

Lake Inawashiro

Geographical Coordinates : 37°28'N, 140°05'E / Altitude: 514m / Area: 10,960ha / Major Type of Wetland: Freshwater lake / Designation: Class II Special Zone of a National Park / Municipalities Involved: Aizuwakamatsu City, Koriyama City, Inawashiro Town, Fukushima Prefecture / Ramsar Designation: July 2025 / Ramsar Criteria: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6



Panoramic View of Lake Inawashiro from the Mt. Bandai Side

General Overview:

Lake Inawashiro is situated nearly at the center of Fukushima Prefecture, straddling Koriyama City, Aizuwakamatsu City, and Inawashiro Town. Located at the foothills of Mt. Bandai, this lake encompasses a wetland area of 10,960ha, of which the water surface area is approximately 10,300ha—making it the fourth largest in Japan.

The Nagase River is the lake's largest inflow. One of its tributaries, the Sukawa River, once delivered strongly acidic water due to volcanic activity, rendering Lake Inawashiro acidic in the past. Even as neutralization has progressed, the central area still exhibits high transparency and maintains excellent water quality.

Owing to its expansive surface and significant depth, the lake's temperature does not drop substantially during winter, resulting in a non-freezing lake that largely avoids complete ice cover. Consequently, it serves as a vital overwintering site for swan and duck species. Moreover, from the northern shore extending more than 1,500m offshore, a broad, shallow, shelf-like zone—with depths less than 2.5m—provides an ideal habitat for aquatic vegetation, including Singhara Nut, Reed Marsh, and Fringed Water-lily (*Nymphoides peltata*).

Overwintering Site for Migratory Birds:

In Lake Inawashiro, in recent years, an average of about 800 Tundra Swans (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*) have overwintered. Additionally, it serves as an important overwintering site for duck species such as the Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and the Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*).

A Treasure Trove of Diverse Flora and Fauna:

On the lake's north shore, it not only serves as one of the country's largest habitats for Fringed Water-lily (*Nymphoides*

peltata) but is also renowned as the site of Lake Inawashiro's Marsh Forklet-moss community—a national natural monument. Furthermore, along the water's edge, aquatic plants such as Dwarf Waterlily (*Nymphaea tetragona*) and Parnassus-leaf Caldesia (*Caldesia parnassifolia*) thrive, and in the extensive Reed Marsh belt, both the standard Black-browed Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*) and its larger variant, Ooyoshikiri, as well as the Yellow Bittern (*Ixobrychus sinensis*), breed.

In and around Lake Inawashiro, approximately 1,000 species of flora and fauna have been recorded, with over 300 species listed on the IUCN Red List.

Protecting Pristine Water Quality:

Although Lake Inawashiro is recognized for its excellent water quality, in recent years various factors—such as the neutralization of lake water resulting from a decline in sulfate ions from the Sukawa River—have led to an increase in the lake's organic matter content. To address these water quality challenges, the Deep Blue Lake Inawashiro Revival Project Meeting was established in 2012. Under this initiative, residents, private organizations, business operators, and government agencies collaborate on lakeshore clean-up activities, the collection of stranded aquatic vegetation, and the mowing of reeds and Singhara Nut. Furthermore, the mowed reeds are used as raw materials for regional events such as the Donto Festival and for paper production, while the mowed Singhara Nut is partly utilized as a raw material for tea.

A Place for Connecting with Nature:

Exemplified by Tenjinhama Beach, the outstanding natural scenery of white sand and green pines has established the area as one of Fukushima Prefecture's leading tourist attractions. Moreover, the lake

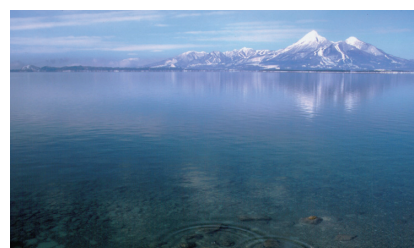
Freshwater Lake



Swans



Fringed Water-lily Colony on the Northern Shore of Lake Inawashiro*



Lake Inawashiro, Renowned for Its Exceptional Water Quality*

* Photo: Award-Winning from the Lake Inawashiro & Urabandai Wetland Photo Contest

surface serves as a venue for lake bathing and water-based activities, while the lakeshore is utilized as a campsite—making Lake Inawashiro a place for connecting people with nature.

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