

Services

- ◆ Multilingual support (up to 8 languages: Ainu, Japanese, English, Chinese [Traditional and Simplified], Korean, Russian and Thai)
- ◆ Barrier-free access
- ◆ Free Wi-Fi

Shops and restaurants (cashless payment accepted)

Entrance Center Restaurant and Food Court

The restaurant has a view overlooking Lake Poroto, and the food court is a casual space where visitors can choose from a variety of dishes.



Entrance Center Shop

The shop has original Upopoy goods, Ainu crafts, Hokkaido souvenirs, snacks, and various everyday items.

◆Hours: 9:00am to Upopoy closing time



National Ainu Museum Shop

The shop carries Ainu crafts, original museum merchandise, and books. Visitors can purchase drinks and relax to enjoy the view overlooking Lake Poroto.

◆Hours: 9:00am to Upopoy closing time



Dates and Hours

9:00am to 5:00pm Subject to change depending on the period.

* Closed on Mondays and from December 29 to January 3
(If Monday is a holiday, closed on the next business day. Subject to temporary closure or opening.)

Admission (tax included)

	General visitors	Group visitors (20 or more)
Adult	1,200 yen	960 yen
High school student (16 to 18)	600 yen	480 yen
Junior high school student and younger (15 and under)	Free	Free

* Admission tickets to museum and park (excluding special exhibitions at museum and hands-on activities)

* In Japan, most students attend high school from age 16 to 18. If you are between 16 and 18, please ask for the high school price.

Contact

The Foundation for Ainu Culture

*Designated by Japanese government to manage Upopoy
2-3-2, Wakakusa-cho, Shiraoi Town, Shiraoi District, Hokkaido, Japan 059-0902
Phone: 0144-82-3914 Fax: 0144-82-3685
For inquiries during closing times, please use the inquiry form on the following website:
<https://ainu-upopoy.jp/en/inquiry/faq/>

Please check the latest information on the Upopoy website before visiting.

Upopoy Search

<https://ainu-upopoy.jp/en/>



アイヌの世界と
出会う場所。

Discover Ainu Culture



Shiraoi, Hokkaido



uaynukor kotan

Upopoy National Ainu Museum and Park

Upopoy (Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony)



Upopoy is a central facility that serves as the national center for the revival and the development of Ainu culture, which is under threat of extinction.

Upopoy is an Ainu name given to the National Ainu Museum and Park meaning "singing in a large group".

■ Main facilities at Upopoy

an=ukokor aynu ikor oma kenru

National Ainu Museum

Japan's first national museum featuring the indigenous Ainu people

P03•P04

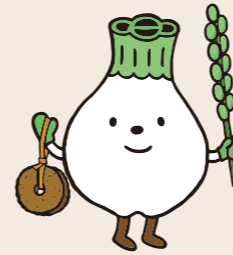
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National Ainu Park

Interactive open-air center with facilities including a Cultural Exchange Hall, Workshop, Kotan (Traditional Ainu Village), and Crafts Studio

P05•P06

Mascot of Upopoy Tureppon



turep

Turep means "bulb of a Giant Lily" in Ainu.

po

The affix po means "small".

Giant Lily

A perennial in the Cardiocrinum genus of the lily family, the giant lily is native to the forests of Hokkaido and northern half of Honshu. Along with salmon and deer, this was a valuable source of food for the Ainu, and the starch extracted from it can be used as a preserved food.

Experiencing Ainu culture at Upopoy

Upopoy offers a wealth of opportunities such as hands-on activities within the park and exhibitions at the National Ainu Museum to stimulate visitors' interest in the Ainu culture.

