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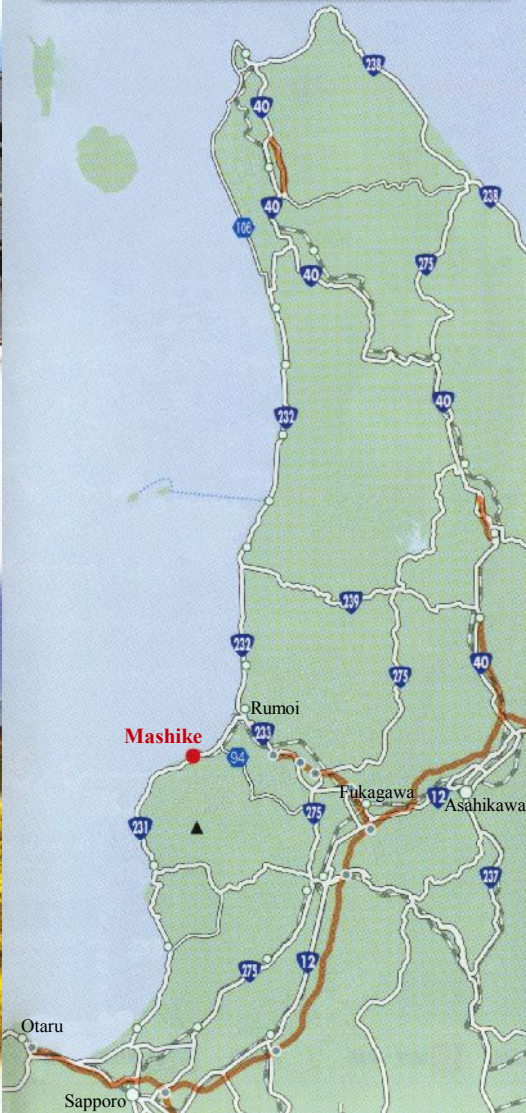
MASHIKE

Traveling through history and nature



MASHIKE
HOKKAIDO

Shokanbetsu-Teuri-Yagishiri Quasi-National Park



ACCESS to MASHIKE

Access from Honshu

By air

- Tokyo to Wakkanai: 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Tokyo to Chitose: 1 hour and 30 minutes
- Tokyo to Asahikawa: 1 hour and 45 minutes

By sea

- Maizuru/Tsuruga to Otaru: 21 to 30 hours
- Niigata to Otaru: Approximately 18 hours (Shin Nihonkai Ferry, Phone: 0134-22-6191)

Access from major cities in Hokkaido

By car

From Sapporo

- Approximately 2 hours via the Fukagawa-Rumoi Expressway (approximately 130 kilometers) and Routes 233 and 231 (approximately 36 kilometers)
- Approximately 2 hours via Route 231 (110 kilometers)
- Approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes via Route 275, Prefectural Highway 94 and Route 231 (153 kilometers)

From Asahikawa

- Approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes via the Fukagawa-Rumoi Expressway (68 kilometers) and Routes 233 and 231 (36 kilometers)

- Approximately 2 hours via Routes 12, 233, and 231 (100 kilometers)

From Wakkanai

- Approximately 3 hours and 50 minutes via Routes 40, 232, and 231 (210 kilometers)

By JR lines

- From Sapporo (Hakodate Main Line – Rumoi Main Line)
- Approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes on the Rumoi Main Line via Fukagawa

- From Asahikawa (Hakodate Main Line – Rumoi Main Line)

- Approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes on the Rumoi Main Line via Fukagawa

- From Wakkanai (Soya Main Line – Hakodate Main Line – Rumoi Main Line)

