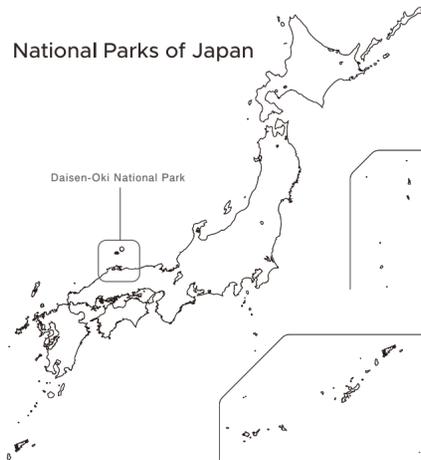


# Daisen-Oki National Park

National Parks of Japan



## National Parks of Japan



National parks are designated by the government of Japan based on the Natural Parks Act as natural scenic areas representing the country.

From Hokkaido in the north to Okinawa and the Ogasawara Islands in the south, there are 34 officially designated national parks, which are visited by more than 300 million people a year.

National parks not only provide natural scenic beauty but also are the gold mines of such attractions as wild plants and animals and history and culture. The national parks of Japan are characterized by the fact that they contain various environments, including forests, agricultural lands, and villages. While some places offer opportunities to explore natural sites that have remained virtually intact over the years, others contain areas that blend traditional lifestyles with the surrounding natural environment, allowing visitors to experience Japanese history and culture.

Please visit a national park, and fully enjoy Japan's beautiful natural environment and its changes through the four different seasons.

## Characteristics

Mountains, islands, and the sea, where myths and mountain worship have long been kept alive in people's daily life

Daisen-Oki National Park is a park marked with varied scenery consisting of four areas, including a mountainous area on the east where there is a series of many mountains, an active volcano zone on the west, coast, and isolated 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 plants and animals that adapted to the environment.

The coast 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 the coast and islands plants and animals factors as ocean currents.

In addition, the Japanese mythology, *Kunibiki Shinwa* (which tells that this area was created by a deity who brought the land from beyond the ocean and connected to this place), was set in this area, and the area retains the traditional deep relationship with nature, inhabitants, and their lives.

[Date of Designation] February 1, 1936 [Area] 35,097 ha [Related Prefectures] Tottori, Shimane, Okayama



Matengai Cliff

## Wild Animals and Plants Ecosystem

### | Mountainous Area

Mt. Daisen is covered by abundant forests, and above all, it is marked by one of the largest natural beech forests in western Japan, which spreads over the mountain at 800 m to 1,300 m above sea level, and the wind-swept shrub zone of Japanese Yew trees growing at 1,300 m above sea level and above. There also are beech forests on Mt. Kenashi and Mt. Sanbe, as well as the evergreen forest and cool-temperate forest on Mt. Mitoku. Another characteristic of this park is the wide distribution of grasslands, which are represented by the ridgeline of Hiruzen and the summit and foot of Mt. Sanbe.

On Mt. Daisen, the wind-swept shrub forest zone situated at 1,300 m above sea level is populated by alpine flora, such as *Phyllodoce nipponica* Makino, *Gaultheria adenotrix*, *Geranium shikokianum* Matsum, and *Veronicastrum japonicum* (Nakai) T. Yamaz. var. *austral* (T.Yamaz) T.Yamaz, and showcases splendid alpine meadows in early summer. A deciduous broadleaf forest lies across the hillsides, which is inhabited by a great variety of flora, including the spring ephemeral dogtooth violets, as well as *Luehdorfia japonica*.

The grassland of each area is a habitat and growing environment of rare grassland fauna, and of particular note is *Melitaea protomeia protomeia*, which only survives on a few grasslands around the Chugoku Mountains.



Japanese Yew



A Beech Forest in Mt. Kenashi



Veronicastrum japonicum var. australe



### | Coast / Islands

On the Oki Islands, the vegetation coexists in low-lying areas along the coastline, such as *Ramano*s roses (plant normally found in northern Japan), Nago orchids (plant normally found in Southern Japan), *Aster spatulifolius* (continental plant), and *Allium schoenoprasum* var. *orientale* (subalpine plant). The inland area is inhabited by the indigenous Oki salamander to form unique ecosystems. In addition, the marine area is home to all six species of seagrass found in the Sea of Japan and famed as one of the largest seagrass beds there. It is also marked by the habitat of *Caulerpa scalpelliformis* var. *denticulata*, the only seaweed listed as a National Natural Monument.

