

Kushiroshitsugen National Park

Japan's Largest Marsh,
a Great Meandering River,
and the Forest where the River Grew.



Encompassing the Kushiro River flowing through the eastern part of Hokkaido and its tributaries, Kushiroshitsugen National Park comprises Japan's largest marsh, the Kushiro Marsh, and the surrounding mountainous area. The vast, untouched horizontal landscape is the park's greatest attraction. It is also a valuable habitat for many flora and fauna, including the red-crowned crane, which has been designated a National Special Natural Monument. Due to the difficulty of developing the area, the Kushiro Marsh was regarded as a useless area of land, but through the development of agricultural land due to the food shortage in the postwar period, development of urban areas, and logging of hilly areas, the marsh began to dry out and the

area diminished. In response, local researchers and nature conservation groups persevered with activities aimed at changing the perceptions of the marsh's value, with the result that the value was recognized internationally. In 1980, the Kushiro Marsh became the first marsh area in Japan to be designated a Ramsar site, and seven years later, the marsh was designated a national park. The birth of Japan's first national park centered on a marsh can be said to have been an event that carved a new page in the history of Japanese national parks as the result of local efforts to have the marsh--once regarded as "barren land" --recognized for its natural environment value.

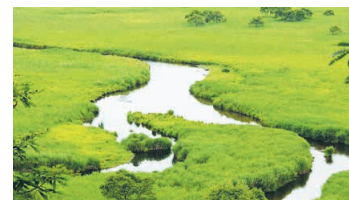
Date of Designation :
July 31, 1987

Area : 28,788 ha

Related Prefecture :
Hokkaido



Enjoy the ocean, rivers, and other water scenery



Cape Kirakotan



Kottaro Wetland



Enjoy the mountains and flora



Marsh Tussock



Hosooka Observatory



Experience culture and local life



Hokuto Archaeological Site



Kushiro-Shitsugen Norocco Train



Meet the wildlife



Japanese Crane



Siberian Salamander

Itinerary

Forest home to Japan's largest moorland and a magnificent meandering river

The wetlands of Kushiro is Japan's largest moorland and Japan's first Ramsar site. It is home to flora unique to wetlands and many wild animals and is perfect for birdwatching as well. The spectacular horizontal landscape, which is the greatest allure of the wetlands, offers different panoramic views from different observatories.

web site



Day 1

Be amused by the grand panoramic view of the horizon in the home of flora and fauna unique to the Kushiro Wetlands, the largest wetlands of Japan

- 9:00 ● Departure
● Rental car
(To Kushiro Shitsugen Wildlife Center)
- 10:00 ● Learning about nature conservation initiatives at the Kushiro Shitsugen Wildlife Center
- 11:00 ● Rental car
(To Kushiro Marsh Observatory)
- 11:15 ● Lunch at the Kushiro Marsh Observatory
- 12:00 ● Enjoying the view of the wetlands from the satellite observatory
● Rental car
(To Onnenai Visitor Center)
- 14:30 ● Snowshoeing and bird watching at Onnenai wooden path
- 16:30 ● Rental car (To Tsurui Village)
- 17:00 ● Overnight stay in Tsurui Village

Day 2

Enjoy trekking in the abundant nature during the day and relax in a sauna and the fresh air in the evening while admiring the spectacular view of Kushiro Wetlands

- 8:00 ● Departure
● Rental car
(To Dosanko Ranch)
- 8:30 ● Dosanko Ranch horseback trekking
- Rental car
(To Lake Toro)
- 12:00 ● Lunch at Toro + Free time
- 14:00 ● Pond smelt fishing experience at Lake Toro
- 16:00 ● Finnish sauna experience and stay at Craft Hostel

Day 3

Enjoy nature near Lake Toro and a fantastic closeup view of the wetlands

- 7:00 ● Winter canoe experience at Arekinai River
- 11:00 ● Free time + Lunch in Toro
- 11:30 ● Rental car
(To Hosooka Station)
- 12:00 ● Photograph and video recording of SL Fuyu no Shitsugen Train, a steam locomotive
- 12:30 ● Rental car
(To Hosooka Observatory)
- 13:00 ● Enjoy the scenic view of the meandering river and wetlands from Hosooka Observatory
- 15:00 ● Kushiro Airport

Inquiry

Kushiro Nature Conservation Office

TEL 0154-32-7500

MAIL NCO-KUSHIRO@env.go.jp