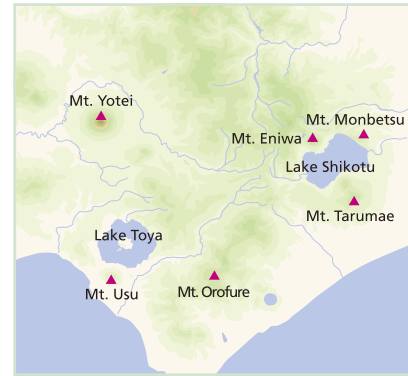


Activities to Experience Nature



Mountain Climbing and Trekking Trails



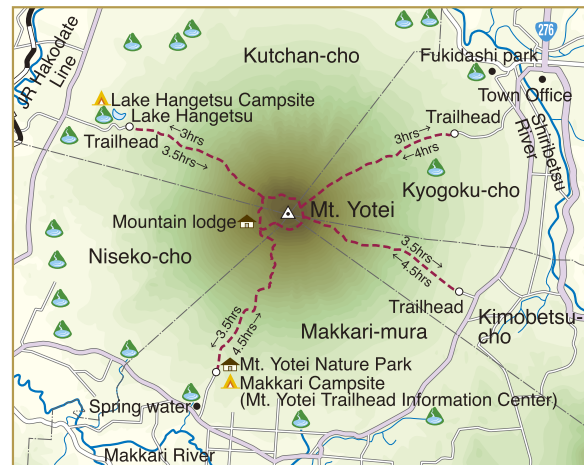
Mount Yotei in the late fall, seen from Makari

Mount Yotei (1,893m)

An independent ridge that is both beautiful and prominent. Enjoy the view which opens up as you climb and the alpine flowers that welcome you. There are three craters at the summit. Since it is a mountain of relatively high elevation, you need to be well-equipped and mentally prepared. Currently, the development of a mountaineering center at Makkari trailhead is in progress by the Ministry of the Environment. Upon its completion, the Center will provide information about the nature of Mount Yotei, guidelines for mountain climbing, and other safety information. It will also have toilets and shower facilities. There are many springs at the foot of Mount Yotei.

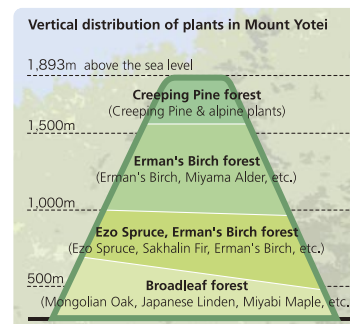


Flower garden near the summit



Vertical Distribution of Vegetation on Mount Yotei

Mount Yotei is an isolated mountain, and thus it is easy to recognize the vertical distribution of plants. From the base to an elevation of 650m, the mountain is covered with broadleaf trees such as Japanese Elm and Mongolian Oak. Thereafter, needle-leaf trees such as Ezo Spruce and Sakhalin Fir, and Erman's Birch extend up to 1,000m. Up to 1,600m is mostly an Erman's Birch zone, but Creeping Pine appears at the upper level. From this point upward is an alpine zone. There are about 260 species of alpine plants on Mount Yotei, including Mountain Harebell, Iwabukuro (Pentstemon frutescens), Blue Mountainheath, Kibanashakunage (Rhododendron aureum) to name a few -a wide variety for an isolated mountain.



The National Parks Code

In order to pass on the park's precious nature to future generations, please help protect our national parks by following these guidelines.

- ❗ Stay on wooden walkways and trails to protect the plants.
- ❗ Do not litter. Please pack your rubbish out of the park with you when you leave.
- ❗ Do not remove plants or stones.
- ❗ Keep our wildlife wild. Do not feed or disturb animals.



Mount Utsu (733m)

Aerial tramways run up to the summit. From the station at the summit, if you walk through the observation deck or take the south edge route, you will be able to see traces of past eruptions and the state of recovery of vegetation. You would be surprised to know that horses and cattle pastured here before the eruption in 1977.



Miyama Columbine

Mount Orofure (1,231m)

Mount Orofure is located between Lake Toya and Noboribetsu Hot Spring. Although it has a low elevation, it is known for its numerous alpine plants. The trailhead is at Orofure Pass on the old road. On the way, there is a cluster of Shirane Hollyhock, which turns into a flower garden in July when dozens of different flowers such as Clubmoss Mountain Heather, and Miyama Columbine bloom.

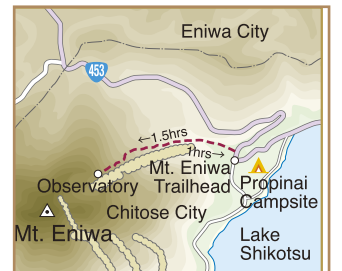


Mount Eniwa (1,320m)

The trailhead is in Poropina, at the east mountain base. The view is obstructed within the forest but once out of the ridgeline, the outer edge of the crater can be seen. Due to the threat of rocks falling near the summit, passage is not permitted beyond the eighth station of the mountain.



Panicle hydrangea



Mount Monbetsu (866m)

Located on the north side of Lake Shikotsu Hot Spring. You would follow a narrow roadway built for maintenance purposes. The view of Lake Shikotsu as well as that of a magnificent prairie extending in the direction of Chitose is fantastic.

