

Daisen-Oki National Park

National
Parks
of Japan



What are National Parks?

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.



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Daisen-Oki National Park Website

<http://www.env.go.jp/park/daisen/>

Facebook page

Instagram account

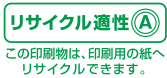


大山隠岐国立公園/
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※ The Highlights Map was compiled for the purpose of providing an overview of a designated area. Please be aware that it may contain inaccuracies.



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Characteristics

Mountains and Islands Where Myths Interlace

Mountains, where the gods reside,
and a series of volcanoes and islands that breathe
with ancient memories



[Date of Designation] February 1, 1936 [Area] 35,353 ha
[Related Prefectures] Tottori, Shimane, Okayama

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 coasts and islands, which was affected by factors such 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.

[Photo: Matengai Cliff]

The Coast and Islands

■Topography / Geology

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, submerged and raised shoreline 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.



Kuniga Coast



Rosoku-jima Island (Candle Island)



Hinomisaki shoreline (Raised shoreline)

■Ecosystem / Flora and Fauna

On the Oki Islands, the vegetation coexists in low-lying areas along the coastline, such as *Ramanas* roses (plant normally found in northern Japan), Nago orchids (plant normally found in Southern Japan), *Aster spathulifolius* (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. denticulate*, 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



Fumi-shima Island



A seaweed forest on Chibu

■Culture

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 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 Kakanokukedo.



Izumo Grand Shrine

Mountainous Area

■Topography / Geology

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.



Notern cliff of Mt.Daisen



Mt.Sanbe and Ukununoike pond

■Vegetation

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.



A beech forest in Mt. Kenashi



Japanese Yew

■Flora and fauna

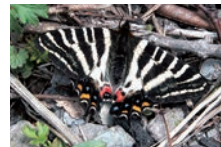
On Mt. Daisen, the wind-swept shrub forest zone situated at 1,300 m above sea level is populated by alpine flora, such as *Phyllodoce nipponica* Makino, *Gaultheria adenotrix*, *Geranium shikokianum* Matsum, and *Veronicastrum japonicum* (Nakai) T. Yamaz. *var. austral* (T.Yamaz) T.Yamaz, and showcases 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 protomedia* protomedia, which only survives on a few grasslands around the Chugoku Mountains.



Veronicastrum japonicum



Dogtooth violets



Luehdorfia japonica.

■Culture

Mt. Daisen has been traditionally worshiped as a sacred mountain and since the initial opening of the Daisen-ji 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 road) 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 "initial burning" to help new grass bud by burning unnecessary plants.



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



Burning of Mt. Sanbe and Nishinohara



Mitokusan Sanbutsuji Temple's Main Hall

Efforts

■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.



■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.



■Collaboration with the Oki Islands Global Geopark

In Oki, the local residents are proactively supporting the Geopark, 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 Geopark 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.



Activities You Can Enjoy in this Area

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.



Sea Kayaking (Oki Islands)



Kukedo sightseeing boat (Kakanokukedo)

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.



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



Wagasa Night (Daisen-ji Temple)



Fat biking in the snow (Hiruzen Highland)

Highlights Map

-  Hiking / Trekking
-  Swimming beach / Marine sports
-  Cruising
-  Cycling
-  Skiing / Snowboarding
-  Cultural / religious experience
-  Campground
-  Snowshoeing

1 Jodogaura Coast

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



2 Shizen-Kaiki-no-Mori Forest

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



3 Akiya Coast

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



4 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 is one of the high-est in Japan, as well as the mag-nificent Tsutenkyo Arch. Absorb the dramatic scenery from the sightseeing boat.



5 Sekiheki

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



6 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 scoop-ing 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.



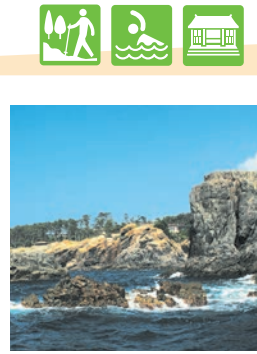
7 Kakanokukedo

Kakanokukedo 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 Kakanokukedo via the coastline, visitors can enjoy such activities as sea bathing, camping, and strolling.



