

In the event of a traffic accident

Safe driving is the "basic of the basics." Avoiding accidents is central to enjoying a drive and protecting ourselves. Yet, no matter how carefully we drive, we cannot ensure that we will never encounter an accident. In the event of an accident, act calmly to prevent it from worsening and to minimize the damage.

(1) Be safe

At the scene of an accident, securing your personal safety and surroundings is important. Grasp the condition of your surroundings to prevent a chain of accidents.

- Secure a safe spot.
- Do not block the traffic, move your car to a safe place such as the shoulder of the road or an empty lot, and turn off the engine.
- Use a triangular sign panel or a flare to make the accident known to those around you.

(2) If someone is injured

It is fundamental to secure your surroundings and wait for the arrival of an ambulance.

- Dial "119" (from anywhere in Japan) to ask for an ambulance.
- If you do not understand Japanese and see some Japanese near you, ask them for help.

If the injured are in physical danger, move them to a safe place.

- Even if no external wounds are observed, the spine of the injured may be damaged. When moving him/her, be careful to keep his/her neck stable.
- If he/she is bleeding, apply a clean handkerchief or a piece of gauze to the site, press down on it firmly and continue pressing to control the bleeding.
- Severe penalties are imposed on those who violate these aid obligations (Hit and Run).

(3) Report to the police

If an accident occurs, it is necessary to make an official report to the police. The report will be attended to by conscientious and reliable police officers. Remember to report all accidents to the police.

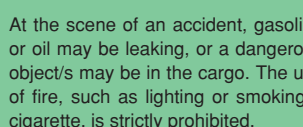
- Dial "110" (from anywhere in Japan) to report an accident.
- If an accident is not officially reported to the police, the police cannot issue a "traffic accident certificate, which may later cause insurance problems. Be sure to report even small accidents to the police.

(4) Contacting the rent-a-car company

In a rent-a-car involved accident, contacting the rent-a-car company is required.

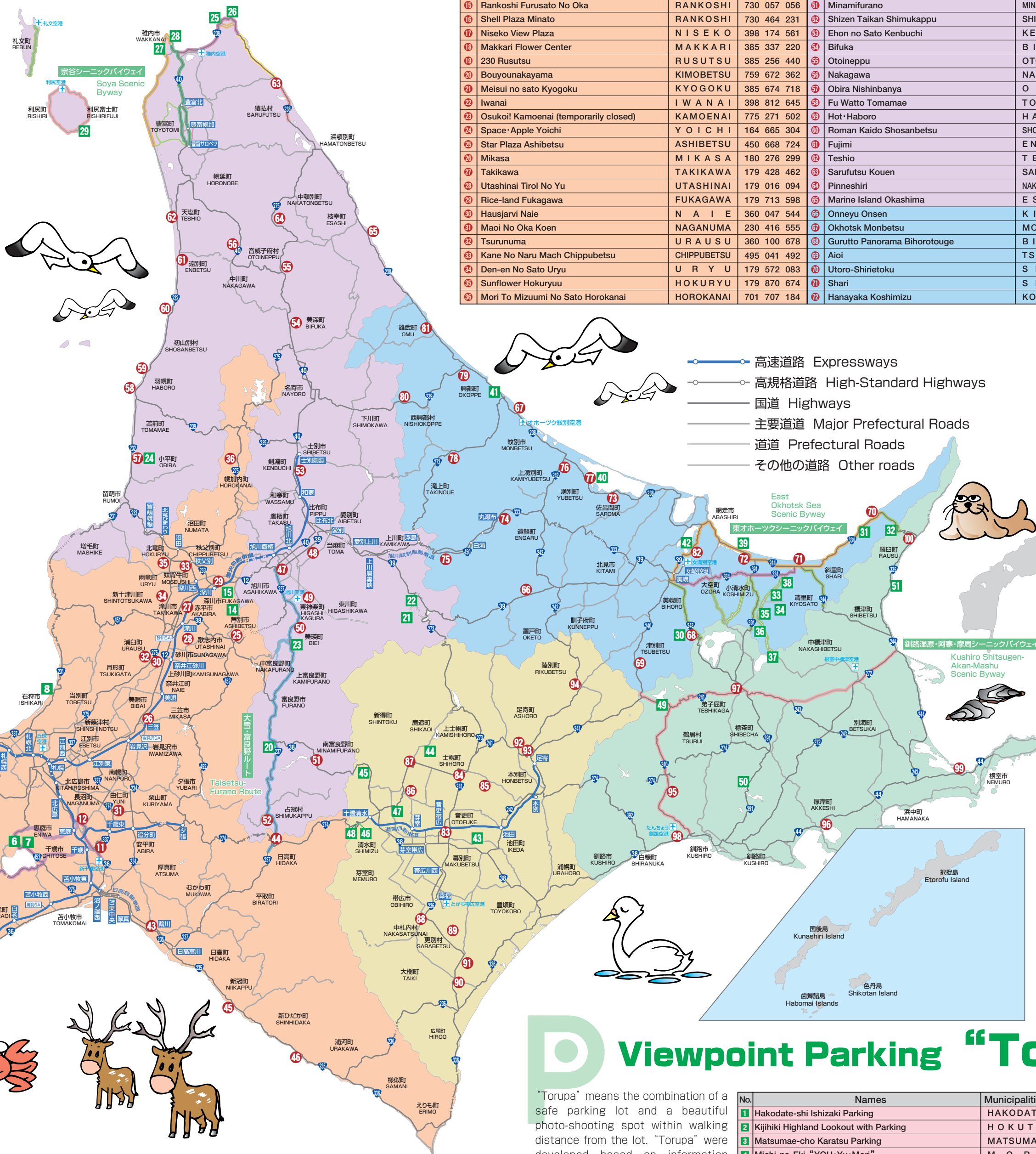
- Report the state of the accident to the rent-a-car shop you departed from and follow their instructions.
- Depending on the accident, you may be obliged to bear the cost of the insurance exemption or business compensation for the period required to repair the car.

