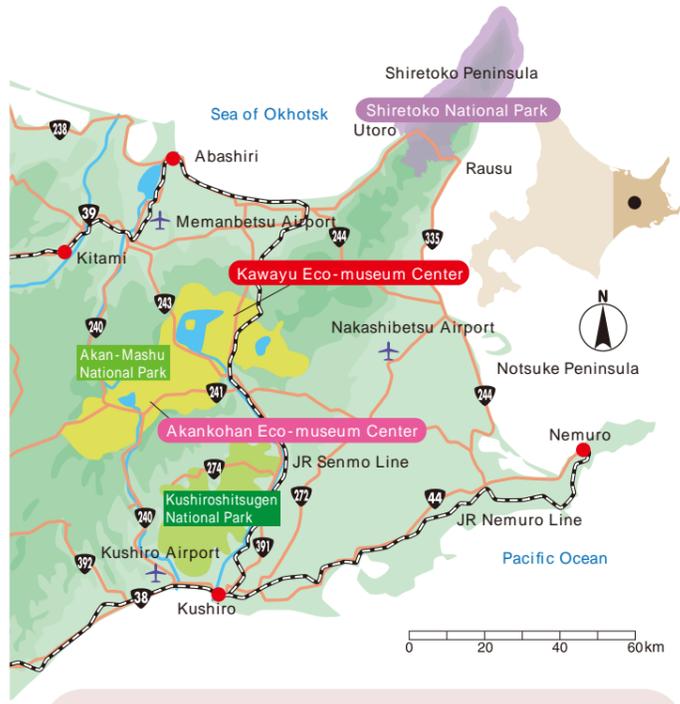


Kawayu Eco-museum Center: The Gateway to Akan-Mashu National Park

The best place to begin an adventure at Akan-Mashu National Park is the Kawayu Eco-museum Center. This facility introduces the region's nature and rich history through detailed dioramas and displays. Since the park covers 914 square kilometers and has numerous natural attractions, planning a tour may seem overwhelming, but the Kawayu Eco-museum's wealth of available information and knowledgeable staff make it easy for visitors to craft the ideal itinerary for exploring the park. There is also a bright and airy café space where guests can relax.



Access

Kushiro Station: approx. 1hr.50min. by train
 Kawayu onsen Station: approx. 5min. by car
 Kushiro Airport: approx. 1hr.40min. by car
 Abashiri Station: approx. 1hr.50min. by train
 Memambetsu Airport: approx. 1hr.10min. by car
 Nakashibetsu Airport: 1hr.20min. by car
 Mashu Station: approx. 30min. by car
 Akanko Onsen: 1hr.10min. by car

Opening days and hours: Summer (Apr. - Oct.): 8:00 - 17:00
 Winter (Nov. - Mar.): 9:00 - 16:00
 Closed: Wednesdays (the following day if Wednesday is a national holiday; open every day from the 3rd week of July to the end of Aug.)
 Admission fee: free

Kawayu Eco-museum Center
 2-2-6, Kawayu Onsen, Teshikaga-cho, Kawakami-gun, Hokkaido 088-3645, JAPAN
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Kawayu Eco-museum Center



Labrador tea



Kawayu trillium

Ministry of the Environment

The Wakoto Peninsula was once a volcanic islet within Lake Kussharo. Sediment gradually accumulated between the islet and the shore, connecting them to create the peninsula.



There are numerous campsites and outdoor hot-spring baths on the Kussharo lakeshore, and in the winter (from around November to March), many people visit the lake to see the whooper swans that migrate here in large numbers from Siberia.



Lake Mashu is renowned for the crystal clarity of its waters, which consist almost entirely of rainwater, have a deep blue hue so special that it is termed "Mashu blue."



This park is an ideal destination for travelers looking for adventure in the outdoors. Akan-Mashu National Park is spread across 914 square kilometers of volcanic terrain formed by major eruptions some hundreds of thousands of years ago. The park offers plenty of opportunities for outdoor recreation, including hiking and walking, canoeing, horseback riding, camping, and fishing, as well as all manner of winter sports from around December to March. The Akan-Mashu National Park is a hot-spring haven, with multiple sources found throughout the park. There are free footbaths and outdoor baths, as well as hot-spring hotels, in most areas. After a day of hiking or exploring, a dip in one of these mineral-rich baths can help soothe tired muscles.

The Kawayu Onsen area lies directly north of Mt. Io (Sulfur Mountain) is called Atosa-nupuri (Bare Mountain) in the Ainu language because of its barren, rocky face. Hot steam escapes from the earth through 1,500 "fumaroles" (small vents) of various sizes. The air is heavy with the distinct odor of sulfur, and the bright yellow vents create an otherworldly sight.

