

## 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."

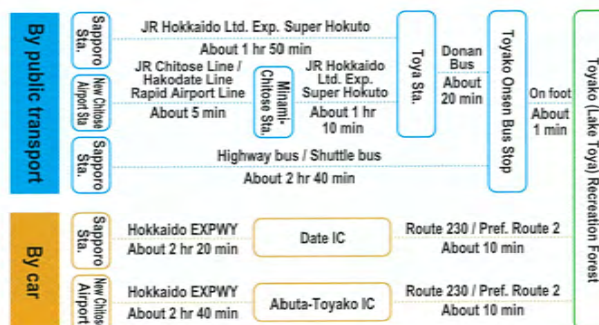
### Know before You Visit: General rules for visitors

- 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.

### Toyako (Lake Toya) Recreation Forest Access Map



### Access



### Toyako (Lake Toya) Recreation Forest

Location : Toyako Onsen, Toyako Town, Abuta County, Hokkaido / Nakajima, Sobetsu Town, Usu County, Hokkaido

Management office contact details :  
Shiribeshi District Forest Office  
FAX : 0136-22-0106

National Forest Planning Division,  
Forestry Agency, MAFF

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



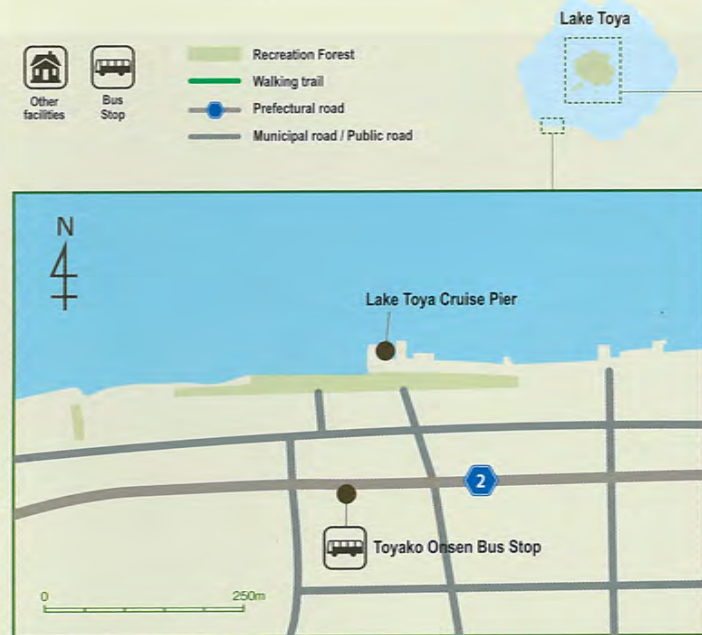
# LAKE TOYA

## Recreation Forest



# A volcanic gift: lush green islands in a caldera lake

## Toyako (Lake Toya) Recreation Forest Map

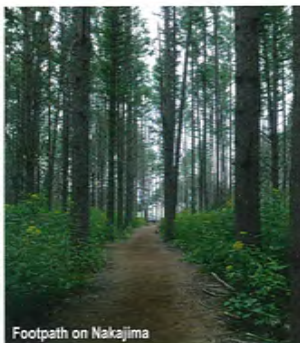


## Geographical/ topographical features

Nearly circular Lake Toya is Japan's third largest caldera lake. It is also Japan's sixth deepest lake, with a maximum depth of 180 m. The lake is famous for the clarity of its water: you can see driftwood and fish at the bottom of the lake on a canoe tour.

The four uninhabited islands of various sizes in the middle of the lake are collectively called Nakajima. Visitors can take a boat cruise (fare required) from the lakeside to the largest island.

Mt. Usu, which last erupted in 2000, and Mt. Showa-Shinzan—which suddenly rose on the plateau within just two years after a great eruption followed by the formation of a lava dome in 1944—soar near the Toyako (Lake Toya) Recreation Forest.



## Historical/ cultural features

The name "Toya" is said to be derived from "to-ya," which means "the shore of a lake" in the Ainu language.

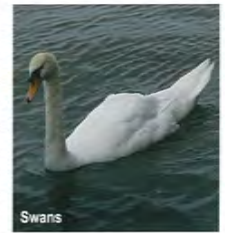
The first onsen (hot spring) inn opened on the lakeside in the late 1910s, and Toyako Onsen began developing into a popular hot spring resort by the late 1920s.

In July 2008, Toyako Onsen found itself in the international spotlight as the venue for the 34th G8 Summit (the Hokkaido Toyako Summit). This brought Toyako Onsen to the attention of people both within and outside Japan.



## Climate/ flora and fauna

The area receives little snowfall and has a mild climate for Hokkaido. Nakajima is home to wild Ezoritsu (Hokkaido squirrel (Sciurus vulgaris orientalis)) and Ezoshika (Yezo shika deer (Cervus nippon yezoensis)). Also, a variety of fish species can be found near the shore, including not only native species, but also many introduced species such as Himemasu (sockeye salmon (Oncorhynchus nerka)). Therefore, Nakajima attracts a large number of fishing enthusiasts in the summer (around June through August) when sockeye salmon, Sakuramasu (masu salmon (Oncorhynchus masou)), and Nijimasu (rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss)) can be caught (a recreational fishing fee is required).



Meanwhile, Yezo shika deer were introduced to Nakajima after World War II. Their swelling numbers have led the Ministry of the Environment and Hokkaido Prefecture to work on controlling the population.

## Attractions

The Toyako (Lake Toya) Recreation Forest boasts magnificent scenery that changes throughout the four seasons, with fresh verdure in the spring and crimson and golden foliage in the autumn. The entire area is within Shikotsu-Toya National Park.

The Recreation Forest is surrounded by a variety of points of interest, including volcanoes and hot springs. It also offers a number of facilities where visitors can experience nature, such as a lakeside campsite and the Lake Toya Forest Museum on Nakajima. Visitors can learn about the earth (i.e., our geological heritage) at the Toya-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark—designated as Japan's first UNESCO Global Geopark in 2009—by walking trails that provide a view of a crater, visiting the Volcano Science Museum, as well as going on guided canoe tours, riding horse, picking fruit and bathing in hot springs.

The Naka-Toya Campsite has "Kimundo-no-ie" Onsen (fee required), which uses only natural spring water and enables campers to casually enjoy the hot springs of Lake Toya.



## Information

- Elevation (m) 100 - 450
- Area (ha) 571.60
- Entrance fee
  - None for the Recreation Forest itself
  - Naka-Toya Campsite: Overnight Use - Adults 450 yen, Children 340 yen / Day Use - Adults 230 yen, Children 130 yen
  - "Kimundo-no-ie" Onsen: Adults 420 yen, Elementary or Junior High School Students 140 yen, Preschoolers (4 years of age or older) 70 yen, Children 3 years of age or younger are free
  - Lake Toya Forest Museum: Adults 200 yen, Children 100 yen
- Opening seasons
  - Accessible 24 hours a day, 365 day a year.
  - (However, nighttime visits are not recommended for safety reasons as there are many rocky areas and the nearby lake.)
- Operation hours by staff
  - Naka-Toya Campsite: In operation from late April through the last day of October
  - Lake Toya Forest Museum: Open 9:00 am - 4:00 pm from late April through early November
- Accommodation options
  - [Inside the forest] None
  - [Outside the forest] Naka-Toya Campsite / There are also many hot spring inns near the Recreation Forest.
- Car parking capacity / parking charges
  - Free parking for 20 vehicles at the Lake Toya Cruise Pier parking lot