

Bokke

Overview

The bokke area is located five minutes on foot from the Akankohan Eco-museum Center via the Bokke Walking Trail. The Bokke Walking Trail is a leisurely one-and-a-half-kilometer circuit through the forest and along the shore of Lake Akan.

The name *bokke* comes from the Ainu word *pofuke* which means “to bubble up.” Bokke is a general term for mud volcanoes. Together with volcanic gases, gray mud from underground continuously builds up and erupts. The constant geothermal activity in these spots even prevents snow from accumulating during winter. They are recognizable not only by their appearance but also by their burbling sound and sulfur smell.

Activities

The Bokke Walking Trail showcases many of the typical natural features of the Akan region. The forest includes conifers such as the Yezo spruce and Sakhalin fir, and broadleaf trees like the Manchurian elm, katsura, shiuri-zakura (*Prunus ssiori*), and Japanese rowan. There are Eurasian red squirrels and Yezo shika deer. The chirping sounds of Madarasuzu (*Dianemobius nigrofasciatus*) and tsuzuresase-koorogi (*Velarifictorus micado*) crickets fill the air even in the colder months because of the warm microclimate caused by geothermic activity.

Warning: Bokke reach temperatures of close to 100°C. Please do not go beyond the fence.