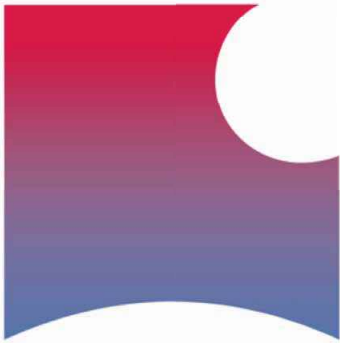


FOR PRESS



National Parks of Japan



Let's go to where you've always wanted to go.
Discover stories you could never imagine.

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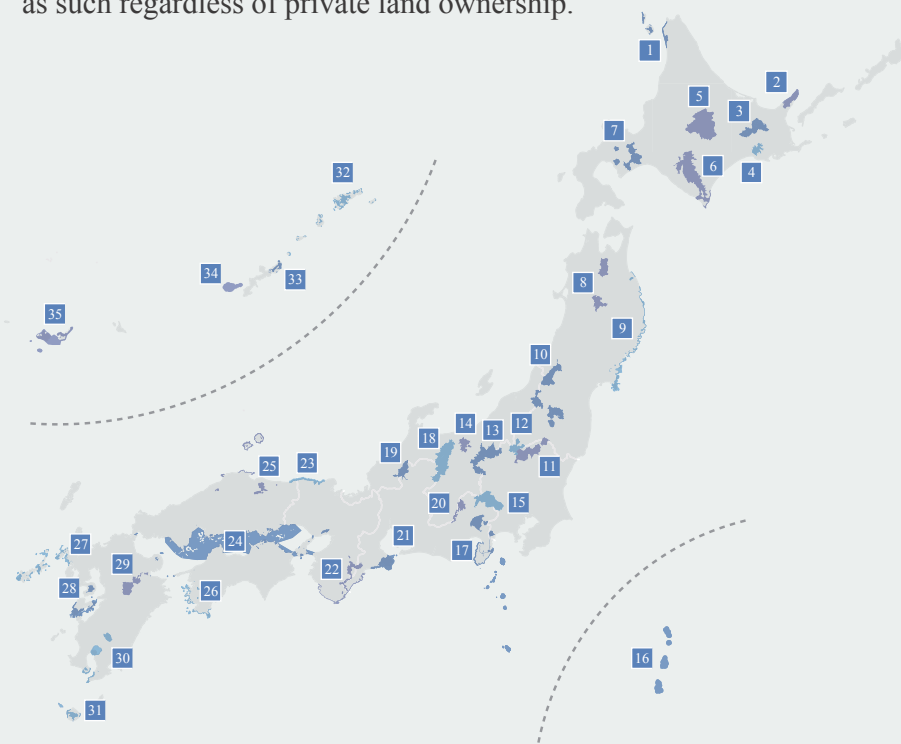
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Overview of National Parks

There are 35 national parks across Japan. Japan has adopted a Regional Natural Park System that designates national park land as such regardless of private land ownership.



National
Parks
of Japan

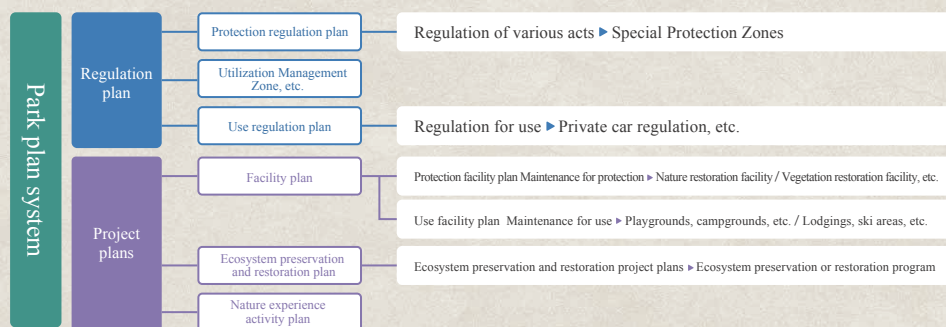
Stories to experience

National parks in Japan are designated by the central government according to the Natural Parks Act as an outstanding natural scenic area that is distinguished enough to represent the scenery of Japan. 35 national parks across the country from Hokkaido in the north to Okinawa and the Ogasawara Islands in the south account

System of Protection and Use

The National Parks of Japan are designated by the Minister of the Environment based on the Natural Parks Act, and park plans are stipulated for individual national parks. Park plans set out regulations to protect the unique scenery according to the characteristics of each park such as the ocean and mountains in addition to the basic policy for the maintenance of facilities to promote the protection of nature and proper use. Japan has adopted a Regional Natural Park System that designates national park land as such regardless of private land ownership. This means a large number of national parks include private property and land owned by others besides the Ministry of the Environment (park administrator). For this reason, the acts of constructing, reconstructing, or extending structures that can impact the nature and

landscape of national parks, felling trees or bamboo, quarrying soil and stones, capturing wildlife, and collecting plants in national parks are regulated based on the Natural Parks Act. The important purpose of national parks in Japan is allowing visitors to deepen their understanding of the importance of nature and to interact with and enjoy nature for better health and recreation. Necessary facilities for the protection and use of national parks are stipulated based on park plans. The Ministry of the Environment and local governments establish and maintain park facilities such as visitor centers, bathrooms, observation decks, and sidewalks. In addition, some park facilities including accommodation facilities are established and operated by private business operators with permission.



Office System and Related Parties

Japan's National Park system has developed as a regional natural parks system. Consequently, park management and operation require collaboration with a wide range of related parties including the Ministry of the Environment and local private business operators. For this reason, national parks in Japan use a collaborative management and operation model. In this model, related parties share goals (visions) for the desired maintenance and use of national parks in addition to the ideal way of management and operation of national parks. Under the shared recognition, each party takes the initiative in contributing to the management and operation of national parks.

The Ministry of the Environment

MOE

Regional Environment Office etc.

National Park Management Offices,
Park Ranger Offices, etc.

Collaborative management and operation

Establishment of a collaboration system by various parties such as national institutions other than the Ministry of the Environment, local public and private entities, and park operators



-National Park of Japan-

for approximately 6.5% of the country's land and welcome more than approximately 300 million people a year. Rich water and blessings from volcanoes as well as ecosystems and the natural environment are maintained in these national parks, which are home to many flora and fauna. Depending on the region, national parks are protected by caretakers. Agricultural land and villages are also part of some national parks. National parks are a trove of local history, tradition, and culture.

Brand Promise

Brand promise is a statement of promise of national parks in Japan to visitors and local communities. The Ministry of the Environment shares the brand promise with the local communities and related personnel and further promotes the branding of national parks in Japan with the aim of becoming tourism destinations for people from around the world.

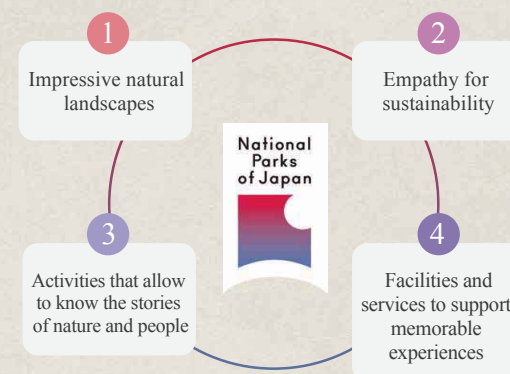


Brand Promise

Stories to experience
-National Park of Japan-

Values

A wide variety of natural landscapes and stories where local life, culture, and history are intertwined truly offer a one of its kind unforgettable heart-moving experience



History of National Parks

The national park designation started in the 1930's in Japan. In the early years, scenic areas including highly primitive mountains and traditional tourist destinations including shrines and temples were designated. Later, designations were assigned according to the changing needs of the times. In the 1960's, some marine parks were added to national parks while a vast wetland was designated as a national park in the late 1980's. Entering the 2010's, the designation as a national park was given in consideration of biodiversity. Currently, a wide variety of locations are designated as national parks in reflection of the changing times and increasing diversity of views regarding the scenic locations that represent Japan.



Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park



Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park

Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu National Park

The Northernmost Park Blessed with Myriad Landscapes,
Formed by Mt. Rishiri and Ablaze with Alpine Flowers.

An island of northern extremes and wilderness, as well as splendid flower gardens and the vast ocean. Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu National Park is the northernmost national park in Japan, boasting a landscape with a variety of mountains, fields of flowers, sea cliffs, wetlands, and coastal sand dunes. Affectionately referred to as Mt. Rishiri-Fuji, Mt. Rishiri is a beautiful cone-shaped mountain symbolic of the park. Visitors to Rebun-to Island can behold fields of alpine flora and bushes in the lowlands, includ-

ing valuable alpine plants such as *C. marcanthum* *Sw. var. rebunense*. The Bakkai and Wakasakanai Shores present unique landscapes formed by rows of belt-like sand dunes dotted with lakes and reservoirs among sand dune forests of *Quercus crispula* Blume (oak) and *Abies sachalinensis* (fir) trees. On the Sarobetsu Plain, there is one of Japan's largest high moors over the peat lands, making it an important stopping point of the migration for wild birds such as wild geese and ducks.

