

The Emperor Emeritus and Empress Emerita and Nasu

Retired Emperor Akihito (b. 1933) and Empress Michiko (b. 1934) stay at the Nasu Imperial Villa every year. During their stay, they regularly pay calls on farmers in the area to inquire after the year's harvest and express appreciation for their labor. When Nasu was hit by heavy rain in August 1998, Their Majesties visited the flood-ravaged areas and comforted the victims with words of encouragement. Following the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami, they gave local residents access to the Nasu Imperial Villa hot springs.

Their Majesties participate in the release of birds into the wild as part of Tochigi Prefecture's wild bird breeding project. Initially, Emperor Akihito was meant simply to watch the event, but he decided to try releasing a green pheasant himself. Since then, Their Majesties have taken a more active part in the event. In recent years, special boxes have been used for releasing the birds, and one of these boxes is on display in the center of the exhibit.