

Crab, sea urchin, scallop! Not only will you find delectable seafood here, but also dairy products made from the milk of cows raised on the vast, cool ranches in the area.



Horsehair crab
Horsehair crabs raised on rich nutrients carried by ice floes offer superb flavor and quality. Esashi is one of the leading horsehair crab fishing grounds in the country.

Local Food




Sea urchin
The sea urchin raised on Rishiri kelp are a delicacy. Enjoy them in a variety of dishes such as on a bed of rice, in soups, etc.




Scallop
The adductor of these popular scallops is large, sweet, and rich in flavor with a wonderfully chewy texture. Sarufutsu is one of the leading scallop producers in the country.




Salmon Caviar
This roe is taken from salmon caught in Soya and processed locally for superb freshness. This delicacy is known for its unique texture.



Cod (soft roe with ponzu)
Fresh, soft cod roe known as "tachi" is served with ponzu, a citrus vinegar. The rich, creamy taste is a traditional winter flavor of Soya.



Sailfin poacher
This fish has a firm texture, fatty flesh that melts in your mouth, and a sweet flavor with plenty of umami.



Octopus
More giant Pacific octopus is caught in Soya than anywhere else in Japan. Don't miss the chance to try the unique local flavor of "octopus shabu", a type of Japanese hot pot.



Atka mackerel (chan-chan grilled)
Fatty Atka mackerel caught near Rebun Island is grilled with special miso sauce and green onions.



Freshwater clam
These are 100% natural freshwater clams raised in a unique environment. Their completely unique size and flavor make them perfect for eating.



Soft serve ice cream and milk
Thanks to the many dairy farms of Soya, you can find unique varieties of local soft serve ice cream and milk everywhere. It's a great place to sample lots of different kinds!



Tourist Association Contact Info

Wakkanai Tourism Association TEL : 0162-24-1216 https://www.north-hokkaido.com/	Sarufutsu Tourism Association TEL : 01635-2-2211 http://sarufutsu.jp/
Hamatonbetsu Tourism Association (Inside Hamatonbetsu Town Hall) TEL : 01634-2-2346 http://www.hamatonbetsu.hokkaido.jp/kanko-kyokai/	Travel Nakatombetsu Hokkaido TEL : 01634-7-8650 https://www.nakatombetsu.com/
Toyotomi Tourism Association TEL : 0162-82-1728 http://toyotomi-kanko.net/	Rebun Island Tourism Association TEL : 0163-86-2655 https://www.rebun-island.jp
Rishirifuji Tourism Association (Inside Rishirifuji Town Hall) TEL : 0163-82-1114 https://rishirifuji.jp/	Horonobe Tourism Association (Inside Horonobe Town Hall) TEL : 01632-5-1113 http://www.town.horonobe.lg.jp/

*The event dates, facility, etc., hours, and season for flowers and fish, etc., differ depending on the year.

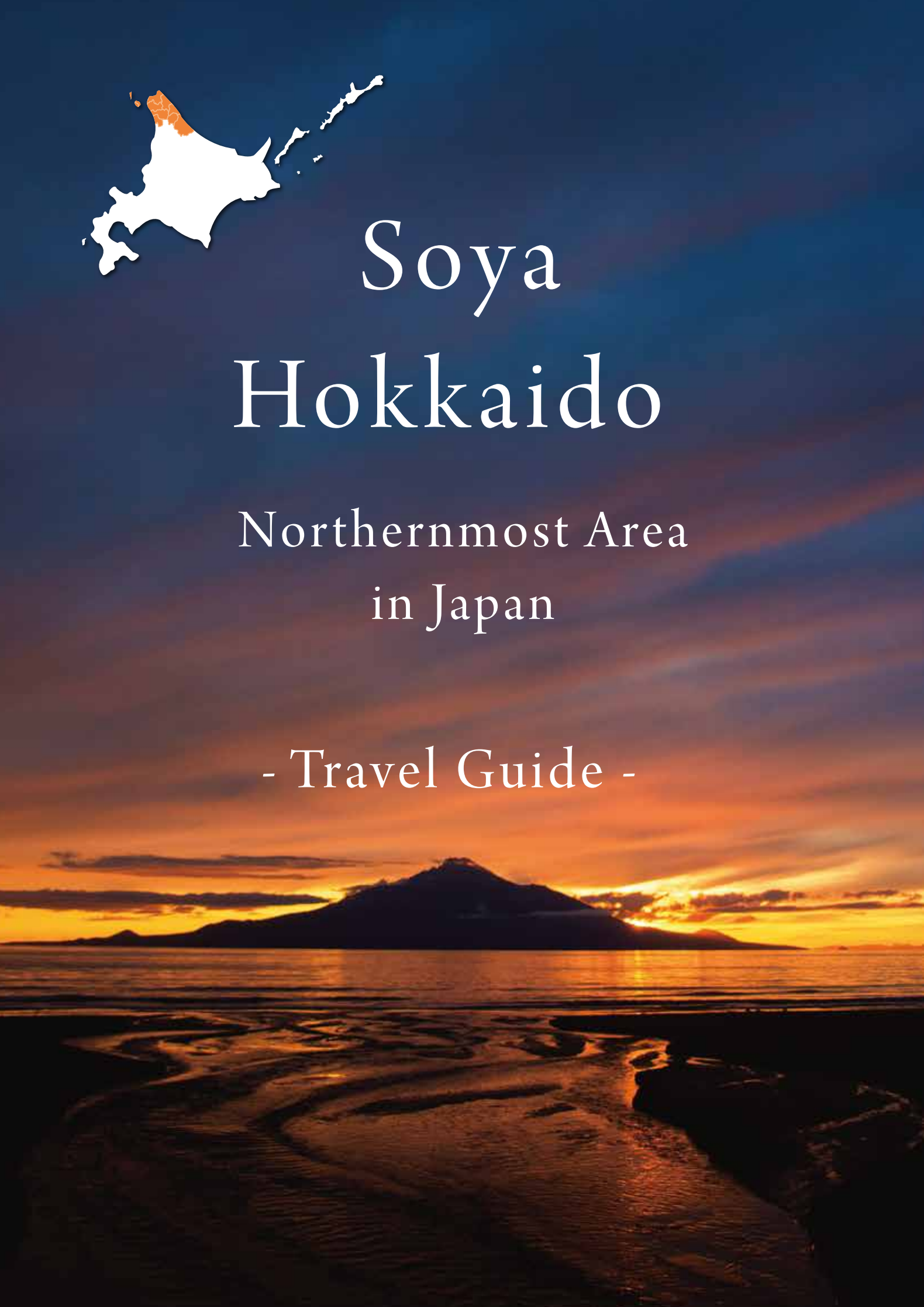
*Cover photo: Masayoshi Saito (resident of Wakkanai)

