

Mt. Meakan Mt. Akanfuji Lake Onneto

Trail Map



Akan-Mashu National Park

Mt. Meakan and Mt. Akanfuji Profile

Mt. Meakan (1,499 m) and Mt. Akanfuji (1,476 m) are two of the tallest volcanoes in Akan-Mashu National Park. Mt. Meakan, a composite volcano with 10 peaks, is an iconic symbol of the park and the powerful geological forces that define it.



There are three hiking trails to the summit of Meakan: the Meakan Onsen Trail, the Onneto Trail, which forks off to Akanfuji, and the Akankohan Trail. Each of the trails is divided into 10 stages with waypoints known as “stations.”

A variety of alpine flowers grow above the tree line along the three hiking routes. These include the small, yellow Meakan Cinquefoil and the white-petaled Meakan Sandwort. Both of these flowers were discovered on Mt. Meakan and thus bear its name in Japanese.

Mt. Meakan has two main craters, Pon-machineshiri Crater and Naka-machineshiri Crater. Pon-machineshiri is the largest, at 300 meters deep and 700 meters wide, and is closest to the summit. It contains two colorful lakes, said to be acidic, and is a habitat for birds, including Pacific Swifts, which make their nests in the crater wall in summer. From the highest points around Mt. Meakan, there are panoramic views of Lake Akan and the surrounding mountains of eastern Hokkaido.

A different view of Mt. Meakan can be seen from the summit of Akanfuji, a 2.5-hour round trip from the top of Meakan or a 1.5-hour round trip from the fork in the Onneto Trail, near the Eighth Station.



Onneto Trail



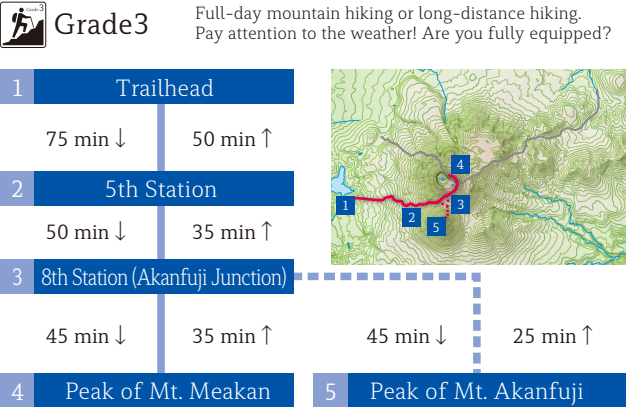
The Onneto Trail is slightly longer than the Meakan Onsen Trail and begins at the Onneto Campground parking area. The ascent, through a dense forest of broad-leaved and needle-bearing trees, is gradual. The forest is at its greenest in summer, with seedlings, ferns, and other plants growing along the trail. You may spot luminous moss in the shade under rock outcroppings and within tree trunks.

Past thick ranks of Japanese Stone Pines around the Fifth Station are fields of Lingonberry, Black Crowberry, Mountain Harebell, and other hardy alpine flowers. At around the Eighth Station, the trail diverges. You can choose to take a side excursion to the peak of Mt. Akanfuji or continue up Mt. Meakan. The last stretch of the trail as it approaches the peak of Meakan is a steep, slippery path of rock and gravel. Watch out for falling rocks, and enjoy the views of the vast Pon-machineshiri Crater to your left.

The road to the Onneto Campground, where the trailhead is located, is closed from around December to April.

Distance	approx. 4.4 km one-way	Elevation Gain	857 m
Time	[Ascent] 2 hr 50 min [Descent] 2 hr [Total] 4 hr 50 min		

※Mt.Akanfuji’s trail route is not included in the above data.



