

Shimane Peninsula 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, 34 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 (Shimane Peninsula Region: 2,723 ha)
Marine Park Zone: 51.6 ha (Shimane Peninsula Region: 7.0 ha)

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
Daisen-Oki National Park Office, Ministry of the Environment (Daisen and Hiruzen Regions)
Phone: 0859-34-9331
124-16 Higashi-cho, Yonago City, Tottori Prefecture, 4th Floor, Yonago Regional Government Office, Zip Code 683-0067
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
Oki National Park Ranger Station (Oki Islands Region)
Phone: 0851-22-0149
55 Johoku-machi, Okinoshima-cho, Oki-gun, Shimane Prefecture, Zip Code 685-0016

Published in March 2023

Highlights of the eastern Shimane Peninsula

01-Kaka no Kukedo A 2

The Old Kukedo, which includes a Sai no Kawara where the spirits of young children who have passed away are believed to gather, and the New Kukedo, a sea cave around 200 m (656 feet) long which is said to be the birthplace of Sada no Okami (Sarutahiko Okami), are together referred to as Kaka no Kukedo.



02-Tako no Nanatsuana (Seven Caves of Tako) C 1

Nine sea caves - large and small - are nestled under the sea cliff of Cape Takobana. The area draws its name from the seven entrances apparent from the ocean, and has been designated as a national natural monument.



03-Katsurashima Island A 2

This island was created about 14 to 15 million years ago by the activity of undersea volcanoes. The walking tracks around the island enable visitors to explore the many vestiges of volcanic eruptions. In summer, it is a popular destination for swimming and camping.



04-Mihonoseki Lighthouse G 2

First lit in 1898, this is the oldest stone lighthouse in the San'in region and has been selected for The IALA list of 100 lighthouses as historic and architectural monuments. The adjacent former lighthouse staff quarters are now home to the Mihonoseki Lighthouse Buffet restaurant.



05-Miho Shrine G 3

Kotoshironushi no Kami, the first Mikogami (child god) of Okuninushi no Kami, and Mihotsuhime no Mikoto, the empress deity of Okuninushi no Kami, are enshrined here. Believed to provide blessings for safety at sea as well as success in business, Kotoshironushi no Kami is popularly known as Ebisu-sama.



06-Gohonmatsu Park G 3

It is said that the pine tree which inspired the folk song Seki no gohonmatsu-bushi was in ancient times used as a landmark by ships sailing along the coastline. From late April to early May, about 5,000 azaleas are in full bloom in this park.

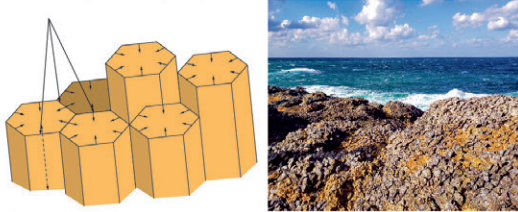


Highlights of the western Shimane Peninsula

07-Stunning coastal scenery and a sanctuary of sunsets J 6

The rocky coastline features reefs, islets, and columnar joints (columnar fissures created by cooling and shrinking lava). Izumo is also known as a sanctuary of sunsets. The sun setting over the horizon drenches the breaking waves and reefs in red, providing visitors with dreamily beautiful views. The western Shimane Peninsula is designated as Japan Heritage as Izumo: A Land of Myths, Gods, and Sunsets.

When lava cools and hardens, it contracts to form prism-shaped fractures (columnar joints)



Columnar joints

Hinomisaki columnar joints



Izumo Matsushima

08-Izumo Hinomisaki Lighthouse J 6

Standing proudly at 43.65 m (143.2 feet), making it the tallest stone lighthouse in Japan, it has been lighting the way for more than 100 years. Selected for The IALA list of 100 lighthouses as historic and architectural monuments, it is also a nationally-designated Important Cultural Property.



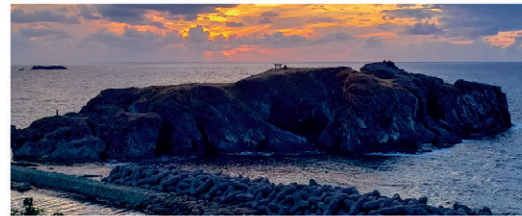
09-Hinomisaki Shrine J 6

Listed in the Izumo Fudoki (the gazetteer of Izumo Province), this ancient shrine deifies Amaterasu Omikami and Susanoo no Mikoto. It is said that "Ise Jingu (Ise Grand Shrine) protects the day and Hinomisaki Shrine protects the night." Izumo has been since antiquity considered a sacred place where the sun sets.



10-Fumishima Island J 6

The columnar joints on this island look like piled up Buddhist scriptures, with its shape giving rise to the name Fumishima Island ("scripture island"). The entire island is considered to be the holy precinct of Hinomisaki Shrine, and is closed to the general public.



