

National Parks of Japan



National Parks

The National Parks, occupying 5.6% of the country's total land, plays a crucial role in protecting the Japan's wealthy ecosystems -- forests, wetlands, seashores and coral reefs and wildlife therein ... and preserving them for future generations. The National Parks also aims at providing opportunities for the experience, enjoyment and better understanding of the country's natural environment by visitors. Please visit Japan's National Parks with this brochure as a travel guide.

While being advanced in science and industry, Japan is a country of scenic landscapes. To represent the Japan's natural beauty and the seasonal contrasts, 32 sites from Hokkaido in north to Okinawa and Ogasawara Islands in south, are designated as the National Parks.

National Park unit name

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu | 17 Myoko-Togakushi renzan |
| 2 Shiretoko | 18 Hakusan |
| 3 Akan | 19 Minami Alps |
| 4 Kushiroshitsugen | 20 Ise-Shima |
| 5 Daisetsuzan | 21 Yoshino-Kumano |
| 6 Shikotsu-Toya | 22 San'in-kaigan |
| 7 Towada-Hachimantai | 23 Setonaikai |
| 8 Sanriku Fukko (reconstruction) | 24 Daisen-Okii |
| 9 Bandai-Asahi | 25 Ashizuri-Uwakai |
| 10 Nikko | 26 Saikai |
| 11 Oze | 27 Unzen-Amakusa |
| 12 Joshin'etsukogen | 28 Aso-Kuju |
| 13 Chichibu-Tama-Kai | 29 Kirishima-Kinkowan |
| 14 Ogasawara | 30 Yakushima |
| 15 Fuji-Hakone-Izu | 31 Keramashoto |
| 16 Chubusangaku | 32 Iriomote-Ishigaki |



A Scenic Country, Japan

Solitary mountain peaks, covered with snow

all year round, soar into the air,

while islands of various sizes are scattered on a spring sea gleaming like a mirror.

Forests and lakes turn to brilliant shades of autumn color like a piece of brocade...

a variety of natural views are displayed in all four seasons everywhere in the country, which capture hearts of many people.

Winter

In the world of all white



Hoar frost covered trees on Mt. Unzen-myoken-dake (Unzen-Amakusa NP) (3)



Mt. Asahidake rising fumes in the snow (Daisetsusan NP) (1)

Hoar frost on Japanese alpine snow-firs (Towada-Hachimantai NP) (2)



A messenger of winter: the Steller's sea eagle (Shiretoko NP) (4)
Surging ice floe, with Kunashiri Island in the distance (Shiretoko NP) (5)



COLUMN

Migratory birds

—a sign of the changing seasons

Since ancient times, Japanese have sensed the beginning of a new season by bird migration. In late fall, mallard and swans fly from the north, spend winter in Japan and return to the north in spring. Other species, such as swallows and gray-faced-buzzard eagles, migrate from the south in early spring, and nurture juveniles in summer. Snipes and plovers visit the country both in spring and fall on the way to their final destinations. The National Parks play a vital role as habitats of these migratory birds and other wildlife.



Whooper swans over Kussharo Lake (Akan NP)

(Photo by Toshitaka Morita)