Meakan Onsen Trail

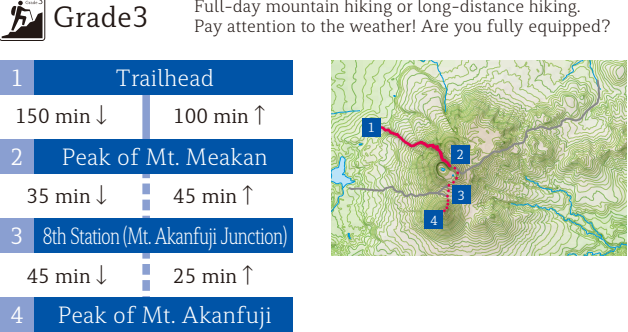


This trail is slightly more challenging than the other two trails up Mt. Meakan but takes the shortest time to hike. The trailhead is a two-minute walk on the road heading north from the Meakan Onsen parking lot. The path starts with a gentle ascent through a forest of Sakhalin Spruce, one of the few tree species able to survive in the nutrient-deficient volcanic soil of Mt. Meakan’s northwestern slopes. Many of the trees on these slopes are over 260 years old.

The path steepens from the Second Station. Around the Third Station, taller trees give way to low-lying Japanese Stone Pines. From the Fifth Station, Lake Onneto is visible. If the weather is clear, it may be possible to see the Daisetsuzan mountain range in the distance to the northwest. As you approach the summit, the landscape changes from alpine shrubs and flowers to distinctly volcanic terrain, scattered with small steam vents and giant rocks ejected during past eruptions. From the Eighth Station onward, the trail becomes precipitous and winding, leveling out along the crater rim.

Distance	approx. 3.3 km one-way	Elevation Gain	792 m
Time	[Ascent] 2.5 hr [Descent] 1 hr 40 min [Total] 4 hr 10 min		

※Mt.Akanfuji’s trail route is not included in the above data.



Akankohan Trail

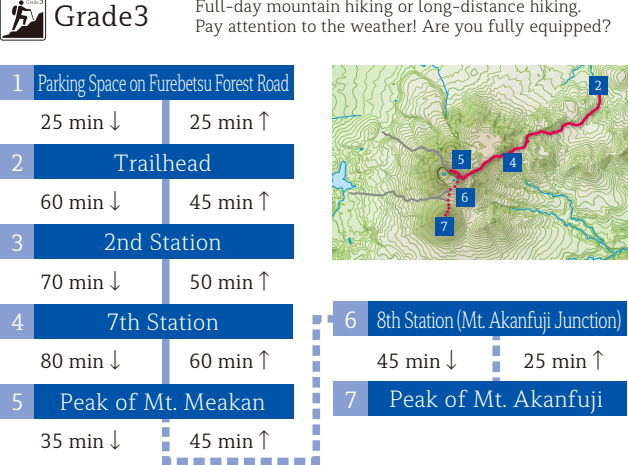


This trail is accessible via the Furebetsu Forest Road to the west of Lake Akan, and is about a 20-minute drive from the town of Akanko Onsen. It takes between three and four hours to reach the top of Meakan on this trail, which has the gentlest incline but is the longest of the three Meakan trails. You will pass through a Sakhalin Spruce forest before reaching swaths of Japanese Stone Pines at an altitude of about 1,000 meters. From here, there are excellent views of the Naka-machineshiri Crater, Lake Akan, and Mt. Oakan.

The section of the trail above the tree line passes through a volcanic moonscape near the Naka-machineshiri Crater rim. Hissing steam from the vent in the crater can sometimes be heard in this area. Near the summit, the trail merges with the Onneto trails. From here, it is a short climb to the peak.

Distance	approx. 6.3 km one-way	Elevation Gain	729 m
Time	[Ascent] 3 hr 30 min [Descent] 2 hr 35 min [Total] 6 hr 05 min		

※Mt.Akanfuji’s trail route is not included in the above data.



Before You Go

Your safety and the decisions you make while hiking the trails are your responsibility. You must understand that there are hazards and risks of accidents when in nature. You should only enter the wilds after thorough preparation, including that of your physical condition, and with the understanding that you take full responsibility for any accidents that may happen. With bad weather, the risks of landslides or falling rocks, trees, and branches increase, so please be ready to change or cancel your plans when necessary.

- Choose an appropriate course for your physical ability, condition, and outfitting.
- Mountain weather is prone to variability, so make sure to gather as much information as possible in advance. Also, be sure to bring rain gear.
- The mountains of Hokkaido can see sudden temperature drops below even 1,000 meters, so bring cold-weather gear even in summer.
- There are no drinking water supplies on the hiking trails, so you must bring your own drinking water.
- There are no toilets on the hiking trails. Bring a portable toilet. Keep in mind that there are no stalls for portable toilets, either.
- Be sure to write your information in the Hiker Register located at the trailhead.
- Do not deviate from the trails.
- Take your trash home with you.
- Do not approach or feed any wild animals.
- When driving on forest roads, it's best to use a high-clearance 4WD. Be aware that forest roads can be closed according to season or road conditions.
- Make sure to check volcanic activity before hiking.
- The area near the crater is still volcanically active. If the Japan Meteorological Agency announces an eruption warning, entry to the mountain area will be restricted.

