

The National Park Profiles

34. Iriomote-Ishigaki

The park encompasses Iriomote and Ishigaki Islands, smaller islands and coral reefs. Subtropical forests blanket 90% of Iriomote, supporting a large number of rare species such as the Iriomote wild cat. The blue coral reef of Ishigaki Island's Shiraho district is the biggest of its kind in the northern hemisphere.



The National Park System

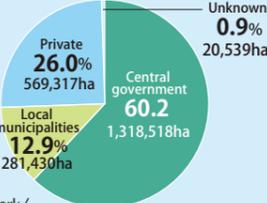
The National Park System aims at protecting the scenery that represents the Japan's natural beauty and leaving them unimpaired for future generations. Within the National Parks, while activities to cause environmental impacts are regulated under the law, the improvement of park facilities, such as trails and visitor centers, and rehabilitation of degraded areas are conducted.

Currently, 34 sites are designated as the National Parks, covering 2.19 million hectares or 5.8% of the country's ground surface. Designation and management of National Parks are administered by the Ministry of the Environment. The Ministry's staffs who are called 'rangers' work on field management in each of the National Parks.

Most nationally owned land being national forest, land for national park purposes is limited. For this reason, great importance is placed on partnership with relevant government agencies, local governments and citizens, NGOs, etc. (Each area of National Parks indicates the area of the land.)

National Parks website : <http://www.env.go.jp/park/>

Land ownership in the National Park



29. Kirishima-Kinkowan (Kirishima-Kinko Bay)

A park view is originated volcanic activity. The Kirishima area, which is a collection of over 20 volcanoes, has the scenery of crater lakes and fumaroles phenomena and also offers hot spring resorts. The Kinkowan area consists of Sakurajima located in the southern edge of Aira-caldera, Sata cape with many subtropical plants and Ibusuki district with polygenetic volcano.

30. Yakushima (Yakushima Islands)

Known for the vertical distribution of vegetation from seashore to Mt. Miyanoura (1,936 m), the highest peak in Kyushu. Primeval natural forests with Yaku cedar trees are distributed. Inscribed on the World natural Heritage List in December of 1993.

31. Amamigunto (Amami Islands)

This national park consists of eight inhabited islands between Kyushu and Okinawa. Its subtropical laurel forests are home to concentrated populations of various unique, endangered plants and animals including the Amami rabbit. Furthermore, the islands are bordered by the world's northernmost coral reefs and host mangroves, tidelands and a diverse range of other natural environments.

32. Yambaru

Yambaru means an area filled with numerous mountains and large forests. This region is covered with subtropical laurel forestland, its terrain defined by the geological history of the Ryukyu island chain and related formation processes. Okinawa rail and other unique, endangered plants and animals live and breed here.

33. Keramashoto (Kerama Islands)

Kerama Islands is located to 40 km the west of Naha City, consisting of more than 30 small and large islands and a number of rock reefs. The blue of the sea is renowned as "Kerama Blue", and the contrast between the bright blue ocean and the white of the sand beach is fascinating. The rich ecosystems show various coral reefs in the shoals, and humpback whales breeding in the surrounding waters. In fact, Kerama Islands was the first national park that the area was designated as long as 7 km away from the shores for the reason that humpback whales are commonly observed in a wide range of the surrounding ocean.



22. San'inakaigan (San'in Coast)

This 75-km shoreline park in the Kinki and Chugoku districts offers a spectacular view of intricate shorelines with caves and surrounding clear ocean water. Distinctive plant species are found in a desert-like view of Tottori Sand Dune.

23. Setonaikai (Setonaikai Sea)

About 3000 islands, small and large, spread over the Seto Inland Sea. Human life and natural beauty are peacefully blended to create this park's view.

24. Daisen-Okii

Mt.Daisen, a highest mountain in the Chugoku district; Oki Islands of large to small 180 islands; the Shimane Peninsula known for Izumo Taisha Shrine; and Mt.Sanbe and Mt.Hiruzen-all are the components of the Daisen-Okii National Park.

25. Ashizuri-Uwakai (Ashizuri-Uwa Sea)

A marine park in southwestern Shikoku, featuring a delicate scenery with an intricate shoreline pattern and numerous islands in north (Uwa-kai) and contrasting dynamic view in south (Ashizuri), where high bluffs extend along its shoreline. The sea has richly decorated underwater views with abundant coral community.

26. Saikai

A marine and islands park in northwestern Kyushu. A chain of over 200 a form this archipelagic sea. The sunset view is especially breathtaking. Also, the Goto archipelago in the East China Sea consists of over 250 islands.

27. Unzen-Amakusa

The Unzen area in the center of Shimabara Peninsula hosts summer resorts, known by the famous volcanic activity of Mt. Fugen in 1990 and hot springs. The Amakusa Islands of 120 islands, small and large, is known for its scenic beauty.

15. Fuji-Hakone-Izu

Mt. Fuji, a World Cultural Heritage site inscribed in June 2013, rises high in a vast stretch of forests and several lakes. The Hakone area features several volcanoes, volcanic vents and lakes. Izu Peninsula offers scenic mountains, seashores, and a chain of characteristic islands in the ocean, Izu-shichito.

16. Chubu-Sangaku (Chubu Mountains)

One of the most prominent mountain parks. Encompasses a number of precipitous 3000m peaks. Kamikochi highland and Mt. Tateyama attract many tourists seeking for magnificent mountain views.

