

# Asahidake visitor center News letter

- Issuer : Asahidake Visitor Center staff:Daisuke Tsukagoshi
- Asahidake Visitor Center 9:00~17:00 (TEL) 0166-97-2153  
〒071-1472Kamikawa-gun Higashikawa-cho Asahidake onsen  
(Closed 12/31~1/5 for the year-end and New year holidays )
- Rental (Rubber Boots/Cross-country ski/Snow shoes)
- Mountain and nature information, VR goggles experience,
- HP : <https://www.asahidake-vc-2291.jp/foreign/>
- FB : <https://www.facebook.com/asahidake.vc>

### Climate of Asahidake onsen area in middle December.

- Temp : Max. - 5 °C/Min. - 10 °C  
(Avg. of 2012~22)
- Beware of sudden weather change and winter driving.



## 【 Cross-country skiing course conditions 】

(12/12. 90cm of snow)All courses have enough snow for snowcat to put in. But in some places you can still see grasses and puddles. Course conditions may change depending on the weather.



12/12 puddles beside the course



12/12 near the 2.5km course

## 【Ezo Chipmunk & Hokkaido Squirrel】

Photo by Kouhei Ohtsuka(Visitor Center Staff)



(Left)Ezo Chipmunk (Sciuridae, Rodentia)12-15 cm in length. weight 70-100g  
Characteristics: Weight about 1 mandarin orange. Body hair patterned with stripes.

(Right) Hokkaido Squirrel (Sciuridae, Rodentia)22-27 cm in length. weight 300-400g.Characteristics: White abdomen. Body hairs change to dark brown in summer and grayish brown in winter. Long tail helps maintain balance.

Ezo chipmunks(inhabiting the sugatami pond) hibernate for about 200 days from late September. Unlike the Ezo squirrels that make nest in the trees, these chipmunks hibernate in tunnels in the ground. Hibernation rooms are made up of beds with dry leaves .There are separate food storage room and toilet instead of storing body fat. They get up every 10 days to eat and go to toilet <semi-hibernation> . Ezo chipmunks have cheek pouches. (Six acorns can fit) The common points of those animals are ①can stand upright on heels ② Males don't raise children. ③ Found only in Hokkaido .④Distributed storage by hiding food underground or in trees. Some of the seeds in this storage are sprouting, and these animals are helping to create forests. Reference:Yasuhiro Konno · Shigeo Tanji 「Nature of Daisetsuzan3」 (Hokkaido Shimbun Company)

## 【Asahidake Onsen Hot Spring Resort Area Information】

### 【Asahidake Ropeway information & caution 】

**Operation started on 12/11th(Mon).Until the ski course opens, Skiing equipment is not allowed inside the ropeway.**

Please check the Asahidake Ropeway website for the latest information.

**【 Asahidake Onsen 】** Please contact the facility directly for the latest information.

- K'S House: Closed in 12/15-21
- LA VISTA : Closed in 12/11-13
- Shirakabasou: Closed in 12/19-24
- <Closed for winter> Nutapukaushipe, Hotel Deer Valley

## 【 Eco-tour and Event Information 】

For more information and application, please contact the Center.

### ■Asahidake Winter Event (no entry fee, rental fee not included)

- 12/16(Sat) First Map Reading & Snowshoes(10:00-12:00)
- 12/17(Sun) Target game with a spear (10:00-12:00)
- 12/23(Sat) Easy Ropework also available in winter (10:00-12:00)
- 12/30(Sat) Let's learn about avalanches (10:00-15:00)

### ■Eco-tour (rental fee not included)

- 12/24(Sun) Asahidake-sanroku Giant Tree Watch Tour ¥2,500-
- 1/7(Sun) Asahidake-sanroku Skiingshoes Experience ¥2,500-

### ■Asahidake Onsen Nature Walk

【DATE】 Please Refer to our tour calendar. 【TIME】 13:30~15:00  
【PARTICIPANTS】 6 person / 1day 【FEE】 ¥1,500 (Insurance Incl.)

