

Services for Visitors



General information desk

- ◆ Multilingual support (signage in the Park, audio guide equipment)
- ◆ Barrier-free access ◆ Free Wi-Fi
- ◆ Lockers ◆ Free strollers ◆ Free wheelchairs
- ◆ Currency exchange ◆ Prayer rooms

Shops and Dining Facilities (cashless payment accepted)

Entrance Center Café and Food Court

A café offers outdoor seating, allowing visitors to take in the natural surroundings, while a food court provides a space to enjoy a casual meal with views of Lake Poroto.



Entrance Center Shop niepuy

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

Hours	9:00am to 6:00pm (Subject to change depending on the period.)
Closed	Mondays and from December 29 to January 3

*If Monday is a holiday, closed on the next business day.
*Opening dates and times may change temporarily.

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)
*Admission is free of charge for visitors with disabilities and one caregiver. Present any documentation upon entry.

Contact

The Foundation for Ainu Culture

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/>



Take a virtual tour of Upopoy.

Virtual
Upopoy



Virtual
National
Ainu Museum



National Ainu Park

National Ainu Museum

Memorial Site

Upopoy National Ainu Museum and Park

uaynukor kotan

Uaynukor means "mutual respect" in the Ainu language.

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, an invaluable culture in Japan that is at risk of extinction.

The name Upopoy means "singing together in a large group" in Ainu.

an=ukokor aynu ikor oma kenru

National Ainu Museum

Japan's first national museum featuring the indigenous Ainu people

P03 • P04

an=ukokor uaynukor mintar

National Ainu Park

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

P05 • P06

Experiencing Ainu Culture at Upopoy

Experience the richness of Ainu culture through the Park's various programs and the National Ainu Museum's exhibitions, while being surrounded by abundant nature on the shores of Lake Poroto.

Discover

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

Feel

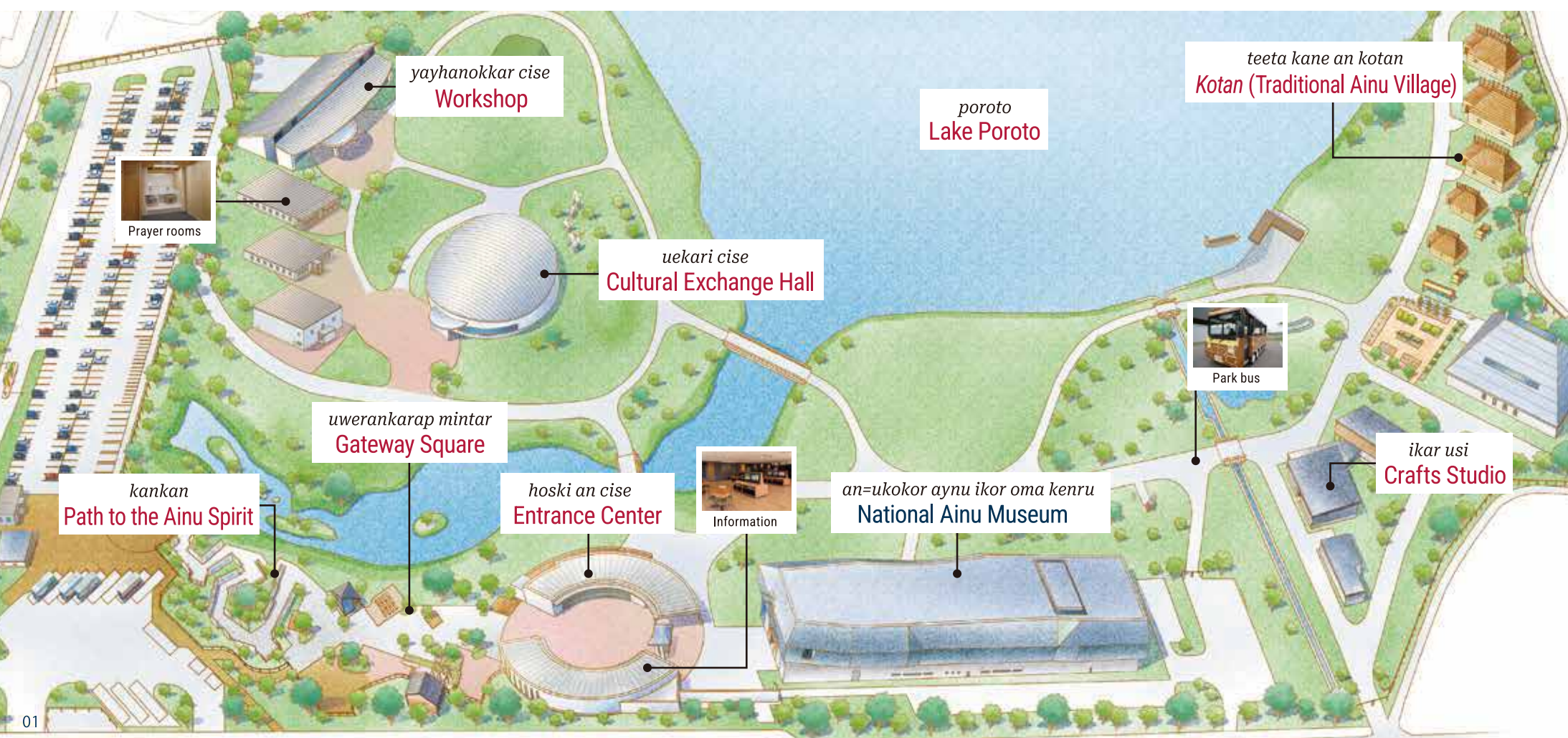
Witness the beauty of Ainu culture through unique traditions such as language and religious beliefs.

