

The first stop of Hokkaido Shinkansen

# 木古内町

INFORMATION

Kikonai is a town  
that is always fun!  
Moo!



【 The Kikonai Town  
Guidebook  
】

Kikonai's  
Official Mascot  
"Ki-ko"

Kanchu Misogi  
Festival



Hakodate  
Wagyu Beef



Hokkaido Shinkansen  
Kikonai Station



Kikonai  
Interchange



Kikonai is a gateway town to Hokkaido.  
With rich traditions handed down through history,  
it is a town where the past and present interweave.  
Come and discover the scenic sights and delicious  
flavors of Kikonai!



A Kikonai Specialty

## The Kanrin Maru at Cape Saraki

The Kanrin Maru was a warship of the Bakufu government of Japan, built in 1857 in the Dutch village of Kinderdijk. In 1860, the ship sailed across the Pacific to the USA while carrying a 100-man delegation led by Katsu Kaishu, John Manjiro, and Fukuzawa Yukichi, with a mission to ratify the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the United States and Japan. In its latter years, it became a transport ship for the Shogunate forces in their escape to Hokkaido. On September 20th, 1871, the Kanrin Maru became shipwrecked on its way to Otaru. Though the sailors were rescued, the ship sank in the ocean near Cape Saraki. The cape is now the site of a Kanrin Maru monument and a tulip garden that pays homage to the ship's birthplace.

■ **Cape Saraki Aza Kamekawa, Kikonai-cho**  
**Parking** 50 free spots



A Kikonai Specialty

## Trains and Railways

There are currently three railways running through Kikonai: the Hokkaido Shinkansen, the South Hokkaido Railway, and the Donan Trolley. The Hokkaido Shinkansen crosses the undersea Seikan Tunnel and connects Kikonai and Tokyo in about 4 hours. One of the best places to see and photograph the bullet train is the Shinkansen Viewing Spot. After going sightseeing in Kikonai, take a ride on the South Hokkaido Railway towards Hakodate, and enjoy great views of the ocean and countryside through the train windows

- **Hokkaido Shinkansen** TEL 01392-6-7112 (Kikonai Station)
- **South Hokkaido Railway** TEL.0138-83-1977
- **Donan Trolley**  
 Hokkaido Yume Rail Club  
 Aza Tsuruoka, Kikonai-cho TEL.070-2422-1006  
**Hours** Sundays/holidays 10:00~16:00 (last entry 15:30)  
 ※Schedule may vary  
**Operating Season** Mid/Late April to early November (Sat, Sun and Holidays)  
 ※Check [senro.donan.net](http://senro.donan.net) for details  
**Fees** Regular seat 700yen  
 Child seat (below 10 years old) 400yen  
 ※Min. 2 persons, minors must be accompanied by an adult  
**Parking** 20 free spots (Kikonai Town Museum)

## Experience the blessings of Kikonai!

### Activities and Tours

In Kikonai, you can try out various activities and tours unique to the harbor town, such as seine fishing and oyster cultivation. You can also try crop harvesting, cow milking, and other activities that let you fully experience the charms of the town with all your senses!

- **Kikonai Experience Tourism Promotion Council**  
 Kikonai Tourist Association  
 Aza Honcho 525, Kikonai-cho  
 TEL.01392-6-7357, Weekdays 9:00-17:00



## Discover the Culture and Traditions of Kikonai

### HISTORY & CULTURE

### See and touch history and culture

#### The resting place of Kanrin Maru's anchor Ikarinkan



In the Kikonai Town Museum (known as "Ikarinkan"), there is a display of an anchor believed to be from the Kanrin Maru. It was salvaged from a spot 2 kilometers off Cape Saraki, 20 meters deep in the ocean. The museum also has a railway archive section, with numerous displays on the old Matsumae and Esashi lines, as well as various tools, tickets, uniforms, and other valuable artifacts of the period.

