

Abashiri, Hokkaido, Japan

A raw corner of northeastern Hokkaido where drift ice meets dense forest and Japan's most storied prison sits beside a UNESCO wilderness. Abashiri rewards the curious with landscapes and history you won't find anywhere else in the country.

Docked — No. 4 Wharf

Typical call: 8-10 hrs

Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)

Language: Japanese

Famous for Okhotsk drift ice

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Ships berth at No. 4 Wharf (Pier 2) in Abashiri Port — no tendering required

Best For: History buffs, nature lovers, seafood, and winter drift-ice experiences

Walk to center: ~10-15 min walk or short taxi/bus to central Abashiri town

Don't Miss: Okhotsk Ryuhyo (Drift Ice) Museum and Abashiri Prison Museum

Getting around: **Taxi** ¥900–1,500 (~\$6–10 USD)

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Abashiri Prison Museum** — Walk through the original Meiji-era buildings of Japan's most notorious prison, relocated and preserved as an open-air museum.
- Okhotsk Ryuhyo (Drift Ice) Museum** — Perched atop Mount Tonto, this museum lets you touch real drift ice in a -15°C chamber year-round, while panoramic windows frame Shiretoko, Lake...
- Shiretoko National Park Day Trip** — A UNESCO World Natural Heritage site 60–90 min from port, Shiretoko is Hokkaido's wildest corner.
- Hokkaido Museum of Northern Peoples** — A small but excellent museum dedicated to the Indigenous Ainu people of Hokkaido and other northern circumpolar peoples, with artifacts, clothing...
- Lake Abashiri & Lake Noto Scenic Drive** — Abashiri's two iconic lakes offer striking seasonal beauty — crimson coral grass at Noto in autumn, white-tailed eagles and kayaking on Abashiri...

BEST WALKS

- Port to Abashiri Town Center** 1 km · ~15 min · flat — An easy flat walk from the port gate through the harbor district into Abashiri's compact downtown.
- Mount Tonto Summit Walk** ~30 min ascent · moderate — A forested trail winds up Mount Tonto to the Okhotsk Drift Ice Museum and observation deck at the summit.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		49°	33°	9d
Jun		65°	52°	13d
Aug		74°	63°	14d
Sep		69°	57°	12d
Oct		58°	46°	12d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 4:40AM–6:06PM · Jun 3:39AM–7:07PM · Aug 4:26AM–6:27PM · Sep 5:02AM–5:33PM · Oct 5:37AM–4:39PM

Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)

