

How to Get to Sapporo, Hokkaido University and the Conference Venue

Introduction

It is possible to get to Hokkaido 北海道 from Honshu 本州 (Japan's biggest island) by ferry and by train. However, romantic as this might seem, unless you have time and money to spare these are not good options. You can take Japan's famed *Shinkansen* (bullet train) 新幹線 to Hakodate 函館. But from Hakodate you need to take a regular train (the *Hokuto* 北斗 express) to Sapporo 札幌. This takes over 4 hours and the *shinkansen* ticket in combination with the *Hokuto* ticket will cost you more than flying on one of Japan's many budget air carriers. The same is true of the ferry. It *can* be done if you have time and money, but you will need to take a train (or bus) when you arrive in Hakodate or Tomakomai 苫小牧 to get to Sapporo. Unless you have some time and money to spend, and know a bit of the Japanese language, flying into Hokkaido is your cheapest and most convenient option.

Airline and Airport Options

There are several domestic carriers and code-share flight options (See the website below). JAL (Japan Airlines) 日本航空 and ANA (All Nippon Airways) 全日空, and its subsidiary budget company AirDo, are the main national carriers, but smaller airlines like Peach, JetStar, and Skymark are options too. If you are buying your ticket less than a month in advance, then please do shop around. Differences in price can be quite substantial.

<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2365.html>

There is an airport, called Okadama 丘珠, within the Sapporo city limits. However, this airport seldom has arrival flights from outside Hokkaido. The following website has clear instructions on how to reach Sapporo's railway station from there.

<http://www.okadama-airport.co.jp/eng/access/index.html>

From Shin-Chitose to Sapporo

It is very likely that you will arrive at **Shin-Chitose Airport 新千歳空港**. And this is also the best airport option. It is very easy to navigate and has a fantastic website with English, Korean, two Chinese scripts, and of course Japanese.

<http://www.new-chitose-airport.jp/en/>

The fastest, cheapest, most convenient and reliable way to reach Sapporo is definitely by train (Japan Railway or JR)! The fare is approximately 1,100 yen or 11 US dollars. Taxi is a costly option (likely over 7,000 yen or about 70 US dollars). We would not recommend this unless you are stranded. The train and bus cost about the same, but the bus is slower, much slower during rush hour.

The JR Shin-Chitose Airport Station 新千歳駅 is located on the basement floor of the main airport building nearer to the domestic terminal. This terminal is connected with the international terminal by a long corridor (about a 5-minute walk). Once you get to the main airport building, where there are many souvenir shops and restaurants, look for the sign that says “**JR Line.**” If you are carrying large luggage, take the elevator located in the shopping area or one of the escalators nearby.



Airport elevator in the main building



JR Airport Express

You need to buy your ticket from the vending machine before you enter the platform. Again there are instructions in several languages and generally amiable staff to help you. As counter intuitive as it seems, you need to take the **train marked Airport (JR Rapid Airport Train) 快速エアポート**, though it is heading to Sapporo.

There is only one platform with two lines at JR Shin-Chitose Station 新千歳駅. Take any train you see there. Car 4 is for passengers with seat reservations. (You can buy one for 500 yen either at a ticket window or through a ticket vending machine). The train is bound for either

Otaru 小樽 or Asahikawa 旭川, but this does not matter because every JR *Airport* takes you to Sapporo. **Go all the way to Sapporo 札幌. Never get off at Shin-Sapporo 新札幌, which is one station before Sapporo.**

From Sapporo to Conference Venue

The conference venue is on the campus of **Hokkaido University** 北海道大学, frequently abbreviated as “Hokudai” 北大. It takes no more than 10 minutes to walk there from **JR Sapporo Station** 札幌駅. See the website below.

<https://www.oia.hokudai.ac.jp/about/visitors-access-maps/sapporo-campus-map/>

When you arrive at JR Sapporo Station, make your way out of the platform area (without forgetting your luggage and ticket) heading toward the **West gates** 西改札口. There are only two gates, East 東 and West 西. Once out, turn to your right, and this will automatically take you to the **North exit** 北口. You will see a **Mister Donut** on your right before exiting.

Take the North exit out of the station. Walk down the small stairs. Turn left and walk to the signal lights. Across the street you will see **Yodobashi Camera** ヨドバシカメラ. Cross the street and turn right in the direction of a **SevenEleven**. Go straight along until you see another convenience store named **Seicomart** (a good place for a *bento* pit stop). Cross the street and continue walking about 2 minutes. You will then see **the Main Gate** 正門 to Hokkaido University on your left.



Yodobashi Camera



Seicomart

Once you pass through the Main Gate, you will see the conference venue, called **Conference Hall** 学術交流会館, on your left. See the map below.



If you get lost anywhere near the station try asking anyone “sumimasen ga...hokkaido dai gaku wa doko desu ka?” (Excuse me, where is Hokkaido University?) ... with a bit of pointing and shrugging you will get here and we will be happy to see you!



Main Gate



Conference Hall