- **Kikonai Town Museum ("Ikarinkan")**  
 Aza Tsuruoka 74-1, Kikonai-cho  
 TEL.01392-2-4366  
**Hours** 9:00~16:00  
**Closed** Mondays (If Monday is a holiday, the following Tuesday),  
 New Year Holidays  
**Fees** Free  
**Parking** 20 free spots



## Kanchu Misogi Festival

The largest event in Kikonai, held annually for 3 days from January 13th to January 15th. Four young men perform a ritual purification at the Samegawa Shrine by repeatedly dousing themselves with cold water day and night. On the 15th, they carry sacred icons of four Shinto gods and perform a purification ceremony in the ice-cold waters of the Tsugaru Strait. This ceremony has been held for over 190 years as a prayer for a good harvest. It is now held in conjunction with a fireworks show and a food festival.



A Kikonai Specialty

## Samegawa Shrine

This famous shrine is the birthplace of the Kanchu Misogi Festival. It began in 1625 as a small shrine built by the Matsumae samurai clan near the Samegawa River to bring good fortune in their battles. It enshrines the deity Tamayorihime-no-Mikoto, the mother of Jimmu Tenno who was the first emperor of Japan. The name Samegawa is play on words derived from the phrase "a river where a goddess helps".



## Kikonai Town Misogi Walking Tour

In this guided walking tour, you start from Kikonai Station and go around the town, exploring various places related to the Kanchu Misogi Festival. You will also visit the town's main street to try out local sweets & sake. The tour ends at Misogi beach, where you can experience the town's ritual purification ceremony that began over 190 years ago. It's a good chance to purify yourself and pray for prosperity.

- **Kikonai Town Misogi Walking Tour**  
**Fees** 1,000 yen **Duration** About 1 hour  
**Participants** 2 to 10 (inquire for groups of more than 10)  
**Contact** Kikonai Tourist Association  
 TEL.01392-6-7357, Weekdays 9:00-17:00



A Kikonai Specialty



# Kikonai GOURMET



**Hakodate Wagyu Beef Nabe**  
1 pack 960 yen  
A hot pot set that includes beef slices, onions, enoki mushrooms, and a soup made from local kombu and other ingredients.  
Sold at Roadside Station Misogi-no-Sato Kikonai and Kyujo Kudo Shoten



**Hakodate Wagyu Beef Croquette**  
1 piece 280 yen  
A crispy croquette that is a great snack while strolling around town. Also available in a frozen pack of 3 pieces (745 yen).  
Sold at Roadside Station Misogi-no-Sato Kikonai (Kitchen Ki-ko) and Super Sun Mate



**Kikonai Italian Cuisine**  
Enjoy authentic Italian dishes in town!  
Located inside the Roadside Station Misogi-no-Sato Kikonai, Donan de's is a place to enjoy authentic Italian cuisine. The dishes are made with the finest ingredients from Kikonai and Southern Hokkaido. Savor the exquisite dishes in the calm, relaxing interior of the restaurant.

きこないグルメ

# Kikonai SWEETS



**Kitchen Kiko Misogi-no-Shio Soft Serve Ice Cream**  
1 piece 300 yen  
This soft serve ice cream is flavored with salt extracted from the Misogihama beach, the final venue of the Kanchu Misogi ceremony. You won't get enough of its salty sweetness



**Kitajima Misogi Pie**  
1 piece 172 yen  
This baked pie comes in three flavors of filling: red bean paste, chestnut paste, and pumpkin paste. They are wrapped in a package that has a traditional Japanese feel.



**Coppendot Pakupaku Shio Pan Bread**  
5 pieces 350 yen  
This salty bread roll has a buttery fragrance and flavor that will make you gobble up several pieces in no time. It's great as a meal accompaniment or as a snack on its own.



**Kitajima Misogi Sablé Cookies**  
4 pieces 648 yen  
These fragrant, crunchy cookies come in a package featuring Misogi Boy, the mascot of the Kanchu Misogi Festival. They're also great as souvenirs.



**Suehiro-an Koukou Mochi**  
1 piece 130 yen  
A sweet with a traditional taste  
A soy sauce and walnut-flavored rice cake that got its name from a local folk tale about filial piety. It has been a favorite in the town since its inception in 1934.

