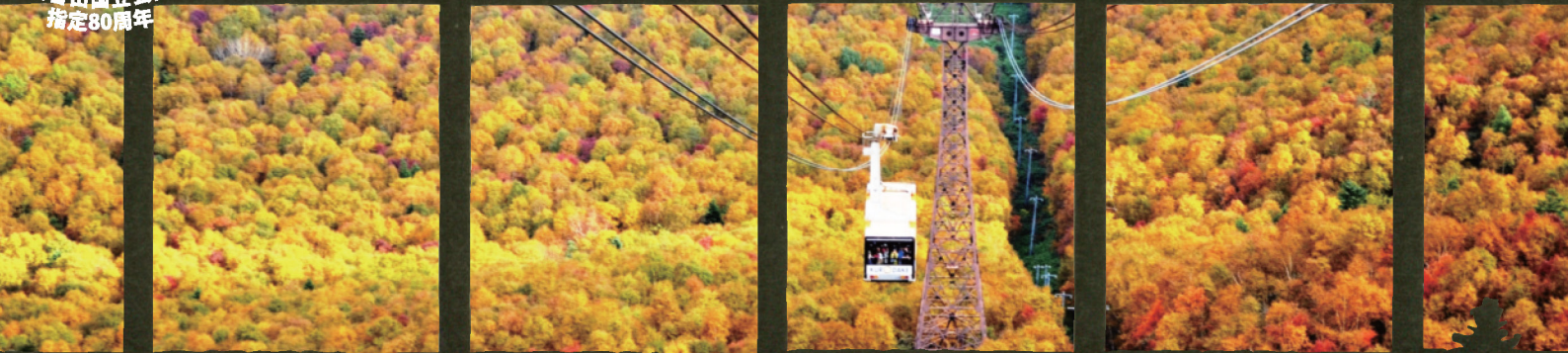


DAISETSUZAN NATIONAL PARK



大雪山国立公園
指定80周年

大雪山国立公園

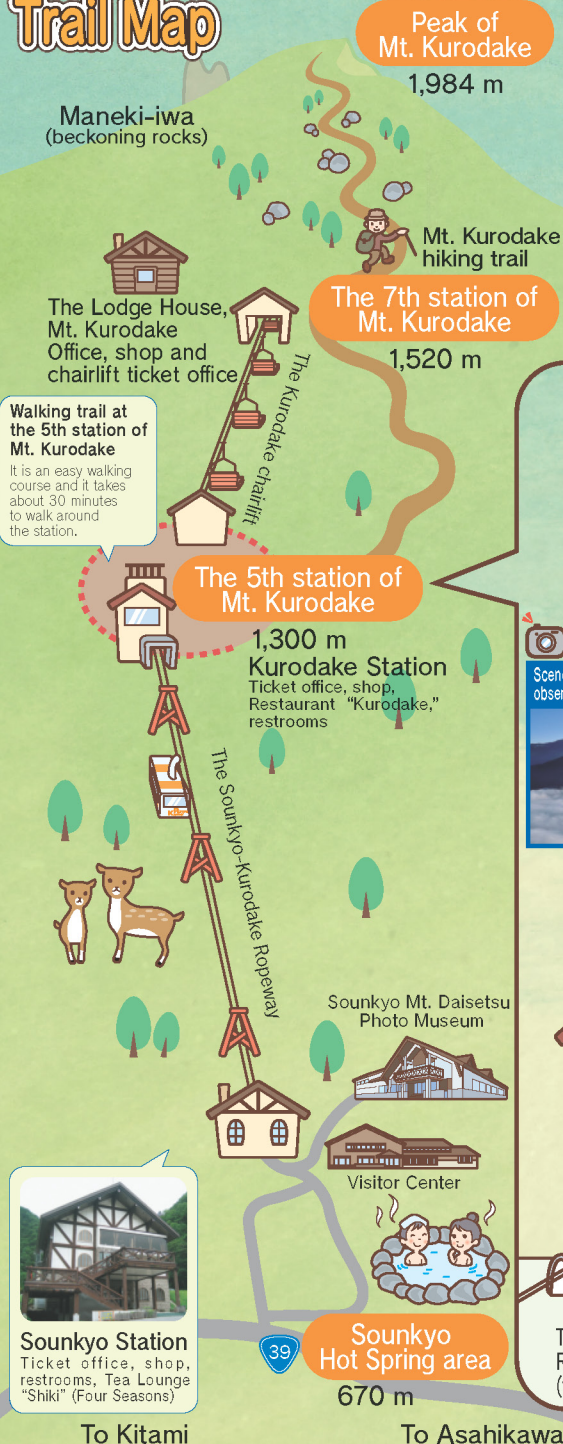


Daisetsuzan Sounkyo-

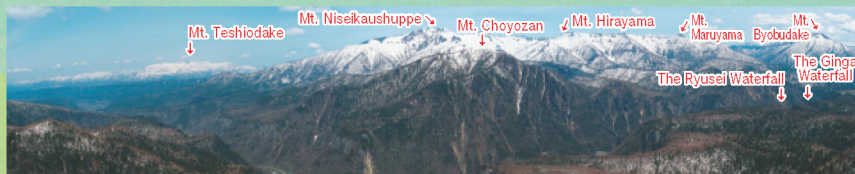
Kurodake Ropeway



Mt. Kurodake Walking Trail Map



▲Mr. Kurodake side area (the view from the ropeway going up)



▲Soukkyo Hot Spring side area (the view from the ropeway going down)

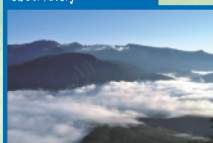
Mt. Kurodake Walking Trail Map (the 5th station)

The distance between the 5th station (ropeway station) and the Chairlift Take-off Platform is around 200 m.

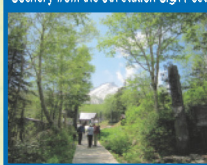
- 1 Reference Hall: a showcase of photographs of the natural flora and fauna and four seasons of the Daisetsu Mountains
- 2 Takamatsudai: a viewing platform that provides up-close views of Mt. Kurodake, known for its Japanese alpine cherry (*Prunus nipponica*), the latest blooming species in Japan
- 3 Trees with bark split by freezing can be observed here.
- 4 The 5th station Sign Post with holes made by black woodpeckers, a natural monument of Japan.
- 5 The walking trail has footprints left by Hokkaido sika deer and red fox.



Scenery from the rooftop observatory



Scenery from the 5th station Sign Post

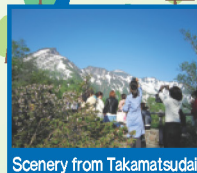


