

1 Sorachi River Outcrop Coal Seam
Akabira City
Discovered in 1857 by Matsura Takeshiro, later inspected by Enomoto Takeaki, and American geologist Lyman who was hired by the Hokkaido Development Commission. The first field in Sorachi was confirmed. ("Can be seen in the distance from the observation deck")
Akabira Coal Mine Heritage Guidance Facility Phone: 0125-74-6505
Facility Hours: 9:30 ~ 17:00 Closed Mondays and Tuesdays

10 Hokutan Ikushunbetsu Coal Mine Nishiki Shaft Tower
Mikasa City
Construction of the Ikushunbetsu vertical shaft tower began in 1917. When completed it was 215 meters deep, with a hard pit head 10 meters high is the oldest vertical shaft in Hokkaido. The steel bones of the shaft bear the seal of Kyushu Hachiman Steelworks.
Mikasa Geopark Promotion Association Phone: 01267-2-3997
http://www.city.mikasa.hokkaido.jp/geopark/

16 Hokutan Akama Coal Mine Slagheap
Akabira City
A mound created from discarding slag that is produced when sorting coal, now the landmark of Akabira. The 777 straight "Slagheap Stairs" are the longest in Japan. (Climbing is only permitted during months without snow.)
Akabira City Construction Department Management and Planning Section Phone: 0125-32-1821

2 Hokutan Horonai Coal Mine Otowa Pithead
Mikasa City
1879: The first shaft of Horonai coal mine to be dug, approximately 700 meters long. The beginning of modern coal mining in Hokkaido. (Viewable from the footpath)
Mikasa Geo Park Promotion Association Phone: 01267-2-3997
https://www.city.mikasa.hokkaido.jp/geopark/

11 Mitsubishi Bibai Coal Mine Vertical Pit Tower
Bibai City
Built in 1923, this is the second oldest vertical pit tower in Hokkaido, and the only one of its kind in Japan. Two vents, one for intake, one for exhaust live up side by side; currently the site is open to the public as part of the Coal Mine Memorial Forest Park.
Bibai City Maintenance Division City Maintenance Section Phone: 0126-62-3131
https://www.city.bibai.hokkaido.jp/sochi/21601.html

17 Saitan Kyukoku Kofu-no-Zou
Yubari City
Statue of Coal Miner Mining to Save the Country
This concrete statue (3.63 meters high) built in 1944 was a symbol of Yubari, the city of coal mining. It is not merely a familiar icon to citizens of Yubari, but also carries a message to the citizens of Japan. "Currently closed to the public"
Municipal Tangible Cultural Property of Yubari
Yubari City Board of Education Phone: 0123-57-7711

3 Former Kabuto Shujikan (prison) Main Building (Tsukigata Kabato Museum) Sorachi Brick Chimney (prison) Brick Chimney
Tsukigata Town, Mikasa City
Kabato Shujikan (prison) was established in 1881, the Sorachi Shujikan in 1882. The prisoners were forced to build highways and work the coal mines.
Tsukigata Kabato Museum Phone: 0126-53-2399
Museum Hours: April ~ November 9:30 ~ 17:00
Mikasa Geopark Promotion Association Phone: 01267-2-3997

12 Takinoue Hydroelectric Power Plant
Yubari City
Built as a power source for the Hokutan coal mine, operation of the power plant began in 1925, supplying electricity all the way to Utsunomiya some 100 kilometers away. (Only the exterior is viewable between April and November)
Hokkaido Industry Bureau Yubari River Hydroelectric Power Management Office Phone: 0123-57-2542
https://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/hid/takinoue.html

18 Portrait of Citizen's Court
Bibai City
The portrait of the citizen's court depicts the symbolic event which took place during the post-war labor movement, where union members gathered inside the town hall, and for 36 hours held hostage administrative leaders, demanding improvement of labor conditions.
Bibai Local History Museum Phone: 0126-62-1110
https://www.city.bibai.hokkaido.jp/sochi/21601.html