Date of Designation : September 20, 1974

Area : 24,512 ha

Related Prefecture : Hokkaido

web site



Inquiry

Hokkaido Regional Environment Office

TEL 011-299-1950

MAIL REO-HOKKAIDO@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery

Sarobetsu Wetland



Enjoy the mountains
and flora

Mikaeridai Picnic Site



Experience culture
and local life

Dairy Farming of Sarobetsu-kenya



Meet the wildlife

Yellow Wagtail

Shiretoko National Park

Rich Ecosystems Linked by Ice Drifts and Majestic Landscapes of Mountains and Coastal Cliffs Created by Volcanic Eruptions.

The name "Shiretoko" derives from the Ainu phrase siretok, meaning "End of the Earth," and true to its name, the Shiretoko area is located on the most northeastern point of Japan (excluding the Northern Territories). Shiretoko National Park is characterized by its majestically precipitous landscape, which was formed by volcanic activity and lava flows, and its richly diverse wildlife. In particular, the park is home to many

large mammals, such as the brown bear and killer whale, and large birds of prey that are in danger of extinction. With these creatures at the top of the ecological chain, various wild animals interrelate and live strongly. The diversity of these creatures and the links between ocean, river, and forest ecosystems in the area have been recognized, and in July 2005, Shiretoko was designated a World Natural Heritage site.

Date of Designation : June 1, 1964

Area : 38,954 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Hokkaido

web site



Inquiry

Kushiro Nature Conservation Office

TEL 0154-32-7500

MAIL NCO-KUSHIRO@env.go.jp



Shiretoko Goko Lakes



Enjoy the ocean, rivers, and other water scenery



Shiretoko Pass



Enjoy the mountains and flora



Salmon fishing



Experience culture and local life



Brown Bear



Meet the wildlife

Akan-Mashu National Park

A Vast Landscape Comprising Japan's Largest Caldera Landform, Volcanoes, Forests, and Lakes

Located in the eastern part of Hokkaido, Akan-Mashu National Park is one of the longest established parks in Hokkaido. Most of the park area is covered in natural forest comprising mainly subarctic mixed coniferous forest that is said to be some of the most primeval forests of all the national parks in Japan. The foundation for Akan-Mashu National Park comprises three caldera landforms --the Akan Caldera, Kussharo Caldera, and Mashu Caldera --which were formed by the volcanic activity of the Chishima Volcanic Zone. With several volcano-lake pairs in close proximity within a narrow space, the

area is nationally valuable. The park can be broadly divided into two areas: the Akan area and the Mashu (Kawayu) area. In the Akan area, the sights to see include Mt. Me-akan and Mt. O-akan which tower sedately over nearby lakes and reservoirs such as Lake Akan and Lake Onneto in a breathtaking landscape. In the Mashu (Kawayu) area, the sights to see are Lake Mashu --one of the most transparent lakes in the world --as well as Lake Kussharo, which can be viewed from the surrounding mountain passes and peaks, and the colors of the forests, which transform with the seasons.

Date of Designation : December 4, 1934

Area : 91,413 ha

Related Prefecture : Hokkaido

web site



Inquiry

Kushiro Nature Conservation Office

TEL 0154-32-7500

MAIL NCO-KUSHIRO@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery



Lake Mahu Viewed from Lake Mashu Observation Deck No.1



Enjoy the mountains
and flora



Bihoro Pass Observatory



Experience culture
and local life



Traditional Ceremony of the Ainu



Meet the wildlife



Yezo Sika Deer

Kushiroshitsugen National Park

Japan's Largest Marsh, a Great Meandering River,
and the Forest where the River Grew.

Encompassing the Kushiro River flowing through the eastern part of Hokkaido and its tributaries, Kushiroshitsugen National Park comprises Japan's largest marsh, the Kushiro Marsh, and the surrounding mountainous area. The vast, untouched horizontal landscape is the park's greatest attraction. It is also a valuable habitat for many flora and fauna, including the red-crowned crane, which has been designated a National Special Natural Monument. Due to the difficulty of developing the area, the Kushiro Marsh was regarded as a useless area of land, but through the development of agricultural land due to the food shortage in the postwar period, development of urban areas, and logging of hilly areas, the marsh began to dry out and the

area diminished. In response, local researchers and nature conservation groups persevered with activities aimed at changing the perceptions of the marsh's value, with the result that the value was recognized internationally. In 1980, the Kushiro Marsh became the first marsh area in Japan to be designated a Ramsar site, and seven years later, the marsh was designated a national park. The birth of Japan's first national park centered on a marsh can be said to have been an event that carved a new page in the history of Japanese national parks as the result of local efforts to have the marsh--once regarded as "barren land" --recognized for its natural environment value.

Date of Designation : July 31, 1987

Area : 28,788 ha

Related Prefecture : Hokkaido

web site



Inquiry

Kushiro Nature Conservation Office

TEL 0154-32-7500

MAIL NCO-KUSHIRO@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery

Cape Kirakotan



Enjoy the mountains
and flora

Hosooka Observatory



Experience culture
and local life

Kushiro-Shitsugen Norocco Train



Meet the wildlife

Japanese Crane

Daisetsuzan National Park

The Roof of Central Hokkaido; Known Locally as Kamui Mintara or “the Playground of the Gods”

Daisetsuzan National Park is located in the central part of Hokkaido. Sometimes referred to as the roof of Hokkaido, the area designated as a national park includes the Daisetsuzan volcanic group that culminates in Mt. Asahidake (Hokkaido's highest peak at 2,291 m above sea level), other magnificent peaks such as Mt. Tomuraushi, Tokachi Mountain Range and Ishikari Mountain Range, as well as the sources of the Ishikari River and Tokachi River, which are representative landmarks of Hokkaido. The average elevation of the mountainous regions is approximately 2,000 m. However, their higher latitude gives them an alpine environ-

ment that rivals 3000 m class peaks across the rest of Honshu. The vast mountain belt is covered with colorful alpine plants including endemic species such as *Oxytropis japonica* var. *sericea* and *Lagotis yessoensis*. The area is referred to by the Ainu people as Kamui Mintara or "the playground of the Gods," and its beautiful landscapes are a treat for mountain climbers. Among local treasures are rare animal species such as the Japanese pika and the *Parnassius eversmanni daisetsuzanus*, which are said to have survived the ice age, as well as a Miyabe charr that is endemic to Lake Shikaribetsu.

Date of Designation : December 4, 1934

Area : 226,764 ha

Related Prefecture : Hokkaido

web site



Inquiry

Hokkaido Regional Environment Office

TEL 011-299-1950

MAIL REO-HOKKAIDO@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean, rivers, and other water scenery



Numa-no-Hara High Moor



Enjoy the mountains and flora



Ohachidaira Observatory



Experience culture and local life



Taushubetsu River Bridge



Meet the wildlife



Japanese Pika

Hidakasanmyaku Erimo Tokachi National Park

Hidaka mountain range is ” The backbone of Hokkaido”

Hidakasanmyaku-Erimo-Tokachi National Park, centered on the Hidaka Mountains which stretch 140 km from north to south, is located in the south-central part of Hokkaido. It is the largest national park in the land area in Japan. The park is home to the highest peak in the Hidaka Mountains, Mt. Poroshiri (2,052 m), and a series of mountains over 1,900 m above sea

level, where Japan’s most pristine natural environment remains. The coastal area also has distinctive features such as marine terraces, sea cliffs, and reefs. Cape Erimo, is an example of such feature. Moreover, from the vast Tokachi Plain, visitors can enjoy breathtaking views of majestic mountain scenery.

Date of Designation : June 25, 2024

Area : 245,668 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Hokkaido

web site



Inquiry

Hokkaido Regional Environment Office

TEL 011-299-1950

MAIL REO-HOKKAIDO@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery

Funbe Falls



Enjoy the mountains
and flora

Mt. Horoshiri



Experience culture
and local life

The Process of Drying Kelp



Meet the wildlife

Harbor seal

Shikotsu-Toya National Park

Living Volcanoes and Quiet Blue Lakes: a Museum of Volcanic Activity.

Located in the southwestern part of Hokkaido Prefecture, Shikotsu-Toya National Park is a park where visitors can not only see two large caldera lakes -Lake Shikotsu and Lake Toya - but also variously shaped volcanoes and volcanic landforms -such as Mt. Yotei, Mt. Usuzan, and Mt. Tarumae. In addition to a large and diverse range of hot springs, much volcanic activity can also be observed, such as the jigoku ("hell") phenomena of gasses belching from fumaroles, and the park can truly be called a "Living Volcano Museum". One of the benefits of this volcanic activity is the popular and bustling hot springs tourism areas that are representative of Hokkaido Prefecture, including

Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, and Jozankei. The breathtaking landscape comprising interweaving lakes, forests, and volcanoes soothes peoples hearts and minds. Lake Shikotsu is also famous for being at the northern limit for non-freezing lakes, and the distinctive deep blue color of the water surface is highly appealing to park visitors. The park's location close to central Sapporo City and Shin-Chitose Airport makes it easy for many people to visit. In addition to people visiting by private car or tour bus to see volcanic phenomena and experience nature, or on sightseeing tours for hot springs recreation, etc., people come to the park to climb mountains and observe the alpine vegetation.

