

Visiting Japan's National Parks—Rules & Advice

Welcome to the National Parks of Japan



Japan has 34 national parks that encompass diverse natural landscapes, from the cold climes of Hokkaido in the north to the subtropical islands of Okinawa in the south. Japan's national parks comprise primeval forests, marine environments, farmlands, and villages. An enormous variety of wildlife and endemic species inhabit the parks.

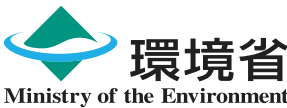
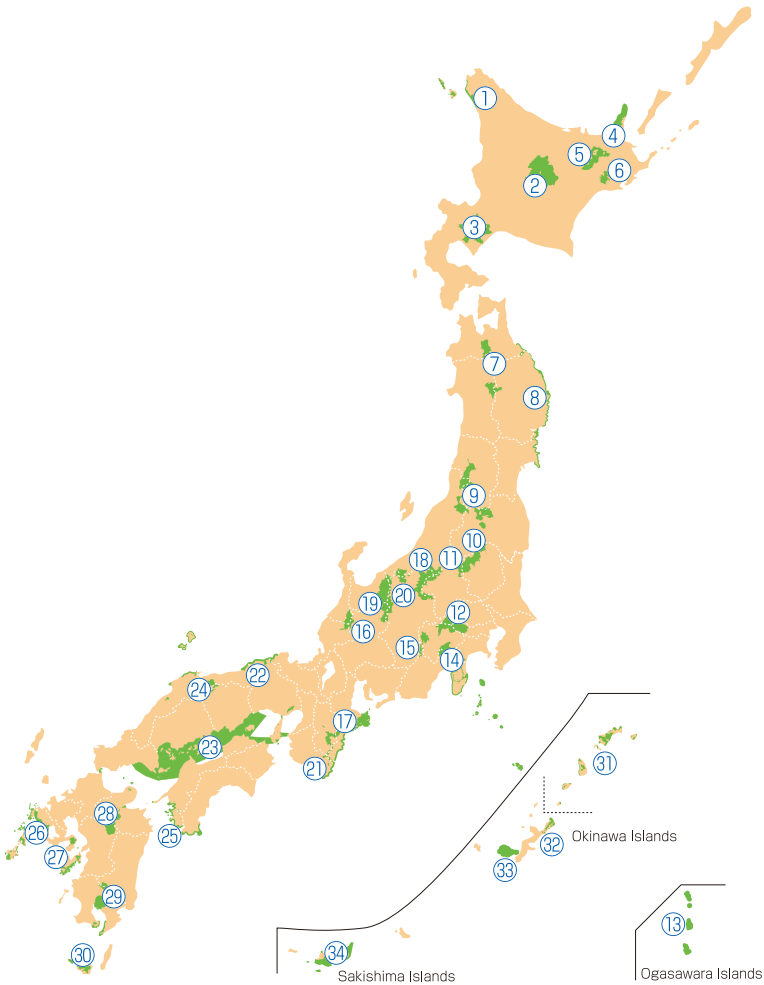
The national parks of Japan receive more than 300 million visitors each year. They offer countless outdoor activities in each season as well as opportunities to experience the history and culture of the people who live within the parks. Enjoy the scenic beauty and natural environments of Japan's national parks with respect for the rules that keep the parks clean and safe.

The Japanese government designates national parks in accordance with the National Park Act.

Contact Information

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Each national park may have its own park-specific rules, regulations, and safety warnings. Always check before you visit by visiting the park website or contacting their offices by phone (Japanese language only) or email (English available).



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

Godochosha No. 5, Kasumigaseki 1-2-2, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 100-8975, Japan. TEL : 03-3581-3351

The latest information about National Parks is provided on the following websites.

Ministry of the Environment :
<http://www.env.go.jp/>



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



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Visiting Japan's National Parks—Rules & Advice

Our national parks are precious. Rules are in place to protect the environment and for the safety of all visitors.



Removing animals, plants, or stones from any park is strictly prohibited, as doing so may disrupt the natural balance of the park's ecosystems.

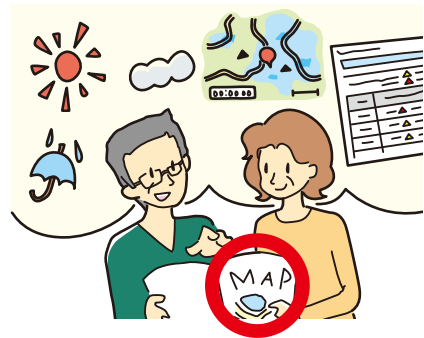


Do not camp or light fires outside of designated areas. Campfires outside of designated areas may damage vegetation, attract bears and other wild animals in search of food, and cause wildfires.



Use park facilities with care and respect. Keep them clean for other visitors and be aware that graffiti is a crime.

Please enjoy the national parks responsibly. Be considerate of other visitors, consider your safety, and respect the natural environment.



Plan ahead

Plan visits to Japan's national parks with care, researching important information before visiting. If you plan to hike, check the weather, trail conditions, access information, and safety warnings such as volcanic activity reports.



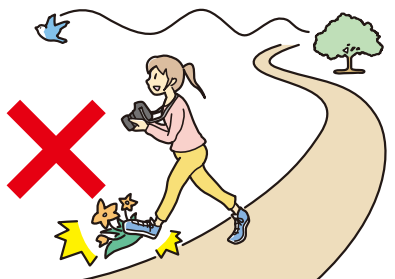
Drive carefully

If traveling by car, make sure you check each park's traffic rules and restrictions before visiting—Parks employ varied conservation methods, including implementing traffic restrictions. Always drive safely and be careful to avoid collisions with deer and other wild animals.



Check restroom availability

Always check the availability of toilets. Use the restroom before setting out on a hike, and bring a portable toilet bag with you. Do not dispose of any toilet waste within the park in order to prevent water and soil contamination.



Stay on designated trails

Do not stray from designated hiking trails, walking paths, or boardwalks in order to avoid getting lost or damaging the surrounding soil and vegetation. If you use trekking poles, use tip covers to prevent soil erosion on the paths.



Leave no trace

Help protect the natural environment of the parks by taking all waste with you. Bring a trash bag and refrain from disposing of garbage in the national parks. Food waste disposed of improperly can attract wild animals.



Be careful around water

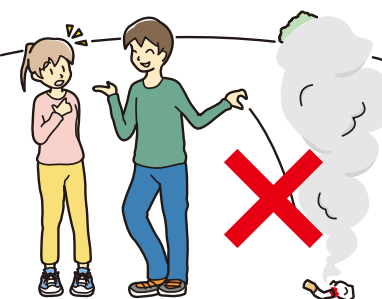
Check water safety regulations at each park and be careful around bodies of water. Be aware of strong currents and riptides, and always check tidal information and water levels.



Do not feed wild animals

Feeding wild animals may lead to changes in their behavior. Animals may become aggressive, develop health conditions, or become dependent on humans for food. These changes could lead to accidents, injuries, and death.

If you encounter a bear or wild boar, move away quietly, taking care not to startle it.



Smoke in designated areas only

Do not smoke outside of designated smoking areas or while walking. Cigarette ashes and butts may cause wildfires. Use a portable ashtray in designated areas only and dispose of ashes and butts with caution, only where permitted.



Be careful around coral

Do not touch coral, and be careful not to damage it with fins when snorkeling or diving.



Be considerate of local communities

People live in Japan's national parks. Be respectful of local communities by keeping noise levels down. Take care not to trespass on private property or disturb farming, fishing, or forestry activities taking place in the area.