

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.

Niseko-Shinsennuma Marsh Recreation Forest Access Map



Access

By public transport:

[Niseko district]

- Sapporo Station (JR Hokodate Main Line: approx. 2 hours 5 minutes) → Kutchan Station (By car: approx. 4-8 km / approx. 10-20 minutes) → Niseko district
- Sapporo (Hokkaido Chuo Bus "Niseko-go Express Bus": approx. 2 hours 50 minutes) → Kutchan Jujigai (By car: approx. 10-20 minutes) → Niseko district

[Shinsennuma Marsh district]

- Sapporo Station (JR Hokodate Main Line: approx. 3 hours) → Niseko Station (Goshiki Onsen Bus: approx. 1 hour) → Shinsennuma Marsh district
- Sapporo (Hokkaido Chuo Bus "Iwanai-go Express Bus": approx. 2 hours 50 minutes) → Kyowa (By car: approx. 30 minutes) → Shinsennuma Marsh district

※Goshiki Onsen Bus: operates only in high season (weekends and national holidays between early August and early October)

By car:

[Niseko district]

- Sapporo Station square (Sapporo City) → Niseko district (approx. 100 km / approx. 2 hours 10 minutes)

[Shinsennuma Marsh district]

- Sasson Expressway Otaru IC → Shinsennuma Marsh district (approx. 120 km / approx. 2 hours 20 minutes)

Niseko-Shinsennuma Marsh Recreation Forest

Address : [Shinsennuma Marsh district] Maeda, Kyowa-cho, Iwanai-gun, Hokkaido
[Niseko district] Weiss / Iwaobetsu / Yamada, Kutchan-cho, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido

Management office contact details:

Shiribeshi District Forest Office

FAX : 0136-22-0106

Niseko-Shinsennuma Marsh Recreation Forest (Shinsennuma Marsh District) Protection and Management Association

(Secretariat: Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Section, Industry Division, Kyowa Municipal Office)

