

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.

Jadani Valley Recreation Forest Access Map



Access

By car:

- JR Kanazawa Station → (public road: about 80 minutes) → (Hakusan Shirakawa-go White Road (payment required): about 10 minutes) → Jadani Valley Recreation Forest
- Hokuriku Expressway Komatsu IC → (public road: about 60 minutes) → (Hakusan Shirakawa-go White Road (payment required): about 10 minutes) → Jadani Valley Recreation Forest

Jadani Valley Recreation Forest

Address : Chugu, Hakusan City, Ishikawa Prefecture

Management office contact details:
Ishikawa District Forest Office
FAX : 076-222-6215

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



JADANI VALLEY

Recreation Forest



Experience the bountiful natural splendor of Mt. Hakusan, with its breath-taking waterfalls and virgin forest

Jadani Valley Recreation Forest Map



Climate, flora and fauna

The forest belongs to the Sea of Japan climate zone and receives heavy snowfalls. It is home to a variety of animals, including Tsukinowaguma (Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*)), Nihon Kamoshika (Japanese serow (*Capricornis crispus*)), and Nihon Zaru (Japanese macaque (*Macaca fuscata*)). The vegetation mainly consists of a temperate forest of broad-leaved trees such as Buna (Japanese beech (*Fagus crenata* Blume)) and Mizunara (Japanese oak mizu-nara (*Quercus crispula* Blume)), with trees such as Dakekamba (Erman's birch (*Betula ermanii*)) distributed across high-elevation areas.



Contrast between autumn foliage and a waterfall

Attractions

The Hakuanshirakawa-go White Road runs through the forest. Eight waterfalls of various sizes are found along road, known as the "Jadani Hakkei" (eight beautiful scenes of Jadani), including the "Ubagataki Falls," which has been selected as one of Japan's 100 best waterfalls. You can view the various waterfalls from the observation platforms located along the gorge as you drive around the area.



Ubagataki Falls making cool splashing sounds

Geographical / topographical features

Geological strata dating from ancient times, such as Nohi Rhyolite, is distributed across the entirety of the gorge. Erosion of these strata by the river has formed a steep, V-shaped valley. Visitors can easily enjoy magnificent views of the dynamic landscape of this deep, hard-to-access gorge.



Fukube Falls standing out against fresh green

Historical / cultural features

The "Kabuto-Iwa Rock" is a Nohi Rhyolite rock wall named for its resemblance to a "kabuto" (a traditional Japanese samurai helmet). This rock has served as a landmark for hunters crossing the border from the Hida region and for people using the "Oiyadani-No-Yu Hot Spring," which offers one of Japan's best views from an outdoor bath.



Footpath leading to Oiyadani-No-Yu Hot Spring

Information

- Elevation(m) 750–1,736
- Area (ha) 605.01
- Entrance fee Passenger car toll for the White Road: one-way 1,600 yen, return 2,600 yen
- Operating seasons 7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. from June through August
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. from September through November
The Recreation Forest is closed during the period from November 10 through early June due to snowfall.
- Accommodation options [Outside the forest] On the Ishikawa Prefecture side, accommodations are available at hot spring inns at Chugu Hot Spring. On the Gifu Prefecture side, accommodations are available at guest houses at World Heritage Site Shirakawa-go.
- Car parking capacity / parking charges Free parking for 260 vehicles at 8 locations