

Welcome to Shikotsu-Toya National Park

When you first arrive at this national park, it is a good idea to stop by the visitor center. You can obtain the latest information and tips on how to explore the park through the exhibitions on local nature and history, or guidance by the park staff. There are also various nature-experiencing events and programs.

At Shikotsu-Toya National Park, there is a visitor center on the Shikotsu lakeshore, Toya Takarada Nature Experience House and another visitor center on the Toya lakeshore, all of which are run by the Ministry of Environment. Other facilities where you can learn about the nature in the park include the Volcano Science Museum and the Lake Toya Forest Museum.

In addition, the Utonai-ko Wildlife Center is located by Lake Utonai outside the park in the wetland, which is included in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Toyako Visitor Center

The visitor center at Lake Toya Hot Spring, at the base of Mount Usu opened in 2007. Through displays and exhibitions, it describes the flora and fauna of Lake Toya and its surrounding area, as well as the volcanic activities of Mount Usu. The Volcano Science Museum is located next to the visitor center. In its vicinity, some facilities that were destroyed by the eruption in 2000 have been preserved as a remainder of the disaster.

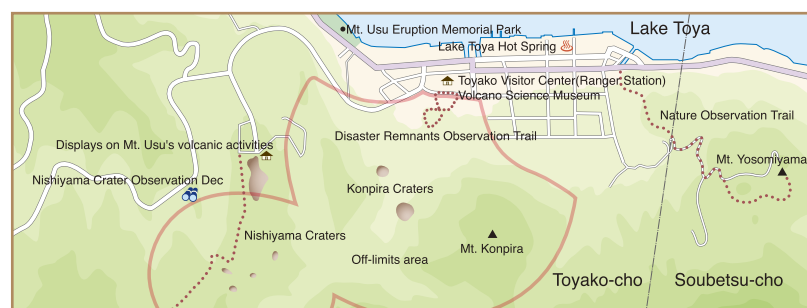


Toyako Visitor Center

142-5 Toyako Onsen, Toyako-cho, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido, 049-5721
Phone: 0142-75-2555
<http://www.toyako-vc.jp/en>

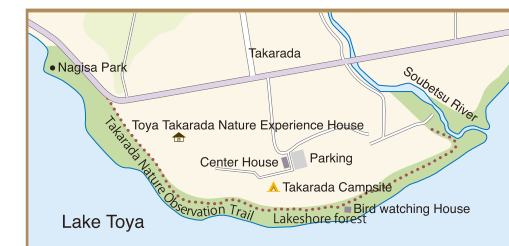
Volcano Science Museum

A museum on Mount Usu's eruptions and disaster prevention is connected to the Toyako Visitor Center by a passage. You can experience the eruption of the year 2000 in the theater with three multi-angled screens and body sensation booth. Damaged cars and railroad tracks are also displayed. This museum charges an entrance fee.



Toya Takarada Nature Experience House

Located on the north shore of Lake Toya in the Takarada district, the Toya Takarada Nature Experience House exhibits information on the nature and animals of the area. There is a biotope pond within the premises, with activities such as observation of freshwater organisms and of environmental improvement, and other activities offering nature experiences through activities such as craft classes, making soba noodles, and a walking recreation. Also, there is a 1.5km trail along the lakeshore.



Toya Takarada Nature Experience House

2-2 Takarada, Toyako-cho, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido, 049-5813
Phone: 0142-82-5999
<http://www18.ocn.ne.jp/~toya/eng>

Shikotsuko Visitor Center

The Shikotsuko Visitor Center is located on the lakeshore near the Chitose River, on the south side of the Lake Shikotsu Hot Spring. There is an exhibition on the formation of Lake Shikotsu and its surrounding nature. A tour of the adjacent Shikotsuko Nature Path of Wild Bird and an evening slide screening are also provided.



Shikotsuko Visitor Center

Shikotsu-ko Onsen, Chitose, Hokkaido, 066-0281
Phone: 0123-25-2404
<http://www15.ocn.ne.jp/~sikotuv/>

Shikotsuko Nature Path of Wild Bird

The 100-ha forest, to the south of the Lake Shikotsu Hot Spring on the bank of Chitose River, has the Shikotsuko Nature Path of Wild Bird with trails and explanatory panels set up for bird-watching. The vegetation of the forest is primarily broadleaf trees and a mixture of evergreen needle-leaf trees. Numerous species of forest birds such as woodpeckers and tits, as well as duck species on the lake can be seen in all seasons. The latest information on wild birds can be obtained from the Shikotsuko Visitor Center.

Japanese Bush Warbler

