

Hiking Mt. Rishiri

Mikaeridai Park is the start of the Kutsugata Trail up Mt. Rishiri. The hike to the northern peak (1,719 m) is challenging, with a steep ascent and dramatic ridgeline vistas. The peak affords views of the entire island and the sea on all sides. The southern peak (1,721 m) is the mountain's highest point but is now off-limits for safety reasons.

The physically demanding Kutsugata Trail (approximately 450 meters above sea level) is suitable only for experienced hikers. Less-experienced hikers should take the Oshidomari Trail, which starts from the Hokurokuyaeijo Campsite, on the northern side of the island. This trail ascends more gradually and is wider and easier underfoot. The round-trip to the northern peak, on either trail, takes approximately 10 hours.

The Kutsugata trailhead is on the right-hand side as you approach the Mikaeridai Park parking lot. There is a signboard with a map and important safety information in English at the trailhead.