

What to do in Hakodate

It has been said that Hakodate is one of Japan's most popular tourist destinations. The following guide contains brief descriptions of many of the places of interest and restaurants to help you decide whether or not Hakodate deserves such high praise. These recommendations are not exhaustive but are places that we believe will be of interest to the AAMAS conference attendees.

Internet Links

There are of course many 'offline' and 'online' guides to Hakodate to which we strongly recommend you refer. Here are some Internet links (both in English and Japanese), for those of you that wish to discover more about the city.

- Hakodate City Home Page (English)
<http://www.city.hakodate.hokkaido.jp/kikaku/english/>
- Wikipedia; Hakodate (English)
<http://wikitravel.org/en/Hakodate>
- Hakodate – Southern Hokkaido Tourist Guide (English)
http://www.hakodate-kankou.com/f/index_e.html
- Hakodate Information Network (Japanese)
<http://www.hakodate.or.jp/>
- Hakodate Town Navi (Japanese)
<http://www.hakonavi.ne.jp/>
- Japan Rail Hakodate (Japanese)
<http://www.hakodate.or.jp/jr/default.htm>
- Hakodate Bus Web Site (Japanese)
<http://www.hotweb.or.jp/hakobus/>
- Gourmet Hakonavi (Japanese)
<http://gourmet.hakonavi.ne.jp/>
- Hakodate YuShokuCho (Japanese)
<http://homepage2.nifty.com/matuisi/>

In this PDF version of the Hakodate guide, you will find Internet links to many of the places that are mentioned. Although most of these links are to Japanese language web pages, they include photographs and maps, so should help to give you an idea of what the places look like, and where they can be found.

Hakodate Tourist Office

The tourist office (観光案内所) just to the north of the JR station is also a valuable source of information; they speak English. They are open from 9:00 to 19:00, and their phone number is 0138-23-5440.

'Paper based' guides

On registering for the conference you will receive a 'conference bag'. In this bag, along with information about the conference, you will also find various sightseeing related items to which we suggest you refer while reading through this guide:

- A 34 page B5 size brochure titled "Romantic Hakodate (浪漫函館)"
- Two maps of Hakodate; one in English, the other in Japanese
- A DVD containing information in English about Hakodate. This DVD was put together by second year students for the AAMAS conference.

Japanese

You will find that English is not much spoken in Hakodate. So to help you get around, we have added the Japanese equivalent after place names or 'things'. This will be useful if you are asking for directions or getting a taxi; you just need to point to the Japanese word.

Please note that we have done our best to ensure that the times and prices mentioned below were correct at the time of writing. However, please understand that any changes to these times and prices are beyond our control.

1. Getting around

This guide is in three parts: first, a short explanation about how to get around Hakodate, second, a description of places to visit, and third, a list of restaurants and bars.

Getting to FUN

For information about getting to and from Future University please see:

- Local Transportation: <http://www.fun.ac.jp/aamas2006/other-trans.html>
- The maps of Hakodate on the inside front cover of the Conference Guide
- Page 4 of the Conference Guide; the section titled 'Transportation'

Getting around Hakodate

Trams

There are various forms of transport in Hakodate. The trams, or streetcars (市電) are the most convenient way of getting to the various attractions. There is a map of the tram routes on page 21 of "Romantic Hakodate" (the B5 sightseeing brochure in your conference bag), showing all 26 stops, and you will also find the names of the tram stops on the 'English map of Hakodate'. Tram rides cost between ¥200 and ¥250. If you plan on using the trams all day, consider getting the one day pass which costs ¥600 (市電 1 日乗車券). These passes can be bought on the trams. When getting on a tram, do so from the doors that will open up in the middle or back, and take a ticket from the ticket dispenser that you will see as you enter the tram on both your right and left.

Taxis

Although the tram stops are within walking distance of many of the places of interest, there may be occasions when you need to get a taxi. There are two types of taxi; 'small' (小型車) and 'medium' (中型車). Both types can carry 4 passengers, however the 'medium' types are a little more spacious and about 15 to 20% more expensive. In this guide we have listed the fares for the cheaper and more numerous taxis. The minimum rate for a taxi ride is

about ¥530 yen for 1.4 kilometres, and then ¥80 for every 314 metres after that. Here are some possible rides with their corresponding prices, which were correct at the time of writing:

- From the JR Hakodate station to Goryokaku Park is about ¥1,400 (4.3km)
- From the JR Hakodate station to the top of Mt. Hakodate is about ¥2,100 (7.1km)
- From the JR Hakodate station to Future University it is about ¥4,000 (10km),
- From Goryokaku to the Future University it is about ¥2,500 (7km),

Buses

There are a number of bus companies operating in Hakodate city. There is a one day combination pass (市電・バス共通乗車券) which allows you to ride buses and trams for ¥1,000 (the two day pass is ¥1,700 yen). As with the trams, these passes can be bought on the bus. For information about bus routes, please ask at your hotel reception or at the 'Hakodate Bus' (函館バス) company office which is in front of the JR (Japan Rail) station.

Walking

Whilst walking to Future University from your hotel is not really an option, we suggest that for the purposes of sightseeing in the old part of the city (Motomachi area; see sections ii) to v) below), the best way of getting around is on foot.

2. Places to visit in Hakodate

Hakodate was one of the first ports in Japan to open to foreign trade after the Kanagawa Treaty of 1854. Consequently, Hakodate has more Western buildings than almost anywhere else in Japan. Russian Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches, along with the old Russian and British Consulates bear witness to this relatively long exposure to western influences. Most of these buildings are concentrated in the older part of town, the Motomatchi district.