- Approximately 5 hours and 20 minutes on the Rumoi Main Line via Fukagawa

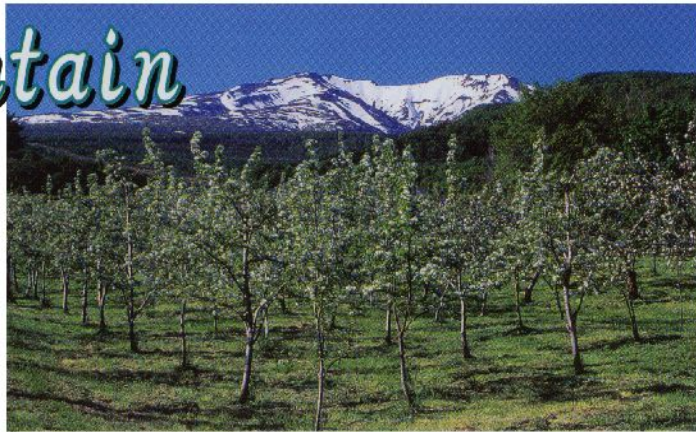
Tourist Information

- Tourism Promotion Office, Economic Affairs Division, Mashike Town ☎ 0164-53-3332
 - Mashike Tourist Association ☎ 0164-53-3332
- Both phones are staffed from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except for weekends and holidays.

URL: <http://www.town.mashike.hokkaido.jp/>
<http://mashike.jp/>



Mountain



Mount Shokanbetsu with rich alpine plants

In 1990, Mount Shokanbetsu, the highest mountain of the Mashike Mountains, and the Ofuyu Coast were designated as a Quasi-National Park: Shokanbetsu-Teuri-Yagishiri Quasi-National Park. The mountain is particularly beautiful with snow remaining until July. The climbing season of Mount Shokanbetsu starts in mid-June. From the Mashike side, the two climbing routes are the Shokan and Hashibetsu routes. At an altitude of 1,100 meters or above, you will be able to see many alpine plants. Mount Shokanbetsu is one of Japan's 100 Greatest Flower Mountains. On holidays in April and May, many people enjoy skiing.

Taste



Endowed with great natural foodstuffs

Mashike is endowed with many kinds of seafood, including prawns, scallops, octopus, sea urchin, abalone, sole and salmon. Mashike is also the northernmost fruit-growing district, producing delicious strawberries, cherries, grapes, Japanese pears, apples and other fruits. Rice produced in Mashike is famous for its quality and taste. Traditional seafood products include tender boiled octopus (*tako no yawaraka ni*), salted herring roe (*kazunoko*), sea urchin salted overnight (*uni ichiya-zuke*) and salmon jerky (*saketoba*). Kunimare Shuzo, Japan's northernmost sake brewer, makes sake using the subsoil water of Mount Shokanbetsu. Mashike is truly endowed with great foodstuffs. Enjoy natural and delicious Mashike food.

History



Walking in Mashike, the historic North Hokkaido town

Mashike has been flourishing as the oldest fishing town in northern Hokkaido since a fishing harbor opened in Mashike approximately two hundred and sixty years ago. Around Mashike Station, several old buildings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries still stand, including the Old Maruichi-Honma Residence, an important cultural asset of Japan. The former Mashike Elementary School and other historic buildings in front of the station have been designated as Hokkaido Heritage sites. We recommend walking in the area, enjoying the relaxing atmosphere of the historic town.

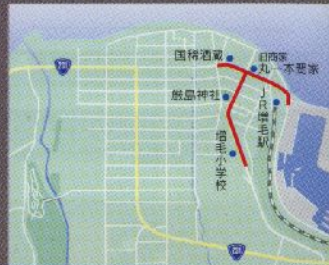
Coastal Line



Ofuyu Coast

Mount Shokanbetsu lies directly adjacent to the Sea of Japan, creating the steep and forbidding cliffs of the Ofuyu Coast. The Ofuyu district used to be isolated from other villages in the old days. The coastline is beautiful to look at, but was harsh on people living there. In 1989, however, a national road was constructed to connect Sapporo and Rumoi cities. Along the 25-kilometer coastline from the Ofuyu Cape to Kamueto Cape, you will see many capes, strange-shaped rocks and cliffs jutting out into the Sea of Japan. Enjoy the beauty created by nature.