Later, you may start to suffer some after-effects of the accident. If you think you suffered a whiplash injury, a neck or head injury or feel that something is wrong with you, yet, you sustained only minor injuries, see a doctor immediately.



Michi-no-Eki / Roadside Stations

"Michi-no-Eki's" are easy to find and have free access from major roads. They offer a comfortable place to take a short rest. At Michi-no-Eki's, large parking lots and sanitary restrooms are available free of charge around the clock. Also available are information on roads and the local area, food prepared with local specialties, box lunches, souvenirs and innovative services that each Michi-no-Eki has to offer.



No.	Names	municipalities	MAPCODE's
1	Natowa Esan	HAKODATE	592 417 108
2	Yokozana No Sato Fukushima	FUKUSHIMA	676 526 213
3	Shiruichi	SHIRIUCHI	584 340 742
4	YOU-Yuu-Mori	M O R I	490 638 558
5	Tsudohru Plaza Sawara	M O R I	490 740 646
6	Esashi	E S A S H I	482 512 063
7	Kaminokuni Monju	KAMINOKUNI	807 791 624
8	Assabu	A S S A B U	482 581 640
9	Route 229 Gennadai	O T O B E	178 058 279
10	Tekkai Land Taisei	S E T A N A	718 750 139
11	Salmon Park Chitose	C H I T O S E	113 889 556
12	Hana Road Eniwa	E N I W A	230 220 376
13	Yotekei Shimamaki	SHIMAMAKI	797 362 094
14	Kuromatsunai	KUROMATSUNAI	521 616 390
15	Rankoshi Furusato No Oka	RANKOSHI	730 057 056
16	Shell Plaza Minato	RANKOSHI	730 464 231
17	Niseko View Plaza	N I S E K O	398 174 561
18	Makkari Flower Center	M A K K A R I	385 337 220
19	230 Rusutsu	R U S U T S U	385 256 440
20	Boyouyakunayama	KIMOBETSU	759 672 362
21	Meisui no sato Kyogoku	KYOGOKU	385 674 718
22	Iwanai	I W A N A I	398 812 645
23	Osukoi Kamoenai (temporarily closed)	KAMOENAI	775 271 502
24	Space-Apple Yoichi	Y O I C H I	164 665 304
25	Star Plaza Ashibetsu	ASHIBETSU	450 668 724
26	Mikasa	M I K A S A	180 276 299
27	Takikawa	TAKIKAWA	179 428 462
28	Utashinai Tirol No Yu	UTASHINAI	179 016 094
29	Rice-land Fukagawa	FUKAGAWA	179 713 598
30	Hausjuri Naie	N A I E	360 047 544
31	Maori No Oka Koen	NAGANUMA	230 416 555
32	Tsurunuma	U R A U S U	360 100 678
33	Kane No Nuru Mach Chippubetsu	CHIPPUBETSU	495 041 492
34	Den-en No Sato Uryu	U R Y U	179 572 083
35	Sunflower Hokuryu	HOKURYU	179 870 674
36	Mori To Mizuumi No Sato Horokanai	HOROKANAI	701 707 184

