

Mt. Shokanbetsu Hiking Trails Map



About Mt. Shokanbetsu

Mt. Shokanbetsu (1,492 m) is the highest peak of the great Shokan Mountain Range, which contains mountains that are over 1,000 meters high, in Shokanbetsu-Teuri-Yagishiri Quasi-National Park. The splendid panoramic view you get of the Sea of Japan and the mountains on a clear day and the beautiful alpine flowers are worth the long trip and effort to hike to the summit. Located in a snow-heavy district, the mountain shimmers and radiates white even in mid-July. From mid-June to early August, more than 100 types of alpine plants bloom one after another. The mountain is also popular as a "flower mountain" on which you can encounter endemic species. It also features vast old-growth forests which is the cradle of the Shokanbetsu River. There are three summer trails on Mt. Shokanbetsu: the Hashibetsu trail and the Shokan trail from the Mashike side and the Uryu trail (Minami Shokan trail: a traverse trail) from Uryu Town.

Hashibetsu Trail

Distance: 9.5 km
Time: Ascent 4h 20m / Descent 2h 50m
Toilets: At the trailhead (Hashibetsu Emergency Hut)
Elevation gain: Approx. 1,000 m

The trail starts in a forest and it continues along a gentle hike up to the 6th station. From the 7th station, the scenery changes and opens up, where you can see a panoramic view of the Sea of Japan and the Uryu Marsh. The alpine flower field starts here, spreading up towards the summit. The final hike is more difficult and lasts from the 8th station to the 9th; however, the beautiful alpine flowers alongside the trail makes it a rewarding experience.

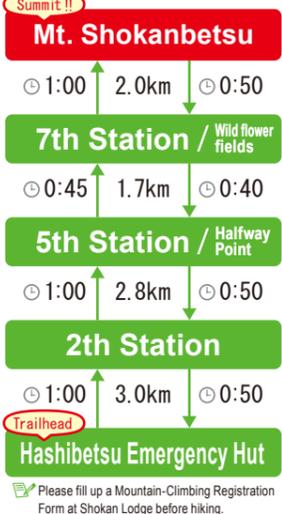


Wild flower fields (7th Station~)

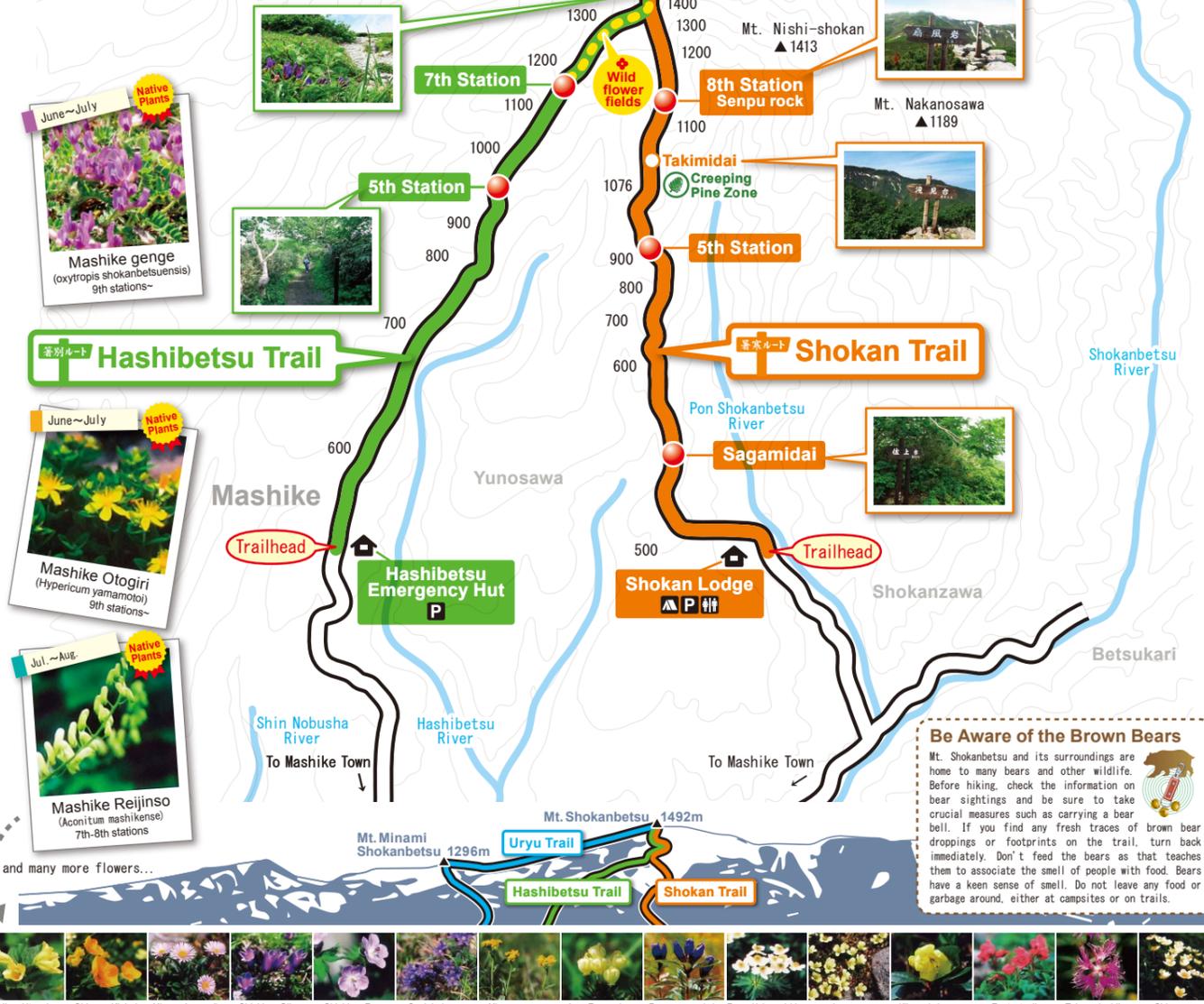
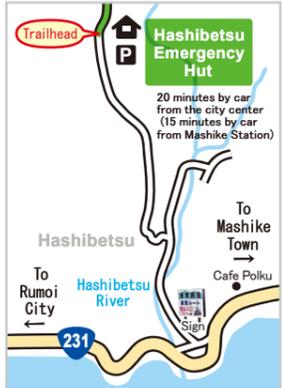
Hashibetsu Emergency Hut
 Free of charge; year-round use unavailable; capacity: 15 people; parking lot space for 30 vehicles; toilets available