Former Mashike Elementary School and historic buildings in front of Mashike Station, Hokkaido Heritage sites



Mashike Terminal Station

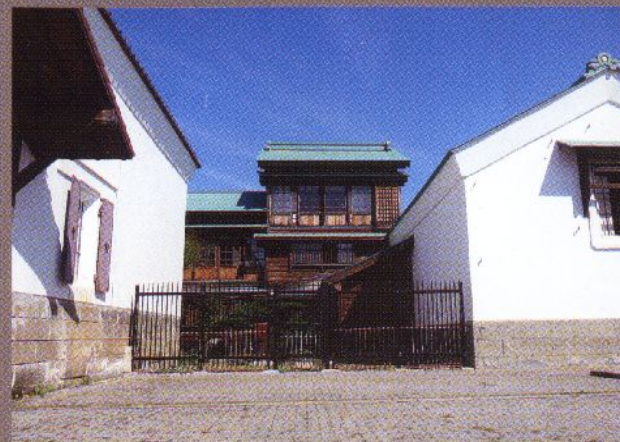
Mashike Station fulfilled an important role in developing North Hokkaido, serving as a center for cultural, as well as industrial, transportation. In 1921, the railroad was extended to Mashike. The station building was constructed when the railroad was extended, but was later reduced to the current size due to cutbacks. Mashike Station has been featured in many movies and TV dramas as a terminal station where trains end their travels.

Former Mashike Elementary School

The school was built in 1936 and was used until 2012, when a new school opened. You can see beautiful truss construction in the gymnasium.



Old Maruichi-Honma Residence Important Cultural Asset of Japan



Old Maruichi-Honma Residence

- Designated as an important cultural asset on December 25, 2003
- Structure: 3-story wooden house
- Floor area: 1,237.83 m²
- Open to the public from late April to early November
- For inquiries, call 0164-53-1511.

History and good food

On the street in front of Mashike Station stand several old buildings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In northern Hokkaido, this is the only area where such historic townscape has been preserved. Historic buildings include the Old Maruichi-Honma Residence, an important cultural asset of Japan, and Kunimare Shuzo, the northernmost sake brewer. Five sushi restaurants, a ramen restaurant, fish sausage (*kamaboko*) store and pickle (*tsukemono*) store are also here. Feel the long history of Mashike and enjoy the delicacies of the season.



Mashike Itsukushima Shrine

Mashike Itsukushima Shrine was founded approximately 620 years ago, and is one of the oldest shrines in Hokkaido. The statues of Chinese lions and stone lantern date back to the Edo Period. The shrine has many excellent works of art, including votive pictures (*ema*) in the front shrine, a painting of dragon and clouds on the ceiling and other Japanese paintings. The main shrine is made entirely of Japanese zelkova, and decorated with more than seventy sculptures from Chinese legends. In 1999, Mashike Itsukushima Shrine was designated as a tangible cultural asset of Mashike.



Enjoying old culture

Despite being the northernmost village far away from cultural centers, Mashike has been a source of cultural inspiration. Writings and studies by the Akita clan samurai, who stayed at Mashike during the Edo Period, had a significant cultural influence on Mashike. Many novelists and writers also visited Mashike, fascinated by the life and people on the frontier, and published many works.



Movies



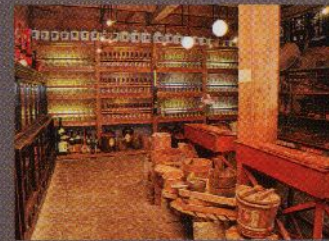
Chronology of Mashike literature

- 1813 *Shinobugusa*, essays
by Mokudayu Yokooka, Tsugaru clansman
- 1856 *Hokkoso*, anthology of Chinese poetry
by Chosho Yoshizawa, Akita clansman
- 1856 Mashike was mentioned in
Takeshiro Kaiho Nikki (travel journal)
by Takeshiro Matsuura
- 1860 *Mashike Tsumekata Nikki* (work journal)
by Akita clansmen
- 1907 Takeo Arishima visited Mashike and
composed haiku on the hill at Miyoshi Shrine
- 1913 Roka Tokutomi published
Mimizu no Tawagoto
- 1926 Bokusui Wakayama visited Mashike
and hosted a poetry recital
- 1931 *Mashike-ko*, free-verse haiku
by Seisensui Ogiwara
- 1955 *Nishin*, reportage
by Tsuguo Ando
- 1964 *Danshaku to Boku*
by Yasuo Maruyama from Nobusha
- 1968 *Maboroshi no Sakana*
by Renzaburo Shibata
- 1971 *Karasu no Hama* by Akira Yoshimura
based on the story of Ogasawara Maru
- 1974 *Karasu to Harimo* by Akira Yoshimura
- 1983 *Kaze no Toride* by Yasuko Harada
- 1997 *Kyodai* by Rei Nakanishi