FAX : 0135-73-2288

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



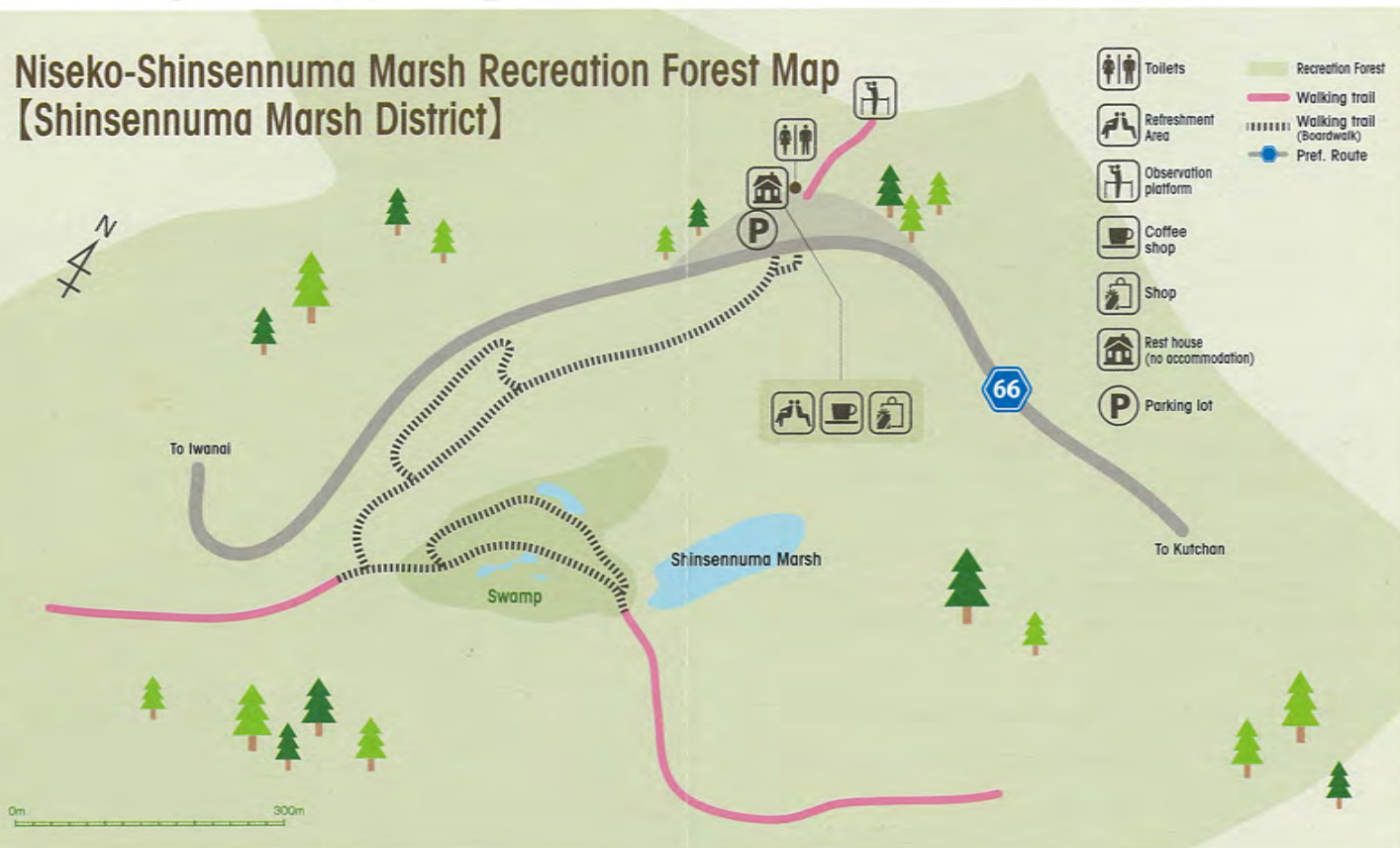
NISEKO-SHINSENNUMA MARSH

Recreation Forest



A wetland boasting abundant natural beauty with mystical ponds [Shinsennuma Marsh district]

Niseko-Shinsennuma Marsh Recreation Forest Map [Shinsennuma Marsh District]



Geographical/ topographical features

[Shinsennuma Marsh district] A wetland and ponds located on a plateau more than 750 m above sea level



Noganuma Pond

Historical/ cultural features

[Niseko district]
Niseko (Nisekooan) means "(a river flowing below) a sheer cliff" in the Ainu language.

[Shinsennuma Marsh district]
Said to boast the most beautiful pond in the Niseko mountain range, legend has it that Shinsennuma Marsh was given its name because it has the mystical appearance of a place inhabited by gods (shin) and mountain hermits (sen).



Shinsennuma Swamp

Climate, flora and fauna

It has a cold climate, and flowers such as azoeteika, daylily (*Hemerocallis esculenta*) and hioglayame, Arctic iris (*Iris setosa*) bloom here in summer.



Arctic Iris

Attractions

[Niseko district]

This district boasts two of the four international ski resorts that together comprise the highly acclaimed 'Niseko United,' which has been dubbed the "St. Moritz of the Orient." In winter, it is packed with skiers.

[Shinsennuma Marsh district]

There is a walking trail with boardwalks, which even people without any mountain-climbing experience can walk on, goes around within the district, enabling visitors to enjoy trekking along the ponds. However, please note that this district is accessible only in summer, because winter brings heavy snowfalls and the roads including Pref. Route 66 are closed to traffic.



Swamp in early autumn

Information

- Elevation (m) 500 – 1,300
- Area (ha) 2,743.71
- Entrance fee [Shinsennuma Marsh district] Free
- Opening seasons Accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
※ Pref. Route 66 is closed to traffic in winter (mid-October to early June)
- Operation hours by staff [Shinsennuma Marsh district]
Rest house / Early June – mid-October 9:00 – 17:00
- Accommodation options [Shinsennuma Marsh district]
Nearby: Minshuku Morishita, Weiss Onsen
- Car parking capacity / parking charges [Niseko district] The number of spaces in each car park varies. There is room for 200–2,600 standard-sized cars, depending on the car park. (Free of charge, in principle)
[Shinsennuma Marsh district]
Space for 76 standard-sized cars and 5 motor coaches (Free of charge)