

Shiretoko World Heritage Rusa Field House

Shiretoko World Heritage Rusa Field House is a visitor and education center in a modern timber building facing the Nemuro Strait. Large maps detail points of geological interest in the local area, and a selection of taxidermy exhibits introduces local wildlife. Staff regularly update the information board near the entrance to inform visitors of weather changes and bear sightings.

Visitors considering a hike in the Shiretoko mountain range or kayaking around the peninsula should visit the field house before setting off. Staff provide short workshops on the geology of the area and offer advice for staying safe amongst the potentially challenging and often unmarked terrain.

The facility's location on the shore of the Nemuro Strait makes it an excellent place to observe the coastal wildlife. Use the telescopes and binoculars on the second floor to monitor the sea and sky for whales, dolphins, killer whales, seagulls, and eagles.

Some panels provide information in English, and staff can generally communicate in English. Bear deterrent spray and bear-resistant food containers are available to rent. The field house is open between May and October; the center is closed during the long Shiretoko winter. It is located a 20-minute drive up the coast from central Rausu.