Point1 Discover

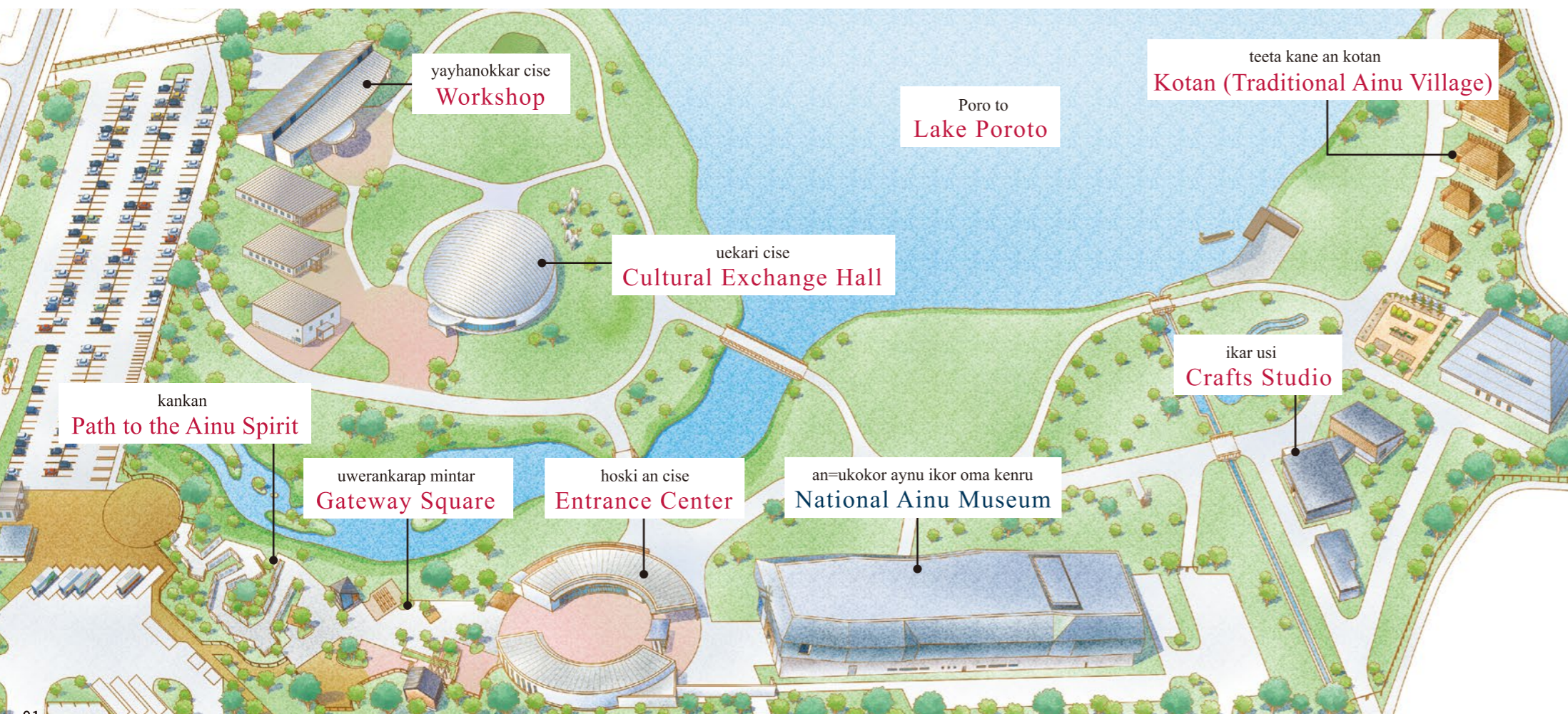
Witness the beauty of Ainu culture through unique traditions such as language and religious beliefs.

Point2 Feel

Experience Ainu culture through traditional performing arts, foods, and crafts.

Point3 Think

Learn more about the Ainu in relation to fields ranging from ethnology to nature, history, and culture.



sinnurappa usi Memorial Site



This facility is designed to collect the remains of the Ainu people with the understanding and cooperation of the people concerned, to realize dignified memorial services by the Ainu people, and to properly manage the remains until a formal Ainu system is in place. The structures for memorial events, gravesites, and monuments are on a hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean on the east side of Lake Poroto.



Japan's first national museum featuring the indigenous Ainu people

an=ukokor aynu ikor oma kenru

National Ainu Museum



Philosophy

The National Ainu Museum seeks to promote respect for the Ainu as an indigenous people of Japan, to establish proper recognition and understanding of Ainu history and culture both nationally and internationally, and to contribute to the creation and development of new Ainu culture.



