

Yakehashiri Lava Flow Observation Trail

The Yakehashiri Lava Flow observation trail on the flank of Mt. Iwate affords excellent views of the mountain, the lava flow, and the surrounding forests. Each season offers a different landscape: The verdant vegetation of spring and summer gives way to the bright foliage of fall, and then to blankets of snow with the coming of winter.

Though the trail may seem barren except for mosses, lichens, and the occasional tree, wildlife such as frogs and dragonflies can be spotted. Eurasian sparrowhawks soar overhead.

The Yakehashiri Lava Flow is a Special Natural Monument and was designated a National Park Special Protection Zone in 1956. Visitors are asked to stay on the trail. Removing rocks from the lava flow or interacting directly with wildlife in the area is prohibited. Any trash should be carried out for disposal, as there are no disposal options on-site.

The observation trail is approximately 1 kilometer each way; visitors should allocate about one hour for a round trip. As the trail consists of loose rocks, sturdy footwear is recommended. Walking the trail in high heels or sandals should be avoided. The trail is exposed to the elements and subject to seasonal temperature extremes. There are no water sources or toilet facilities on-site; please prepare accordingly.