

Mountain Information for Winter 2020 in Akita Prefecture

Mountain	Elevation(m)	Information
Mount Hachimantai	1,163	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In winter, a strong seasonal wind from the northwest blows across Mt. Hachimantai. During stormy weather, visibility is reduced to zero. In particular, severe weather conditions and few landmarks from Gentamori Forest create a real danger of hikers getting trapped wandering in circles. Hikers must be absolutely certain to continuously check their position using maps, compasses, GPS, and so on when moving. Avoid entering the mountains alone or in small groups. ○ On tours to Chausudake Mountain, beware of avalanches, snow cornices, and so forth, on and around Mt. Maeyama, Mt. Momiyama, and Mt. Ebisuzawa. ○ The Hachimantai Aspite Line is closed during the winter, but the Gozaisho public restroom is accessible. ○ While traversing the area of the former Hachimantai Ski Area, beware of avalanches caused by collapsing snow cornices. ○ The stretch of the Hachimantai Aspite Line from Fukenoyu Hot Spring to the peak of Mt. Hachimantai is closed from November 4th, 2020, until April 15th, 2021.
Mount Moriyoshi	1,454	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ During winter on Mt. Moriyoshi, taking the Ani Ski Resort gondola to Gondola Summit Station (elevation of 1167 meters) can shorten the distance to the peak, and in addition to the skiers, some climbers aiming for the peak make use of it. However, some people end up in dangerous situations due to factors such as toxic gas or low visibility due to blizzards, and there have been cases where people passed away. Mt. Moriyoshi tends to experience continued bad weather, and there are many situations where even search and rescue operations are not possible, so it is important to properly grasp the weather conditions and respond accordingly, never pushing yourself too far. Submitting hiking registration is also possible at the gondola station at the base of the mountain, so be sure to always submit it before climbing. Also, never take mountain climbing lightly and set out underprepared. Always enter the mountain only after preparing and equipping yourself completely. ○ On the way to the top, anyone is free to use the Ani Evacuation Shed, but there are cases where it is unusable due to being covered in snow. ○ The gondola station at the base of the mountain is accessible all year round.

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Mount Chokai	2,236	<p>○ The weather of Mt. Chokai in the winter can easily change suddenly. If a blizzard begins, zero visibility conditions can continue for many days. As such, almost nobody tries to climb Mt. Chokai in the winter. Anyone attempting this feat must have serious knowledge of winter mountain climbing, as well as appropriate experience and equipment.</p> <p>○ Areas above the 7th station (near Ohama), are covered with hard ice which is difficult to penetrate with crampons, which means even more caution is required.</p> <p>○ The small lodges at Ohama (at the 7th station) and the summit are unmanned, but are free to be used as evacuation shelters. However, they are sometimes unusable due to being buried in snow.</p> <p>○ The Blue Line road is closed every year until April, making the Hokodate and Taihei routes inaccessible by car.</p> <p>○ The routes to Chokai Plateau Family Travel Village from both Takinogoya and Yunotai get cleared of snow, but are closed beyond that. When snow has piled up, it is possible to go, by way of Mt. Hourai, from the Chokai Plateau Family Travel Village to the summit via Yunotai route after staying at the Takinogoya Lodge. However, the slope is severe and high levels of both skill and endurance are required.</p> <p>○ The Nagasaka Road beginning from Yuzamachi-shirai-shinden Road lacks an evacuation shelter. On the other hand, the Mansuke Lodge on Mansuke Road can be used as an evacuation shelter. However, since both routes pile up large amounts of snow and are exceedingly dangerous, very few climbers make use of them.</p> <p>○ The Hokodate and Taihei mountain lodges close every year in late October, and resume business in late April of the following year. The Chokai Plateau Family Travel Village and Chokai Lodge are operational all year round.</p> <p>○ The roads that connect to the Haraikawa and Sarukawa courses are closed and inaccessible by car yearly from November until April.</p> <p>○ There are no specific restrictions on passage through the road connecting to the Momoyake course, but when snow falls the road will be closed until the snow melts.</p> <p>○ The Haraikawa hut (5th station) and the Nanatsugama evacuation shelter (8th station) are unmanned, but can both be used as evacuation shelters. However, be careful as they will become unusable in the event they are buried under snow.</p> <p>○ Mountain lodge operational period information: Summit Omoro Lodge/Ohama Lodge: Early July to mid September (closed for 2020); Takinogoya Lodge: Late June to late October (closed for 2020); Mansuke Lodge/Tsurumaike Lodge/Oshimizu Evacuation Shelter/Unmanned Lodges: Operational all year round</p> <p>○ In mid October of 2017, there was a case of climbers who reached the top of the mountain, but then had to call for help and were rescued due to becoming unable to discern the path back down the mountain due to snow. Even in October, the environment on the mountain can change in an instant due to falling snow. Always carefully plan your expedition, prepare thoroughly, and take all necessary equipment before setting out. (Information from Yamagata Prefecture)</p>