



**JR Hokkaido Mail Magazine – Illuminations Enrich the Colors of Winter**  
 Traveling HOKKAIDO by Train

Dec.2009

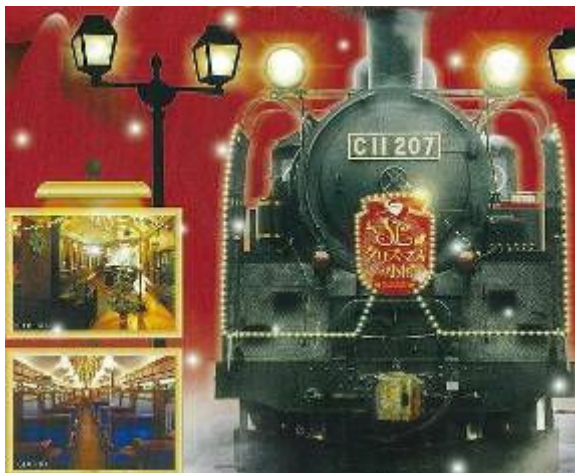
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Merry Christmas!  
 The exciting season is coming.  
 We are looking forward to a white Christmas again this year,  
 the blankets of white snow on the ground.

**<SL “Christmas in Otaru” starts running soon.>**



The most exciting season in the year is December and the Christmas season!  
 The town is decorated with gorgeous Christmas trees and colorful illuminations.  
 At night, these spectacular illuminations create romantic views. Walking through the town and listening to Christmas songs makes you happy and cheerful.  
 During the Christmas season, many Christmas events are planned in Hokkaido.  
 The Limited seasonal train SL “Christmas in Otaru” is decorated with lights. As it moves through the romantic city of Otaru, the continuous, illuminated line it draws is visionary. Let’s make the Christmas season joyous.  
 Journey by train through the north country.

Operating section	Sapporo and Otaru (reserved seat only)		
Fare	Adult 1,420 yen for one-way / half price for ages 6 – 11 yrs.		
Operation date	December 11 (Fri.), , 18 (Fri.), 24 (Thu.), 25 (Fri.).		
	Sapporo	Otaru-Chikko	Otaru
	18:24Dep.	19:03 Dep	19:12 Arr.
	Otaru	Otaru-Chikko	Sapporo
	21:00 Dep	21:07 Dep	21:45 Arr.
	December 12 (Sat.), 13 (Sun.) 19 (Sat.), 20 (Sun.), 23 (Wed.),		
	Sapporo	Otaru-Chikko	Otaru
	11:16 Dep	11:55 Dep	12:03Arr.
	Otaru	Otaru-Chikko	Sapporo
	17:14 Dep	17:21 Dep	18:02 Arr.



If you have a Rail Pass and would like to take a reserved seat, please make a reservation beforehand. (No additional charges)

## Sapporo will be decorated with colorful illuminations.

### Munich Christmas Market in Sapporo

This event has been held ever since the 30th anniversary commemoration in 2002 of the sister city relationship with Munich, Germany. At the market, you can find many traditional Christmas ornaments, and a host of other lovely goods and sweets. Sapporo White Illumination is also being held, and you can enjoy hot wines and real German dishes at the stands.



Period	Friday, November 27 – Thursday, December 24, 2009.
Open hour	Noon – 9:00 p.m. / Monday – Thursday
	Noon – 9:30 p.m. / Fridays and on December 22
	11:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. / Saturdays
	11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. / Sundays and holidays
Place	White Illumination site, Odori Park 2-chome
Access	No.26 exit of Sapporo Subway Odori Station

### Sapporo White Illumination

“Sapporo White Illumination,” the featured event in Sapporo during early winter, celebrates its 29<sup>th</sup> year. With all the colorful illuminations on display, what special person or good friends would you like to bring with you to visit the town? Come to Sapporo to enjoy the art of lights.



Place and period of each site	Odori : West 1 – 8-chome of Odori Park
	Friday, November 27, 2009 – Sunday, January 3, 2010
	Ekimae(station) Street: North 4-jo – South 4-jo
	Friday, November 27, 2009 – Thursday, February 11, 2010
	Minami(south) 1-jo Street: South 1-jo West 1 – 3-chome
	Friday, November 27, 2009 – Thursday, February 11, 2010
Hour (plan)	4:30 – 10:30 p.m. ( - midnight on December 23 – 25)

## Hakodate, city of lights, will be more spectacular than ever.

Hakodate, famous for having the three best night views in the world, will be even more splendid this winter season with many varied events to choose from. Please allow yourself plenty of time to enjoy all that romantic Hakodate has to offer.

### Hakodate Christmas Fantasy

A beautiful Christmas tree, a fir 18 meters high, brought from Canada, has been decorated with 20,000 lights, and stands all aglitter against the background of the sea! It shines fantastically throughout the redbrick warehouses area, one of the most popular tourist spots in Hakodate.

Place	Redbrick warehouses area in Suehiro-cho, Hakodate City
Period	Saturday, November 28 – Friday, December 25, 2009
Hour	4:30 -5:45 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. – midnight ( - 2:00 a.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and December 22 – 25)
Access	Approx. 3 hours from Sapporo Station by a limited express train, operated as 11 roundtrips everyday. 10 minutes on foot from Hakodate Station.



### Hakodate Illumination

Over 50,000 illuminations decorate the churches, historical buildings, and the slopes of the Motomachi district, creating an exotic atmosphere for romantic winter nights in Hakodate.

Place	Nijukken-zaka Street, Hachiman Street, and Motomachi Park in Motomachi district
Period	Saturday, November 28, 2009 – Sunday, February 28, 2010
Hour	17:00~22:00
Access	Take a streetcar from Hakodate Station and get off at the Jujigai stop. About a 3-minute walk from the stop.



### Goryo-sei-no Yume (Dream of pentacle star)

The fosses of the special historic site Goryokaku are made to resemble “a big star descended to the ground” by decorating them with 2,000 illuminations. The pentacle star that these lights figure forth is wondrous to see.

Place	Goryokaku-cho 44
Period	Saturday, November 28, 2009 – Sunday, February 20, 2010
Hour	17:00~22:00
Access	About 15 minutes from Hakodate Station by a streetcar to Goryokaku Park. About a 10 minute walk from the stop.



I received a Christmas card from the staff of the “Christmas in Otaru” train!

A child with an embarrassed smile seems to be enjoying a Christmas in the north country.