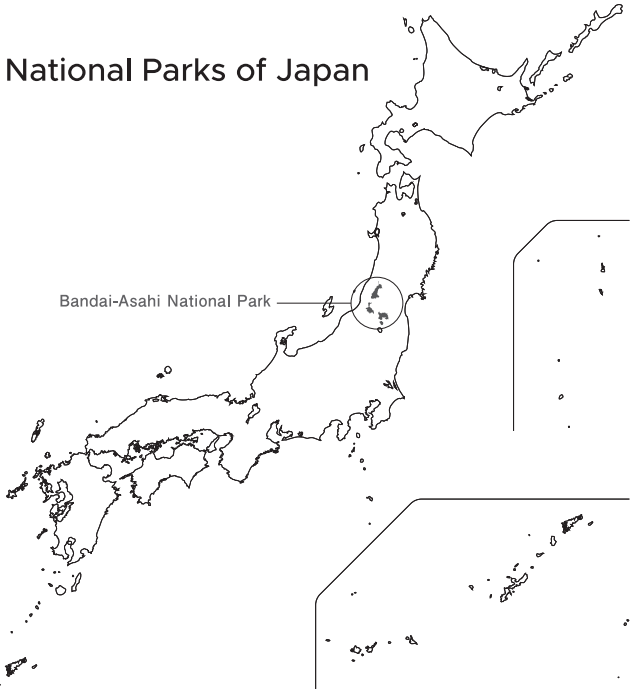


Bandai-Asahi National Park

National
Parks
of Japan



National Parks of Japan



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



Alpine Flowers Keeping the Ancient Appearance Alive Volcanic Land That Can't Help Changing

Bandai-Asahi National Park is the second largest national park in Japan, with a vast area including Dewasanzan, Asahi Mountain Range, Iide Mountain Range, Azuma Mountain Range, Mt. Bandai, and Lake Inawashiro. Dewasanzan is well-known as a place of mountain worship and has much historical charm. The primitive natural environment remains in the Iide and Asahi Mountain Ranges, and the mountain landscape surrounded by majestic mountains can be appreciated. Flower fields at the end of a long approach are filled with a feeling of warmth. The vicinity of the Azuma Mountain Range and Mt. Bandai has stunning views of the powerful landscape formed by volcanoes, and the beautiful vibrant scenery of various lakes, swamps and forests. In addition, it has convenient access from the urban area, and many people visit for a wide range of recreation such as mountaineering, natural observation, hot springs, skiing, etc. The Bandai-Asahi National Park has plenty of appeals, including deep forests and mountains, dynamic volcanic areas, lavish lakes and swamps, and mountain worship which has been passed down for generations. In addition, a number of climbers and mountaineers visit the park since various mountains in this massive park area can be appreciated by novice climbers as well as experienced mountaineers.

[Date of Designation] September 5, 1950
[Relevant Prefecture] Yamagata Pref., Fukushima Pref., Niigata Pref. [Area] 186,375 ha



Wildlife



| Bandai-Azuma and Inawashiro Areas

Rhododendron brachycarpum D. Don ex G. Don f. nemotoanum (Makino) Murata, a variant of Rhododendron brachycarpum G. Don grows in the Azuma Mountain Range and Mt. Adatara. Oguninuma Wetland is famous for a large community of Hemerocallis esculenta. Both are valuable plants designated as Natural Monuments of Japan. Urabandai is well-known for its extensive variety of wild birds, and bird watching can be enjoyed all year round.

| Dewasanzan and Asahi Areas

Rich forests at the foot of the mountain and mountainside in this area nourish a variety of wildlife, including large mammals and raptors that require a vast area of natural forests. Plants and insects adapted to harsh environments also inhabit the high moors and grasslands at the higher elevation.



Bandai-Azuma and Inawashiro Areas: Rhododendron brachycarpum D. Don ex G. Don f. nemotoanum (Makino) Murata (rhodod.) (Bohemian Waxwing (winter bird))



Dewasanzan and Asahi Areas: Stoat (a small mammal of mountainous areas) / Peacock Butterfly / Chocolate Lily (alpine plant of Mt. Gassan)



| Iide Area

A wide variety of wildlife including large mammals such as the Japanese black bear and the Japanese serow, medium- and small-sized mammals, and birds inhabit the Iide Mountain Range where a massive area of primitive nature is kept intact. In addition, mountaintops and ridgelines at high altitudes have abundant alpine plants, and colorful flowers bloom profusely in early summer.