Movies located in Mashike

- 1949 *Jakoman to Tetsu* Produced by Toho
Starring Toshiro Mifune and Ryunosuke Tsukigata
- 1969 *Shin Abashiri Bangaichi - Saihate no Nagaremono*
Produced by Toei
Starring Ken Takakura and Yuriko Hoshi
- 1981 *Eki - Station* Produced by Toho
Starring Ken Takakura and Chieko Baisho
- 1983 *Gyoei no Mure* Produced by Shochiku
Starring Ken Ogata and Yukiyo Toake
- 1999 *Kaizoku-ban = Bootleg Film*
Produced by Monkey T. P.
Starring Akira Emoto and Kippe Shiina
- 2000 *Koroshi... Koroshi* Produced by Museum
Starring Ken Ogata, Ryo Ishibashi and Nene Otsuka
- 2001 *Aruku, Hito* Produced by Monkey T. P.
Starring Ken Ogata, Teruyuki Kagawa
and Nene Otsuka

Kunimare Shuzo, Japan's northernmost sake brewer founded in 1882



The Maruichi-Honma Family, sake brewer, enormously contributed to Mashike's prosperity. Kunimare Shuzo, brewer of famous Kunimare sake brewed using the subsoil water of Mount Shokanbetsu, maintains the tradition of sake brewing in Mashike. We also recommend visiting the sake cellar. You can bring the subsoil water home.

For inquiries, call 0164-53-9355.

Akita Clan's Mashike Moto-jinya (old quarters)

The Shogunate Government of Edo ordered the Akita clan to protect West Ezo (Hokkaido) and Karafuto from foreign invaders. In 1856, the Akita clan established their quarters in Mashike. The building now houses the Mashike Town Historical Museum Moto-jinya, where you can see old literature and images and watch movies to learn about samurai culture in Mashike.

For inquiries, call 0164-53-3522.



Many capes and strange-shaped rocks are along the Ofuyu Coast. We recommend seeing Akaiwa Cape, Kannonzaki, Gokenzaki, Makka Cape and Kamuieto Cape.



Ofuyu Cape



Akaiwa Cape



Kannonzaki



Gokenzaki



Makka Cape



Kamuieto Cape



Mojiri Island (Kakuki's Island)

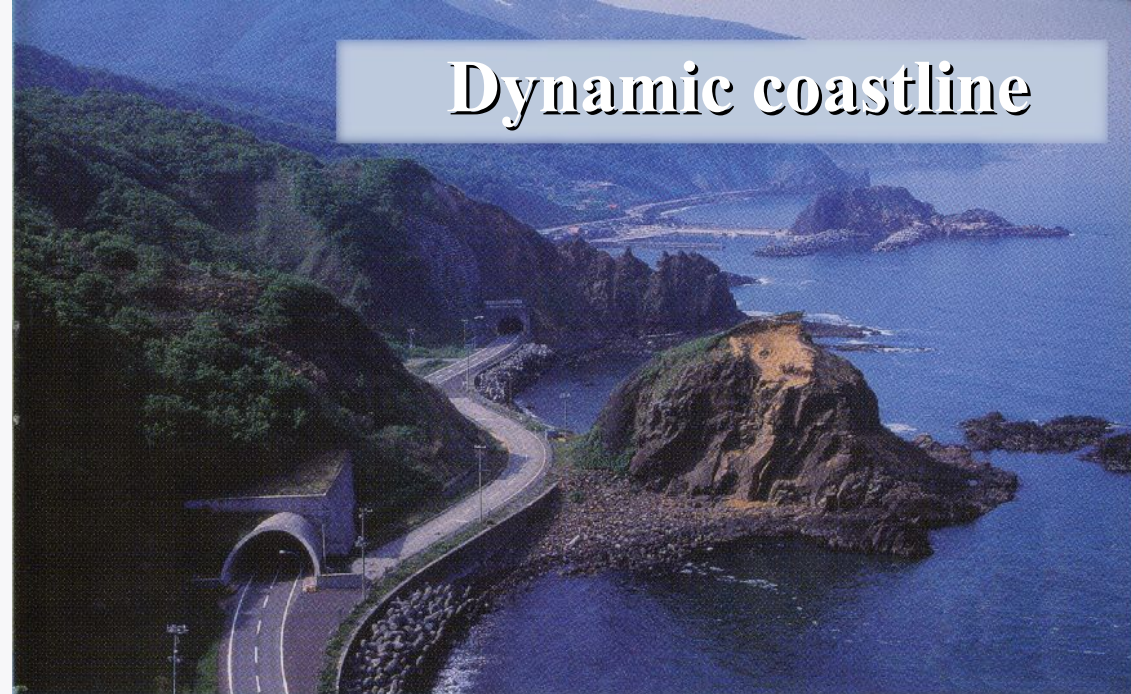
A pier connects Mojiri Island to the Iwaoi fishing harbor. The island used to be owned privately, and Kakuki was the owner's business name. In June, *ezoengosaku* (*corydalis ambigua*) grows gregariously on the southern slope of the island. We recommend viewing Mojiri Island while bathing in the Iwaoi spa.



