

Shiretoko Wildlife

Shiretoko's forested mountains, rocky shoreline, and deep coastal waters support healthy ecosystems and rich biodiversity. Strict conservation measures protect the habitats of a range of wildlife including bears, sperm whales, and rare and endangered birds such as Blakiston's fish owls and Steller's sea eagles. Visitors to Shiretoko can view the wildlife in their natural environment.

Observing wildlife through the seasons

Brown bears forage along the coast between spring and autumn, songbirds brighten the forests with their song in summer, large eagles and Steller's sea lions migrate to the area in winter, and whale species patrol the deep waters in the Nemuro Strait year-round.

Visitors to Rausu can observe wildlife from lookout points and boat tours or while hiking mountain and forest trails. The tourist information counter in the Shiretoko Rausu Michi no Eki (roadside rest-stop) provides information on available tours and stocks a selection of trail maps and pamphlets.