

Welcome to Rausu

Rausu's forested mountains and surrounding ocean are a sanctuary for a wide range of wildlife. Strict conservation measures in the largely undeveloped and sparsely populated area mean mammals such as brown bears and sperm whales, as well as rare and endangered birds like Blakiston's fish owls and Steller's sea eagles, can thrive.

Visitors to Rausu can join observation tours to view these species in their natural habitats. Watch bears forage along the rocky shoreline and whales and dolphins swim in the Nemuro Strait. Wander along nature trails to hear birdsong and see Blakiston's fish owls hunt. During winter, see seals resting on the drift ice, white-tailed eagles soaring above the sea, and clype sea angels gliding under the icy water.

Through cultural experiences, visitors can discover more about Rausu's local traditions. Learn about the fishing industry that thrives on diverse catches from the Nemuro Strait by visiting a fish auction. Discover how to husk a sea urchin in a culinary class. Find out why some of the world's best restaurants prize the kelp (kombu) that grows in Rausu's coastal waters and see how it is prepared and graded at a purpose-built warehouse. Throughout the year, the local community holds festivals and events that honor the Rausu fishing industry and the deities that protect fisherfolk, as well as events marking the changing of the seasons.

The tourist information counter in Shiretoko Rausu Michi no Eki and Rausu's two visitor centers offer more details on local wildlife observation and Rausu's cultural heritage.