

Ashizuri-Uwakai National Park



A national park is designated by the Japanese government as a natural landscape that represents Japan based on the Natural Parks Act. Thirty-four national parks are designated from Hokkaido in the north down to Okinawa and the Ogasawara Islands in the south, and more than 300 million people visit them every year. These national parks are full of precious treasures such as wild animals and plants, history and culture in addition to the scenic beauty. Japan's national parks are characterized by various environments such as forests, farmlands, villages, etc. While some are untouched, the local history and culture derived from nature and people's lives can be appreciated. Come visit our national parks to fully enjoy the beautiful nature of Japan that shows off various sceneries in each season.



Characteristics

Nature Nurtured by the Kuroshio Current
– Dynamic but Graceful Coastline Along with Lively Forests and Sea –

Ashizuri-Uwakai National Park was first established as the Ashizuri National park in 1955. It became the Ashizuri-Uwakai National Park in 1972 after designating the Uwakai area and the Marine Park zone as park additions. The main feature of this park is the diverse landscape which consists of coastal areas including islands in the southwest part of Shikoku and inland mountains with an altitude of around 1,000 m. Cliffs developed from coastal terraces extend in the Ashizuri area, and subtropical marine life and coral communities, blessed by the Kuroshio Current, can be found. Meanwhile, delicate coves of the submergent coastline and island scenery are a few of many charms of the Uwakai area, and beautiful underwater scenery centered around soft corals can be appreciated. Natural forests including large trees such as the Japanese umbrella tree, the Japanese cedar, and the Hinoki cypress remain in the inland area, and the vertically distributed vegetation varying from warm- to cool-temperate zones can be found. In addition, Nametoko Gorge in the upstream of Shimanto River has a smooth granite riverbed and a series of stunning waterfalls such as Yukiwa-no-taki Falls and beautiful forests of *Quercus salicina* (a kind of oak) and the Japanese Machilus along the gorge, which are attracting many tourists.

[Date of Designation] November 10, 1972 [Relevant Prefectures] Ehime Pref., Kochi Pref. [Area] 11,345 ha



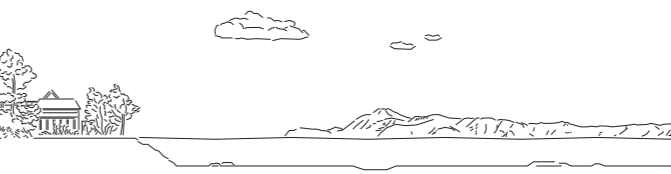
View of Tengu-no-Hana (Tengu's Nose) Seen from the Cape Ashizuri Observation Deck

Terrain Geological Features Landscape

The diverse coastal landscape is one of the great charms of the Ashizuri-Uwakai National Park. The eastern part of the Ashizuri area in Kochi Prefecture has a spectacular scenery with extensive cliffs, such as Cape Ashizuri and Tatsukushi, which is an emergent coast.¹ The western part has a complex, delicate scenery with many capes and groups of rock reefs, which is a ria coast (submergent coast).² Meanwhile, the Uwakai area of Ehime Prefecture is a typical ria coast (submergent coast). Miura Peninsula protruding long to the west and intricate coastlines such as Yura Peninsula, with surrounding islands, form a diverse archipelago landscape. Cliffs and caves created by erosion can be found. Although part of Cape Ashizuri and others is made of granite, they are mainly comprised of sandstones and shales belonging to the Mesozoic and Tertiary periods. Thus, a unique coastal landscape has been formed by wind and wave erosions.



Odo Seashore



Especially, Tatsukushi has many soft sandstones, and various-shaped rock formations called "Kigan (unusual rocks)" can be seen. In addition, footprints and excrements of prehistoric life remained in strata are considered geologically valuable.

¹ Emergent coast: A coast formed by tectonic uplift of the land surface or a fall in sea levels.
² Submergent coast: A coast formed by sinking of the land surface or a rise in sea levels.
Among them, a ria coast has a large number of coves and bays showing an extremely complicated, indented, and serrated coastline.



