



# The southernmost part of the



## Thrilling experience on drift ice! Winter Abashiri City/Shari Town

It is an exciting experience that is only possible in Okhotsk to walk on drift ice and drift on the icy water wearing a complete waterproof dry suit under the supervision of an experienced guide. The field of drift ice as far as one can see feels like something from another world! Ice blocks overlap one another and icy blue ice towers shine brightly to impress visitors with the mystery and enormous power of nature. Under the sea, clione may sometimes be seen.

\*There may be some conditions that have to be met to participate, such as "being over 140 cm tall" depending on the business operators.

Feb. - Mar. (only during the period when drift ice remains stably against the shore)  
\*For details, please visit the following website.

**Abashiri City** <http://www.abakanko.jp/seen/taiken.html> **E K S T**

**Shari Town** [http://www.shiretoko.asia/list\\_guide.html](http://www.shiretoko.asia/list_guide.html)



## Icebreaker Garinko-Go III Winter Mombetsu City

**MAP P25-A2**

The newest Icebreaker Ship Garinko-Go III Imeru goes into service in January 3rd, 2021 and The Garinko-Go III is the only icebreaker in the world that use the Archimedes screw for its bow to crash the ice and drift ice. You can enjoy the vibration of the hull and see drift ice from up close. Occasionally, seals and Steller's sea eagles appear. In summer, it provides amusement such as fishing and cruising on the Sea of Okhotsk. First-timers can also enjoy it because fishing equipment can be rented and a guide helps them.

Kaiyo Koen, Mombetsu City

Jan. 21 - Mar. 31\*For details including the timetable, please visit the following website.  
\*Reservations required.

Adults: ¥3,000 (winter); ¥1,500 (summer)

Approx. 7 min. by bus from Mombetsu Bus Terminal; get off the bus at "Okhotsk Tower Entrance"

<http://www.o-tower.co.jp/garinko>

**E K S T**



*Fishing is also recommended in summer.*



# northern hemisphere to find drift ice



## The wonder of the earth: Drift ice

The sea of Okhotsk consists of two layers of water because a large amount of fresh water from the Amur River flows into the sea and the upper layer of 50 m deep has a lower salinity than the deeper layer. That is why the seawater becomes frozen in winter and ice floes drift as far southward as the Hokkaido shores lining the Okhotsk sea. It is called, "Ryuhyo" (drift ice). Since the Sea of Okhotsk along the coastline is bountiful and also geographically unique with the southernmost drift ice in the northern hemisphere, it is a very important sea area from the perspective of observing the global environment.

### Drift Ice Calendar (average)

	First date of drift ice in sight	First date of drift ice on shore	First date of shore lead appearance	Last date of seeing drift ice
	First day when drift ice can be seen on the sea	First day when drift ice flows right to the seashore	First day when ships start operating	Last day when drift ice can be seen on the sea
<b>Abashiri</b>	<b>Jan. 21</b>	<b>Feb. 2</b>	<b>Mar. 20</b>	<b>Apr. 11</b>
<b>Mombetsu</b>	<b>Jan. 22</b>	<b>Feb. 5</b>	<b>Mar. 16</b>	<b>Apr. 5</b>

For more information **Ice Information Center**: <http://www1.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/KANI/1center.html> **E R**

### Abashiri Drift Ice Tour Boat: Icebreaker Aurora

Abashiri City

**Winter**

**MAP P26-C3**

Aurora powerfully plows into the field of drift ice, crushing and shoving ice that is up to one meter thick. Every time drift ice is broken by the weight of the boat, the whole boat shakes and rolls dynamically. During the one-hour tour, seals lying on the drift ice or Steller's sea eagles and white-tailed eagles flying in the sky may be seen.

Minami 3-jo Higashi 4-chome , Abashiri City

**📅** Jan.9-Apr.3

\*For details such as the period when in operation, please visit the following website.  
\*Reservations required.

**👤** Adults: ¥3,500

**🚶** Approx. 10 min. by bus from JR Abashiri Station; get off the bus at "Aurora Boarding Platform"  
<http://www.ms-aurora.com/abashiri> **E S**



### Ryuhyo Monogatari-go Abashiri City – Shari Town

**Winter**

Ryuhyo Monogatari-go provides a leisurely trip to view the Sea of Okhotsk covered with drift ice and the Shiretoko mountain range in the distance. It runs between Abashiri Station and Shiretoko Shari Station. One of the stops, "Kitahama Station", a small unmanned station, is famous as the closest station to the Sea of Okhotsk. Some volunteers provide passengers with tourist information on train and sell on-board catering. The train operates only during the winter.

**📅** In winter

\*For details including the period when in operation, please visit the following website.

<http://www.jrhokkaido.co.jp>

**E K S T**

