

Oki Islands Region



Chugoku-Shikoku Regional Environment Office, Ministry of the Environment

National Parks of Japan

National Parks are designated by the national government for managing areas of exceptionally stunning natural beauty representative of the country of Japan. The system of national parks is in place to preserve high quality nature and wildlife habitat, while also providing natural areas for the people of Japan to enjoy and learn about nature. Currently, 35 National Parks have been designated around the country, from Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu National Park in the north to Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park in the south.

Daisen-Oki National Park

Designated: February 1, 1936
 Oki Islands Region incorporated: April 10, 1963
 Shimane Peninsula Region incorporated: April 10, 1963
 Mt. Sanbe Region incorporated: April 10, 1963
 Hiruzen Region expanded: April 10, 1963
 Mt. Kenashi Region expanded: March 26, 2002
 Mt. Mitoku Region expanded: March 19, 2014

Total land area
 35,097 ha (Oki Islands Region: 7,399 ha)
 Marine Park Zone: 51.6 ha (Oki Islands Region: 50.5 ha)

Prefectures
 Tottori, Shimane, Okayama

Characteristics
 Mountains, Islands, and the Sea: A Region where Mythology and Mountain Worship are Alive and Well in Daily Life

The highest mountain in the Chugoku region - Daisen - which is part of a group of volcanoes including Hiruzen and Sanbe, as well as the plateaus at the base of the volcanoes, the ria coast of the Shimane Peninsula, and the Oki volcanic island group. Visitors can take in the largest expanse of beech forest in western Japan, rare grassland plants and animals, and the unique ecosystems of isolated islands.

For Inquiries Regarding the Park

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 Matsue National Park Ranger Station (Shimane Peninsula and Mt. Sanbe Regions)
 Phone: 0852-21-7626
 134-10 Mukojima-cho, Matsue City, Shimane Prefecture, 5th Floor, Matsue Regional Government Office, Zip Code 690-0841
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 Phone: 0851-22-0149
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Highlights of the Dogo Region



01 - Coastal scenery born from the rough waves of the Sea of Japan

The foundations of the Oki Islands were formed by ancient volcanic activity, and erosion by winter seasonal winds and waves has created a diverse coastal landscape that includes sea cliffs, rock tunnels, caves and more. One of the stand-out coastal sights on Dogo is called Rosoku-jima (Candle Island), a strangely shaped rock formation jutting out of the sea. The spectacular view of the tip against the setting sun can be enjoyed from a sightseeing boat. Other scenic spots include the Shirashima Coast, which offers a panoramic view of the complicated coastal terrain, and Jodogaura Coast, which features a distinctive archipelago landscape.



Jodogaura Coast



Rosoku-jima (Candle Island)



Shirashima Coast

02 - Chichi-sugi Japanese Cedar G2

This tree gets its name from the 24 large and small branches that extend downward from the trunk, which resemble breasts. It is around 800 years old. The area around the Chichi-sugi Japanese Cedar is a windhole, and wind cooled by groundwater blows out through the gaps in the basalt.



03 - Shizen-kaiki-no-mori Forest G2

Around Mt. Daimanji, the highest peak (608 m) on Dogo, you can explore and enjoy the magnificent, natural scenery, including the view from the observation platform of Byobu-iwa Rock (Folding-screen Rock), the sheer cliffs of Washigamine Ridge and the Tokage-iwa (Lizard Rock) formation. Another highlight is the primeval forest filled with cedar trees that are hundreds of years old.



Washigamine Ridge

04 - Dangyo-no-taki Waterfalls F3

On either side of Dangyo Shrine, which was built in the center of the rock cliff, are two waterfalls, O-daki (male waterfall) and Me-daki (female waterfall), tumbling down from a height of 40 meters. Known in Oki as the 'water of victory,' these falls have been selected for inclusion among Japan's "100 Remarkable Waters" and "One Hundred Waterfalls of Japan."