Archipelago landscape of the Uwakai Sea



Unusual rocks of Tatsukushi and Nametoko Gorge (Minokoshi)



Conservation Efforts

– Conservation Project for *Rhododendron Pentaphyllum* var. *Shikokianum* of Mt. Sasayama –

In the mountain ridge of the Mt. Sasayama area, the Sika deer has damaged *Sasa nipponica* (a kind of evergreen Bamboos) in recent years. As a result, outflow and erosion of the topsoil occurred, and communities of *Rhododendron Pentaphyllum* var. *Shikokianum* (a kind of azalea) became affected. For that reason, conservation efforts, such as installing deer fences and adding topsoil, have been undertaken with the cooperation of local communities.

– Tatsukushi Nature Restoration Project –

In Tatsukushi, coral communities progressively declined due to human impact and environmental changes in the past. However, the coral is gradually recovering as a result of collaborating with diverse entities in the region, in an effort to conserve the ecosystems including the coral community.

– Conservation of Coral Communities –

Various initiatives and projects that are integrated have been conducted by the local community as a whole for the purpose of conserving coral communities in each marine park area. Extermination of crown-of-thorns starfish and others that cause damage to corals has been undertaken by park volunteers in the Otsuki area, and other areas are following suit.



Mt. Sasayama Conservation Project for *Rhododendron Pentaphyllum* var. *Shikokianum*

Extermination of Crown-of-thorn Starfish

Contact List

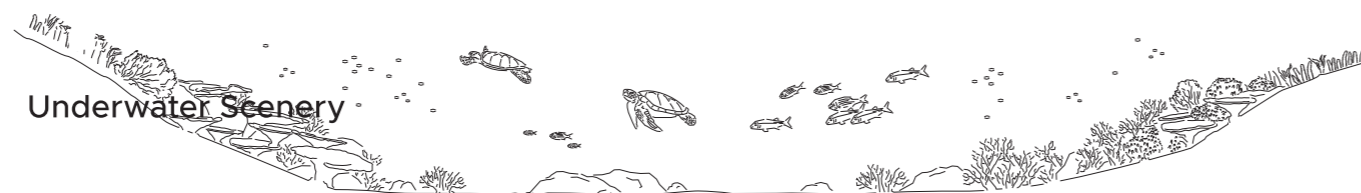
Chugoku-Shikoku Regional Environment Office
11F, Okayama Joint Government Building No. 2, Shimoishii 1-4-1, Kita Ward, Okayama City, Okayama Prefecture
700-0907
TEL: 086-223-1577 FAX: 086-224-2081
URL: <http://chushikoku.env.go.jp/>

Tosashimizu Ranger Office
Tenjin Town 11-7, Tosashimizu City, Kochi Prefecture
787-0305
TEL: 0880-82-2350 FAX: 0880-82-2358

Ashizuri-Uwakai National Park Website
<https://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/nps/park/ashizuri/index.html>



Underwater Scenery



With the influence of the Kuroshio Current which is one of the world largest warm currents, hermatypic corals such as stony corals have been developed despite of the high latitudes. Subtropical fish such as the Neon damselfish and the butterflyfish inhabit among these corals, creating vividly colorful underwater scenery. Especially, corals not only have a large variety but also are located close to the northern limit of the world's coral distribution. Although coral reefs like those found in the Ryukyu Archipelago cannot be formed, this is a valuable sea area with coral communities that are amazingly well developed in scale and varieties as a temperate zone. In order to conserve this wonderful underwater landscape, currently, six marine park areas are assigned, including Okinoshima, Kashinishi, Tsutomezaki, and Shirigai in addition to Tatsukushi and Uwakai that are Japan's first marine parks. In particular, a massive community of the cactus coral in Tatsukushi and Minokoshi bay is astonishing and designated as a Natural Monument of Kochi Prefecture.



