

## 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.

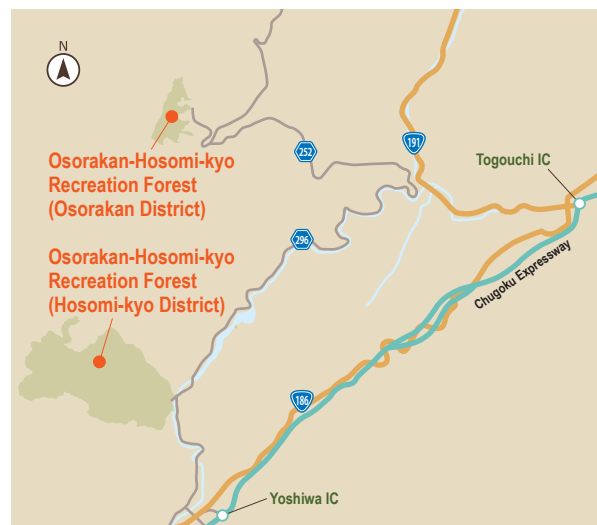
With more than 70% of Japan landmass covered in abundant greenery, the Forestry Agency is working to create "Recreation Forests" to inspire as many as possible to rediscover the wonder of nature.

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

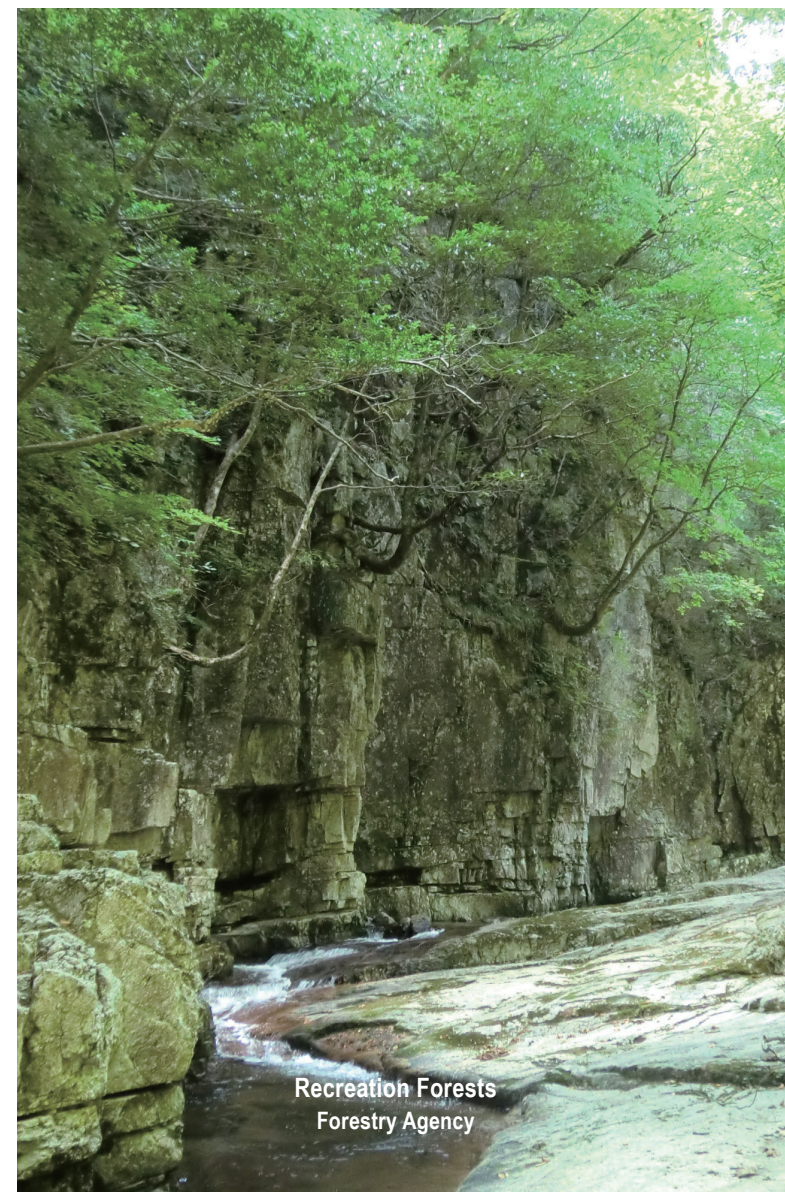
- 1 Help protect wild animals and plants. When you bring your pets, please mind your manners and give consideration to the surrounding environment.
- 2 Damaging trees or stealing any forest product is penalized by law. Even collecting plants covering the ground of forest are prohibited within protection 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.