Date of Designation : May 16, 1949

Area : 99,473 ha

Related Prefecture : Hokkaido

web site



Inquiry

Hokkaido Regional Environment Office

TEL 011-299-1950

MAIL REO-HOKKAIDO@env.go.jp



Lake Toya



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery



Mt. Usuzan



Enjoy the mountains
and flora



Yamasen Steel Bridge



Experience culture
and local life



Black Woodpecker



Meet the wildlife

Towada-Hachimantai National Park

Michinoku's Mountain Range — Serene Lake colored by the virgin forests, live volcanoes and hot spring resorts in the depth of the mountains.

Towada-Hachimantai National Park is located in the mountainous region of Northern Honshu, and is made up of the Towada-Hakkoda region with Mt. Hakkoda, Lake Towada, and Oirase-Keiryu (a mountain stream) and the Hachimantai region with Mt. Hachimantai, Mt. Akita-Komagatake, and Mt. Iwate and it is a park of mountains, lakes, and streams. In the Towada-Hakkoda region, you can enjoy constantly changing scenery throughout the season of the year, such as Lake Towada with its mysterious beauty, the gentle and pure flow of the Oirase-Keiryu, Mt.

Hakkoda with its famous Juhyo (frost covered trees), and the diverse flora and fauna nurtured in the rich natural environment. The Hachimantai region is one of Japan's most famous volcanic areas. This attractive park is filled with numerous lakes, marshes, and moors and a diverse ecosystem created over a long period of time from the combination of the volcanic phenomena and the snowy conditions of the winter. Another attraction of this park is the numerous hot springs.

Date of Designation : February 1, 1936

Area : 85,534 ha

Related Prefecture : Aomori, Akita, Iwate

web site



Inquiry

Tohoku Regional Environment Office

TEL 022-722-2870

MAIL REO-TOHOKU@env.go.jp



Oirase Gorge



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery



Mt. Hachimantai



Enjoy the mountains
and flora



Nyuto Onsen



Experience culture
and local life



Japanese Serow



Meet the wildlife

Sanriku Fukko National Park

Come here to experience the life and culture nurtured through the bounty and dangers of nature and the coexistence of man and nature.

The Sanriku Fukko (Reconstruction) National Park was created in May 2013 to contribute to the reconstruction of the Sanriku region that was devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. The park extends to the north and south approximately 220 km, and the northern part is also called the "Alps of the Ocean" with its dynamic cliffs. You can see a beautiful ria coast with its complex topography at the south. The coast is a breeding ground for seabirds, such as the black-tailed gull and streaked shearwater. Additionally, the coasts are a habitat for a diverse collection of maritime plants that have adapted to

the unique coastal environment and visitors have an opportunity to observe wildlife up close. In the shallow waters, eelgrass beds and seaweed beds have formed, supporting the biological diversity of the maritime area. There are some of Japan's largest fishing ports at Hachinohe, Miyako, Kamaishi, Ofunato, and Kesennuma, and visitors can enjoy fresh seafood. This national park is unlike any other in Japan as it was created for the purpose of reconstruction from a disaster, and people from all over the country visit this park to learn about disaster prevention.

Date of Designation : May 2, 1955 (as Rikuchugaigan National Park)
May 24, 2013 (as Sanriku Fukko (reconstruction) National Park)

Area : 28,539 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi

web site



Inquiry

Tohoku Regional Environment Office

TEL 022-722-2870

MAIL REO-TOHOKU@env.go.jp



Goishi Coast



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery



Flower fields of the Tanesashi Coast



Enjoy the mountains
and flora



Scenery of harvesting Wakame Seaweed (Kesennuma Oshima Island)



Experience culture
and local life



Band-rumped Storm-petrel



Meet the wildlife

Bandai-Asahi National Park

Distant flowers that continue to preserve their ancient form and the land of volcanoes that cannot help but change.

The Bandai-Asahi National Park covers a vast range from the Dewasanzan, Asahi, Iide, and Azuma Mountain Ranges, to Mt. Bandai and Lake Inawashiro, and is Japan's second largest national park on land. Dewasanzan is famous as a place of mountain worship and has historical appeal. In the Iide and Asahi Mountain Ranges, a highly primitive natural environment has been preserved, and visitors can enjoy the mountainous views surrounded by majestic mountains and the tender beauty of a flower field after a long walk. The Azuma Mountain Range and the area around Mt. Bandai have dynamic views, lakes and marshes of various sizes created by volcanoes and rich forests that are combined to

create a beautiful landscape with lots of variety. With convenient access from the urban area, this is popular place where people can enjoy a variety of recreation such as mountain climbing, exploring nature, going to hot springs, and skiing. Bandai-Asahi National Park is filled with plenty of attractions from its mountains with deep forests to its dynamic volcanic area, the lakes and marshes filled with water, and the mountain worship traditions passed over the ages. Additionally, since the park area covers a vast area of land, there are a wide variety of mountains that can be enjoyed by everyone from beginners to seasoned climbers, and so the park attracts many climbers.

Date of Designation : September 5, 1950

Area : 186,375 ha

Related Prefecture : Yamagata, Fukushima, Niigata

web site



Inquiry

Tohoku Regional Environment Office

TEL 022-722-2870

MAIL REO-TOHOKU@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean, rivers, and other water scenery

Lake Inawashiro



Enjoy the mountains and flora

Mt. Bandai



Experience culture and local life

Tsuchiyu Onsen



Meet the wildlife

Bohemian Waxwing

Nikko National Park

Colorful natural beauty and sublime cultural heritages interweaved by mountains, lakes, reservoirs, falls and wetlands.

Nikko National Park is the one of first national parks that opened in 1934. The park area straddles Fukushima, Tochigi, and Gunma Prefectures and the total area is 114,908 ha. Most of the area is a mountainous region of the Nasu Volcanic Belt with such mountains as Mt. Shirane (2,578 m above sea level), the highest peak in the northern Kanto region; Mt. Nantai (2,486 m above sea level), which has been renowned as an object of worship from ancient times; and Mt. Nasudake (1,917 m above sea level), which is still an active volcano. These mountains have

wide plateaus at their bases, and the additional beauty of lakes, reservoirs, magnificent falls, and valleys with splendid autumn leaves, all of which were created by volcanic activity. In addition, there is the beautiful fusion of a number of historic world-heritage temples and shrines and the natural scenery surrounding them. Nikko National Park boasts easy access by train or car from areas around Tokyo and is, therefore, popular as a spot where visitors can experience nature, history, and culture.

Date of Designation : December 4, 1934

Area : 114,908 ha

Related Prefecture : Fukushima, Tochigi, Gunma

web site



Inquiry

Kanto Regional Environment Office

TEL 048-600-0516

MAIL REO-KANTO@env.go.jp



Yudaki Falls



Enjoy the ocean, rivers, and other water scenery



Mt. Nantai



Enjoy the mountains and flora



Italian Embassy Villa Memorial Park



Experience culture and local life



Japanese Macaque



Meet the wildlife

Oze National Park

Japan's Most Extensive Mountain Wetlands, Carpeted in Flowers, Encircled by Famous Peaks.

Oze National Park has a long history. In 1934, it was designated part of Nikko National Park, and then in 2007 the Oze Area was separated from Nikko National Park and combined with surrounding areas such as Mt. Aizu-Komagatake, Mt. Tashiro, and Mt. Taishaku to create Japan's 29th designated national park. The name "Oze" is widely known due to its mention in Natsu-no Omoide ("Summer Memories"), a nationally beloved song. The region is characterized by its beautiful scenery, ranging from Ozegahara Plateau, the largest high moor on

Honshu, and Lake Ozenuma, which was formed by the damming of the headwaters of the Tadami River due to volcanic eruptions, to the surrounding mountains, including Mt. Shibutsu, Mt. Hiuchigatake, Mt. Aizu-Komagatake, Mt. Tashiro, and Mt. Taishaku. Although Oze has faced the threat of development numerous times, its precious nature has been preserved through the cooperation of many people, and the park is also referred to as the "Starting Point for Nature Conservation in Japan."