05 - Tamawakasu-mikoto Shrine G3

This shrine was established as the soja (a type of shrine where the deities of a region are grouped together into a single sanctuary) of a unique architectural style called Oki-zukuri. The main hall is built in the a unique architectural style called Oki-zukuri, and within the grounds is a nationally designated natural monument, the Yao-sugi Japanese Cedar, estimated to be 2,000 years old. During the Goree-furyu Festival, one of the three major festivals of the Dogo area, a religious ceremony is held in which a sacred horse gallops up to the shrine.



Highlights of the Dozen Region



06 - Kuniga Coast A1 A2

The west coast of Nishinoshima is lined with cliffs and caves carved by the fierce waves of the Sea of Japan. Enjoy magnificent scenery which stretches out over roughly 7 km, including the Matengai Cliff, which reaches about 257 m above sea level, and the huge Tsutenkyo Arch rock formation. Additionally, the area atop the towering cliffs is gentle terrain covered in grasslands where cattle and horses graze and, through which, a walking path runs, connecting Kunigahama Beach with the Matengai Cliff.



Tsutenkyo Arch



Matengai Cliff



07 - Takuhi Shrine B2

This shrine is located on the hillside of Mt. Takuhi, the highest peak in the Dozen Islands and the result of the eruption which created the Dozen Caldera. The shrine, built into a cave, enshrines the god of safe voyages and has been a place of worship for many years. You will also see Takuhi-denda, which is a fern endemic to the Oki Islands.



08 - Akiya Coast C1

Legend has it that a goddess gave birth on this coast. The red rocks that make up the cliffs were formed when hot lava, from the volcanic crater that the location used to be, splashed out onto the ground and came into contact with the air. The rock on the west side of the coast is also called Heart Rock because of how its central section resembles a heart.



09 - Sekiheki (Red Cliff) B4

These cliffs, which reach roughly 200 m above sea level at their highest, allow you to see the cross section of the Dozen volcano. The cliffs are red and are the result of magma droplets from volcanic eruptions. The striped pattern is also interrupted by a column of whitish stone (trachyte).



10 - Mt. Akahage B3

From the observation platform you can see the Dozen Caldera in its entirety along with the mainland. Many cattle graze in the area, and the makihata farming method was once practiced here. Traces of that past are evident from the myogaki (stone walls) that can still be found here.



Popular Activities in the Oki Islands

In the Oki Islands, you can enjoy a variety of coastal and underwater scenery through sea kayaking, diving, sightseeing boats and more. You can also take in the magnificent, natural scenery while enjoying trekking, cycling, camping and other activities, as well as experience the unique lifestyles, history and culture of the people on these remote islands.

NATIONAL PARKS OF JAPAN
<https://www.japan.travel/national-parks/>



Trekking



Cycling

Sea kayaking

Request

- Please do not leave garbage behind
- Please do not pick flowers or gather any other plants
- Please do not feed the wild animals
- Please do not capture any animals

- No camping outside the designated campsites.
- To protect the vegetation, please do not walk outside the boardwalks or formed paths.
- Only build bonfires at the designated places.
- Do not drive your car outside of roadways and parking lots.