Rosoku (Candle) Rock

A strangely-shaped rock near the Betsukari fishing harbor. The candle-like rock is over fifty meters high. Behind Rosoku-iwa, you will see Kamuieto Cape, which is often referred to as Devil's cape.

Dynamic coastline



Enjoying the magnificent views of the Ofuyu Coast along Route 231

The vertical cliffs of the Ofuyu Coast, where Mount Shokanbetsu lies directly adjacent to the Sea of Japan, are over 100 meters high.

Until only a quarter of a century ago, no cars could approach here.

Many places on the coastline are inaccessible from land including the coastline from Makka Cape to Kamuieto Cape. Some caves and waterfalls on the cliffs can be seen only from boats.

Seeing the sunset from Kamuieto and Ofuyu Capes is a must.

The drive from Sapporo to the Ofuyu district is approximately 90 minutes. You will enjoy a breathtaking drive along the beautiful Sea of Japan.



Sunset from Kamuieto cape



Ofuyu fishing port

Interesting spots on the Ofuyu Coast

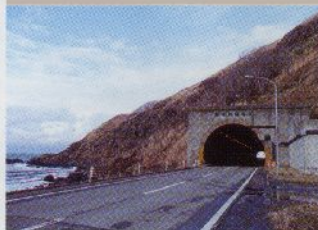


Eboshi Rock

Eboshi is a type of headgear worn by nobles. Eboshi Rock, where sea birds rest their wings, is in the Yudomari district. Since the rock also resembles *gohei*, wooden wands used in Shinto rituals, locals also call it Gohei Rock.

The third tunnel on the way from Iwao spa to Mashike. Until the 1950's, sulfur used to be produced in this area. Inside the tunnel, you will be able to smell sulfur.

Yudomari Tunnel



Yoshitsune Cave

Yoshitsune Cave is located between Betsukari fishing harbor and Kamuieto Cape. The cave is difficult to find, because it looks like a gap between rocks. When the sea is calm, you can go inside the cave with a small boat.



Gunkan (Warship) Island

Although called an island, Gunkan is actually a small rock near the Ofuyu Cape, which resembles a warship.

Ofuyu Cape Observatory and Rock Park



On the mountain near Ofuyu's inhabited area, the Ofuyu Cape Observatory stands 135 meters above sea level. From the observatory, you will see the Shakotan Peninsula on the horizon, as well as Teuri Island and Yagishiri Island. On the left of the observatory, you will see a vertical cliff with columnar jointing. Near the entrance of the observatory is Rock Park, where rocks of various sizes and lawn create mysterious landscapes. Take a break at the arbor, which is a good place to look at the sea.

Open from late April
to late October

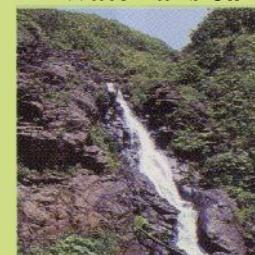
April, May, September
and October
: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

June to August
: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



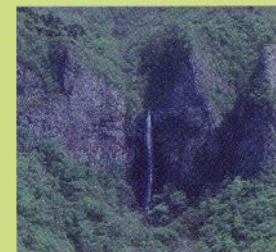
Waterfalls on the Ofuyu Coast

Ginrin Waterfall is located near the Sapporo-side exit of Kuroiwa Tunnel. Huts for herring fishing used to stand near the waterfall. Fishermen after work washed their work outfits in the waterfall. According to local legend, the herring scales from the fishermen's outfits changed the waterfall into a silver color.

