

Mt. Hakuto

Overview

Mt. Hakuto rises 950 m above sea level and is south of Lake Akan. The Mt. Hakuto Observatory, at an altitude of 800 m, can be reached by taking the scenic walking trail from the ski area south of Lake Akan. From Akanko Onsen town, it is a five-minute drive to the trailhead, and it is then approximately two kilometers, or an hour and thirty minutes one-way, to the observatory. The viewing deck affords a panorama view of Lake Akan, Mt. Oakan, and the surrounding forest as far as Mt. Meakan.

Plant Life

Mt. Hakuto is beautiful year round. From spring to summer, a variety of flowers can be enjoyed along the walking trail. Ezo-osakuraso (*Primula jesoana* Miq. var. *pubescens* (Takeda) Takeda et H. Hara) is a plant that produces bright purple flowers, and nirinso (*Anemone flaccida*) is a plant with white flowers. In autumn, the maple leaves are especially picturesque.

Around the Observatory

Due to constant volcanic activity, with steam and gases being emitted from fumaroles, the ground around the observatory is warm. Bokke (mud volcanoes) can also be seen along the walking trail.

The observatory can also be accessed by car via the Furebetsu forest road.