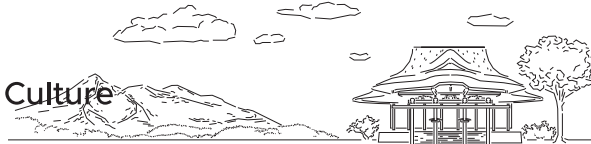


Alpine plants of Iide Mountain Range 1: Gentiana nipponica Maxim. var. robusta (A-Hara endemic species)



Alpine plants of Iide Mountain Range 2: Lilium rubellum Baker (Ane mone narcissiflora)

Culture



| Bandai-Azuma and Inawashiro Areas

Mt. Bandai, Azuma Mountain Range, and Mt. Adatara were formed by volcanic activity. Goshikinuma, a cluster of five crater and volcanic lakes and swamps, can be observed closely from the summit of Mt. Issaikyo of the Azuma Mountain Range.

| Dewasanzan and Asahi Areas

Dewasanzan is a collective term for Mt. Gassan (altitude of 1,984 m), Mt. Yudono (altitude of 1,500 m), and Mt. Haguro (altitude of 414 m). The gentle curves of mountains were formed by volcanic products from Mt. Gassan accumulated on the fold mountains.

| Iide Area

The Iide Mountain Range is a series of mountains with an altitude of around 2,000 m, including main peaks of Mt. Iide (altitude of 2,105 m) and Mt. Dainichidake. It is a non-volcanic mountain range formed by protrusion of the ocean floor due to crustal deformation. The west side of the ridgeline is a gentle slope of a periglacial landform, and the east side is a steep slope formed by snow erosion.



Iide Area: Autumn Leaves of Japanese Beech Tree



Iide Area: Bear Festival in Oguni Town

Conservation Efforts



- Conservation Activity of Iide and Asahi Areas -

In Iide and Asahi Mountain Ranges, conservation activities such as vegetation restoration have been conducted in order to restore nature devastated by human impact and permanently maintain the primitive nature of both areas.

- Invasive Alien Plant Strategy -

The Banda-Asahi National Park has confirmed the invasion of alien plants such as recognized Invasive Alien Species: the cutleaf coneflower and the common dandelion. Currently, removal work is being conducted on the cutleaf coneflower in Urabandai and Joudodaira and on the common dandelion in the alpine zone of Mt. Gassan.

- Oguninuma Pond Limited Passenger Car Access -

Access to Oguninuma Pond by car is regulated from the mid-June to the mid-July because of increased traffic of private passenger vehicles during the season of the Japanese azalea and Hemerocallis esculenta. Shuttle bus (fare required) is operated by the Council as alternative transportation.

- Park Volunteer Activity -

Volunteers are active in the Urabandai and Haguro areas providing nature interpretation to visitors, beautifying and cleaning the park, and conducting natural environment survey, etc. In addition, they hold events mainly at the visitor centers to educate the public in such areas as nature observation and snowshoe trekking.



Conservation Efforts in the Iide Mountain Range



Observation of New Shoots and Growth of Japanese Beech Trees



Snowshoe Trekking

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.



Facilities in the national park have been built using the natural terrain conditions. Be careful of injuries and use each park facility such as paths and trails at your own risk.



The Bandai-Asahi National Park is a home of the Asian black bear. Pay attention not to encounter a bear unexpectedly to avoid accidents.



There is no lavatory at the summit or on the mountain trails of Mt. Bandai. Make sure to use the lavatory prior to climbing. In addition, portable toilets can be purchased at Kobo-Shimizu mountain rest huts (Kobo-Shimizu-Goya and Okabe-Goya). Each rest hut is equipped with one portable toilet booth.

Contact List

Tohoku Regional Environment Office
6F, Sendai Joint Government Building No. 2, Honcho 3-2-23,
Aoba Ward, Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture
980-0014
TEL: 022-722-2870 FAX: 022-722-2872

Urabandai Ranger Office
Kengamine Hibara1093, Kitashiobara Village, Yama County
Fukushima Prefecture
969-2701
TEL: 0241-32-2221 FAX: 0241-32-3019

Haguro Ranger Office
Yachizeki 39-4, Arakawa, Haguro Town, Tsuruoka City,
Yamagata Prefecture
997-0141
TEL: 0235-62-4777 FAX: 0235-62-4537

Bandai-Asahi National Park Website
<https://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/nps/park/bandai/index.html>



Bandai-Asahi National Park Joudodaira District Website
<http://www.env.go.jp/park/bandai/guide/joudodaira/english/index.html>



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.rcsc.safetyTips.android>
*iPhone: <https://itunes.apple.com/jp/app/safety-tips/id858357174?mt=8>



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



Publisher: Ministry of the Environment
Year published: 2018

* 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.

Terrain Geological Features Landscape Ecosystem



- Terrain and Geological Features -

| Bandai-Azuma and Inawashiro Areas

Mt. Bandai, Azuma Mountain Range, and Mt. Adatara were formed by volcanic activity. Goshikinuma can be observed closely from the summit of Mt. Issaikyo of the Azuma Mountain Range. In addition, Mt. Bandai had phreatic eruptions repeatedly, and debris avalanches dammed the river, which formed more than 300 lakes and swamps including Lake Inawashiro and Lake Hibara of Urabandai.

| Dewasanzan and Asahi Areas

Dewasanzan is a collective term for Mt. Gassan (altitude of 1,984m), Mt. Yudono (altitude of 1,500m), and Mt. Haguro (altitude of 414m). The gentle curves of mountains were formed by volcanic products from Mt. Gassan accumulated on the fold mountains. On the other hand, the Asahi Mountain Range, with the main peak of Mt. O-Asahi (altitude of 1,870m), is a non-volcanic mountain range. The west side of the ridgeline is a gentle slope of a periglacial landform, and the east side is a steep slope formed by snow erosion.



Bandai-Azuma and Inawashiro Areas: Akunuma (a Crater Lake of Mt. Bandai) /Goshikinuma a.k.a. "Witch's Eye" (a Crater Lake of Mt. Azuma)



Dewasanzan and Asahi Areas: Mt. Gassan (volcano) / Ridgelines of the Asahi Mountain Range (a Non-Volcanic Mountain Range)



| Dewasanzan and Asahi Areas

The summit of Mt. Gassan and the ridgeline area of the Asahi Mountain Range offer a landscape of "alpine-like area" with snowy fields, ponds, marshes, windswept grasslands, and Siberian dwarf pine communities, without



Iide Area: Ridgelines of the Iide Mountain Range (a Non-Volcanic Mountain Range)

subalpine coniferous trees.

In addition, the foot of the mountain and the mountainside are covered with primitive forests, and the Japanese beech forest of the Asahi Mountain Range is one of the largest sizes in Japan.

| Iide Area

Primitive forests cover the foot of the mountain and mountainside of the Iide Mountain Range. Even now, primitive landscape including primeval Japanese beech forests remains in the area.



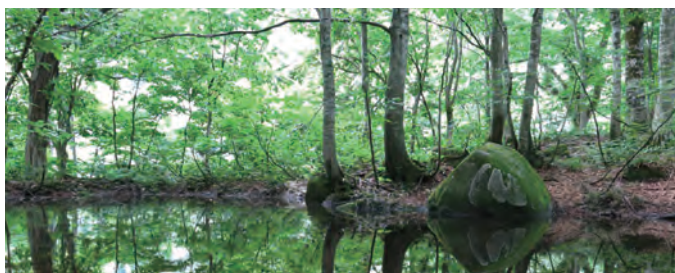
Bandai-Azuma and Inawashiro Areas: Japanese Alder Forest and Asian Skunk Cabbage in the Lake Hibara lakeshore / Subalpine Coniferous Forests of Mt. Nishi-Azuma



Dewasanzan and Asahi Areas: Mt. Gassan and Ponds and Marshes of Midagahara



Iide Area: Autumn Leaves of Japanese Beech Tree and Ponds of Midagahara



Iide Area: Japanese Beech Forest at the Foot of the Iide Mountain Range (Nukumidaira)

To pay a visit to Dewasanzan has been referred to as a “Visit to the Far East” since ancient times. Many people come and visit even now, and these mountains have become a place for mountain worship, visits to historic sites and shrines, mountain climbing, summer skiing, etc.



There are 2,446 steps on stone stairs and a cedar-lined path, registered as a Special Natural Monument of Japan, approaching to the Ideha-jinja Shrine on the summit. In addition, there is a five-story pagoda, Japan's national treasure.



Many mountaineering ascetics and visitors climb to the Gassan-jinja Shrine at the summit. The Gassan Ski area usually offers summer skiing until the end of July.



The Yudonosan-jinja Shrine is located in the middle of Mt. Yudono. It is a rare shrine in the country with no main building of the shrine because anything man-made has been avoided as much as possible since the ancient times.



Midagahara is a lava plateau with groups of ponds and marshes located in the northern part of Mt. Gassan. After snow melting in the early summer, a number of alpine plants bloom with colorful flowers.



Lake Otori-ike is located in the uppermost stream area of the Otori River and is a naturally dammed pond surrounded by Japanese beech trees. It is also known for a legend of “mythical fish Takitaro” (gigantic fish said to inhabit there), and many people visit for fishing during the fishing season.



This is the highest main peak of the Asahi Mountain Range with an altitude of 1,870m and one of Japan's 100 most famous mountains. The real pleasure of this mountain range is to traverse main ridges including Mt. O-Asahi over a few days.



This is an elongated gentle slope located in the mountainous region on the northeast side of the Iide Mountain Range. Forest therapy programs can be enjoyed the trail of 5.5km in total length in the rich Japanese beech forest.