Chairlift Ticket Office & Chairlift Take-off Platform (the 5th station)

The Kurodake chairlift

Takamatsudai

Reference Hall



Scenery from Takamatsudai

Scenery from the open square along the walking trail





←Japanese alpine cherry blossoms and Mt. Kurodake tinged with lingering snow

Spring

After a long winter, spring has finally come to Mt. Kurodake. Alpine plants start to bud on the mountain tinged with lingering snow.

The Japanese alpine cherry, Japan's latest blooming cherry species, blossoms everywhere from late May to early June.



Rhododendron aureum Georgi



Primula cuneifolia



Fresh greenery and the ropeway



Potentilla matsumurae

Chances are good early mornings in early summer that you can see a sea of clouds.

A sea of clouds



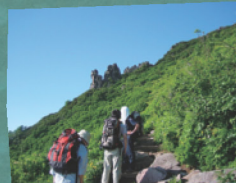
Sieversia pentapetala (L.) Greene



Therothodion camtschaticum



Hypericum erectum



Hiking Mt. Kurodake

I'll be near the Chairlift Landing Platform and Takamatsudai from spring to autumn.

Ezo Asiatic chipmunk
(*Tamias sibiricus lineatus*)



Summer

During the peak season of alpine plants from late June to August, Mt. Kurodake teems with hikers.



Star Gazing from Kurodake Hut

April

May

June

July

August

Ropeway

Chairlift (summer)

Ski lift (winter)

Events

The ski area closes (early May).