# Kikonai Town Official Mascot Ki-ko

Ki-ko is an Akaushi bull. His best features are his Tsugaru Sea-blue-colored eyes and his small tail. He was a city boy born in Tokyo's Aoyama district.

**Watch Ki-ko promote various places in Kikonai Town!**

As the Kikonai Shinkansen Sightseeing Station Master, Ki-ko works hard to promote Kikonai to Japan and the rest of the world. He usually makes appearances at events in the Tohoku and Kanto regions. Check out Ki-ko's social media for his latest promotional activities!



**Ki-ko Theme Song "Boku to Issho ni"**

Ki-ko's official theme song was released on December 2021, together with a promotional music video. The video features Ki-ko's cute dance and many attractions of Kikonai Town. Scan the QR code to check it out!



YouTube

**Ki-ko Station Master's Office**

At the Station Master's Office, you can write messages to Ki-ko or affix a commemorative seal that is not available anywhere else. The messages are sometimes featured in Ki-ko's social media!  
Place: Kikonai Town Office 1F lobby (Aza Honcho 218, Kikonai-cho)  
Open: Weekdays 8:30-17:15 (closed Sat/Sun/holidays/New Year)



**Ki-ko Merchandise**

**Ki-ko Tote Bag and Eco Bag**  
Japanese style pattern Tote Bag 1,296 yen



**Ki-ko T-Shirts**  
Ki-ko Japanese style pattern Adult size 2,160 yen/Child size 1,944 yen  
Ki-ko Big Face Adult size 2,484 yen/Child size 2,376 yen



**Ki-ko Snacks**

Ya! Ki-ko Choco 1 piece 160 yen



Ki-ko Candy 1 bag 380 yen



**Kikonai Town Information**

Check Ki-ko's social media accounts for Kikonai sightseeing information along with Ki-ko's daily life and some cute photos!




Scan the QR code for a page that lists Ki-ko's social media accounts and the official Kikonai Town website. Check it out to see the charm of Kikonai and the cuteness of Ki-ko!

# Stay in Kikonai

**View Onsen Notoya**

MAP 1



The best natural hot spring hotel in town. You can enjoy a warm soak while watching the morning sun and the Tsugaru Strait, or savor delicious dishes made with local seafood.

Aza Ohira 20-22, Kikonai-cho  
☎01392-2-4055

**Classe Inn Kikonai**

MAP 2



A business hotel conveniently located near Kikonai Station and several restaurants. All rooms are equipped with a bath and toilet plus free Wi-Fi. A large public bath is also available.

Aza Honcho 224-1, Kikonai-cho  
☎01392-2-3800

**Yado Kitakai**

MAP 3



An inn where you can enjoy dishes of fresh seafood and Hakodate Wagyu Beef. The rooms and restaurant offer a view of the Tsugaru Strait. It's also located near convenience stores.

Aza Ohira 23-13, Kikonai-cho  
☎01392-2-5222

**Business Hotel Ishikawaya**

MAP 4



A business hotel with an attached restaurant in the first floor. Anyone can visit the restaurant to enjoy delicious meals. The hotel rooms offer a view of the Kikonai townscape.

Aza Honcho 78, Kikonai-cho  
☎01392-2-2146

# Kikonai MAP



## Event Schedule

- January 13 to 15  
**Kanchu Misogi Festival**
- Early May  
**Cape Saraki Tulip Fair**
- Mid-August  
**Kikonai Kanrin Maru Festival**
- Late October or Early November  
**Hometown Industry Festival**



### Zentoji Temple

This temple houses a statue of a Nio Guardian and a monument to Juro Matsumo, a Hokkaido pioneer. The defunct Esashi railway line used to pass through the temple grounds.



### Kikonai Town Museum (Ikarinkan)

This museum displays various historical tools and artifacts of Kikonai Town, as well as an anchor believed to be from the Kanrin Maru.



### Kikonai-no-Bou

A statue of a man who symbolizes filial piety. It is based on a real person named Tomoyoshi Kawamata, who sold matches despite being blind in order to support his parents.



### Yakushi-yama

A small, 72-m high mountain that can be summited in around 10 minutes. The summit offers a great view of the town, the Tsugaru Strait, and the surrounding mountains.



