

Historical Heritage

JR Muroran Station



Engine Shed and Station Buildings, Prewar

The first Muroran Station was built in 1897, and the station was later relocated several times due to port expansions. This building, the fourth generation, was opened in 1997. Designed on the concepts of “wind-filled sails” and “whales and dolphins on the water”, it stands near the site of a former engine shed on the old station grounds.

Former Muroran Station Building

This is the oldest standing wooden station building in Hokkaido. It served large numbers of travelers as the last stop on the Muroran Main Line from 1912 to 1997. Although there have been various renovations, the Western-style architecture that was adopted during the Meiji period (1868-1912) is clearly visible in the hipped roof, whitewashed plaster walls, and the overhang that wraps around the front and sides. The steam locomotive was placed in 2019 and the facilities including this station building (Tantetsu Port) was registered in May 2019 as a Japan Heritage site.



View showing how busy the station would get

Environmental Science Museum/Library



Circa 1958

This longtime local institution traces its origin farther back than any other library in the region, to 1921 when it was established by the local school board. It was relocated several times due to disruptions before and during the war, and the current building was erected in 1958 through the sponsorship of the Muroran Works of Japan Steel Works. Renovation as a museum was completed in 2021. The library has a large collection of children's books and general literature, and numerous resources on the local area.

Muroran Ferry Terminal

The area around the current ferry dock in Muroran Port played a key role in the modernization of Japanese industry. This is where coal that was transported by train from the Sorachi district in central Hokkaido was loaded onto ships for transport to various locations on Japan's main island of Honshu. The elevated coal loading pier that had been built in the early 1900s with the most advanced technologies of the time was converted to a coal wharf around 1930, part of the continuing development of Muroran Port as the only coal shipping point in Hokkaido.



Loading coal from the elevated coal pier, circa 1910

Sapporo-dori Street



Circa 1960

In 1872, the first wharf in Muroran was constructed in Tokikaramoi (now Midoricho), which led to the building of a road to Sapporo, the capital of Hokkaido. Sapporo-dori is the name of the street running from the wharf to a small park, passing the entrance to the Hachimangu Shrine. This was the first part of Muroran to become urbanized.

Hamamachi-dori Street

In former times this neighborhood, then called Hamamachi, was the premier entertainment district of the Nishiiburi district. Early in its heyday the street was transformed into a roofed arcade (torn down in 2009), where it was said one could not walk without rubbing shoulders.



Circa 1972

Irie Seaside Park

Some of the history surrounding the port is told through monuments to Horace Capron who emphasized Muroran as an advisor to the Hokkaido Development Commission, and the novelist Yoshiki Hayama who portrayed the port and landscape of Muroran from his experience on merchant ships.

Walking in Minatomachi

(For more information, refer to the reverse side of this paper.)

Minatomachi means port town. Shipping facilities were opened along the fine natural harbor in 1872. The port grew rapidly as a major coal forwarding center, bringing an era of great prosperity that lives on in the Minatomachi townscape.

We invite you to step back in time and let the atmosphere of old Muroran surround you. See the other side for route details.

Tantetsu Port and Local Historic Route

(About 6 kilometers, 110 minutes)

In addition to passing many enjoyable spots in Minatomachi, this route goes around part of the coal and steel port (Tantetsu Port) facilities that were registered in May 2019 as a Japan Heritage site. Restaurants along the way are fine places to pause and reflect on old Muroran.

Umiake Seaboard Route

(About 4 kilometers, 80 minutes)

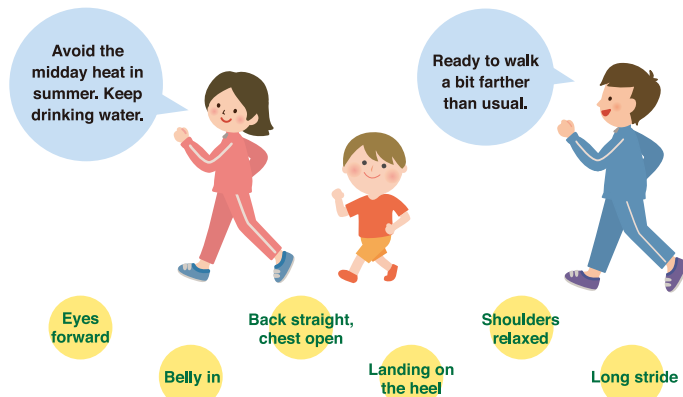
Umiake means the opening of the sea ice in spring, and it was the title of a masterpiece by the Akutagawa Prize-winning author and Muroran native, Yoshinori Yagi (1911-1999). Along the route is the Minato Literary Museum where one room is devoted to Yagi-related material including original manuscripts.

Route for Seeing the Remnants of Muroran Middle School

(About 3 kilometers, 70 minutes)

This route traces the origin and development of school buildings in Muroran, including some sites that are nostalgic for longtime residents.

..... For Your Walking Enjoyment



Scan the below QR code for the official website of Minatomachi Walking Path!



Scan below the QR code for the official website of Muroran Sightseeing Information!



Engineering Section, Urban Construction Department, Muroran City Office

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Muroran Minatomachi Walking Paths

Route Description

Tantetsu Port and Local Historic Route

About 6km 110 minutes 10,000 steps Calories used: 250, equivalent to 1.6 rice balls

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 JR Muroran Station | 7 Irie Seaside Park (Yoshiki Hayama Monument, Marker Commemorating Visit of Emperor Meiji) |
| 2 Minato Literary Museum | |
| 3 Former Muroran Station Building | 8 Muroran Ferry Terminal (Site of former elevated coal loading pier) |
| 4 Former Hokutan Muroran Seamen's Club | 9 Irie Sports Park |
| 5 Former Mitsubishi Company Branch Office | 10 Environmental Science Museum/Library |
| 6 Marker Commemorating Embarkation of Emperor Meiji | 11 Hamamachi-dori Street |
| | 1 JR Muroran Station |

Umiake Route

About 4 km, 80 minutes 6,700 steps Calories used: 180, equivalent to 1.2 rice balls

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|--|---|
| 1 JR Muroran Station | 5 Muroran Hachimangu Shrine |
| 2 Environmental Science Museum/Library | 6 Historical Streetscape Sign Literary History Sign |
| 3 Muroran Middle School Monument | 7 Former Muroran Station Building |
| (Hamamachi-dori Street) | 8 Minato Literary Museum |
| 4 Sapporo-dori Street | 1 JR Muroran Station |
- A short walk away . . .
 Yoshinori Yagi Monument
 Round trip about 2.7 km, 40 minutes, 4,500 steps
 Calories used: 120, equivalent to 0.7 rice balls

Route for Seeing the Remnants of Muroran Middle School

About 3 km, 70 minutes, 5,000 steps Calories used: 160, equivalent to 1.0 rice ball

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 JR Muroran Station | 5 Sapporo-dori Street |
| 2 Environmental Science Museum/Library | 6 Muroran Hachimangu Shrine |
| 3 Muroran Middle School Monument | 7 Former Muroran Station Building |
| 4 Arata Honda Monument (Former site of Tokiwa Elementary School) | 8 Minato Literary Museum |
| | 1 JR Muroran Station |
- A short walk away . . .
 Tokiwa Park
(Shimizugaoka High School Monument, Bonpei Namiki Monument)
 Round trip about 1.2 km, 20 minutes, 2,000 steps
 Calories used: 70, equivalent to 0.4 rice balls