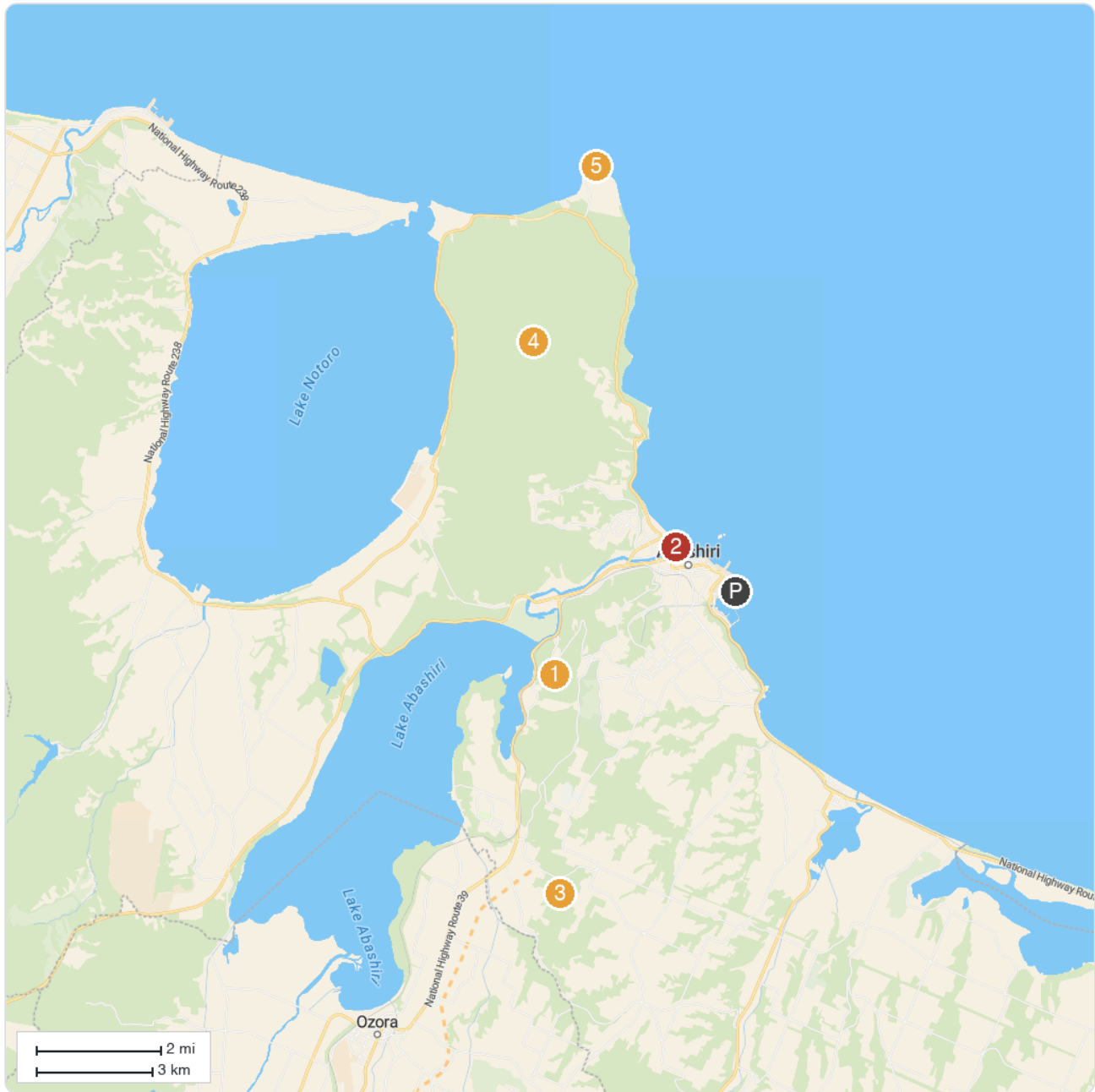
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring yen in cash. Many Abashiri restaurants and small shops are cash-only. 7-Eleven and Japan Post ATMs accept international cards.
- Winter calls (Jan–Mar) are special. The icebreaker Aurora cruise through drift ice is a once-in-a-lifetime experience — book in advance if your ship calls in winter.
- Eat the crab. Abashiri's horsehair crab (kegani) and sea urchin (uni) are outstanding and far cheaper here than in Tokyo or Sapporo.
- Shiretoko is a full-day commitment. It's 60–90 min each way — only attempt it if your ship allows 8+ hrs ashore. An organized tour is the safest option.
- Dress in layers year-round. Even summer mornings are cool (10–15°C), and the Okhotsk Sea breeze adds a chill. Pack a jacket regardless of season.
- Taxis are easy but pricey. Agree on fares or confirm the meter before departure. Short rides to the main museums run ¥800–¥1,500.

Abashiri, Hokkaido, Japan — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1 Abashiri Prison Museum** Historic prison museum detailing life and history of Abashiri Prison.
- 3 Abashiri Phlox Park** A vibrant park covered in beautiful, colorful phlox flowers.
- 5 Cape Notoro-misaki** A scenic cape offering panoramic views of the Okhotsk Sea.

- 2 Moyoro Shell Mound Museum** Museum preserving ancient Okhotsk culture's shell mounds and artifacts.
- 4 Abashiri Quasi-National Park (Sea of Okhotsk coast and seven lagoons lakes centered on Abashiri)** National park featuring Okhotsk coast, lagoons, and diverse wildlife.
- P Cruise port / terminal**