The descriptions of each site or location are in the following format:

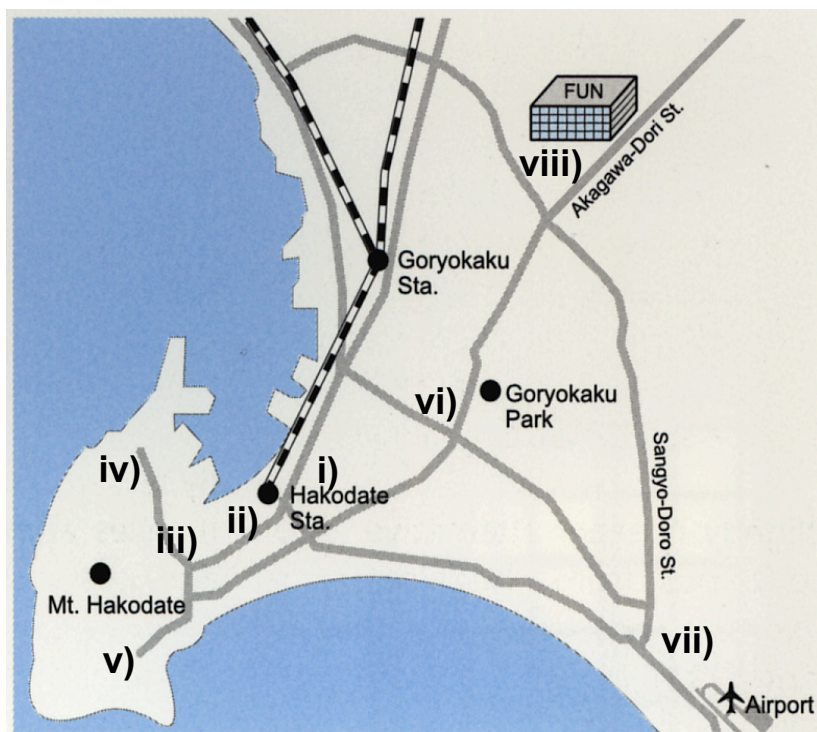
Place name in English, *Japanese Pronunciation*, Place name in Kanji (useful for showing to people when asking for directions, or getting a taxi)

A brief description of the place

Open hours, cost, phone, page in the "Romantic Hakodate" brochure, nearest tram stop, taxi fare, and URL

The 'places to visit' section have been divided up into the following nine areas:

- i) The station area (駅前)
- ii) Suehiro area (未広町)
- iii) Motomachi District (元町)
- iv) The Western area
- v) The Southeastern Area (Cape Tachimachi)
- vi) Goryokaku Area (五稜郭地区)
- vii) Yunokawa Hot Spring area (湯の川温泉地区)
- viii) Near the University
- ix) *Further afield*



i) The station area 駅前

This area used to be the main commercial hub of the city, and although this role now increasingly falls to the Goryokaku area, the streets around the station are still a hub of commercial and transport activity. For example the 'Daimon District' to the east of the station has a myriad of small restaurants and bars that are lit up at night by their neon signs.

The Tourist office, *Kanko Annaijo*, 観光案内所

Just to the north of the JR station, the tourist office is worth a visit for maps and other information about Hakodate. English is spoken here.

Open 9:00-19:00 Tel: 0138-23-5440, Hakodate-eki-mae tram stop (函館駅前)

The Morning Market, *Asaichi*, 朝市

The market opens at 5 in the morning, so there's plenty of time to stroll around this market, and even have a bite to eat, before heading off to the conference.

The market is a 2 minute walk from the west-exit (*nishi-guchi* 西口) of the Hakodate station. There are about 400 shops and stall in the market, so be prepared to be propositioned by one of the many salespeople. Although some of the stalls are open till the afternoon, it is at its liveliest in the morning.

Open 5:00-afternoonish, Hakodate-eki-mae tram stop (函館駅前),
<http://www.hakodate-asaichi.com/>

The Jiyu Market, 自由市場

Between the Shinkawa-cho and Matsukaze-cho streetcar stops stands a smaller version of the Morning market, featuring more than 60 shops and stalls, many of which sell fish and marine products. It is said that the products are more competitive than the Morning market, and so is popular with local people.

Open 5:00-afternoonish, Shinkawa-cho tram stop (新川町),
<http://www2.ocn.ne.jp/~jyitiba/ichiba1.html>

Mashu-maru Memorial Ship, メモリアルシップ摩周丸

Nothing to do with the sweet spongy things eaten at barbecues, this ship is now a museum to commemorate the 80 year ferry service between Hakodate and Honshu, the main island of Japan.

Open 8:30-18:00, ¥500, tel: 0138-27-2500, pages 14 & 18, Hakodate-eki-mae tram stop (函館駅前), <http://www.whako.com/kanko/index206.html>

ii) Suehiro area 末広町 / the Water front area

The main attraction in this area is the series of red brick buildings that originally served as warehouses. They are now home to various souvenir shops and restaurants.

Red Brick Waterfront Warehouses, Aka Renga Soukogun, 赤レンガ倉庫群

To a westerner, these red brick warehouses may not appear to be anything special, but they are a rarity in Japan. Built at the turn of the 20th century by a wealthy merchant, a Mr. Kanemori, they are now home to various souvenir shops, as well as a few restaurants and coffee shops and a museum. For those of you that want to get your Christmas shopping done early, one of the souvenir shops specialises in Christmas goods all the year round. Be sure not to miss the model townscape at the back of this Christmas shop.

