

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.

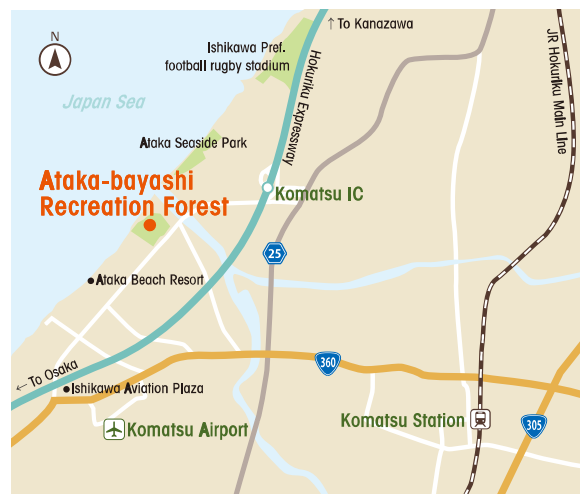
With more than 70% of Japan landmass covered in abundant
greenery, the Forestry Agency is working to create "Recreation Forests"
to inspire as many as possible to rediscover the wonder of nature.

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 Do not enter forests under bad weather conditions.
- 7 Do not dispose of any leftover food in the forest. Please take your garbage home with you.
- 8 Smoking is permitted only in special areas. Make sure to extinguish any fires, e.g. after smoking cigarettes.
- 9 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.

Ataka-bayashi Recreation Forest Access Map



Access

By public transport:

- Komatsu Ekimae (Komatsu Bus, Ataka route: approx. 11 minutes) → Ataka no Sekimae (on foot: approx. 1 minute) → Ataka-bayashi Recreation Forest
- Komatsu Ekimae (Komatsu Bus, Komatsu Airport route: approx. 21 minutes) → Ataka Sumiyoshi Jinja (on foot: approx. 1 minute) → Ataka-bayashi Recreation Forest

By car:

- Hokuriku Expressway Komatsu IC (approx. 1.5km / approx. 3 minutes) → Ataka-bayashi Recreation Forest

Ataka-bayashi Recreation Forest

Address : Ataka-machi-haka 3, Komatsu-shi, 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