### Osorakan-Hosomi-kyo Recreation Forest Access Map



# OSORAKAN-HOSOMI-KYO

## Recreation Forest



### Access

By public transport	Osorakan-Hosomi-kyo Recreation Forest
Hiroshima Sta.	Hiroko Kanko Ski Bus Only during the winter (mid-December through mid-March) About 2 hr
Yokokawa Sta.	Hiroko Kanko Ski Bus Only during the winter (mid-December through mid-March) About 1 hr 45 min
By car	
Chugoku EXPWY Togouchi IC	via Route 191 About 40 min
Chugoku EXPWY Yoshiwa IC	Pref. Route 296 About 30 min

### Osorakan-Hosomi-kyo Recreation Forest

Location : Akiota Town, Yamagata County, Hiroshima Prefecture (Osorakan District)  
Yoshiwa, Hatsukaichi City, Hiroshima Prefecture (Hosomi-kyo District)

Management office contact details :  
Hiroshima District Forest Office  
FAX : 082-247-5822

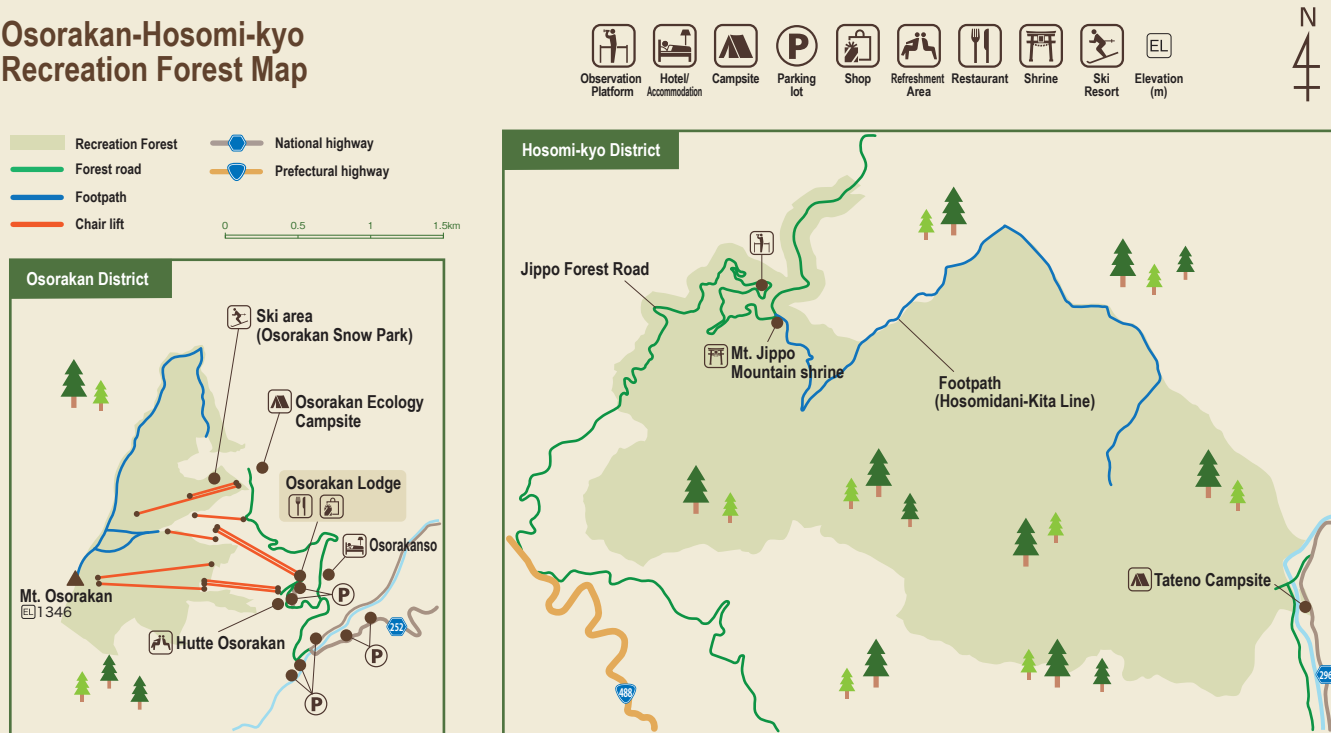
National Forest Planning Division,  
Forestry Agency, MAFF

The Official Recreation Forests Website of the Forestry Agency  
[https://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/e/national\\_forest/recreation\\_forest/index.html](https://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/e/national_forest/recreation_forest/index.html)



# Come to Osorakan for year-round mountain activities

## Osorakan-Hosomi-kyo Recreation Forest Map



## Climate/ flora and fauna

[Osorakan District]

The district is covered by a vast primeval forest of Buna (Japanese beech (*Fagus crenata* Blume)), Mizunara (Japanese oak *Quercus crispula* Blume) and Tochinko (Japanese horse chestnut (*Aesculus turbinata* Blume)). The forest is exceptionally beautiful when its leaves are fresh and green and in the autumn when they change color. Due to the high elevation, the district receives a large amount of snow in the winter which is among the best quality snow for skiing in the Chugoku region.



