Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Global Geopark

http://www.toya-usu-geopark.org/?pagename=english

Mt. Usu, a large, active volcano at the south of Lake Toya, erupted four times in the last hundred years. The last eruption was in 2000-2001. Right next to Mt. Usu is Mt. Showa Shinzan, which was born very recently in the 1940's and is now about 290 meters tall. "Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Geopark" has been added to the list of UNESCO Global Geoparks Network since 2009.

Our bus will arrive at the parking lot of Mt. Showa Shinzan at around noon. There are a lot of shops in the parking lot, serving food and selling *omiyage* (souvenir gifts). Have lunch and enjoy the beautiful scenery and activities there. The bus will depart at 4 p.m. from the parking lot. Please get back to the bus before the departure time.

Mt. Usu Ropeway http://usuzan.hokkaido.jp/en/

The ropeway (cable car) runs every 15 minutes from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Riding the cable car from the foot of Mt. Showa Shinzan to the near-top of Mt. Usu, we can enjoy a great view of Lake Toya and Mount Showa Shinzan. You can take a 50-minute hike around the southern rim of the volcano from the Summit Station to the Outer Rim Observation Deck.

Mt. Nishiyama Trail

The Nishiyama trail is an easy 20-minute hike up to the craters that were formed during the last eruption in 2000 and are still active. Along the trail, you can see up close damaged roads, buildings, and other reminders of the awesome power of nature. An English-speaking guide will accompany you.

The trail starts at the Toyako Visitor Center & Volcano Science Museum, located near the Toyako Onsen Spa Pier, and leads to the Nishiyama parking lot. The Toyako Visitor Center is located a 15-minute drive from the Mt. Showa Shinzan parking lot.

FEES & SAMPLE SCHEDULE

- FEES (pay on the site) Ropeway round-trip ticket ¥1,500/person (group discount ¥1,050/person)
- SAMPLE SCHEDULE
- (A) 2-HOUR TOUR

Base Station (1:30pm) -- Summit Station -- Crater Basin Observation Deck (1:45pm) -- trail split point (2:15pm) -- Outer Rim Observation Deck (2:25pm) -- Summit Station (3:30pm) -- Base Station (3:36 pm) (or start earlier, and bring lunch and have a picnic on the summit)

- (B) 1-HOUR TOUR
 - Base Station (1:30pm) -- Summit Station -- Crater Basin Observation Deck (1:45pm) -- trail split point (2:15pm) -- Summit Station (2:55pm) -- Base Station (3:06 pm)
- (C) 0.5-HOUR TOUR

Base Station (1:30pm) -- Summit Station -- Crater Basin Observation Deck (1:45pm) -- Summit Station (2pm) -- Base Station (2:06 pm)

(D) 1-HOUR TOUR (Mt. Nishiyama Trail)

(Depart from Mt. Usu at 12:15 pm) Mt. Nishiyama Kitaguchi Parking (12:30pm) -- Mt. Nishiyama Observation Deck #1 (12:45pm) -- Mr. Nishiyama Observation Deck #2 (12:55pm) -- Kitaguchi Parking (1:15pm) (Leave for Mt. Usu at 1:30 pm then have lunch and/or ride a ropeway)

^{*}The above figures are approximate, provided only as a guide.



