

~When you are on the promenade routes or hiking trails~

- For ensuring a safe and comfortable stay
 - Prepare your own water and hats, and make sure you traverse the trails in suitable clothing.
 - Safety is your responsibility. Please make sure you take care to enjoy walking on the trail.
 - Only smoke in designated areas.
 - Some courses are closed during the winter.
- For sustaining invaluable geological features, natural beauty and local culture for future generations
 - Do not litter; take your trash home with you.
 - Do not stray from wooden walkways or paths.
 - Do not set up camps or start fires outside of the designated areas.
 - Do not surprise or give food to any wild animals you come across.
 - Do not collect any of the plants or animals. Do not take any minerals. (Some areas are protected by law.)



支笏洞爺国立公園
Shikotsu-Toya National Park
This is a national park.



The Toya-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark promotes actions taken in accordance with UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Date City · Toyoura Town · Sobetsu Town · Toyako Town



Toya-Uso UNESCO Global Geopark Council
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Toya-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark

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

The Toya-Utsu 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 hills are the lava domes that formed when lava pushed up from under-ground. South of Lake Toya is Mt. Usu, an active volcano. Its fumarolic gas, bare rock and awesome traces of eruptions convey the 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-Utsu 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 in the foot of Mt. Utsu. 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. Utsu approximately 8,000 years ago reached the sea, forming a complex coastline. Crinoids between rocks provide habitats for shellfish, crabs, octopuses and other marine creatures. These too are volcanic blessings. People live here because they've benefited 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 Toba-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.

Volcano Trails ✖ This map

History and Culture Trails ※ Printed separately

Forests and City Trails ※ Printed separately

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