TureppoN



Our Language Itak

Using sound and video, this section highlights traditional oral literature of the Ainu, the basic structure of the language, and Ainu place names, among other topics.



Six themed exhibits

The museum exhibits the diverse Ainu cultures within today's society from the unique perspectives of the Ainu people.

- itak Our Language
- upaskuma Our History
- inomi Our Universe
- nepki Our Work
- urespa Our Lives
- ukoapkas Our Exchange

Our Exchange ukoapkas

This section is dedicated to trade items, retracing the footsteps of the Ainu people in their exchanges with surrounding peoples. Exhibits also indicate how Japan should envision multicultural coexistence in the future.



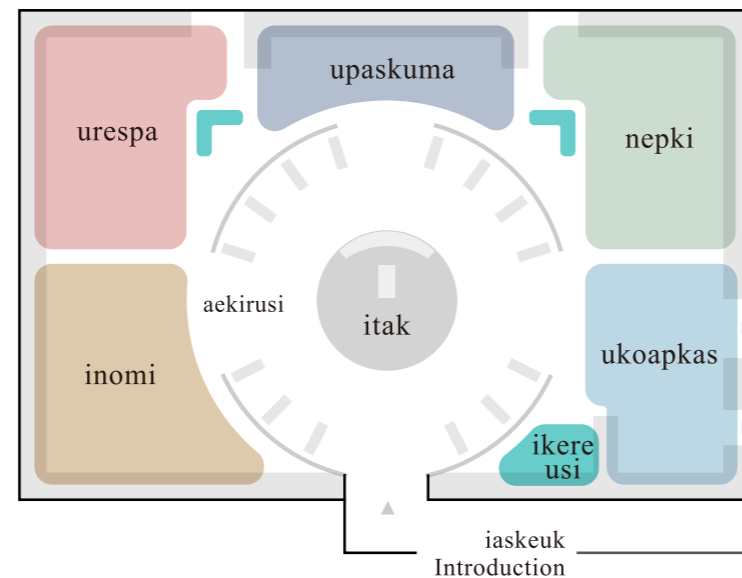
Library

This is a specialized library with various resources ranging from academic papers and picture books to encyclopedias, mostly relating to Ainu culture and history.



Our Universe inomi

This section introduces visitors to the concept of kamuy, nature, and life and death, which are all central to the Ainu worldview.



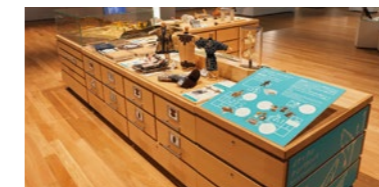
Our Work nepki

This section introduces traditional Ainu livelihoods and also various occupations in which Ainu people earn their living today.



Interactive Station "tempatempa"

ikere usi "tempatempa"



This is an area for children and adults alike to interact with Ainu culture through dioramas, models, tamasay (necklaces) and 3D puzzles of animals.

* Tempatempa means "touch and feel it" in the Ainu language.

Theater

The theater shows two short films introducing Ainu culture: Ainu History and Culture and Ainu Crafts Gain Worldwide Attention.

◆ Screenings approx. 20 minutes ◆ Screenings every day

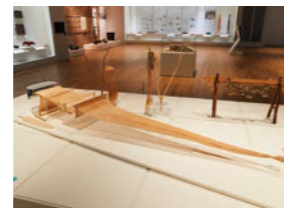


Ainu is used as the principal language for explanatory panels and signs throughout the museum. Audio commentary is also available in Ainu through audio guide equipment and the official Upopoy Guide app.

Explanatory panels, signs, and audio commentary in the museum are provided in up to 8 languages (Ainu, Japanese, English, Chinese [Traditional and Simplified], Korean, Russian, and Thai).

Our Lives urespa

This section highlights various aspects and regional variations of Ainu culture, including food, clothing, housing, life course, music, and dance.



Our History upaskuma

This section has easy-to-grasp visuals that introduce the range and span of Ainu history that extends into the present.