Open 10:00-18:00, page 19, Jujigai tram stop (十字街), <http://kanemori.hakodate.jp/contents.htm>

The Old Hakodate Meijikan Post Office, Kyu Hakaodate Yubinkyoku, 旧函館郵便局 (はこだて明治間)

Built as Hakodate Post office in 1911, this red brick building behind the Waterfront warehouses now serves as a popular shopping mall accommodating a glassware studio, a music box shop with a large collection from all over the world, and many other shops.

Open 9:00-19:00 (22:00 on Saturdays), tel: 0138-27-7070, page 19, Jujigai tram stop (十字街), http://www.hakodate.or.jp/sight/seibu/seibu_kaimono.htm

The Monument Symbolizing the First Step onto Hokkaido Soil, 北海道第一歩の地碑

This sculpture of a bear and an anchor on the waterfront and just to the west of the warehouses was built in 1968 to commemorate the centennial of Hokkaido. It is considered to be the spot on which the early settlers took their first steps into Hokkaido.

Page 19, Suehiro-cho tram stop (末広町), <http://www.sinkun.com/dounan/ippo.htm>

The Blue Moon Bay Cruise Hakodate Bay Cruise, ブルームーン (観光遊覧船)

For the seafarers amongst you it is possible to get a ride around Hakodate Bay on the Bluemoon boat. The 40 minute ride, which includes a soft drink, costs ¥1.600 and departs from the harbour near red brick warehouses at the following times:

10:30, 11:30, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00 and 17:00.

Page 19, tel: 0138-26-6161, Suehiro-cho tram stop (末広町), <http://www.hakodate-factory.com/bluemoon/default.htm>

iii) Motomachi District 元町

The 'Lonely Planet' guide to Japan describes Hakodate as 'perhaps the most interesting and appealing city' in Hokkaido. The main reason for this honour is due to the historical area of the city called Motomachi. This district at the base of Mt. Hakodate was where many foreigners lived at the end of the 19th Century. Consequently, it has an unusual array of architecture. Whether or not you enter the numerous souvenir shops and small museums, it is well worth wandering around.

Mt. Hakodate, 函館山

Strictly speaking, Hakodate's eponymous 334 metre high mountain is not in Motomachi. However, its peak can be reached by a cablecar from Motomachi. To reach the cablecar from the JR station, take trams numbers 2, 3 or 5 and get off at the Jujigai stop, which is about a six-minute ride. The base station of the cablecar is then about a ten-minute walk uphill. The cablecar runs from 10 am to 10 pm and costs ¥1,160 for the return journey. If you are short of time, you can a thirty-minute bus ride to the summit from Hakodate station, which will cost ¥360 for a one way trip. This bus leaves from the station once at 13:15, and then at the following times: 17:50, 18:20, 18:40, 19:00, 19:20, 19:40, 20:00, 20:30, & 21:00. For the more energetic amongst you, it is possible to hike up the mountain. The hiking routes can be seen on the map. If possible try and go up the mountain when it is dark so that you can see what is described as one of Japan's most magnificent nighttime views. Wikipedia notes that, "an obscure local nickname of the bumpy mountain is Gagyuzan ("Mount Cow's-back"), which alludes to the way the mountain's shape resembles that of a resting bovine."

Cablecar open 10:00 to 22:00, cost ¥1,160 return journey, 0138-23-6288, pages 9-12, Jujigai tram stop (十字街), <http://334.style6.com/jp/>

Churches

Hakodate has an unusually large number of churches. The three most well known are in a cluster in the Motomachi area of town at the foot of Mt. Hakodate and a few minutes walk south of the old British Consulate.

The Russian Orthodox Church, *Harisutosu Sei Kyoukai*, ハリストス正教会

The first Russian Orthodox chapel in Japan was established in the Russian Consulate in 1859. The present Byzantine style church was built in 1916, and is called "Gangan-dera" (Ding-dong temple) by Hakodate citizens.

Open 10:00-17:00 (Sat. 10:00-16:00, Sun. 13:00-16:00), page 8, Jujigai tram stop (十字街), <http://www.hakonavi.ne.jp/site/course3/harisutosu.html>

Episcopal church, *Sei Yohane Kyoukai*, 聖ヨハネ教会

The original Episcopalian church dates back to 1874 when Denning, an English missionary, came to Hakodate. This cross-shaped church was remodelled in 1979.

Not open to the public, page 7, Jujigai tram stop (十字街), <http://www2.ocn.ne.jp/~st.john/>

Motomachi Roman Catholic Church, *Katorikku Motomachi Kyoukai*, カトリック元町教会

Just below the Russian Orthodox Church, this Gothic style church was completed in 1924. Amongst the various decorations within the church is a magnificent sculpture sent by the

Vatican.

Open 10:00-16:00 (weekend 12:00-16:00), page 7, Jujigai tram stop (十字街), <http://ogawa-taxi.cbiz.co.jp/kanko/katorikku.html>

If you plan to visit more than one of the next three places, don't forget to buy the combination tickets (共通券) to get a reduction. See page 18 of the brochure.

The Old British Consulate, *Kyu Igrisu Ryoujikan*, 旧イギリス領事館

Although Britain has had a diplomatic presence in Hakodate since 1859, the present consulate building was constructed in 1913, and was used as such until it was closed in 1934. It is now open to the public as a museum. There is also a restaurant in the building, which is ideal for afternoon tea. The 'consulate' shop sells various British goods, so is ideal for anyone in need of a British souvenir.

