

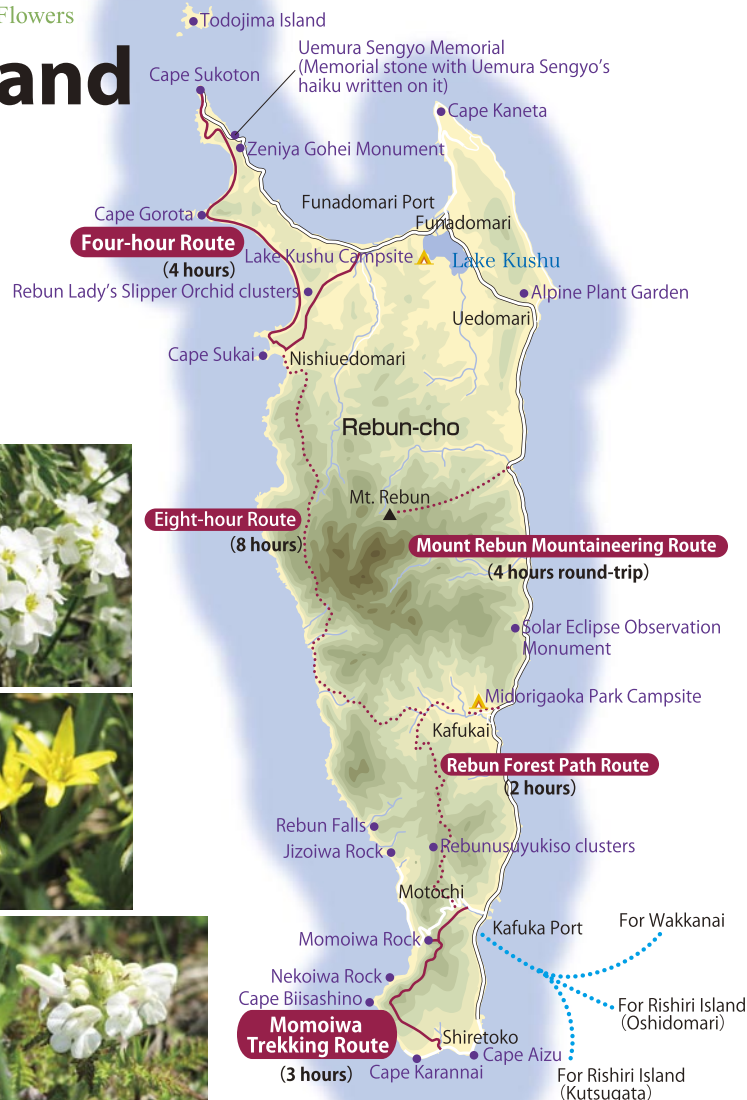


Trekking to Explore the Island of Flowers

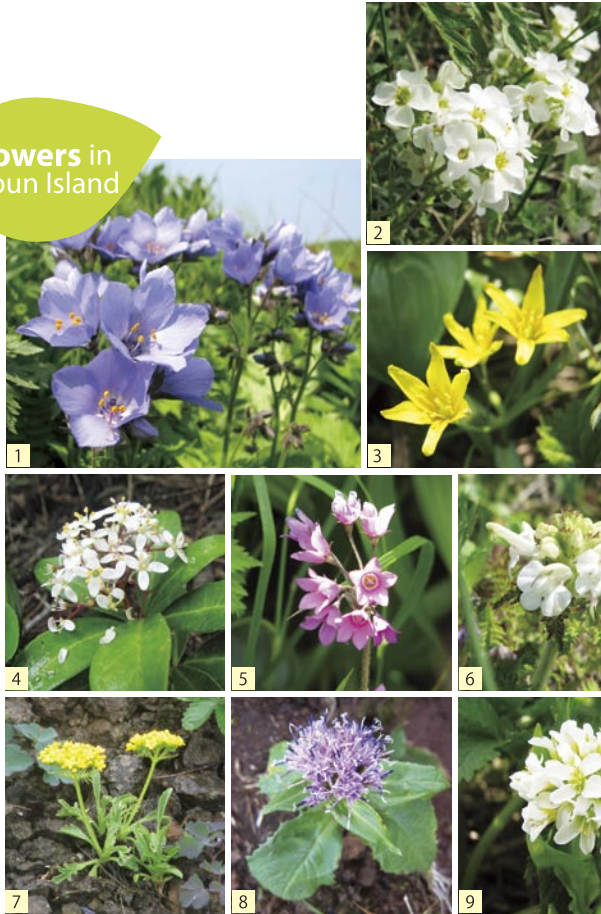
Rebun Island

Although the most popular place on Rebun Island is the Momoiwa Rock area, there are other highlights as well.

By boat it takes 1 hour and 55 minutes to get to Kafuka on Rebun Island from Wakkanai, and about 40 minutes from Oshidomari on Rishiri Island. Public bus service and tours by coach are available on the island, and you can go cycling as well.



Flowers in Rebun Island



- 1 Jacob's Ladder
- 2 Boreal Draba
- 3 Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem
- 4 Japanese Skimmia
- 5 Alpine Bells
- 6 Nemuroshigoma (a species of Lousewort, *Pedicularis schistostegia*)
- 7 Chishimakinreika (a species of Valerian, *Patrinia sibirica*)
- 8 Rebutouchiren (a subspecies of Snow Lotus, *Saussurea riederi* subsp. *yezoensis* var. *insularis*)
- 9 Tower Mustard

The West Coast

Sea cliffs prevail on the west coast of the island, but it is difficult to view the whole coast from the land. However, a good view of Jizoiwa Rock and Nekojiwa Rock, along with Momojiwa Rock towering in the background can be seen at Motochi View Point. Sightseeing by sea kayaks is possible on days when the waves are gentle.



Viewing the west coast (Cape Sukai and Cape Gorota)



Viewing Momojiwa Rock from the ocean

The Momoiwa Rock Trekking Course

Momoiwa is a rock shaped like a peach, and you can get a good view of it from the Momoiwa Observatory. Momoiwa was formed by the cooling of magma, and layers of cracks resembling the skin of an onion can be seen on the surface. From Kafuka you can ascend on foot up to Momoiwa Observatory. Flower gardens extend down the entire western slope from Momoiwa Observatory to Motochi Lighthouse. The walkway extends down to Shiretoko at the southern tip of the island.