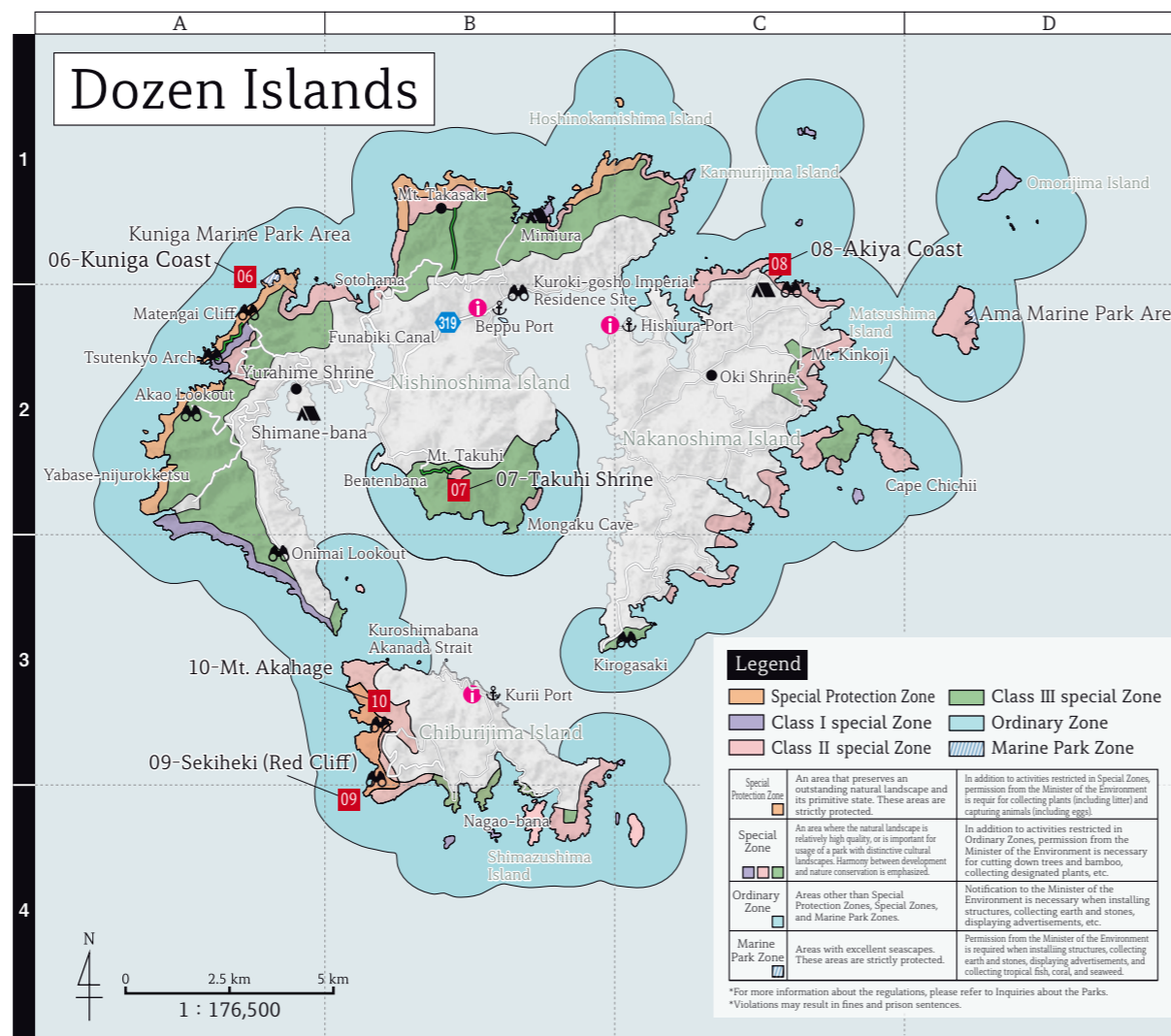
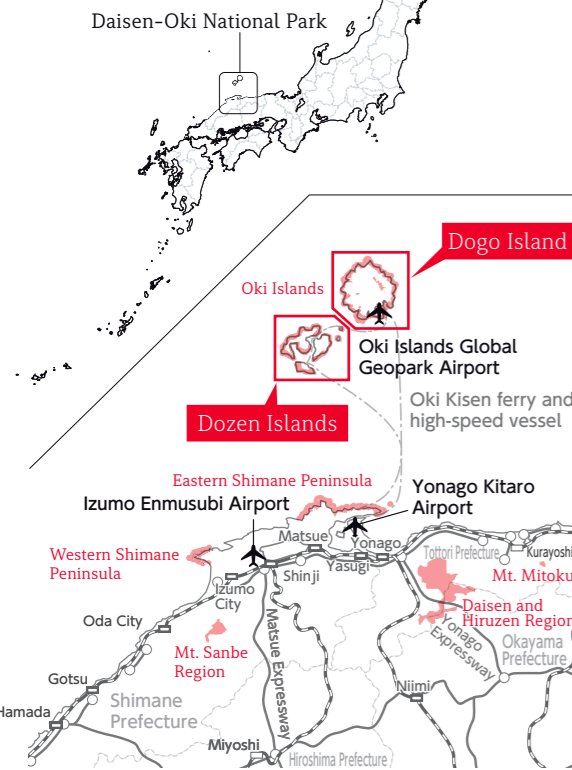
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Location of Daisen-Oki National Park