### Misogi Beach

Watch the Kanchu Misogi Festival from a wooden deck, or emulate the practitioners by passing through the torii gate towards the sea.



### Murakami Shibazakura Garden

Private shibazakura garden in the Satsukari district. In May, various varieties of pink moss bloom with vivid colors bloom, and a temporary parking lot becomes available for visitors.



### Cape Saraki Tulip Garden

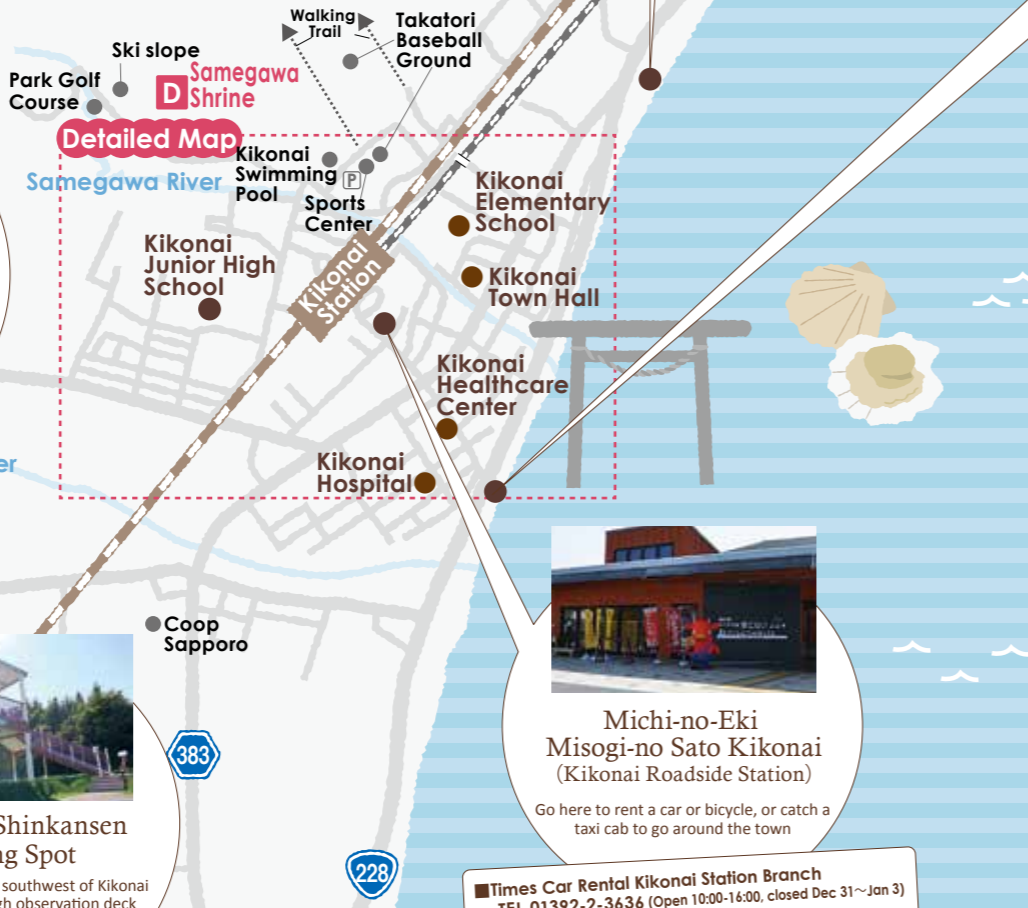
A garden with a monument of the Kanrin Maru warship, it blooms with over 50,000 tulips in May.

Wi-Fi available in the area marked by the dotted line.