Dangerous Animal Information




Brown Bears : Carry a bear bell and bear spray. It's important to avoid meeting brown bears. Bears tend to avoid humans, so try to announce your presence by making noise in order to ward them off.

Ticks/Mites & Biting Flies : Wear long sleeves and long pants, and try to avoid baring skin. Also, bring insect repellent.

Hornets : Avoid wearing black or very dark clothing. If a swarm approaches, wrap a white towel around your head and neck, and back up slowly to escape the area.

Red Foxes : To avoid echinococcosis (from tapeworms spread by foxes), do not drink any un-boiled water from rivers, etc.

Course Grading:

 Grade 1 Walking	 Grade 2 Light hiking	 Grade 3 Day-long hiking
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· For those wanting to enjoy an easy walk through nature for about an hour· For those with little or no hiking experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· For those who want to enjoy mountain hiking for about a half-day· For those with some mountain hiking experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· For those wanting to enjoy a day-long mountain hike· For those with mountain hiking and long-distance hiking experience
Hat-Comfortable clothes ·Athletic shoes	Hat-Hiking clothes-Hiking boots	
Backpack-Trash bags-Water bottle-Map-Rain Gear		
—	Provisions Cold weather gear	Provisions-Cold weather gear Headlamp-Portable toilet-Compass

This trail grading system is used only inside the Akan-Mashu National Park.