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ATAKA-BAYASHI

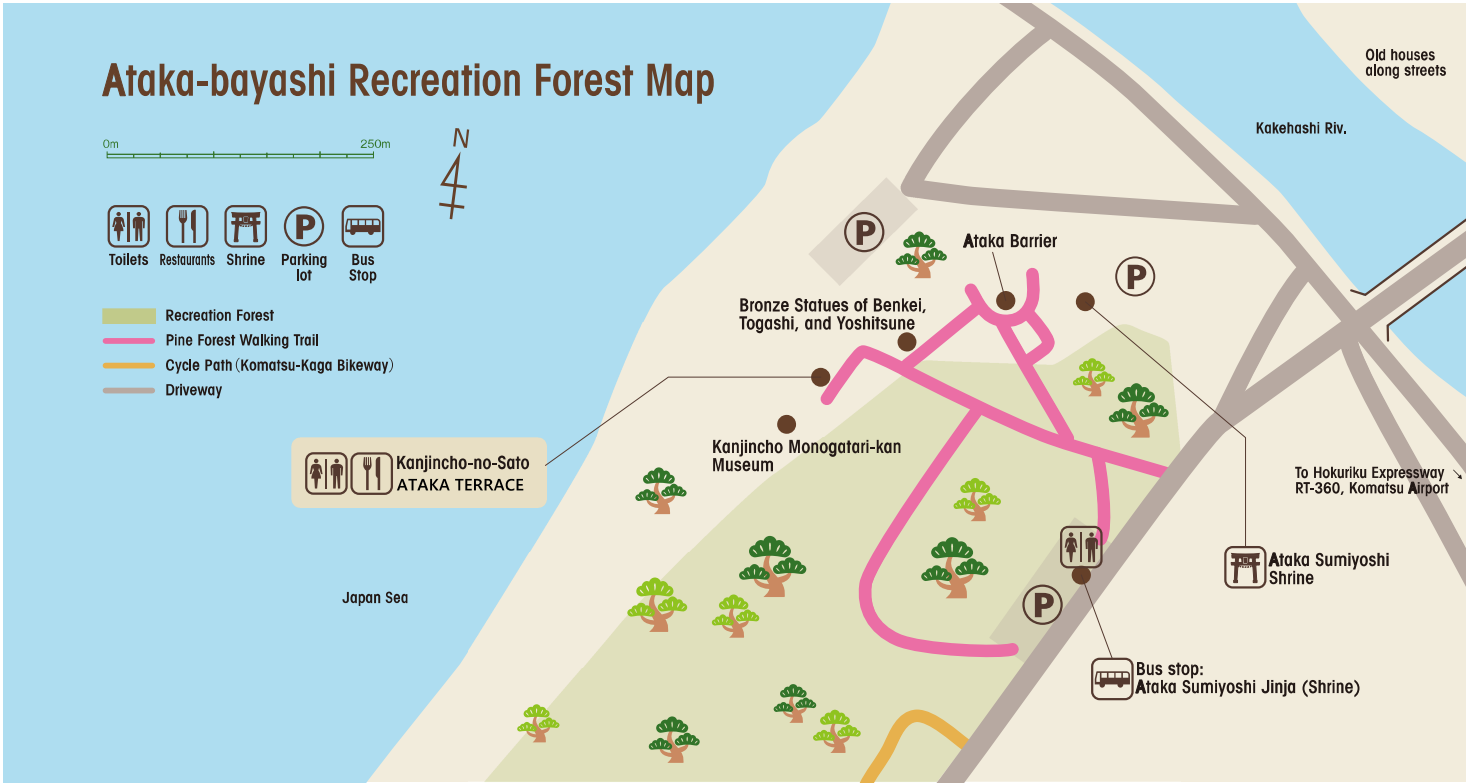
Recreation Forest



Recreation Forests
Forestry Agency

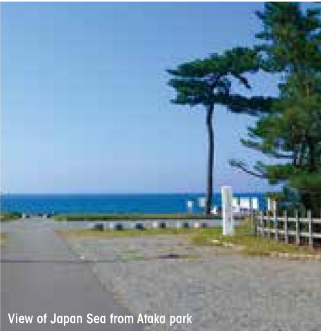
Ataka Barrier and a Japanese black pine forest :

This forest is the setting for the ageless tale of Yoshitsune and Benkei that features in Kanjincho, one of Japan’s 18 best kabuki plays.



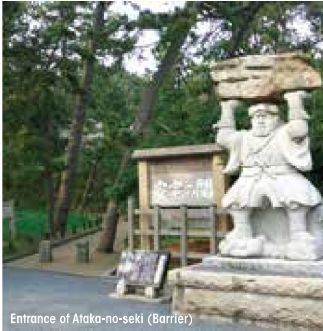
Geographical/ topographical features

Located to the west of central Komatsu, this coastal forest on the Sea of Japan (the boundary of the National Forest is about 100 m from the shoreline) stands on land that is almost completely flat. The Ataka coast has been chosen as one of Japan’s 100 top white sand beaches beside beautiful green pine groves by the Association for the Protection of Japan’s Green Pines.



Historical/ cultural features

This area is renowned throughout Japan as the home of Ataka-no-seki, the gate made famous by the well-loved tale of Minamoto no Yoshitsune and Benkei on their escape to Oshu Province. The tale was adapted into the kabuki play Kanjincho, at the climax of which Benkei, disguised as a yamabushi mountain ascetic, reads out a fake kanjincho (a subscription list of people who had donated money to rebuild Todaiji Temple in Nara after it burned down), which he has made up on the spot. As a busy port of call on the Kitamaebune shipping route from the Edo period onward, the streets of Ataka were thronged with shipping agents and sailors and the town enjoyed great prosperity. Some of the mansions of the shipping agents and other parts of the townscape dating back to those times can still be seen today.



Climate, flora and fauna

Sea of Japan climate zone, kuromatsu, Japanese black pine (Pinus thunbergii) natural forest



Attractions

Surrounded by a pine forest, this area is almost completely flat. Among the nearby attractions enabling visitors to lose themselves in the legendary tale of Yoshitsune are bronze statues recreating a famous scene from the kabuki play set here, along with the Kanjincho Monogatari-kan Museum, where visitors can watch a video of notable scenes from the play. In addition, at the adjacent Ataka Sumiyoshi Shrine can be found precious raised cloth pictures and color prints depicting scenes from Kanjincho. ATAKA TERRACE commands a panoramic view of the Sea of Japan, offering visitors the chance to savor the magical sight of the evening sun sinking beyond the horizon, across the sea. A 3.1-km section of the Komatsu-Kaga Bikeway (total cycle path length: 26.7 km) passes through the forest, enabling cyclists to enjoy cycling along the coast. Heading further south, visitors can cycle as far as the Kaga Hashitate Historic Preservation District (Kaga city), the location of a collection of historic buildings dating back to the late Edo through mid-Meiji periods, when the settlement flourished as the home of the Kitamaebune shipping route ship-owners and captains.



Information

▪ Elevation (m)	5–15
▪ Area (ha)	69.21
▪ Entrance fee	Free
▪ Opening seasons	Accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
▪ Operation hours by staff	ATAKA TERRACE is open 9:00–17:00 all year round (closed Wednesdays)
▪ Accommodation options	Several accommodation facilities are available near Komatsu IC (2 km • 5 minutes) Several accommodation facilities are available near Komatsu Station (4 km • 10 minutes) Numerous hotels and Japanese inns are available in Awazu Onsen (14 km • 23 minutes)
▪ Car parking capacity / parking charges	Space for approximately 50 vehicles (Free of charge)