Think

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

Ainu language signage

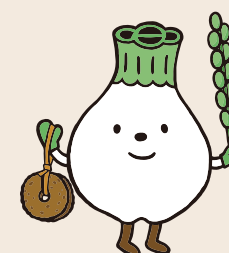
Ainu is used as the first language throughout the Park. For this reason, explanatory panels and signage at the various facilities begin with Ainu language written in katakana and the Latin alphabet.



sinnurappa usi Memorial Site



In the past, remains of deceased Ainu people and burial items were excavated, collected, and stored at universities all over Japan. The remains and burial items that cannot currently be returned are collected at Upopoy. The Memorial Site was established to provide a dignified memorial and to ensure that remains are handled appropriately until such time as arrangements for their return to the Ainu are established. Located on a hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean on the east side of Lake Poroto, the Memorial Site comprises an area for storing remains, a memorial service facility and a monument.



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.



Japan's first national museum featuring the indigenous Ainu people

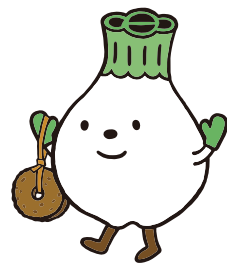
an=ukokor aynu ikor oma kenru

National Ainu Museum



Philosophy

The National Ainu Museum seeks to promote respect for the Ainu as an indigenous people, 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 permanent exhibition introduces the Ainu culture from the perspectives of the Ainu.

<i>itak</i>	Our Language	<i>upaskuma</i>	Our History
<i>inomi</i>	Our Universe	<i>nepki</i>	Our Work
<i>urespa</i>	Our Lives	<i>ukoapkas</i>	Our Exchange

language, history and

Our Exchange *ukoapkas*

This section explores various trade goods to trace the exchanges the Ainu have had with neighboring peoples, while also examining how multicultural coexistence can be maintained in today's world.



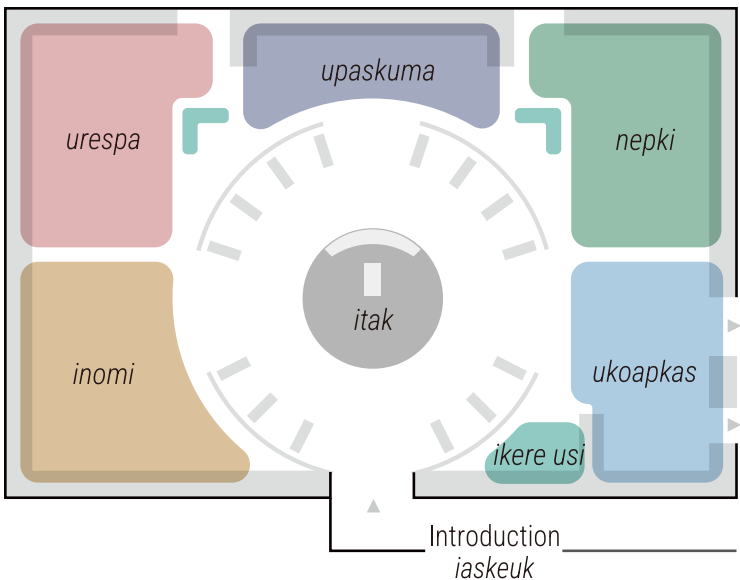
Library

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



Our Universe *inomi*

This section introduces visitors to central concepts of the Ainu worldview, including *kamuy* (spirit-deities), nature, and life and death.