The Shimane Peninsula abounds with rocky shores that people cannot easily access, making it an ideal breeding ground for seabirds. Above all, the Fumi-shima Island is one of Japan's most vital rookeries for the black-tailed gull.



Oki salamander



A seaweed forest of Chibu



Black-tailed gull (Fumi-shima Island)

## Conservation Efforts

- One-Tree, One-Stone Campaign for Mt. Daisen summit - Although the majority of the summit became a bare land with a rapid increase of climbers, thanks to the efforts of the public and private sector and the One-Tree, One-Stone Campaign conducted by the Mt. Daisen Summit Protection Group established in 1985, climbers started to bring designated nursery trees and stones to the summit, and as a result, the past vegetation is showing signs of recovery. This activity has been ongoing even at present.

### - Natural environment conservation activities in Kagamiganaru -

The foot of mountain of Mt. Zoyama, situated on the north side of Kagamiganaru, constitute a large field of Japanese pampas grass and mountainous marshland that were previously a pastureland and meadow.

In order to preserve them, maintenance operations and surveys have been in place with the cooperation of the investigative commission consisting of persons with relevant knowledge and experience and related organizations, municipalities, and local organizations.

### - Collaboration with the Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geoparks -

In Oki, the local residents are proactively supporting the Geoparks, and the Ministry of the Environment is pursuing initiatives to preserve the excellent natural environment and culture of Oki and ensure their sustainable use in cooperation with the Geoparks in many ways, including events and lectures to interact with nature, extermination of invasive plants, creation of environmental education programs, and the installation of information signs.



## Contact List

Chugoku-Shikoku Regional Environment Office  
11F, Okayama Joint Government Building No. 2,  
1-4-1 Shimoishii, Kita Ward, Okayama City, Okayama Prefecture  
700-0907  
TEL: 086-223-1577 FAX: 086-224-2081  
URL: <http://chushikoku.env.go.jp/>

**Mt. Daisen / Hiruzen Area**  
**Daisen-Oki National Park Office**  
4F, Yonago Regional Joint Government Building,  
124-16 Higashi-cho, Yonago City, Tottori Prefecture  
683-0067  
TEL: 0859-34-9331 FAX: 0859-34-9330

**Shimane Peninsula Area / Mt. Sanbe Area**  
**Matsue Ranger Office**  
5F, Matsue Regional Joint Government Building,  
134-10 Mukojima-cho, Matsue City, Shimane Prefecture  
690-0841  
TEL: 0852-21-7626 FAX: 0852-21-7639

**Oki Islands Area**  
**Oki Ranger Office**  
55 Johoku-cho, Okinoshima Town, Oki County, Shimane Prefecture  
685-0016  
TEL: 08512-2-0149 FAX: 08512-2-0150

Daisen-Oki National Park Website  
<https://www.japan.travel/national-parks/parks/daisen-oki/>



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\* The Highlights Map was compiled for the purpose of providing an overview of a designated area. Please be aware that it may contain inaccuracies.



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## Terrain Geological features



### | Mountainous Area

The mountainous area encompassing Mt. Daisen, Hiruzen, and Mt. Sanbe was mainly formed as a result of volcanic activity.

Mt. Daisen, the highest peak in the Chugoku region (1,729 m above sea level), is a volcanic mountain marked by a lava dome formed over the stratovolcano with bluffs on the northern and southern cliff that extend to the mountain top presenting rough mountain scenes.

The Hiruzen Three Peaks (consisting of Mt. Kami-Hiruzen, Mt. Naka-Hiruzen, and Mt. Shimo-Hiruzen) are also volcanic mountains. The foot of the mountain is the Hiruzen Highland, which was formed as a result of a volcanic eruption parching a lake.

In addition, Mt. Sanbe has a lava dome and three lakes in circumference, which were also made by volcanic activity.

### | Coast/Islands

The Shimane Peninsula was thought to be separated from the mainland during previous fault events, and later the Izumo Plain, Matsue Plain, and the Yumigahama Peninsula formed as a result of alleviation of rivers on the mainland, reconnecting to the mainland once again.

The foundation of the Oki Islands was created during ancient volcanic activity, and the land sank into the sea and connected to the mainland repeatedly as a result of crustal and climate changes that followed, which formed isolated islands about 10,000 years ago.

After the lengthy process just described, a submerged beach and raised beach were formed. Additionally, as the peninsula eroded from the wintry seasonal winds and ocean waves, a great variety of seashore landscapes encompassing sea cliffs, cave mouths, and caverns were generated.



