

Japan's Forests with Breathtaking Views: Selections from the Tourist Destinations in National Forest

Forests have provided both mankind – and indeed all living things – with safety, sustenance and security for an eternity. The lush greenery and gentle breeze of the forest is surely enough to rekindle nature's vigor in any soul.

With more than 70% of Japan landmass covered in abundant greenery, the Forestry Agency is working to create "Recreation Forests" to inspire as many as possible to rediscover the wonder of nature.

The best forests to visit have been carefully selected and compiled as "Japan's Forests with Breathtaking Views."

Know before You Visit: General rules for visitors

- 1 Help protect wild animals and plants. When you bring your pets, please mind your manners and give consideration to the surrounding environment.
- 2 Damaging trees or stealing any forest product is penalized by law. Even collecting plants covering the ground of forest are prohibited within protection forests designated by law.
- 3 Do not enter the area beyond walking trails, or public squares. Please follow the rules for each Recreation Forest such as no camping outside the designated area.
- 4 Do not enter the area with "No Entry" or "Keep Out" sign.
- 5 When making a stop for rest or any other purposes, please look around and confirm that the area is safe without any risk of being hit by falling branches or rocks.
- 6 Enjoy mountaineering on your own responsibility. Please ensure that you submit your plan for mountaineering to a police station in the area as well as to your family members, your friends or colleagues after checking out climate and other necessary information for mountaineering and fully being equipped. Please also fill in 'the Name List of Climbers and Visitors', which is placed at the mountain entrance.
Check avalanche risks before mountaineering or skiing in winter.
- 7 Do not enter forests under bad weather conditions.
- 8 In order to prevent the spread of CSF through food residues, please make sure to take your garbage home with you. We are also taking measures such as removing trash bins.
- 9 Smoking is permitted only in special areas. Make sure to extinguish any fires, e.g. after smoking cigarettes.
- 10 Mountain paths are potentially dangerous to walk. Do not use smartphone while walking. When taking photos, please remain fully aware of your surroundings and do not bother other visitors in any way.
- 11 If you wish to use an unmanned aerial vehicle (drone), you need to submit prior written notice to District Forest Office. Please contact the nearest Regional Forest Office or District Forest Office of national forest beforehand.

Arashiyama & Kamui Recreation Forests Access Map



Access

By public transport	Asahikawa Sta.	Asahikawa Denkiidou Bus	Asahikawa Denkiidou Bus	Hoppo Yasoen Iriguchi Bus Stop	On foot	Arashiyama District
		On foot	1-jo 8-chome Bus Stop	Asahikawa Denkiidou Bus	About 20 min	
		Hokkaido Chuo Bus	Kamuikotan Bus Stop	On foot	About 10 min	Kamuikotan District
		Asahikawa Denkiidou Bus	Kagura 4-jo 8-chome Bus Stop	On foot	About 10 min	Foreign Tree Specimen Forest District
By car	Asahikawa Sta.	Route 12		Asahikawa District		
		Route 12		Kamuikotan District		
		Pref. Route 98		Foreign Tree Specimen Forest District		

Arashiyama & Kamui Recreation Forests

Location : (Arashiyama District): Etambetsucho Arashiyama, Asahikawa City; Arashiyama, Takasu Town
(Kamuikotan District): Kamuicho Kamuikotan, Asahikawa City; Osamunai, Fukagawa City
(Specimen Forest District): Kagura 7-jo 8-chome, Asahikawa City

Management office contact details :
Kamikawa Chubu District Forest Office
FAX : 0166-61-0690

Arashiyama & Kamui Recreation Forests Management Committee
(Secretariat: Policy Coordination Division, Asahikawa Municipal Office)
FAX : 0166-23-8217

National Forest Planning Division,
Forestry Agency, MAFF

The Official Recreation Forests Website of the Forestry Agency
https://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/e/national_forest/recreation_forest/index.html



ARASHIYAMA & KAMUI

Recreation Forest



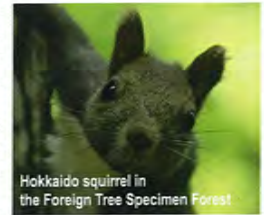
The world of an Ainu demon legend and the novel "Hyoten"

Arashiyama & Kamui Recreation Forests Map



Climate/ flora and fauna

Asahikawa City has four very distinct seasons with large temperature differences ranging from over 30°C in the summer to below -20°C in the winter. Around the Arashiyama Recreation Forest, you can see plants including Obananoenreiso (Trillium camschatcense) and Katakuri (Erythronium japonicum Decne), as well as birds and animals such as Ezorisu (Hokkaido squirrel (Sciurus vulgaris orientalis)) and Kawasemi (common kingfisher (Alcedo atthis)).



