

【Beautiful scenes of Nemuro】

Cape Nosappu

Cape Nosappu, one of the most famous landmarks in Hokkaido, is the easternmost accessible point of Japan and presents the oldest lighthouse of the prefecture (1872).

On a clear day, visitors can observe the Northern Territories, the four Kuril Islands, such as Habomai island and Kunashiri Island.

Many interesting landmarks can be visited, such as the Northern Territories History center, the Aurora Tower, as well as various souvenir shops and restaurants.

An arch-shaped monument housing a perpetual flame, called Shima-no-kakehashi (the four islands bridge) greets visitors on their arrival to the cape.

It symbolizes the hope of returning the Northern Territories to Japan.



Kuruma Ishi 'Wheel Stone'

Hanasaki headlands overlook this well-known monument of the Nemuro area.

Directly beneath the Hanasaki Lighthouse, made from natural erosion of basalt stones, this huge car wheel-shaped rock formation can be admired.

Over 6 meters in diameter, this is a rare natural monument of Japan.

One can only be amazed while looking at this unique earth built formation.

Bus: Hanasaki Minato, get off at Seicomart and follow sign directions (20 minutes walk)



Lake Furen

Lake Furen is located at the base of the Nemuro Peninsula, where sea water and spring water blend.

Surrounded by the vast forest and appreciated for its varied environment and beautiful nature.

Lake Furen is also the home of Japan's largest swan habitat as well as more than 330 bird species, therefore a great, nationally renowned location for bird watching.

The best opportunities to observe swans are from the end of October with the peak season mid November.

From bus stop: Swan 44



Shunkunitai

Shunkunitai is a 3km long sandbar and a well-known location for observing birds, such as Japanese Red Crowns, Stellar's sea Eagles, in their natural habitat.

We can observe a wide array of local flowers such as Japanese roses (Hamanasu) and sea asparagus (Sangosou), and Akaezo pines, a rare type of trees.

Shunkunitai is a rich and valuable natural environment. Make sure to visit the nature center for more information about bird observation.

The center provides useful information about the wildlife and nature around the Nemuro peninsula, and Akaezo pines, a rare type of trees.

Bus: Tobai stop Nature Center
Bus Line: 1.Attoko line,
2.Nakashibetsu airport line



Cape Ochiishi

Cape Ochiishi spreads through the Pacific Ocean for about 20 km towards the southwest of the Nemuro Peninsula.

The area offers breathtaking landscapes along various walking paths and presents a variety of wild flowers from early June, such as sakaitsumuji.

Below the cliffs, in the rough Pacific ocean, visitors can observe seals basking in the sun, and, if they're lucky, they can also see sea otters playing on the reefs.



JR Line Ochiishi stop. And walk for about 50min.

Lake Onneto

Lake Onneto is a 15km round lake surrounded by deep spruce forests.

Because it leads to Nemuro Bay, it is a mixture of spring water and sea water.

Wide beaches are visible a variety of birds such as Japanese cranes and swans, can be seen.



Bus: get off at Kyodochi in front of Onneto port.

Hoppo Gensei Kaen (Northern Garden)

Located on the Okhotsk seashore of the Nemuro Peninsula, the Northern Garden is a long meadow of about 75 hectares that present the very first spring flower blooms in the Nemuro region.

More than 100 different kinds of flowers can be seen on this site, such as iris, daylily, and many other specimens of colorful flowers, trees and plants.

The types of flowers and their time of appearance vary from spring to late autumn.

This eye-pleasing landscape displays wonders of colorful nature, and is worth a detour despite its distance from the city.



No bus, call taxi (Japanese only)

Hamamatsu Coast

This natural paradise is home to many species of rare wild animals such as the tufted puffin and sea otter.

This area is renowned for displaying kelp to dry in the summer and offers superb views of the cliffs merging to the ocean.



JR Ochiishi station, walk 20 minutes.

Lake Choboshi

Located about 3km away from JR Nishiwada Station, Lake Choboshi is surrounded by mixed forests and luxurious nature.

