

ASAHIKAWA INFO

February 2026 , Volume 350



Language Exchange Lounge Series

Join our lively lounge events to meet friendly native speakers and fellow language learners from around the world!

Hosted at the Asahikawa International Center from 18:00-19:00

Lounge		Dates
Pengyou Lounge Chinese & Japanese Exchange	中文	2/4 (Wed)
Solniska Lounge Russian & Japanese Exchange		2/5 (Thu)
K x J Lounge Korean & Japanese Exchange		2/19 (Thu)
Nihongo Lounge Japanese Exchange		2/20 (Fri)



Asahikawa Winter Festival

TIME: 10:00-20:00

LOCATION: Tokiwa Park by Asahibashi Bridge

DETAILS: Experience winter wonderland in Asahikawa by attending the Asahikawa Winter Festival! The festival this year will be Vulpix-themed! There you can see the Vulpix-themed stage, get limited edition Vulpix goods, as well as enjoy other amusements such as ice slides, ice maze, food markets, performances, and even fireworks!

NOTE: Fireworks are only on 2/6 (FRI), 2/7 (SAT), 2/11 (WED)

Scan the QR Code for more details.

2/6-2/11

Friday- Wednesday

LOCAL EVENT



Experience Japanese Culture

TIME: 14:00-16:00

LOCATION: Asahikawa International Center

DETAILS: Enjoy different Japanese cultural experiences with locals from Asahikawa! From Japanese calligraphy to origami, there are many workshops for everyone to enjoy Japanese culture!

REGISTRATION ENCOURAGED BUT NOT REQUIRED!

FEEL FREE TO JOIN ON THE DAY OF EVENT

Scan the QR Code for Registration

2/14

Saturday



Check out our website and social media for information regarding the events above.

For further information or to register for events, contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (AIC)

Address: Asahikawa International Center Feeaal 7F,
1-jo-dori 8-chome, Asahikawa 070-0031

Tel: (0166) 25-7491 **Fax:** (0166) 23-4924

Email: asahikawainternationalcenter@gmail.com

Website: <https://asahikawaic.jp/en/>



Scan the QR Code to check out our homepage!

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Follow us on social media for latest updates and upcoming events!

X (formerly twitter)



Facebook



Instagram



****The opinions expressed in the essays are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the AIC or the City of Asahikawa.****



NOTICE: CHANGES IN JR LIMITED EXPRESS TRAINS

By John Mabilangan

Phasing Out Non-Reserved Seats and S Tickets

Hokkaido JR Limited Express trains (特急列車) run between Sapporo and Asahikawa. They also go to places like Wakkanai and Abashiri.

On the Sapporo–Asahikawa route, passengers could use the S-Ticket (S-きっぷ). This ticket was cheaper than buying two separate tickets. It allowed people to sit in non-reserved seats and was valid for a round trip within six days.

From this spring, JR Hokkaido will remove all non-reserved seats. All seats will become reserved seats. Because of this change, the S-Ticket will stop being sold on March 9, 2026 and is usable only up to March 13, 2026.

JR Hokkaido says this change is to make seating fair. People who get on at the first station often find seats easily, while others must stand for the whole trip.

Affected Limited Express Trains

- Kamui Limited Express, Lilac Limited Express (Sapporo ⇄ Asahikawa)
- Soya Limited Express, Sarobetsu Limited Express (Sapporo ⇄ Wakkanai)
- Ohotsk Limited Express (Sapporo ⇄ Abashiri)

Tickets That Will No Longer Be Available This Spring 2026

- Round-trip Non-Reserved Seating Discount Ticket (S-Ticket)
- Round-trip Reserved Seating Discount Ticket (R-Ticket)
- Sapporo Rapid Limited Express Ticket
- Asahikawa ⇄ Nayoro 4-Ticket-Set
- Sapporo Round Trip Limited Ticket
- Furano ⇄ Sapporo Round Trip Ticket
- Furano Biei Rail Ticket
- Asahiyama Zoo Ticket/ Asahiyama Zoo Access Ticket



Introducing Eki-Net

With the end of Limited Express Tickets and more reserved seats, JR Hokkaido is promoting its website, Ekinet, for buying train tickets. Ekinet can be used on computers and smartphones and allows users to buy tickets easily, often at a lower price.

