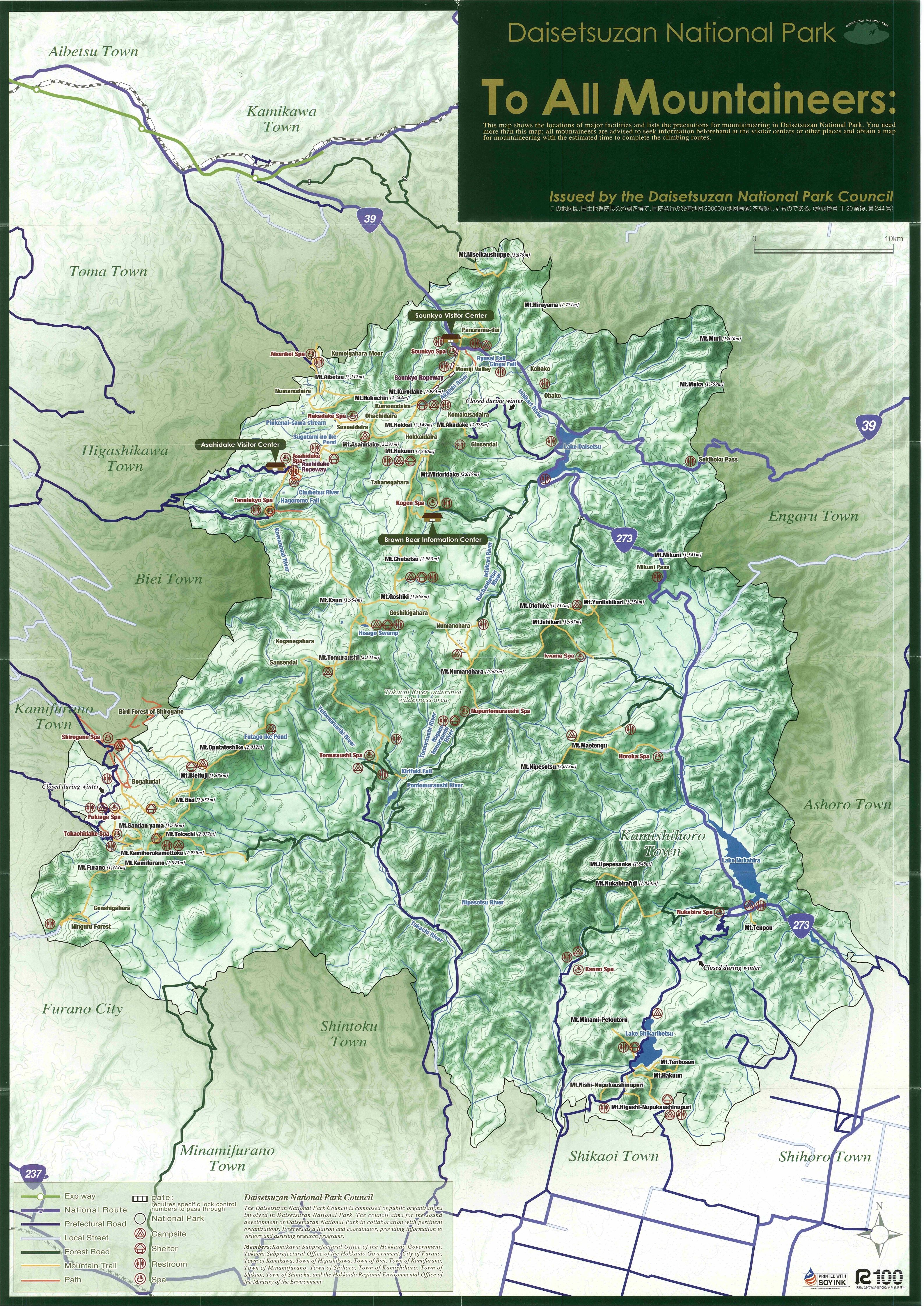


# To All Mountaineers:

This map shows the locations of major facilities and lists the precautions for mountaineering in Daisetsuzan National Park. You need more than this map; all mountaineers are advised to seek information beforehand at the visitor centers or other places and obtain a map for mountaineering with the estimated time to complete the climbing routes.

