

Kushiro City, Hokkaido, Japan

The 'City of Mist' sits where subarctic Hokkaido meets its largest wetland — home to rare red-crowned cranes, legendary seafood markets, and a harbor sunset that stops ships in their tracks.

 Pier (West Wharf No. 4 or downtown Mizube)

 Typical call: 8–10 hrs

 Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY) — carry cash

 Language: Japanese (limited English)

 Best for: Wildlife, seafood, nature

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier — West Wharf No. 4 (large ships) or Mizube/central dock (small ships)

Best For: Red-crowned cranes, Kushiro wetland, Washo Market katte-don, Nusamai Bridge sunset

Walk to center: ~4.5 km from West Wharf; free shuttle to Fisherman's Wharf MOO (~15 min)

Don't Miss: Build your own seafood bowl (katte-don) at Washo Market

 Getting around:  **Taxi**  ¥2,500–¥3,000 (~\$16–19 USD)

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Kushiro Shitsugen Wetland & Crane Reserve** — Japan's largest wetland hosts the iconic red-crowned tancho crane year-round.
- Lake Akan & Ainu Culture** — A stunning caldera lake famous for rare marimo algae balls and the lakeside Ainu Kotan village, where you can watch traditional Ainu dance, buy...
- Washo Market Katte-Don & Robatayaki** — Kushiro's must-do food experience.
- Nusamai Bridge & City Walk** — Kushiro's most photographed landmark, adorned with four bronze statues representing the seasons.
- Kushiro City Museum & Art Museum** — The City Museum covers the region's natural history and indigenous Ainu heritage.

BEST WALKS

- Fisherman's Wharf to Nusamai Bridge & Washo Market** 2.5 km loop · ~45 min · Flat — From Fisherman's Wharf MOO, stroll east along the Kushiro River waterfront to the iconic Nusamai Bridge (seasonal bronze statues, sunset views), then double back one...
- Kushiro Shitsugen Observatory Boardwalk** ~1 km boardwalk · 30 min · Easy · Requires taxi/bus to reach — Take a taxi (~25 min from city) to Kushiro Marsh Observatory (Kushiro Shitsugen Tenbodai).

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		46°	33°	9d
Jun		59°	51°	12d
Aug		70°	63°	14d
Sep		67°	57°	11d
Oct		58°	47°	10d

 **DAYLIGHT &  MONEY**

Apr 4:41AM–6:04PM · Jun 3:43AM–7:02PM · Aug 4:28AM–6:24PM · Sep 5:02AM–5:32PM · Oct 5:35AM–4:40PM

 Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY) — carry cash

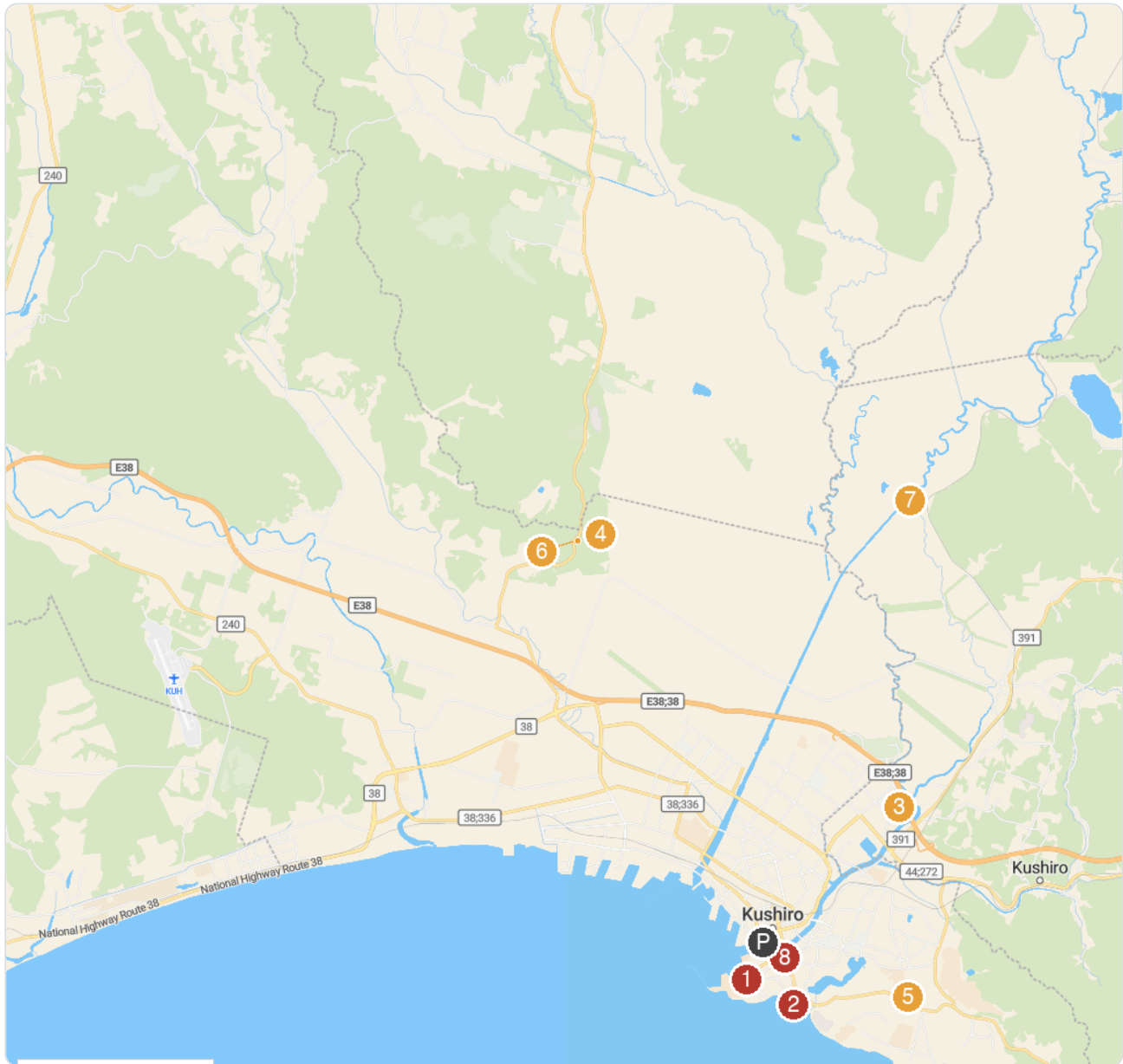
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Cash is king. Carry Japanese Yen — Washo Market vendors, small ramen shops, and local izakayas rarely take cards. A 7-Eleven near Nusamai Bridge has ATMs that accept foreign cards.
- Expect fog and cool air. Even in July and August, Kushiro averages just 18–22°C (65–72°F) and morning fog is common. Dress in layers and bring a windproof jacket.
- Use the free shuttle. If your ship docks at West Wharf No. 4, the city almost always provides a complimentary shuttle bus to Fisherman's Wharf MOO. Confirm departure times from the pier information booth.
- Book wetland excursions early. Lake Akan is 90 minutes each way — only attempt it on a ship-sponsored tour or pre-arranged private taxi to guarantee you're back on time. The Tancho Crane Reserve is easier (40 min away, quick taxi).
- Don't skip katte-don. The DIY seafood-rice bowl at Washo Market is one of the best cheap eats in all of Japan — budget ¥1,500–¥3,000 depending on toppings. Arrive before noon for the freshest selection.
- Trains run infrequently. The JR Senmo Line to the wetland station runs every 2–3 hours. If you plan to use it, check the timetable before you go ashore — missing the return train means missing the ship.

Kushiro City, Hokkaido, Japan — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



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|--|--|---|---|
| 1 Yonemachi Park | Park with city and harbor views. | 2 Chiyonoura Marine Park | Marine park with coastal views and walking paths. |
| 3 Kushirocho Sports Park | Large sports complex with various recreational facilities. | 4 Satellite view point | Panoramic viewpoint offering city and harbor vistas. |
| 5 Pacific Ocean Coal Mine Exhibition Hall | Museum showcasing Kushiro's coal mining history. | 6 Kushiro Marsh Observatory | Observatory for panoramic views of Kushiro Shitsugen National Park. |
| 7 Iwapokki suimon gate | Historic floodgate on the Kushiro River. | 8 Kushiro City Museum of Art (Kushiro-shiritsu Bijutsukan) | Art museum featuring local and modern Japanese works. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |