

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."

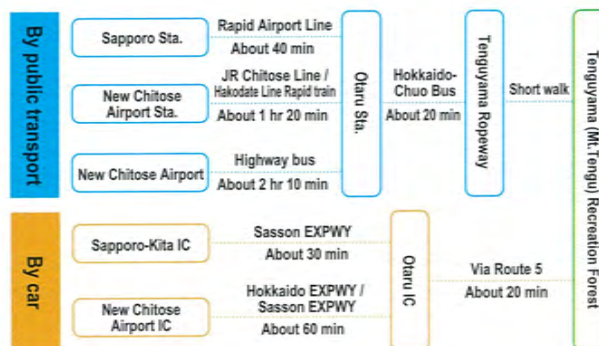
Know before You Visit: General rules for visitors

- 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.

Tenguyama (Mt.Tengu) Recreation Forest Access Map



Access



Tenguyama (Mt.Tengu) Recreation Forest

Location : (Otaru Tenguyama Ski Area) 2-16-15 Mogami, Otaru City, Hokkaido

Management office contact details :
Ishikari District Forest Office
FAX : 011-622-5113

Management Committee of Otaru Tenguyama Ski Area, etc.

FAX : 0134-24-1857

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



 Recreation
Forests of JAPAN

| HOKKAIDO |

Mt.TENGU

Recreation Forest



Recreation Forests
Forestry Agency

A mountain rich in natural splendor, offering marvelous views of Ishikari Bay and the brilliant Otaru nightscape (known to be one of Hokkaido's three best night views)

Climate/ flora and fauna

Otaru City is a comfortable place to live which experiences relatively small seasonal temperature variations. Each season offers a different form of natural beauty and outdoor recreation, from cherry blossom viewing amid the rich spring verdure, to maritime leisure activities in the summer, appreciating the colored leaves in the autumn and skiing in the winter.



Yellow maple leaves

At Otaru Tenguyama, beautiful flowers such as Tengyu Sakura cherry blossoms (Ezo Yamazakura (sargent cherry (*Prunus sargentii*))), Katakuri (*Erythronium japonicum* Deane) and Shiraneaoi (*Glaucidium palmatum* Siebold et Zucc.) bloom in succession from mid- to late April. With regard to the local fauna, you can see Aobato (white-bellied green pigeon (*Trogon sieboldii*))—which has been designated as Otaru City's official bird—from spring to autumn. Kumagera (black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*))—designated a national natural treasure—can be seen throughout the year. In the winter, you can find footprints of Ezoyukiusagi (Ezo snow hare (*Lepus timidus* ainu)), Ezorisu (Hokkaido squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris orientalis*)), Kitakitsune (Ezo red fox (*Vulpes vulpes schrenkii*)), and Ezoshika (Ezo shika deer (*Cervus nippon yesoensis*)) in the snow.

Attractions

Otaru Tenguyama offers panoramic views of Otaru Port and the city area. The nightscape is particularly famous as one of Hokkaido's three best night views. In addition, the observatories are listed in the Michelin Green Guide Japan as a one-star site.

In the summer, visitors can experience nature through camping, farming experiences and other activities at the Otaru Nature Village. In the winter, it becomes an excellent ski area, only about 20 minutes from central Otaru City and boasting powder snow slopes with views that make you feel like you can jump into Ishikari Bay.

It should also be noted that Otaru City is one of Hokkaido's most famous tourist sites with a large number of points of interest, such as the Otaru Canal and Otaru Aquarium. It also has a multitude of souvenir shops selling glass artwork and other attractive local crafts, and the ever-popular Sushiyadori Street lined with sushi restaurants serving delicious fresh local seafood.

