

Notice Regarding Changes in Usage of HOKKAIDO RAIL PASS Due to Hokkaido Shinkansen Launch

We would like to notify you of the following changes in the usage of HOKKAIDO RAIL PASS due to the launch of Hokkaido Shinkansen on March 26th, 2016 (Shin-Aomori ⇔ Shin-Hakodate-Hokuto).

1 Date of Change

From March 26th, 2016 (Hokkaido Shinkansen starts to operate)

2 Usage Changes

(1) Use of Hokkaido Shinkansen (Shin-Aomori ⇔ Shin-Hakodate-Hokuto)

- Hayabusa and Hayate trains (both reserved seating only) will be in service of Hokkaido Shinkansen.
- HOKKAIDO RAIL PASS holders **cannot ride** the Hokkaido Shinkansen Hayabusa and Hayate trains. If you wish to ride the Hokkaido Shinkansen, you will be required to purchase a separate Basic fare ticket, Limited express ticket, etc.

(2) Usage with Transfer of Management to Third-Sector Line (Kikonai ⇔ Goryokaku portion of "South Hokkaido Railway" line) HOKKAIDO RAIL PASS holders **cannot ride** the Kikonai ⇔ Goryokaku portion of the "South Hokkaido Railway" line, which will no longer be managed by JR Hokkaido but by a third sector.

If you wish to ride the "South Hokkaido Railway" Line, you will be required to purchase a separate ticket.

[Management transfer section] Kikonai ⇔ Goryokaku ⇒ South Hokkaido Railway

**"HOKKAIDO RAIL PASS" can be used toward on all JR Hokkaido train lines with the exception of Hokkaido Shinkansen.
In addition, the "HOKKAIDO RAIL PASS" cannot be used for travel on "South Hokkaido Railway" lines.**

(3) Limited Express Train Lines to Cease Service Due to Launch of Hokkaido Shinkansen

The following Limited express train lines will end service due to the launch of the Hokkaido Shinkansen.

- Ltd. Exp. Hakucho (Shin-Aomori ⇔ Hakodate)
- Ltd. Exp. Super Hakucho (Shin-Aomori ⇔ Hakodate)
- Exp. Hamanasu (Aomori ⇔ Sapporo)

(4) Additional Sales/Exchange Counter

The "HOKKAIDO RAIL PASS" will be available for purchase/exchange at the new "Shin-Hakodate-Hokuto Station".

(5) HOKKAIDO RAIL PASS Price, etc.

The price of the Hokkaido Rail Pass will remain unchanged.

In addition, we cannot provide refunds or grant extended periods of use for passes due to these usage changes.

(6) Service Disruptions on Tsugaru Kaikyo Line (Nakaoguni ⇔ Kikonai) Due to Switching of Equipment for Hokkaido Shinkansen

Due to the launch of the Hokkaido Shinkansen, service will be disrupted for all trains running on the Tsugaru Kaikyo line March 22nd, 2016 - March 25th, 2016 (4 days). Please see here for more details.

<http://www2.jrhokkaido.co.jp/global/pdf/e/notice2016.pdf>

In addition, those traveling between Hokkaido and Honshu should take caution as there will not be any replacement transportation provided during the aforementioned service disruptions.

Also, please understand that we cannot provide refunds or grant extended periods of use for passes due to the aforementioned service disruptions.