

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.

Poroto Recreation Forest Access Map



Access

By public transport:

- Obihiro Station (Tokachi Bus: about 100 minutes) → get off at the Nukabira Eigyocho bus stop (*)
- Tokachi-Obihiro Airport → (Connecting bus to Obihiro city: about 40 minutes) → Obihiro Station (*)
- Sapporo Station → Ltd. Exp. Super Ozora or Ltd. Exp. Super Tokachi: about 150 minutes → Obihiro Station (*)
- Sapporo Station → ([Intercity Express Bus] Potato Liner (reservation required): about 210 minutes) → Obihiro Station (*)
- New Chitose Airport Terminal → ([Intercity Express Bus] Tokachi Milk Liner (reservation required): about 150 minutes) → Obihiro Station (*)
- * Obihiro Station (Tokachi Bus: about 100 minutes) → get off at the Nukabira Eigyocho bus stop (*)

By car:

- New Chitose Airport Terminal (Doto Expressway (Otofuke-Obihiro IC): about 120 minutes) → public road (60 minutes) → Nukabira Recreation Forest
- Asahikawa Airport → (public road: about 165 minutes) → Nukabira Recreation Forest
- Sapporo Station → (Hokkaido Expressway (Sapporo-Minami IC): about 150 minutes) → Doto Expressway (Otofuke-Obihiro IC) → (public road: about 60 minutes) → Nukabira Recreation Forest
- Obihiro Station → (public road: about 70 minutes) → Nukabira Recreation Forest

Nukabira Recreation Forest

Address : Nukabira Gensenkyo, Kamishiro Town, Kato County, Hokkaido Prefecture

Management office contact details:

Higashi Taisetsu Branch Office, Tokachi Seibu District Forest Office

FAX : 01564-2-2144

Nukabira Recreation Forest Management Committee

(Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Group, Kamishiro Municipal Office)

FAX : 01564-2-4637

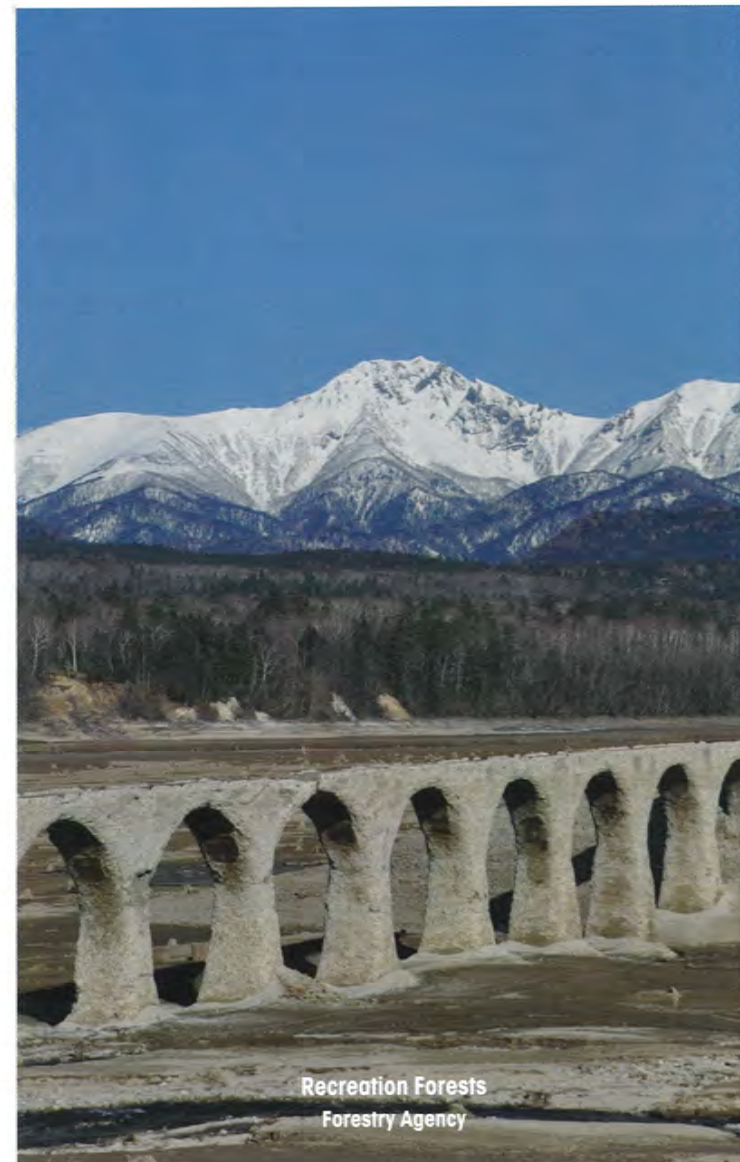
National Forest Planning Division, Forestry Agency, MAFF

