

The Online Seat Reservation Service for Foreign Visitors is Improving! -JR Hokkaido train reservations will now be possible via "JR-EAST Train Reservation"-

In order to make it easier for foreign visitors to travel more comfortably by rail, JR Hokkaido and JR East are collaborating to provide an online seat reservation service for foreign visitors.

Previously, JR East's "JR-EAST Train Reservation" service only handled seat reservations for Shinkansen and Limited Express trains in the JR East area. However, beginning on February 1, 2017, it will also be possible to reserve seats on Shinkansen, Limited Express trains and Rapid Airport trains in the JR Hokkaido area. Thanks to this change, passengers will be able to very conveniently make seat reservations within both the Hokkaido and Eastern Japan areas, such as between Sapporo and Tokyo, etc.!

Outline of Current "JR-EAST Train Reservation" Service (*to be improved)

Eligible trains: Shinkansen and major Limited Express trains in the JR East area (*)
Pickup method: JR EAST Travel Service Centers and major stations in the JR East area(*)
Reservation method: register (free) with a credit card, and specify your desired train and pickup location
Payment method: pay using the credit card registered at pickup location

Improvements coming to "JR-EAST Train Reservation" service

1. It will be possible to make seat reservations for JR Hokkaido area Shinkansen, Limited Express, and Rapid Airport trains on the "JR-East Train Reservation" service!

- The "JR-EAST Train Reservation" service can also be accessed via the JR Hokkaido global site.

2. Seat reservations will also be possible in advance when using rail passes marketed for foreign visitors such as the "HOKKAIDO RAIL PASS" or "JR East-South Hokkaido Rail Pass"!

3. Seat reservations made on the "JR-EAST Train Reservation" service will also be available for pickup in the JR Hokkaido area!

<Pickup Locations (to be added at a later date)>

JR Information Desk (Sapporo Station & New Chitose Airport Station), Stations (Noboribetsu Station, Shin-Hakodate-Hokuto Station & Abashiri Station), Twinkle Plaza (Kushiro, Obihiro, Hakodate & Asahikawa)

*Reserved seat tickets for users of the JR EAST PASS (Tohoku Area), JR EAST PASS (Nagano, Niigata Area), JR TOKYO Wide Pass, and Hokuriku Arch Pass will not be issued in the JR Hokkaido area. Likewise, reserved seat tickets for users of the HOKKAIDO RAIL PASS will not be issued in the JR East area (with the exception of JR EAST Travel Service Center).

Start of Service

February 1, 2017 (Wed.)

<About JR Hokkaido reservation service>

- The JR Hokkaido overseas reservation site "JR Hokkaido reservation service", available for use since April 1, 2013, will be terminated on January 31, 2017.
- No new reservation applications will be accepted after 11:00PM on Tuesday, January 31, 2017.
- No changes or refunds of reservations will be provided after February 28, 2017.
- Membership information registered with "JR Hokkaido reservation service" will not be available for use on the "JR-EAST Train Reservation" service.