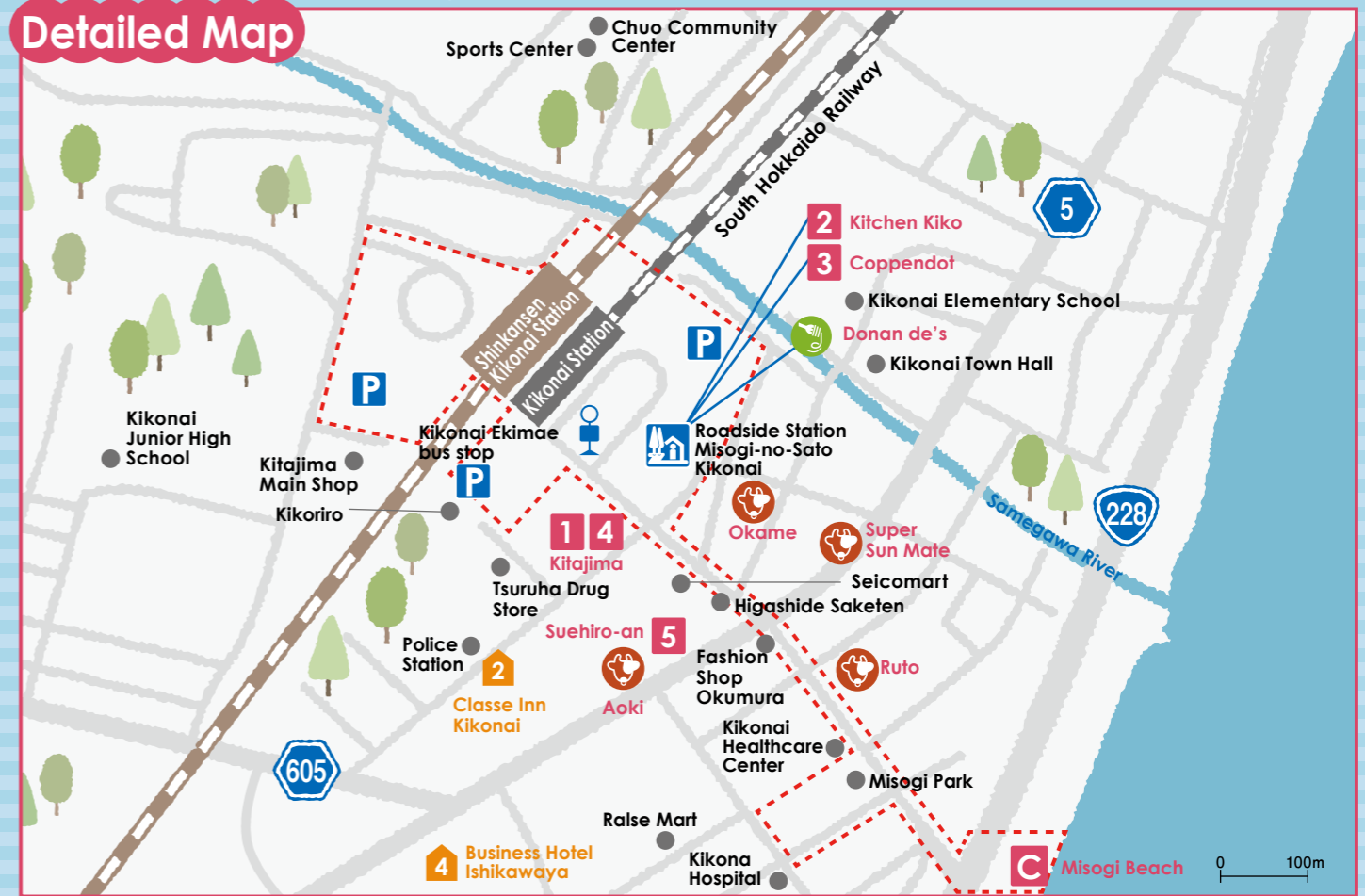


Free Wi-Fi is available at the Kikonai Station North Exit, Kikonai Road Station, Higashide Saketen, and the Misogihama area.

0 500m



## Detailed Map



- Times Car Rental Kikonai Station Branch  
TEL.01392-2-3636 (Open 10:00-16:00, closed Dec 31~Jan 3)
  - JR Rent-A-Car Hokkaido Kikonai Branch  
TEL.01392-2-2555 (Open 9:00-18:00, closed Dec 31~Jan 3)
  - Kikoriin Rent-a-Cycle TEL.01392-2-3161
- \*Business hours are subject to change.  
\*Check the website for the latest information.