One-Way Ticket Sapporo ⇄ Asahikawa
Standard Price

¥5,440

One-Way Ticket Sapporo ⇄ Asahikawa
Ekinet Discount Price (Tokkyuu Tokudane)

¥2,440~¥4,340

Reserving a Discount Ticket with Ekinet

1. Create a JRE ID

To use Ekinet, users must first create a JRE ID which is an account for Japan Railways East.

Having a JRE ID not only allows you to access Ekinet, but also charge your Suica card, JR apps, and other services by Japan Railways

Link: <https://www.eki-net.com/Personal/member/wb/Jreid/JreidSelect>



Scan to create JRE ID

2. Log-In to Ekinet

Log into Ekinet using your JRE ID.



Scan to go to Ekinet

3. Reserve Your Ticket

1. Fill in your travel details as seen in the picture ①
 - Departure, Destination
 - One-Way or Round-Trip
 - Departure & Arrival times, etc.
2. Select which train you would like to board ②
3. After selecting, be sure to select 指定席 (reserved seating), and select the third option, トクだ値 (tokudane), for the reduced price ③
4. On the next page, you can select your seat by clicking 座席表 (シートマップ) を確認 ④
5. Afterwards, add your payment options and pay for your ticket.
6. Once you paid for your ticket you will receive an email with a QR code. **Go to a ticketing machine at your station and scan the QR code to issue your ticket. Please do this in advance!**



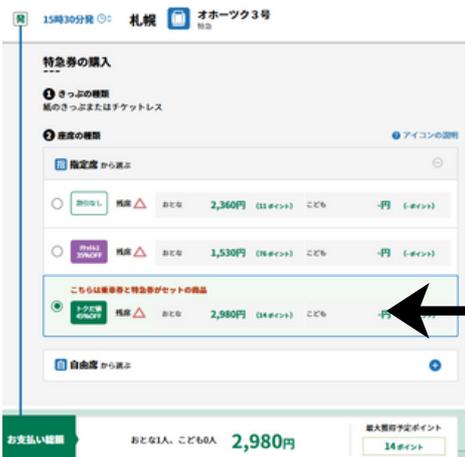
①

Click to search for available trains



②

Click to select train and choose your ticket



③

IMPORTANT
Select TOKUDANE トクだ値 for discounted tickets



④

Select your seating here

Learn Japanese & English through Card Games

カードゲームを通して、英語と日本語を学ぶ

By John Mabilangan



Language learning can sometimes feel endless and tiring because of the large amount of vocabulary and expressions to learn. One way to make learning more efficient is to focus on words and expressions that are fun and commonly used, since these tend to be easier to remember. One fun and useful group of expressions comes from games! Here are some helpful card game expressions in both English and Japanese.

言語学習では、覚えるべき単語や表現が数えきれないほどあり、疲れてしまうことがあります。勉強をより効果的にするためには、楽しくて、よく使われる表現を学ぶことが大切です。なぜなら、そのような単語や表現は記憶に残りやすいからです。楽しくて便利な表現といえば、ゲームで使われる表現があります。以下は、役に立つ日本語と英語の表現です。

Japanese にほんご	English 英語	Example Sentence 例文
山札 (やまふだ)	Deck	Please pull from the <u>deck</u> . <u>山札</u> からカードを引(ひ)いて下さい。
手札 (てふだ)	Hand	I can see your hand! <u>手札</u> が見(み)えていますよ!
番 (ばん) 順番 (じゅんばん)	Turn	It's my <u>turn</u> to roll the dice 私の <u>番</u> でサイコロを振(ふ)ります。 Let's take <u>turns</u> drawing cards <u>順番</u> でカードを引きましょう!
カードを引 (ひ) く	Draw a card	To end your turn, you must <u>draw a card</u> . 番を終(お)わらせるため、 <u>カードを引く</u> のです。
カードをよく切(き)る	Shuffle	I <u>shuffled the cards</u> before the game started. 始(は)じまる前(まえ)、 <u>カードをよく切りました</u> 。
ターンを飛(と)ばす	Skip a turn	This card lets you <u>skip one player's turn</u> . このカードで相手(あいて)の <u>ターンを飛ばす</u> ことができます。
カードを捨(す)てる	Discard a card	Since you already played this card, you need to <u>discard it</u> . このカードをもう出(だ)したから、 <u>捨てる</u> べきです。
カードを出(だ)す	Play a card	I will <u>play 3 cards</u> during my turn. 私のターンの間(あいだ)、 <u>カードを3枚(まい)出します</u> 。