Check out Soya info here!

Soya Tourism Association Website

Published by: Soya Tourism Association
<https://www.soyakanko.com/>

Inquiries: Tourism Promotion Section, Commerce, Industry, Labor, and Tourism Division, Department of Industrial Promotion, Soya General Subprefectural Bureau, Hokkaido TEL: +81-(0)162-33-2927 (direct)



Soya

Hokkaido

Northernmost Area in Japan

- Travel Guide -

Highlights

Grand natural vistas await you at the northernmost area in Japan, beyond 45° N latitude.

Map No. 1 Esanuka Line
This straight shoreline road runs parallel to National Route 238. Located in the middle of an open plain with nothing around, traveling along this road almost feels like you'll be pulled into the sky. This gorgeous scenic spot is popular for motorcycle touring and drives.

Map No. 2 Lake Kutcharo
Home to migratory birds such as swans, Lake Kutcharo is the northernmost site designated in the Ramsar Convention. In summer, visitors can enjoy windsurfing and canoeing, as well as gazing at the sunset from the nearby campground as it sinks into Lake Kutcharo.

Map No. 4 White Path
This road is paved with shells from scallops, the specialty of Wakkanai. The contrast of the white path, the blue sky and ocean, and the green vegetation make this a beautiful, charming spot. The nearly three kilometer long road feels soft underfoot, making it the perfect place for a relaxing stroll.

Map No. 5 Rishiri Shirley Poppy
This is the only species of common poppy that grows wild in Japan. The rocky area near the ninth station on Mt. Rishiri is covered in pale yellow blossoms.

Map No. 6 Rebun Lady's Slipper Orchids
Known as the Queen of the Orchidaceae, this endemic species can only be found on Rebun Island.

Map No. 7 Nakatombetsu Limestone Caves
These limestone caves located in Nakatombetsu Limestone Caves Shizen Fureai Park are designated as a Hokkaido Natural Monument. Consisting of limestone made of fossilized barnacles and scallops makes it a rare cave not often found in Japan. Visitors can tour the inside of the caves and enjoy the many different varieties of flora and fauna from the park promenade from spring to autumn.



8 Kita-no-Canary Park

The movie A Chorus of Angels was filmed at this popular spot with the impressive figure of Mt. Rishiri in the background. There is also a café here.



12 Otomari Marsh

Otomari Marsh measures nearly one kilometer in circumference and is the largest lake on Rishiri Island. A boardwalk encircles the marsh so visitors can take a stroll while gazing at the reflection of Mt. Rishiri in the water.



16 Sarobetsu Wetland Center

Sarobetsu Wetland is one of the three largest marshes in Japan, and known as the largest high moor in Japan populated mainly by sphagnum moss.



20 Teshio Riverside Park

Scenic views here include green lawns, the Sea of Japan spreading from the sandbar on the opposite shore and Mt. Rishiri rising over the horizon. The sunset is truly spectacular from this spot.



9 Momodai Nekodai Observatory

From here you can see a massive boulder in the shape of a peach and a rock shaped like a sitting cat with its back arched. It is also a great spot for watching the sunset.