0 100m

# Hometown Tax Donation

Delicious foods and products nurtured by the mountains, sea, and nature of Kikonai

1

## Hakodate Wagyu Beef



A local brand of Japanese Brown (Akaushi) cattle. Only around 220 cattle are raised every year, but they have a short fattening period that gives their meat a soft quality. It is a lean, healthy kind of beef with an exquisite flavor.

2

## Misogi no Mai



This rare Japanese sake is produced in limited quantities and sold only in Kikonai. It is made from local Honoka 224 rice and brewed in Kikonai's sister city of Tsuruoka in Yamagata Prefecture. It has a dry and refreshing flavor.

### Kikonai Brand Product Certification

This certification system certifies quality products that make use of Kikonai's local resources. It also aims to help develop new products, improve existing ones, and promote Kikonai as a whole.



3

## Hakodate Wagyu Beef Croquette



A croquette made with Hokkaido May Queen potatoes and Hakodate Wagyu beef simmered with onions. This return gift is a 3-variety set that also includes a Hokkaido Scallop & Butter Croquette, and a Hokkaido Fresh Cream Cheese Croquette.

4

## Jingisukan



Jingsukan is a mutton and lamb barbecue dish that is a Hokkaido specialty. This jingsukan is made with sinewless meat seasoned with a locally-made secret sauce. Sets that include chicken thighs, pork loin, and pork belly are also available.

5

## Live Wild Abalone



This wild abalone caught in the rough waters of the Tsugaru Strait near Kikonai has a firm consistency. They are delivered live only for a limited period between October and December. Braised abalone is also available.

6

## Rice (Fukkurinko)

Fukkurinko rice from Southern Hokkaido has gained attention for its soft and delicious quality even when it gets cold. This gift set contains rice produced by local farmers in Kikonai Town for everyone to enjoy.



Check the following sites for information on the Hometown Tax Donation and return gifts for Kikonai Town

Furusato Choice



Furunavi



Rakuten Furusato Nozei



Satofull



## Access to Kikonai Town

Approx. 330km

Sapporo

About 4 hours by expressway

Kikonai KIKONAI TOWN

### By Shinkansen

- Tokyo to Kikonai 3hours 58minutes
- Sendai to Kikonai 2hours 24minutes
- Morioka to Kikonai 1hour 37minutes
- Shin-Aomori to Kikonai 47 minutes
- Shin-Hakodate-Hokuto to Kikonai 12minutes

### By Airplane

- From Haneda Airport, fly to Hakodate Airport  
Take the bus or taxi to Hakodate Station  
Take the bus or train to Kikonai Station  
Approx. 3hours 5minutes

### By Bus

- Kikonai Station to Esashi Hospital  
6buses per day (106minutes)
- Kikonai Station to Matsumae Bus Terminal  
10buses per day (100minutes)
- Kikonai Station to Hakodate Station  
6buses per day (90minutes)

※Bus schedules subject to change. Contact Hakodate Bus for up-to-date information.

### By Car

- Kikonai Interchange to Hakodate Interchange  
30minutes (34km)
- Kikonai Interchange to Hakodate Airport Interchange  
40minutes (44km)
- Kikonai to Shiriuchi  
11minutes (9km)
- Kikonai to Fukushima  
38minutes (34km)
- Kikonai to Matsumae  
64minutes (54km)
- Kikonai to Kaminokuni  
50minutes (42km)
- Kikonai to Esashi  
61minutes (50km)
- Kikonai to Assabu  
76minutes (63km)
- Kikonai to Otohe  
78minutes (64km)
- Kikonai to Okushiri Island(ferry)  
201 minutes (111km)

Compared to major cities, the 9 towns in Southern Hokkaido have more open roads and less traffic lights, allowing you a smoother drive. However, you should always pay attention to the road and be careful not to overspeed.

Published 2023

Inquiries

Kikonai Town Industrial Economic Affairs Division  
<http://www.town.kikonai.hokkaido.jp>

Honcho 218, Kikonai-cho, Kamiiso-gun, Hokkaido  
TEL.01392-2-3131 FAX.01392-2-3622