

Mt. Mokoto

Trail Map

National Parks of Japan



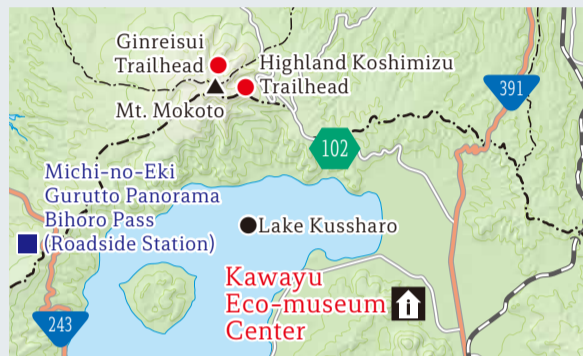
Akan-Mashu National Park

Mt. Mokoto Profile

Mt. Mokoto is the highest peak on the outer rim of Lake Kussharo, Japan's largest caldera lake. The mountain's 1,000-meter summit offers sweeping views of the lake and the surrounding volcanic terrain. Five trails form a loop course that takes in the summit and much of the mountain-side. You have the option to hike the Skyline Trail as a single trail or the entire loop course. The main trailhead for both courses begins at Highland Koshimizu 725, an observatory and small café with a large parking area at an altitude of 725 meters. The Mountaineering Trail as the shortest single course begins at Ginreisui trailhead is another choice.



Access (by car)



- Mt. Mokoto Trailhead (Skyline Trail)
Kawayu Eco-museum Center → National Route 391 / Prefectural Route 102 (approx. 20 min) → Highland Koshimizu 725
- Mt. Mokoto Trailhead (Mountaineering Trail)
Kawayu Eco-museum Center → National Route 391 / Prefectural Route 102 / Forest Road (approx. 50 min) → Ginreisui

Skyline Trail



The Skyline Trail is suitable for most ages and fitness levels. The ascent takes around an hour, and the return journey down the same path takes around 45 minutes. Japanese Stone Pines, alpine dwarf pines that are quite unusual at altitudes of 2,000 meters and lower, flank the narrow track that winds up the mountain from the trailhead.

Occasional breaks in this dense corridor of hardy trees offer open views of the surrounding area. Halfway along the trail, the pines give way to Erman's Birch trees. Past a thicket of these trees is Byobuiwa ("Folding Screen Rock"), a sheer wall of stone that somewhat resembles a folding screen. Around 800 meters from Byobuiwa is a plateau where hikers can take a break before making the short final ascent.

Alpine plants flourish along the trail, decorating the mountain with splashes of seasonal color.

Siberian Chipmunks sometimes appear around the trailhead area, and the distinctive call of the Japanese Bush Warbler may be heard. Alpine plants flourish along the trail, decorating the mountain with splashes of seasonal color. For safety reasons, hikers are asked to write their name and intended route in the ledger at the trailhead.

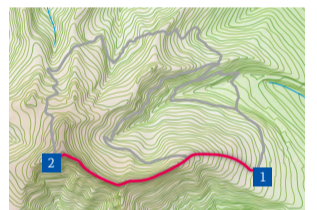
Distance	approx. 2.0 km one-way	Elevation Gain	275 m
Time	[Ascent] 1 hr [Descent] 45 min	[Total]	1 hr 45 min



Grade2

Light mountain hiking for about half a day. Do you have appropriate equipment?

1	Highland Koshimizu 725	60 min ↓	45 min ↑
2	Peak		



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.

- 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.

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. Mokoto Loop Trail



Four trails combine with the Skyline Trail to form an approximately 8-kilometer circuit. After reaching the summit on the Skyline Trail, hikers follow the Mountaineering Trail (1 km), which links up with the Ginreisui Trail (2 km). There is a bio-toilet at the Ginreisui trailhead, as well as a natural spring where water gushes from the ground. The Ginreisui Trail then connects with a section of the Sakhalin Fir Trail (400 m). These three trails wind through a forest before linking up with the Bogakudai Trail (2.4 km).

The most practical way to hike the circuit is by starting and ending at Highland Koshimizu 725. There are several other entry points along the course, however, including one at the Ginreisui trailhead, which is accessible by car. The circuit is a challenging trek that should only be attempted by experienced hikers.

Distance	approx. 8.1 km loop	Elevation Gain	275 m
Time	[Total] 3 hr 40 min		



Grade3

Full-day mountain hiking or long-distance hiking. Pay attention to the weather! Are you fully equipped?

1	Highland Koshimizu 725	60 min ↓	(Skyline Trail)
2	Peak	20 min ↓	(Mountaineering Trail)
3	Ginreisui	60 min ↓	(Ginreisui Trail)
4	Sakhalin Fir Trail	70 min ↓	
5	Bogakudai Trail Junction	10 min ↓	
1	Highland Koshimizu 725		



Mountaineering Trail



This is the shortest course, taking just thirty minutes from the Ginreisui trailhead to the peak of Mt. Mokoto. The trailhead is found by turning at the sign reading "藻琴山登山入口" (Mt. Mokoto trailhead entrance), passing through the deer fence, and following the forest road to the parking lot at the end. A little way down from the parking lot, you'll find a natural spring called Ginreisui. Many hikers stop here to top up their water supplies.

The trail starts out quite steeply as it passes through woods of Erman's Birch. The quiet woods, filled with the sunlight filtering through the trees, are a marked difference from the Skyline Trail. There's no view on the Lake Kussharo side during the climb, but when you pass through the Japanese Stone Pine zone and onto a plateau right before the peak, you'll find wide open scenery on the Sea of Okhotsk side. This open area is where the trail joins the Skyline Trail, and after you conquer the last slope, the peak finally offers a sweeping panorama view of Lake Kussharo and the caldera.

The forest road to the Ginreisui trailhead is narrow and rough, so please drive slowly and carefully.

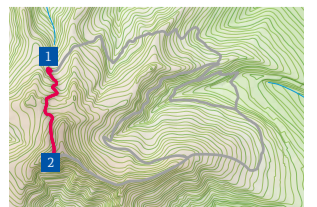
Distance	approx. 1.0 km one-way	Elevation Gain	195 m
Time	[Ascent] 30 min [Descent] 20 min	[Total]	50 min



Grade2

Light mountain hiking for about half a day. Do you have appropriate equipment?

1	Ginreisui	30 min ↓	20 min ↑
2	Peak		



Mt. Mokoto Hiking Trails