- 高速道路 Expressways
- 高規格道路 High-Standard Highways
- 国道 Highways
- 主要道道 Major Prefectural Roads
- 道道 Prefectural Roads
- その他の道路 Other roads

Distances and times between major cities in Hokkaido

The upper row: distance (km)
The lower row: time

	Asahikawa	Eniwa	Obihiro	Utsunomiya	Yokohama	Osaka	Kyoto	Nagoya	Tokyo
Asahikawa	0	475	628	715	805	905	905	905	905
Eniwa	475	0	153	240	330	430	430	430	430
Obihiro	628	153	0	85	175	275	275	275	275
Utsunomiya	715	240	85	0	90	180	180	180	180
Yokohama	805	330	175	90	0	90	90	90	90
Osaka	905	430	275	180	90	0	0	0	0
Kyoto	905	430	275	180	90	0	0	0	0
Nagoya	905	430	275	180	90	0	0	0	0
Tokyo	905	430	275	180	90	0	0	0	0

Scenic Byways in HOKKAIDO

"Scenic Byways in HOKKAIDO," a program initiated in Hokkaido, aims not only to guide but also to make sure that tourists leave with a deeper understanding of the island. This byways program is run in cooperation with the administration, by linking local residents via "routes" over a wide area and aims to improve the public's knowledge about the divergent resources that Hokkaido is famous for. So far, six routes have been designated. Various measures are being carried out such as improving landscapes by cleaning and planting flowers, providing information on sightseeing spots and restaurants that only local residents know and can recommend, and local bus tours guided by the residents to introduce their area.

References: Scenic Byway Resource Center <http://www.scenicbyway.jp/english/index.html>
References: Scenic Byway HOKKAIDO Promotion Council http://www.hkd.mlit.go.jp/ziyoku/z_doro/gh/index.html

Byways	Themes	An outline of the routes
Hakodate-Onuma-Funkawan Route	A route that overflows with local hospitality	This route features cityscapes, fishing villages and agricultural landscapes. Exotic streets surround Mt. Hakodate. At Lake Onuma, visitors can enjoy outdoor activities such as horseback riding and canoeing. The Jomon ruins and artifacts along the Uchira Bay are full of the romantic atmosphere of ancient times.
Shikotsu-Toya-Niseko Route	A route of encounters with pristine lakes, majestic mountains, and smoldering volcanoes	This route runs through Shikotsu-Toya National Park and Niseko-Shakotan-Otaru KaiganQuasi-National Park. Visitors will encounter beautiful lakes and smoldering volcanoes in three areas: Welcome to Hokkaido, Lake Toya and Niseko Yotei.
Taisetsu-Furano Route	Seasonal blossoms on a flower-lover's byway	This route runs through the heart of the Daisetsu Mountains and the Tokachi Mountains. This area abounds with scenery that includes rolling hills planted in a patchwork of lavender and other flowers. The area is a popular location for feature films and prime-time TV dramas.
Kushiro Shitsugen-Akan-Mashu Scenic Byway	Diverse nature and splendor - a mysterious byway that thrills the senses	This route runs through World-class sightseeing spots, including Kushiro Shitsugen National Park and Akan National Park. It consists of the Kushiro Shitsugen Area that encompasses the "Kushiro Marsh," which is listed in the "Ramsar Convention on Wetlands," and three other majestic areas.
East Okhotsk Sea Scenic Byway	Rejuvenation on a picturesque, windswept byway	This route runs through two national parks in Shiretoko and Akan. This area features local delicacies, extensive fields and mountains, lakes and marshes where swans migrate, and unspoiled indigenous flower meadows. This area is also famous for its ice floes in winter.
Soya Scenic Byway	A welcoming byway to warm your heart in Japan's frigid northernmost region	This route runs through Rishir-Rebun-Sarobetsu National Park. Nature has endured the frigid climate and has been well preserved. The area's scenic features include beautiful Mt. Rishir, Sarobetsu Marsh that extends to the horizon, and Rebun Island that is famous for its alpine plants.