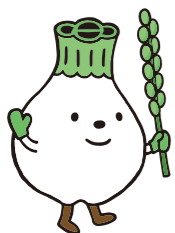




Interactive open-air center

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National Ainu Park

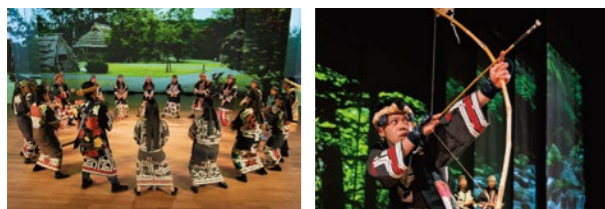


TureppoN

The National Ainu Park is an interactive open-air center where visitors can experience Ainu culture by viewing traditional Ainu dance and a wide range of other programs as well as participating in hands-on activities.

uekari cise Cultural Exchange Hall

Watch demonstrations of Ainu performing arts such as traditional Ainu dance, recognized by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage, and oral literature such as yukar (heroic epics).



yayhanokkar cise Workshop

Experience Ainu lifestyle culture through musical performances and cooking workshops, etc.



teeta kane an kotan Kotan (Traditional Ainu Village)

Experience traditional Ainu living spaces in reconstructed cise (houses) and watch demonstrations of everyday techniques that were used by the Ainu, such as the use of hunting bows outdoors.



hoski an cise / uwerankarap mintar Entrance Center / Gateway Square

There are four eating areas in Upopoy where you can enjoy a range of creative cuisine including meals, snacks, and original desserts made from traditional Ainu ingredients. Each shop offers souvenir items that make perfect gifts for friends, family, and even for yourself.



ikar usi Crafts Studio

See demonstrations of traditional crafts by staff and listen to talks as you get an up-close look at techniques that have been handed down through the generations. Visitors can also try Ainu woodcarving and embroidery.



About the Ainu and Ainu culture



Aynu means "human" in the Ainu language. The term distinguishes humans from the *kamuy* (spirit-deities) found in the natural environments that support the Ainu way of life.

The Ainu are an indigenous people with a unique language, culture and history. In the past they lived in the north of Honshu (Japan's main island), Hokkaido, Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands in communities known as *kotan*, where they hunted, fished, foraged, farmed and traded with neighboring peoples. Ainu identity is a valuable part of Japan's cultural diversity, with beautiful patterns that adorn clothes, tools, and ceremonial objects, a rich oral literary tradition epitomized by *yukar* epics, and a worldview expressed through a relationship with the *kamuy* that includes singing, dancing and prayers (*kamuynomi*). *Kamuynomi* can be expressions of respect or gratitude to *kamuy* that are benevolent, or a fierce front to intimidate those that are fearsome.

Today, however, fewer and fewer people speak Ainu as a first language, and the culture that forms the basis of Ainu identity is under threat. Urgent action is needed so that the Ainu language and culture can be passed on to future generations.

Ainu language



The Ainu language is unique to the Ainu. Familiar Ainu words include place names. These names are found not just in Hokkaido, but also on Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands and in the Tohoku region in northeastern Honshu. For example, the words *pet* and *nay*, as in Noboribetsu (*nupur-pet*) and Wakkanai (*wakka-nay*), mean "river" in Ainu. This indicates that native Ainu speakers had long lived in these areas.

Other familiar Ainu words include *shishamo* (*susam* in Ainu, or smelt), *rakko* (*rahko*, or sea otter), and *tonakai* (*tunakkay*, or reindeer), the last of which pull Santa's sled.

About the Establishment of UPOPOY



In September 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which sets out the standards to be achieved by each country concerning indigenous rights, including the right to self-determination, rights to land and resources, and intellectual property rights.

June 2008

The Japanese Diet unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the Ainu people to be recognized as an indigenous people. In response to this resolution, the government established an Advisory Council for Future Ainu Policy in July of the same year, and it subsequently submitted its report.

July 2009

In response to the recommendations of the Advisory Council report, in December, the government established a Council for Ainu Policy Promotion as a consultative forum to reflect the views of the Ainu people in policy promotion. Under this Council, a working group was established to explore the realization of a "Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony," that embodies the government's Ainu policy as its central pillar. Based on these discussions, the government proceeded with the preparation for these measures.

June 2014

The cabinet approved the basic policy on the development, management, and operation of the "Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony" to promote the revival of Ainu culture, and the establishment of this space in the area around Lake Poroto in Shiraoi, Hokkaido.