Photo: Mr. Shu Nakachi of the Kuroshio Biological Research Foundation

Soft Coral



Colorful Underwater Scenery

As for the coast of the Uwakai Sea, there are also some sea areas designated as Natural Monuments of Ehime Prefecture since marine animals (coelenterate, echinoderm, etc.), shellfish, and seaweeds are designated as Uwakai special underwater resources group by the Prefecture. In addition, there are many species of marine life centered around fish. With respect to piscifauna, a large number of species from tropical and subtropical to temperate as well as such as the yellowtail, the oriental bonito, and the tuna, the whale shark, and the ocean sunfish can be found. In summary, the diverse Ashizuri-Uwakai National Park nurtured by the Kuroshio Current has not only corals but also a wide variety of creatures, and it is truly a treasure trove for invaluable marine life. Such underwater views can be easily seen while snorkeling, from a glass-bottom boat or an underwater observation tower. Further, Bryde's whales and dolphins migrate here, as well as sea turtles return to the beaches for nesting.



Green Sea Turtle

Snorkeling

Wild Animals and Plants Culture



– Plants –

Vegetation from warm- to cool-temperate zones can be found with a tropical wet climate impacted by the Kuroshio Current. Laurel forests of the warm-temperate zone are widely distributed along the coast, and pure forests of the Ubame oak can be seen in various places. Within the forests, not only the rattlesnake-plantain and *Tripterospermum japonicum* (a perennial flowering climbing plant with bell-shaped light lavender color flowers) but also Yakkoso (*Mitrasmeonaceae yamamotoi*) can be observed. Yakkoso is a parasitic plant mainly living off roots of *Castanopsis sieboldii* (a kind of evergreen tree), and its name is derived from Yakko (meaning a "footman" in old term) because its shape resembles that of Yakko's. In addition, the vicinity of Cape Ashizuri is a habitat of subtropical plants such as the Chinese fan palm, the Night Fragrant Elephant Ear, *Marattiaceae* (a kind of giant fern), and red flowers of the Camellia which is the symbol of Cape Ashizuri can be seen as well. *Cirsium maritimum Makino* (a kind of thistle), *Farfugium tussilagineum* (a kind of evergreen), and *Chrysanthemum japonense* (a kind of Chrysanthemum) inhabit along the coast. Communities of the Rock Pine which is a succulent plant can also be found on cliffs. Forests of *Quercus salicina* and the Japanese Machilus and mixed forests of the Japanese beech, the momi fir, and the maple grow along the Nametoko Gorge in the inland area. Large trees



Camellia

Yakkoso (*Mitrasmeonaceae yamamotoi*)

Chrysanthemum japonense (Makino) Nakai var. *ashizurense* Kitam

Farfugium tussilagineum

– Animals –

such as the Japanese umbrella tree and the tiger-tail spruce and communities of *Rhododendron Pentaphyllum* var. *Shikokianum* can be found in the summit area of Mt. Sasayama.

– Animals –

A large number of wildlife such as the Japanese macaque and the Sika deer inhabits this area. In addition to the breeding grounds of the streaked shearwater on Biro Island just off Kashiwa Island, birds such as the Japanese Murrelet, the Japanese cormorant, and the Grey-faced Buzzard can be observed in the coastal area.

– Culture –

| Shikoku-no-Michi (Shikoku Nature Trails) and Ohenro (Shikoku Pilgrimage Route)
Shikoku-no-Michi (Shikoku Nature Trails) have been maintained as long-distance nature trails for visitors to appreciate local histories and nature, including Ohenro (the Shikoku pilgrimage route). This park has Kongofukuji-temple, one of eighty-eight temples on the Shikoku pilgrimage route; these temples are said to be established by Kobo-Daishi (a Buddhist monk who founded the Shingon school). In addition, Tsukiyama-jinja Shrine and Sasayama-jinja Shrine, where are known to be additional sacred places for the pilgrimage, can be visited, and the Shikoku pilgrimage cultures such as Osettai (small gifts offered by local residents to aid pilgrims) still remain today. | Blessings of the Kuroshio Current and the Fishery Culture
This area has many fishing ports and fishing villages that have prospered in the deep-sea fishing since ancient times for blessings of the Kuroshio Current. In addition, a number of rafts and nets for farming the red seabream and the Noble scallop within the bay facing the inland can be seen, and the lifestyle blessed by nature since long ago still remains.