Issued by the Daisetsuzan National Park Council

この地図は、国土地理院長の承認を得て、同院発行の数値地図200000(地図画像)を複製したものである。(承認番号 平20業複、第244号)



- Exp way
- National Route
- Prefectural Road
- Local Street
- Forest Road
- Mountain Trail
- Path
- gate: requires specific lock control numbers to pass through
- National Park
- Campsite
- Shelter
- Restroom
- Spa

**Daisetsuzan National Park Council**  
The Daisetsuzan National Park Council is composed of public organizations involved in Daisetsuzan National Park. The council aims for the sound development of Daisetsuzan National Park in collaboration with pertinent organizations. It serves as a liaison and coordinator, providing information to visitors and assisting research programs.  
**Members:** Kamikawa Subprefectural Office of the Hokkaido Government, Tokachi Subprefectural Office of the Hokkaido Government, City of Furano, Town of Kamikawa, Town of Higashikawa, Town of Biei, Town of Kamifurano, Town of Minamifurano, Town of Shihoro, Town of Kamishihoro, Town of Shikaoi, Town of Shintoku, and the Hokkaido Regional Environmental Office of the Ministry of the Environment



# Watch Out, Mountaineers!

All kinds of risk factors are involved in nature. Mountaineers should assume personal responsibility for the safe enjoyment of the natural environment and use appropriate judgment to avoid risks. Here are some precautions you need to keep in mind in Daisetsuzan.

## Outline of Daisetsuzan National Park

Situated in the center of Hokkaido, Daisetsuzan National Park is a vast area that spans about 230,000 hectares. This mountain national park has the largest primitive natural environment in Japan. With Mount Asahi (2,291 m), the highest peak in Hokkaido and the main peak in the park, Daisetsuzan has mountains at elevations of around 2,000 meters.

A wide variety of alpine plants found in the alpine zone create vast fields of flowers; you can see snowy gorges and large snow patches even in high summer; and the high moor is dotted with a number of small lakes and swamps of varying sizes. All of these present a primitive homeland that the Ainu used to call "Kamuimintara" (God's playground).

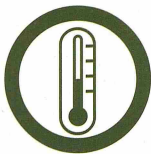
Vast virgin forests spread out around the alpine zone. Snowmelt from the summit becomes the headwaters of the Ishikari and Tokachi rivers, creating gorges with artistic columnar joints, which are found in Sounkyo and Tenninkyo gorges.

In addition, large mammals like the brown bear and Ezo deer and rare wild birds like the black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*) and Blakiston's fish owl (*Ketupa blakistoni*) inhabit the forests of Daisetsuzan. Another inhabitant is the Japanese pika, a survivor of the ice age. Eversmann's Parnassian (*Parnassius eversmanni menetries*) and the Freija's Fritillary (*Classiana freija asahidakeana*) live nowhere else in Japan but in Daisetsuzan. Such alpine butterflies and many other kinds of animals make Daisetsuzan their home.



## Weather Conditions

While the mountain ranges in Daisetsuzan are at a relatively low elevation of around 2,000 meters, the high latitude (situated in the north) makes the environment comparable to the 3,000-meter peaks of Honshu. Mountaineers must pay close attention to dramatic changes in weather conditions.



### Daisetsuzan has only summer and winter:

May	May is the height of the ski mountaineering season on the mountain side of Kurodage, Mount Asahi, and Mount Tokachi. It is still winter in the mountains.
June	While the snow has started to melt, it is not unusual to see snowfall. The summit is still covered with snow.
July to August	More snow is melting, but it is not until around mid-July that summer finally arrives in the mountains. No longer covered with snow, alpine plants create fields of flowers. However, temperatures can sometimes still fall below zero. Sometime between the end of July and the beginning of August is summer in Daisetsuzan. There is less and less lingering snow every day and fields of flowers bloom as if following the melting snow. Autumn begins between mid-August and the end of August; it is not unusual to see snow on the summit.
September	The color change of the leaves starts from the mountaintops and descends all the way down to the base of the mountains. It is time for the first snow of the season. You see the first of winter on the mountaintops in the middle of September. Winter comes relatively early; the snow will be up to your knees by the end of September.
October	Winter has arrived. The snow accumulates gradually, and you see the first snow of the season at the base of the mountains.
November to April	It is the middle of winter, and it is bitter cold.