Northern cliff of Mt. Daisen



Mt. Sanbe



Hinomisaki Beach (Raised beach)



Kuniga Coast



Rosoku-jima Island (Candle Island)

## Culture



### | Mountainous Area

Mt. Daisen has been traditionally worshiped as a sacred mountain and since the initial opening of the Daisenji Temple took place during the Heian era (the 8th to the 12th century), it was crowded with many worshippers up to the Edo era (the 17 to the 19th century). Today, there still is the pilgrimage route (Daisen-michi Trails) on the mountain as a remnant from those days.

In addition, Mt. Senjo and Mt. Mitoku, which are honored as the Hoki Sanrei along with Mt. Daisen, have been regarded as the place of mountain worship since days of old.

By contrast, there are grasslands across Mt. Sanbe and Hiruzen, where people engage in cattle breeding and other operations to make a living. Today, some places still inherit the tradition of "controlled field burning" to help new grass bud by burning unnecessary plants.

### | Coast / Islands

Both the Oki Islands and Shimane Peninsula are the setting of Japanese mythological tales, which tell the beginning of the country of Japan such as *Kunibiki Shinwa*. The Shimane Peninsula in particular has a number of historical sites and landmarks associated with the myths, including the Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine, which is said to have served as the center of the ancient Izumo culture about 1,500 to 3,000 years ago, as well as the Hinomisaki Shrine, and Kaka no Kukedo.



The torii gate of the Daisen-michi Trail (Yokote-michi Trail)



Izumo Grand Shrine



Mt. Mitoku Sanbutuji Temple Main Hall



Controlled field burning of Mt. Sanbe and Nishinohara

## Activity



### | Mountainous Area

The mountainous area consists of a variety of elements that include dynamic volcanic landforms, rich forests, vast grass-covered plains, and the unique biological environment. Here, you can enjoy its nature throughout the year by trekking, cycling, camping, snow sports, and cultural and religious experiences.

### | Coast / Islands

The coast and islands feature a range of seashore landscapes and a unique biological environment, and they retain traditional beliefs and a deep relationship with nature, inhabitants, and their lives. Here, you can enjoy such activities as camping, marine sports, trekking, and cruising.



Downhill cycling from the middle of Mt. Daisen to the Sea of Japan



Snow Fat Bike (Hiruzen Highland)



Kukedo Sightseeing Boat (Kaka no Kukedo)



Wagasa Night (Daisenji Temple)



Sea Kayaking (Oki Islands)

## National Parks Etiquette

Please keep in mind the importance of nature and observe the following while staying in the national park so that everyone can enjoy.

- Do not litter.
- Do not pick flowers and plants.
- Do not feed any wildlife.
- Do not catch/capture any wildlife.
- No smoking is permitted while walking.
- Bonfires shall be built within the designated area only.

- Camping is allowed in the campground only.
- Vehicles are allowed on the road and parking lot only.
- Please do not leave the boardwalk or trail. Stay on it to protect the vegetation.
- Please note that heavy traffic and street parking happen in the vicinity of the Daisenji ski area during winter. Visitors to the ski area are advised to park vehicles in the Makihara Parking and take a shuttle bus.
- As a safety measure for hikers and climbers, both climbing and descending notifications must be submitted along with sufficient preparation and plan in advance.
- Prior to hiking or climbing, prepare yourself well, and make sure to use washrooms before you start. You are also advised to bring your own portable toilet.

\*Mt. Misen summit and the mountain shelter of Motodani are the only locations with available public toilet facilities on Daisen mountain paths.

01 | Jodogaura Coast 



Here visitors can savor the commanding view of archipelago seascapes consisting of a wide variety of rock formations. The beach is equipped with footpaths and a viewing platform.

02 | Shizen-Kaiki-no-Mori Forest 



In Mt. Daimanji, there is an approximately 800-year-old huge Chichi-sugi Japanese Cedar tree. A natural forest of cedar trees in the vicinity has been protected as an object of worship for nature since long ago.

03 | Akiya Coast 



Marked by the red basalt abrupt cliff, it is equipped with footpaths and public restrooms, and visitors can enjoy camping and strolling.

04 | Kuniga Coast 



Take a walk amongst the dynamic coastal scenery, sculpted by the wild waves of the Sea of Japan. There is the 257 m-high Maten-gai Cliff, which are among the highest in Japan, as well as the magnificent Tsutenkyo Arch. Absorb the dramatic scenery from the sightseeing boat.

