

A Otaru Town Map



Art Galleries & Museums

1 Otaru City Museum of Literature / Otaru City Art Museum

Location: Ironai 1-9-5 / 8-min. walk from JR Otaru Sta.
Otaru City Museum of Literature: Introducing the history of the city's literary circles through the writing, literary magazines, original works, and correspondence of writers connected with the city, including Otaru-born Kobayashi Takiji and Ito Sei. Tel. (0134) 32-2388. 9:30 am - 5:00 pm. Closed Mondays & days after national holidays. Adults: ¥300, high school students: ¥150, jr. high & elementary school students: free.
Otaru City Art Museum: Introducing the history of Otaru art circles, and work by Japanese and western-style painters connected with the city. Also, a memorial hall displaying work and documents concerning Otaru-born, western-style painter Nakamura Zensaku. Tel. (0134) 34-0035. 9:30 am - 5:00 pm. Closed Mondays & days after national holidays. Adults: ¥300, high school students: ¥150, jr. high & elementary school students: free.



2 Otaru Museum

As the birthplace of the railway network in Hokkaido, Otaru has a comprehensive museum housing many railway related documents. It also includes a planetarium, scientific displays and more.
 Location: Temiya 1-3-6.
 Tel: (0134) 33-2523.
 9:30 am - 5:00 pm. Closed on Tuesdays (or the following day if a national holiday falls on a Tuesday) ¥400 from 4/29 - 11/3. ¥300 from 11/4 - 4/28.



3 Otaru Museum(Annex) (Former Otaru Warehouse)

Introducing Otaru's historical and natural settings by reconstructing the old town in a warehouse built in 1891.
 Location: Temiya 2-1-20
 Tel: (0134) 22-1258.
 9:30 am - 5:00 pm every day. ¥300



4 Unga Plaza

A facility that utilizes the former Otaru Warehouse, Hokkaido's oldest warehouse building, which now contains displays of Otaru products and tourist information about Otaru and the Shiribeshi Region. The interior also houses a post office reconstructed in the style of the Taisho Period (1913 - 1925). Location: Ironai 2-1-20. Tel. (0134) 33-1661. 9:00 am - 6:00 pm every day (open until later during the summer and Christmas periods).



Historical Architecture

5 The former Otaru Branch of the Nihon Yusen Co. (Built in 1906 and currently designated as a National Heritage Structure)



This building that once housed one of Japan's major shipping companies, is an imposing stone-built European-style structure with an impressive interior that has been faithfully restored. Location: Ironai 3-7-8. Tel. (0134) 22-3316. 9:30 am - 5:00 pm every day except Tue. (unless this day falls on a public holiday). Adults: ¥300. High school students: ¥150. Take Otaru Sansaku Bus.

6 The Bank of Japan Otaru Museum (Built in 1912)



Designed by the architect Tatsuno Kingo, who also designed the bank's head office and the red-brick Tokyo Station. A beautifully shaped, solemn, renaissance-style brick-built structure (exterior in stone) with 5 large and small domes, etc. Used as the branch office until its closure in Sept. 2002, now open as a Financial Document Museum. Location: Ironai 1-11-16. 10-min. walk from JR Otaru Sta.

7 Former Temiya Line (Important cultural asset. Opened in 1880)



Hokkaido's first and Japan's third railway line, linking Otaru (Temiya) with Sapporo. Built for the purpose of transporting coal produced in Horonai, via the port of Otaru. The role of the Temiya Line came to an end in 1985, after which it was reborn as a spot familiar with both locals and tourists.