

## Mt. Odake Hiking Course through the Northern Hakkoda Mountains

The Mt. Odake hiking course is an 8-kilometer trail that takes approximately five hours to complete. The course, which runs from Hakkoda Ropeway Summit Park Station to Sukayu Onsen via Mt. Akakuradake, Mt. Idodake, and Mt. Odake in the northern Hakkoda mountain range, is a good option for those interested in a solid, moderately challenging hike.

The course begins at the far end of the Hakkoda Gourd Trail. Hikers should turn left at the T-junction to join the trail that climbs through forests of Maries' fir and Siberian dwarf pine, skirting cliff edges and craters. In summer, white *hinazakura* primroses with yellow centers, creamy yellow meadow buttercups, delicate pink fringed galax, *iwabukuro* beardtongue, and numerous other alpine and marshland plants bloom across the mountainside.

From Mt. Odake's summit hikers can get a 360-degree view of the surrounding mountains. To the north lies the city of Aomori and Mutsu Bay; to the east, the peaks of Mt. Kodake and Mt. Takada-Odake; to the west, Mt. Iwaki; and to the south, Mt. Kushigamine.

Facilities are few and far between, so come prepared. There are toilet facilities at two emergency evacuation huts along the trail.