mondays; the day after a national holiday; Dec. 1 - Apr. 30

**7 Urakawa Folk Museum**

Nishihorobetsu 273-1, Urakawa-cho, Urakawa-gun, 057-0002  
Tel.: 0146-28-1342



- Y Free
- L 9:00 - 16:30
- C Mondays; national holidays; Dec. 30 - Jan. 5

**8 Makubetsu Ezo Culture and Archaeology Museum**

Senju 114-1, Makubetsu-cho, Nakagawa-gun, 089-0563  
Tel.: 0155-56-4899



- Y Free
- L 10:00 - 16:00
- C Tuesdays (the following day if Tuesday is a national holiday); Dec. 30 - Jan. 5

## Experience Ainu culture!

Ainu tools and craftworks are exhibited and open to the public in the museums introduced here.

**Other Ainu culture-related facilities**

- Yay Yukar Forest (Sapporo)
- Showa Shinzan Ainu Museum (Sobetsu)
- Hokkaido Museum of Northern Peoples (Abashiri)
- Nanae Historical Museum (Nanae)
- Muroran City Folk Museum (Muroran)
- Shintotsukawa Town Historical Museum (Shintotsukawa)
- Takikawa Folk Museum (Takikawa)
- Shibetsu City Museum (Shibetsu)
- Bifuka Culture Center Com 100 Folk Museum (Bifuka)
- Ainu Cultural Forest Densho no Kotan (Kotan Heritage) (Takasu)
- Shakushain Memorial Museum (Shin-Hidaka)
- Shin-Hidaka Mitsuishi Folk Museum (Shin-Hidaka)
- Samani Town Historical Museum (Samani)
- Mombetsu City Museum (Mombetsu)
- Honbetsu Historical Folk Museum (Honbetsu)
- Urahoro Town Museum (Urahoro)
- Shari Town Shiretoko Museum (Shari)

Y Admission L Opening hours C Closed  
 \*Please contact each facility for group rates.

**13 BIKKY Atelier 3Moa**

Monomanai 55, Otoiheppu-mura, Nakagawa-gun, 098-2500  
Tel.: 01656-5-3980



- Y Adults (high school students and older); 200 yen; junior high school students and younger: free
- L 9:30 - 16:30
- C Mondays (the following day if Monday is a national holiday); Nov. 1 - Apr. 25

**14 Nayoro City Museum**

Midorigaoka 222, Nayoro, 096-0063  
Tel.: 01654-3-2575



- Y Adults (high school students and older); 200 yen; junior high school students and younger: free
- L 9:00 - 17:00 (last admission: 16:30)
- C Mondays; Dec. 30 - Jan. 6

**15 Asahikawa City Museum**

Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Kagura 3-jo 7-chome, Asahikawa, 070-8003  
Tel.: 0166-69-2004



- Y Adults: 300 yen; high school students: 200 yen; junior high school students and younger: free
- L 9:00 - 17:00 (last admission: 16:30)
- C Second and fourth Mondays between Oct. and May (the following day if Monday is a national holiday); Dec. 30 - Jan. 4

**16 Kawamura Kaneto Ainu Museum**

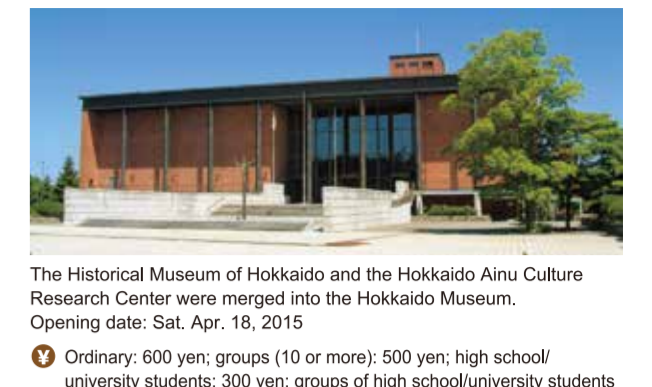
Hokumon-cho 11-chome, Asahikawa, 070-8275  
Tel.: 0166-51-2461



- Y Adults: 500 yen; junior/high school students: 400 yen; elementary school students: 300 yen; children under elementary school age: free
- L 9:00 - 17:00 (Jul./Aug.: until 18:00)
- C Open all year

**17 Hokkaido Museum (aka. Mori no Charenga)**

Atsubetsu-cho Konopporo 53-2, Atsubetsu-ku, Sapporo, 004-0006  
Tel.: 011-898-0466



- The Historical Museum of Hokkaido and the Hokkaido Ainu Culture Research Center were merged into the Hokkaido Museum. Opening date: Sat. Apr. 18, 2015
- Y Ordinary: 600 yen; groups (10 or more): 500 yen; high school/university students: 300 yen; groups of high school/university students (10 or more); elderly people of 65 years or older/junior high school students and younger/people with physical disabilities: free
  - L 9:30 - 16:30 (Oct. - Apr.); 9:30 - 17:00 (May - Sept.) (last admission: 16:30)
  - C Mondays (the following weekday if Monday is a national holiday); year-end and New Year holidays, etc.

**18 Sapporo Pirka Kotan**

Koganeyu 27, Minami-ku, Sapporo, 061-2274  
Tel.: 011-596-5961



- Y Exhibition hall admission fees: Adults: 200 yen; high school students: 100 yen; junior high school students and younger: free
- L 8:45 - 22:00 (9:00 - 17:00 for Exhibition Room, Rekishi-no-Sato [Hometown of History] and Shizeno-Sato [Hometown of Nature]) (last admission: 16:30)
- C Mondays; national holidays; Dec. 29 - Jan. 3; last Tuesday of each month

**19 Hokkaido Ainu Center**

Kaderu 2-7 Bldg., North 2, West 7, Chuo-ku, Sapporo, 060-0002  
Tel.: 011-221-0462



- Y Free
- L 9:00 - 17:00
- C Sundays; national holidays; Dec. 29 - Jan. 3

**20 Yoichi Fisheries Museum**

Irifune-cho 21, Yoichi-cho, Yoichi-gun, 046-0011  
Tel.: 0135-22-6187



- Y Adults (high school students and older): 300 yen; elementary/junior high school students: 100 yen
- L 9:00 - 16:30
- C Mondays; following day of national holidays; from Monday in mid-Dec. to early Apr.