

Have a memorable experience with history and nature in Mashike Town and Shokanbetsu-Teuri-Yagishiri Quasi-National Park!

## Mashike Town: Where Nature Meets History

Located in the upper-left part of Hokkaido, alongside the Sea of Japan, Mashike Town is a region blessed with great nature, a fascinating history, and a rich food culture born from the pure mineral water that flows from the Shokan Mountain Range. Several nice and enjoyable hiking trails are available in this area. Visit and explore Mashike Town to discover and experience the many sides of this historic town surrounded by nature!

## Access

### From Tokyo.

#### By Airplane

- Tokyo-NewChitose (Sapporo) 1hr. 30min
- Tokyo-Asahikawa 1hr. 45min
- Tokyo-Wakkanai 1hr. 45min

### From Sapporo.

#### 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)



### Fruit Calendar

<b>Strawberries</b>  Jun. Late ~ Jul. Early	<b>Blueberries</b>  Jul. Late ~ Aug. Mid	<b>Peaches</b>  Sept. Early ~ Sept. Late	<b>Prunes</b>  Sept. Early ~ Oct. Late	<b>Apples</b>  Sept. Mid ~ Oct. Late
<b>Cherries</b>  Jun. Late ~ Jul. Late	<b>Plums</b>  Aug. Early ~ Aug. Late	<b>Grapes</b>  Sept. Early ~ Oct. Late	<b>Nashi Pears</b>  Sept. Late ~ Oct. Late	

### Contents of the backpack



- Water (2L~)
- Rain Wear
- Insect repellent
- Bear bell
- Lunch/Trailsnacks
- Portable toilet bag
- First-aid kit
- Map/Compass
- Hat (Brimmed hat)
- gloves
- Trekking poles \* as needed
- Trekking shoes or boots

**Summer (Jun-Aug)**   **Autumn (Sep-Oct)**

## A Window into Hokkaido's Past

Mashike began as a fishing town in the mid-1700s and flourished between the late 19th and early 20th Centuries due to its herring fishing industry. Much of its cultural heritage remains, and has been passed down for generations. This includes Hokkaido heritage-listed buildings around the former Mashike station, which date back 100-200 years. It's like taking a walk through time. Come and take a nostalgic walk back in time here!

Visit Kunimare Sake Brewery, Hokkaido's northernmost brewery. Have a taste of dry sake made from exceptional ingredients and the pure water from Mt. Shokanbetsu.

## Read Before Hiking

1. Make sure you carry insect repellent as there may be many insects such as mosquitoes and horseflies in the mountains during the summer, especially between June and August.
2. Winter mountain hiking is extremely dangerous and highly discouraged as there is too much snow on the mountain during this time and the weather is unpredictable, particularly from November to March.
3. Do not damage the alpine plants. Take your trash home with you.
4. Please note that there may be no cellphone reception in some parts of the trails.
5. On the trails, you will find some muddy and slippery places and some scree with assisted ropes. Please watch your step while hiking.

## Getting to Know Mt. Shokanbetsu

Mt. Shokanbetsu (altitude 1,492 m) is the main peak of the Shokan Mountain Range which has mountains over 1000-m high. It is home to approximately 100 varieties of alpine plants and is open to the hikers in June. The mountain boasts three trails for mountain-hiking enthusiasts, as well as the Shokan Lodge and a camping ground, which can be used free of charge. A variety of leisure activities is also available.



## Mashike Mountain Path: A Hokkaido Heritage Site

The path is a precious heritage site preserved to the present day and is approximately 38 km long. It was once used as a trade route as well as for defense against Russia in the late 19th century. The path was restored in 2016 and is currently open for hiking tours from June to October. To access the path, it is necessary to join a hiking tour hosted by local guides since it is not open to the general public. Hikers can join the tour and encounter traces of the past and the resourcefulness of the early pioneers.



## Be Aware of Brown Bears!

Continually make noise using a bear bell or something similar. If you encounter brown bear feces or footprints, turn back. Please refrain from actions such as baiting, and properly dispose of any garbage as it may otherwise attract bears.



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