4 Yubari Coal Mine Large Coal Outcrop (Yubari 24 Foot Shaft)
Yubari City
Discovered in 1888 by Hokkaido government technician, Ban Ichitaro. The shaft, one of the largest is 7.3 meters (24 shafts) wide, 10 meters thick. It is not merely a rarity, but the starting point of history in Yubari. ("Currently closed to the public")
Monument of Hokkaido
Yubari City Board of Education Phone: 0123-57-7711
https://www.city.yubari.lg.jp/kankou/minasoutaken/daioutou.html

13 Hokutan Shin Horonai Coal Mine Entrance
Mikasa City
Though the mine experienced three gas explosion accidents, it began shipping coal in 1934. The mine also became the forerunner for methane gas use inside the coal shafts. (Only the exterior is viewable. Entrance to the premises is prohibited.)
Mikasa Geopark Promotion Association Phone: 01267-2-3997
http://www.city.mikasa.hokkaido.jp/geopark/

19 Former Sakae Elementary School (Kan Yasuda Sculpture Museum - Arte Plaza Bibai)
Bibai City
Built in 1949, the elementary school reached its peak in 1959 when there were 30 classes, a total of 1,250 elementary school students. The venue currently serves as an art gallery displaying the art of famous sculptor Yasuda Kan. The former school building and gymnasium are a Municipal Tangible Cultural Property of Bibai.
NPO Arte Plaza Bibai Phone: 0126-63-3137
https://www.artepiazza.jp/ Gallery hours: 9:00 ~ 17:00 Closed: Every Tuesday, and the day following a holiday (excluding Sundays, New Years Holiday)

5 Kobayashi Shuzo Sake Brewery Buildings
Kuriyama Town
Moved in 1900 to Kuriyama near Yubari, Kobayashi increased its shipments as it became a familiar and loved sake by coal miners. Numerous kura (stone warehouses) made of brick and limestone are scattered throughout the premises, contributing to the beauty of the town. Designated National Tangible Cultural Property.
Kuramoto Kitano Nishiki Memorial Hall (Kobayashi Sake Brewery and Store) Phone: 0123-76-9292
http://www.kitanonishiki.com/ Brewery Hours: April ~ October 10:00 ~ 17:00, November ~ March 10:00 ~ 16:00 Closed Tuesdays

14 Former Hokutan Yubari Coal Mine Model Shaft (Yubari Coal Mine Museum)
Yubari City
A portion of the supplementary shaft from Tenryu coal shaft was utilized as a display in 1929. The facility is a rarity even in Japan, offering tours underground to view actual coal seams and machinery used to excavate the coal. ("Currently closed to the public")
Designated National Tangible Cultural Property
Yubari Coal Mine Museum Phone: 0123-52-5500
Museum Hours: April ~ September 19:00 ~ 17:00, October ~ November 10:00 ~ 16:00 Closed Tuesdays

20 Former Raijo Elementary School (Current Seisa University) School Building and Gymnasium
Ashibetsu City
Built in 1954, the straight 106-meter-long school building made of brick, houses 36 classrooms, and when seen from above is shaped like the word "L", meaning mountain in Japanese. The geometric form of timber truss which supports the roof of the gymnasium, is a unique characteristic of the building. (Only the exterior is viewable)
Designated National Tangible Cultural Property
Ashibetsu City General Affairs Department Planning and Policies Section Town Revitalization Promotion Section Phone: 0124-27-7061
http://www.city.ashibetsu.hokkaido.jp/kankou/tanteku/

6 Former Hokutan Yubari Coal Mine Tenryu Shaft
Yubari City
Opened in 1900, the fact that the intake and exhaust vents are a pair, and the red brick mine entrance is beautifully designed, are characteristic of this coal mine. ("Currently closed to the public")
Designated National Tangible Cultural Property
Yubari Board of Education Phone: 0123-57-7711

