Welcome to Daisetsuzan National Park

Designated in 1934 with an area of approximately 230,930 hectares, Daisetsuzan National Park is the largest national park in Japan. There offices for park rangers are located here to preserve nature, animals and plants, as well as the magnificent landscapes of mountains and marshes.

Kamui Mintara

The Ainu, who have long lived in harmony with nature, called the Daisetsuzan Mountains "Kamui Mintara" (the garden where deities play). The Daisetsuzan Mountains, which harbor memories from ancient times, convey the majesty of nature.

Living Witnesses to the Glacial Epoch

In the glacial epoch, the sea level lowered, and Hokkaido was connected with the Asian Continent by land. Yellow butterflies (Parnassius versicolor) and Atlantic pikes are said to have arrived in Hokkaido at that time and now live in the cold climate of the Daisetsuzan Mountains.

Patterned Ground

It took the cold weather of the Daisetsuzan Mountains and a great many years to make the strange stone patterns. You can also retrieve data on the permafrost (permanently frozen soil) seen around the top of the Daisetsuzan Mountains.

People and Animals

Nature is the mother of all creatures. All creatures are closely related to each other. Exhibits featuring stuffed animals and animal carvings include brown bears and Sika deer living amidst the natural splendor of the Daisetsuzan Mountains, as well as Blakiston’s fish owls and black woodpeckers designated as natural monuments.

Coexistence with the Natural Environment

This facility reduces the electrical consumption for lighting by using both a solar power generation system and commercial power supply as well as through natural lighting. Moreover, the "Promenade" at the Sounkyo Hot Spring Resort has snow-melting patterns which employ the waste water from nearby hot springs.

Sounkyo Visitor Center

Sounkyo, Kamikawa-cho, Kamikawa-gun, Hokkaido 078-1701, Japan
Tel: 01658-9-4400 Fax: 01658-9-4401

Sounkyo Visitor Center

Information on the Center

Hours: June–September 8:00–18:00
October–May 9:00–17:00
Closed: Open every day (from July to September in Summer)
November–May: Mondays
(When Monday falls on a holiday, the following Tuesday)
December 31 to January 5
Brief description on explanation panels

Layout of explanation panels, counters and other furnishings
- Numbers are shown on the upper left-hand corner of each explanation panel.

**Information Counter**

Receptionists at this counter offer the most current information. Feel free to ask questions.

**Nature Observation Courses**

Four courses, which provide opportunities to experience the natural beauty of places representative of Daisetsuzan National Park, are available to users of the park. Why not collect information on nature, including animals and plants season and things worth seeing, before going out to experience the natural beauty of the park?

**Guide to Mountain Climbing**

To ensure safe and enjoyable mountain climbing, mountain information notices provide guidance to people planning to climb in the Daisetsuzan Mountains. Information on dangerous areas and places where brown bears often appear are posted.

**Vast Flower Gardens**

The different environments of the Daisetsuzan Mountains contain diverse flower gardens and a variety of native butterfly species. Flower gardens, plants and butterflies which grow in colonies in bogs, snowmelt meadows, snowbeds, crevass piles, windblown trees and gravel beds are displayed.

**High-Definition TV Videos**

- Daisetsuzan Mountains and Sunagaya Gorge
  - The four seasons of the Daisetsuzan Mountains: winter, spring, summer and autumn
  - Secrets of Sunagaya Gorge

Push the start button to see beautiful high-definition TV videos.

**Lounge**

This corner provides opportunities to talk about the nature, including animals and plants, while sitting around a table. The outdoor terrace commands a fine view of Sunagaya Gorge. You can also retrieve information on nature and how to enjoy it through the "All of the Daisetsuzan Mountains" database.

**Video Library**

You can watch a video on the Daisetsuzan Mountains on the monitor. Feel free to ask our staff member about it.

**Geological Dioramas of Daisetsuzan National Park**

Daisetsuzan National Park, including its climbing paths, major roads and a snow-covered valley in early July, are expressed using topographic models of important natural features. You can locate the major mountains of the Daisetsuzan, shelters, campsites, hot springs, nature facilities and other spots by pressing a switch.

**Changes in Forests**

Forests in the Daisetsuzan Mountains are protected by the power of nature and people's efforts. Exhibits on the wind damage caused by the Toyama Typhoon in 1934 and forests restored by removing trees killed by the wind and planting are displayed.

**Columnar Joint**

When one of the volcanoes in the Daisetsuzan Mountains erupted from the central crater (Ohachi crater) approximately 30,000 years ago, large quantities of pumice and volcanic ash buried the Itokura River basin. As the sediment cooled, regular columns (columnar joint) formed in it, which were eroded by the swift current of the Itokura River to create the present valley.

**Free Display and Lecture Room**

In this room, photo exhibitions and other exhibitions with themes are displayed, and the results of study and research are presented. Handicraft classes, slide & talk shows and video theaters are also planned.