Japanese macaque

Ohenro (Shikoku Pilgrimage Route)

Vigorous Aquafarming

National Parks Etiquette

Please keep in mind the importance of nature and observe the following while staying in the national park so that everyone can enjoy.

- Do not litter.
- Do not pick plants.
- Do not feed any wildlife.
- Do not catch/capture any wildlife.
- No smoking is permitted while walking.
- Bonfires shall be built within the designated area only.

Do not drive on the beach nor build bonfires on the beach in order to protect sea turtles on the Oki Beach or the Shimonoake Beach.

There are many poisonous creatures in the sea.

Obtain correct information and be careful.

E.g.) *Aglaophenia whiteleggei* Bale (a kind of Hydrozoa). Cone snail, crown-of-thorns starfish, flower urchin, blue-lined octopus, long-spined black sea urchin

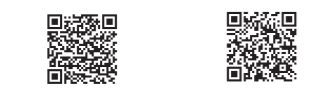
Keep in mind that wild animals such as Japanese macaques of Nametoko and Kashiwa Island may not be afraid of humans and may attack bags and backpacks for food.

Limited passenger car access in Cape Ashizuri (Optimizing the use of cars)

In Cape Ashizuri, traffic of private passenger vehicles is regulated during holiday seasons in May, August and for New Year's.

For Safe Travel
Please download below application in order to get information about warning for earthquake, volcanoes, tsunami and so on.

*Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=jp.co.rccc.safetyTips.android>
*iPhone: <https://itunes.apple.com/jp/app/safety-tips/id858337174?mt=8>



Supported by Japan Tourism Agency (<https://www.jta.go.jp/safety-tips/eng/app.html>)

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* Please note that the highlights & guide map's purpose is to show an overview of the designated area; therefore, a margin of error shall be allowed.



This deserted island in Uwakai is an island with rich nature consisting of a special protection area and a Class I Special Zone. It is also used as a place for children to experience a camp on a deserted island.



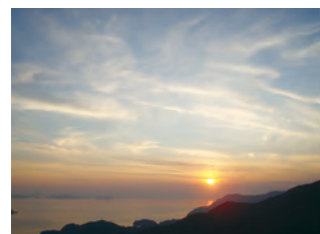
As going through the Ubame oak forest from the parking lot, a calm beach appears up front. Snorkeling and kayaking as well as camping on the vast grass field can be enjoyed.



This deserted island was once a hunting ground for the Uwajima Domain (a feudal domain in 1600s), and wild monkeys and deer currently inhabit the area. Snorkeling or sea walking to observe corals as well as swimming can be enjoyed.



Chrysanthemum japonense (a kind of Chrysanthemum) grows naturally around the steep slope of the cape and blooms all over the area in the late fall. The sky and sea underneath glow brightly orange during the sunset in the distant mountains of Kyusyu.



It is a pass at an altitude of 436 m with open views overlooking a majestic landscape woken by the Uwakai Sea, and the riva coast can be appreciated.



This mountain is where a pilgrimage has been practiced since ancient times, and it sits between Kochi and Ehime prefectures. Communities of *Rhododendron pentaphyllum Maxim. var. pentaphyllum* (a kind of azalea) inhabit the mountaintop area, and many tourists visit during the flowering season.