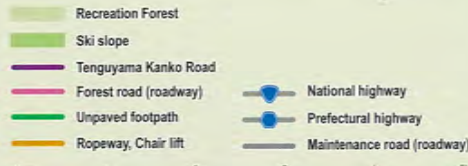
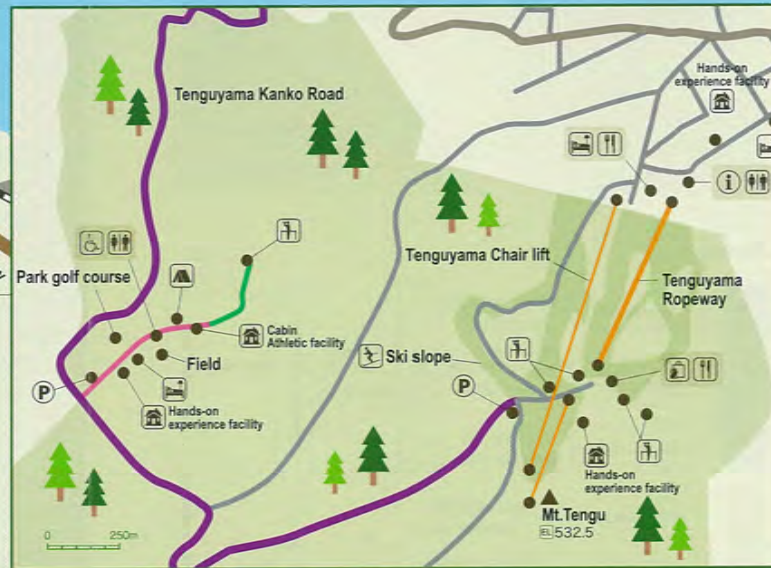


Tenguzakura Observatory

Information

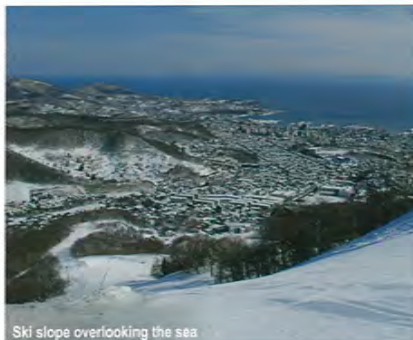
- Elevation (m) 20 - 400
- Area (ha) 514.37
- Entrance fee No fee is required for the Recreation Forest, Otaru Tenguyama or Otaru Nature Village. (A fee is required to ride the ropeway.)
- Opening seasons Accessible 24 hours a day, 365 day a year.
- Operation hours by staff [Otaru Tenguyama] 9:00 am - 9:00 pm in the summer; 9:24 am - 9:00 pm in other seasons
(For details, see the hours of operation on the website: <http://tenguyama.ckk.chuo-bus.co.jp/status>)
[Otaru Nature Village] 9:00 am - 5:30 pm from May 1 through October 31
(Closed during the winter)
- Accommodation options [Inside the forest] Otaru Nature Village (May 1 through October 31)
[Outside the forest] Otaru Tenguyama Honkan / Sanrokukan, Villa Mountengu and many accommodations available in the city
- Car parking capacity / parking charges [Tenguyama Observatory Parking Lot]: Free parking for 150 vehicles
(20 vehicles can be parked at the summit in the summer)
[Otaru Nature Village]: Free parking for 80 vehicles

Tenguyama (Mt.Tengu) Recreation Forest Map



Geographical/ topographical features

From the summit of Mt. Tengu (Tenguyama), which lies roughly at the center of the inland border of the Otaru City limits, you can enjoy marvelous views not only of the town of Otaru, but also of Otaru Port and Ishikari Bay, as well as the distant Shokanbetsudake Mountains



Ski slope overlooking the sea

Historical/ cultural features

The Otaru Tenguyama Ski Area has been claimed to be the birthplace of skiing in Hokkaido, having served as the venue for the first All Japan Ski Championships in 1923. Hokkaido's first ski chair lift was also installed here for the seventh National Sports Festival in 1952. The ski area also had ski jumping ramps in the past, giving it a reputation as a mecca for various types of competitive skiing.

Hokkaido's first railway—the government-run Horonai Railway—began operating in Otaru City in 1880. The transportation of coal and herring and trade with Russia brought remarkable development to the city. Financial institutions and trading companies established branches in Otaru and the Bank of Japan opened an Otaru Branch in 1893. As a result, Otaru was called the "Wall Street of Northern Japan," and this also partly contributed to the prosperity of the ski area.



Tenguyama Shrine