Date of Designation : August 30, 2007

Area : 37,222 ha

Related Prefecture : Gunma, Niigata, Fukushima, Tochigi

web site



Inquiry

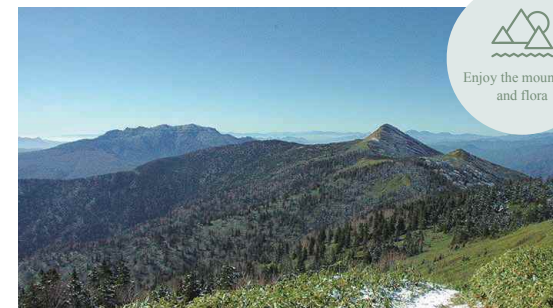
Kanto Regional Environment Office

TEL 048-600-0516

MAIL REO-KANTO@env.go.jp



Ozenuma Swamp



Mt. Kasagatake



Aizu-Numata road



Japanese Stoat

Joshin'etsukogen National Park

A Recreation Department Store Showcasing Mountains and Highlands

The Joshin'etsukogen National Park is an enormous park comprising highlands and mountains, including Mt. Tanigawa (1,977 m above sea level), Mt. Naeba (2,145 m above sea level), Mt. Kusatsu-Shirane (2,160 m above sea level), Mt. Azumaya (2,354 m above sea level), and Mt. Asama (2,568 m above sea level). The park includes many famous peaks that are numbered amongst the Nihon Hyakumeizan (Hundred

famous mountains in Japan) --such as Mt. Tanigawa, with its towering rock slopes, and Mt. Asama and Mt. Kusatsu-Shirane, which are volcanoes --thus forming a richly varying mountain landscape. From the sides to the foot of the mountains spread cool highlands, and there are also numerous lakes and marshes. Another huge attraction of the park is the many hot springs that have been created through volcanic activity.

Date of Designation : September 7, 1949

Area : 151,053 ha

Related Prefecture : Gunma, Niigata, Nagano

web site



Inquiry

Shin-etsu Nature Conservation Office

TEL 026-231-6570

MAIL NCO-NAGANO@env.go.jp



Onuma-Ike Pond



Enjoy the ocean, rivers, and other water scenery



Okushiga Valley Waterfalls



Enjoy the mountains and flora



Manza Onsen



Experience culture and local life



Spotted Nutcracker



Meet the wildlife

Myoko-Togakushi renzan National Park

A Rallying Point of Volcanically Active and Non-volcanic
Mountains People's lives cradled in the workings of
Mother Earth, and worships woven into scenery.

Situated on the border of Niigata Prefecture and Nagano Prefecture, the Myoko-Togakushi renzan National Park is a new national park opened in March 2015 that straddles two prefectures and six municipalities: Itoigawa City, Myoko City, Nagano City, Otari Village, Shinano Town and Izuna Town. Though covering a small area, the park is densely packed with mountains with a distinct appearance that is characterized by a landscape of highlands scattered across the base of mountains, reservoirs, and lakes as typified by Lake Nojiri. Above all, the park boasts diverse mountain structures of a volcanic mountain range, caldera, non-volcanic independent summit and a non-volcanic mountain range, as well as proactive mountain worship. There are also the famous mountains Mt. Myoko and Mt. Takatsuma,

which are listed in the Nihon Hyakumeizan (Hundred famous mountains in Japan), Mt. Izuna; recommended for beginner mountaineers, and the steep Togakushi Mountain Range, where experts can also enjoy; all of which account for its great popularity as a field for mountaineering. In addition, the highland at the base of mountains attracts a large number of diverse visitors who are drawn to explore the nature in the summer, skiing and natural hot springs in the winter. This park area, on the other hand, is a heavy snowfall area, in which the harsh yet magnificent workings of nature, coupled with the unique culture and mountain worship, which received the bounty of nature, create a unique scenery only found in this part of the world.

Date of Designation : March 27, 2015

Area : 39,772 ha

Related Prefecture : Niigata, Nagano

web site

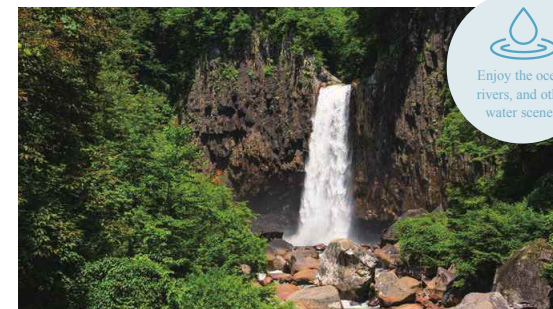


Inquiry

Shin-etsu Nature Conservation Office

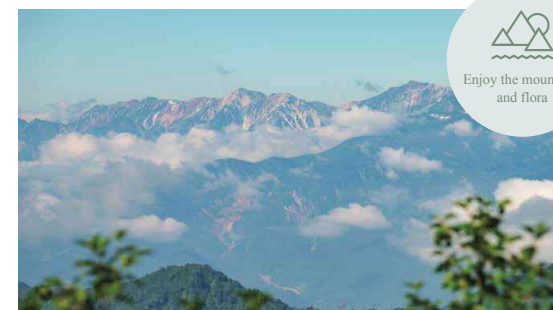
TEL 026-231-6570

MAIL NCO-NAGANO@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery

Naena-taki Falls



Enjoy the mountains
and flora

Mt. Hiuchi



Experience culture
and local life

Togakushi Shrine



Meet the wildlife

Rock Ptarmigan

Chichibu-Tama-Kai National Park

Situated Proximate to the Metropolitan Area,
a Mountainous Park. Brimful of Alluring Forests and Valleys.

With Mt. Kita-okusenjo as the highest peak (2,601 m above sea level), Chichibu-Tama-Kai National Park is a unique park blessed with mountains and clear streams. The park consists of the lofty Okueichibu Mountains at 2,000 m extending from Mt. Kimpu and Mt. Kobushigatake to Mt. Kumotori, and the surrounding Mt. Daibosatsu, Mt. Ryokami, Mitake-Shosenkyo Gorge, and Okutama. The mountain range stretches about 40 km from north to south and about 70 km from east to west. The Okueichibu Mountains are home to the headwaters and

divides the rivers of the Kanto region and central Honshu, including the Chikuma (Shinano) River, Fuefuki (Fuji) River, Tama River, and Arakawa River. River channel erosion has V-shaped valleys with varied landscapes of mountains and valleys. Thanks to the great accessibility of being nearest to the metropolitan area, this national park has been visited by a number of visitors to enjoy the myriad ways to commune with nature such as hiking, mountain-climbing, camping, fishing, and river trekking.

Date of Designation : July 10, 1950

Area : 126,259 ha

Related Prefecture : Saitama, Tokyo, Yamanashi, Nagano

web site



Inquiry

Kanto Regional Environment Office

TEL 048-600-0516

MAIL REO-KANTO@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery

Nishizawa Gorge



Enjoy the mountains
and flora

Mt. Kumotori



Experience culture
and local life

Mitsumine-jinja Shrine



Meet the wildlife

Spotted Nutcracker

Ogasawara National Park

Subtropical Oceanic Island A Gold Mine of Evolution and Endemic Species.

Ogasawara National Park consists of subtropical islands located about 1,000 km south of the Japanese archipelago. These islands are oceanic islands that have never been connected to the mainland and thus uniquely evolved flora, fauna, and ecosystems can be found on the islands. Thanks to these advantages, Ogasawara National Park was registered as a World Heritage site in June 2011. The landscapes include the island landscapes unique to subtropical oceanic islands, pillow lava, and unique coastal

landforms and one of the few submergence karst landforms in Japan. In addition, the marine mammals typified by humpback whales and dolphins, green turtles, coral reefs, and tropical fish create underwater landscapes. For the use of the park, the park is also known for its advanced eco-tourism centering on the council of Ogasawara Eco-Tourism, which is represented by the establishment of independent rules for whale watching as the start of Japan's eco-tourism field.

Date of Designation : October 16, 1972

Area : 6,629 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Tokyo

web site



Inquiry

Kanto Regional Environment Office

TEL 048-600-0516

MAIL REO-KANTO@env.go.jp



Sakaiura Beach



Enjoy the ocean, rivers, and other water scenery



Mt. Chibusa



Enjoy the mountains and flora



Ogasawara Coffee



Experience culture and local life



Green Sea Turtle



Meet the wildlife

Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park

Volcanoes Stretching from the Pacific Ocean to Sacred Mt. Fuji: Diverse Landscapes Created by Volcano Topography and Culture.

Mt. Fuji is not simply Japan's highest mountain; it is a famous peak that is deeply rooted in the hearts of Japanese people and well-known throughout the world as a symbol of Japan. With Mt. Fuji located at its northern end, Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park is a national park representative of Japan—a volcanic country—comprising various volcanic landforms within the Fuji Volcanic Zone as well as hot springs, richly varying coastlines, and islands. Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park is divided into four areas: the Mt. Fuji Area, which is centered on Mt. Fuji and includes lakes, swamps, and plateaus in the surrounding area; the Hakone Area, which served

as a posting station on the Tokaido Road and has been renowned through the ages as a hot spring area; the Izu Peninsula Area, which offers the appeal of Amagi Mountain Range richly varying coastlines, and hot springs; and the Izu Islands Area, which comprises the seven islands in the Izu Shichito Islands, including O-shima Island and Miyake-jima Island, which even today are active volcanoes. Providing views of graceful Mt. Fuji from all around yet located close to the metropolitan area, Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park has the most visitors of any national park in Japan.