Japanese alpine cherry blossoms begin to bloom (late May – early June).

The chairlift operation begins (late May).

Kurodake Hut begins to operate.

Mt. Kurodake is open for general climbers (late June).



Gorge Fire Festival (late July)

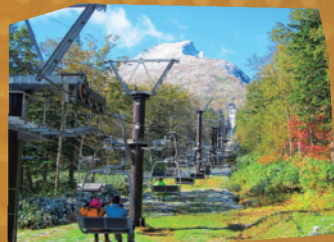


This is a traditional festival that has been celebrated by the Ainu for years. The highlights include indigenous events and firework displays.



Kurodake Hut Star Gazing (mid-August)

Mt. Kurodake calendar



The first snow of the season on the mountain (September)

Mt. Kurodake Hiking Record Meeting



The ropeway in colorful foliage



Autumn

Trees take on autumnal colors from the mountaintop, creating a breathtaking view.



Winter



The ski slopes on Mt. Kurodake open when the first snow of the season falls in various parts of Hokkaido. Come and enjoy the fluffy powder snow.



The Kurodake ski area is open for a long period, opening in November and closing after the Golden Week holidays in May.



↑ Snowshoe hiking in woods with a guide is a must-try.



Diamond dust (tiny ice crystals) and frost-covered trees ↓

Wrap up warmly since temperatures are around -10°C .



September

October

November

December

January

February

March

The peak period of autumn colors:

Mountain top: late August
The 8th/9th stations: the first half of September
The 5th to 7th stations: the second half of September
Near the ropeway: early October



Lift repla (mid-October -

cement early November)

The ski area opens (November).

Service suspended for maintenance (early to late January)

Operation for the sunrise on New Year's Day (January 1)

Service suspended for maintenance (late January - late February)



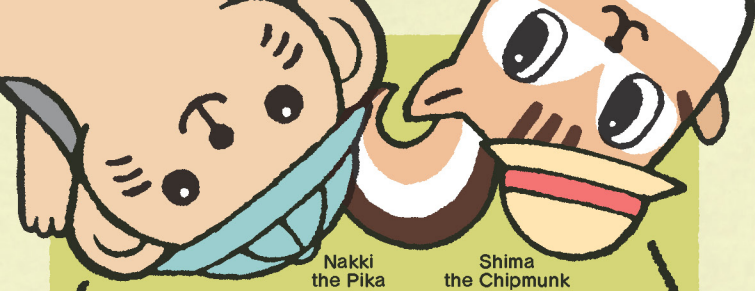
Sounkyo Ice Waterfall Festival



The clear water of the Ishikari River combined with harsh meteorological conditions creates stunning natural works of art. The ice corridors are illuminated at night, producing a fantastic atmosphere. The festival's spectacular fireworks display is not to be missed.



The first snow of the season (late August - early October)
Mt. Kurodake Hiking Record Meeting (early September)



Nakki
the Pika

Shima
the Chipmunk

Introduction to Mt. Kurodake

The mascots of the Kurodake Ropeway –
Nakki the Pika and Shima the Chipmunk –
introduce their habitat – Mt. Kurodake.

Kamui Mintara

Mt. Kurodake is a peak in the Daisetsu Mountain Range, also known as the central highland of Hokkaido. The Daisetsu Mountains have been called **Kamui Mintara**, an Ainu phrase meaning the playground of the Gods. The lava plateaus between peaks are home to more than 300 species of alpine flora. The magnificent landscape represents a paradise above the clouds worthy of its Ainu name.

Similarity to Alaska

– Climate and vertical
vegetation distribution –

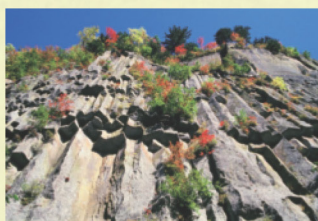
Mt. Kurodake is 1,984 m high, and the annual average temperature at its peak is -3.8°C , which is similar to the temperature in the northern central area of Alaska. Hiking Mt. Kurodake provides an opportunity to enjoy vegetation similar to that of Alaska.

