

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."

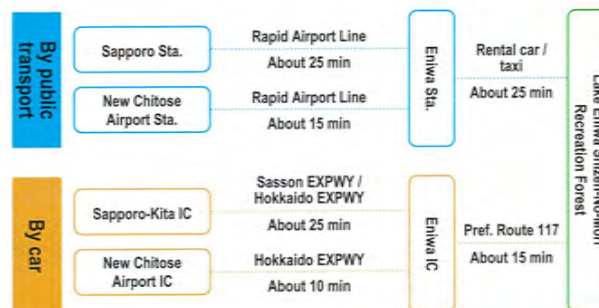
Know before You Visit: General rules for visitors

- 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.

Eniwako (Lake Eniwa) Shizen-no-Mori Recreation Forest Access Map



Access



Eniwako (Lake Eniwa) Shizen-no-Mori Recreation Forest

Location : Banjiri, Eniwa City, Hokkaido

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

Eniwa City Recreation Forest Management Committee
(Office for Development of a Flower Center, Tourism Department of Flowers and Nature)
FAX : 0123-33-3137

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



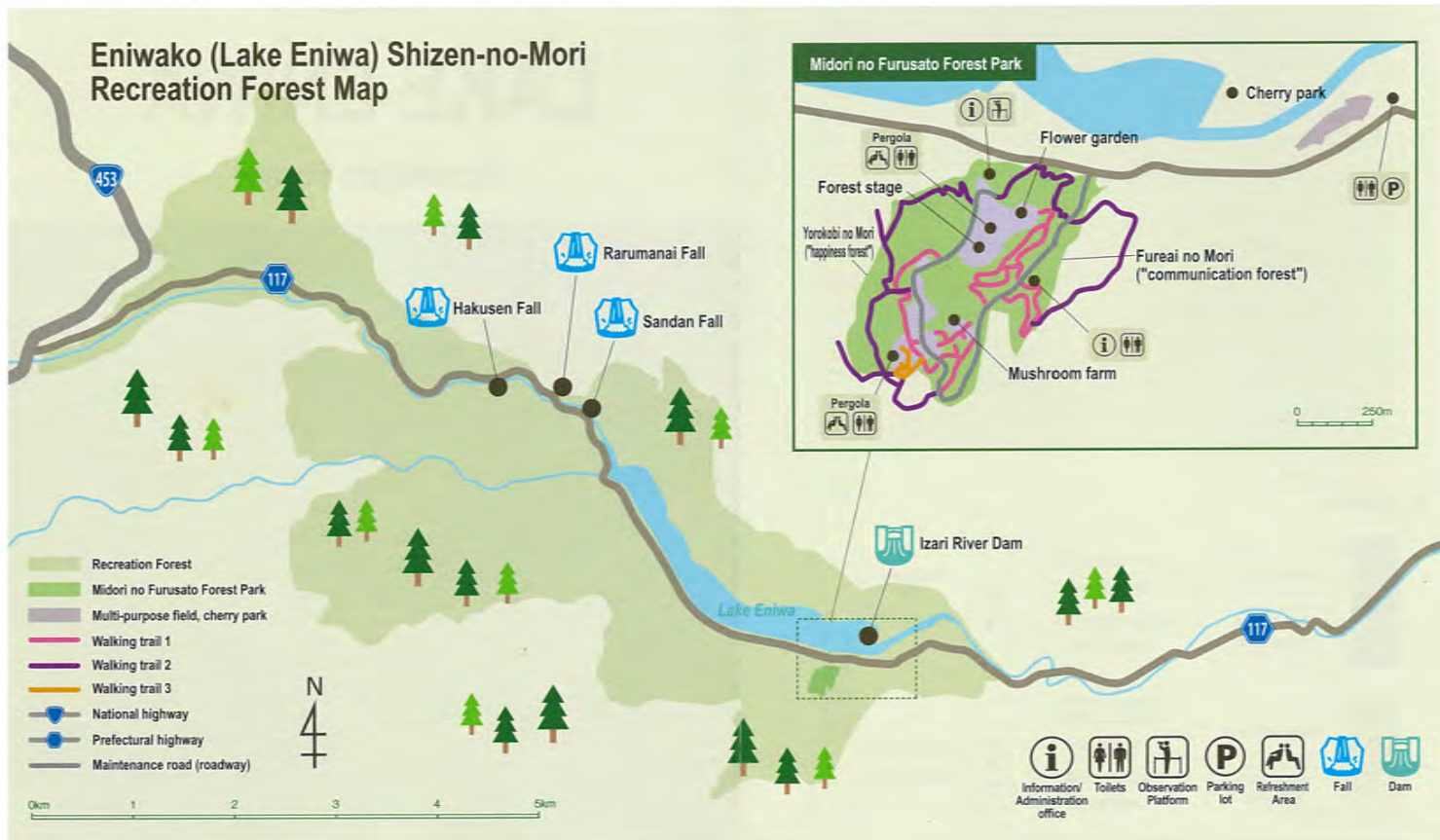
LAKE ENIWA

Recreation Forest



Magnificent forests and valleys that you'll feel compelled to photograph

Eniwa (Lake Eniwa) Shizen-no-Mori Recreation Forest Map



Geographical/ topographical features

Lake Eniwa, nestled in a Recreation Forest, is an artificial flood control lake created by damming the Izari River that flows through Eniwa City. The name "Izan" is derived from "ichan," which means a salmon and trout spawning ground in the language of the Ainu people. The river basin has supported humans and a diverse array of other organisms since time immemorial.

