

Touring the Many Landmarks of Otaru

From the Unspoilt Landscapes of Shukuzu to the Microcosm of Modern Architecture

Otaru, the City of Historical Landmarks

We have introduced to you Shukuzu and its original landscape of fisheries, the Temiya Railway, breakwater, canal and construction of canneries and stone warehouses constructed under the influence and utilization of American technology, the water reservoir and brewery in Okusawa, and the buildings of Ironai which were designed and built by the forerunners of the architecture world. All of these buildings in each district were created through the development of industry following the Meiji Period, their history conveyed to the present. They represent the fishery, railway, port, food processing, warehousing, construction and architecture industries and were listed in the report (Hokkaido Heritage of Modernization- Heritage of Modernization General Research Report) commissioned by the Hokkaido Board of Education in 1995. Each and every one show evidence that they were at the forefront of their era. As proof, the Temiya Railway Engine House and surrounding railway facilities were, based on the admittance of the report, recognized as important cultural asset of the nation.

The special appeal of Otaru is owed to its ownership of first class heritage. Focusing on this historical heritage and expanding it into new dimensions will further enrich the appeal that Otaru possesses.