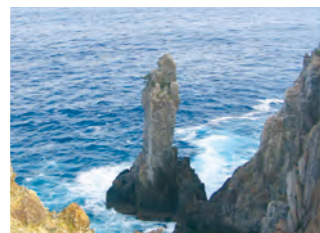
It features a smooth granite riverbed formed by erosion. Waterfalls represented by the Yukiwa-no-taki Falls, the rapids, stream pools, and the Japanese beech and the maple on the riversides are all creating this splendid scenery of the gorge. This is recently becoming as a popular place for canyoneering.



In addition to distinct coastal landscapes such as Nanatsu-do Cave, this island still has its own unique cultural characteristics such as stone walls, terraced fields, and Hidana (literally meaning "drying racks," community platforms installed along streets for drying fish and vegetables). Local ferry service is available from Katashima Port in Sukumo City.



Although it is a small island of 4 km in circumference, there is a diverse biota affected by the clear ocean due to the tide, the Kuroshio Current, and the Bungo Channel. This island is also popular among divers.



It is located at the western end of the Odo Seashore where cliffs extend, and its name is derived from its shape that resembles Kannon-sama (Guan Yin, Goddess of Mercy). A trail going through the natural forests is installed in its vicinity.



The vicinity of Tatsukushi has a varied coastal landscape, and various unusual looking rocks that resemble large and small bamboos (Otakekotake), a flock of thousand frogs (Kaeru-no-Senbikisure), and a transom (Ranna-iwa Rock) can be seen as well.



Photographed by Mr. Shuzo Takeba

The sea around Tatsukushi has a spectacular underwater landscape including "Minokoshi's Cactus Coral" and a variety of corals along with colorful fish.



Please contact each responsible ranger office or regional environment office of the Ministry of the Environment for area details.



It is a majestic beach where a white sand beach stretches for 1.5 km. A gentle scenery different from that of Cape Ashizuri or Tatsukushi, where feature sharp cliffs, attracts many surfers.



It is a megalithic site bristled with gigantic stones in the mountain and grassland. A great view as far as Kyusyu can be seen from the top of the flat stone called "Senjojiki Stone" (meaning one thousand tatami mats).



270-degree views overlooking the majestic Pacific Ocean can be appreciated from the observation deck. The surrounding trail is covered with overgrown Camellia trees, creating red flower tunnels in the flowering season.

| Information | Facilities |
|-------------|------------|
|-------------|------------|

| | |
|---|----|
| <p>Otsuki Ecology Campground Sugata 500, Otsuki Town, Hata County, Kochi Prefecture 788-0313 [TEL] 0880-74-0303</p> | G6 |
| <p>Narukawa Gorge Campground Nara, Kihoku Town, Kita-uwa County, Ehime Prefecture 798-1351 [TEL] 0895-45-2639 (Nrukawaekikoku Kyuyo Center)</p> | F2 |
| <p>Sunokawa Park Campground Sunokawa 288, Ainan Town, Minami-uwa County, Ehime Prefecture 798-3703 [TEL] 0895-85-0200</p> | E4 |

* Please directly contact each facility for details such as the hours of operation, etc.

| Access | Transportation |
|--------|----------------|
|--------|----------------|

| | |
|--|--|
| Haneda Airport Domestic Terminal | |
| Airplane Approx. 90 min. | Airplane Approx. 85 min. |
| Kochi Ryoma Airport | Matsuyama Airport |
| Airport Shuttle Bus Approx. 35 min. | Airport Shuttle Bus Approx. 15 min. |
| Kochi Sta. | Matsuyama Sta. |
| JR Ltd. Express Approx. 65 min. | JR Ltd. Express Approx. 85 min. |
| Kubokawa Sta. | Uwajima Sta. |
| Tosa Kuroshio Railway Approx. 35 min. | Uwajima Bus Approx. 15 min. |
| Nakamura Sta. | |
| Kochi Seinan Kotsu Bus Approx. 105 min. | |
| Cape Ashizuri | Narukawa |

* The access route above is an example. The time required for each section is an estimate only. Please contact each transportation company or check their websites for more information.