

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."

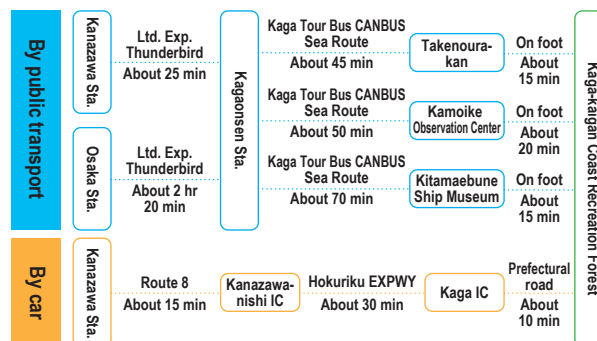
Know before You Visit: General rules for visitors

- 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.

Kaga-kaigan Coast Recreation Forest Access Map



Access



Kaga-kaigan Coast Recreation Forest

Location : Daishojiuwagimachi / Daishojisegoemachi / Shioyamachi / Hashitatemachi / Kurosakimachi / Katanomachi, Kaga City, Ishikawa Prefecture

Management office contact details :
Ishikawa District Forest Office

FAX : 076-222-6215

Kaga-kaigan Coast Recreation Forest Management Committee

Secretariat of the Kaga-kaigan Coast Recreation Forest Management Committee
(in the Environmental Policy Division, Kaga Municipal Office)

FAX : 0761-72-7991

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



KAGA-KAIGAN

Recreation Forest



White beaches, pine groves and the ocean combine to create superb scenery

Kaga-kaigan Coast Recreation Forest Map



Climate/ flora and fauna

The area has a typical Sea of Japan coast temperate climate, with an average annual temperature of 14°C, relatively high precipitation, and high humidity. Katano-kamoike Pond is registered under the Ramsar Convention as a stopover site for migratory birds. It is one of the largest wintering sites in western Japan and a temporary home for thousands of geese and ducks each winter. A wide variety of wild birds can be observed in the area, including Magan (white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*)) and Hishikui (bean goose (*Anser fabalis*)), which have been designated as natural monuments, Tomoegamo (Baikal teal (*Anas formosa*)), which is an endangered species, Misago (western osprey (*Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*)) and Mozu (bull-headed shrike (*Lanius bucephalus bucephalus*)).



Attractions

The Hamayama National Forest's large differences in elevation allow visitors to appreciate the contrast between the ocean and cliffs from various angles. The Kaga-kaigan National Forest has a about 5 km cycling course. Along this course, cyclists can view the coastal dunes and pine groves amid an ocean breeze, and see wild plants such as Hamabohu (beach silvertop (*Glehnia littoralis* F.Schmidt ex Miq.)), Hamahirugao (seashore false bindweed (*Calystegia soldanella* (L.) R. Br.)) and Hamago (beach vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia* L. fil.)) from early summer through autumn.



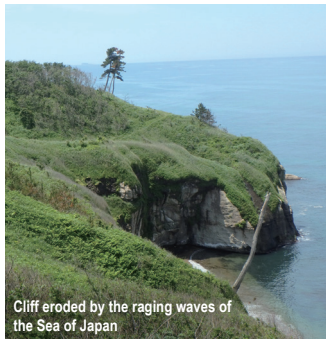
Two bathing beaches can also be found in the vicinity. Kurosaki Beach is a hidden spot, almost like a private beach, and perfect for wading and swimming. A rocky tide pool area stretches beside it where children can have fun gathering small sea creatures. Meanwhile, Katano Beach boasts high water clarity, and you can see the coastal cliffs of Tojinbo in Fukui Prefecture in the distance on a fine day.

Geographical/ topographical features

The Kaga-kaigan Coast Recreation Forest, located northwest of Kaga City on the border between Ishikawa Prefecture and Fukui Prefecture, consists of two areas: the Hamayama National Forest in the northeast and the Kaga-kaigan National Forest in the southwest.

The Hamayama National Forest features wave-cut cliffs that extend for about 3.5 km. Kasanomisaki (Cape Kasa) projects into the ocean, forming a striking contrast between its white cliffs and the deep blue of the ocean.

The Kaga-kaigan National Forest is a planted forest of Kuromatsu (Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*)) that lines the 3 km coastline. Visitors can take in an inspiring view of the white coastline highlighted by the dark-green pine trees.



Historical/ cultural features

The Hamayama National Forest, which projects into the ocean, has served as an important landmark for sailing ships since the construction of a lighthouse in 1950. Hashidate Port near the forest flourished as a port of call for Kitamaebune trading ships during the Edo period (early 17th century to late 19th century) and is famous today for Zuwaigani (snow crab) and other fishery products.

The area where the Kaga-kaigan National Forest now stands was characterized by coastal sand dunes in the past. Blown sand from these dunes damaged farmland, and Japanese black pine groves were gradually planted in the Edo period as a countermeasure. However, the groves were devastated when the Daishoji Domain vanished with the elimination of feudal domains and the subsequent reorganization of Japan into prefectures in the late 19th century. In the early 20th century, a project to develop a coastal disaster-prevention forest was carried out and the present-day coastal forest was formed over a long period of time. A method of traditional duck hunting called "saka-ami" has been practiced in the adjacent Katano-kamoike Pond since the Edo period and has been designated a folk cultural property by Ishikawa Prefecture.



Information

■ Elevation (m)	0 - 75
■ Area (ha)	429.77
■ Entrance fee	None for the Recreation Forest itself
■ Opening seasons	Accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
■ Accommodation options	[Outside the forest] Kaga Onsen-kyo (Awazu, Katayamazu, Yamashiro, Yamanaka) (hot spring resorts): about 30 minutes by car
■ Car parking capacity / parking charges	Kasanomisaki Parking Lot: Free parking for 10 vehicles Katano-kaigan Parking Lot: Free parking for 15 vehicles Shioya-kaigan Parking Lot: Free parking for 30 vehicles Uwagi Parking Lot No. 2: Free parking for 30 vehicles