

History of Hokkaido in Japan

It was about two million years ago that Hokkaido's geography came to resemble that of today. In the ice age of 20,000 years ago, when Hokkaido remained connected to the Asian continent, people came here from Asia in pursuit of large game, as evidenced by the traces they left.



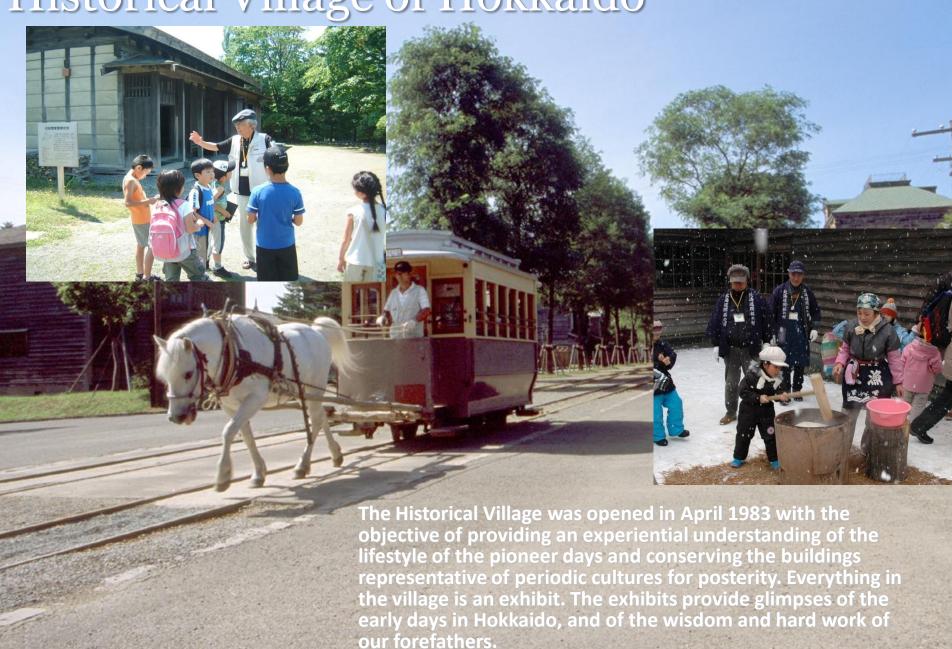
The island, the northern most major one in Japan, has long served as a northern inlet for culture from Sakhalin and Eurasia. Cultures of southern regions also arrived in Hokkaido. Under these influences, Hokkaido developed a unique culture while serving as a place of cultural exchanges. During the Edo era (1603 - 1867), Japan's feudal period, Russian and other international missions arrived at Hokkaido ports for trade negotiations but were not allowed to enter because of Japan's isolation policy. In those days, the shogunate government was adamant about protecting Japan's culture.



After the fall of the Edo shogunate, the newly inaugurated Meiji government started to develop Hokkaido. The Hokkaido Development Commission was established in 1869, and the island's name was changed from Ezo to Hokkaido. Many people immigrated from other parts of Japan and struggled amidst the island's severe natural environment. These people built the foundation on which today's Hokkaido has developed and modernized.















Annual Function

Spring

>Girls Festival

>Kids Festival

Autumn

>Moon Viewing



>Harvest Festival



Summer

>The Star Festival



Winter



Please come and visit Historical Village of Hokkaido. We look forward to seeing you in Japan.