Open 9:00-19:00, ¥300 (less if you get the combo ticket), tel 0138-27-8159, pages 14 & 18, Suehiro-cho tram stop (末広町), <http://www.hakodate-kankou.com/british/>

The Old Public Hall of Hakodate Ward, *Kyu Hakodateku Koukaidou*, 旧函館公会堂

For anyone that has spent some time in Japan, the Western looking wooden structure of the Old Public Hall is indeed a little incongruous, but also a rather splendid building. It was completed in 1910, and has a colorful history. Two emperors have stayed here, and it is possible to see their bathroom. If you have time, you can rent a tuxedo or ball gown in which you can wander around the building.

Open 9:00-19:00 (closed Mondays), ¥300 (less if you get the combo ticket), tel: 0138-22-1001, pages 14 & 18, Suehiro-cho tram stop (末広町), <http://www.zaidan-hakodate.com/koukaido/kou.htm>

Hakodate City Museum of Northern Peoples, *Hoppou Minzoku Shiryokan*, 北方民族資料館

The indigenous inhabitants of Hokkaido were the Ainu and Aleut, and it is in this museum that you can see many of their cultural artefacts. For example, the last remaining three-seater Aleut canoe is on display. There is a detailed English guide about the collection for visitors.

Open 9:00-19:00, ¥300 (less if you get the combo ticket), tel: 0138-22-4128, page 18, Suehiro-cho tram stop (末広町), <http://www.zaidan-hakodate.com/hoppominzoku/min.htm>

Hakodate City Museum of Photographic History (and Tourist Information Centre), *Shashin Rekishikan*, 函館市写真歴史館 (元町観光案内所)

Just below the Old Public Hall, you will find what used to be the old Hakodate Branch of the Hokkaido Government (旧北海道庁函館支庁庁舎). In this two-storey clapboard building, you'll find an interesting collection of old photographs taken in around the Hakodate area. There is also a Tourist information centre. Note that the main Tourist information centre is just to the north of the station.

Open 9:00-19:00, ¥200, tel: 0138-27-3333, page 17, Suehiro-cho tram stop (末広町), http://www46.tok2.com/home/arc/hokkaido/hokkaido_14.htm

iv) The Western area

To the west of the churches and the old British Consulate there are a number of interesting sites.

Winning Hall, ウイニングホール

One of Hakodate's more recent claims to fame is that it is the hometown of the popular singing group called 'Glax'. In the Winning Hall you can see an exhibition of Glax artefacts called 'Art Style of GLAY'. The Winning Hall is also the venue for the 'Kitajima Saburo Museum'. Mr. Kitajima was born near Hakodate, and is famous for his *Enka* (a kind of ballad) singing, one of his songs being 'Hakodate Woman' which topped the charts in 1965. Open 9:00-19:00, ¥15,00, tel: 0138-26-2311, page 18, Suehiro-cho tram stop (末広町), <http://www.winninghall.jp/>

The Soma Company Building, Souma Kabushi Kaisha, 相馬株式会社

Mr. Soma, a wealthy Hakodate businessman had this two-story wooden office building constructed in 1916. It was modelled on a stone building of the Renaissance period, and still functions as an office.

Not open to the public, page 6, Suehiro-cho tram stop (末広町), <http://www.hakonavi.ne.jp/site/course2/souma.html>

The Chinese Memorial Hall, Chuka Kaikan, 中華会館

In 1910 local Chinese merchants had this red brick 'community centre' built by carpenters, sculptors and plasterers from Shanghai. It is the only building in Japan constructed according to traditional Chinese methods.

Unfortunately, it's only open from July to September, page 6, Suehiro-cho tram stop (末広町), <http://www.hakonavi.ne.jp/site/course2/chuka.html>

Hakodate-maru, 函館丸

This ship is a replica of the first western-style schooner built by the Japanese in 1859. Oh-machi tram stop (大町), <http://www.hakoweb.com/seibu/spot/301.htm>

The Old Russian Consulate, Kyu Roshia Ryoujikan, 旧ロシア領事館

The first Russian Consulate arrived in Hakodate in 1858. The present two-story Western style red brick structure was built in 1908. Unfortunately, unlike the old British Consulate, it is not possible to go inside.

Not open to the public, page 5, Oh-machi tram stop (大町), <http://www.hakonavi.ne.jp/site/course3/roshia.html>

Taisho public bath, Taishi Yu, 大正湯

This public bath was built in 1928 and is still in use today. Take a towel and some soap. Open 14:30-21:30 (closed Thursdays), ¥370, 0138-22-8231, page 5, Hakodate-doku-mae tram stop (函館どっく前) then a 5-minute walk, http://www.ehako.com/map/cmouv/5_index_msg.shtml

Koryu-ji Temple, 高龍寺

Founded in 1633, this is Hakodate's oldest Buddhist temple. Its main gate is the largest north of the Tohoku District, and has many intricate works of sculpture carved on it.

Open morning - 16:00, page 4, Hakodate-dokku-mae tram stop (函館どっく前), <http://www.hakonavi.ne.jp/site/course3/kouryuji.html>

The Foreign Cemetery, *Gaijin Bochi*, 外人墓地

Probably not somewhere you want to stay for too long, this cemetery is situated at the western slope of Mt. Hakodate. It was founded when Commodore Perry came to Hakodate in 1854, and several of his sailors were buried here. There is a splendid view of Hakodate Bay from the cemetery. If you are walking, this would be the obvious place to turn back.

Page 4, Hakodate-dokku-mae tram stop (函館どっく前), then a short walk, taxi; ¥1,400 from station (4km), <http://www.hakonavi.ne.jp/site/course3/gaijin.html>

v) The South-Eastern Area / Cape Tachimachi

The area to the south-east of Motomachi has fewer places of historical interest, but the tram ride and then walk to Cape Tachimachi is well worth it for the views.

