

Amihari Visitor Center

The Amihari Visitor Center, located within Towada-Hachimantai National Park, offers comprehensive information on recreational activities, nature, and the history of Mt. Iwate and other mountains within the national park area. The center, which was renovated in 2020, uses interactive technology such as augmented reality to present information in several languages, including topographical maps that show hiking routes.

Amihari is a gateway for trails linking five mountains: Mt. Iwate, Mt. Eboshidake, Mt. Akita-Komagatake, Mt. Mitsuishi, and Mt. Hachimantai. The staff can offer advice on trail conditions and make recommendations based on visitors' needs and preferences. They can also make arrangements for nature activities and answer questions on the local topography and wildlife.

Popular activities at the visitor center include firefly watching in the summer and snowshoe trekking in the winter (rental snowshoes are available). The center is the starting point for the circular Forest Nature Trail, which is accessible in any season and suitable for all levels of fitness. Because it only takes about an hour to complete, it is a good option for those with limited time to get a taste of the area's natural beauty.

The facility also serves as a community hub, promoting local attractions to tourists and residents with photo displays, nature-themed art, and a comprehensive library of books. Visitors are welcome to sit out on the deck or relax in the comfortable multifunctional spaces inside. The center is ideal for taking a break during activities or as a spot to wait for others as they ski the slopes or hike the trails. The staff arrange and promote a year-long calendar of nature-themed events and activities, many of which are suitable for all ages or are curated specially for families with young children.