

乗鞍岳平エリアマップ Norikura Tatami-daira Area Map

Illustration by Saki Machida



The Allure of Hiking in Tatami-daira

Masao Kobayashi/ Proprietor of Norikura Haku-un-so

The end of the Norikura Raicho Route, which stands at an elevation of 2702 m features a sprawling creeping pine zone and a field of alpine flowers and plants required for Rock Ptarmigan to spend their breeding season. It is the typical natural environment found in Japan's alpine zones with its characteristic mountain topography created by volcanic orogenic activity. The population of Rock Ptarmigan inhabiting the area is currently relatively stable, and you may even see them within a few minutes' walk of the terminal facility. The following is a brief introduction to the characteristics and notes of interest of each of the points (1-5) on the walking trail around Tatami-daira. Please also refer to the facility information in the area.

*Please note that the individual descriptions are the same for all of the locations.

POINT-1

Mt. Daikoku-dake north face
(near what is referred to as "Raicho no tachiba" meaning "Rock Ptarmigan's standpoint")

This is always a popular spot among Norikura Rock Ptarmigan watchers as the probability of seeing a Rock Ptarmigan is high and the location is very photogenic.

Note: Photographers and observers may try to take photos with elaborate compositions or up-close photos, but that sometimes results in inconsiderate behavior or bad manners, so please be aware of observing with courtesy.

POINT-2

Tsuruga-ike Pond - Mt. Daikoku-dake

There is a shelter offering protection from wind and rain at the peak. It is an excellent bird watching point where you can see many other types of birds. As such, it is not uncommon to encounter rare migrating birds.

Note: As the area has an excellent natural environment, Asian black bears are often encountered. Therefore, please take care, regardless of the time of day or night, and especially if you are alone during times when there are few people around.

POINT-3

Area around Mt. Fujimi-dake

This vista point allows you to look out over the entire Tatami-daira area, which makes it easy to figure out where the Rock Ptarmigan are if you listen for their calls and watch their flight paths. There are also many opportunities to encounter the popular ermine as you head toward Katano-koya hut.

Note: This is a steep ridge with poor footing and nowhere to shelter, so it is best avoided in bad weather.

POINT-4 Flower field wooden trail area

While strolling through this area of dense alpine plants and appreciating their beauty, you may also encounter a Rock Ptarmigan with its young foraging for food.

Note: Sitting to observe Rock Ptarmigan is discouraged during busy hours or in peak season as it obstructs the path when there is a lot of people traffic. If you are lucky enough to encounter a Rock Ptarmigan, you must also be considerate of those around you.

Almost the entire area surrounding the Norikura Mountains is a specially protected national park. Please observe the rules to preserve the natural environment, including protection of Rock Ptarmigan.

POINT-5 Mt. Mao-dake

This ridge is the closest to the bus terminal and the easiest to climb. It is easy to find Rock Ptarmigan here who live in close proximity to people.

Note: There are many tourists in group tours here, and if you get excited when you find a Rock Ptarmigan, it is very easy for a crowd to gather, so please try to remain calm so as not to disturb the Rock Ptarmigan.

TOPIC-1

Norikura Raicho Route

On August 1, 2021, this sightseeing route, which can be accessed from both Nagano and Gifu Prefectures, was given this name. It was so named because the Rock Ptarmigan symbolizes the pride people have in the Norikura Mountains, reverence for nature, and hope for the future. The route allows you to enjoy the rich scenery of the Norikura Mountains and plentiful variety of the foothill areas in a way that would not be possible from only one side of the mountain.

TOPIC-2

The trail from the peak of Mt. Mao-dake to Mt. Ebisu-dake

In the fall of 2022, the walking trail from the peak of Mt. Mao-dake, was redeveloped and opened to foot traffic. It has been receiving a lot of attention as a new observation point of the Tatamidairea area as it offers a dynamic view of Norikura's volcano range extending beyond the crater of Mt. Ebisu-dake and onto the bus terminal and Ken-gamine.