## Climate in the Summer

Temperature	Even the summer can be cold in Daisetsuzan. Snowy gorges can still be found everywhere, even in July; there are permanent (perennial) snowfields in some areas. When the sun disappears, you might want your jacket even during the day, and when the wind blows, it will make you shiver. Do not dress casual; no short pants or short sleeves. Bring warm clothing.
Fog	A frightening feature of Daisetsuzan is the fog. It is hard to set a goal on flat terrain near the summit, and even experienced hikers may get lost. Mountaineers are advised to be very cautious with routes, particularly in a moor or snowy gorge. If you become lost, remain calm. Wait for the fog to lift or cautiously go back to the original location. Either way, do not panic.
Rain	While we seldom have severe rainstorms in Daisetsuzan, it rains frequently. If you get wet, you will be cold, or worse if the wind blows. Death from hypothermia is not uncommon in Daisetsuzan in summer. Rain brings the fog and wind, and mountaineers must be careful to avoid taking the wrong path. Rainwear is a must. It is wise to stay in a mountain hut or tent.
Wind	The summits and the tops of mountain ridges can be quite windy. You may not think it is windy at the base of the mountain, in a mountain hut, or in the designated campgrounds, but the wind is often very strong at the summit and on the ridges. When the wind is blowing, Daisetsuzan is cold. You may be fine in the sun, but you want warm clothing in the shade. Exposure to rain and wind can lower your body temperature, putting you in danger. You need to exercise appropriate care in setting up a tent.



- In Daisetsuzan, the temperature is low in summer; it is different from the mountains in Honshu at the same elevation of 2,000 meters.
- To traverse Daisetsuzan, you have to hike and spend nights at an elevation of around 2,000 meters. You need the same level of gear as you would to stay overnight at the elevation of Hotakadake in the Northern Alps.
- Between September and June, plan and act as if you climbed mountains in winter.



## Becoming Lost

In order to preserve the indigenous natural landscape, the walkways in Daisetsuzan National Park have only minimal signs and route markers. On some of the mountain trails, you may need to find the trails on your own.



**Mountain Trails for Experienced Mountaineers:** There are almost no signs or route markers. Even footprints are rare on some routes, and becoming lost is a distinct possibility. In some cases, you may need to use topographical charts and compasses to find the appropriate routes.

**Mountain Trails for Intermediate Mountaineers:** Minimal signs and route markers are provided. The trails are usually clearly marked because relatively many mountaineers walk on them. There is a chance that you may become lost if visibility is poor. Mountaineers are advised to occasionally check their position while en route.

**Mountain Trails for Beginners:** Signs and route markers are in place and it is unlikely that you will become lost.



## Wildlife

A large number of wild animals inhabit Daisetsuzan National Park. Be careful with some of the animals while trekking or hiking.



### 1. Brown Bear

The brown bear is fierce and sometimes kills humans. There are no fail-proof safety measures for the bears that inhabit Daisetsuzan National Park. The best way to avoid problems with brown bears is to stay away from them and keep them away from you.

**Carry a Bell:** A bell works to prevent sudden encounters with brown bears by announcing your presence. When you are hiking along a mountain stream or in areas of low visibility, blowing a whistle, yelling, and clapping your hands are effective. Do not use firecrackers or fireworks; they startle the bears more than necessary. Bears may behave unpredictably, posing grave danger to other mountaineers.

**Do not Throw Away Scraps of Food or Garbage:** The brown bear has an extremely sensitive sense of smell; they can tell where you have buried scraps of food or garbage in the ground. Throwing away food scraps or garbage is a very dangerous way of attracting brown bears.

**Do Not Cook Strong Smelling Foods or Food with Drainage Water:** The brown bear's acute sense of smell can even distinguish the smell of the water used to wash rice. Do not cook strong smelling food or food that requires drainage water. Draining the water after washing the dishes produces the same result; wipe the dishes with paper and take the paper with you.

