

A historic building representative of Hokkaido built in the Meiji era

The Former Hokkaido Government Office Building, popularly known as the Red Brick Building, began construction in 1886 and was completed in 1888. Although a devastating fire in 1909 completely destroyed the interior, the red brick exterior survived, continuing to convey the atmosphere of the Meiji era to this day. Restoration work undertaken in 1968 led to its designation as an Important Cultural Property of Japan the following year in recognition of its historical value. Furthermore, from 2019 to 2025, large-scale renovation work including seismic reinforcement was implemented. The Red Brick Building now stands reborn as a structure that preserves Hokkaido's history for present and future generations.

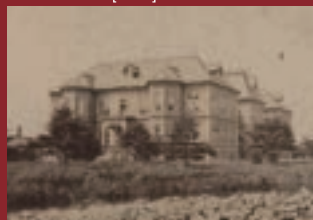
1869: Hokkaido Development Commission is established
 1873: Development Commission Sapporo Main Office is completed
 1879: Development Commission Sapporo Main Office burns down
 1886: The Hokkaido Government is established; Construction of the Red Brick Building begins
 1888: The Red Brick Building is completed
 Around 1895: The octagonal dome and the ventilating stack are removed
 1909: A fire strikes the Red Brick Building
 1911: Restoration work of the Red Brick Building is completed
 1967: Designated as a National Historic Site
 1968: Restoration and repair work is completed to commemorate the Hokkaido Centennial
 1969: Designated as an Important Cultural Property of Japan
 2019: Large-scale renovation begins
 2025: Renovation completed; Grand reopening



■ Development Commission Sapporo Main Office [1873]



■ Red Brick Building [around 1889]



■ After removal of octagonal dome [around 1906]



■ Renovation work completed [2025]

Key Figure in the Design of the Red Brick Building: Seijiro Hirai

1856 – 1926
 Seijiro Hirai was born in Kanazawa City. In 1875, he went to the United States as one of the Ministry of Education's first overseas students. Returning with cutting-edge technology and knowledge, he accomplished major projects including the Horonai Railway construction and the design of both the former Temiya Engine House and the Red Brick Building. He later served as Vice President of the Railway Bureau (Tetsudo-in) and was involved in the construction of Tokyo Station, demonstrating his active contributions in the railway field as well.



Photo courtesy: The University Museum, The University of Tokyo

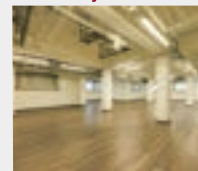
Rental Spaces & Red Brick Garden Now Available for Reservations

Rental spaces of distinguished elegance within this Important Cultural Property of Japan and the front garden overlooking the Red Brick Building are now available for public use. For details and reservations, visit the official Red Brick Building website.

Special space combining formality and stately presence
Red Brick Hall



Serene space located on the semi-basement level
Community Room



Outdoor space that harmonizes with nature throughout the four seasons
Red Brick Garden (front garden)



Official Website <https://www.hokkaido-redbrick.jp/en/>

For smartphones, scan here.



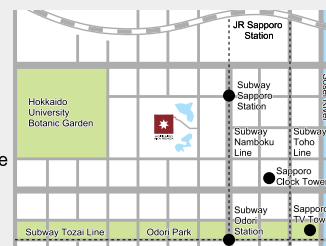
Official Instagram



Hours: 8:45 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. (last admission: 8:30 p.m.)
 Closed: Year-end and New Year's holidays (December 29 – January 3),
 equipment inspection day (November 16, 2025)
 Address: Kita 3-jo Nishi 6-chome 1, Chuo-ku, Sapporo
 Completed: 1888
 Structure: Brick construction with 1 basement and 2 above-ground floors,
 and an octagonal dome
 Established: Hokkaido Government
 Building area: 1,654.4 m² Total floor area: 5,004.3 m²
 Large bus parking available (3 spaces): ¥1,100 per hour per bus
 Admission: Adults: ¥300; University/high school students: ¥200;
 Junior high school students and under: free;
 Visitors with disabilities, etc.: free
 Group admission (20+): Adults: ¥270; University/high school students: ¥180
 Contact: Tel: 011-206-8390, Fax: 011-206-8589
contact@hokkaidoredbrick.jp

Access

- ◎ JR Sapporo Station (South Exit): approx. 8 min walk
- ◎ Subway Namboku/Toho Line Sapporo Station (Exit 10): approx. 4 min walk
- ◎ Subway Namboku/Tozai/Toho Line Odori Station (Exit 2): approx. 9 min walk



[Logo]



The design is inspired by a single brick that represents the core of the Red Brick Building and the seven-pointed star, the official symbol of Hokkaido, which flies atop the octagonal dome. The layout, with the star placed in the center of the brick, is modeled after the stamped bricks found in the lower section of the Red Brick Office building walls.