Our Work *nepki*

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



Interactive Station "*tempatempa*" *ikere usi*



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 films such as *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, Thai, and Russian).

Our Lives *urespa*

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



Our History *upaskuma*

This section has easy-to-grasp visuals that introduce the depths of Ainu history, stretching from the past into the present.

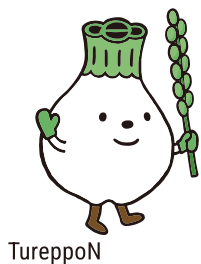




Interactive open-air center

an=ukokor uaynukor mintar

National Ainu Park



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

This facility hosts various Ainu lifestyle and cultural experience programs, such as activities for school groups, traditional cuisine workshops and an archery experience.



teeta kane an kotan Kotan (Traditional Ainu Village)

This area features a group of reconstructed *cise* (Ainu houses), where you can experience a traditional Ainu living space. Explore the inside of the buildings and listen to talks about the lives and culture of the Ainu people who lived in *cise*.



hoski an cise / uwerankarap mintar Entrance Center / Gateway Square

With a selection including traditional Ainu cuisine, light meals, and original sweets made using local ingredients, the dining facilities are perfect for a short break or a meal. The shop is stocked with souvenirs including original goods, which are great as a memento of your trip or as gifts for friends and family.



ikar usi Crafts Studio

Experience up-close demonstrations by staff of techniques that have been handed down through the generations and participate in woodcarving, embroidery and musical workshops.



Upopoy Programs

At Upopoy you can see and take part in a variety of activities designed to allow you to experience and understand the culture, worldview, relationship with nature and spirituality of the Ainu.

See the program timetables available at the Park and the official Upopoy website for more information.

*Additional fees apply for some activities.



Upopoy is a space where you can relax, experience Ainu culture through a variety of activities, and see how it developed in tandem with the rich surrounding nature.

Traditional Performing Arts

- ◆Location: Cultural Exchange Hall
 - ◆Time: about 20 min.
 - ◆Runs: every day
 - ◆Fee: free of charge (included with admission)
- Watch traditional Ainu dance, designated as an Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property in Japan, and *mukkuri* (a kind of mouth harp) music, together with other traditional Ainu performing arts recognized by UNESCO as elements of intangible cultural heritage.

Cuisine Workshop



●Workshop

Experience Ainu cuisine made with seasonal ingredients.

Watch Ainu Crafts



●Crafts Studio

See demonstrations and exhibitions of all kinds of traditional Ainu crafts. The craftspeople will tell you about their crafts while they work.

Cultural Program



●Kotan (Traditional Ainu Village)

Learn about life in the *kotan* and experience Ainu culture that has been passed down through song and dance.

Oral Literature Performance



●Kotan (Traditional Ainu Village)

Gather around the hearth to enjoy tales and lyrical songs from the everyday lives of Ainu people in the past.

Musical Workshop



●Crafts Studio

Learn how to play the *mukkuri* (a kind of mouth harp) and *tonkori* zither.

Ainu Language Program



●Kotan (Traditional Ainu Village)

Learn everyday phrases in Ainu, along with the proper pronunciation. You'll even receive a free gift!

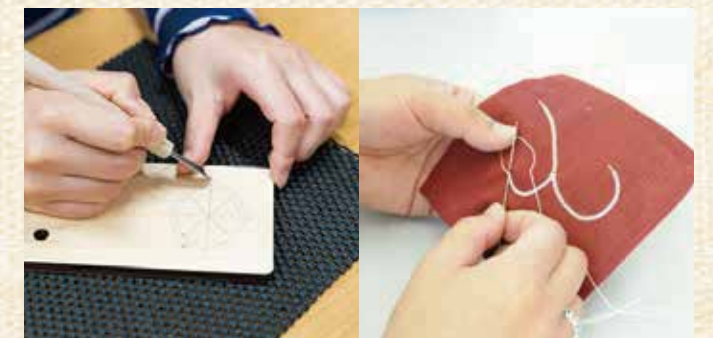
Family Program



●Kotan (Traditional Ainu Village)

Discover the relationship between the Ainu and the *kamuy* (spirit-deities) and enjoy learning about Ainu lives past and present through a paper theater show.