Hakodate Park, *Hakodate Koen*, 函館公園

The creation of this park was instigated by the British Consul General, who felt that a town such as Hakodate needed a park. Completed in 1879, it has at its centre a fountain and is Hokkaido's first western style park. Locals know it as the 'cherry blossom park', and thus will be at its prettiest during the conference.

9:00~16:30, Aoyagi-cho tram stop (青柳町), taxi; ¥1,000 from station (2.7km), <http://homepage1.nifty.com/shiburin/odekake/hakodatekoen.htm>

Monument to the War Dead of the Tokugawa Shogunate Warriors, *Hekketsuhi*, 碧血碑

Above Hakodate Park and below the mountain you will find a monument to some 800 soldiers of the Shogunate army. The name of the monument in Japanese (*Hekketsuhi*) translates as the 'Turquoise Blood Monument', a reference to the folklore, which says that if a soldier dies for a just cause, three years after his death his blood will turn green.

Page 25, Aoyagi-cho tram stop (青柳町), <http://ogawa-taxi.cbiz.co.jp/kanko/hekketu.html>

Cape Tachimachi, *Tachimachi Misaki*, 立待岬

The southern tip of Mt. Hakodate is called Cape Tachimachi. The word '*tachimachi*' is derived from the Ainu language, and means 'a rocky point where one waits for and catches fish'. Protruding into the Tsugaru Straits, the cape commands a splendid view of the Shimokita Peninsula to the south, and on a very good day you may be able to see the Tsugaru Peninsula to the south-west – both part of Aomori, the northern most prefecture in Honshu.

Page 10, Yachigashira tram stop (谷地頭), then a 1km walk) taxi; ¥1,400 from station (4km), <http://www.hakonavi.ne.jp/site/course1/tachimachimisaki.html>

vi) Goryokaku Area 五稜郭地区

The Goryokaku area is now the main business district of the city, and is replete with restaurants and bars. Just to the north of the commercial area is Goryokaku Park.

Goryokaku Park, *Goryokaku Koen*, 五稜郭公園

The centrepiece of the park is the walls of the first western style fort in Japan. Nothing is left of the castle itself, which was constructed by the Tokugawa Shogunate to defend Japan against 'Northern threats'. It became a battleground during Japan's last civil war and the last stand of the *Shinsengumi*, the story of which was recently featured in a popular television drama. Because of its star-shape, it is called *Goryokaku*, or Pentagon Fort.

The park really comes into its own during the cherry blossom season. Fortunately, the conference coincides with this season, so a stroll around the park is highly recommended. You can just walk under the trees, or view them from the new Goryokaku tower. For maximum enjoyment, take a picnic and sit with other revelers under the trees. At night, the area around the tower is lit with lanterns for these partygoers. In fact, wander around the park and you may well be offered a drink or two, and if you are lucky you may be invited to tuck into the food.

The area outside the moat is always open, but the area within opens at 9:00 and closes at 19:00, pages 23-24, Goryokaku-koen-mae tram stop (五稜郭公園前), taxi; ¥1,600 from station (4.3km), <http://www.hakonavi.ne.jp/site/course1/goryokaku.html>

Goryokaku Tower, 五稜郭タワー

The new 98-metre tower (107 metres including the lightning conductor) has just been completed in time for the AAMAS conference. The ride to the top costs ¥840, and is well worth it for the view north – see if you can see the university –and the view south of Hakodate Mountain, and on a good day, you will be able to see Aomori, the northern most prefecture of Honshu Island.

Open 8:00-19:00, ¥840, tel: 0138-51-4785, Goryokaku-koen-mae tram stop (五稜郭公園前), taxi; ¥1,600 from station (4.3km), <http://www.goryokaku-tower.co.jp/>

Hakodate Museum of Art, *Hakodate Bijutsukan*, 北海道立函館美術館

This museum just south of the park has permanent exhibitions of artists from South Hokkaido, and occasionally has special exhibits to showcase works of prominent foreign artists. During the conference there will be an exhibit of Toulouse-Lautrec prints and posters.

Open 9:30-17:00 (closed Mondays), ¥150, tel: 0138-56-6311, page 23, Goryokaku-koen-mae tram stop (五稜郭公園前), taxi; ¥1,600 from station (4.3km), <http://www.dokyoji.pref.hokkaido.jp/hk-hakmu/>

vii) Yunokawa Hot Spring area 湯の川温泉地区

The Yunokawa area is a hot spring resort, which attracts people from far and wide. Even if you are not staying in the hotels, it is possible to use the baths. Also, about a kilometre and a half from the hot springs is Japan's first convent.

The lights of the Squid Fishing Boats, *Isaribi*, 漁火

At night you may see lights off the coast. These are not the lights of a distant city, but squid boats, which use lights to attract their prey. The beach in Yunokawa affords a good view of these squid boats in the Tsugaru Straits (see page 27 of the brochure).

Tropical Garden, *Nettai Shobutsuen*, 函館市熱帯植物園

This tropical garden is just a stones throw from the beach and is heated by hot spring water. There are some 700 plants, including an 'ice cream tree'! It is also known for its monkeys bathing in the open-air bath.

Open 9:30-18:00, tel 0138-57-5787, p.28, Yunokawa tram stop (湯の川), taxi; ¥1,850 from station (5.2km), <http://www3.ncv.ne.jp/~sige1618/>

Isaribikan Hot Spring, 漁火館 (温泉)

One of the many hot springs in Yunokawa is Isaribikan. Although it is a hotel, for ¥500 yen you can experience a 'rotenburo' (an open air hot spring). From your hot spring the waves are within a 100 metres, and you have a view along the bay to Mt. Hakodate.