The Eniwa Valley is upstream from Lake Eniwa, while Midori no Furusato Forest Park and Sakura Park lie to the south and west (downstream) of the lake, respectively. In the Eniwa Valley, a tributary of the Izari River, the Rarumanai River, flows with many waterfalls along its course. The area has been designated by Eniwa City as Rarumanai Nature Park, a scenic spot boasting beautiful autumn leaves.



Historical/ cultural features

[Legend of Yoshitsune's hidden treasure] According to local legend, famous samurai Minamoto no Yoshitsune, who was believed to have committed suicide at Hiraizumi, actually fled to Ezo (today's Hokkaido). He is said to have buried his treasure in the Kumanosawa marshland in Eniwa and to have left behind a treasure map containing notes and a golden treasure inventory bearing his family crest, the "Sasanido," which depicts bamboo grass and gentian blossoms.

[Banjiri forest tramline] The tramline was constructed in 1927 to enable a power plant to be built for Oji Paper Co., Ltd., and was purchased by the Eniwa Forest Management Office in 1931. The tramline was then extended to the upper reaches of the Izari River and was used to transport timber for post-war reconstruction until its closure in 1955.

[Eniwa Mine] Gold and silver were mined at the Eniwa Mine located in the vicinity of the upper Izari River. Around 1940, a mining town developed with public facilities, including an elementary school and a post office. The mining town disappeared when the mine closed in 1943, and only the ruins of a few buildings—such as a crematory—remain today.



Climate/ flora and fauna

The Recreation Forest is a mixed forest of broad-leaved trees such as Yachidamo (*Fraxinus mandshurica* var. *japonica*), Mizunara (Japanese oak *mizu-nara* (*Quercus crispula* Blume)) and Ezotlaya (painted maple (*Acer mono Maxim.*)) and conifers, including Ezomatsu (Yezo spruce (*Picea jezoensis*)) and Todomatsu (Todo fir (*Abies sachalinensis*)). It provides a habitat for a variety of forest birds, including Kumagera (black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*)), which has been designated a natural monument, migratory summer birds such as Kibitaki (narcissus flycatcher (*Ficedula narcissina*)) and Ezomushikui (Sakhalin leaf warbler (*Phylloscopus borealoides*)) and resident birds such as Higara (coal tit (*Periparus ater insularis*)) and Hashibutogara (marsh tit (*Poecile palustris hensoni*)).



Attractions

The Eniwa Valley lies along the Rarumanai River, a tributary of the Izari River, and it can be reached by driving about 18 km along the Prefectural Road Eniwadake-Koen Line from the Eniwa city area going in the direction of Lake Shikotsu. The valley has three impressive and very different waterfalls: graceful Hakusen Falls, which are 15 m high and 18 m wide, and which resemble an open white fan; powerful Rarumanai Falls, which gushes down between giant trees; and Sandan Falls, where the rushing white water falls down, dramatically striking three levels of rock through the Eniwa Valley.

The Lake Eniwa Jiyuhiroba / Sakura Park and the Midori no Furusato Forest Park can be found along the way to these waterfalls. The Lake Eniwa Jiyuhiroba / Sakura Park is spotted with pergolas and flowerbeds, and Sakura Park sports beautiful spring cherry blossoms and colorful autumn leaves. Visitors to the Midori no Furusato Forest Park can get in touch with the abundant natural beauty, observe animals and plants and participate in educational activities concerning the forest environment.



Information

- Elevation (m) 20 - 250
- Area (ha) 1,756.90
- Entrance fee Free
- Opening seasons
 - Midori-no-Furusato Forest Park: April 28 through November 4 (may vary from year to year) / 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
 - Lake Eniwa Jiyuhiroba / Sakura Park: April 28 through November 4 (may vary from year to year) / Accessible 24 hours a day
 - Hakusen Falls, Rarumanai Falls and Sandan Falls are accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Accommodation options
 - Eniwa city area (13 inns and hotels); Shikotsuko Onsen hot spring resort (9 inns, hotels, etc.)
 - Many accommodations are available in the Chitose city area, which is about 15 minutes by car from the Eniwa city area.
- Car parking capacity / parking charges
 - Midori no Furusato Forest Park: Free parking for about 40 ordinary vehicles and 3 large buses
 - Lake Eniwa Jiyuhiroba / Sakura Park: Free parking for about 10 ordinary vehicles
 - Hakusen Falls: Free parking for 12 ordinary vehicles and 2 large buses
 - Rarumanai Falls: Free parking for 13 ordinary vehicles and 3 large buses