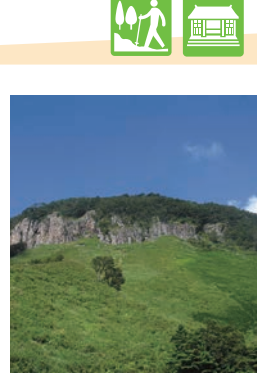
8 Hinomisaki

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



9 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, Nageire-do Hall. The area features a vertical distribu-tion of continuous natural forests ranging from evergreen laurel forests of *Quercus salicina* to deciduous broadleaf forests of cool-temperate beech trees.



11 Mt. Daisen

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.



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

12 Oku-daisen / Kagamiganaru

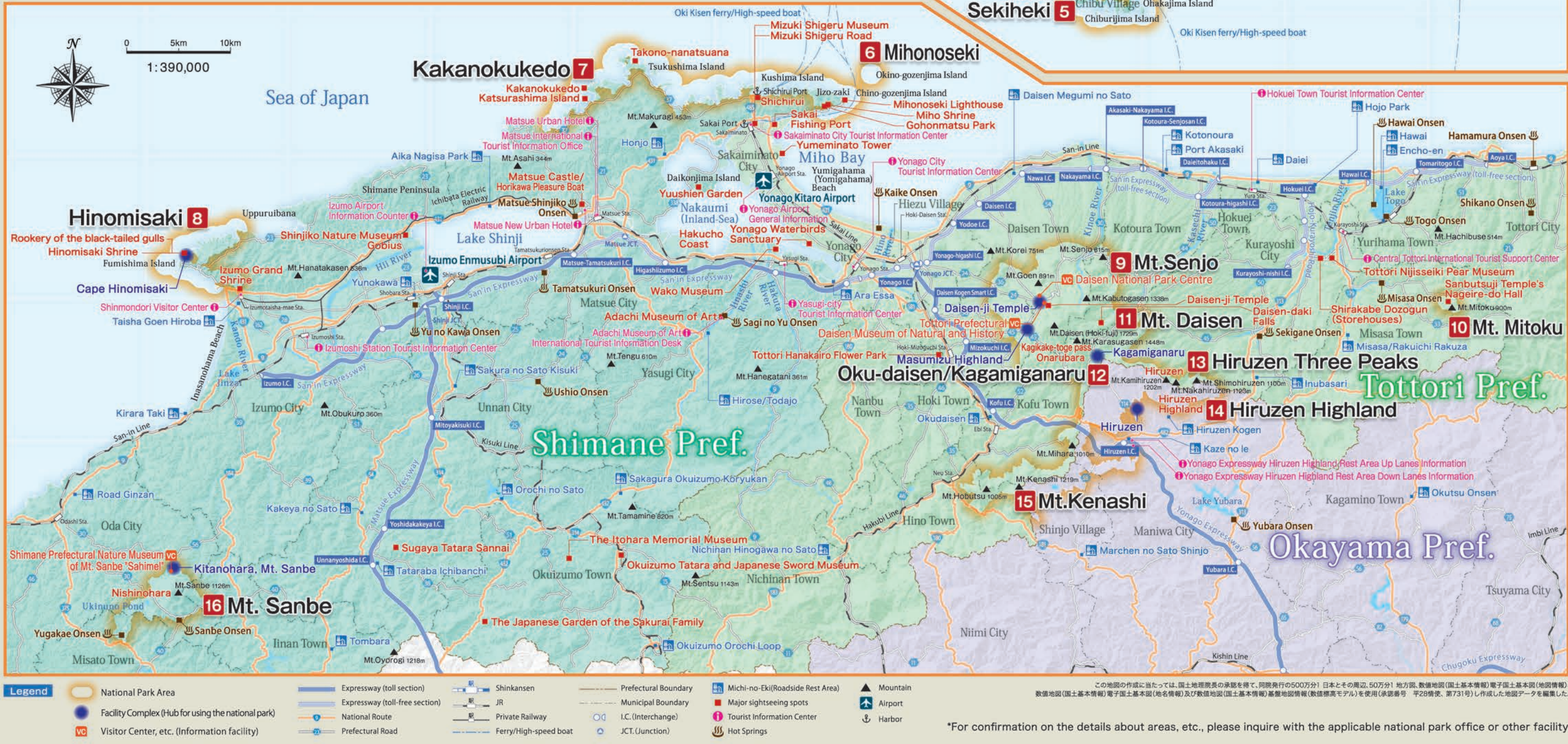
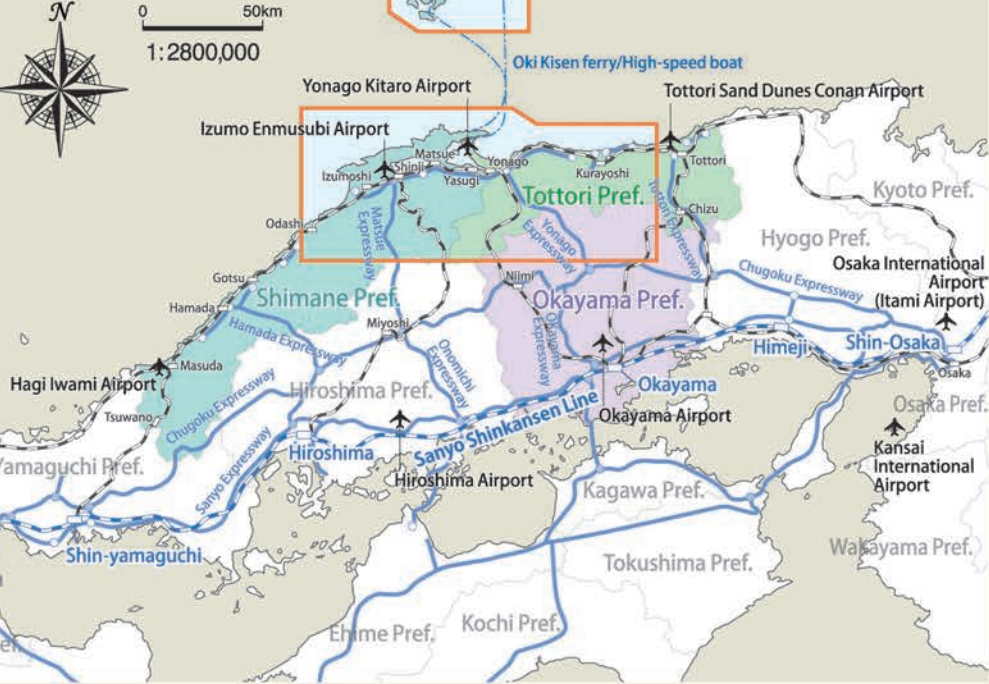
Surrounded by Mt. Giboshi, Mt. Zoyama, and Mt. Karasugasen, Kagamiganaru occupies a rather rare example of a wetland for the Daisen area. The vicinity constitutes a grassland consisting of Japanese silver grass. The area is well equipped with campgrounds, ski slopes, and lodging facilities.