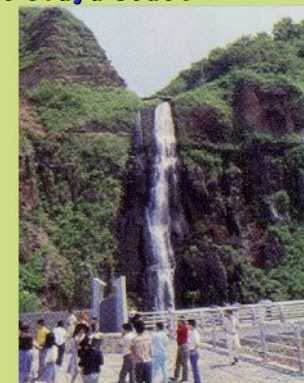


Ginrin (Silver Scale) Waterfall

Perika Waterfall cannot be accessed or seen from land; the waterfall can be seen only from boats. Perika is an Ainu word, meaning "Cleaving the cliff in two, and falling." This waterfall can be seen only during snow-melting season.



Perika Waterfall



Hakugin (White Silver) Waterfall

Driving from Ofuyu's inhabited area toward Sapporo, you will soon find Hakugin Waterfall and parking nearby. The waterfall is particularly beautiful when it reflects the setting sun. During winter, the entire waterfall freezes.

(The Hakugin Waterfall is part of Ishikari City)

Alpine plants of Mount Shokanbetsu



Flower garden in the sky



At an altitude of 1,100 meters or higher on Mount Shokanbetsu, you can see alpine plants along both the Shokan and Hashibetsu climbing routes. The mountain has a flat area near the summit, where alpine plants grow and bloom.

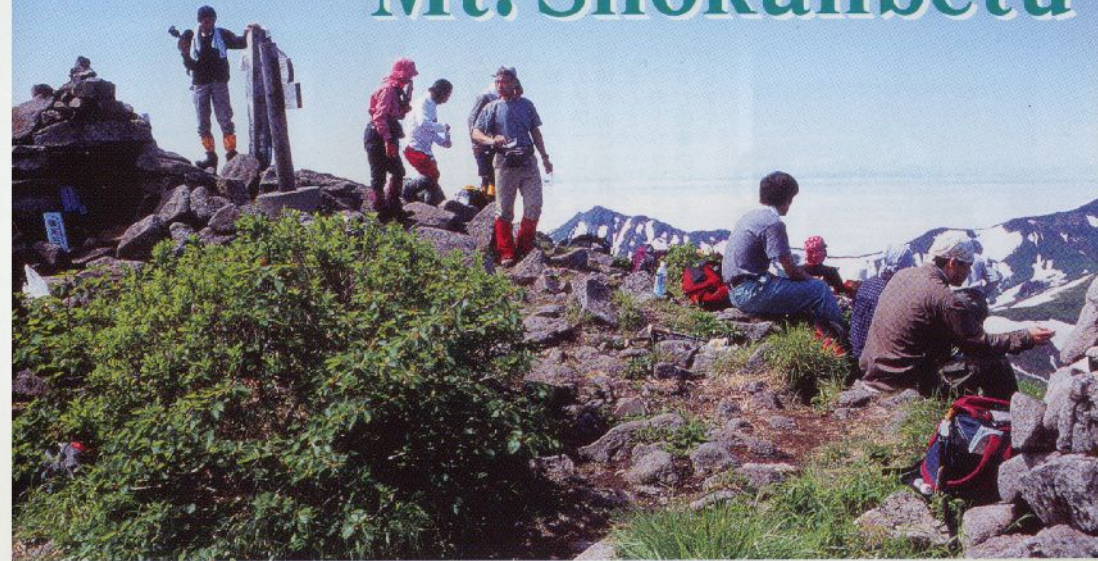
Particularly along the Hashibetsu route near the summit, alpine plants grow gregariously from the middle of June to the middle of July. The weather tends to be stable during this period, and different flowers bloom every week, so that you can see different flowers every time you climb the mountain.

Keiryu (Mountain Stream) Forest

Near the starting point of the Shokan climbing route of Mount Shokanbetsu is an approximately ten-hectare forest called Keiryu Forest. The forest has four areas: Bogaku (mountain view), Seseragi (little stream), Saezuri (bird singing) and Seiryu (clear stream) forest areas. Spring flowers bloom from late May to June.



Mt. Shokanbetsu



Mount Shokanbetsu, Quasi-National Park

Mount Shokanbetsu, 1,492 meters, is the highest of the Mashike Mountains. The mountain has three climbing routes: Shokan, Hashibetsu, and a traverse route from Uryu.