It is a short walk along the beach from the Tropical garden, and a fifteen minute taxi ride from Hakodate JR station.

Open 9:30-18:00, ¥500, tel 0138-57-1117, Yunokawa tram stop (湯の川), taxi; ¥1,900 from station (5.3km), <http://isaribikan.hakodate.ne.jp/>

Miharashi Park & The Old Iwafune Garden, 見晴公園 & 名勝旧岩船民庭園 (香雪園)

This park has what is said to be the most beautiful Japanese style garden in Hokkaido.

Open 9:00-17:00, tel: 0138-57-7210, page 28, taxi about ¥3,000, http://www.hakodate-jts-kosya.jp/p_miharashi.html

The Trappistine Convent, *Torapichinu Shudoin*, トラピスチヌ修道院

Established in 1898 by eight French nuns, this is Japan's first women's convent. Currently, about 70 nuns live here, and thus it is not possible to enter the convent. Ostensibly, the attraction of this convent is the architecture and the blossom filled gardens. However, the real attraction is the delicious homemade biscuits made by the nuns.

Open 8:10-17:00 – shop only (closed Wednesdays), tel 0138-57-3331, p.30, taxi; ¥3,400 from station (10km), <http://www.hakonavi.ne.jp/site/course1/torapisuchinu.html>

viii) Near the University

Future University is located to the north of the city and, amongst other things, is known for its 'Urayake' – the 'opposite night view' of Hakodate city. Perhaps one of the best places to enjoy this view is from Café En, a short walk to the south of the University.

Southern Hokkaido Four Seasons Woodland Park, *Donan Shiki no Mori Koen* 道南四季の杜公園

Should you need to 'get away from it all' during the conference you can escape to the park just to the north of the University, and about a fifteen-minute walk away.

Open 9:00-17:00, tel: 0138-34-3888, web site: <http://aps005.hotweb.or.jp/shikixoops/>

Sasaryu Dam and Park

A little further from the University and on the way into town, a twenty-minute walk will get you to the Sasaryu Dam and Park. During the conference, the blossom trees here will be in full bloom, and the 'blossom viewers' are likely to be less boisterous than those in Goryokaku Park.

Web site:

<http://www.pref.hokkaido.jp/kensetu/kn-hakdg/contents/chisui/sn-ya-homepage-s/sinnaka-hakodatesi.htm>

ix) Further afield

For those of you just staying for the duration of the conference, there will perhaps not be time to visit the further afield locations. However, should you arrive slightly earlier, or extend your stay in Hakodate, you may like to consider the following places.

Onuma Quasi-National Park and Mt. Komagatake 大沼国定公園と駒ヶ岳

Forty minutes' drive from Hakodate, this natural park with majestic Mt. Komagatake in front offers various vistas with the changing seasons. Of the three natural dammed lakes, Onuma, the main lake, boasts 126 large and small islets.

Free, there are both buses and trains to the park, taxi; ¥10,000 from station (29km), <http://www.onumakouen.com/>

Todohokke Mizunashi Seaside Hot Spring 榎法華水無海浜温泉

An open-air hot spring right next to the sea. You are 'advised' to wear a bathing suit when using this bath.

Free, tel: 0138-86-2111, taxi; ¥18,000 from station (55km), <http://www.asahi-net.or.jp/~UE3T-CB/spa/mizunasikaihin/mizunasikaihin.htm>

3. Places to Eat and Drink

Eating out in Japan is usually a pleasure, and often a surprise. Pleasurable because the quality of food and preparation is usually very good, and surprising because the cost is often not as expensive as one is led to believe. Hakodate has more than its fair share of high quality but reasonably priced restaurants and bars. One Japanese guide to Hakodate lists some 500 restaurants and bars. Many of the best places are in the Goryokaku and Motomachi areas, so close to the conference hotels. If you can speak and read a bit of Japanese, finding a good place to spend an evening is not a problem. However, the non-Japanese speaker needs to be a little adventurous in order to enjoy the culinary delights of Hakodate. Most restaurants do not have English menus, and the best you can hope for is photographs to point at. However, this being said, if you are prepared to 'take a few risks' you will be able to satiate your appetite. On the downside, be warned that most restaurants do not have 'no smoking areas'.

Hakodate is famous for its squid (イカ = *ika*) which is prepared in many ways. One of the cheapest meals you can have is a bowl of noodles called 'ramen' (ラーメン). Hakodate's salt-flavoured *ramen* is famous throughout Japan. If you are an early riser, head for the morning market (朝市 = *asaichi*) for breakfast. There you should try a 'kaisen-don' (海鮮丼), a bowl of rice topped with crab, salmon roe, and sea urchin. The Asaichi is just to the south of Hakodate station.

Given the large number of good restaurants in Hakodate, what follows is just a few of the places that we have been to and enjoyed. The description of each place is in the following format:

Restaurant name, name in Japanese (point to this when asking for directions)

A brief explanation of the food and place

Open hours, holiday, cost, phone, address in Japanese, nearest tram stop, and URL

A) Station Area and Daimon (駅前・大門)

Daimon YokoCho 大門横丁

This is a collection of about 26 small 'retro' style restaurants and bars about a 5-minute walk from the station. Here you can get all kinds of Japanese cuisine, from *ramen* (noodles) to *sushi*, and *tempura* (天ぷら) to grilled chicken (焼鳥). Well worth a visit since there is so much to choose from all in one location.