Designated management body for the Former Hokkaido Government Office Building:

Hokkaido Akarenga Mirai Kiko (Hokkaido Red Brick Future Organization)

Hokkaido Akarenga Mirai Kiko is the designated management body for the Former Hokkaido Government Office Building (Red Brick Building), an Important Cultural Property of Japan. The organization is composed of four member corporations: The Hokkaido Shimbun Press, Nitro Public Co., Ltd., Meetings & Events Sapporo-Hokkaido (MESH), and Hokkaido Tourism Organization (HTO).

Important Cultural Property of Japan
 Former Hokkaido Government Office Building



Be a star that shines toward the future



赤レンガ庁舎
 HOKKAIDO

HOKKAIDO AKA RENG

Red Brick Building

Architectural Highlights of the Former Hokkaido Government Office Building (Red Brick Building)



■ Bricks

Approximately 2.5 million bricks were used to build the Red Brick Building. The dark-colored bricks used in the lower section are called clinker bricks, which are water-resistant and used in areas particularly susceptible to rain, such as around windows. Among the many ways to lay bricks, two of the most common methods are English bond and Flemish bond. The Red Brick Building uses Flemish bond, which alternates stretchers and headers on every course.

■ Triple Arch

The triple arch at the main entrance is believed to have survived inside the building during the fire of 1909, which lasted approximately 11 hours.



■ Lighting

The Red Brick Building features stately chandeliers and lighting fixtures that were restored during the restoration and repair work undertaken in 1968.

■ Admission

Adults: ¥300; University/high school students: ¥200; Junior high school students and under: free; Visitors with disabilities, etc.: free

■ Octagonal Dome Tour Information

A place where you can overlook Kita 3-jo Street, which became the foundation of Hokkaido's development, and experience the historical atmosphere.

Fee: ¥1,200 (elementary school students and above)
4 tours daily (30 minutes each, maximum 7 people)

Note: Purchase tickets online or at the information desk on the day of visit.

■ Premium Guided Tour Information

A special tour offering a more in-depth look at the building's history and architecture.

Fee: Adults: ¥500; Elementary school students to university students: ¥250

4 tours daily (60 minutes each, maximum 15 people)

Note: Purchase tickets online or at the information desk on the day of visit.

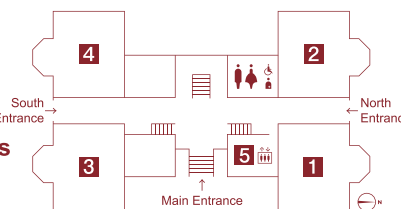


■ Octagonal Dome Balcony

A new hub for sharing Hokkaido's history, culture, and tourism information

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Local Information and Lively Activities Floor



1 Shiroi Koibito Akarenga Sweets Labo

Free Zone

ISHIYA's new directly managed store designed to resemble a confectionery research laboratory.

Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (Last order: 5:00 p.m.)
Notes: Extended to 7:00 p.m. in designated seasons.
Accessible from the North Entrance.



2 HOUSE.H

Free Zone

A restaurant featuring Hokkaido cuisine and beverages.

Hours: 8:45 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Last order: 8:30 p.m.)
Note: Accessible from the North Entrance.



3 Akarenga Shop

Free Zone

A curated selection featuring original Akarenga Shop products and goods perfect as Hokkaido souvenirs.

Hours: 8:45 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Note: Accessible from the South Entrance.



4 Tourist Information I

Displays of specialty products and crafts from all 179 municipalities across Hokkaido, plus panoramic video presentations of the region's magnificent natural landscapes.

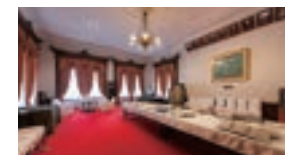
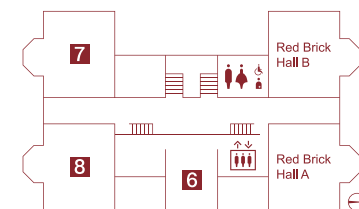


5 Tourist Information II

Interactive information corner where you can discover the attractions of all 179 municipalities in Hokkaido.

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History and Culture Floor



6 History of the Red Brick Building

Composed of three rooms: Director-General's Office, Urban Development, and Architecture. You can enjoy displays on the historical background of the construction period and the major renovation project, as well as recreated workspace of successive Directors-General and Governors of Hokkaido.



7 Hokkaido Heritage and Culture

While freely exploring circularly arranged display cases, you can view miniature displays symbolizing heritage sites and national treasures, among other features.



8 Ainu Culture and History

Spread across the floor is a map of Hokkaido drawn by Takeshiro Matsuura in 1859, featuring approximately 9,800 Ainu place names; Footage of traditional Ainu dance filmed in Hokkaido's natural settings is also shown.



■ Paintings

A collection including Tamako Kataoka's Hakodate Street Scene and various other paintings throughout the building.



9 Karafuto-related Materials Room

Displays on the history of Karafuto (Sakhalin) during wartime and other periods



10 Northern Territories Exhibition Room

Displays on the overview of the Northern Territories and efforts toward their return

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Learning and Succession Floor