Comparable to a mountain
as high as 3,000 meters

Taking only 30 minutes
to the 7th station!

Since Hokkaido's latitude is higher than that of Japan's main island of Honshu, the environment of 2,000-meter-high peaks in the Daisetsu Mountain Range corresponds to that of 3,000-meter-high mountains in Honshu. Although such high peaks are not easily accessible there, here on Mt. Kurodake, an approximately 90-minute hike after getting off the chairlift will take you to its peak.

Mt. Kurodake has a clear-cut vegetation distribution. Changes of vegetation zones on the mountain are recognizable from the ropeway and chairlift.



Geological formation of Sounkyo Gorge

Sounkyo Gorge is known for its spectacular precipitous cliffs that stretch for over 20 kilometers. About 30,000 years ago, a major eruption occurred at a central volcano during the formation of the Omoite Daisetsu Area. Pyroclastic flows and glowing clouds covered mountains and valleys in the Daisetsu Mountains, and deposits as thick as 150 to 200 meters dammed up the Ishikari River. The deposits became square and hexagonal columnar joints as they grew cold and hard. Erosion for over 10,000 years by the Ishikari River formed the magnificent Sounkyo Gorge.



Profile of Mt. Kurodake

Name: Mt. Kurodake

Affiliation:

Daisetsuzan National Park

Height: 1,984 m

Characteristics:

It has a ropeway between its base and the 5th station and a chairlift from the 5th to 7th station. Despite its name meaning "a black mountain" in Japanese, it changes its colors every season – green in summer, red in autumn and white in winter.

Most charming features:

Maneki-iwa (beckoning rocks) at the 9th station and its pointed summit



Aerial photo of the Daisetsu Mountains→



Nakki & Shima's

Highly recommended



Mt. Kurodake Indulgence Course

Sounkyo-Kurodake Ropeway



Section:

Sounkyo Station (670 m a.s.l.)



Kurodake Station (1,300 m a.s.l.)

Time required: approx. 7 min. one-way

Departure times:

00, :20 and :40 of every hour

Capacity: 101 people



The gondolas are named after us!



The Nakki and Shima gondolas will whisk you to the 5th station. You'll feel as if you are flying.

Scenic spot

1
Kurodake Station rooftop observatory (the 5th station)



The rooftop observatory at the Kurodake Station (the 5th station) provides a 360-degree view with sights including the Daisetsu Mountains, Sounkyo Gorge, and even the distant Akan Mountains on a clear day.

They are here!



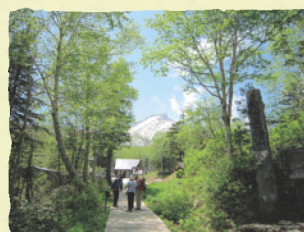
Kurodake Station (the 5th station)

Rooftop: observatory
2F: Restaurant "Kurodake"
1F: ticket gate, shop
Basement: restrooms

*Note that there are no toilets beyond the Kurodake Station.



It's July now, but I can see snow!

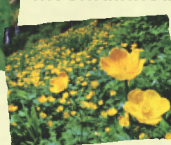


Walking trail



←Blue mountainheath

Kamchatka globeflower→



↑The station building and the Chairlift Take-off Platform are connected by an approx. 200-meter-long walking trail. Colorful alpine flowers bloom along the trail from June to August.

→The walking trail on the right side will take you to Takamatsudai, where you can get an up-close view of Mt. Kurodake and Japanese alpine cherry blossoms, the nation's latest blooming species, are everywhere. Ezo Asiatic chipmunks, which eat the cherries, frequently appear there.



Scenic spot

2

Takamatsudai at the 5th station

Kurodake Chairlift

Section:

the 5th station (1,320 m a.s.l.)



the 7th station (1,520 m a.s.l.)

Time required: approx. 15 min. one-way

*Approx. 8 min. during winter (ski lift)



Scenic spot

3

Observation platform at the 7th station



Popular Ezo Asiatic chipmunks often appear near the Chairlift Landing Platform at the 7th station from spring to autumn.

Let's enjoy mountain hiking.