Most places are open from 17:00-24:00 (or later), and some open for lunch, ¥700 or so for *ramen*, a few hundred yen for snacks, and more for larger meals, 0138-24-0033, 函館 大門横丁 函館 ひかりの屋台松風町 7, Matsukaze Cho tram stop (松風町), <http://www.hakodate-tmo.com/yatai/>

Bar Jeys ジェイズ

A smart 'cocktail bar' but not too pricey. It's about a 5 minute walk from the station.

19:00-03:00, closed twice a month, ¥630 + for cocktails and ¥420 + for whiskey, 0138-22-8604, 函館市東雲町 17-11 ぎおん通り, Matsukaze Cho tram stop (松風町), <http://gourmet.hakonavi.ne.jp/pub/jeys.html>

B) Motomachi Area 元町 & Suehiro Area 末広

Lucky Pierrot ラッキーピエロ

Hakodate has been blessed with its own fast-food burger chain. Perhaps not the healthiest eateries in town, but any one of the ten 'restaurants' are worth a visit just to experience the eccentric decor. They are also very cheap, and the portions are generous. These restaurants are known as '*Lapi*' by locals, and two of them can be found in the Suehiro district. One of them is about a 15 minute walk from the station, or 5 minutes from the Jujigai tram stop (十字街), and just south of the red brick warehouses (赤レンガ倉庫群), and is easily recognizable because of its circus theme, which includes a big picture of a clown on the front of the restaurant. The other has a Santa Claus' theme and is also just a few minutes walk from the Jujigai tram stop, but in the other direction.

10:00-0:30 (yes, after midnight!), no holidays, ¥315 for a 'Chinese chicken burger, and about ¥200 for a coffee, 0138-26-2099, 函館市末広町 23-18, Jujigai tram stop (十字街), <http://www.luckypierrot.jp/>

Italian GoGo イタリアンゴーゴー

A cozy Italian restaurant tucked in between the red brick warehouses.

12:00~15:00 18:00~0:00 (L.O23:30, closed Tuesdays, ¥1,500 for lasagna, 0138-23-0524, 末広町 13-20, Jujigai tram stop (十字街), <http://www.tabiguru.com/gourmet/ShowPlanA.do?id=422>

MOSSTREES モストゥリー

Japanese style western food: pizza, spaghetti, sausages, good beer, and a great atmosphere.

11:45-14:00 17:30-24:00, closed on the first and third Mondays of every month, 0138-27-007, 函館市大町 9-1 5, Suehiro-cho tram stop (末広町), <http://www.ehako.com/bar-gai/bar5/archives/2006/03/mosstrees.html>

Poisson ポアソン

A slightly expensive 'French' restaurant in chic 1930's surroundings.

11:30-14:00 & 17:00-21:00, closed Wednesdays, about ¥1,200 for a three course lunch and ¥1,800 and up for a three course dinner, 0138-26-8688, 函館市大町 9-14 Suehiro-cho tram stop (末広町), <http://shokuyuu.seesaa.net/article/3709697.html>

Tenya てんや

A wonderful *tenpura* restaurant. Nothing flashy about this place; a traditional atmosphere and delicious *tenpura*.

11:30-21:00 (on week days closed between 15:00-17:00), closed Tuesdays, ¥700 for a *tendon* (天丼) a bowl of rice with some *tenpura* on top, ¥2,000 for a *tokujo tenpura teishoku* (特上天ぷら定食) the best quality *tenpura* with soup and rice, 0138-22-2007, 北海道函館市宝来町 2 4-4, Horai-Cho tram stop (宝来町), <http://www.yose.co.jp/tenya.html>

Karakusakan 唐草館

This elegant French restaurant is only six years old, but the building itself is a traditional Hakodate style clapboard house. Being near Hakodate Park (函館公園), it's not really in the Motomachi area, but it's only a minutes walk from the Aoyagi-machi tram stop.

11:30-14:00 & 18:00-20:30, closed every Monday and the second Tuesday of every month, best to reserve, at least ¥1,600 for lunch and ¥3,800 for dinner, 0138-24-5585, 青柳町 21-23, Aoyagi-cho tram stop (青柳町), <http://www.karakusakan.com/>

C) Goryokaku Area 五稜郭

Azumashi Bar 月天

A very stylish '*izakaiya*' (Japanese style pub), but not too expensive.

17:00-00:00 (LO 23:30), no holidays, ¥2-3,000 per person for dinner, 0138-55-4410, 本町 32-3, between the Goryokaku Koen Mae (五稜郭公園前) and Chuo Byoin tram stops (中央病院前), <http://www.suntory.co.jp/gourmet/shop/0138554410/>

Karoku 鹿六

A friendly and traditional style '*izakaya*' (Japanese style pub).

11:30-14:00 & 17:00-21:00 (LO 22:00), no holidays, at least ¥1,000 for a meal, 0138-33-4488, 函館市本町 3 1-8, Goryokaku Koen Mae tram stop (五稜郭公園前), <http://r.gnavi.co.jp/h079500/>

Ajisai

A trendy *ramen* (noodles) shop opposite Goryokaku Tower.

11:00-20:30, closed Mondays, about ¥700 for a bowl of *ramen*, 0138-51-8373, 函館市五稜郭町 29-22, Goryokaku Koen Mae tram stop (五稜郭公園前), <http://www.ajisai.tv/pc/index.html>

Lucky Pierrot ラッキーピエロ

Another 'Lapi' burger, ice cream and coffee joint. This time with an 'angels and iconic art' theme. It's opposite Ajisai and close to Goryokaku Tower.