13 Senhoshi Misaki Park

Here you'll find a collection of popular island spots such as the incredibly clear ocean, exotic rocks, the bold face of Mt. Rishiri, and a souvenir shop.



17 Secluded Station

This unmanned station occupies an isolated space away from civilization. The four unmanned stations throughout Horonobe (Nukanan Station, Shimomura Station, Minami-Horonobe Station, and Onopponai Station) attract many railway fans.



21 Kawaguchi Ruins

This site is home to 230 pit dwellings in the sand dune forest along the shore of the Teshio River. Two have been restored so you can take a peek into a moment in the lives of ancient people.



10 Wakkanai Port North Breakwater Dome

Reminiscent of ancient Roman architecture, this building features a shape rarely seen around the world. It is designated as a Hokkaido Heritage Site, and is a symbol of the port.



14 Toyotomi Onsen (Hot Spring)

The water at this hot spring contains oil and smells of petroleum, lending it the nickname "Oil Bath." It is known for its ability to improve various skin maladies.



18 Mt. Pinneshiri

This is the northernmost mountain on the Hokkaido mainland with a maintained road. Its name means "Man's Mountain" in the Ainu language. Visitors can enjoy mountain climbing and hiking here.



22 Usutaibe Senjoiwara Rocks

Designated as part of Kita Okhotsk Prefectural Natural Park, these rocks are uniquely laid out like overlapping tatami mats. It is also the venue for the Esashi Crab Festival.



11 Soya Hills

These periglacial landforms formed during the Ice Age, which ended about 10,000 years ago, were selected as a Hokkaido Heritage Site. Their grand scale is mesmerizing.



15 Sarufutsu Park Underground Walkway

This underground walkway, which runs underneath National Route 238 to the historic monuments on the ocean side, is illuminated by blacklights for a dreamlike experience (closed during winter).



19 Beniya Primeval Flower Garden

Designated as part of Kita Okhotsk Prefectural Natural Park, visitors can see over 100 species of flowers and plants here.



23 Mt. Mikasa Tenbokaku Lookout

Enjoy a wonderful teatime break while taking in the panoramic views of Esashi from the 360° glass windows of the café.



Activities

Enjoy a variety of activities where you can truly experience the great outdoors firsthand. This area is fun all year around.

Cycling: Soya area offers a variety of ways to enjoy cycling, from touring the entirety of Rishiri Island, to riding through massive ranch meadows (Toyotomi), or riding along the Japanese coast on the Ororon Line.

Snowkiting: This activity requires a large field of snow and steady wind, and because Horonobe is one of the only places in Japan where such conditions can be found, the Hurikamuy Horonobe snowkite race has been held here since the first such event in the country in 2018. Visitors can enjoy snowkiting each February (scheduled).

Canoeing: The Tonbetsu River, which runs through Nakatombetsu, and the Yuchi River, flowing through Wakkanai, are known for their gentle currents, making them great for beginners who want to experience nature up close. On the Tonbetsu River you can see yamame trout and rainbow trout swimming vigorously in the current, and kingfishers flapping their vivid blue wings.

Backcountry Skiing: Explore the backcountry of Mt. Rishiri with an expert area guide who will choose the optimal route for your level and according to the conditions on the day of your excursion. Enjoy skiing toward the sea at this amazing location completely surrounded by the ocean.

Trekking: Rebus Island is home to a variety of trails for hikers of all skill levels, including a course where you can enjoy a stroll while looking at flower gardens, a course where you can gaze at beautiful coastal cliffs, and a challenging course where you hold onto a rope while overcoming various obstacles.

Sea Urchin Fishing: Challenge yourself to catching and opening sea urchins using the same techniques as local fishermen! Sample the freshest sea urchins in Japan! This activity includes all the necessary equipment so you don't need to bring anything. Enjoy unique flavors you can only find in Rishiri.

Curling: Even visitors can enjoy a casual curling experience at Wakkanai City Midori Sports Park. You can rent everything you need, from curling gear to warm jackets, helmets, and shoes, so you don't need to bring anything along.

Usotannai Gold Mining Park: Usotannai River is a clear body of water where salmon and trout swim upstream. In addition to panning for gold in the river, you can also sift for gold in a tank. The park is also home to a campground, so you can enjoy panning for gold while camping.

SUP (Standup Paddleboarding): Try SUP in the ocean around Rishiri Island, known as the clearest in Hokkaido! SUP offers complete freedom to enjoy an island adventure where you can paddle around as you gaze at the endless horizon and grand Mt. Rishiri. You can rent all the gear you need and a guide will accompany you, so you don't need to bring anything along.

Reindeer Feeding: Interact with reindeer year-round at the Reindeer Ranch in Horonobe, the only such guest ranch in the country. To get up close to the adorable reindeer, just hold out a hand with some feed and watch them come in for a snack. Reindeer sleigh rides are also available in the winter.