

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.

Higashiyama Recreation Forest Access Map



Access

By public transport:

[Kodaijiyama National Forest (Higashiyama Summit Park)]

- Kyoto Station (Karasuma Subway Line: approx. 5 minutes) → Karasuma Oike (Tozai Subway Line: approx. 5 minutes) → Higashiyama Station (approx. 2km / approx. 30 minutes on foot) → Kodaijiyama National Forest
- Kyoto Station (Karasuma Subway Line: approx. 4 minutes) → Shijo; Shijo Karasuma (Keihan Bus : approx. 35 minutes) → Seikanji Yamanouchi-cho (approx. 3km / approx. 50 minutes on foot) → Kodaijiyama National Forest

[Ginkakujiyama National Forest]

- Kyoto Station (Kyoto City Bus : approx. 40 minutes) → Ginkakuji-michi (approx. 20 minutes on foot) or Ginkakuji-mae (approx. 15 minutes on foot)

By car:

- Kodaijiyama National Forest (Higashiyama Summit Park): Hanshin Expressway Route 8 Kyoto Route → Gojo-dori (Route 1) → Kodaijiyama National Forest
- Ginkakujiyama National Forest: Hanshin Expressway Route 8 Kyoto Route → Imadegawa-dori → Ginkakujiyama National Forest

※ This area (around the Recreation Forest) is prone to traffic jams, so we recommend that visitors use public transport.

Higashiyama Recreation Forest

Address : [Kodaijiyama National Forest] Amidagamine-cho, Seikanji Kiyomizu Kamiyama-cho, Awataguchi Kodaijiyama-cho, etc., Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto-shi
[Ginkakujiyama National Forest] Jodoji Oyama-cho, etc., Sakyo-ku, Kyoto-shi

Management office contact details:

Kyoto/Osaka Forest Administration Office

FAX : 075-432-2375

National Forest Planning Division,
Forestry Agency, MAFF

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



Recreation
Forests of JAPAN

| KYOTO |

HIGASHIYAMA

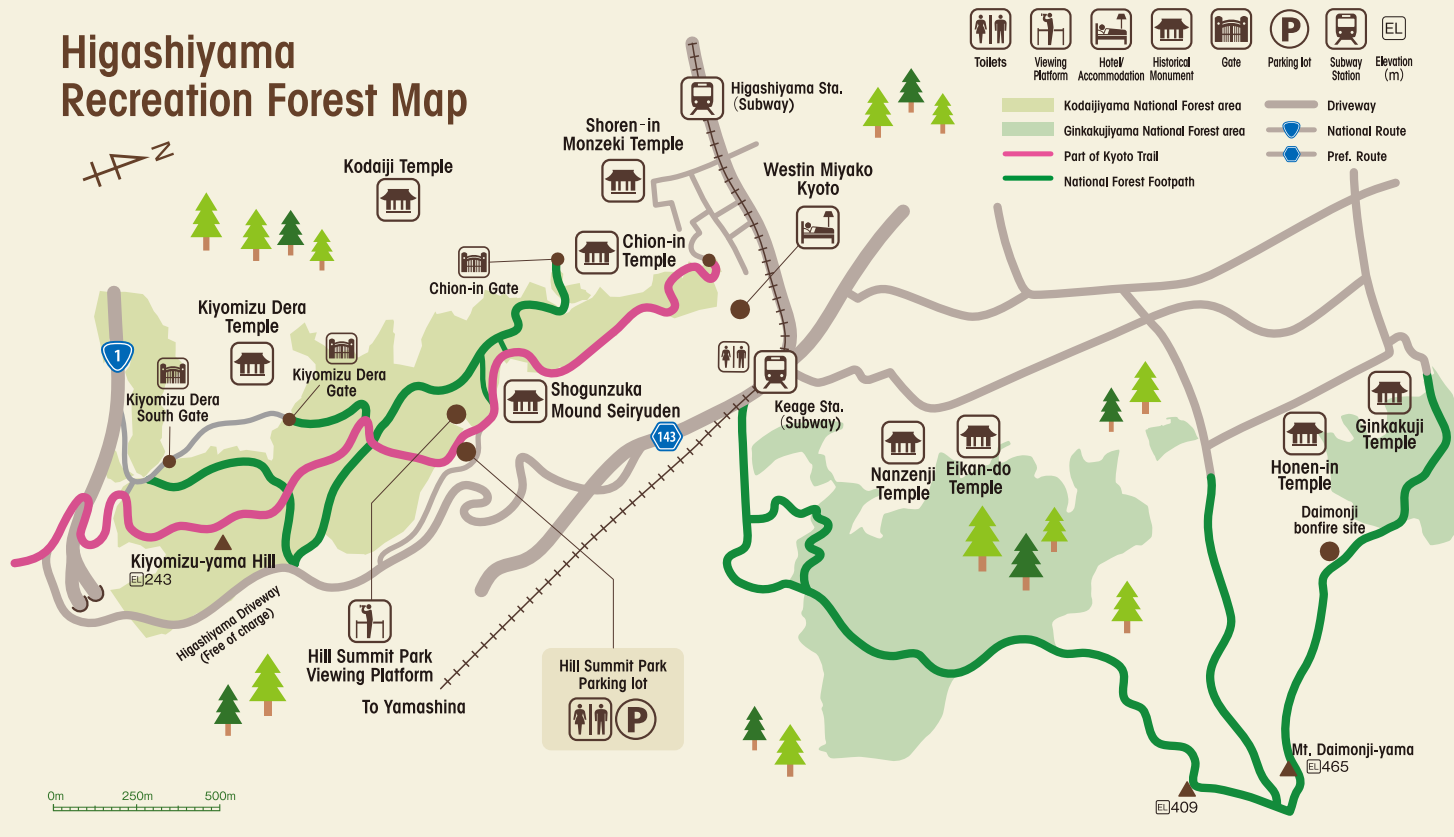
Recreation Forest



Recreation Forests
Forestry Agency

The mountain that provides the backdrop to the traditional Japanese gardens of shrines and temples from Kitashirakawa to Kiyomizu

Higashiyama Recreation Forest Map



Climate, flora and fauna

In Ginkakujiyama National Forest, akamatsu, Japanese red pine (*Pinus densiflora*) grow along the ridge line, while deciduous broad-leaved trees are distributed throughout the rest of the forest. In Kodaijiyama National Forest, a mixed forest of hinoki, Japanese cypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*) and shii, chinquapin (*Castanopsis*) grows on the slopes behind Kiyomizu-dera Temple, while the Shogunzuka area and the foot of the mountain are home to evergreen broad-leaved trees, principally chinquapin. Both deciduous and evergreen broad-leaved trees grow throughout the rest of the forest. To keep and promote scenic beauty and coziness of these forests, the Council for Kyoto Traditional Forest Culture has been carrying out thinning of overcrowded shii trees and planting of Japanese mountain cherry and Japanese maple trees, and also cutting the trees along the walking-trails.

Council for Kyoto Traditional Forest Culture
<http://www.kyoto-dentoubunkanomori.jp/> (Japanese Only)



Senninzuka near Ginkakujiyama

Attractions

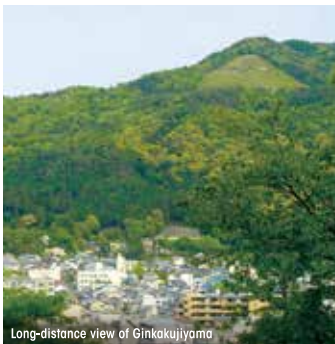
Kyoto Trail paths and other footpaths crisscross the length and breadth of Higashiyama Recreation Forest, which people visit for the purpose of exploring historic sites, nature observation, and birdwatching. From Ginkakujiyama National Forest, visitors can climb to the Daimonji bonfire site — a key location in the Kyoto Gozan no Okuribi bonfire festival — which offers a spectacular panoramic view over the city. Kodaijiyama National Forest also offers sweeping vistas of the city from the Higashiyama Summit Park observation platform, next to which is located Shogunzuka Seiryuden Temple. Shoren-in Monzeki Temple, Kiyomizu-dera Temple, and Chion-in Temple can all be reached on foot from Higashiyama Summit Park.



Broad panorama of the Kyoto-city from Daimonji bonfire site

Geographical/ topographical features

Higashiyama Recreation Forest is made up of national forests (including Ginkakujiyama and Kodaijiyama) located to the east of downtown Kyoto and spans 14 of Higashiyama's 36 peaks. Visible from the city center, the gently undulating slopes of Higashiyama have become a symbol of Kyoto City.



Long-distance view of Ginkakujiyama

Historical/ cultural features

Until it came under government control in the Meiji period, the territory on which Higashiyama Recreation Forest stands was owned by local temples and shrines, helping to sustain them economically through the production of timber and various byproducts. The majestic sylvan landscape amid which the temple and shrine precincts stood also played a religious role, so many temples and shrines were built at the foot of the mountain, along with the villas of various aristocrats. Ashikaga Yoshimasa's Ginkakuji Temple is one of these. Today, managed as a national forest and playing a key role in preserving the local landscape, it serves as a much-loved backdrop (borrowed scenery) to the historically and culturally important temples and shrines of Ginkakuji Temple, Kiyomizu-dera Temple, Yasaka Shrine, and Nanzenji Temple.



Kiyomizu Dera Temple Main Hall

Information

▪ Elevation (m)	70—240
▪ Area (ha)	190.25
▪ Entrance fee	Free
▪ Opening seasons	Open all year
▪ Opening and hours	Kiyomizu-dera Temple gate: 6:00—17:30 Kiyomizu Dera South gate: 6:00—17:00 Chion-in Temple gate: 6:00—16:00
▪ Accommodation options	Visitors can choose from a wide array of accommodation options in downtown Kyoto.
▪ Car parking capacity / parking charges	Parking is available in Higashiyama Summit Park. Space for 34 vehicles (Free of charge)