

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.

Takatoriya Recreation Forest Access Map



Access

By public transport:

- Osaka Station (JR Osaka Loop Line: approx. 20 minutes) → Tennoji Station (approx. 3 minutes on foot) → Osaka Abenobashi Station (Kintetsu Minami Osaka Line Express bound for Yoshino: approx. 50 minutes) → Tsubosakayama Station (Nara Kotsu Bus: approx. 11 minutes) → Tsubosakadera-mae bus stop (approx. 1 hour on foot) → Takatoriya Recreation Forest
- Kyoto Station (Kintetsu Kyoto Line: approx. 53 minutes) → Kashiwara-Jungumae Station (Kintetsu Yoshino Line: approx. 7 minutes) → Tsubosakayama Station (Nara Kotsu Bus: approx. 11 minutes) → Tsubosakadera-mae bus stop (approx. 1 hour on foot) → Takatoriya Recreation Forest
- Kintetsu-Nagoya Station (Kintetsu Nagoya Line: approx. 1 hour) → Ise-Nakagawa (Kintetsu Osaka Line: approx. 50 minutes) → Yamato-Yagi (Kintetsu Kashiwara Line: approx. 6 minutes) → Kashiwara-Jungumae Station (Kintetsu Yoshino Line: approx. 7 minutes) → Tsubosakayama Station (Nara Kotsu Bus: approx. 11 minutes) → Tsubosakadera-mae bus stop (approx. 1 hour on foot) → Takatoriya Recreation Forest
- Tsubosakayama Station (Kintetsu Yoshino Line) → approx. 2 hours on foot via Tosa Historic Road through the old castle town → Takatoriya Recreation Forest

By car:

- Keinawa Expressway Gose IC (approx. 12 km / approx. 30 minutes) → Takatoriya Recreation Forest
- End of the Minamihanna Road → End of Yamatotakada Elevated Bypass (approx. 21 km / approx. 40 minutes) → Takatoriya Recreation Forest

Takatoriya Recreation Forest

Address : Takatori-cho, Takaichi-gun, Nara Prefecture

Management office contact details:
Nara Forest Administration Office
FAX : 0742-53-1502