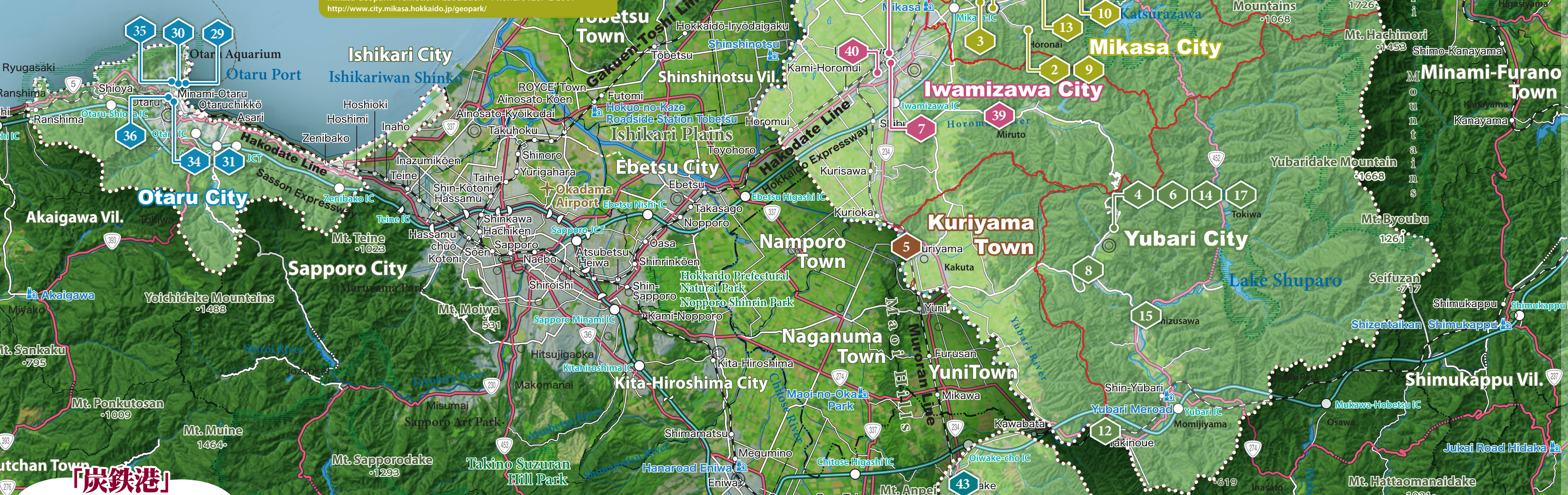
15 Former Hokutan Shimizusawa Hydroelectric Power Plant
Yubari City
Similar to the Takinoue Hydroelectric Plant, the Shimizusawa Hydroelectric plant was built and began operations in 1940 to supply energy to the coal mine. (Only the exterior of the facility is viewable.)
Hokkaido Industry Bureau Yubari River Hydroelectric Power Management Office Phone: 0123-57-2542
https://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/hid/shimizusawa.html

21 Mikasa City Hall
Mikasa City
Built in 1956, the Y-shaped building closely resembles the Tokyo Kosei Hospital which drew much attention from the public at that time. It depicts the force of a thriving coal mining town facing municipal organization.
Mikasa Geopark Promotion Association Phone: 01267-2-3997
http://www.city.mikasa.hokkaido.jp/geopark/

7 Coal-mining Heritage Management Center Ishigura
Iwamizawa City
Stone warehouse built in 1909, vestiges of its railway days still remain. The center has been in operation since 2009, and serves as an information hub where "memories of coal mining days" are shared.
NPO Coal Mine Memorial Promotion Foundation Phone: 0126-24-9901
http://www.mc.sorachi.com/index.html Facility Hours: 10:30 ~ 17:30 Closed Mondays and Tuesdays

8 Former Hokutan Shikanotani Club (Yubari Rokumeikan)
Yubari City
Established in 1913, the welfare facility has been used for meetings, conferences, and to entertain guests and VIPs of Hokutan. The bedroom and kitchen underwent major renovations in 1954, when the facility welcomed the Showa Emperor. (Only the exterior is viewable)
Designated National Tangible Cultural Property
Yubari Regional Developmental Section Phone: 0123-52-3128

