

Message from the Governor of Hokkaido

To all international visitors of Hokkaido,

Thank you to all those who have given their well wishes for Hokkaido's speedy recovery.

As you all might be aware, on 6 Sep this year Hokkaido experienced an earthquake which has never occurred in the region before, and extensive damages were inflicted on the eastern parts of Iburi sub-prefecture, close to the epicenter. Since then, people from all over the world have offered their warm support to the people in Hokkaido.

Even though we are faced with harsh nature, the people of Hokkaido have received abundant warm wishes in return, and we continue to carry on with our lives and co-exist with nature. In light of the recent earthquake, we continue to take all the experiences we have cultivated in stride, and overcome the challenges ahead.

At the present, we are focusing on restoration and reconstruction efforts in the affected areas. For the rest of the other areas in Hokkaido, for all our foreign visitors of Hokkaido, electrical power to transportation, communications and accommodations remained unaffected and we in Hokkaido continue to provide service levels similar to those prior to the incident.

With the short summer coming to an end, Hokkaido will usher in a new season, with vivid autumn leaves covering our hills and fields. During this time, everyone can look forward to plentiful delicious seafood and agricultural produce. We encourage everyone from all over the world to continue visiting our beautiful home to enjoy our splendor and hospitality.



Harumi TAKAHASHI
Governor, Hokkaido Government

September 2018

To everyone planning to travel to Hokkaido
~Safety Info for Safe & Pleasant Trip~

Due to the earthquake that struck eastern Iburi subprefecture in Hokkaido on 6 Sep 2018, essential utilities were disrupted and faced difficulties in meeting people's needs. However, as of this moment, major hindrances to transportation and lodging have been resolved and the region has made a recovery from the incident, so travelers can look forward to making a trip as per normal.

Lodging



Aside from that within the epicenter of the earthquake, almost all other areas in Hokkaido remained unaffected. All visitors can stay at all lodging establishments safe and sound.

Public transportation



• **Trains**

All main train services (including bullet train in Hakodate) have resumed normally but some routes have been reduced and/or suspended.

• **Long-haul / town buses**

Aside from those within the epicenter of the earthquake, all bus services have resumed service normally.

• **Road highways/expressways**

No reports for disruption of highways due to earthquake effects.

Flights



• **Domestic flights within Hokkaido**

All domestic flights have resumed normally.

• **Domestic flights within Japan (into Hokkaido)**

All international flights have resumed normally.

• **International flights (into Hokkaido)**

Few flights suspended, but almost all other flights have resumed normally.

Restaurants & Stores



Businesses in almost all areas in Hokkaido have resumed services normally. Stocks for most items have also been replenished.

Essential utilities



• **Water / gas supply**

Apart from those in affected areas, all water and gas supplies can be used normally.

• **Electricity**

Efforts to conserve electricity are taking place, but for all lodging establishments, visitors can use electricity without any difficulties.

For the latest details and information, visit the following website:

~Information on safe travel in Hokkaido~

<http://safety-travel.jp/>