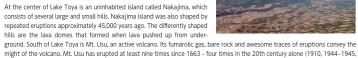


Toya-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark

A geopark where visitors enjoy nature, culture, food and the awesome power of volcanoes

The Toya-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark is a geopark with Lake Toya at its center. Look for the donut shape on a map of Hokkaido. You'll find a donut-shaped lake (10 km in diameter) in southwestern Hokkaido. This is Lake Toya. Surrounded by mountains, the lake resembles a large pot. Approximately 110,000 years ago, an eruption caused a huge depression to form, and the lake formed when the depression filled with precipitation. Such a lake is called a caldera lake.

At the center of Lake Toya is an uninhabited island called Nakajima, which consists of several large and small hills. Nakajima Island was also shaped by repeated eruptions approximately 45,000 years ago. The differently shaped



might of the volcano. Mt. Usu has erupted at least nine times since 1663 - four times in the 20th century alone (1910, 1944-1945, 1977–1978, 2000). Near the summit and the base, visitors can see the many craters that have formed from the repeated eruptions. The most notable characteristic of the Toya-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark lies in the fact that people have been living in the shadow of this active volcano. From time to time, craters and faults would form in the town and new hills would be created. Eruptions have caused various disasters and have affected people's lives. To keep the memories of these disasters from fading, buildings and roads damaged by eruptions have been protected as disaster remains, and a walking path has been built to give visitors access to these.

Why have people continued to live in an area where eruptions occur?



There are many springs at the foot of Mt. Usu. Archaeological research has clarified that people have been living here for approximately 10,000 years. The plateaus of volcanic ash around Lake Toya have been used for sunny agricultural fields and orchards. Toyako Onsen, a town that was developed after the 1910 eruption, is one of Hokkaido's most popular hot spring resorts, attracting 700,000 people each year. All of these are blessings of the volcano. Ocean life is also related to the volcano. A landslide at Mt. Usu approximately 8,000 years ago reached the sea, forming a complex coastline. Crevices between rocks provide habitats for shellfish, crabs, octopuses and other marine creatures. These too are volcanic blessings. People live here because they've benefitted from these volcanic blessings.

People in this area will have to keep thinking about how they can live with the volcano. To keep living here, they must prepare for eruption disasters. What distinguishes the area are tours that are guided by people who are knowledgeable about volcanoes and who can talk about natural disasters and disaster risk reduction. In light of this, the area has earned high acclaim and has been designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark.

Taking in views created by the volcano, eating delicious food that owes to volcanic blessings, soaking in a hot spring and thinking of the earth, our home: These are some ways to enjoy the Toya-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark.

There are a lot of walking trails in Toya-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark. Each course shows you natural awe such as volcano, forests, lake and the sea, in addition to attractive community and economic activities.

o_Trails | ₩This map

History and Culture Trails

Trails are categorized under three themes. Focusing on one of the themes, Toya-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark Walking Maps give you information on the trails and related facilities/spots in the area. Take Printed separately a map with you, indulge yourself with breathtaking earth and nature, and meet with locally-blessed history and culture



Michi-no-Eki Tovak

Geopark Guide Information: Volcano Trails

Toya Guide Center

anoeing tours at Lake Toya, walking tours in Nakajima sland, and snowshoeing tours are available. They also offer variety of customized tours.

Japanese language only

according to customers' preference, an experienced ieopark guide offers a good selection of tours or coordi-lates one for you.

Tsuruga Adventure Base SIRI The operator provides water activities such as canoeing near Lake Toya's 'outlet' of water (namely, near the top of Located within Lake Toya Tsuruga Resort Hikari no Uta, this facility offers a diverse range of activity programs to enjoy the surroundings of Lake Toya

Tova-Usu Volcano Meister Network

embers, called Volcano Meister, offer lectures and guided

BINOCOLO

ogrammes are designed to inspire participants to explore by a area's nature through canoeing and bird watching, by about trying a unique transparent clear canoe?

HIOY'OY

his organization offers tours where you can experience the rich atural environment, local culture, and geological history, encom-assing volcanoes, disaster mitigation, nature walks, and Jomon rehistoric sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list.

Toyako Visitor Center / Volcano Science Museum

While working at one of Geopark's main museums, facility staff provide guiding service at Mt. Konpira crater and lead handcrafting

Mt. Usu Guide Association

embers serve mainly for Nishi-yama and Konpira-yama Foot Routes.

The ropeway service operator also provides guided tours n volcano and disaster preparedness at Mt. Usu summit speway station and in front of Mt. Showa-Shinzan.

Sobetsu Outdoor Network

This organization offers outdoor events and tourism experiences making full use of the rich natural environment of Sobetsu Town.

Toya Toy Box

Mt. Usu Ropeway

A rich menu of canoeing activities awaits you, from casual canoeing to early-morning tour.

Takarada Visitor Center

While working at one of Geopark's main museums, facility staff provide guided walking tours at the lakeside and lead handcrafting workshops.

Ikimono inc

In the nature around Lake Toya, the NPO offers environment al education programmes for individuals, families, school-hildren and company employees

Booking is required for guided tours.

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For more information, please go to the official Toya-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark website.

