Viewpoint Parking "Torupa"

"Torupa" means the combination of a safe parking lot and a beautiful photo-shooting spot within walking distance from the lot. "Torupa" were developed based on information contributed by the public. Hokkaido is famous for: countryside landscapes, coastal-scapes, and flower meadows.



No.	Names	Municipalities	MAPCODE's
1	Hakodate-shi Ishizaki Parking	HAKODATE	86 026 836
2	Kijihiki Highland Lookout with Parking	H O K U T O	490 104 098
3	Matsumae-cho Karatsu Parking	MATSUMAE	862 028 756
4	Michi-no-Eki "YOU-YU-Mori"	M O R I	490 668 055
5	Muine Parking	S A P P O R O	708 510 810
6	Poropinal Parking	C H I T O S E	708 204 224
7	Lake Shikotsu Parking	C H I T O S E	708 205 198
8	Ishikari-shi Mourai	I S H I K A R I	514 499 505
9	Arishima Takeo Memorial Museum Parking	N I S E K O	398 234 053
10	Kimobetsu-cho Aikawa Parking	KIMOBETSU	385 471 044
11	Kyogoku-cho Viewpoint Parking	KYOGOKU	385 587 645
12	Hirafu Parking I	K U T C H A N	398 414 158
13	Shakotan-cho Numamae Parking	SHAKOTAN	932 493 211
14	Shinki Pass Parking	ASHIBETSU	665 189 048
15	Totoro Pass Parking	FUKAGAWA	179 687 668
16	Hakuchu Bay Lookout with Parking	MUROAN	159 427 033
17	Cape Chiky Park	MUROAN	159 165 740
18	DOUDOU 2 Lake Toya Noboribetsu Line Okai Parking	SOBETSU	603 422 416
19	Sairo Lookout with Parking	T O Y A A K O	321 726 850
20	Tokyo University Enshurin Parking	F U R A N O	550 451 775
21	Ginsendai Parking	KAMIKAWA	623 025 083
22	Ginga Ryusenotaki Parking	KAMIKAWA	623 177 614
23	Kamifurano-cho Trick Art Museum Parking	KAMIFURANO	349 639 641
24	Obira-cho Nishin-banya	O B I R A	959 183 209
25	Kiyohama Parking	WAKKANAI	998 002 410
26	Cape Soya Parking	WAKKANAI	998 067 384
27	Yuhigaka Parking	WAKKANAI	353 753 326
28	Kitarikokita Parking	WAKKANAI	964 006 112
29	Otaomarinuma Parking	RISHIRIFUJI	714 109 830
30	Michi-no-Eki Gurutto Panorama Bihoro Pass	B I H O R O	638 225 466

References: Public Works Research Institute, Civil Engineering Research Institute for Cold Regions <http://www.northern.road.jp/navi/>

Major road signs in Japan

Road signs represent the law and breaking the law leads to accidents. Traffic violations are subject to punishment. Comply with the rules and enjoy safe and secure driving.

	Stop Stop before the stop line and check whether or not it is safe to proceed.		No entry of vehicles Vehicles are not allowed to enter (This is the exit of a one-way passage.)
	No entry except in the designated direction. Do not go in any direction except the designated one. (The direction of the arrow)		No parking Do not park here. (Illegal parking obstructs the passage of emergency vehicles. Do not park here.)
	Maximum speed Do not exceed the speed indicated on the speed sign. (The example is 50 km/h) ※All speed signs indicate kilometers per hour.		No parking or stopping Do not park or stop any vehicles here.
	Railroad crossings A train is approaching when the alarm is sounding and the lights are flashing. Stop the vehicle before the crossing and wait to proceed until the train passes.		No parking or stopping Vehicles are not allowed to pass through here.

Tips on Japanese traffic lights
Ignoring traffic lights can result in serious accidents. Even if you do not see people or vehicles around you, you must obey the signals.

	Arrow signals Even in green lights, check the safety of your surroundings. Although the traffic light is red, you can proceed in the direction of the arrow. ※The yellow arrow signal is for streets only.		Blinking red lights Stop: Check right and left before proceeding.
	Blinking yellow lights Caution: Check for pedestrians and vehicles coming from the right or the left.		Blinking red lights There are single-type flashing signals in the suburbs. They function the same as the three-colored signals.

References: Road Planning Division, Construction Department, Hokkaido Regional Development Bureau http://www.hkd.mlit.go.jp/ziyoku/z_doro/loru/
Data (Sept. 2007)