Kannon Buddhist statues can be seen in this area, but since bears have recently been observed nearby taking the walking path around the lake is prohibited.

Bird watching, hiking and fishing are appreciated activities in this area.

JR train from Nemuro station: get off at Nishiwada and walk for about 40 minutes.



Meiji Park

Meiji Park is at the center of the Nemuro Peninsula.

This park was built on the second oldest ranch park in Hokkaido (1875), and three brick silos were built during the 1930's symbolizing the flourishing agriculture industry in the Nemuro area.

The soothing charm of this landmark has attracted many people from around the Nemuro region and a large amount of tourists every year.

Bus: Meiji cho 1chome (bound for Nosappu Misaki)



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- Photo by Jessica Gagnon and Nemuro tourism association



Nemuro cuisine

Escaloppe (エスカロップ)

A signature dish of Nemuro, escaloppe has been created in 1967 by Nemuro chefs aiming to offer workers a flavourful and satisfying meal.

Butter rice topped with slices of pork cutlets in a sauce, accompanied by fresh vegetables and a small potato salad, escaloppe is a delicacy that satisfies anyone who tries it!



Stamina Rice (スタミナライス)

A flavourful blend of rice, vegetables, pieces of pork cutlet and/or shrimp, according to your order.

Tasty and filling, stamina rice is an energy-giving meal rich in protein.

New Kaori chefs invented this dish, typical of Nemuro's cuisine.



Oriental Rice (オリエンタルライス)

Rice fried with curry powder, with a hanger beefsteak, in demi-glacesource. Subtly seasoned and satisfying, oriental rice is the local's favourite.



Sanma roll (根室さんまロール寿司)

Nemuro's famous delicacy! Made with typical Nemuro ingredient, first harvested konbu (kelp) of the year, fresh saury fish and cucumber julienne, sesame seeds and rice.

Only available in Nemuro a unique delicacy that embeds typical Nemuro flavours.

First harvested kelp, renowned for its freshness and tender taste, perfectly combines with the delicate sweetness of the raw Nemuro saury.



Kaiten Zushi (回転寿司)

Kaiten Zushi, also known as conveyor belt sushi, is convenient and reasonably priced. As you can take what ever sushi You like straight off the conveyor belt as if comes past your table. You can also give your order to the chef if you don't see Your preference on the belt.



Kita no Katsu (地酒 北の勝)

Locally brewed sake, established in 1887 by Usui. A smooth taste with a certain sweetness makes this easily drinkable sake ideal for any occasion. Try the Matsuri summer bottle, or the small sealed glass with colourful Hanasaki crab illustrations.



Oranda Senbei (オランダせんべい)

A sweet treat unique to Nemuro, a large soft galette with a waffle texture.



Hanasaki crab (花咲かに)

Nemuro's famous small yet delightful crab is a favourite of tourists, its flavour is rich and full, distinguishable for other types of larger crabs.



Habomai Konbu (歯舞昆布)

Kelp harvested in Habomai is renowned for its quality.

A special soy sauce, with Habomai kelp flavour, has been created.



Ainu Castle “Chashi” Information

There are 500 Ainu chashi(fort/castle) in Hokkaido, with 32 in Nemuro among which 24 are part of the Japanese Cultural Heritage (16th to 18th century).

Those 24 Chashi are well preserved and have a greater cultural importance than the other ones in Hokkaido. Unlike others Chashi, those are often found on a cliff, facing the ocean, its a location allowing the Ainu finding food and traveling by means of the sea.

They are also larger in scale and they have distinctive half-circle and square shapes.



Relevant Locations:

- 1) Notukamafu - from Nemuro station, 20 minutes by car
- 2) Onnemoto Chashi - from Nemuro station, 40 minutes by car,
or take the bus bound for Nosappu Misaki, and walk 30 minutes from the cape
- 3) Nemuro Museum of Fishery and Nature, take the bus ride
15 minutes bound for Hanasaki station and get off at Kuruma ishi station.