11-Izumo Grand Shrine (Izumo Oyashiro) L 7

This shrine deifies Okuninushi no Kami, popularly known as "Daikoku-sama". Its foundation is included in the Kojiki, Japan's oldest existing historical record, which was published in 712 AD. It is believed that in the tenth month of the former lunar calendar, all deities in the country gather here and connect with each other, people, things and events.



Popular Activities on the Shimane Peninsula

The coastlines and islands offer a stunning array of coastal and underwater landscapes, which visitors can enjoy through sea kayaking, scuba diving, swimming, and cruising. Other areas are ideal for enjoying hiking and camping, as well as experiencing the traditional culture and beliefs derived from the Izumo mythology.



Sea kayaking



Kaka Kukedo Sightseeing Boat

Izumo Kagura (sacred music and dance)

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 other than on the roadways or in the parking lots.

NATIONAL PARKS OF JAPAN

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

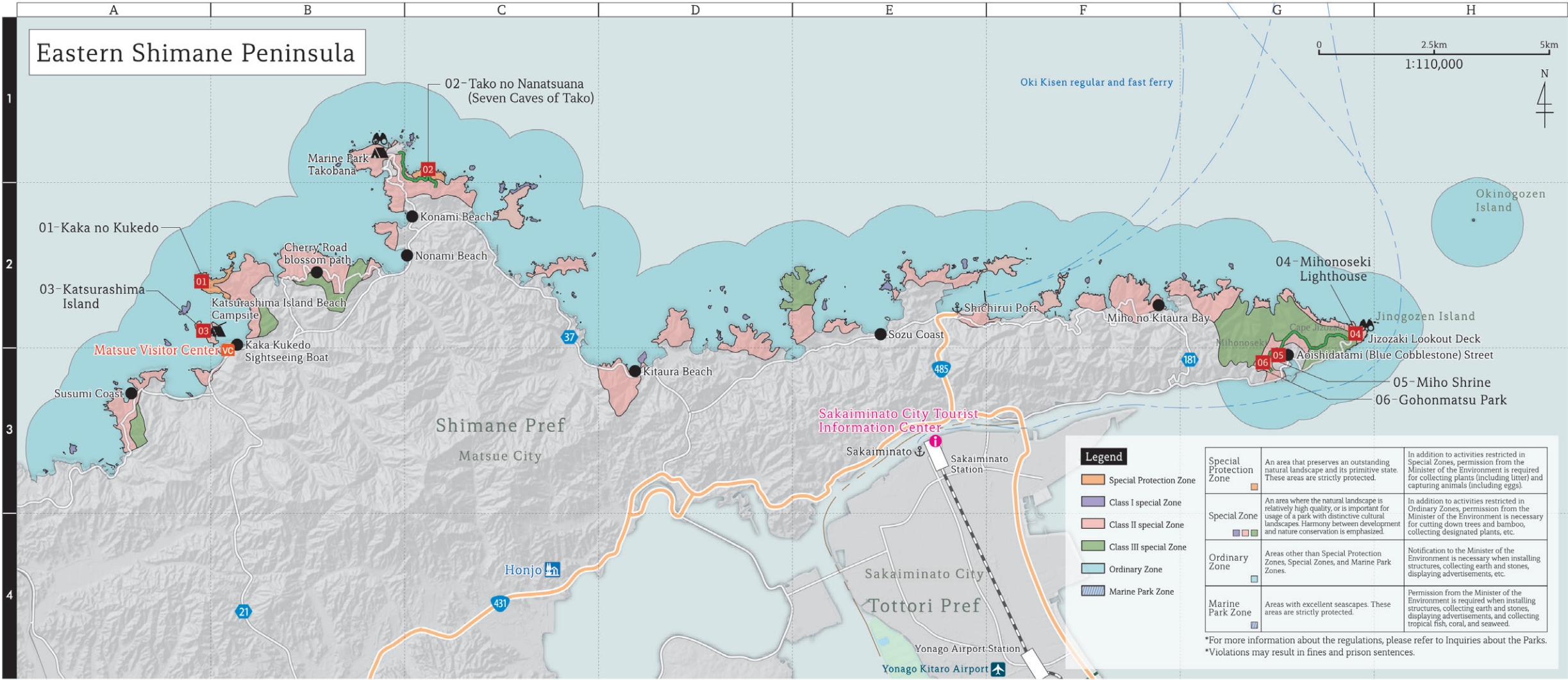
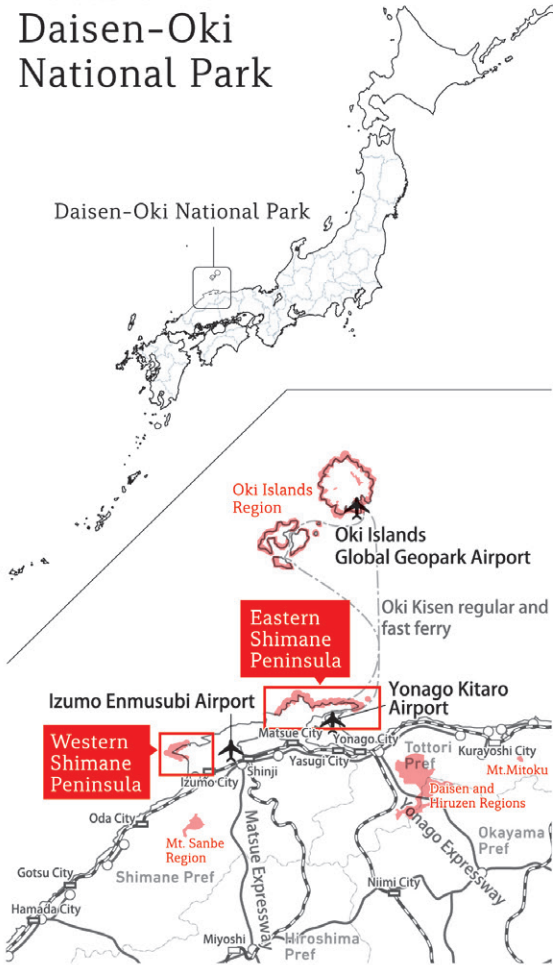


