

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.

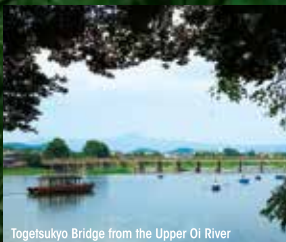
With more than 70% of Japan landmass covered in abundant
greenery, the Forestry Agency is working to create "Recreation Forests"
to inspire as many as possible to rediscover the wonder of nature.

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

※The inner part of Arashiyama National Forest has steep slopes, with a risk of falling rocks, so the public is not permitted to enter. Please enjoy the forest from outside, as a picturesque backdrop to Togetsukyo Bridge and temples such as Tenryuji.



Autumn view from the Sogenchiji-temple of the Tenryuji Temple



Togetsukyo Bridge from the Upper Oi River



Togetsukyo Bridge and Arashiyama

Arashiyama Scenic Forest Access Map



Access

By public transport:

- Kyoto Station (Karasuma Subway Line: approx. 5 minutes) → Karasuma Oike Station (Tozai Subway Line: approx. 10 minutes) → Uzumasa Tenjingawa / Randen Tenjingawa Station (Keitoku Electric Railroad Arashiyama Line: approx. 15 minutes) → Arashiyama Station (approx. 5 minutes on foot) → Arashiyama Scenic Forest
- Hankyu Umeda Station (Kyoto Line: approx. 35 minutes) → Katsura Station (Arashiyama Line: approx. 10 minutes) → Arashiyama Station (approx. 5 minutes on foot) → Arashiyama Scenic Forest
- Kyoto Station (JR Sagano Line: approx. 20 minutes) → Saga-Arashiyama Station (approx. 15 minutes on foot) → Arashiyama Scenic Forest

By car:

- [from the Meishin Expressway] Kyoto-Jukan Expressway Oharano IC → Arashiyama Scenic Forest (approx. 8 km)
- [from the Fukuchiyama direction] Kyoto-Jukan Expressway Kutsukake IC → Arashiyama Scenic Forest (approx. 8 km)

※Traffic jams frequently occur, so we recommend that visitors use public transport.

Arashiyama Scenic Forest

Address : Arashiyama Genrokuzan-cho, Nishikyo-ku, Kyoto-shi

Management office contact details:

Kyoto/Osaka Forest Administration Office

FAX : 075-432-2375

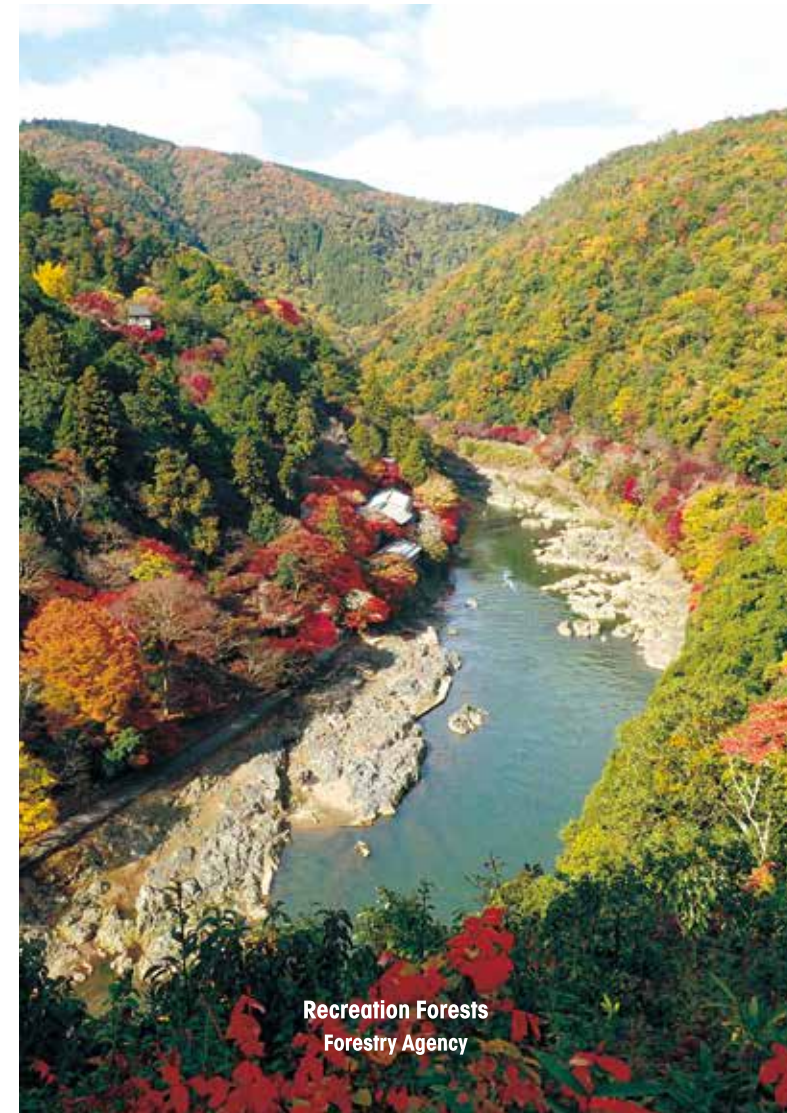
National Forest Planning Division, Forestry Agency, MAFF

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



ARASHIYAMA

Scenic Forest



Mountains, river and bridge in perfect harmony : savor the changing seasonal colors of the forest at Arashiyama, the picturesque spot so beloved by Heian aristocrats



Cherry blossoms of Arashiyama



Kameyama-koen park observation platform



Fall colors of Arashiyama



Togetsukyo Bridge and Arashiyama

Climate, flora and fauna

While sugi, Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*) and hinoki, Japanese cypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*) grow in some parts of the forest, it is mostly an old-growth natural forest, with maple (*Acer*); keyaki, zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*); cherry (*Prunus*); and arakashi, Japanese blue oak (*Quercus acuta*). In addition, akamatsu, Japanese red pine (*Pinus densiflora*) grow along the ridge line.



Fall colors of Arashiyama

Attractions

Visitors can, of course, enjoy exquisite views of the harmonious scenery formed by Togetsukyo Bridge and Oi River against a backdrop of cherry blossom in Spring and scarlet and gold leaves in Fall. In addition, on the opposite bank of Oi River, Kameyama Park offers a panoramic vista of the beautiful Hozu Valley, which is said to remain virtually unchanged from the Heian period, over a thousand years ago. This area is also home to famous temples such as Tenryuji Temple, a World Cultural Heritage site and location of the notable garden Sogenchi-teien, which uses Mount Arashi as borrowed scenery. Visitors can encounter wild monkeys at Arashiyama Monkey Park Iwatayama, or take to the river in a hired boat or on a Yakatabune cruise to get a taste of what it was like to be a Heian period aristocrat.



Explore the Arashiyama in spring by boating

Geographical/ topographical features

Arashiyama Scenic Forest covers almost all of the forested area that can be seen upstream from Togetsukyo Bridge, on the right bank of the Oi River, which flows through western Kyoto City. The slopes are very steep, with an average grade in excess of 30°.



Scenic Arashiyama from Togetsukyo Bridge

Historical/ cultural features

Arashiyama's history as a noted beauty spot began in the 7th century, when it became a place of recreation for the denizens of Kyoto following a visit by Emperor Kanmu (737-806). Its appeal lies in the harmonious composition of its scenery, featuring the changing seasonal appearance of Mount Arashi, the limpid waters of the Oi River, and the elegant lines of Togetsukyo Bridge. Most notably, it has been famed for its spectacular views of autumn leaves since ancient times, to the extent that "Arashiyama" (literally, "Storm Mountain") became indelibly associated with autumnal foliage in classical poetry, including the verses below. **To the storied stream Of Oi River do we come To pay our call, And here we see the colored leaves Famed to be torn from Storm Mountain** Emperor Shirakawa (1053-1129) **The autumn leaves dance As the storm blows away The mist above, And the peak that appears clear and bright Is Arashiyama** Fujiwara no Sadaie (1162-1241) Later, Arashiyama also became renowned for its cherry blossom, after Emperor Go-Saga (1220-1272) had several hundred cherry trees (*Prunus*) transplanted to the area from Mount Yoshino during the construction of his imperial villa (Kameyama-den) at the end of the 13th century. These are celebrated in such poems as the following. **Arashiyama Yet it could be Yoshino transplanted; A waterfall's white threads Cascade onto the cherry blossom** Emperor Go-Uda (1267-1324) Subsequently, Muso Kokushi (Soseki) (1275-1351), who founded Tenryuji Temple, is said to have also transplanted several thousand yamazakura, Japanese mountain cherry (*Prunus jamasakura*) here from Mount Yoshino.

Information

- Area (ha) 59.89
- Accommodation options As well as accommodation in the Arashiyama area, visitors can choose from a wide array of accommodation options in downtown Kyoto.
- Car parking capacity / parking charges Private parking lots are available in the vicinity.

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