9 Horonai Power Substation
Mikasa City
Built in 1919, old electric switchboards remain even today. Situated in the middle of the approximately 100-meter long private power grid between Yubari and Utsunomiya, it is one of the few facilities marking the dawn of long distance power distribution. (Only the exterior is viewable)
Mikasa Geopark Promotion Association Phone: 01267-2-3997
http://www.city.mikasa.hokkaido.jp/geopark/



「炭鉄港」
Searching for Treasure
Tan-Tetsu-Ko
Coal, Foundries & Steel Works / Railways, Ports
Cultural Properties MAP

Constituent Cultural Properties
Tangible and intangible cultural properties pertinent to telling the Tan-Tetsu-Ko story
1-23: Coal Mining 24-28: Foundries 29-33: Ports and Bays 34-45: Railways
Some facilities are currently not open to the public.
Please be sure to confirm prior to your visit.

22 Sumitomo Ponbetsu Coal Mine Vertical Shaft and Surrounding Facilities
Mikasa City
Built in 1960 using German technology, the building was once admired as the forerunner of integration. However the mine closed 12 years later. (Only the exterior is viewable; trespassing is prohibited)
Mikasa Geopark Promotion Association Phone: 01267-2-3997
http://www.city.mikasa.hokkaido.jp/geopark/

24 Former Thermal Energy Power Plant (Japan Steel Works)
Muroran City
Coal-operated brick thermal power plant facility built in 1909. In order to procure self-generated energy required for producing steel, generators were imported from the United Kingdom. ("Currently closed to the public")
Japan Steel Works M&E (Co.) Muroran Manufacturing Company Daytime General Guidance and Administrative Group Phone: 0143-22-0143
http://www.jsw.co.jp/

27 Radial Engine [MURO] made by Japan Steel Works
Muroran City
The first ever planed engine built in Japan, built by Japan Steel Works in 1918. Directly commissioned by the defense force, this was the first plane engine in the nation. (Must apply in advance to view Municipal Museum Cultural Property)
Japan Steel Works M&E (Co.) Muroran Manufacturing Company Daytime General Guidance and Administrative Group Phone: 0143-22-0143
http://www.jsw.co.jp/

23 Sumitomo Akabira Coal Mine Vertical Shaft and Surrounding Facilities
Akabira City
Built in 1963, this vertical shaft is the improved version of the Sumitomo Ponbetsu vertical shaft. Guided tours inside the facility are offered twice a day, making this an extremely valuable facility, and allows for one to experience the massive scale of this coal mining industry. (Guided Tour Times)
Akabira City Coal Mine Guidance Facility Phone: 0125-74-6505
Hours: 9:30 ~ 17:00 Closed Mondays and Tuesdays

25 Ebisu and Daikokuten Sculpture
Muroran City
Built in 1909, this is the first steel sculpture to be built in Muroran. It was presented to affiliates of the company in honor of first lighting the blast furnace. (Japan Steel Works (Co.) North Japan Steel Works Muroran District - Open only to group reservations)
Muroran History Museum Tonten-Kan Phone: 0143-59-4922
http://www.city.muroran.lg.jp/ Muroran City Board of Education Phone: 0143-22-0143
http://www.muroran-city.jp/

28 Industrial Nightscapes and View of an Industrial City
Muroran City
The factories and large industrial facilities surrounding the port have become a popular spot to enjoy nightscapes. There are many stores and facilities near the company which remain today, showing a glimmer of its glory days.
Muroran Tourism Association Inc. Phone: 0143-23-0102

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26 Zuisenkaku
Muroran City
This Japanese inn was built in 1911 to host the Taisho Emperor when he was still a prince and visited the Japan Steel Works Muroran Steel Works Company. Today it is used as an inn to welcome VIP. (Not open to the public)
Japan Steel Works M&E (Co.) Muroran Manufacturing Company Daytime General Guidance and Administrative Group Phone: 0143-22-0143
http://www.jsw.co.jp/