facebook
Daisen-Oki National Park

Instagram
@daisen_oki_nationalpark

リサイクル適性 (A)
この印刷物は、印刷用の紙へリサイクルできます。

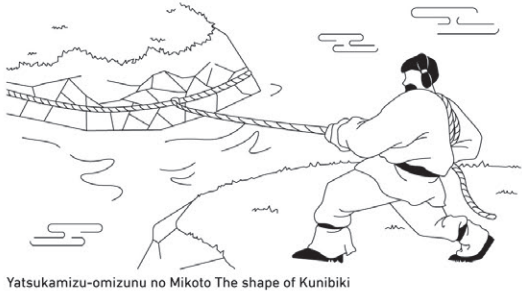
Location of
Daisen-Oki
National Park



This map was prepared with the approval of the Director of the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan. The data was compiled using (Approval number: 2016 Joshi, No. 731) the following maps: Japan and its surroundings at 1:5 million scale, the region at 1:500,000, numerical maps (basic national information), electronic national base map (map information), numerical map (basic national information), electronic national base map (place name information), numerical map (basic national information), and fundamental map information (digital elevation model) issued by the Authority.

Kunibiki (“land-pulling”) myth and
the Shimane Peninsula

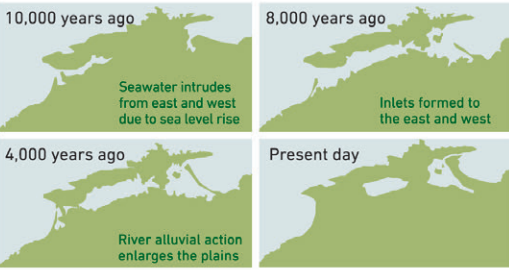
According to the Kunibiki (“land-pulling”) myth in the Izumo Fudoki (the gazetteer of Izumo Province), it is said that the giant god Yatsukamizu-omizunu no Mikoto pulled the Shimane Peninsula across the far-off sea with ropes. The tow ropes used then formed what are now Sono no Nagahama Beach and Yumigahama Beach, and the god secured the ropes to Mt. Sanbe and Mt. Daisen. The Shimane Peninsula features many historic sites and scenic spots intertwined with the Izumo mythology. Visitors can experience the natural beauty of a land where myths and legends are alive and well in daily life.



Spatial relationship of the Kunibiki (“land-pulling”) myth

The birth of the land

Scientists believe that the Shimane Peninsula was formed by ancient volcanic activity and tectonic movements, and then separated from the mainland due to sea level rise caused by climate change. However, it is thought that the Izumo Plain, Matsue Plain, and Yumigahama Peninsula were formed by the alluvial action of rivers, reconnecting the Shimane Peninsula to the mainland. Along the shoreline, submerged and uplifted coasts were formed and then eroded by winter winds and waves, creating diverse coastal landscapes such as sea cliffs and sea caves.



Varying Landforms of Shimane Peninsula



Sea caves

Flora and fauna of the Shimane Peninsula

In the mountains near the coast, visitors can see evergreen broad-leaved forests such as sudajii (*Castanopsis sieboldii*) and tabunoki (*Machilus thunbergii*), and along the coast, shoreline wind scrub trees such as tobera (*Pittosporum tobira*) and hamabiwa (*Litsea japonica*) as well as rare species such as hamanadeshiko (*Dianthus japonicus*). The Shimane Peninsula serves as a stopover point for migratory birds, where bird lovers can see rare species such as tristram's bunting, grey-backed thrush, and eurasian hoopoe. In addition, Fumishima Island of Hinomisaki is one of the largest breeding grounds for black-tailed gulls in Japan. Designated as a national natural monument, several thousand black-tailed gulls fly in to spend winter to spring there.



Hamabiwa (*Litsea japonica*)

Hamanadeshiko (*Dianthus japonicus*)



Eurasian hoopoe

Black-tailed gull