Location of Daisen-Oki National Park

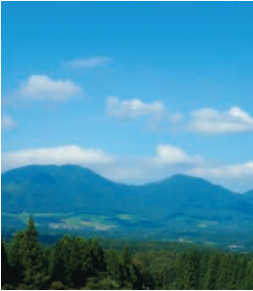


Main Access



13 Hiruzen Three Peaks 14 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* ("the burning of a mountain").



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.







16 Mt. Sanbe

A group of mountains that include Mt. Osanbe, Mt. Mesanbe, Mt. Kosanbe, and Mt. Magosanbe encircle Muronouchi Pond. From the grassland at the base to the surrounding ponds and the natural forests on the hillsides, the mountain exhibits various landscapes.



Information / Facilities

Daisen National Park Centre	Tottori Prefectural Daisen Museum of Nature and History	Oki Nature Museum	Shimane Prefectural Nature Museum of Mt. Sanbe "Sahimel"
			
40-33 Daisen, Daisen Town, Saihaku County, Tottori Prefecture Tel. 0859-52-2165 / Open: 8:00-18:30, Free of charge	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	2F, Oki Port Plaza, Nakamachi, Okinoshima Town, Oki County, Shimane Prefecture Tel. 08512-21583 / Open: 8:30-17:30 (Winter period: open until 17:00), Requires a fee	1121-8 Tane, Sanbe-cho, Oda City, Shimane Prefecture Tel. 0854-86-0500 / Open: 9:30-17:00 (Closed on Tuesdays), Requires a fee

Access