29 Otaru Port North Breakwater
Otaru City
Built in 1908, this was the first authentic port of the country to be built and maintained by Isamu Hirasaka, director of the port construction office. Today, 100 years later, the breakwater still functions as the "first line breaker" for the port.
Hokkaido Development Bureau Otaru Development and Construction Department Otaru Port and Bay Office Phone: 0134-22-6131

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http://www.jsw.co.jp/

30 Hokutan Loader Foundation
Otaru City
Built in 1939, this was the foundation for the machinery to load coal from the trains onto the ships. It is the only one of its kind of loader that remains in Otaru Port today.
Otaru City Industrial Port Department Japan Heritage Personnel Phone: 0134-32-4111

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Hokkaido Development Bureau Otaru Development and Construction Department Otaru Port and Bay Office Phone: 0134-22-6131

31 Otaru's Ironai Banking District (Former Mitsui & Co., Ltd. and Former Mitsubishi Corporation Otaru Branch)
Otaru City
Major banks such as the Bank of Japan, Mitsui Bank and others that were built during the Meiji period line the streets, and along with merchant shops which handled coal tell the story of a time when the city flourished.
Hokkaido Chubu Bus Company Phone: 0134-25-3333
Open: Summer 9:00 ~ 19:00, Winter 9:00 ~ 18:00 (Former Mitsubishi Commerce Otaru Branch Office)

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Hokkaido Development Bureau Otaru Development and Construction Department Otaru Port and Bay Office Phone: 0134-22-6131

34 Former Temiya Line and Affiliate Facilities
Otaru City
The Temiya Line was opened in 1880 as the first railway in Hokkaido. The former railway line is utilized today as a free and open space for citizens in the central part of the city.
Otaru Construction Department Parks and Recreation Section Phone: 0134-32-4111
Otaru City Industrial Port Department Japan Heritage Personnel Phone: 0134-32-4111

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Otaru City Industrial Port Department Japan Heritage Personnel Phone: 0134-32-4111

35 Former Temiya Railway Facility
Otaru City
Ruins of a railway facility in Temiya which was once the center of railway transport during the government-owned Horonai railway days. The No. 3 Locomotive Garage built in 1885 is the oldest remaining locomotive garage. It currently houses steam locomotives which run occasionally. National Cultural Property.
Otaru Museum Phone: 0134-33-2523
Museum Hours: 9:30 ~ 17:00 Closed Tuesdays

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Hokkaido Chubu Bus Company Phone: 0134-25-3333
Open: Summer 9:00 ~ 19:00, Winter 9:00 ~ 18:00 (Former Mitsubishi Commerce Otaru Branch Office)

36 Otaru Chuo Ichiba
Otaru City
The Gan Gan Butai (brigade) utilized the railway to carry food supplies such as fresh fish, fish cakes and such packed into tin cans and wrapped in furukoshi (Japanese cloth) to coal miners in Sorachi.
Otaru Chuo Ichiba Cooperative Association Phone: 0134-25-3584
Facility Hours: 9:00 ~ 18:00 Closed Sundays and Holidays

32 Former Mitsubishi Limited Partnership Company Muroran Office
Muroran City
Built in 1915, the facility was used as an office for the Japan Coal Company (a conglomerate of companies handling coal at the time) during the war. Today it is owned and maintained by the former villa of Inoue Kaguro, the managing director of Hokutan at the time. (Not open to the public)
Muroran Centennial Architecture Preservation Association Phone: 0143-25-3320
Hours: 10:00 ~ 17:00 Closed Sat, Sun, and Holidays