Fascinating flowers of Ginryoso

In May, 120,000 Suisen (daffodil (*Narcissus* sp.)) color the ski slopes of the Osorakan Snow Park, and Mt. Osorakan is opened to hikers.

[Hosomi-kyo District]

The district has a picturesque gorge where streams contrast with early-summer green or autumn red and yellow leaves of Japanese beech, Japanese oak *mizu-nara*, Mizume (Japanese cherry birch (*Betula grossa*)) and Katsura (katsura trees (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum* Siebold et Zucc. ex Hoffm. et Schult.)).

The district is also the southernmost habitat for Tsukinowaguma (Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*)) on the island of Honshu.

## Attractions

Akiota Town's "Forest Therapy Base" (Therapy Road) is found at the foot of Mt. Osorakan, the highest peak in both Hiroshima and Shimane Prefectures. The base offers various therapy programs, including snow-covered mountain forest therapy using snow (the ski area) in the winter.

The Osorakan Snow Park is a ski area with 100% natural snow. Visitors can enjoy skiing, snowboarding and various other thrilling snow activities. The vast ski slopes, with an elevation difference of 420 m, have 8 chair lifts and 11 trails and offer a perfect snow experience for skiers and snowboarders of all levels. The snow park also has a family zone where small children can have fun in the snow safely. In addition, mystic frost-covered trees can be seen on the higher ski slopes.



Sandankyo Gorge

The Osorakan Ecology Campsite is the highest-elevation campsite in Hiroshima Prefecture. It is fully equipped with cabins and an auto-camping site, making it easy to enjoy camping. The site also offers a variety of outdoor activities, such as zip-lining.

In Hosomi-kyo, visitors can stroll in the forest and explore nature as they camp, trek and hike in the cool air. Meanwhile, Hosomi Gorge is known as a hidden spot perfect for mountain stream fishing for Yamame (masu salmon (*Oncorhynchus masou masou*)) and Iwana (Japanese char (*Salvelinus leucomaenis* subsp.)), attracting many fishing enthusiasts from local areas and also from outside the prefecture.

## Geographical/ topographical features

[Osorakan District]

The district is part of the Nishi-Chugoku Sanchi Quasi-National Park and encompasses Mt. Osorakan (1,346 m), which straddles the border between Hiroshima and Shimane Prefectures. Its summit is the highest peak in both prefectures.

[Hosomi-kyo District]

The district is part of the Nishi-Chugoku Sanchi Quasi-National Park. It also includes the Hosomi Valley to the west of Mt. Jippo (1,318 m), a high peak near the border between Hiroshima and Shimane Prefectures. It has so many gorges that it has been referred to as the place of "808 valleys." Despite the steep landscape, the area is a popular mountain stream fishing spot.



Sandankyo Gorge

## Historical/ cultural features

[Osorakan District]

The Osorakan District flourished as one of Japan's largest iron production areas until around the mid-1950s. The major iron production method used was Japan's traditional manual method called tataro iron making. In this method, iron-sand and charcoal were placed in a clay furnace that was kept burning for three days and nights while a constant amount of wind was continuously fed into it. This required a tremendous amount of charcoal and manpower. The sites where wood for the charcoal was logged can be seen today in the terraced fields and along the Osorakan Trail.



Misty forest

## Information

- Elevation (m) 800 - 1,300
- Area (ha) 1,373.15  
(Osorakan District: 442.30, Hosomi-kyo District: 950.85)
- Entrance fee Free
- Opening seasons Accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Operation hours Please refer to the information at <http://www.osorakan.co.jp> by staff
- Accommodation options [Osorakan District] 5 pensions and Japanese inns (3 of which only operate during the winter), campsites (500 m at the nearest, 10 minutes)  
[Hosomi-kyo District] 3 accommodation facilities at Yoshiwa, Hatsukaichi City
- Car parking capacity / parking charges [Osorakan District] Free parking for 1,700 vehicles