An approximately 90-minute-long hiking trail from the 7th station to the mountain top offers an opportunity to enjoy a variety of alpine plants because vegetation continues close to the peak. Don't miss the chance to visit the playgrounds of the gods.

◆◆◆ Model Course ◆◆◆

The 7th station ... (approx. 1 hr. 30 min.) ...
the peak of Mt. Kurodake ... (approx. 30 min.) ... Kurodake Hut

At the 9th station is the Maneki-iwa (beckoning rocks). You've almost reached the peak!



Maneki-iwa
(beckoning rocks)

1,800m

Grassland exposed
after an avalanche
at the 9th station

The downwind northeastern slope is affected by heavy snowfall, avalanches and other weather phenomena in winter, and is home to tall herbaceous plants and avalanche-proof low trees, such as weigela middendorffiana and Lonicera chamsissoi.

The peak of
Mt. Kurodake
1,984m

Hiking trail

Aconitum yamazakii



Kamchatka globeflower



Orchis aristata



START!

The 7th Station
Lodge House



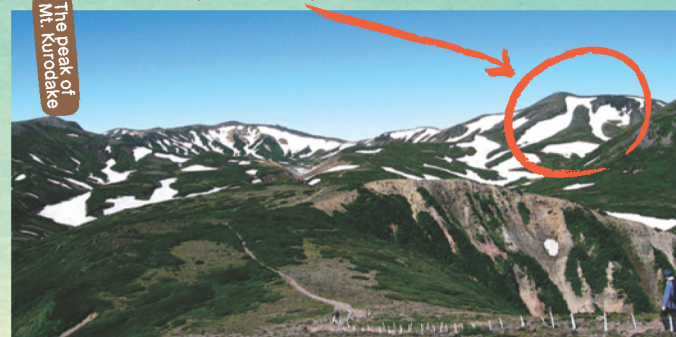
Start hiking!
Don't forget to
submit a notice
of hiking.

Mind your step because
the trail is full of stones
and rocks. Hiking boots
are recommended.



The peak of
Mt. Kurodake

The peak of Mt. Kurodake commands a view of
swan-shaped snow patches on Mt. Hokuchindake.



Pika



Parnassius
eversmanni



Products of the glacial period

During the glacial period, Hokkaido was connected by land with the continent, and many creatures went back and forth between the two areas. As temperatures rose, Hokkaido was separated from the continent, causing cold-region creatures to flee to high mountains. Those creatures live only in alpine regions today. Pikas and parnassius eversmanni butterflies are typical of such creatures.

Wind-blown ground
Southwestern slope
on Mt. Kurodake

The southwestern slope extending from the mountain top to Kurodake Hut is exposed to the wind. Under a harsh low-temperature and dry environment with little snow cover, the slope is home to resilient low shrubs, such as arctous alpina var. japonica.



Arctous alpina var. japonica
taking on autumnal colors
from late August

Kurodake Hut



Built in 1923, the hut has served as a hiking base in the Daisetsu Mountains, where climbers stay overnight or take a break. It is equipped with composting toilet facilities. Near the hut, snow lingers even in August and beautiful flowers bloom as abundant water is available.

- ◆ Overnight stay: ¥2,000
- ◆ Tent-area usage fee: ¥500
- ◆ Sleeping bag rental: ¥1,000
(incl. ¥200 as for toilet facility maintenance)



The sunrise from the
top of Mt. Keigetsudake



Fields of sieversia
pentapetala (L.) Greene

Walking farther,
you'll be able to
see a sight like this!

KURODAKE NATURE EXPERIENCES

Various activities to enjoy the splendid natural environment on Mt. Kurodake

Explore with nature guides!

Daisetsuzan Mountain Hiking Tours

Travel safely with our mountain guides!!
Enjoy a choice of guided tours.

Outdoor Activity Tours

Daisetsuzan Mountain Hiking Tours

Private Guided Tours

Have some winter fun!!

Kamui's Forest Snowshoe Hiking Tours

Kurodake ski area is one of the most ski areas in Hokkaido; its fantastic dynamic landscape of its surrounding mountains attract many skiers and snow boarders alike.

popular mountainous powder snow and ing mountains attract alike.