37 Former Hokkaido Coal Mine Railway Iwamizawa Factory (Iwamizawa Rail Center)
Iwamizawa City
Built in 1889, this was an addition to the Temiya factory. The facility was responsible for building cars, and performing maintenance on the machinery. It is currently being used by JR Hokkaido. (Only the exterior is viewable)
Hokkaido Railway Company, Railway Projects Main Office Phone: 011-700-5800

33 Former Hokutan Muroran Maritime Club
Muroran City
Hokutan mariners' club built in 1926, the cabin-like feature is characteristic of the building. It was built on the ruins of the former villa of Inoue Kaguro, the managing director of Hokutan at the time. (Not open to the public)
Muroran City Economics Department Tourism Section Phone: 0143-25-3320

38 Former Muroran Train Station
Muroran City
Built in 1912, this building's roof and white walls possess the vestiges of Western-style architecture. The exterior of the facility is built with gabled roof, and covered arcade known as "Gangji" National Tangible Cultural Property.
Muroran Tourism Association Phone: 0143-23-0102
http://mura-tourism.com/ Facility Hours: April ~ October 8:00~19:00, November ~ March 8:00~17:00

39 Asahi Train Station
Iwamizawa City
Built in 1919, the station served as the hub for the Manji Line which transported coal from Manji, Murato, and Asahi coal mines. (Only the exterior is viewable)
Iwamizawa City Construction Department Parks and Green Space Environmental Section Parks and Green Space Projects Phone: 0126-35-4674

40 Iwamizawa Switchyard Ruins
Iwamizawa City
Construction of the cargo car facility began in 1922 and was completed in 1926. It is the central hub for the Hokkaido Main Line, Muroran Main Line, Horonai Line, and Manji Line, used to transport coal to the ports of Otaru and Muroran, as well as supplies to various regions such as Ishikari, Tokachi, and Kitami.
Iwamizawa City Planning and Finance Department Planning Room Planning Adjustment Section Phone: 0126-35-4834

41 Tomatsu Train Station
Mikasa City
The building was built in 1929 as the coal shipping station for the Sumitomo Karamatsu coal mine. The two gambrel roofs connecting the waiting room and station area are unique features of the building.
Mikasa Geopark Promotion Association Phone: 01267-2-3997
http://www.city.mikasa.hokkaido.jp/geopark/

42 Klaus 15 Steam Engine
Numata Town
Steam locomotive built in 1889 by the German Klaus company. It was imported by the Yubari Railway, then changed hands to the Rumoi Railway in 1931. Up until 1967 the locomotive was used by the Shown coal mine. Numata Municipal Cultural Property.
Numata Town Board of Education Phone: 0164-35-2132
Open to the public between early May and end of October

43 Steam Engine Class D51 #320
Abira Town
Built in 1939, the locomotive was used for transporting coal between Otaru, Chikho, and Oiwake district up until 1975. Today it is maintained by former locomotive operator. (Occasionally displayed outdoors!) Abira Municipal Cultural Property.
Abira Board of Education Phone: 0145-79-7036
Facility Hours: Early April ~ late October 9:00 ~ 18:00

44 Former Mitsui Ashibetsu Railway Coal Mine River Bridge
Ashibetsu City
Built in 1945, the bridge served the Mitsui coal mine exclusively. Diesel locomotive train carrying coal is displayed on the steel bridge, showing how coal was transported at that time. (Only the exterior is viewable)
National Tangible Cultural Property
Ashibetsu City General Affairs Department Planning and Policy Division Town Revitalization Promotion Section Phone: 0124-27-7061
http://www.city.ashibetsu.hokkaido.jp/kankou/tanteku/

45 Bibai Railway Tomei Station Class 4110, 10-wheel Connection Tank Locomotive #2
Bibai City
Station built for the Bibai Railway which opened in 1948. The locomotive was built in 1919. Inside the station house there are memories of advertisements, train schedules and more that tell the story of a town which flourished from the coal industry. (Closed during the winter) The locomotive is a Bibai Municipal Tangible Cultural Property.
Bibai City Board of Education Lifelong Learning Section Phone: 0126-62-3132
https://www.city.bibai.hokkaido.jp/sochi/21601.html

