

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.

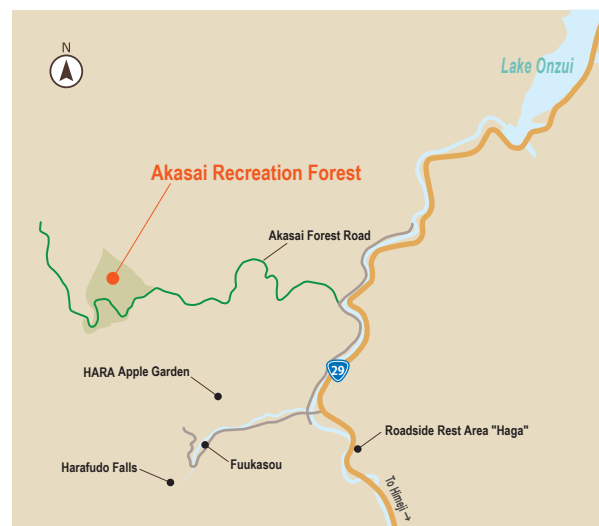
With more than 70% of Japan landmass covered in abundant
greenery, the Forestry Agency is working to create "Recreation Forests"
to inspire as many as possible to rediscover the wonder of nature.

The best forests to visit have been carefully selected and compiled
as "Japan's Forests with Breathtaking Views."

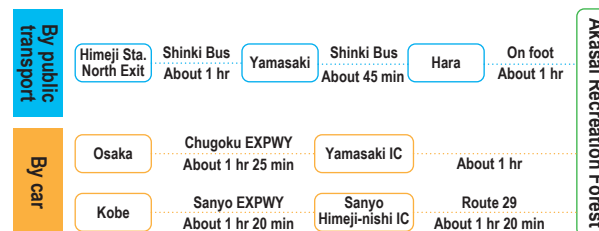
Know before You Visit: General rules for visitors

- 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.

Akasai Recreation Forest Access Map



Access



Akasai Recreation Forest

Location : Hagachohara, Shiso City, Hyogo Prefecture

Management office contact details :