17. Myoko-Togakushi renzan (Myoko-Togakushi Mountains)

Consist of concentrated chain of volcanos such as Mt. Myoko and Mt. Izuna and non-volcanic mountains such as Mt. Amakazari. Lake Nojiri, dammed lake, is famous for fossil excavation of *Palaeoloxodon naumanni*. The park also has interesting cultural sites such as Togakushi Shrine famous for Japanese Amanoiwato myth.

18. Hakusan (Mt Hakusan)

Consists of a sacred mountain, Mt. Hakusan, and its foot. Because of rich alpine plants, the area has a long history of plant research. Broad-leaved trees, mainly beech, are distributed.

19. Minami Alps (South Alps)

A mountain park with a series of 3000m mountains, covered with thick coniferous forests while alpine plants on their tops. It is a paradise for mountaineers willing to a long walk.

20. Ise-Shima

Comprised of an elegantly displayed coastline with numerous inlets and outlets, Shima Peninsula, and a symbol of the Japan's ancient religion and culture, Ise Shrine. The mountain behind the shrine has been protected as a sacred forest.

21. Yoshino-Kumano

Consists of forested mountains and Kumano Valley in the middle of Kii Peninsula and its shorelines. The area is famous for Mt. Yoshino with cherry blossoms and historic sites; Ohmine Mountain Range, a training ground for Shugen-do (Japanese esoteric Buddhism) practitioners; and Mt. Kumano-sanzan.

28. Aso-Kuju

A park of volcanoes and grass fields. Mt.Aso has an extremely large caldera, while Mt.Kuju is a series of dome-shaped volcanoes. The grassy fields on their hillslopes have been maintained by human activities, such as prescribed burning and cattle grazing.

1. Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu

The Japan's northernmost national park, consisting of two islands and an expanse of wetlands. A variety of scenery, from mountains to wetlands, are truly enjoyable.

2. Shiretoko

Contains primeval ecosystems with diverse wildlife, remaining in Shiretoko Peninsula. In winter a portion of coastline is covered with drifting ice. Inscribed on the World Natural Heritage List on July 2005.

3. Akan-Mashu

A park of forests, lakes and volcanoes. Boasts a majestic view of three crater lakes including Akan Lake, known for spherical moss, Marimo, and surrounding coniferous forests.

4. Kushiroshitsugen (Kushiro Marsh)

The Japan's largest wetland complex. Supports about 200 plant species and some rare species, including Japanese crane and Sakhalin taimen. Canoe touring is popular.

5. Daisetsusan (Daisetsu Mountains)

The Japan's largest national park, featuring Taisetsu Mountains, and wetlands and alpine plant communities at over 2000m elevations. A stunning view of autumn leaves.

6. Shikotsu-Toya

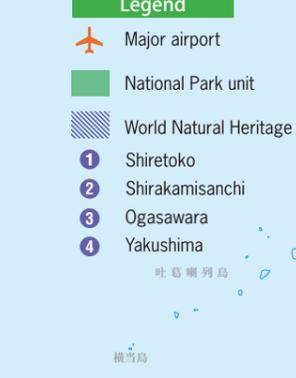
Consists of two crater lakes and active volcanic mountains. With popular hot spring resorts, such as Noboribetsu, the park offers a host of vacation options.

7. Towada-Hachimantai

Encompasses from a Japan's most picturesque mountain stream view, vast open space of broad-leaved trees, to a plateau, Hachimantai. The park also features old several therapeutic hot spring resorts.

8. Sanriku Fukko (Sanriku Reconstruction)

This park extends for 250 km from Kabushima in Aomori prefecture to Oshika Peninsula in Miyagi prefecture. Its northern part is a coastline composed of uninterrupted dynamic cliffs, while its southern part forms a delicately-rugged coastline. The park offers a breeding place for black-tailed gulls, petrels, etc. It was reorganized on 24 May 2013 as a contribution to the recovery of the Sanriku area which was severely damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake.



9. Bandai-Asahi

Mt. Dewa-sanzan, famous for mountain worship, Asahi-Iide Mountain Range, Mt. Bandai, and numerous lakes - the majestic views of mountains, forests and lakes adorn the park.

10. Nikko

A park that combines a thousand faces, including the historical structures of Nikko Toshogu Shrine and the lakeside summer resort, Chuzenji Temple

11. Oze

Enjoy the typical wetland scenery of Ozegahara and the summit of Mt. Tashiro, the Marie's firs and beeches of Higuchigatake and Aizukomagatake, and the forests of Erman's birch.

12. Joshin'etsukogen (Joshin'etsu Highland)

Consist of highlands and its surrounding chain of mountains sitting on a continental divide. This park is characterized by Mt. Tanigawa famous for the lofty cliff and Mt. Asama, the very active volcano, as well as highlands as represented by Shiga Kogen. This park has several ski resorts and hot springs, it has attracted a lot of tourists for recreation and leisure.

13. Chichibu-Tama-Kai

The old stratum mountains are home to natural forests of beech, Japanese hemlock and veitch fir, Located in the headwater of Tokyo, bounty forests and streams provide a recreational ground for urban communities.

14. Ogasawara

Subtropical oceanic islands of over 30 islands are scattered in the 1000km south of Tokyo. Humpback whales migrate to the surrounding ocean. The islands support many endemic species such as Ogasawara fruit bat. Inscribed on the World Natural Heritage List on June 2011.