Date of Designation : February 1, 1936

Area : 121,755 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Tokyo, Kanagawa, Yamanashi, Shizuoka

web site



Inquiry

Kanto Regional Environment Office

TEL 048-600-0516

MAIL REO-KANTO@env.go.jp



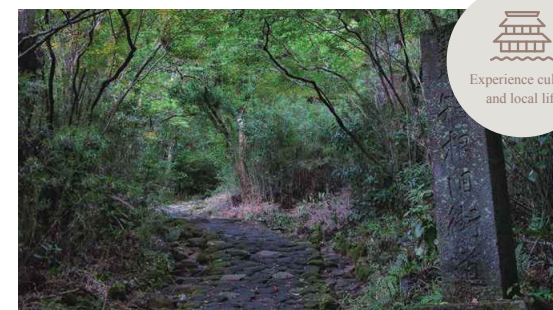
Enjoy the ocean, rivers, and other water scenery

Lake Kawaguchi



Enjoy the mountains and flora

Mt. Fuji



Experience culture and local life

Hakone and Old Tokaido Highway Travel



Meet the wildlife

Mount Fuji Thistle

Chubusangaku National Park

Outstanding Mountain Landscape that Represents Japan
—Breathtaking mountains, beautiful valleys
and rock ptarmigans.

Established in 1934 as one of the first national parks, Chubusangaku National Park is a mountainous park that represents the nation with a string of mountains dominating the entire Northern Alps. The park consists of some of Japan's most famous mountains rising 3,000 m above sea level from north to south, including the Ushiro-Tateyama Mountain Range with Mt. Shiroma as the highest peak, the Tateyama Mountain Range with Mt. Tsurugi and Mt. Tateyama, the Hotaka Mountain Range with Mt. Yurigatake, and Mt. Norikura located at south end of the park. From steep rock cliffs, deep and

precipitous valleys, alpine belts, rock ptarmigans, a blanket of snow over the valleys that lingers till summer months, glacier-eroded U-shaped valleys, lakes, and lava plateaus formed by volcanoes create a great variety of mountain landscapes to captivate many climbers. In addition, the trailheads in Kamikochi, Murodo on Mt. Tateyama, and Tatamidaira on Mt. Norikura offer great accessibility using public transportation, and visitors can take enjoyment in gazing upon imposing mountain landscapes and alpine plants.

Date of Designation : December 4, 1934

Area : 174,323 ha

Related Prefecture : Niigata, Toyama, Nagano, Gifu

web site



Inquiry

Shin-etsu Nature Conservation Office

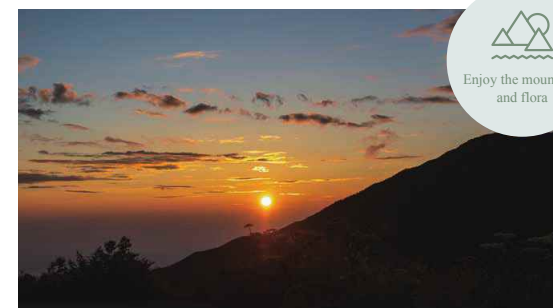
TEL 026-231-6570

MAIL NCO-NAGANO@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery

Kamikochi



Enjoy the mountains
and flora

Mt. Tateyama



Experience culture
and local life

Okuhida Onsengo Hot Springs



Meet the wildlife

Rock Ptarmigan

Hakusan National Park

Sacred Mountain Hakusan

—A Holy Peak Adorned with Snow and Alpine Plants—

Hakusan National Park is stretching approximately 40 km north-south and 30 km east-west comprising the three peaks of Mt. Hakusan--the highest, Gozengamine (2,702 m above sea level), Onanjmine (2,684 m above sea level), and Kengamine (2,677 m above sea level)--and surrounding mountains. At the foot of the mountains at altitudes of 1,600 m or less are expansive natural forests comprising mainly Japanese beech, while in alpine and subalpine belts some 250 species of alpine plants can be seen, including Geranium yezoense var. nipponicum and chocolate lily, and the primeval natural environment is being preserved. Moreover, the park is a habitat for the Asian black bear, Japanese

serow, golden eagle, and other large wild animals and birds, and as a national park with one of the highest levels of naturalness in Japan, the park has been designated as a Biosphere Reserve in accordance with the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB). In winter, Mt. Hakusan is covered in deep snow brought by seasonal northeast winds. In mountain areas at altitudes of 500 m or higher, it is estimated that approx. 600 million tons of snow accumulate. This snow is a major element in the formation of Mt. Hakusan's natural environment, bringing rich blessings to the foot of the mountains and nurturing a distinctive Snow Country landscape and culture.

Date of Designation : November 12, 1962

Area : 49,900 ha

Related Prefecture : Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Gifu

web site



Inquiry

Chubu Regional Environment Office

TEL 052-955-2135

MAIL REO-CHUBU@env.go.jp



Hyakuyojo-no-taki Falls



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery



Japanese Beech Forest (Primeval Forest)



Enjoy the mountains
and flora



Shirayamahime-jinja Shrine



Experience culture
and local life



Japanese Stoat



Meet the wildlife

Minami Alps National Park

Lofty Summits Engraved with the Memories of the Seabed
—Enveloped in a deep forest, a chain of massive mountains that still continues to rise even now.

The Minami Alps consist of three mountain ranges: the Kaikoma and Hoo Mountains, Shirane Mountains, and the Akashi Mountains and is home to the nation's second tallest mountain, Mt. Kitadake (3,193 m above sea level) and more than ten 3,000 m class mountains while the headstream of the Oi River, Tenryu River, and Fuji River are found in the midst of the mountains. As the mountains lie on the southernmost point among the Japan Alps, the area receives much rain in the summer and less snow in the winter. It is also characterized by a number of deep V-shaped valleys formed by river channel erosion due to abundant rainfall, and owing to a light snowfall, the altitude of the timberline is high and the vicinity of the ridges are covered in forests. The Minami

Alps are noted for the trace remnants of Japan's southernmost glacier, and there are glacial landforms and periglacial landforms in existence over the alpine belt, which were formed about 20,000 years ago. The cirques (kar) remained in the Mt. Senjogatake, and the Arakawasanzan is one of the cirques. The fauna and flora include rock ptarmigan, Callianthemum hondoense, Dryas octopetala and alpine butterflies that expanded their distribution during the ice age and survived even now. In addition, the Minami Alps have been traditionally regarded as the place of mountain worship since days of old, making it a valuable area not only for its natural environment but also for the inheritance of culture.

Date of Designation : June 1, 1964

Area : 35,752 ha

Related Prefecture : Yamanashi, Nagano, Shizuoka

web site

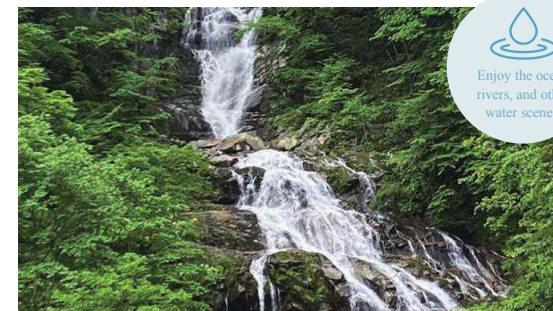


Inquiry

Kanto Regional Environment Office

TEL 048-600-0516

MAIL REO-KANTO@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery

Kita-Shoji Fall



Enjoy the mountains
and flora

Mt. Kitadake



Experience culture
and local life

Mt. Jizogatake



Meet the wildlife

Rock Ptarmigan

Ise-Shima National Park

Ise Jingu: A Timeless Sanctuary of History,
Where Nature and Human Life Intertwine in
Satoyama and Satoumi.

Ise Jingu, a site where a long, splendid, multifaceted history unfolds.
Satoyama and Satoumi, a land of enrichment interweaved with the workings of people and nature.

Date of Designation : November 20, 1946

Area : 55,544 ha

Related Prefecture : Mie

web site



Inquiry

Chubu Regional Environment Office

TEL 052-955-2135

MAIL REO-CHUBU@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery

Futamiura



Enjoy the mountains
and flora

Hamabo (Hibiscus hamabo)



Experience culture
and local life

Shinmei Jinja shrine



Meet the wildlife

Loggerhead Turtle

Yoshino-Kumano National Park

From the subtle and profound mountains, deep valleys to the southern sea where the Japan Current flows, visitors encounter the diversity of nature, unending history, and the culture of the Kii Peninsula.

Yoshino-Kumano National Park is a park of varied landscapes consisting of mountains, rivers, and beaches and encompasses the Omine Mountain Range, known as the Roof of the Kinki Region. The region stretches from north to south in the center of the peninsula with Odaigahara Plateau to the east; the Osugi Valley and the Kumano River from its source in these mountains to the Kumano-nada Sea; the middle and lower basin of the Kitayama River; the coastal line overlooking the southernmost Kumano-nada Sea from Owase to Cape Shiono-

misaki; and Mt. Nachi, which was protected over its long history by those who worshipped Kumano. In addition, a portion of the area is designated a World Heritage site, named the "Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range" and a part of the northern area is designated as a UNESCO Eco Park aimed at the harmonization of preserving the ecosystems and ensuring sustainable utilization, as well as the Nanki Kumano area in Wakayama Prefecture is registered as the Japanese Geopark.