Hyogo District Forest Office

FAX : 0790-62-4790

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



Recreation
Forests of JAPAN

HYOGO

AKASAI

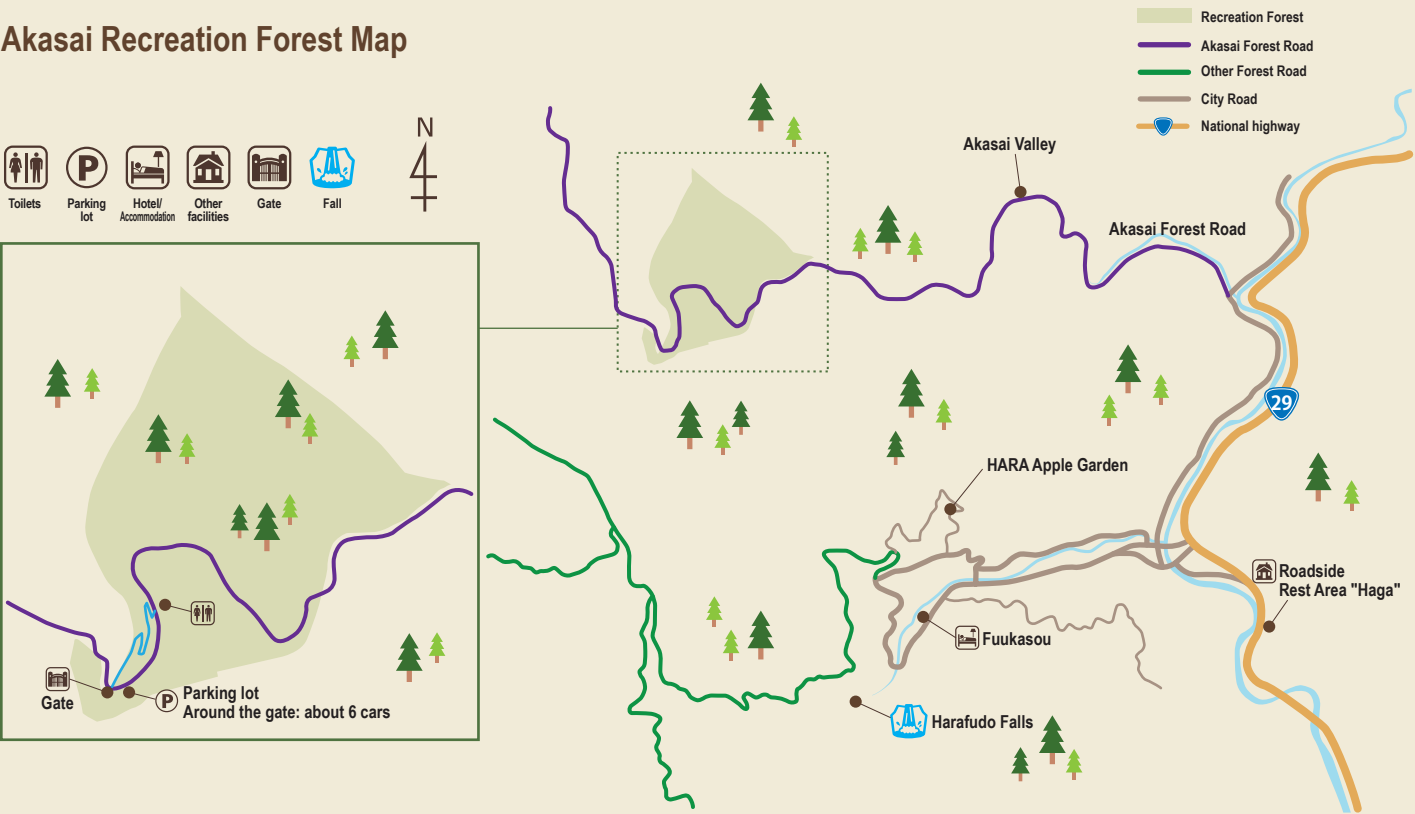
Recreation Forest



Recreation Forests
Forestry Agency

Explore the lush countryside and breathe in the forest air

Akasai Recreation Forest Map



Climate/ flora and fauna

The Akasai Recreation Forest is located at a high elevation, so it has a cool climate and sometimes sees snow accumulation in the winter. The vegetation includes conifers such as Sugi (Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*)), Hinoki (Japanese cypress (*Chamaecyparis obtuse*)) and Tsuga (Japanese hemlock (*Tsuga sieboldii*)), as well as natural broad-leaved trees more than 150 years old such as Mizunara (Japanese oak *Quercus crispula* Blume), Keyaki (zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*)), Kaede (maple (*Acer*)) and Buna (Japanese beech (*Fagus crenata* Blume)). In the autumn leaves season, visitors can enjoy various expressions of the forest in the crisp air, formed by a combination of red and yellow foliage, green conifers and limpid streams, with fallen leaves coloring the streams red toward the end of the season.



Attractions

The Akasai Forest Road offers views of the clear waters of the Akasai River and green, yellow and red leaves standing out against the stream. The forest is known by word of mouth as a hidden autumn leaves photo spot, and it attracts a large number of visitors from urban areas. The forest road is partly covered in gravel, but flat, making it advisable to visit by car. If you pass through the Recreation Forest and proceed further down the Akasai Forest Road, you come to the "Akasai Therapy Road," which has been approved as a road appropriate for forest therapy. This Therapy Road is easy to walk along as it uses a part of the forest road. Anyone can take a tour guided by a Therapy Guide and experience a special feeling of oneness with the forest. Why not sharpen your five senses in the forest, and refresh yourself in one of Hyogo's 50 forests selected as appropriate for therapeutic walks? (Contact: Shiso Tourism Association TEL: 0790-64-0923)



Geographical/ topographical features

The Recreation Forest is located in a mountainous area at an elevation of 480—880 m in northern Shiso City at the border between Hyogo and Tottori Prefectures. The area along the forest road is mildly sloped, but the slope becomes steeper as the elevation increases. The Akasai Valley has been selected as one of the Top 100 Water Resource Forests and one of the Top 100 Forests in Hyogo, and brings natural benefits to the area as Shiso City's water source.



Historical/ cultural features

Shiso City has historically thrived on forestry and its forest products industry is still very active today. In 1924, a vast lumberyard more than 2 ha in size was established to the south of the Akasai National Forest. The Akasai Forest Road, which traverses the Recreation Forest from east to west, was built following the route of an old forest railway track constructed in the early 20th century to transport lumber from the national forest.



Information

■ Elevation (m)	610 - 900
■ Area (ha)	31.56
■ Entrance fee	Free
■ Opening seasons	Not specified (cannot be used during the snow season and when traffic regulations are imposed on the forest road)
■ Accommodation options	[Outside the forest] - Harafudodaki Campsite (reservation required; 26 sites; operates from April through December; free of charge) Please see the website below for details. http://www.shiso.or.jp/leisure/?id=39 - Fuukasou Autocamp Site (operates from April through November; fee required; dog run available) Please see the website below for details. http://www.fuukasou.com/autocamp/index.html
■ Car parking capacity / parking charges	There is no individual parking lot, but there is free parking space for about 6 ordinary vehicles.