The mountain is particularly beautiful with snow remaining until July. The climbing season of Mount Shokanbetsu starts in the middle of June. From the summit on fine days, you can see the Sea of Japan, Mount Yotei, Mount Daisetsu, Mount Rishiri, Shakotan Peninsula and other beautiful mountains, including Mount Gumbetsu, Mount Hamamasu, Mount Nishi-shokan and Mount Minami-shokan.

The starting points of the climbing routes are close to the center of Mashike Town, approximately 20 minutes by car.

One of the many charms of Mount Shokanbetsu is over 100 species of beautiful alpine plants that you can see in June and July. Because of this, Mount Shokanbetsu is selected as one of Japan's 100 Greatest Flower Mountains. *Mashike genge* (*oxytropis shokanbetsuensis*), *mashike otogiri* (*hypericum yamamotoi*), and *mashike reijinso* (*aconitum mashikense*) are endemic to Mount Shokanbetsu. The mountain attracts many climbers from Hokkaido and throughout Japan.



mashike reijinso
(*aconitum mashikense*)



mashike otogiri
(*hypericum yamamotoi*)

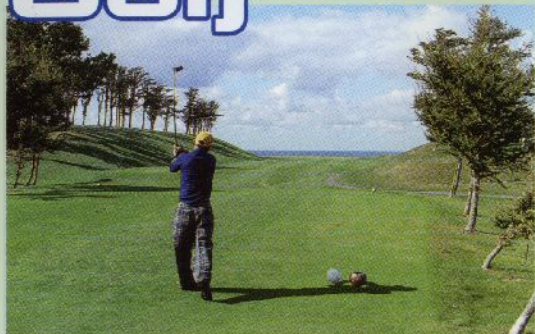


Mashike genge
(*oxytropis shokanbetsuensis*)

Enjoying many outdoor activities

Golf

Mashike Rinks



An eighteen-hole golf course with a magnificent view of Mount Shokanbetsu and the Sea of Japan. Make splendid shots in this golf course with natural landscapes, aiming for your best score.

For inquiries, call 0164-54-2144.



Ski

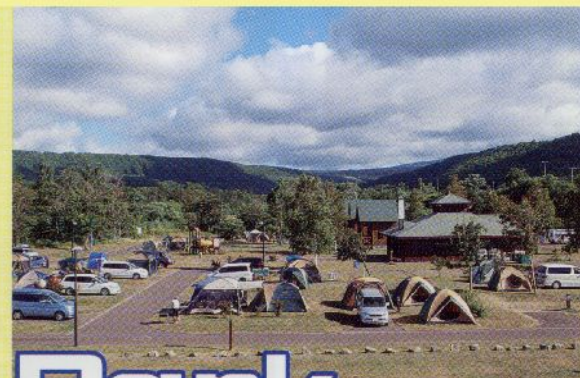
Mount Shokanbetsu Ski Ground



This ski slope's location enables you to view Teuri Island and Yagishiri Island in the Sea of Japan from the ski slope. Five runs are available for all skiers, from beginners to experts. The ski slope has two 2-seat lifts and a lodge of Northern European design. The quality of snow is wonderful, and the ski slope is only five kilometers from the center of Mashike Town.

For inquiries, call 0164-53-3002.

throughout the year



Park

Riverside Park

A ten-hectare park located along the Shokanbetsu River 800 meters upstream from the river mouth. The park has tennis courts, a park golf course and multi-purpose grass field for soccer and other activities. Facilities for auto camping are particularly well equipped and there are two campsites. Facilities include camping sites with a power supply for standard and camping cars, as well as cottages. The park is open from late April to the middle of October.

For inquiries, call the Center House at 0164-53-1385.

Marina

Nord Marina



For inquiries, call 0164-53-3939.



This marina's pier is capable of accommodating sixty boats. The marina also has a clubhouse designed to resemble a boat. Located near the Ofuyu Coast with scenic beauty, many tourists visit the marina.

Taste Mashike's Great Food



Fruit

At the foot of Mount Shokanbetsu are 120 hectares of fruit farms, making Mashike the northernmost fruit-growing district. In May, cherry trees bloom first, followed by Japanese pears and apples. The fruit farms are filled with white and pale pink flowers. Strawberries are harvested in June, cherries in July, plums and peaches in August, and prunes, grapes, European pears and apples in September. The soil of the alluvial fan drains water well, and the temperature changes between night and day are significant despite the relatively moderate climate of the area. These factors create delicious fruits.