(One-day pass) Adult: ¥3,800/person Child: ¥2,200/person

Hiking on fresh snow in silver white fields is an experience not to be missed.
Enjoy the beautiful powder snow of Kurodake!!

◆Kamui's Forest Snowshoe Hiking Tours◆
Availability: mid January-early April

Sounkyo Star Gazing Tours

◆Star Gazing Tours◆ Availability:
Adult: ¥2,000/person Every Friday,
Child: ¥1,500/person Saturday during
Jun. -Oct.

Experience the starry skies above Sounkyo gorge!
The Milky Way, shooting stars, and seasonal constellations are waiting to be found!

◆Kurodake Hiking Tours◆
¥5,000/person
Availability: Jul.-Sep.

Let's go to see sea clouds! Good Morning Ropeway Tours

◆Good Morning Ropeway Tours◆
Adult: ¥2,500/person
Child: ¥1,500/person
(incl. ropeway fares)
Availability: June-Oct.

Winter
November-May
Long Opening Period!!

Kurodake ski area *

reservation required

Tel 01658-9-4525 sounkyo@rinyu.jp
（りんゆう観光 上川町営業所（層雲峡・黒岳ロープウェイ内））

Price List (tax included)

Ropeway rates

Type	Adult	Child
Two-way rates		
Regular	¥1,950	¥1,000
Group discount	¥1,700	¥850
Special discount for persons with disabilities	¥1,000	¥550

Type	Adult	Child
One-way rates		
Regular	¥1,100	¥550
Group discount	¥900	¥500
Special discount for persons with disabilities	¥550	¥300

Chairlift rates

Type	Adult	Child
Two-way rates		
Regular	¥600	¥400
Group discount	¥550	¥350
Special discount for persons with disabilities	¥300	¥200

Type	Adult	Child
One-way rates		
Regular	¥400	¥250
Group discount	¥350	¥250
Special discount for persons with disabilities	¥200	¥150

* Group discount: groups of 10 or more

* Adults: junior high school age or older; children: elementary school age or younger

Operating hours

● Apr. 1 – 30	8:00 – 16:30
● May 1 – 31	7:00 – 17:00
● Jun. 1 – Aug. 20	6:00 – 19:00
● Aug. 21 – Sep. 30	6:00 – 18:00

● Oct. 1 – 15	6:00 – 17:00
● Oct. 16 – 31	7:00 – 16:30
● Nov. 1 – 30	8:00 – 16:30
● Dec. 1 – Mar. 31	8:00 – 16:00

● The ropeway runs every 20 minutes.

● Chairlift operation starts 30 minutes after the ropeway operation begins and ends 30 minutes before the ropeway operation ends.

● The ropeway and chairlift operation may be suspended for maintenance.

● The ropeway and chairlift are accessible by wheelchair users.

● No pets are allowed in the ropeway or chairlift.

Access

● By public transportation

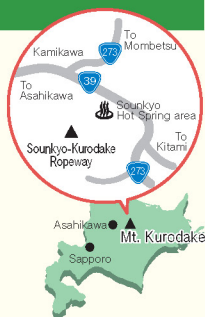
Take a Dohoku bus bound for Sounkyo from JR Asahikawa or Kamikawa Station. The ropeway is about three minutes on foot from the last bus stop.

● By car

Take the Asahikawa-Mombetsu Highway, get off the highway at the Kamikawa-Sounkyo Interchange, and drive along Route 39. Drive approximately 30 minutes toward Kitami.

(A 60-vehicle parking lot is available for free of charge.)

(3 hours from Sapporo, 1.5 hours from Asahikawa)



Daisetsuzan Sounkyo-Kurodake Ropeway

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Tel.: +81(0)11-711-7106

URL: <http://www.rinyu.co.jp>

Kamui Mintara web magazine of Hokkaido's culture and lifestyle:

<http://kamuumintara.net>



The latest Kurodake news available here!



↑ The website is here!

<http://www.rinyu.co.jp>