Uchiura Bay (Funka Bay)

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Akabira City Coal Mine Guidance Facility Phone: 0125-74-6505
Hours: 9:30 ~ 17:00 Closed Mondays and Tuesdays

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Muroran History Museum Tonten-Kan Phone: 0143-59-4922
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Hokkaido Development Bureau Otaru Development and Construction Department Otaru Port and Bay Office Phone: 0134-22-6131

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Otaru City Industrial Port Department Japan Heritage Personnel Phone: 0134-32-4111

31 Otaru's Ironai Banking District (Former Mitsui & Co., Ltd. and Former Mitsubishi Corporation Otaru Branch)
Otaru City
Major banks such as the Bank of Japan, Mitsui Bank and others that were built during the Meiji period line the streets, and along with merchant shops which handled coal tell the story of a time when the city flourished.
Hokkaido Chubu Bus Company Phone: 0134-25-3333
Open: Summer 9:00 ~ 19:00, Winter 9:00 ~ 18:00 (Former Mitsubishi Commerce Otaru Branch Office)

32 Former Mitsubishi Limited Partnership Company Muroran Office
Muroran City
Built in 1915, the facility was used as an office for the Japan Coal Company (a conglomerate of companies handling coal at the time) during the war. Today it is owned and maintained by the former villa of Inoue Kaguro, the managing director of Hokutan at the time. (Not open to the public)
Muroran Centennial Architecture Preservation Association Phone: 0143-25-3320
Hours: 10:00 ~ 17:00 Closed Sat, Sun, and Holidays

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Muroran City
Hokutan mariners' club built in 1926, the cabin-like feature is characteristic of the building. It was built on the ruins of the former villa of Inoue Kaguro, the managing director of Hokutan at the time. (Not open to the public)
Muroran City Economics Department Tourism Section Phone: 0143-25-3320

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Otaru City Industrial Port Department Japan Heritage Personnel Phone: 0134-32-4111

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Ruins of a railway facility in Temiya which was once the center of railway transport during the government-owned Horonai railway days. The No. 3 Locomotive Garage built in 1885 is the oldest remaining locomotive garage. It currently houses steam locomotives which run occasionally. National Cultural Property.
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30 Hokutan Loader Foundation
Otaru City
Built in 1939, this was the foundation for the machinery to load coal from the trains onto the ships. It is the only one of its kind of loader that remains in Otaru Port today.
Otaru City Industrial Port Department Japan Heritage Personnel Phone: 0134-32-4111

31 Otaru's Ironai Banking District (Former Mitsui & Co., Ltd. and Former Mitsubishi Corporation Otaru Branch)
Otaru City
Major banks such as the Bank of Japan, Mitsui Bank and others that were built during the Meiji period line the streets, and along with merchant shops which handled coal tell the story of a time when the city flourished.
Hokkaido Chubu Bus Company Phone: 0134-25-3333
Open: Summer 9:00 ~ 19:00, Winter 9:00 ~ 18:00 (Former Mitsubishi Commerce Otaru Branch Office)

32 Former Mitsubishi Limited Partnership Company Muroran Office
Muroran City
Built in 1915, the facility was used as an office for the Japan Coal Company (a conglomerate of companies handling coal at the time) during the war. Today it is owned and maintained by the former villa of Inoue Kaguro, the managing director of Hokutan at the time. (Not open to the public)
Muroran Centennial Architecture Preservation Association Phone: 0143-25-3320
Hours: 10:00 ~ 17:00 Closed Sat, Sun, and Holidays

33 Former Hokutan Muroran Maritime Club
Muroran City
Hokutan mariners' club built in 1926, the cabin-like feature is characteristic of the building. It was built on the ruins of the former villa of Inoue Kaguro, the managing director of Hokutan at the time. (Not open to the public)
Muroran City Economics Department Tourism Section Phone: 0143-25-3320

34 Former Temiya Line and Affiliate Facilities
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