Local sake



Kunimare Shuzo is Japan's northernmost sake brewer located at 44 degrees north latitude. Kunimare Shuzo first brewed sake in 1882 and continues to this day. Mashike has been endowed with good water, and used to be a drinking water supply depot for Kitamae-bune, merchant ships sailing between Hokkaido and other parts of Japan during the Edo Period. The rich and clear subsoil water from Mount Shokanbetsu is combined with the traditional brewing skills of Nanbu master brewers, creating great sake with dry and refreshing taste. At Kunimare Shuzo, you can buy all brands of sake brewed by Kunimare Shuzo. You can also visit the sake cellar, taste sake for free and bring the subsoil water home. Kunimare Shuzo is open seven days a week throughout the year, except the year-end and New Year holidays.



Fresh seafood

Spot prawns (*ama-ebi*) are Mashike's most representative fresh seafood. Scallops and octopus can be enjoyed throughout the year. At Mashike harbor, herring and various kinds of flatfish in spring, whelk (*tsubugai*), sea urchin and squid in summer, salmon, sandfish and abalone in autumn, and cod, sculpin and skate (*kasube*) in winter are landed among many other kinds of seafood.



Seafood products



Mashike has a long tradition in producing salted herring roe (*kazunoko*), herring preserved in rice-bran paste (*nuka nishin*) and other herring products. In recent years, a wider variety of seafood products are produced, including tender boiled octopus (*tako no yawaraka ni*), salmon roe preserved in soy sauce (*ikura shoyu-zuke*), sea urchin salted overnight (*uni ichiya-zuke*), smoked salmon, salted cod roe, octopus products, prawn products and walleye pollack (*suketodara*) products. All these products are made with Mashike's traditional seafood processing skills and taste great.



SPA

Mashike Town spa facilities with ocean view
Seeing the sunset is a must!



For inquiries, call 0164-55-2024.



Iwao Spa Attamaru, spa facilities for day-trippers, is run by Mashike Town and located on the Ofuyu Coast along Route 231, a 90-minute drive from Sapporo City. The spring quality is classified as a cool mineral spring. The spa makes you relaxed and feeling truly warm, and you will not feel cold after a bath. Enjoy the view of the Sea of Japan and the sun setting into the sea from the bath.

Sekiyoso, Bedrock Bathing

Sekiyoso offers bedrock bathing, as well as ordinary baths. The place offers accommodation, but also welcomes day-trippers. You can view the Ofuyu Coast from guest rooms, baths and balconies. The local seafood barbecue is also attractive.



For inquiries, call 0164-55-9611.



For inquiries, call 0164-53-2222.



Auberge Mashike

Auberge Mashike opened in 2009 as a spa and accommodation facilities where visitors can enjoy food. The concept of Auberge Mashike is *chisan-chisho*, local production for local consumption. Auberge Mashike is established and run under the supervision of Kiyomi Mikuni, the famous French cuisine chef born in Mashike. The auberge is located near the Shokanbetsu River, where salmon breed, and the Sea of Japan. Behind the auberge is Mount Shokanbetsu. The main baths have a thoron spa and sauna. Day-trippers are also welcome.

EVENT & FESTA

Many food festivals



Harbor Festival in Summer



A local youth organization holds a beer party at the fireworks site, selling grilled seafood, such as prawns, whelk (*tsubugai*) and squid. Seeing fireworks from up close is really exciting. On the following day, the Summer Festival is held in the town.



Prawn Festival in Spring



Mashike Town's biggest event. Visitors can buy spot prawns (*ama-ebi*) landed on the day. Stalls sell prawn soup, fried prawns and other dishes. A limited number of servings of Mashike prawn curry, developed under the supervision of Kiyomi Mikuni, a famous chef born in Mashike, are also sold. Over ten thousand people visit the festival every year.



Autumn Food Festival in Autumn



Salmon and other fresh seafood are sold at low prices. Apples, Japanese pears, grapes and other fruits are also sold, filling the festival with harvests of the soil and sea.



Ski Ground Festival in Winter



This festival is held to enjoy winter. You can play on a jumbo slide, drive a snowmobile, watch or join in a fancy dress ski performance and play games on the snow.