Date of Designation : February 1, 1936

Area : 61,604 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Mie, Nara, Wakayama

web site

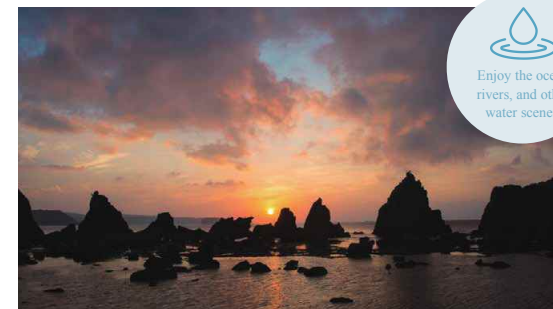


Inquiry

Kinki Regional Environment Office

TEL 06-6881-6500

MAIL REO-KINKI@env.go.jp



Hashigui-Iwa Rock



Enjoy the ocean, rivers, and other water scenery



Osugidani



Enjoy the mountains and flora



Shishiwa (Lion Rock)



Experience culture and local life



Coral Community



Meet the wildlife

San'inkaigan National Park

A Museum of Coastal Landforms.

The San'inkaigan National Park comprises approx. 75 km of coastline stretching from Kyotango City, Kyoto Prefecture, in the west to Tottori City, Tottori Prefecture. The coastline is a ria coast (submergent coast) where the mountains connect to the ocean; it is characterized by its richly varying coastal landscape comprising landforms of sea cliffs, sea caves, and reefs that have developed significantly and merge with the ocean area. Another characteristic is the expansive sand dune landscape, represented by the Tottori Sand Dunes, that have been formed through

wave erosion and by sand carried from river mouths. In this way, unique landforms can be seen throughout the national park, and because these landforms comprise various types of rocks, the park is also referred to as the "Geological Park" or "Beautiful Rock Park." With the San'inkaigan National Park at its center, the San'inkaigan Geopark was admitted into the Global Geoparks Network in 2010, recognizing the global importance also of the San'inkaigan Coastline.

Date of Designation : July 15, 1963

Area : 9,006 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Kyoto, Hyogo, Tottori

web site



Inquiry

Kinki Regional Environment Office

TEL 06-6881-6500

MAIL REO-KINKI@env.go.jp



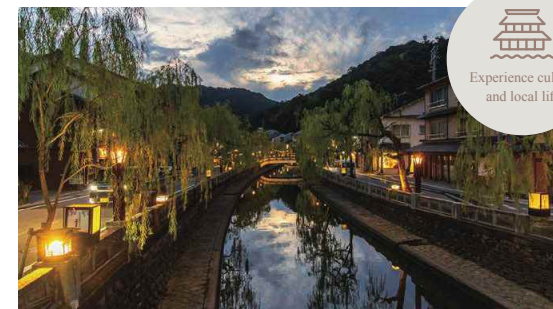
Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery

Tottori Sand Dunes



Enjoy the mountains
and flora

Genbudo Cave



Experience culture
and local life

Kinosaki Onsen Shrine



Meet the wildlife

Hypselodris festiva

Setonaikai National Park

Islands and the Sea that Keep on Shining
The Archipelago seascapes of the inland sea and islets
where people live in harmony with nature.

Setonaikai National Park is one of the first national parks to be designated in Japan, along with Unzen and Kirishima in 1934. Of the area surrounded by the four straits of Kitan, Naruto, Kanmon, and Hoyo, the park area includes the vast sea area and islets of the Setonaikai Sea, as well as scenic observation points ashore overlooking the Inland Sea. Extending over 11 prefectures and covering a total area of 900,000 hectares including the sea area, the Setonaikai National Park prides itself on being Japan's largest national park. The distinct features of this

park are archipelago seascapes of the inland sea studded with numerous islands and islets of varied sizes. The coastal land area abounds with observation points. The area around the Setonaikai Sea enjoyed a flourishing culture from early times as the inhabitants coexisted with nature. Areas of terraced fields, port town awaiting a favorable tide, and other scenes of people living in a state of intimate connections to nature and creating familiar scenes are signature attributes of this park.

Date of Designation : March 16, 1934

Area : 67,280 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Osaka, Hyogo, Wakayama, Okayama, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, Fukuoka, Oita

web site



Inquiry

Kinki Regional Environment Office

TEL 06-6881-6500

MAIL REO-KINKI@env.go.jp

Chugoku-Shikoku Regional Environment Office

TEL 086-223-1577

MAIL REO-CHUSHIKOKU@env.go.jp

Shikoku Office

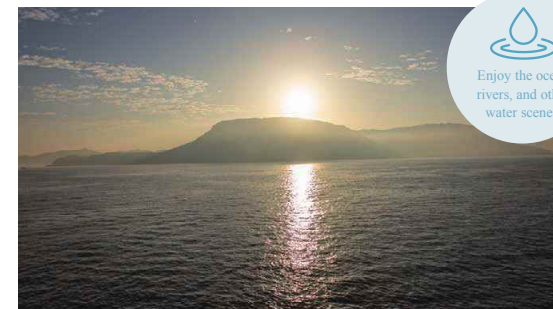
TEL 087-811-7240

MAIL MOE-SHIKOKU@env.go.jp

Kyushu Regional Environment Office

TEL 096-322-2412

MAIL REO-KYUSHU@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery

Mt. Yashima



Enjoy the mountains
and flora

Mt. Sekizen



Experience culture
and local life

Itsukushima-jinja Shrine of Miyajima



Meet the wildlife

Alveopora japonica

Daisen-Oki National Park

Mountains and Islands Where Myths Interlace

A series of volcanoes where the gods reside,
and islands that breathe with ancient memories.

Daisen-Oki National Park is a park marked with numerous variations, encompassing a mountainous area from Mt. Daisen to Mt. Hiruzen and Mt. Kenashi, Mt. Senjo to Mt. Mitoku, the coastal area of the Shimane Peninsula, as well as Mt. Sanbe and the Oki Islands. The mountainous area consists of a variety of elements that include dynamic volcanic landforms, rich forests, and a vast grass-covered plain. Depending on the location, visitors can savor views of unique mountains and diverse flora and fauna

that adapted to the environment. The seaside and islands feature a range of seashore landscapes formed by a combination of complicated factors, such as volcanic activity, crustal changes, climate changes, alluviation, and erosion, in addition to the biological environment unique to beaches and islands affected by ocean currents. In addition, the Japanese mythology, Kunibiki Shinwa, was set in this area and the area retains the traditional relationship of nature, inhabitants and their lives.

Date of Designation : February 1, 1936

Area : 35,097 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Tottori, Shimane, Okayama

web site



Inquiry

Chugoku-Shikoku Regional Environment Office

TEL 086-223-1577

MAIL REO-CHUSHIKOKU@env.go.jp



Kuniga Coast



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery



Kagamiganaru



Enjoy the mountains
and flora



Ogamiyama-jinja Shrine Okunomiya



Experience culture
and local life



Oki Salamander



Meet the wildlife

Ashizuri-Uwakai National Park

Great Nature Nurtured by the Japan Current

The dynamic and elegant coastline, the forests, and waters where life shines bright.

Ashizuri-Uwakai National Park was initially designated a quasi-national park in 1955, and the area was extended to include the Uwakai area and marine park zone and became Ashizuri-Uwakai National Park in 1972. The park is characterized by its coastal strip dotted with islands in southwest Shikoku and the inland landscapes with variations consisting of mountains as high as 1,000 m. The Ashizuri area is marked by continuous precipitous cliffs developed from coastal terraces and the communities of subtropical marine life and coral reefs nurtured by the Japan Current. In contrast, the Uwakai area appeals to visitors with its subtle inlets unique to a submerged coast and island

seascapes, offering beautiful underwater landscapes created mainly of soft corals. The inland area is inhabited by a natural forest of giant trees including *Sciadopitys verticillata*, *Cryptomeria japonica*, and Japanese cypress, and the visitors can observe the vertical distribution of vegetation ranging from the warm-temperate zone to the cold-temperate zone. Nametoko Gorge in the upper stream of Shimanto River showcases a magnificent scenery created by a smooth riverbed of granite and a chain of waterfalls as represented by the Yukiwano-taki Falls, along with riparian trees of *Quercus salicina* and *Machilus thunbergii*, which attract a host of tourists.

Date of Designation : November 10, 1972

Area : 11,345 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Ehime, Kochi

web site



Inquiry

Shikoku Office

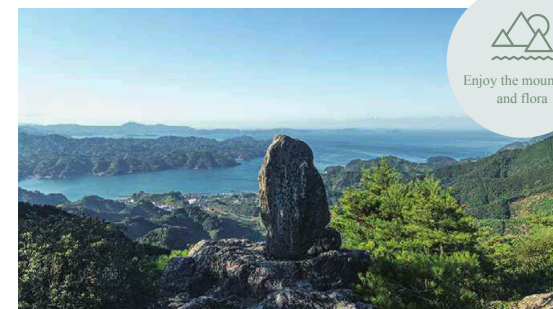
TEL 087-811-7240

MAIL MOE-SHIKOKU@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean, rivers, and other water scenery

Nametoko Gorge (Yukiwano-taki Falls)



Enjoy the mountains and flora

Hoketsu Pass



Experience culture and local life

Kongofukuji Temple



Meet the wildlife

Colorful Underwater Scenery

Saikai National Park

Crossroad Connecting the Islands, Ocean, Nature, and Culture.