Hokkaido squirrel in the Foreign Tree Specimen Forest!

Meanwhile, the gorge around the Kamui Recreation Forest fascinates visitors throughout the year with its changing seasonal beauty—cherry blossoms in the spring, rich green in the summer, colored leaves in the autumn and snow in the winter.

Attractions

At the Arashiyama & Kamui Recreation Forests, visitors can hike (the Kamui iwa Hiking Course takes 90 minutes and the Kamui Hiking Course 120 minutes on foot), explore nature and go on quests for legends and remnants of the past. Particularly, in the Kamuiotan Gorge, the Ishikari River channel suddenly narrows and becomes wild and up to 70 m deep. Boats often overturned here in the past. According to legend, the Ainu people feared this to be the work of a demon living in the gorge. Along the riverbank, you can see "Kamuiotan pot holes" (designated a cultural property by Asahikawa City) formed through erosion by the river. These holes, which are said to be the "demon's footprints," have diameters of up to 5 m. The Specimen Forest District has the Foreign Tree Specimen Forest, which formed the setting of novel "Hyoten" ("Freezing Point") by the late Ayako Miura, who was born in Asahikawa City. Visitors can observe various precious trees, including eastern white pine, that were planted in 1898. In addition, the adjacent Miura Ayako Literature Museum displays various documents and materials concerning Ayako Miura and also holds special exhibitions.



Old Kamuiotan Railroad Station

Information

▪ Elevation (m)	[Arashiyama District] 220 - 275 [Kamuiotan District] 100 - 200 [Specimen Forest District] 100 - 100
▪ Area (ha)	1,104.27
▪ Entrance fee	Recreation Forest: None Miura Ayako Literature Museum: Adults 700 yen; university students 300 yen; and free for elementary school, junior high school and high school students, and for supporting members, students of Asahikawa University and Asahikawa University Junior College and holders of disability certificates
▪ Opening seasons	Accessible 24 hours a day, 365 day a year.
▪ Operation hours by staff	Arashiyama District: Observation platform nearby. Asahikawa Arashiyama Visitor Center (operating hours: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm; closed on Mondays through Wednesdays and during the winter (November through April)) Kamuiotan District and Specimen Forest District: None
▪ Accommodation options	(Inside the forest) None (Outside the forest) Several hotels near Asahikawa Station
▪ Car parking capacity / parking charges	Arashiyama (Observation Platform) District : Free parking for 10 vehicles Kamuiotan District : Free parking for 30 vehicles Specimen Forest (Foreign Tree Specimen Forest) District : Free parking for 30 vehicles

Geographical/ topographical features

The Arashiyama and Kamuiotan Districts are located in a hilly area, and visitors can easily have picnics and explore nature in Arashiyama Park and Hoppo Yasoen, etc. The Arashiyama Observation Platform, at an elevation of 253 m, offers panoramic views of the magnificent Taisetsuzan Mountain Range, the Ishikari River and the Asahikawa city area. It is also a popular night view point. In contrast, the Specimen Forest District is located on flat land near an urban area. Due to its accessibility, it is loved by locals as a place of recreation and is also visited by many tourists.



Entrance to the Foreign Tree Specimen Forest

Historical/ cultural features

The Arashiyama District is said to have been named by Hokkaido Development Commission officials who inspected the area in the late 19th century and found the scenery to resemble that of Arashiyama in Kyoto. "Arashiyama and the view from Arashiyama" was selected as one of the eight best views of Asahikawa in 1997. The Specimen Forest District is a forest that was planted in 1898 in order to grow and observe foreign tree species such as Sutorobumatsu (eastern white pine (Pinus strobus)) and Yoroppatohi (Norway spruce (Picea abies (L.) Karst.)). Today, about 6,000 trees from 52 species are grown in the forest. Also, the Foreign Tree Specimen Forest, which formed the setting of Ayako Miura's famous novel "Hyoten" (Freezing Point), and the Miura Ayako Literature Museum in the district attract large numbers of visitors.



Ainu ritual