10:00-01:30 (yes, way after midnight!), no holidays, ¥360 for a 'Lucky cheese burger, and about ¥505 for Meat sauce spaghetti, 0138-55-4424, 五稜郭町 30-14, Goryokaku Koen Mae tram stop (五稜郭公園前), <http://www.luckypierrot.jp/>

Kantaro 函太郎

This is a '*kaiten*' sushi restaurant; the sushi goes round on a conveyor belt. Much cheaper than a 'real' sushi restaurant but almost as good. It's opposite Hakodate Central Library (函館中央図書館), and just north of Goryokaku Park (五稜郭公園). So, no more than a 10-minute walk from the Goryokaku tram stop.

11:00~22:00, no holiday, at least ¥100 or so for 2 pieces of sushi, 0138-52-5522, 五稜郭町 25-17, Goryokaku Koen Mae tram stop (五稜郭公園前), <http://www.hakodate.ne.jp/kantaro/goryokaku/index.html>

Ebizou 函館ラーメン蝦蔵

A great *ramen* (noodles) shop with a delicious fish based soup. Try the '*Awase Miso Ramen*' (合わせみそラーメン). Just a minute or two walk from Kantaro (see above), and about 10 minutes from Goryokaku tram stop via the park.

11:30~02:00, no holiday, about ¥700 for a bowl of noodles. 0138-56-5584, 函館市中道 1 丁目 2-19, <http://www.mochizuki-seimen.com/shop/ebizou.html>

Eiley's アイリッシュパブ エイリーズ 本町店

An Irish pub, Guinness, and fish-n-chips included. Hidden amongst the 'hundreds' of bars in the Hon-cho district (本町), you'll need to ask people how to find this place. It's on the third floor of a building called Maruichi-Biru (丸一ビル).

20 : 00~2 : 00, ¥600 or so for a glass of Guinness, 0138-54-4771, 本町 9-5 丸一ビル, Goryokaku Koen Mae tram stop (五稜郭公園前), <http://bar.eileys.co.jp/honchou.htm>

D) Between Future University and Goryokaku

Café En カフェ エン

This is the only eatery within walking distance of Future University. Fortunately, it is also very good, and in the evenings it has a marvelous view of Hakodate.

11:00~20:00, closed Sundays, ¥500 for a coffee, ¥650 and more for lunch, 0138-47-4333, 赤川町 365-5, <http://gourmet.hakonavi.ne.jp/kissa/en.html>

Piatti トラットリア・ピアッティ

This is said by some to be the best Italian restaurant in town. It's about a 15-minute bus ride from the university and next to a gas stand.

11:30-14:00 & 18:00-23:00 (LO 22:00), closed Tuesdays, and the first Mondays of every month, ¥1,300 for lunch and more for dinner, 0138-40-6866, 富岡町 3-23-22, Tomioka bus stop (富岡), <http://shokuyuu.seesaa.net/article/8785979.html>

Mussya ムッシャ

Spicy soup curry; you can choose the 'heat' level. It's opposite Piatti.

11:30~21:00, closed Tuesdays, about ¥900 +, 0138-40-0804, 富岡町 3-10-3, Tomioka bus stop (富岡), <http://shokuyuu.seesaa.net/article/3733332.html>

Toryuken 登龍軒

A simple Chinese restaurant. Very generous helpings. It's just a short walk from Tomioka bus stop towards the town centre.

11:00-15:00 & 17:00-20:00, closed Tuesdays, ¥800 or so for *ramen*, ¥1,300 for chili prawns (エビチリ), 0138-45-7719, 富岡町 3 丁目 26-14, Tomioka bus stop (富岡)

E) Other Areas

So far, all of the places mentioned are near the conference hotels, or within walking distance of a tram stop, or in the case of the above four restaurants they are on the road from the university back into town. There are of course many other restaurants that are less accessible for people without cars. Here are three that this writer enjoys going to.

La Tachi ラ・ターチ

The French style cooking of this restaurant is a treat. Make sure you save some space for the sweets that will be brought to you on a trolley.

11:30-14:30 & 17:30-20:30, closed Tuesday dinner & Sunday lunch, ¥980 + for lunch and ¥1,800 + for dinner, 0138-43-8118, 亀田本町 3-24, about a ¥1,000 taxi ride from Goryokaku and ¥2,500 from the station, <http://warekatte.exblog.jp/1961165/>

Antica Osteria Dell'alba アンティカ・オステリア・デル・アルバ

Great Italian food, though the building itself is a bit odd.

11:30-14:30 & 18:00-20:30, closed Thursdays, dinner starts at ¥2,700, 0138-32-3100, 本通 3-2-12, It's about a ¥1,500 taxi ride from Goryokaku and ¥2,500 from the station. http://gourmet.hakonavi.ne.jp/yousyoku1/i_dellalba.html

Shoyotei 松羊亭

This is a Genghis Khan (ジンギスカン) restaurant, which means you eat as much mutton as you can for a fixed price. Certainly not the most sophisticated canteen in this list, but great if you are hungry.

11:30-2:00 & 17:00-21:00, about ¥1,200 for an all-you-can-eat selection of vegetables and mutton, 0138-55-2989, 松陰町 18 番 35 号, between Suginami-cho (杉並町) and Kashiwagi-cho (柏木町) tram stops (about 15 minutes walk from Goryokaku towards the airport), <http://www11.ocn.ne.jp/~sapsheep/matsuyoutei.html>

Finally, please bear in mind that the above mentioned times and prices were correct at the time of writing. Any changes to these times and prices are beyond our control.