Situated in northwestern Kyushu, Saikai National Park is noted for its magnificent archipelago seascapes from the more than 400 islands, large and small, including the Kujuku Shima Islands of Sasebo, Ikitsuki-jima and Hirado-jima Islands, and the Goto Islands. The park is famous for the myriad vistas that can be found across the micro islands and a distinct geographical feature of dendritic drowned valleys on the Kujuku Shima Islands, steep sea cliffs on the Ikitsuki-jima and Hirado-jima Islands with well-developed columnar joints, wave-eroded cliffs of Cape Osezaki on the Goto Islands, and the open-sea archipelago seascape. The park also commands a view of different volcanic landforms from the Hirado-jima Island to the Fukue-jima Island. In response to these complex geographical features, the park

boasts a wide-ranging biodiversity. The shallow water is populated with macrophytes beds and the inner part of the bay cultivates tidal flats, making it the best breeding ground for rare species. The land area is lush with a evergreen broad leaved secondary forest and noted for the controlled field burning and rocky ridges, while the diverse flora from continental elements to Southeast Asia elements and endemic species by isolation effect. In addition, the large-scale migration of the *Pernis ptilorhyncus* traveling westward and the *Accipiter soloensis* traveling southward in autumn is simply impressive. As the park is also a place for humans, the culture and churches related to the religious beliefs of Christianity, whaling culture, and the military ruins related to the Sasebo Naval District are also some of the must-see sights.

Date of Designation : March 16, 1955

Area : 24,646 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Nagasaki

web site



Inquiry

Kyushu Regional Environment Office

TEL 096-322-2412

MAIL REO-KYUSHU@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean, rivers, and other water scenery

Hamaguri-hama Swimming Beach



Enjoy the mountains and flora

Kawachi Pass



Experience culture and local life

Controlled Burns of the Fields of Mt. Onidake



Meet the wildlife

Crosted Honey Buzzard

Unzen-Amakusa National Park

The Terraqueous Panorama, Composed of the Steaming Mt. Unzen and Archipelagic Amakusa.

This park was established in 1934 as one of Japan's first national parks (Unzen National Park), and later in 1956, the Amakusa area was added to become Unzen-Amakusa National Park. The highlight of this park is its terraqueous panorama composed of volcanic landscape of the steaming Mt. Unzen and archipelagic seascape of Amakusa. The Unzen area is a mountainous area of the Shimabara Peninsula centered on Mt. Unzen, consisting of over 20 mountains, and it affords various panoramic views along with the seascape on three sides. Visitors can experience volcanic activity throughout the area including Jigoku Onsen (hell hot spring), the origin of the name Mt.

“Unzen.” The Amakusa area is an archipelago with 120 islands and is a place to savor a varied coastline with indentations unique to a submergent coast, land-tied islands and sea cliffs, as well as corals in the sea. Both Unzen and Amakusa areas are rich in historical sites resulted from the earliest arrival of foreign cultures in Japan, including the history of Christianity known as the Shimabara-Amakusa Rebellion. In recent years, both areas are approved as geoparks, where visitors enjoy learning geological origin and blessing of the areas, named Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark and Amakusa Geopark, respectively with the national park zone as its core.

Date of Designation : March 16, 1934

Area : 28,335 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima

web site

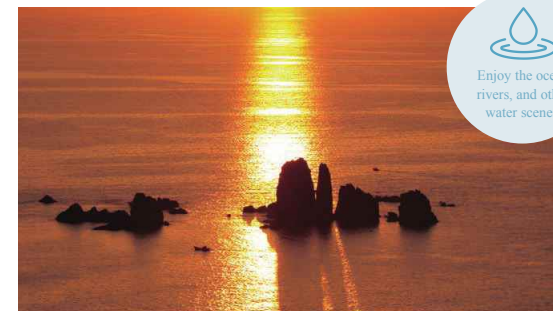


Inquiry

Kyushu Regional Environment Office

TEL 096-322-2412

MAIL REO-KYUSHU@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean, rivers, and other water scenery

Ogase



Enjoy the mountains and flora

Unzen Jigoku



Experience culture and local life

Bell View Park of chapel with a view of church



Meet the wildlife

Blue-and-white Flycatcher (Cyanoptila cyanomelana)

Aso-Kuju National Park

The scent of Grasslands, the breath of volcanoes.
The blessing of the wind and water,
connected by people, a land of wonder.

The main characteristics of the park include a huge caldera encompassing the five peaks of Mount Aso, along with the Kuju Mountain Range located to the north, and magnificent and gentle grasslands surrounding them. In the southern part of the park, visitors can admire a series of breathtaking scenery, including the fuming crater of Mount Nakadake, the beautiful cone of Komezuka, the vast grassland of Kusasenri Ga Hama, as well as the caldera in which they are situated. Around the Kuju Mountain Range, visitors will find various volcanic phenomena scattered throughout the area, creat-

ing unique volcanic landscapes. There are numerous highlights, including the vast grasslands of the Kuju and Handa plateaus, as well as the academically valuable wetlands of Tadewara Marsh and Bogatsuru Marsh. In the northern part of the park, the beautiful shapes of Mount Tsurumi and Mount Yufudake, the sources of hot springs in Beppu and Yufuin, can be appreciated. From the mountain ridges, visitors can enjoy a panoramic view stretching from Beppu Bay to the Yufuin Basin and the Kuju Mountain Range.

Date of Designation : December 4, 1934

Area : 73,017 ha

Related Prefecture : Kumamoto, Oita

web site



Inquiry

Kyushu Regional Environment Office

TEL 096-322-2412

MAIL REO-KYUSHU@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery

Kikuchi Gorge



Enjoy the mountains
and flora

Kusasenrigahama Grassland



Experience culture
and local life

Akaushi (Japanese Brown Cattle)



Meet the wildlife

Shijimieoides divinus

Kirishima-Kinkowan National Park

Kirishima Massif, Kinkowan Bay, Sakurajima Volcano
—Hot Springs Created by Giant Calderas
and Bountiful Seas.

Born in 1934 as Kirishima National Park, Kirishima-Kinkowan National Park was one of Japan's first national parks. The park can be broadly divided into northern and southern parts, each with its own characteristic scenery as either the Kirishima area or Kinkowan Bay area. The Kirishima area in the northern part of the park has a series of more than 20 volcanoes, both large and small, as well as crater lakes, fumarole phenomena, hot springs, and plateaus all created through volcanic activity, in addition to a large amount of natural vegetation. Many

tourists and others visit the main usage bases for the Kirishima area, including the Ebino Highland, Kirishima Onsen hot springs resort, Takachihogawara, and Kirishima-jingu Shrine. In the Kinkowan Bay area in the southern part of the park, centered around Mt. Sakurajima --a still-active volcano that is the area's symbol --is unique scenery, including Mt. Kaimon, Lake Ikeda, and Chiringashima Island on the Satsuma Peninsular side; Cape Sata-misaki --home of many subtropical plants--on the Osumi Peninsular side; and the sea area within the bay.

Date of Designation : March 16, 1934

Area : 36,605 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Miyazaki, Kagoshima

web site



Inquiry

Kyushu Regional Environment Office

TEL 096-322-2412

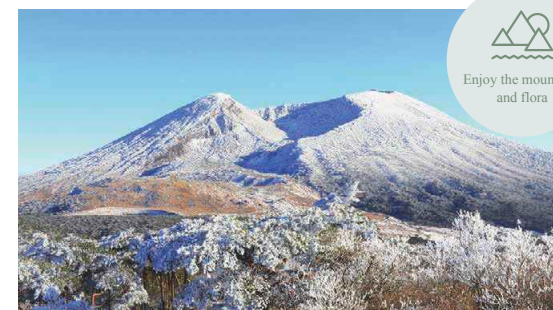
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Shigetomi Beach



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery



Mt. Karakuridake



Enjoy the mountains
and flora



Kurokami Buried Shrine Gate



Experience culture
and local life



Deer (Ebino Plateau)



Meet the wildlife

Yakushima (Island) National Park

Japan's finest mountainous island where giant trees over 1,000 years old grow and a volcanic island teeming with life nurtured by the heat of earth and the raging waves.

Yakushima Island and Kuchinoerabu-jima Island framed Yakushima National Park and are located on the bountiful sea where the Japan Current flows. Even though the distance between the islands is only 12 km, they were created from different processes and have very different natural landscapes. Yakushima Island has a steep terrain with mountains of the highest peaks in Kyushu along with remarkable natural landscapes of the forest with giant trees like Japanese cedars over 1,000 years old. The natural beauty of the island is recognized as an

outstanding universal value of the World Heritage. On the other hand, Kuchinoerabu-jima Island is the largest volcanic island among the Satsunan Islands where fumaroles activities continue. The eastern part of the island exhibits volcanic landscapes while the coastal region maintains unique natural landscapes with coastal cliffs and sea caves eroded by strong wave action. Additionally, although it is a volcanic island, it is covered with rich vegetation, and endemic species not found on Yakushima Island, like the Erabu flying fox, can be seen.