**Do Not Bring Pets:** Except for specially trained bear dogs, your pets may excite bears and pose a grave danger.



In any dispute between brown bears and humans, the bear is always the one eliminated, even when humans are at fault. The brown bear is the symbol of a rich natural environment. Mountaineers are asked to take care and avoid problems with brown bears in order to keep Daisetsuzan National Park a place where they can live in peace.

### 2. Japanese Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes japonica*)

Some Japanese red foxes in Hokkaido have a parasite called Echinococcus. The droppings from the red fox contain the eggs of the parasite. The parasite can be transmitted to humans by eating egg-tainted wild vegetables, drinking contaminated stream water, or if the hands and fingers come in contact with the eggs.

Once you contract Echinococcus, subjective symptoms will not appear immediately; after an incubation period of several to a dozen years, you will begin to suffer discomfort around the upper abdominal area and experience a feeling of fullness. Eventually, you will feel fatigue or develop jaundice from liver failure. If you do not seek medical attention, the lesions may spread to the lungs or brain and can be fatal.

To prevent Echinococcus infections, always heat stream water or snowmelt to 60°C for ten minutes or longer or filter the water to eliminate the eggs before drinking.

## Slipping and Falling



There are many snowy gorges and permanent snowfields in Daisetsuzan National Park. When walking on the snow, great caution is required to prevent slipping and falling. Sometimes there is a large space beneath snow as more snow melts. If you hike through snowy gorges in such areas, you may fall and sustain serious injuries. Mountaineers are responsible for closely monitoring the state of remaining snow and the terrain to determine the danger of walking through snowy gorges or lingering snowfields.



## In Case of Accidents

If you should be involved in an accident and require rescue, report the incident to the police (dial 110). The police, local private rescue teams, and others confront life-threatening risks to bring to safety. Consequently, victims and their families may be billed for the rescue expenses. Mountain insurance is recommended to cover the expenses of a rescue. Mountaineers should fill out the forest entry form and submit a report on your itinerary beforehand.



## To Preserve Daisetsuzan

Mountaineers should be careful of the following points in order to preserve the incredible natural environment of Daisetsuzan National Park:

### Clean Daisetsuzan Campaign

This campaign is designed to ensure that each one of us can enjoy climbing the majestic mountains of Daisetsuzan, learn from the natural environment, commune with nature, protect the beauty and value of nature, and pass it on to our offspring for many years to come.

- Take your garbage with you, along with memories of the beautiful park.
- Stay on the trails; do not tread on alpine plants or pick up anything in the environment, not even a tiny stone. Leave everything as you found it.



## Wildlife

The wild animals living in Daisetsuzan National Park should be left alone.



- Do not feed wild animals.

## human excreta disposal

There is a concern in Daisetsuzan National Park that excrement from mountaineers affects the environment and the landscape.



- Use the restroom before climbing the mountain.
- Use a restroom whenever possible.
- Use a portable toilet when there is no restroom.

## Camping

Camping affects the natural environment. You are responsible for minimizing the impact, so please follow the rules listed below to ensure that all visitors will enjoy Daisetsuzan:



- Camp only in designated areas in Daisetsuzan National Park. Find a campground or designated camping area.
- Campfires are prohibited in mountainous areas.
- Pack out food and garbage.
- Do not cook anything that releases drainage water.
- Do not set up tents on plants.
- Use the water supply sources carefully.



## Mountain Trails

Damage to mountain trails is becoming a problem in Daisetsuzan National Park. Mountaineers can help prevent damage:

- Cover walking sticks with a protective cap.
- Do not use walking sticks off the mountain trails.
- Walk only on the mountain trails.
- Even the mountain trails have running snowmelt or rainwater, use long gaiters or other gear so that you can remain on the mountain trails. This is to preserve the natural environment (vegetation and geological formation) outside the mountain trails.
- Mountaineers must understand that water from snowmelt or rain combined with the tread of many hikers can severely erode the mountain trails. Forming groups of many people make it even worse. If possible, avoid climbing mountains during these periods.