Woodcarving and Embroidery Workshops



●Crafts Studio

Take part in craft workshops including woodcarving and embroidery.

About the Ainu

Aynu means “human” in the Ainu language. The Ainu are an indigenous people with a unique language, culture and history. They were officially recognized as indigenous people in Japanese legislation for the first time through the Act on the Promotion of Measures to Realize a Society Where the Dignity of the Ainu People is Respected, which came into effect in 2019. 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 that reflects a deep relationship with the *kamuy* (spirit-deities) that reside in every part of the natural world, which supports human life. This worldview is expressed through singing, dancing and *kamuynomi* (prayers to the *kamuy*) to show gratitude or respect to the *kamuy* that are benevolent and, at times, a fierce force.

Ainu Language

The Ainu language is distinctive, differing from surrounding languages in terms of vocabulary and grammar. Some familiar Ainu words include those used in place names, such as Sapporo. 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 ainu word *pet* (river) in Noboribetsu (*nupur-pet*), and *nay* (stream) in Wakkanai (*wakka-nay*). Although the sounds have been slightly altered, the presence of these names indicates that the Ainu have long lived in these areas. Ainu words have even been incorporated into the Japanese language. For example, *shishamo* (smelt) is derived from *susam*, *rakko* (sea otter) is derived from *rahko*, and *tonakai* (reindeer) is derived from *tunakkay*.

About the Establishment of Upopoy

- Sep. 2007

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which serves as international guidelines for policies relating to indigenous peoples.
- Jun. 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.
- Jul. 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.
- Jun. 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.
- May 2019

The Act Promoting Measures to Achieve a Society in which the Pride of the Ainu People is Respected went into effect on May 24. Based on this law, the Foundation for Ainu Culture was designated to promote Ainu culture and to manage and operate the Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony.
- Jul. 2020

On July 12, Upopoy (National Ainu Museum and Park) was opened not only as a space and facility for promoting Ainu culture, but also a base for larger initiatives to revitalize and expand the Ainu culture, which is an invaluable culture in Japan but remains under threat. It is a symbol of the building of a forward-looking, vibrant society with a rich, diverse culture in which indigenous people are treated with respect and dignity, without discrimination.

Access

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

◆ By air ✈

Tokyo ▶ New Chitose Airport Approx. 1 hr. 30 min. Osaka ▶ New Chitose Airport Approx. 2 hr.

◆ From major transport hubs in Hokkaido 🚗 🚆

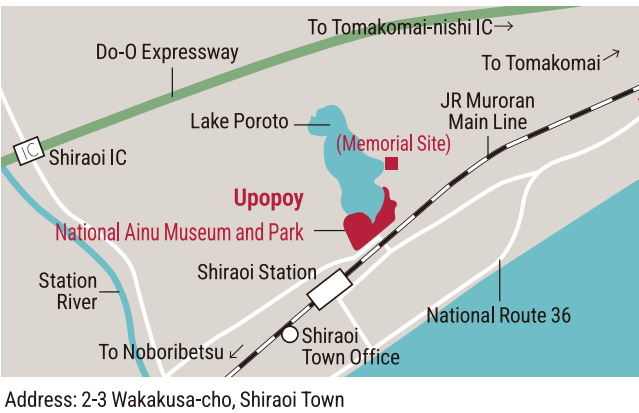
Sapporo	Sapporo-Kita Interchange	Approx. 1 hr. 5 min. via expressway	New Chitose Airport	New Chitose Airport Interchange	Approx. 40 min. via expressway
	JR Sapporo Station	Approx. 1 hr. 5 min. by limited express train		JR New Chitose Airport Station	Approx. 40 min. by Rapid Airport and limited express 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
Muroran	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 ◆ Paid parking

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

Inside park Car parking: 246 spaces
Outside park Coach parking: 88 spaces

Each day, 33 limited express trains
(Hokuto, Suzuran) stop at JR Shiraoi Station



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