
Rausu Visitor Centers

Rausu's two visitor centers provide important information on recent bear sightings and weather warnings and can offer valuable hiking advice. Much of the Shiretoko wilderness is unmarked and can be dangerous for hikers without knowledge of the terrain.

Two visitor centers

The Shiretoko Rausu Visitor Center, located at the base of Mt. Rausu, displays exhibits introducing the area's ecosystems. The small theater shows a video of the Shiretoko landscape through the seasons. The Shiretoko World Heritage Rusa Field House is located a 20-minute drive north of central Rausu. The center overlooks the Nemuro Strait, and the second floor is an observation area for sighting whales and dolphins.

Staying safe in Shiretoko

Awareness of potential hazards is essential for safe exploration of the Shiretoko wilds. Purchase a bear bell from one of the visitor centers to alert bears to your presence when hiking. Bear spray—pepper spray for use in the event of a bear encounter—and wet-weather wear can be rented from either center. Containers to keep food secure from wild animals are available at the Rusa Field House.