

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.

Oginosen Recreation Forest Access Map



Access

By public transport:

- Tottori Station (Wakasa Railway: approx. 45 minutes) → Tampi Station (Taxi: approx. 20 minutes) → Oginosen Recreation Forest

By car:

- Tottori City → Oginosen Recreation Forest (approx. 50 minutes)
- Osaka → Chugoku Expressway Yamazaki IC → Oginosen Recreation Forest (approx. 2 hours 30 minutes)

Oginosen Recreation Forest

Address : Megano, Yazu-cho, Yazu-gun, Tottori Prefecture

Management office contact details:
Tottori District Forest Office
FAX : 0857-23-5412

Hatto Furusato-no-Mori Management Committee

(Megano 1572, Yazu-cho, Yazu-gun, Tottori Prefecture)
FAX : 0858-84-3799

National Forest Planning Division, Forestry Agency, MAFF

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



OGINOSEN

Recreation Forest



Enjoy bird-watching and relaxation with your family the foot of the magnificent Mount Oginosen

Oginosen Recreation Forest Map



Climate, flora and fauna

Buna, Japanese beech (*Fagus crenata* Blume) grow throughout the area, providing a noticeably soothing effect. Among the creatures for which the forest provides a habitat are large birds of prey such as inuwashi, Japanese golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos japonica*) and kumataka, mountain hawk-eagle (*Nisaetus nipalensis*), and mammals such as nihonjikka, sika deer (*Cervus nippon*) and tsukinowaguma, Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*). Wild birds such as kawasemi, common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*); akashobin, ruddy kingfisher (*Halcyon coromanda*); and sekirei, wagtails (*Motacilla*) can also be observed here, offering a very real sense of the richness of this forest.



Attractions

[Trekking] Footpaths have been laid in the forest, enabling visitors to stroll among the beech trees, observing the wild birds and savoring the therapeutic effects of relaxation. Enjoy the fresh verdure here in spring, take refuge from the heat in summer, and marvel at the vivid colors of the leaves in autumn.

[Mountain climbing] The trailhead offering access to the summit of Mount Oginosen is located 2.5 km upstream of the Recreation Forest. The summit can be reached in about 1–2 hours from the trailhead. (Distance: about 2 km; elevation difference: about 400 m)

[Camping] Used by as many as 25,000 people every year, this campsite is equipped with cabins, a campfire area, shower facilities, and a barbecue house. It is ideal for families and groups.

[Bird-watching] This is one of Tottori Prefecture's foremost bird-watching sites. Visitors can observe a variety of wild birds between spring and autumn, including ruddy kingfisher; bupposo, Oriental dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*); and oruri, blue-and-white flycatcher (*Cyanoptila cyanomelana*).

*Hatto Furusato-no-Mori offers various interactive seasonal programs from early summer through autumn.



Geographical/ topographical features

Mount Oginosen (elevation: 1,309.97 m), from which this Recreation Forest takes its name, is located at the northern end of the Hyonosen-Ushiroyama-Nagisan Quasi-national Park and is one of the Kinki-Chugoku region's main volcanoes. The summit affords views of central Tottori City, the Sea of Japan, and, in the distance, Mount Daisen.



Historical/ cultural features

Easily visible from the west of the Tottori Plain, Mount Oginosen served as a navigational landmark. Translating as "Fan Mountain," its name is derived from the mountain's resemblance to an unfolded fan, with a gently curved ridge line that spreads out to the north and south from the summit.



Information

- Elevation (m) 650–720 / Highest 930 (Mount Oginosen: 1,310)
- Area (ha) 40.10
- Entrance fee Free
- Opening seasons Walking trail: Accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Operation hours by staff [Administration Building] 8:30–17:00 April 29 – November 30
[Campsite] 8:30–17:00 Late April – November
- Accommodation options Other than the tent site and cabins in the forest, there are accommodation facilities in Yazu-cho and along the Wakasa Railway. In addition, many accommodation facilities can be found in Tottori City and at Iwai Onsen.
- Car parking capacity / parking charges Space for 30 vehicles (Free of charge)