05 | Sekiheki (Red Cliff) 



Here visitors can observe the traces when the volcano exploded in primordial times. The sunset cruise takes visitors to see a fantastic crimson hue when the surface of Sekiheki becomes enveloped in the evening glow of the setting sun.

06 | Mihonoseki 



This place is well equipped with footpaths stretching from Gohonmatsu Park, where beautiful azalea flowers are seen in spring, up to around the Mihonoseki Lighthouse, which commands a 360-degree panoramic view of the Sea of Japan. In summer, visitors can enjoy watching numerous *isaribi* (fires for luring fish at night) sparkling on a lot of squid-fishing boats, and also experience the scooping of flying fish using a big net. Every morning at Miho Shrine, visitors can participate in the ritual of making offerings to its enshrined deity.

07 | Kaka no Kukedo (Cave) 



Kaka no Kukedo refers to caverns that developed on a coastal cliff by wave erosion. Visitors can see inside the caves from a sightseeing boat visiting such spots as Shin-kukedo, a huge cavern associated with a myth about the birth of a deity. At the Katsurashima Island connected from Kaka no Kukedo via the coastline, visitors can enjoy such activities as sea bathing, camping, and strolling.

08 | Hinomisaki 



Located at the westernmost tip of the Shimane Peninsula stands the Hinomisaki Lighthouse and Hinomisaki Shrine. The local coastline features a protruding coast, and its complex topography forms an impressive landscape visible from the coast.

09 | Mt. Senjo 



Mt. Senjo attracts climbers with its unique shape that resembles a folding screen. Partway up its slope, climbers can admire a breathtaking view of Odaki falls and Medaki falls. There also are historic sites related to Emperor Go-Daigo, who escaped to this place from the political upheaval of Kyoto in the 14th century.

10 | Mt. Mitoku 



This mountain is home to a group of religious facilities related to mountain worship as represented by the national treasure, Nageiredo Hall. The area features a vertical distribution of continuous natural forests ranging from evergreen laurel forests of *Quercus salicina* to deciduous broadleaf forests of cool-temperate beech trees.

11 | Mt. Daisen 



Mt. Daisen as seen from the south (from Kagikake-toge Pass)

Constituting the highest peak in the Chugoku region, Mt. Daisen reveals different aspects of itself to visitors depending on the angle from which it is seen. When seen from the west, the form of the mountain is graceful; however, the mountain utterly exhibits a different version with rugged surfaces when seen from the north or the south. Having been worshipped as a sacred mountain since days of old, Mt. Daisen is the site of historic ruins and old temples and shrines. The peak is truly enchanting throughout the year thanks to the fresh verdure of spring, the appearance of mountaineers in summer, the colored leaves of autumn, and the use of its slopes for skiing in winter.

12 | Oku-Daisen/Kagamiganaru 



Surrounded by Mt. Giboshi, Mt. Zoyama, and Mt. Karasugasen, Kagamiganaru occupies a rather rare example of a wetland for the Daisen area. The vicinity constitutes a grassland consisting of Japanese silver grass. The area is well equipped with campgrounds, ski slopes, and lodging facilities.

13 | 14 | Hiruzen Three Peaks Hiruzen Highland 



At 500 to 600 m above sea level, the highland area lies at the foot of the Hiruzen Three Peaks, a mountain range (consisting of Mt. Kami-Hiruzen, Mt. Naka-Hiruzen and Mt. Shimo-Hiruzen), allowing visitors to enjoy sports throughout the year, including cycling, camping, and skiing. The grassland is preserved by *yamayaki* ("controlled field burning").

15 | Mt. Kenashi 

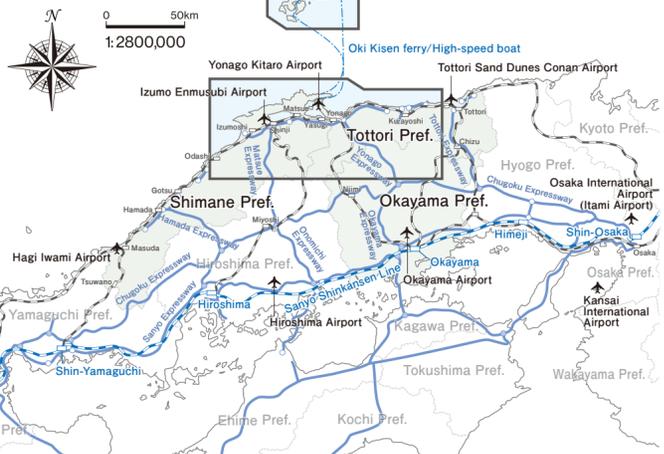


Colonies of dogtooth violets grow on Mt. Kenashi, while natural forests of beech and other trees flourish on the slopes. This mountaintop also affords fantastic views, such that visitors can see as far as Mt. Daisen, the Hiruzen Three Peaks, and the Yumigahama Peninsula on clear days.

