

Shirakami-Sanchi

Shirakami-Sanchi is the general term for a mountainous region with elevations from approximately 200 m to 1,250 m that straddles the prefectural border between the southwestern part of Aomori Prefecture and the northwestern part of Akita Prefecture. The World Heritage property is an area of approximately 17,000 ha situated in the central part of Shirakami-Sanchi in which the immense beech forest has been remained in primeval state.

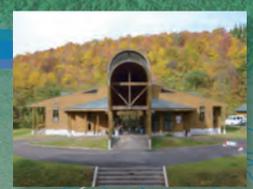
Shirakami-Sanchi est le terme générique utilisé pour désigner une région montagneuse avec des altitudes variant entre 200 et 1.250 m, qui s'étend de chaque côté de la limite départementale entre la partie sud-ouest du département d'Aomori et la partie nord-ouest du département d'Akita. Le site inscrit au Patrimoine mondial est une région d'environ 17.000 ha située dans la partie centrale de Shirakami-Sanchi, dans laquelle une immense forêt de hêtres est restée dans son état primitif.



Mt. Shirakami-dake
This mountain with an elevation of 1,235 m is the second tallest mountain in Shirakami-Sanchi next to Mt. Mukaishirakami-dake.



Kurokumanotaki Waterfall
This waterfall has a drop of 85 m. It is counted among the 100 Famous Japanese Waterfalls, and is one of the largest in Aomori Prefecture. It is a roughly 15 minute walk from the parking lot.



Shirakami-Promenade Kuromori-kan (Hall)
This is a general information and rest area that is furnished with an exhibition hall and a break room. It is the starting point for a walkway from which visitors can see a part of the Kuromori (Black Forest). The forest has been protected in order to ensure water for paddy fields since some hundreds years ago.



Tsugaru Pass
Tsugaru Pass is about a 20-minute climb by car from Annon Ohashi Bridge on the Shirakami Line. Visitors here can look out over the mountain range of the World Heritage property. The Mother Tree, a giant tree with an estimated age of about 400 years, can be reached within a several hundred-meter walk from Tsugaru Pass.



Shirakami-Sanchi Visitor Center
The center provides detailed explanations of the beech forest at Shirakami-Sanchi. In the visual experience hall, visitors can see the four seasons at Shirakami-Sanchi through realistic and lifelike sounds and images on an enormous screen.



Juniko Eco-Museum Center "Kokyokan"
Here visitors can see high definition images related to nature and exhibitions like dioramas. They can also experience nature through the use of the walkways and observation huts.



Juniko Lakes
There are 33 lakes and marshes in the western part of Shirakami-Sanchi on the Aomori Prefecture side. These were supposedly formed by a major earthquake and subsequent landslide that occurred in the early 1700s. Access roads are closed during winter.



Mt. Futatsumori
Visitors can get a commanding view of the World Heritage property from the peak of Mt. Futatsumori at an elevation of 1,086 m. It takes about an hour from the Futatsumori Mountain Trail Entrance (elevation of about 920 m, and has a parking lot and public toilets) to the summit.



Anmonnotaki Waterfalls
Anmonnotaki Waterfalls consist of Ichinotaki Waterfall (42 m), Ninotaki Waterfall (37 m), and Sannotaki Waterfall (26 m) in this order from the top, with each one of these projecting a powerful image.



Sibatanozephyrus fujisanus
This is a butterfly whose wing surface has a beautiful metallic luster. Since its larvae only forage on the leaves of Siebold's beech, the species cannot be seen anywhere else besides beech forests.



Silene aomorensis
This is an endemic perennial on which lovely white flowers about 2 cm in diameter bloom around June. The species occurs on rocky areas.
Red List of the Ministry of the Environment Threatened II (VU)
*Species facing a growing risk of extinction



Golden eagle
The golden eagle is a massive eagle with a wingspan of more than 2 m. It inhabits mountainous regions and nests on sheer cliffs. The bird is one of Japan's Natural Monuments and a National Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
Red List of the Ministry of the Environment Threatened IB (EN)
*Species facing a high risk of extinction in the near future



Beech forest
In snowy Shirakami-Sanchi, a pure forest of Siebold's beech that well withstands the snow has developed. The site of woods with slender grayish-white beech tree trunks lined up against forest floors covered with dwarf bamboo is a distinctive scene that can only be observed with the beech forests in East Asia. Siebold's beech trees are also known for their high water retention capacity and their importance as habitats for wildlife.



Japanese black bear
The Japanese black bear has a body length of 120-145 cm and weighs 70-120 kg. It is characterized by a white "crescent moon" on the chests, and is the largest land mammal in Honshu. While it is omnivorous, vegetable matter makes up a large portion of its diet.

Dakedai Education Forest
This is a natural forest consisting mainly of Siebold's beech that is optimally suited for a relaxing walk. Visitors can readily savor the atmosphere of the pristine beech forest of Shirakami-Sanchi alongside the forest roads. Some pathways paved with woodchips that incorporate universal design have been installed.



Shirakami-Sanchi World Heritage Conservation Center (Fujisato-kan)
This facility displays materials related to the nature of Shirakami-Sanchi, offers a reading corner and space where visitors can relax while watching DVDs, and holds photo exhibitions as well. There is a nature advisor who provides information and explanations to the visitors, while also carrying out nature observation sessions and environmental education activities aimed at children. *Refer to the back cover

World Heritage property
 Area A: Area for strict protection
 Area B: Area for conservation and utilization



Black woodpecker
The black woodpecker is the largest woodpecker in Japan. The species inhabits Hokkaido and northern Honshu. It is designated as the national Natural Monument.
Red List of the Ministry of the Environment Threatened II (VU)
*Species facing a growing risk of extinction



Pseudolysimachion schmidtianum subsp. senanense var. shiragamense
This is the only plant to carry "Shirakami" in its Japanese name. It is an endemic species that rarely grows along rocky areas and grasslands.