December 2018

On 11 December, the nickname "UPOPOY," alongside a logo mark, was decided upon by a vote.

April 2019

The Act Promoting Measures to Achieve a Society in which the Pride of the Ainu People is Respected was promulgated and went into effect on 24 May. Based on this law, the Foundation for Ainu Culture was designated as a public interest incorporated foundation to promote Ainu culture and to manage and operate the Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony.

July 2020

On 12 July, UPOPOY (the Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony) was opened as a base for the revival and development of Ainu culture, an important culture of Japan, but one in danger of its survival, and as a symbol for respecting the dignity of indigenous people and building a vibrant society with a diverse and rich culture free from discrimination.

Access

Approximately one hour from Sapporo, and 40 minutes from New Chitose Airport

◆ By air ✈️

Tokyo ▶ New Chitose Airport Approx. 1 hr. 40 min. Osaka ▶ New Chitose Airport Approx. 2 hrs.

◆ From major transport hubs in Hokkaido 🚗 🚆

Sapporo	Sapporo-Kita Interchange	Approx. 1 hr. 5 min. via expressway	New Chitose Airport	New Chitose Airport Interchange	Approx. 40 min. via expressway
	JR Sapporo Station	Approx. 1 hr. 5 min. by limited express train		JR New Chitose Airport Station	Approx. 40 min. by Rapid Airport and limited express train
Noboribetsu	National Route 36	Approx. 40 min. on regular roads (estimated time from Noboribetsu Onsen to Upopoy)	Tomakomai	National Route 36	Approx. 30 min. on regular roads (estimated time from central Tomakomai to Upopoy)
	JR Noboribetsu Station	Approx. 12 min. by limited express train		JR Tomakomai Station	Approx. 15 min. by limited express train
Muran	Noboribetsu Muroran Interchange	Approx. 45 min. via expressway	Hakodate	Onumakoen Interchange	Approx. 2 hr. 50 min. via expressway
	JR Higashi Muroran Station	Approx. 30 min. by limited express train		JR Hakodate Station	Approx. 3 hr. by limited express train

◆ Getting to Upopoy from central Shiraoi

From JR Shiraoi Station: Approx. 10 min. walk
From Shiraoi Interchange: Approx. 10 min. by car

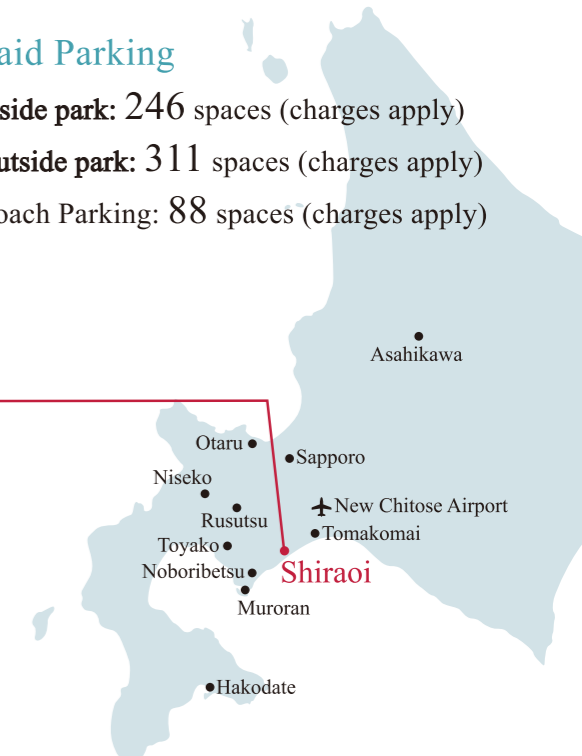
Each day, 31 limited express trains (Hokuto, Suzuran) stop at JR Shiraoi Station



Address: 2-3 Wakakusa-cho, Shiraoi Town

◆ Paid Parking

Inside park: 246 spaces (charges apply)
Outside park: 311 spaces (charges apply)
Coach Parking: 88 spaces (charges apply)



* The above travel times are estimates for reference purposes only and do not include transfer times.