Date of Designation : March 16, 2012

Area : 24,566 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Kagoshima

web site



Inquiry

Kyushu Regional Environment Office

TEL 096-322-2412

MAIL REO-KYUSHU@env.go.jp



Nagata Beach



Enjoy the ocean, rivers, and other water scenery



Shiratanisui-kyo Ravine



Enjoy the mountains and flora



Yumugi Onsen



Experience culture and local life



Cervus nippon yakushimae



Meet the wildlife

Amamigunto National Park

Thriving nature in the subtropical islands
The forest, the ocean, and the life of the islanders.

Amamigunto National Park, a group of islands located in the southernmost part of Kagoshima Prefecture, was established as Japan's 34th national park on March 7, 2017. The Amami Islands are a thriving ecosystem made up of a diverse array of natural environments and are the habitat of many rare, endemic plant and animal species. Furthermore, a distinctive

cultural landscape, which developed from the long relationship between the islanders and nature, can still be found across the islands today. At Amamigunto National Park, you can experience both the unique natural wonders on each island, as well as the history and culture of a place where humans and nature have long led an interwoven existence.

Date of Designation : March 7, 2017

Area : 42,196 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Kagoshima

web site



Inquiry

Okinawa Amami Nature Conservation Office

TEL 098-836-6400

MAIL NCO-NAHA@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery

Oshima Strait



Enjoy the mountains
and flora

Kinsakubaru



Experience culture
and local life

Shochogama



Meet the wildlife

Banded ground gecko

Yambaru National Park

A diversity of life thrives in the subtropical Yambaru forest, its mountains, and in the lives of the people who call this home.

Yambaru National Park, located in the northern part of Okinawa Island was designated as the 33rd National Park in Japan on September 15, 2016. The park displays a diverse and varied natural environment from its subtropical evergreen laurel forest making it Japan's largest of its kind and a reflection of the process of forming the Ryukyu Islands. Its wide variety of unique plants and animals, such as Okinawa rail under a backdrop of the geological history that formed the islands, the rare animals and plants living in the park, the sea cliffs and karst lime-

stone formations, and mangrove forests all add to the diversity of its environment. Another feature alive in the cultural landscape is the day to day living, nurtured, traditions that are special to Yambaru in this natural environment. Visitors can enjoy at this great natural subtropical stage in Yambaru National Park, drives through the park, tours of scenic spots, trekking, canoeing, and animal watching. The park offers visitors an opportunity to interact with the tremendous natural beauty the area offers.

Date of Designation : September 15, 2016

Area : 17,352 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Okinawa Prefecture

web site



Inquiry

Okinawa Amami Nature Conservation Office

TEL 098-836-6400

MAIL NCO-NAHA@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery

Cape Hedo



Enjoy the mountains
and flora

ASMUI Spiritual Hikes



Experience culture
and local life

Ungami of Shioya Bay



Meet the wildlife

Okinawa Rail

Keramashoto National Park

Okinawan Sea Kerama

The world of the Kerama Blue
created by the ocean and islands.

The Kerama Islands are located around 40 km west of Naha City, Okinawa Prefecture, comprising more than 30 islets and a number of rock reefs. The islands were designated the 31st National Park in Japan on March 5, 2014, which coincides with Coral Day. The Kerama Islands boast a wide variety of landscapes extending from the land to the sea that include seascapes of exceptionally transparent waters, reefs densely populated by various species of corals, waters where humpback whales breed, sandy beaches,

sea cliffs, the vegetation unique to windy regions, and the archipelago itself. The park includes a land area of 3,520 hectares, and 90,475 hectares of ocean area, which majority of its park area is the ocean. With great accessibility because travel time is about 35 minutes to 50 minutes via high-speed vessel from the main land of Okinawa (Tomari Port, Naha City), visitors can experience scuba diving and snorkeling in a beautiful ocean renowned as the Kerama Blue and whale watching in winter.

Date of Designation : March 5, 2014

Area : 3,520 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Okinawa

web site



Inquiry

Okinawa Amami Nature Conservation Office

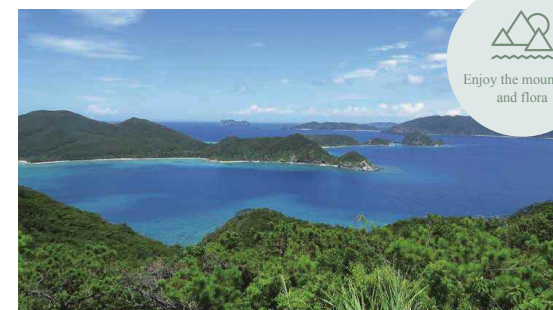
TEL 098-836-6400

MAIL NCO-NAHA@env.go.jp



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery

Furuzamami Beach



Enjoy the mountains
and flora

Takatsukiyama Observatory



Experience culture
and local life

The Festival of Sea God in the Zamami Village



Meet the wildlife

Green Sea Turtles

Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park

Primeval Subtropical Forest and Ocean with Coral Reefs.

Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park is the southernmost national park in Japan. The park is characterized by its natural landscape typical of the subtropical zone—a dynamic and abundant natural environment comprising near-primeval subtropical broad-leaved evergreen forest as well as Japan's largest mangrove forest, and coral reefs—and its human landscape imbued with a traditional Okinawa-ness that has been nurtured through everyday living within this environment. Another major characteristic is the numerous rare animal species unique to Yaeyama that can be found here, represented by the

Iriomote wild cat and Sakishima grass lizard, which has evolved independently as the archipelago separated from and rejoined the continent repeatedly. Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park provides visitors with places and opportunities for high-quality nature experiences, offering a wealth of marine leisure activities such as canoeing, snorkeling, scuba-diving, and mangrove cruises as well as land leisure activities such as trekking, animal watching, and driving against the backdrop of the vast subtropical wilderness.

Date of Designation : May 15, 1972 Incorporation of Ishigaki-jima Island Region: August 1, 2007

Area : 40,658 ha (land area)

Related Prefecture : Okinawa

web site



Inquiry

Okinawa Amami Nature Conservation Office

TEL 098-836-6400

MAIL NCO-NAHA@env.go.jp



Mariyudu-no-Taki Falls



Enjoy the ocean,
rivers, and other
water scenery



Yonehara



Enjoy the mountains
and flora



Tanadui Festival (Taketomijima Island)



Experience culture
and local life



Iriomote Cat



Meet the wildlife

National Parks of Japan ALL LINK

National Parks of Japan

<https://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/nps/park/index.html>

*English only



Visit ! National Parks!

<https://www.japan.travel/national-parks/>



Project to Fully Enjoy National Parks

<https://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/enjoy-project/index.html>

*English only



Regional Environment Office

<https://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/nps/park/office.html>

*English only



Brochure "Passing Down the Great Nature of Japan's National Parks to the Future"

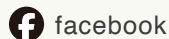
<https://www.env.go.jp/nature/park/pamph3/index.html>

*English only



Brochure "National Parks of Japan"

<https://www.env.go.jp/nature/np/pamph4/index.html>



日本語



English



日本語



English

OTHERS

Japan National Parks Photo/Video Collection for Media Use

The Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan offers a collection of photos and videos (website) for use in various PR media outlets to promote and increase understanding of Japan's national parks domestically and internationally. The Ministry will provide detailed information to access the website following confirmation of the application details such as media name and usage. Please submit applications to the National Park Visitor Use Promotion Office of the Ministry of the Environment using the method at the bottom at this webpage.

Request Submission Information (Request for both of the above)

National Park Visitor Use Promotion Office, Ministry of the Environment

E-mail koen_prize@env.go.jp (Requests are only accepted by email)

*It may take time to confirm and respond to your request. Please submit your application well in advance.

*Please understand that applications may be declined following confirmation of the application details.

Required items in the application email

- 1 Company/organization name and job title of the requester
- 2 Requester's name (full name)
- 3 Daytime contact phone number on weekdays (JST)
- 4 Media type (TV, newspaper, website, social media, display of a printed image, other, etc.)
- 5 Media name
 - *In case of a website or social media, please include the URL.
 - *In case of applying to display a printed image, please include the name and address of the venue where the image is to be displayed
- 6 Distribution start and scheduled end date
(In case of applying to use a collection of photos and videos, scheduled end date can be TBD.)
- 7 Usage and purpose of photo(s)/video(s) to be used
(How use of the photo(s)/video(s) will contribute to promoting the national parks of Japan, etc.)
Personal information in the application will be strictly managed and used solely for the application to use the collection of photos/videos and confirmation of the usage details. Unless otherwise stated in laws and regulations, personal information will not be disclosed to a third party without consent from the applicant.

Personal information management controller

National Park Visitor Use Promotion Office,
National Park Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment

SASAKI Shinjiro, Director, National Park Visitor Use Promotion Office
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975

*See <https://www.env.go.jp/johokokai/index.html> for details on personal information protection by the Ministry of the Environment