Festivals

Bon odori, mid-July

Bon odori is a festival to honor the spirit of the ancestors.

Both children and adults come to dance at Bon odori.

Children spend a lot of time creating their own interesting, colourful costumes to wear at this event, some of which are based off popular characters.



Minato Matsuri, mid-July

During this festive summer celebration, a big cruise ship berths in Nemuro port to take off on a free cruise around the Nemuro Bay.

Up to 200 people can board, on Sunday only.

There's also a boat race competition, 5 boats with 7 to 8 people paddling to win the race.

There are people dancing in the street wearing traditional costumes(yukata), a junior brass band concert, and a big fireworks finale.



Konpira Matsuri

A historical and traditional festival that is popularly known among locals.

Held every year on August 9th-11th, Konpira Matsuri is one of the top 3 largest festivals in Hokkaido.

There is a parade on the 10th of August, where 110 people carry a 2tonne portable shrine from Konpira Shrine to Midori-cho in the centre of town, and back again

On the 11th of August.

The street of Midori-cho is filled with Market stalls.

On the first night of the festival 4 floats from the different areas

Of Nemuro come together and compete, with music and performances.

On the 2nd night they perform Taiko(Japanese drums) and Kanabou(dancing with a metal rod with rings).



Kani Matsuri

Nemuro port on the first weekend of September, Saturday and Sunday.

In a festive ambiance, enjoy one of Nemuro's most famous delicacies, Hanasaki Crab.

A little smaller and spikier than Japanese snow crab, its flesh has a rich flavor and is highly appreciated by locals and tourists.

Try it out of many crab dishes, such as Hanasaki crab yakisoba, curry, soup and barbecue grilled.

Savor them while enjoying live music and dance performances or shopping for crab-related souvenirs.

For real crab lovers, a crab eating competition is organized, and winners can go home with some more crab as a prize!



Sanma matsuri

Nemuro Port on the 3rd week of September
from 12 pm to 8 pm Saturday, 9 am to 3 pm on Sunday.

Sanma, or saury, is Nemuro's pride! A sword-shaped silver fish with a distinctive flavor, Nemuro has the largest annual catch of Sanma in Japan.

Come to Nemuro port to enjoy all-you-can-eat fatty, high quality fish for only 100 yen, the price of a paper plate and chopsticks.

Long rows of grills are displayed along the port to cook all day long while enjoying a beer and other sea products also available for additional cost.

Some activities include catching your own fish from a basin, watching the live show performances and the evening fireworks.



Agriculture and Fisheries Festival (根室産業フェスティバル)

First week of October, Sunday

Hearty food lovers can come enjoy Nemuro's local products, such as rice, meat, fish, vegetables, etc.

Visitors can play games such as *Tamaire* ball toss game digging out clams or catch a live salmon from a basin.

There's a flea market including kitchenware, clothes and various second hand objects.

Happy Christmas Festival (ハッピークリスマス)

December: Meiji park

Take a walk in Meiji Park with festive colorful illuminations, enjoy baked goods and warm beverages while children can go on a sleigh ride pulled by reindeer.



Nemuro Bird Land Festival

The Nemuro Bird Land Festival is held every year at the end of January. By this time Lake Furen is frozen and a variety of birds including the rare Steller's Sea Eagle have migrated to the Lake area for winter. Even if you don't get a chance to go on one of the various guided tours available, the last weekend of January is the best time to come to Nemuro if you want to see eagles. On some of the tours during the festival, you get a chance to observe ice fishing and its relationship with the birds in Nemuro. As well as many other tours, the Bird Land Festival also includes a small indoor market where you can meet and support people from organizations working to help the local birds, and hear some lectures (in Japanese) on the subject.



Other Events

Northern Territories Awareness Walk

August or September

Every year, a walk is organized in Nemuro to raise awareness for the Northern Territories situation. 1200 people participate, and the walk which finishes at Cape Nosappu, is divided into 3 courses to choose from.

Courses are:

1. Kunashiri course 16 km
2. Suicyo course 7 km
3. Kaigara course 3.7 km