

February 17, 2021

Rail pass for foreign visitors will be more convenient

A tough situation has been continuing that foreign visitors for the purpose of sightseeing cannot enter Japan due to immigration restrictions. As a preparation for the time after COVID-19, JR Hokkaido will start promoting new services and products for foreign visitors. Rail pass users will be able to use an automatic ticket gate and issue reserved seat tickets by ticket vending machine. Also, there will be new rail passes on sale. In addition, an e-ticket Exchange Order will be available for purchase through the website of travel agents overseas to improve passengers' convenience.

1. New service for smooth operation

(1) Automatic ticket gate available for use

Rail pass users have gone through a manned ticket gate for ticket inspection. From now on, automatic ticket gates will be available for use.

(2) Seat reservation service by reserved seat ticket vending machine

Rail pass users have received reserved seat tickets at the JR Ticket Counter (Midori-no-madoguchi). From now on, seat reservation will also be available with the "reserved seat ticket vending machine" in addition to the JR Ticket Counter.

<Stations with the reserved seat ticket vending machine> As of February 10, 2021

Sapporo(※)・Soen(※)・Kotoni・Teine(※)・Otaru(※)・Naebo(※)
Shiroishi(※)・Shin-Sapporo(※)・Kita-Hiroshima(※)・Shimamatsu(※)
Chitose(※)・Minami-Chitose(※)・New Chitose Airport(※)・Iwamizawa(※)
Tomakomai(※)・Shiraoi・Higashi-Muroran(※)・Datemombetsu(※)・Toya(※)
Noboribetsu(※)・Shinkawa(※)・Hachiken(※)・Ainosato-Kyoikudai(※)
Asahikawa・Nayoro・Wakkanai・Engaru・Kitami・Abashiri
Shintoku・Obihiro・Kushiro
Shin-Hakodate-Hokuto・Hakodate・Goryokaku・Kikonai・Okutsugaru-Imabetsu

Seat reservation will also be available with the "Ticket Vending Machine with a call center assistant service (orange-colored machine)" that is introduced to the stations marked with ※.



↑ Reserved seat ticket vending machine

<Applicable rail pass>

"Hokkaido Rail Pass"

"JR East-South Hokkaido Rail Pass", "JR Tohoku-South Hokkaido Rail Pass"

*The service is applicable for rail pass purchased on or after April 1, 2021.

2. The new lineup of rail pass

(1) The sales of “Sapporo-Noboribetsu Area Pass” and “Sapporo-Furano Area Pass”

We add two area passes that are convenient for travel to Furano and Noboribetsu.

Name	“Sapporo-Noboribetsu Area Pass”	“Sapporo-Furano Area Pass”
Detail	The pass can be used for non-reserved seats on the local train and the limited express train in the designated area for 4 days.	
Valid area		
Sales period	Throughout the year from April 1, 2021	
Price (Adult)	(Sales outside Japan) ¥8,000 (Sales in Japan) ¥8,500 *Half price for child	(Sales outside Japan) ¥9,000 (Sales in Japan) ¥9,500 *Half price for child
How to purchase	(Sales outside Japan) Available for purchase an Exchange Order at the designated travel agents outside of Japan (Sales in Japan) Available for purchase at the JR Hokkaido's sales counter after arriving in Japan	
Exchange and sales counter	JR Information Desk at Sapporo and New Chitose Airport Stations, Noboribetsu Station	JR Information Desk at Sapporo and New Chitose Airport Stations, Asahikawa Station

(2) A review of the price and validity of Hokkaido Rail Pass etc.

We reconsider the price and validity of the following rail passes due to change of offered service.

Name	For sales until March 31, 2021 *1	For sales on and after April 1, 2021 *1	Change
Hokkaido Rail Pass 7-day	¥25,710 (Outside and in Japan)	(Outside Japan) ¥25,000 (In Japan) ¥26,000	*2
Hokkaido Rail Pass 5-day	¥23,480 (Outside and in Japan)	(Outside Japan) ¥19,000 (In Japan) ¥20,000	*2
JR East-South Hokkaido Rail Pass	(Outside Japan) ¥26,900 (In Japan) ¥27,930	¥27,000 (Outside and in Japan)	Validity period is changed to 6 consecutive days.
JR Tohoku-South Hokkaido Rail Pass	(Outside Japan) ¥19,750 (In Japan) ¥20,790	¥24,000 (Outside and in Japan)	Validity period is changed to 6 consecutive days.

*1 Prices are for an adult. Half price for child.

*2 Additional charge will be required for taking some trains.

*The sales of Hokkaido Rail Pass 3-day and flexible 4-day will end on March 31, 2021.

*The rail passes are available for purchase only if a person has a passport issued by the government other than Japan and enters Japan under the entry status of “Temporary Visitor” for the purpose of sightseeing.

3. The sales of an e-ticket Exchange Order for rail pass

We start the sales of an e-ticket Exchange Order (QR Code) for rail pass. It will make the purchase more convenient.

(1) Applicable rail pass

“Hokkaido Rail Pass”, “Sapporo-Noboribetsu Area Pass”, “Sapporo-Furano Area Pass”

(2) Sales period

From April 1, 2021 *The starting date of the sales period differs depending on the travel agents.

(3) Sales place

Travel agents overseas (KKday, KLOOK, myrealtrip, Traveloka etc.)

*Scheduled to increase agents in the future

(4) How to purchase

Please purchase an e-ticket Exchange Order on the website of the sales place above.

A rail pass will be issued by showing the e-ticket Exchange Order (QR Code) at the designated exchange counter of JR Hokkaido.



*An e-ticket Exchange Order is issued by using the system of JTRweb Limited.

*For details about the validity of the rail pass, please see the JR Hokkaido website. (Available from April 1, 2021)

*For details on how to purchase an Exchange Order, please see the website of each travel agent.

(Reference) What is JTRweb Limited?

It is a platform for web reservation that handles travel-related products inside of Japan. They do business with about 3,000 travel agents in the world and online travel agents. JR Hokkaido will be able to sell an e-ticket Exchange Order for rail pass to customers in the world by collaborating with JTRweb Limited.