

11. The Ishikari River (Municipalities of the Ishikari Basin)

This great river starts in the Taisetsu Mountains, shapes the vast plains of Kamikawa, Sorachi and Ishikari and flows into the Sea of Japan. It is the mother river that played an important part for transportation and shipping despite repeated flooding throughout the history of the development of Hokkaido. The river carries the history and culture of Hokkaido, such as salmon fishing. Ishikari, the city at the mouth of the river, undertook a project in 2002 to hand down the skills and the culture of salmon fishing using seine nets to the next generation.



12. Bricks of Ebetsu (Ebetsu)

The Hokkaido colonization office encouraged the use of bricks for building materials as a part of inland development. Many famous buildings, including the Hokkaido government Red Brick office building, were constructed with the bricks produced by seventeen factories in eight regions of Hokkaido. After the Taisho period, the center for producing bricks moved to the outskirts of Nopporo in Ebetsu which has the best clay in Hokkaido and three factories are producing bricks at present. Over 400 beautiful brick buildings, including elementary schoolhouses, silos, private houses and so on remain in use in Ebetsu.



13. Hokkaido University, the Sapporo Agricultural College Farm No.2 (Sapporo)

The model cattle stall and the granary remaining at farm No.2, - the oldest facility of Hokkaido University founded in 1877 - were conceived to recreate a dairy farm as a model of the modernization of Japanese agriculture by Dr. Clark. In order to convey the history of modern agriculture, the exhibit includes valuable features such as machinery imported when the farm was established in the early Meiji period. It is open to the public from spring to autumn.



14. The European Architecture in the era of Hokkaido Colonization Office (The Clock Tower, Houheikan, Seikatei and etc.) (Sapporo)

The Clock Tower and Houheikan in Sapporo show the achievements of the colonization officers who were in charge of the early stage of politics in Hokkaido and show the spirit of Hokkaido that led to civilization and enlightenment. The Clock Tower is the symbol of Sapporo and its hall on the second floor has become a popular place for concerts in recent years. As for the European architecture of the early Meiji period, including semi-Western styles, the Bureau of Industry office building, Seikatei, Nagayama's Residence and the agricultural architecture of Sapporo Agricultural College still remain.



15. The Factories and Memorial Halls in Naebo, Sapporo (Sapporo)

The district east of the Sousei River in Sapporo has flourished as the "Industrial District" due to the infiltration of water from the Toyohira River and the ease of shipping goods since the Meiji period. Because it is still very lively with various factories and warehouses, including the Fukuyama Brewery, the area still has an old downtown atmosphere. The Hokkaido Railway Technical Museum, the Sapporo Beer Museum and the Snow Brand Milk Products Archives around Naebo station include useful information and are worth visiting to learn about the industrial history of Hokkaido.



16. Otaru Minato Harbor and Breakwater (Otaru)

The north breakwater, constructed by the father of harbor engineering Isamu Hiroi, was designed after the example of the Colombo harbor in Ceylon (present Sri Lanka), and is the first large-scale breakwater that applied the unique inclination block method of construction in Japan. Along with the south breakwater, in which the caisson method of construction was applied, the north breakwater is still in active service. Otaru Minato harbor, which is protected by the breakwaters, became the entrance port for migration to Hokkaido and furthered the prosperity of the merchant city Otaru as a trading port and as a base of distribution.



17. Nikka Whisky Yoichi Distillery (Yoichi)

Masataka Taketsuru chose Yoichi as the most suitable place to pursue his ideal whisky production because of the clear air, the mild climate in summer, and its fine quality of peat. Nikka Whisky Yoichi Distillery has been using the same manufacturing method of distilling and storing whisky since its pot was ignited and malt whisky production was started in 1936.



18. The Shakotan Peninsula and the Cape Kamui (The Shakotan peninsula)

The Shakotan peninsula has a long history of development as a huge herring fishery area. The coast of the Cape Kamui has a great view of a precipitous bluff and the sea is described as "Shakotan Blue." In addition to the precious nature and the long history of the industry, there remain a banya (watch house), agebaato (former fish unloading place), fukuroma (former fishpond), and old tunnels and highways. Smoking has been prohibited everywhere inside Cape Kamui in order to protect the scenery.



19. Natural Water Spring in Kyogoku (Kyogoku)

Rain and thawed snow on Mt.Yotei, known as "Ezofuji," becomes the blessed spring water, which has been seeping into the underground for 50 to 70 years filtered by minerals. The spring water of Kyogoku is one of the largest springs in Japan and it generates 80,000 tons of water everyday which can support 300,000 people. In 1985, the water was selected as one of the "100 Selections of Best Water" by the Environment Agency and a number of people come to seek the tasty water created by nature.



20. Skiing and the Niseko Mountains (Niseko area)

For people in Hokkaido, which gets severely cold and covered by snow in winter, skiing has been the most popular pastime. Skiing started to be considered "The Leisure of Winter" in the 1960s in Japan and the Niseko Mountains are one of the best ski areas, celebrated since the early 1960s. Today, since there are many kinds of entertainment in Japan, the area has become a base not only for winter sports, but also new outdoor sports throughout the year.



21. Beech Forests at the Northern Boundary (Kuromatsunai)

Beech is representative of trees in Temperate Zones and those in Japan grow only in the Oshima peninsula of Hokkaido. Kuromatsunai is its northern boundary and the Kuromatsunai Lowland, which lies between Oshamanbe on the Pacific and Suttu on the Sea of Japan, is the border. In the beech forests at the northern boundary, some have begun to re-consider the role of the beech forests, for instance, establishing a nature-school to teach people about nature. Also, in Nanae, there remains a man-made beech forest planted by R. Gartner from Prussia (present day Germany) who lived there at the end of the 1800s.



22. Showashinzan International Snowball Fight Festival (Sobetsu)

Snowball fights, which are usually considered a game for children, have been established as a serious competition for adults, and it has become a new sport suitable for the "Snow Country" Hokkaido. Everything is run by citizens, such as making the rules and the equipment, gathering funds, planning, and managing. The event began in 1989 through the passion and ideas of the young people of Sobetsu, and it has spread outside of Japan and now snowball fights, called "Yukigassen" in Japanese, are being held overseas in such places as northern Europe.



23. Noboribetsu Onsen (hot spring) Jigoku-Dani (Noboribetsu)

Jigoku-Dani, or "Hell Valley," is the source of Noboribetsu Onsen, one of the most famous hot springs in Hokkaido. There are 15 so-called "Hell-pits," including the biggest, Ojigoku, at the bottom of the valley which is 450 meters in diameter, and which produces 3,000 liters of water per minute. Noboribetsu Onsen is described as "the department store of hot springs" because its eleven different types of water are rare throughout the world. Around Jigoku-Dani spreads the Ooyu Pond, whose surface temperature is from 40 to 50 degrees Celsius, Mt.Hiyori, which lets out smoke from top and famous for its alpine plants, and the Noboribetsu Wild Forest.



24. The Remains of Jomon Culture on the Coast of Uchiura Gulf (Hakodate, Date, etc.)

The Uchiura Gulf used to be the exchange route connecting Hokkaido and Honshu (the largest island in Japan) and in Minamikayabe, Hakodate, there are more than 4 million artifacts such as elaborate lacquered products at 89 sites including the Ofune remains, which is the largest remains of a Japanese village. Kitaogon midden is a remnant from 7,000 to 4,000 years ago, and houses and a very rare "waterside ritual place" discovered there.