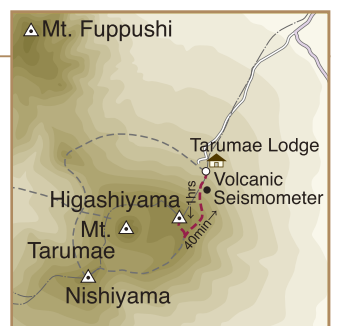


Shiraneaoi (Glaucidium palmatum)



Mount Tarumae (1,041m)

Mount Tarumae is a volcano still releasing smoke. It takes less than one hour to reach the summit from the end of the roadway. You can see the wide crater basin and the lava dome from Higashiyama, on the side of the dome. Plants such as Miquel's Spicy-wintergreen (Gaultheria miqueliana), Marsh Rosemary (Ledum palustre), and Iwabukuro (Pentstemon frutescens) can be seen. You can go around the crater but it is prohibited to enter the crater.



Sightseeing on the Lake

The perspective being quite different from that on land, the scenery you can view from a ship is refreshing. Cruise ships operate between April and early November on Lake Shikotsu. There are also glass bottom boats to view the scenery in the water. On Lake Toya, cruise ships operate regularly all year around and the passengers can disembark at the Nakajima during summer. Canoeing, which gives a sense of unity with nature is gaining popularity at some campsites on Lake Shikotsu and Lake Toya.



Cruising in Lake Shikotsu

Spots to View Nature

Various lake water and forests scenes can be viewed along the roads within the park.

Lake Shikotsu Area

Poropinai Observation Deck: An observation deck set up at the north shore of Lake Shikotsu along Route 453. Lake Shikotsu and Mount Tarumae can be viewed.

Lake Okotanpe Observation Deck: The viewing spot for Lake Okotanpe, calmly situated to the west of Mount Eniwa.

Bifue Pass: An observation deck on Route 276 to the west of Lake Shikotsu. The lake peeks through the dense woodland.

Jozankei Gorge Area

Hoheikyo Dam Observation Deck: The splendid downstream view of Hoheikyo Gorge spreads out from the observation deck situated at the dam's site.

Nakayama Pass: Located on Route 230, this pass offers an unbroken view of the mountain range including Mount Yotei and Jozankei area.

Lake Toya Area

Lake Observation Deck: Located on the north shore of Lake Toya, near the national route. You can get an unbroken view of Lake Toya, Mount Usu, and Mount Showa Shinzan.

Orofure Pass : At 930m, you can enjoy the view of Lake Toya, Mount Yotei, and Volcano Bay as you go through the forests.



Lake Okotanpe Observation Deck



Bifue Pass Observation Deck



Hoheikyo Gorge Dam Observation Deck

Fishing

In Hokkaido, Kokanee is generally called "Chippu". It is the short form of the original Ainu word "Kapachepu". The details of how it was imported are stated in the section on page 11. The popularity of Chippu fishing continues to be high. In order to protect the tranquil environment and freshwater plants of Lake Shikotsu, permits are required for motor boat use.



Chippu fishing

Nature Observation on Snow

By using snowshoes or cross-country skis, you can stroll freely on the snow and experience nature in winter (tracking animal footprints, bird watching, etc). There are snowshoeing tours at Shikotsuko Visitor Center, and tours by private companies are available around Lake Toya and Mount Usu, as well as at the base of Mount Yotei.

Ski Resort, Niseko

The Niseko Mountain Range, extending northwest from Mount Yotei up to the coast around Otaru to the north, has been designated a quasi-national park. It is a chain of mountains of 1,000-1,300m in elevation extending east-west, with Niseko Annupuri the highest peak. It is highly valued as a ski resort for its abundant snowfalls, its gentle landscape with fields of bamboo grass, its relatively low temperature, and high snow quality.

In recent years, the news of its existence and popularity has reached overseas and the number of ski enthusiasts from Australia, which is near, but whose seasons are the opposite of Japan's, has been increasing. Numerous hot springs are located at the base of the mountain and are often used as lodges by mountain climbers.



Niseko Higashiyama

Campsites within the Park

Camping is a great means to interact closely with nature. Camping sites are scattered at major scenic spots and mountain trail entrances.

Lake Shikotsu Area

Morappu: The most historical campsite in the park. It is the largest on the lakeshore and is well-equipped.

Bifue: A site for RVs located in the woods on the lakeshore. Cars are allowed up to the tenting area.

Poropinai, Okotan: Relatively quiet campsites located on the north shore of Lake Shikotsu.

Lake Toya Area

Takarada: Adjacent to the Toya Takarada Nature Experience House. RVs are allowed in one section.

Nakatoya, Takinoue: Both located in the woods facing the east lakeshore.

Tsukiura (Green Stay Toyako): Serviced for RVs.



Morappu Campsite



Soubetsu River (near Takarada campsite)

Mount Yotei Area

Makkari trailhead, Lake Hangetsu: A campsite which used to be mainly for Mount Yotei climbers, but the number of people coming to enjoy camping itself are increasing in recent years.

Jozankei Gorge Area

Jozankei Nature Village: An outdoor activity complex for Sapporo citizens, situated at the upper part of Hoheikyo Gorge Hot Spring. Nature appreciation programs such as bird-watching are provided.



Poropinai Campsite

