

Severe Winter of Sarobetsu Plain

Experience the Severe Winter of the Furthest End

A large number of people visit this park during the spring and summer, but not many during the winter. There are still few people who snowshoe and cross-country ski in the area. However, nature observation programs are held even during the harshest part of winter. Owing to the Soya Warm Current, the minimum temperature does not drop as low as that of the inland areas. Even in the winter, the unique nature of Sarobetsu can be seen on mild days with soft winds.



Hiking in the snowfield



Rough-legged Buzzard

Enjoy the Plain in the Winter

The weather in Sarobetsu during the coldest period is exceptionally severe. There are days when you cannot see anything because of blizzards obscuring the view and winds blowing snow around. The best time to enjoy Sarobetsu in the winter is on a mild, sunny day when the arrival of the spring can be felt. By taking a walk on the plain using snowshoes or cross-country skis, you can learn about animals' activity from their footprints in the snow. You can also recognize plants that withstand the winter. You may encounter the Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) and the Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*), which migrate to Sarobetsu in winter.



Enjoying cross-country skiing

The View of Mount Rishiri in Sunny Weather after a Snowfall

Mount Rishiri in sunny weather after snowfall has a magnificent appearance different from that in the summer. Mount Rishiri can be seen from anywhere on the road running along the coastline of Sarobetsu, including Bakkai, Hamayuchi, and Wakasakanai. The Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) can be observed at Bakkai Fishing Port. Also there are various viewing spots on the Sarobetsu Plain. Come and find your favorite spot.



Common Redpoll



Clear weather after snowfall in Sarobetsu Plain