Momoiwa Observatory



Nekojiwa Rock viewed from Momoiwa Route



Flower gardens on Momoiwa Route

A Four-hour Trekking Course and Lake Kushu

Cape Sukoton is at the northern tip of Rebun Island. From the south side, you can walk along the Edoya mountain trail and Cape Gorota, then go further along the coast to Cape Sukai, from which you can return through the vast flower garden of the Rebutouchi Slipper Orchid (*Cypripedium macranthum* var. *rebunense*) to Hamanaka. The total trekking time is about 4 hours. The clear, blue ocean view from any point on the trail is superb. Gorota Beach is one of the few sandy beaches found on the west coast of the island.

Lake Kushu has an area of about 60ha, and is separated from the sea by sand dunes. On its south bank, there is a wetland where a wooden walkway is set up. The Asian Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton camtschatcense*) blooms in the spring, and the Kamchatka Lily (*Fritillaria camtschatcensis*) in the early summer. There is a campsite on the lakeshore.



Rebutouchi Slipper Orchid



The observatory at Cape Sukoton



Berries of the Crowberry

Mount Rebutouchi

Mount Rebutouchi has an elevation of 490m and is the highest peak on Rebun Island. Although the elevation is low, Mt. Rebutouchi is covered with shrubby thickets of species such as the Creeping Pine and the Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum* var. *japonicum*). In the entire summit area, the atmosphere is similar to that of the alpine zone of central Honshu. You can view all of Rebun Island from the summit, and can even see Sakhalin.



The four-hour route through continuous flower gardens