Location of Daisen-Oki National Park



Main Access



**Legend**

- National Park Area
- Expressway (toll section)
- Expressway (toll-free section)
- National Route
- Prefectural Road
- Shinkansen
- JR
- Private Railway
- Ferry/High-speed boat
- Prefectural Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- I.C. (Interchange)
- JCT. (Junction)
- Michi-no-Eki (Roadside Rest Area)
- Major sightseeing spots
- Tourist Information Center
- Hot Springs
- Mountain
- Airport
- Harbor

\*For confirmation on the details about areas, etc., please inquire with the applicable national park office or other facility.

Information Facilities Access Transportation

<p><b>Daisen National Park Centre</b> Daisen 40-33, Daisen Town, Saihaku County, Tottori Prefecture [TEL] 0859-52-2165 [OPEN] 8:00 - 18:30, Free of charge</p>	<p><b>Tottori Prefectural Daisen Museum of Nature and History</b> 43 Daisen, Daisen Town, Saihaku County, Tottori Prefecture [TEL] 0859-52-2327 [OPEN] 9:00 - 17:00 (Summer period: open until 18:30), Free of charge</p>	<p><b>Oki Islands Geopark Museum</b> Geopark Visitor Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 61 Memukimoyan, Nakamachi, Okinoshima Town, Oki Country, Shimane Prefecture [TEL] 08512-2-1583 [OPEN] 9:30 - 17:00 (Close second and fourth Tuesday), Requires a fee</p>																																							
<p><b>Shimane Prefatural Nature Museum of Mt. Sanbe "Sahime!"</b> 1121-8 Tane, Sanbe Town, Oda City, Shimane Prefecture [TEL] 0854-86-0500 [OPEN] 9:30 - 17:00 (Closed on Tuesdays), Requires a fee</p>	<p><b>Access Transportation</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Tokyo International Airport (Haneda)</td> <td>Osaka International (Itami) Airport</td> <td>Tokyo International Airport (Haneda)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Airplane (About 75 min.)</td> <td>Airplane (About 50 min.)</td> <td>Airplane (About 50 min.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Airplane (About 90 min.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Izumo Enmushubi Airport</td> <td>Yonago Kitaro Airport</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bus (About 25 min.)</td> <td>Airplane (About 30 min.)</td> <td>JR (About 20 min.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Bus (About 30 min.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Izumo-Shi Sta.</td> <td>Oki Islands Global Geopark Airport</td> <td>Yonago Sta.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Shichirui Port</td> <td>Bus (About 15 min.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Ferry (About 145 min.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Bus (About 10 min.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oda-Shi Sta.</td> <td>Saigo Port</td> <td>Bus (About 50 min.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bus (About 60 min.)</td> <td></td> <td>Walk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nature Museum of Mt. Sanbe "Sahime!"</td> <td>Oki Islands Geopark Museum</td> <td>Daisen National Park Centre</td> </tr> </table>		Tokyo International Airport (Haneda)	Osaka International (Itami) Airport	Tokyo International Airport (Haneda)	Airplane (About 75 min.)	Airplane (About 50 min.)	Airplane (About 50 min.)			Airplane (About 90 min.)	Izumo Enmushubi Airport	Yonago Kitaro Airport		Bus (About 25 min.)	Airplane (About 30 min.)	JR (About 20 min.)			Bus (About 30 min.)	Izumo-Shi Sta.	Oki Islands Global Geopark Airport	Yonago Sta.		Shichirui Port	Bus (About 15 min.)			Ferry (About 145 min.)			Bus (About 10 min.)	Oda-Shi Sta.	Saigo Port	Bus (About 50 min.)	Bus (About 60 min.)		Walk	Nature Museum of Mt. Sanbe "Sahime!"	Oki Islands Geopark Museum	Daisen National Park Centre
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\* For more information about opening hours, etc., please inquire with each facility.

\* Access routes are examples. For more information, please inquire with each transportation facility or check their website.

\* The time required in each section is a rough indication.