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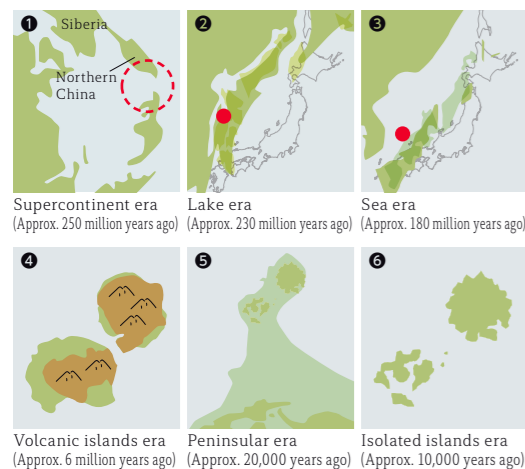
Formation of the Land

The foundations of the Oki Islands' current shape originate with volcanic activity about 6 million years ago. Since then, the land has continued to be affected by crustal movement and climate change, sometimes submerging it under the sea and sometimes lifting it to connect with the Shimane Peninsula. This process continues to this day.

About 250 million years ago, the earth had a single, massive continent called Pangaea. We know the Oki Islands were once part of this because of rock known as Oki gneiss*.

These islands allow us to trace the course of earth's history from about 250 million years ago to the present.

*A type of rock shaped by underground heat and pressure about 250 million years ago.



Flora and Fauna of the Oki Islands

In the Oki Islands, plants that normally grow in different environments, such as the northern rugosa rose, the southern Nagoran orchid, the continental seashore spatulate aster, and the subalpine oriental chive, grow together in the same place in the lowlands along the coast.

Additionally, all six species of seaweed found in the Sea of Japan grow in this area, making it one of the largest seaweed beds in the Sea of Japan. It is also the



only *Caulerpa scalpelliformis* habitat in the country that has been designated a national natural monument. Endemic plants and animals, such as the Oki Salamander, Oki hare and Oki rhododendron, live here, and the surrounding uninhabited islands are breeding grounds for seabirds such as the streaked shearwater and the Japanese murrelet, which is a nationally designated natural monument and endangered species.



Culture of the Oki Islands

The Oki Islands are historic islands that appear in the Japanese creation myth given in the *Kojiki*. It is believed that the reason why the Oki Islands have been considered such important islands in Japan since prehistoric times is due to the active distribution of obsidian which was mined in the Oki region. Another cultural element that originated from the climate of the Oki region was the self-sufficient makihata farming method that efficiently produced crops, even with poor soil. This practice lasted up until around 1970. The myogaki (stone walls) that bounded the fields of the time can still be seen today. Some other distinctive cultural practices that developed as a result of living on remote islands include Oki Traditional Sumo and Ushi-zuki bull sumo, and these are still passed down to this day, attracting many people from both inside and outside the islands.



Cooperation with Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark

The Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark was designated in recognition of the precious natural heritage that the Oki Islands embodies. Local residents take the lead in pursuing efforts to preserve Oki's incredible natural environment, including its topography and geology, as well as its culture, while using it for education and tourism in order to promote the sustainable development of the region. The National Park and Oki Geopark overlap in many areas and, thus, work together to carry out such projects as combating invasive species and maintaining hiking trails.