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



NUKABIRA

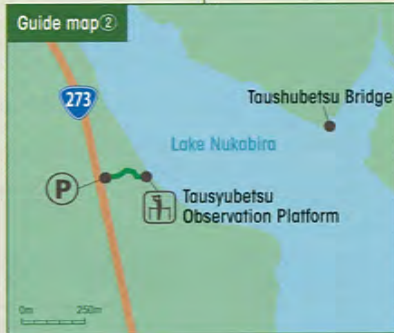
Recreation Forest



Nukabira Gensenkyo, a hot spring resort for comfort and healing

Nukabira Recreation Forest Map

Guide map ①



Climate, flora and fauna

In winter, the temperature falls below -20°C , and the temperature varies by about 60°C throughout the year. In this severe natural environment, diverse wildlife live in this area, including animals such as Higuma (Ezo brown bears (*Ursus arctos*)), Ezoshika (Yezo shika deer (*Cervus nippon yesoensis*)), and Kitakitsune (Ezo red fox (*Vulpes vulpes schrencki*)), and birds such as Kumagera (black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*)) and Shimafukuro (Blakiston's fish owl (*Ketupa blakistoni blakistoni*)).



Attractions

One of the most distinctive and appealing features of Nukabira Gensenkyo is that almost all accommodations there declare that they use the natural-flowing hot spring water without filtering or circulation. The hot spring water is also famous for making the skin soft and beautiful, and there are also places where you can enjoy footbaths.

◆Higashitaisetsu Nature Center: The center introduces the mountains in the Higashi-Taisetsu area and the diverse ecosystems by using graphic panels and stuffed specimens. You can also see about 5,000 insect specimens collected from the Daisetsuzan National Park and from around the world. (Admission free)

◆Taushubetsu River Bridge: It is one of the arch bridges of the old National Railway Shihoro Line, which is a modern industrial heritage that passes on the history of reclamation of the Higashi-Taisetsu area. Since it can only be seen during limited seasons, it is called a "phantom bridge." Many tourists visit from around Japan every year to catch a glimpse of the mystical bridge. The observation tour provided by a local NPO guide center is very popular.

◆The Nukabira Genshenkyo Ski Area is located within walking distance of the hot spring resort. Its excellent powder snow—reputedly some of Japan's best—attracts many skiers and snowboarders. Rental skis and snowboards are available.



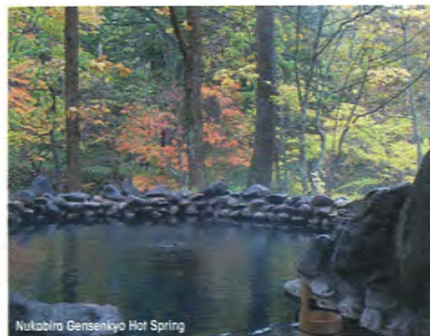
Geographical / topographical features

The Nukabira Recreation Forest is located in a high mountain area with an elevation of about 550 m with Mt. Nipesotsu and other Daisetsu Mountains rising toward the north. It forms a part of the magnificent forests within Daisetsuzan National Park, the largest national park in Japan. The Recreation Forest receives a large number of visitors from all over Japan due to the variety of activities it offers, including fishing, trekking, skiing, a therapeutic walk in the forest and hot spring bathing for recuperation.



Historical / cultural features

The name "Nukabira" is derived from "noka-pira," which means a cliff with a sculpture in the language of the Ainu people. Mr. Takami Shima discovered a hot spring in the virgin forest in 1919, and it began to be developed as a therapeutic hot spring resort. Concrete arch bridges from the disused old National Railway Shihoro Line are designated as Hokkaido Heritage structures and Registered Tangible Cultural Properties of Japan, and are one of Hokkaido's most famous sightseeing spots.



Information

• Elevation(m)	525-1,180
• Area (ha)	329.12
• Entrance fee	Free
• Operating seasons	Accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
• Operation hours by staff	Higashitaisetsu Nature Center: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. in July and August), closed on Wednesdays and the New Year's holiday period
• Accommodation options	[Inside the forest] National Nukabira Campground (late June through late September) [Outside the forest] 9 hot spring inns in Nukabira Genshenkyo located adjacent to the Recreation Forest
• Car parking capacity / parking charges	Free parking for approximately 100 vehicles