

The Hakkoda Ropeway to the Top

Open all year round, the Hakkoda Ropeway carries visitors up the slopes of Mt. Tamoyachidake to an alpine paradise of recreational activities in all seasons. The gondola car, which departs from the base station every 15 to 20 minutes, takes visitors on a 10-minute ride to the top. There they will find hiking trails suited to every level, and fine views of the surrounding mountains and marshlands. Depending on the month, blooming alpine and marshland flowers, brilliant fall foliage, deep powder snow, or the fresh green of spring await.

The Hakkoda Ropeway is the gateway to the Hakkoda mountains, a group of approximately 20 peaks that span the northern part of Towada-Hachimantai National Park. Disembarking at the Summit Park Station, winter visitors will find snowshoeing trails and ski slopes, a pristine white scene of frost and snow-covered trees. On clear days, the neighboring island of Hokkaido may be visible. Skiing lasts well into spring (and in some areas, into early May). From spring to fall hikers trek along the trails, while July and August are best for admiring the bright alpine and marshland plants. The mountainside is aflame with fall foliage between September and October.