

Lake Hibara

Lake Hibara is the largest lake in the Bandai Kogen Highlands, covering 10.7 square kilometers. It was formed during the 1888 eruption of Mt. Bandai. The landslide that followed destroyed entire villages and dammed up valleys, forming around 300 lakes and ponds.

On the northern shore of the lake there is a torii gate from Oyamazumi-jinja Shrine that survived the eruption. Another torii gate from the same shrine is submerged in the lake, occasionally piercing the surface when water levels drop. Small islets dotting the lake are comprised of volcanic debris from the eruption.

The lakeside is popular for camping, with several campsites along the shore. There is a path around parts of the lake that is ideal for walking or cycling. Between late April and late November, explore the lake from the water by speed boat, or hire a canoe or pedal boat. Ice fishing for smelt is a popular pastime after the lake freezes over.