Takatoriya Recreation Forest Management Committee

(Town Planning Division, Takatori Municipal Office)
FAX : 0744-52-4063

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



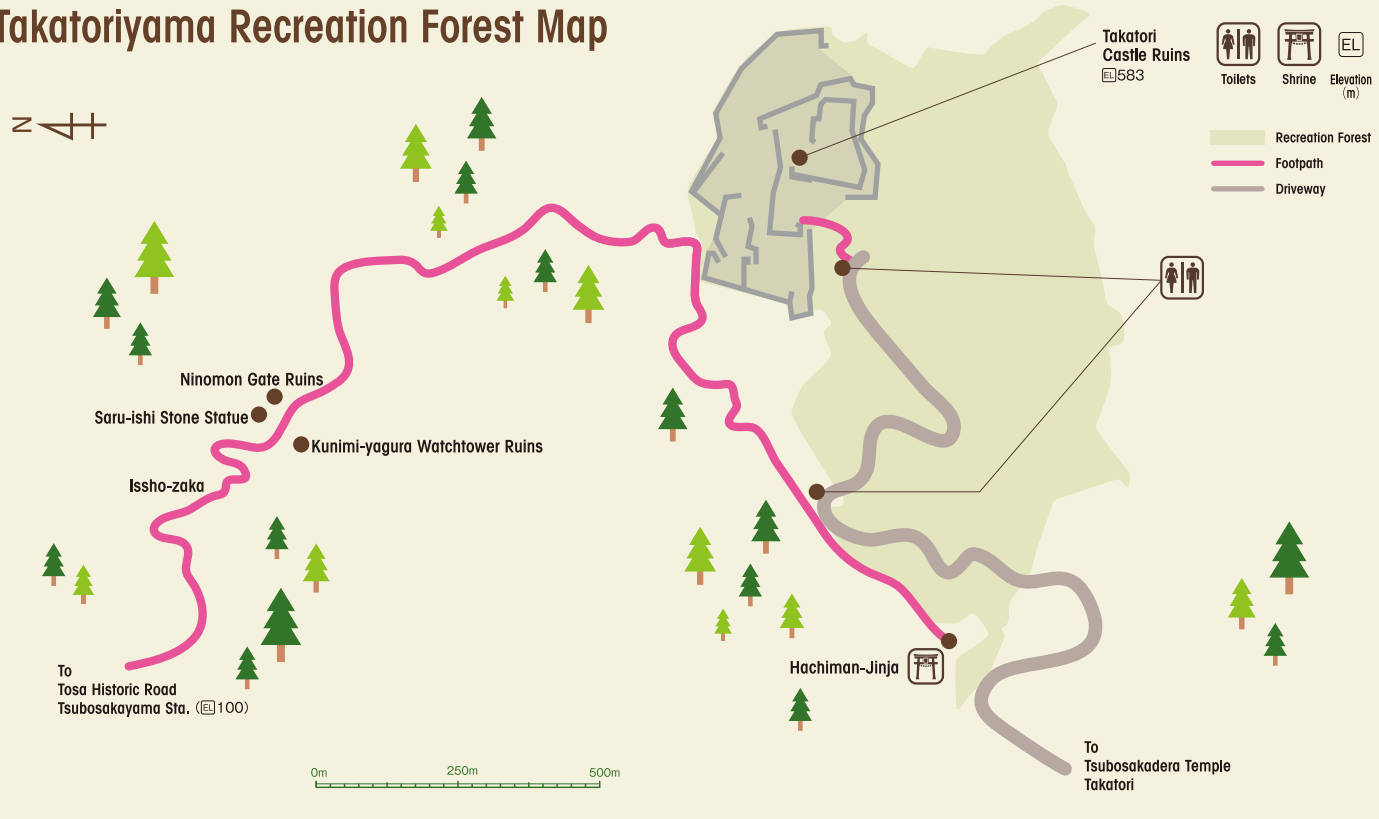
TAKATORIYAMA

Recreation Forest



The ruins of Takatori Castle, one of Japan's three great mountain castles — Breathtaking views of the Nara plain and stone walls redolent of yesteryear

Takatoriyama Recreation Forest Map



Climate, flora and fauna

This warm temperate laurel forest is home to trees such as sugi, Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*); hinoki, Japanese cypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*); momi, fir (*Abies firma*); hornbeam (*Carpinus*); keyaki, zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*); and shirakashi (*Quercus myrsinaefolia* Blume). The pink and purple flowers of Tsutsuji (*Rhododendron reticulatum*) are at their best in Spring, and visitors can savor the red and golden maple leaves in Fall. In addition, a giant Japanese cedar believed to be more than 200 years old can also



be seen at the site of the ruins. Oruri, blue-and-white flycatcher (*Cyanoptila cyanomelana*); rurikakesu, Lidth's jay (*Garrulus lithi*); and nihonrisu, Japanese squirrel (*Sciurus lis*) are among the creatures that live around the castle ruins in this lush vegetation.

Attractions

The mountain trail from Tsubosakayama Station (elevation 100 m) takes about 2 hours to climb and is aimed at strong walkers. The path to Takatori Castle ruins takes in such historic sites as the remains of a samurai residence and the Saru-ishi stone statue. Approaching the summit (elevation 580 m), climbers are greeted by the majestic sight of Takatori Castle's stone walls. The panoramic view from Takatori Castle ruins takes in the Yoshino and Omine mountains to the south and Yamato Sanzan (the three mountains of Yamato), and the whole of the Nara plain to the west.



Geographical/ topographical features

The summit of Mount Takatori in Takatoriyama Recreation Forest is located within Takatori Castle ruins, at an elevation of 583.6 m.



Historical/ cultural features

Designated as a National Historic Site, Takatori Castle ruins cover a 1.13 ha area close to the summit of Mount Takatori, in Takatoriyama Recreation Forest. With the largest elevation difference of any early modern castle in Japan, it is considered to be one of Japan's three great mountain castles. Takatori Castle's history is said to date back to a subsidiary castle built by the powerful local Ochi clan in the Nanboku-cho period (mid- to late 14th century). Although the castle was subsequently abandoned by order of Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi spotted its geographic importance and embarked on large-scale refurbishment work to turn it into a branch castle. During the Edo period, it served as the castle of 14 generations of the Uemura clan, rulers of Takatori Domain, from the time of the third shogun Tokugawa Iemitsu until the Meiji Restoration. On the way down to the castle town from Takatoriyama Recreation Forest via Takatori Castle's Ninomon gate is the Saru-ishi (Monkey Stone), a stone statue of a monkey that dates back to the Asuka period (592–710). Said to be an objet d'art that Empress Saimei had constructed in ancient times as a talking point in a place where visitors were offered hospitality, it was awarded the Japan Heritage designation in 2016.



Information

▪ Elevation (m)	440–580
▪ Area (ha)	14.19
▪ Entrance fee	Free
▪ Opening seasons	Accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. (However, there is no outdoor lighting, so the forest effectively cannot be entered at night)
▪ Accommodation options	There are no accommodation facilities in Takatori-cho, so visitors should use the accommodation facilities in nearby municipalities, such as Kashihara City, Gose City, Asuka-mura, and Oyodo-cho.
▪ Car parking capacity / parking charges	No parking available