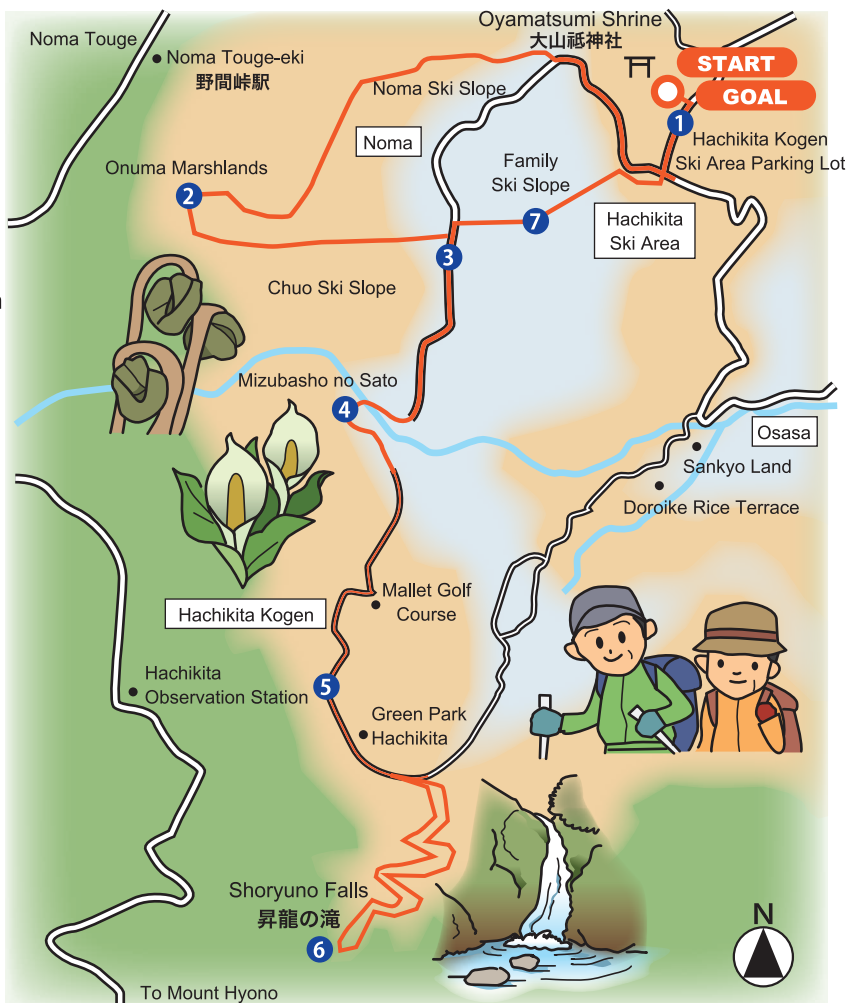


# Hachikita Kogen Scenic Walking Course

Although Hachikita Kogen is known for its ski areas in the winter, the natural surroundings including rare plants like the Zenzanso(Skunk Cabbage) and other plants specific to the plateau grow in abundance during the spring, summer and fall making it a place to be enjoyed during any season.

A course with several points of interest like Onuma Marshlands and Shoryuno Falls. (Slightly tougher walking course)

- 1 Begin at Hachikita Kogen ski area parking lot. Enter through the asphalt road going through the ski area.
- 2 3 minutes from the parking lot there's a T-intersection, turn right and walk for 20 minutes up the steep slope to Onuma Marshlands. A high elevation marshland at about 820m in a low basin with a landslide in the back. There is a maintained wooden walkway and you can view various mountain vegetables like Yamadori-zenmai and marsh plants like sundew. It is also an area where fireflies thrive. Around mid May a field of Muscari surround the white birch near Onuma Marshlands like a field of lavender.
- 3 Go down the slope along the chair lift from Onuma Marshland and merge onto the paved road, turn right.
- 4 After following the road for about 10 minutes you'll see "Mizubasho no Sato" in the valley below the slope. Approximately 12,000 mizubasho (skunk cabbages) are planted in the unused rice fields. The flowers begin to bloom with the melting of the snows. The best time to see them is from the start of April to the end of April.
- 5 Go up the hill from Misubasho no Sato via Green Park Hachikita to the entrance of the road to "Shoryuno Falls" where the road starts to slope down. There are several large boulders and the place feels like it's from the world of Totoro.
- 6 Turn right and climb the trail along the stream from Otani River, after about 10 minutes you'll come to "Shoryuno Falls". Legend says that long ago a giant serpent climbed this waterfall to heaven. In the center of the waterfall is a rock that looks like a gorilla's face and next to Shoryuno Falls is a double waterfall.
- 7 From Shoryuno Falls go back to the original road and backtrack about 30 minutes until you see the patrol building go to the right past the building. Walk along the woodchip trail through the ski slope, once you have crossed the hill you should see the end point, same as where you started.



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Come and see the Zazensou a Designated Prefectural Important Cultural Property and Natural Monument, even though the cluster of Zazensou (type of skunk cabbage) can only be seen during a certain time (around the end of March).

In late March as the snows melt the purple-colored dark brown flower of the perennial herbaceous plant of the Araceae family begins to poke its head through the melting snow. The flower is said to look similar to the figure of a monk wearing zen clothes practicing Zazen (seated meditation) hence the given name Zazensou. Another name it's called is Dharma grass, taken from the Buddhist monk Bodhidharma and the red part of the plant is not a flower but an enclosure like an altar.



- **Difficulty** : ★★★
- **Restroom** : Hachikita Kogen Ski Area Parking Lot, Green Park Hachikita
- **Access** : By Train/Bus: From JR Yoka Station take the Zentan Bus and get off at Hachikita Bus Station  
By Car: Go to Hachikita Kogen Ski Area Parking Lot
- **Contact** : Hachikita Tourist Association TEL 0796-96-0732

Approx. Distance

**5.5** km