Hiking Time

* Break time is not included



Access



Shokan Trail

Distance: 10 km
Time: Ascent 4h 30m / Descent 3h
Toilets: At the trailhead (Shokan Lodge)
Elevation gain: Approx. 1,200 m

The initial hike from the trailhead to the 1st station is quite steep. From the 1st to the 2nd station is a flat path. At Sagamidai, the view opens up, and you can see Mt. Shokanbetsu. At the 5th station is an open area where you can take a break. Past the 6th station is a rope area, and once you climb this far, you come out onto a mountain ridge. When passing the 7th station and going from Takimidai to Senpu Rock at the 8th station, you get spectacular views of the Western ridge of Mt. Shokanbetsu. After negotiating the steep slope from the 9th station to the summit plateau, you can reach the summit by walking for 15 minutes, and you can enjoy observing alpine flowers while doing so.

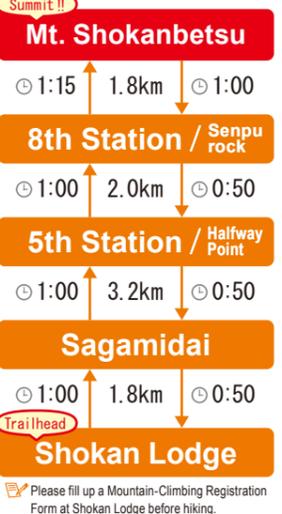


The Summit of Mt. Shokanbetsu

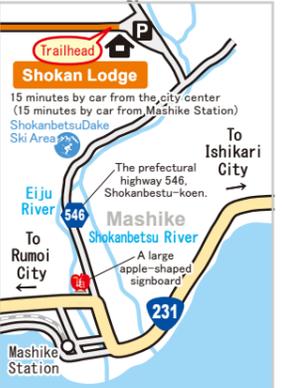
Shokan Lodge
 Free of charge; capacity: 40 people; parking lot space for 30 vehicles; administrator present during daytime only; toilets and water fountain available; no electricity; no cellphone coverage; a campsite available around the lodge
 *No need to reserve accommodation
 *Unavailable for use during the winter season when the prefectural highway, Shokanbestu-koen, is closed

Hiking Time

* Break time is not included

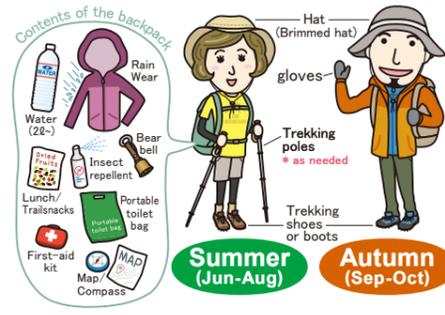


Access



Read Before Hiking

1. Make sure you carry insect repellent: There may be many insects such as mosquitoes and horseflies in the mountains during the summer, especially between June and August.
2. Do not sit on, step on, pick or damage the plants.
3. Take your trash home with you.
4. Take a portable toilet bag along: No toilets are available on trails. Take a portable toilet bag (keitai toire) with you. Since the trails have no basic facilities, something you can use to get privacy, such as a poncho, might be useful.
5. Please note that there may be no cellphone reception in some parts of the trails.
6. Winter mountain hiking is extremely dangerous: The weather is unpredictable on Mt. Shokanbetsu because of excessive snow and the strong seasonal winds from the Sea of Japan during this time, especially between November and March. We do not encourage climbing during these months.



What to Wear and Bring

Wear proper clothing and shoes. Long-sleeved shirt and full pants (tights) are recommended for preventing bug bites and bamboo grass scratches. The weather and temperature on the mountain can change suddenly and significantly, so bring proper rainwear and a warm jacket. Bring enough water and food for the hike. We recommend that you bring a GPS device as it can keep you from getting lost or help you if you get lost

Access from Sapporo City

- By Car**
 ● Approx. 1.5 hours *When using the expressway
 ● Approx. 2 - 2.5 hours *When using the standard national highway
- By Train or Bus**
 ● Approx. 2.5 hours (Sapporo to Fukagawa to Rumoi to Mashike: Bus between Rumoi and Hashike)
 *This varies depending on the time of the day.
- By Bus**
 ● Approx. 2 hours and 15 mins

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