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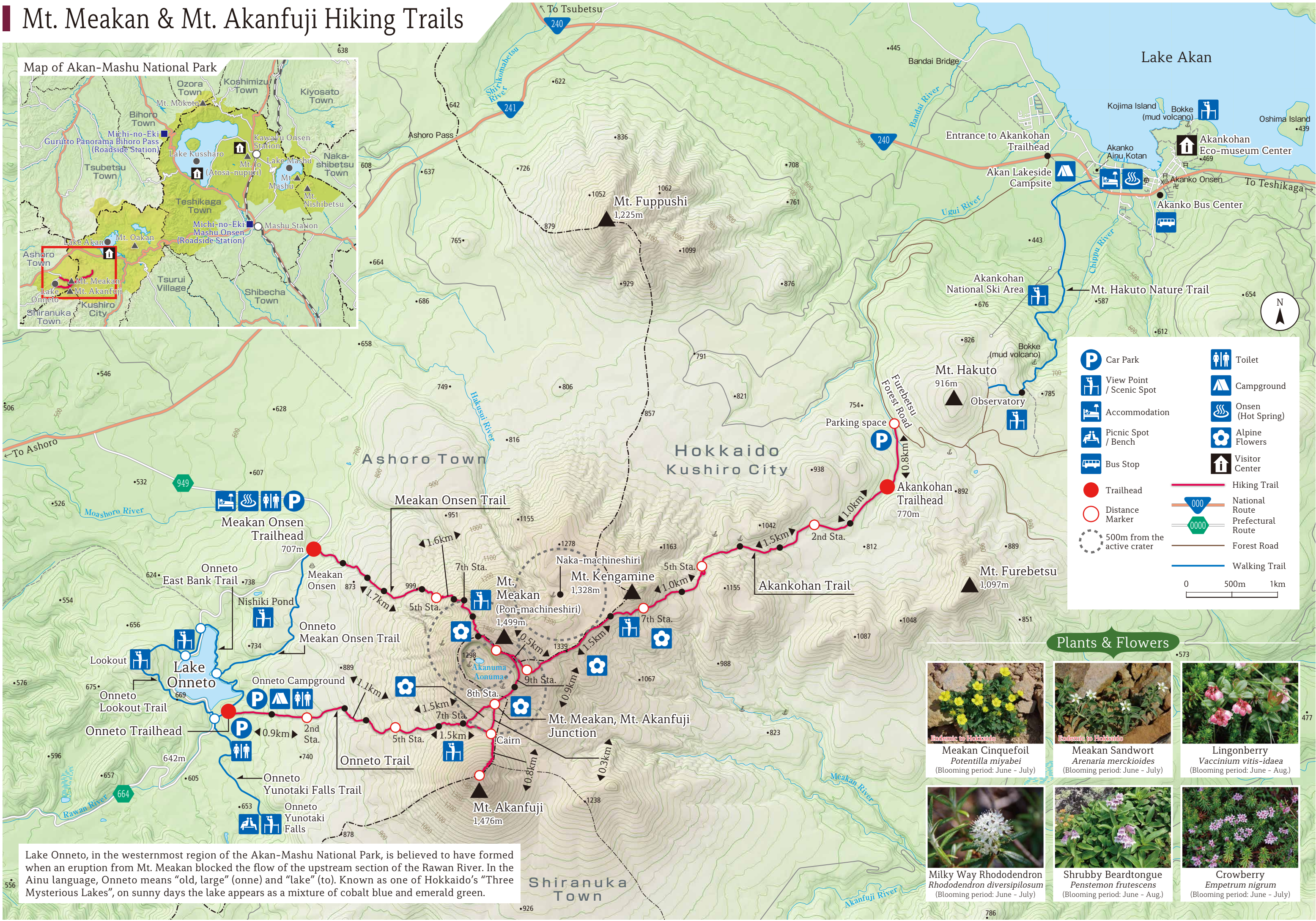
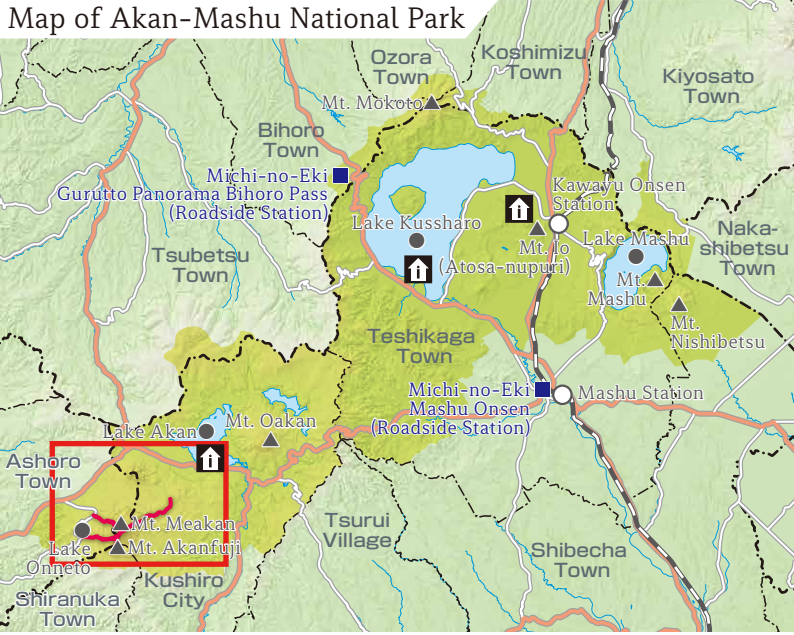
About this map

The Ministry of the Environment has created this map to introduce the regularly accessible walking trails within Akan-Mashu National Park. Each trail and facility is owned and maintained by different organizations, so they are not all the property or responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment. Every trail and facility is available for use based on the understanding that users accept full responsibility for their actions and understand the risk of accidents, and that no organizations are obligated to accept any responsibility for accidents that may happen when using these trails or facilities.

※The Ainu design on this map is certified by the General Corporate Judicial Person Akan Aynu Konsarun

Mt. Meakan & Mt. Akanfuji Hiking Trails

Map of Akan-Mashu National Park



Lake Onneto, in the westernmost region of the Akan-Mashu National Park, is believed to have formed when an eruption from Mt. Meakan blocked the flow of the upstream section of the Rawan River. In the Ainu language, Onneto means "old, large" (onne) and "lake" (to). Known as one of Hokkaido's "Three Mysterious Lakes", on sunny days the lake appears as a mixture of cobalt blue and emerald green.

Plants & Flowers

