

## 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.
- 7 Do not enter forests under bad weather conditions.
- 8 Do not dispose of any leftover food in the forest. Please take your garbage home with you.
- 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.

### Erimo Recreation Forest Access Map



### Access

#### By public transport:

- Sapporo Station (bus: approx. 5 hours 30 minutes) → Erimo-misaki / Misaki Shogakko-mae / Hyakunin-hama ※Change buses at Shizunai and Samani
- New Chitose Airport (bus : approx. 5 hours 30 minutes) → Erimo-misaki / Misaki Shogakko-mae / Hyakunin-hama ※Change buses at Shizunai and Samani
- Misaki Shogakko-mae bus stop → No. 1 Observation Platform (approx. 12 minutes on foot)
- Hyakunin-hama bus stop → Administration building (approx. 5 minutes on foot)

#### By car:

- Sapporo Station entrance (Sasson Expressway → Hokkaido Expressway) → Hidaka Expressway Monbetsu IC → Erimo Recreation Forest (approx. 240 km / approx. 4 hours 10 minutes)
- New Chitose Airport → Hokkaido Expressway → Hidaka Expressway Monbetsu IC → Erimo Recreation Forest (approx. 180 km / approx. 3 hours 30 minutes)

## Erimo Recreation Forest

Address : Cape Erimo (Erimo-misaki), Erimo-cho, Horozumi-gun, Hokkaido

#### Management office contact details:

Hidaka Nambu District Forest Office, Hokkaido Regional Forest Office  
FAX : 0146-42-1616

#### Erimo Recreation Forest Management Committee

(Industry Promotion Division, Erimo Municipal Office)

FAX : 01466-2-4633

#### National Forest Planning Division, Forestry Agency, MAFF

The Official Recreation Forests Website of the Forestry Agency  
[http://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/e/national\\_forest/recreation\\_forest/index.html](http://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/e/national_forest/recreation_forest/index.html)



# ERIMO

## Recreation Forest





# Keeping alive the memory of the Erimo Desert's transformation into a forest

## Erimo Recreation Forest Map



## Climate, flora and fauna

With an annual mean wind speed of 8.3 m/s, this is one of Japan's highest wind areas, with wind speeds of 10 m/s or more recorded on at least 260 days per year. It also frequently experiences fog, with thick fog recorded on 100 days or more each year. There are said to be around 20 days of thick fog per month on average between May and August. The coastal forest is mainly planted with kuromatsu, Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*) and kashiwa, daimyo oak (*Quercus dentata*). The number of ezoshika, Yezo sika deer (*Cervus nippon yessoensis*) has been on the rise in recent years.



## Attractions

The observation platforms and the administration building (Hyakunin-hama), which is located 13 m above the ground, offer panoramic views over the forest brought back to life from a desertified state thanks to a reforestation program. Boardwalks and woodchip footpaths have been laid to provide walking trails. Together, the national forests centered on Cape Erimo are designated as the Hidaka Sanmyaku-Erimo Quasi-National Park. The steep cliffs and rocky reefs of the cape are a magnificent sight. The surrounding area is home to many other beauty spots, including the Hidaka Yabakei area, the Golden Road, and Hiren-numa Marsh. The Midorikan (Forestry Information Center) exhibits handcrafted tools used in the above-mentioned reforestation program, which began in the 1950s, and panels and a DVD outlining the history of the program.



## Geographical/ topographical features

Hilly terrain located at an elevation of 5–70 m.  
The name Erimo comes from the Ainu word "Enrum," meaning "jutting out point"



## Historical/ cultural features

The coastal forests of Erimo area were devastated by logging and livestock grazing in the course of development during the Meiji period and the area suffered desertification. Following requests by the municipality and local citizens to restore the area's greenery, a forest and grassland regeneration project was launched in 1953. This project was carried out with the assistance of the local community. Gota (an inedible seaweed) washed up on the shore was used to prevent the ground's surface from drying out and as a fertilizer in a process involving repeated trial and error. In addition to low temperatures and strong winds, the Erimo area frequently experiences fog; the consequent lack of sufficient sunlight means that plants do not grow well, making reforestation difficult. Now, more than 60 years after the project began, the area is covered with herbaceous plants and forest. Details of the Erimo National Forest Conservation Project can be found at the following web page. (Japanese)

URL: <http://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/hokkaido/hidakananbu/conservation.html>



Old picture of ca.1959, the devastated Erimo coastal area before greening.

## Information

- Elevation (m) 5–70
- Area (ha) 419.57
- Entrance fee Free
- Opening seasons Accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Operation hours by staff
  - [The administration building (Hyakunin-hama)] Only open between late April and mid-October, from 09:00 to 17:00
  - [The Midorikan] Only open between April and December, from 09:00 to 17:00
  - [Hyakunin-hama Auto-camping Site] April 20 – October 20 10:00 to 19:00
- Accommodation options There are five options near Cape Erimo and five in Erimo town center (approx. 20 minutes by car).
- Car parking capacity / parking charges Space for 10 vehicles (Free of charge)