

Let's go to the Sarobetsu wetlands!

What does "Sarobetsu" mean?

The Sarobetsu region is named from the old Ainu name for the region "Saru o pe", which can be translated as "the river running through the marsh".

What are the Sarobetsu Wetlands?

Around 10,000 years ago, the area around Sarobetsu was a huge lake connected to the sea. The plants that grew there at time, died and gradually piled up to form a layer of peat which over 6,000 years formed the wetlands as we see them today. The poor nutrition makes the area ideal for a range of flowering plants suited to severe environments. In addition, the area is a treasure house of wildlife. The area is visited by various migratory birds, including the Bean goose, which visits every spring and autumn, and is considered a wetland area of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

What is "Nature Restoration" ?

The precious natural beauty of Sarobetsu is gradually being lost through the drying out of the wetlands. Nature restoration projects are aimed at restoring the original fertility to the area, and these projects are promoted through the cooperation of many participants.

Birds found in Sarobetsu.



Dredger

A dredger previously used for mining peat from the wetlands is on display.



Sarobetsu Wetland Center

The center is a doorway to the Sarobetsu Wetlands, providing easy-to-understand explanations of the natural highlights as well as the history of the wilderness reclamation activities. The exhibition area has the theme of "humans and nature together", and offers information on various subjects including the nature, culture and history associated with the wetlands, as well as the goals and activities associated with the nature restoration project.

Please ask the staff if you have any questions.

Please feel free to use the facilities.

There is a multi-purpose toilet for wheelchairs and ostomate users as well as a changing table for infants.



Dredger in operation



Peat Industry Hall

Here we introduce the history and images of as well as the actual tools previously employed in the area's peat industry.

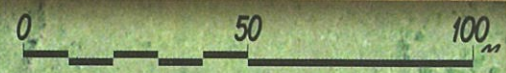


Water Purification System

Water Purification System

As the water released from the Wetland Center can have an impact on the wetland environment, it is purified through a 4-stage purification process.

Check out the remains of the peat digging



- Please take care to**
- take your trash with you
 - not pick the wild flowers
 - not feed the wildlife
 - not smoke on the wooden walkways

Wildflowers found in Sarobetsu



Approx. 280km from Sapporo
 Approx. 210km from Asahikawa
 Approx. 40km from Wakkanai

Approx. 4hr 20min from Sapporo by express train
 Approx. 3hr from Asahikawa by express train
 Approx. 40min from Wakkanai by express train

 A bus runs from JR Toyotomi Station.
 For details contact Engan Bus Co. at 0164-62-1550

Sarobetsu Wetland Center

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Entry: Free
 Opening hours:
 May-October: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
 *Hours are extended in
 June-July: 8:30 am to 5:30 pm
 Open everyday
 November-April: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
 Closed on Mondays and at New Year (12/29-1/3)



Sarobetsu Wetland Center
<http://www.sarobetsu.or.jp/center/>



Ministry of the Environment Hokkaido Regional Environment
 Office Homepage
<http://hokkaido.env.go.jp/>
 Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu National Park Homepage
<http://www.env.go.jp/park/rishiri/>






Sarobetsu Genseikaen Sarobetsu Wetland Center











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