Asahidake Visitor Center Newsletter

November 19, 2026 Issue

Average Temperature in Asahidake Onsen, Late November (2011–2025) High: −2℃ Low: −8℃

The Asahidake Visitor Center Newsletter is back for the season! We'll bring you a new issue every month through May.
Winter is arriving in the forests of Asahidake Onsen. This month, meet the Shima-enaga, an adorable little bird known as the "snow fairy"!

Nature Notes

Snow is beginning to blanket the forest around Asahidake Onsen. While walking there, we heard a "juriri, juriri" call from above. It was a Shima-enaga, a Long-tailed Tit subspecies found mainly in Hokkaido.

"Enaga" is written 柄長(エナガ), meaning "long handle." Its slender tail reminded people of a long-handled ladle. "Shima" means "island," referring to Hokkaido.



▲What a long, fine tail!



▲This is the summer look. Fluffier in winter, maybe!?

They also look different in summer and winter. In winter, they puff up their feathers to stay warm, looking even rounder and fluffier.

When you walk in the forest, take a moment to listen. An unexpected encounter may be waiting for you.

Trails & Facilities

[Trails]
Grooming of the cross-country ski course has begun. The Wasabi-numa route is currently a shortcut course due to thin snow cover.

[Facilities]
Asahidake Visitor Center: Closed Nov 16 (Mon) – Nov 27 (Fri) Asahidake Ropeway: Not operating Nov 16 (Mon) – Dec 10 (Thu) K's House: Closed through Nov 26 (Thu) / Dec 12 (Sat) – Dec 20 (Sun) ※Please contact each facility for the latest information.

Cautions

Road conditions remain unstable, with a mix of snow, ice, and slush. Conditions vary by location, so please travel with care!

Eco-Tours & Events

Nov 28 (Sat) Winter Mountain Basics Workshop ¥2,500
Dec 13 (Sun) Safer Snow Trips: Avalanche Basics (Free)
Dec 26 (Sat) Giant Tree Watching Tour at the Foot of Asahidake ¥3,500
Asahidake Onsen Nature Walk ¥2,000

Get the latest news from Asahidake Visitor Center!

Website Facebook

Rentals Available!
Snowshoes, rubber boots, poles (some adjustable), cross-country skis, snow toys
※Limited quantities! No reservations; first come, first served.

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