This is a main peak of the Iide Mountain Range with an altitude of 2,105m and is one of Japan's 100 most famous mountains. It is also called “the Alps of Tohoku” along with the Asahi Mountain Range, and a series of deep, graceful mountains can be seen.



This is the highest peak with an altitude of 2,035m of Mt. Azuma (the Azuma Mountain Range), and it is one of Japan's 100 most famous mountains. This gently-shaped mountain is covered with coniferous forests of the subalpine zone, and the surrounding high moors are a treasure trove of alpine plants.



Joudodaira is located at an altitude of 1,580m in the middle of the Bandai-Azuma Skyline that is a sightseeing toll road. Trekking starting from Joudodaira to Mt. Azuma-Kofuji, Mt. Issaikyo, and Mt. Higashi-Azuma can be enjoyed.



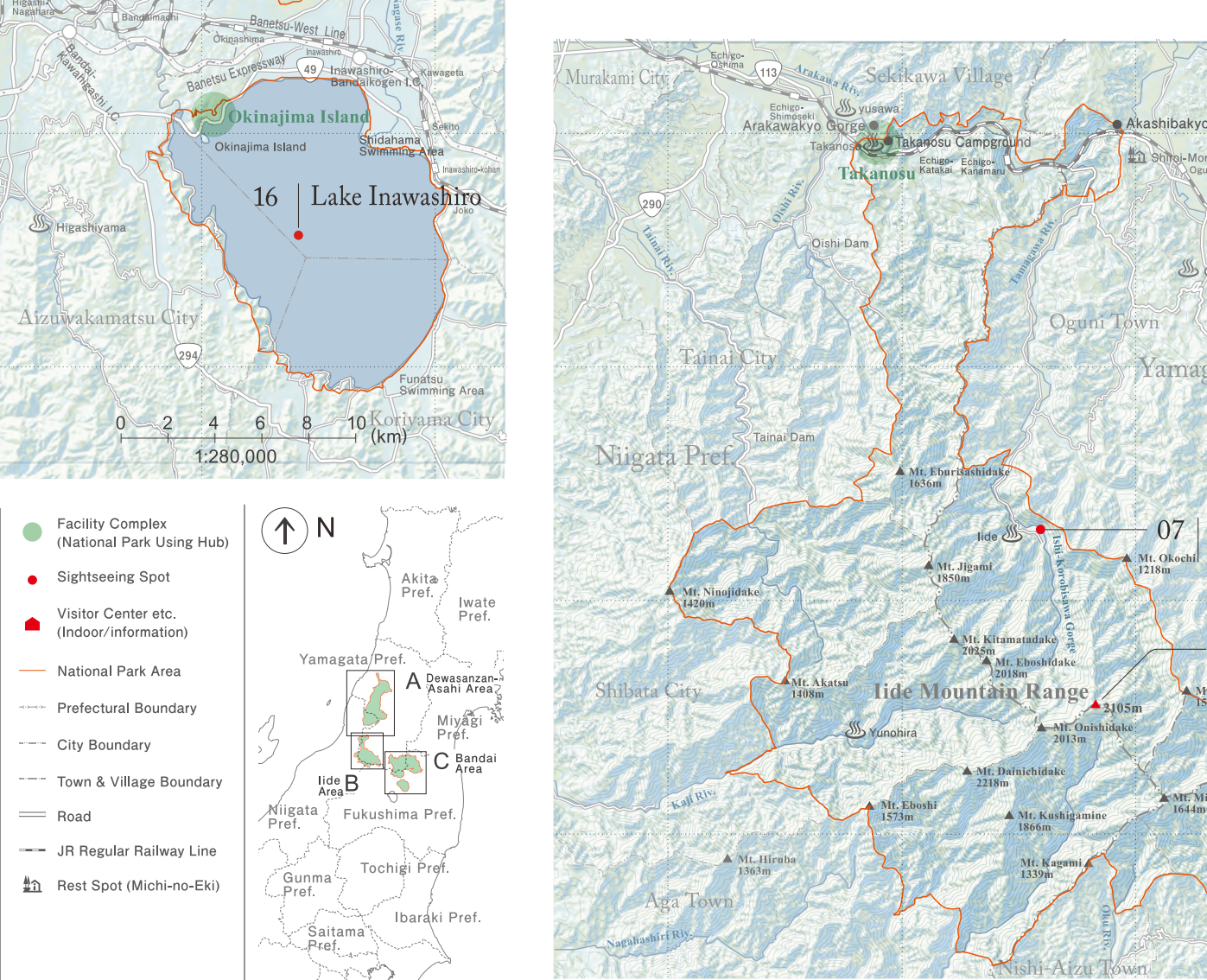
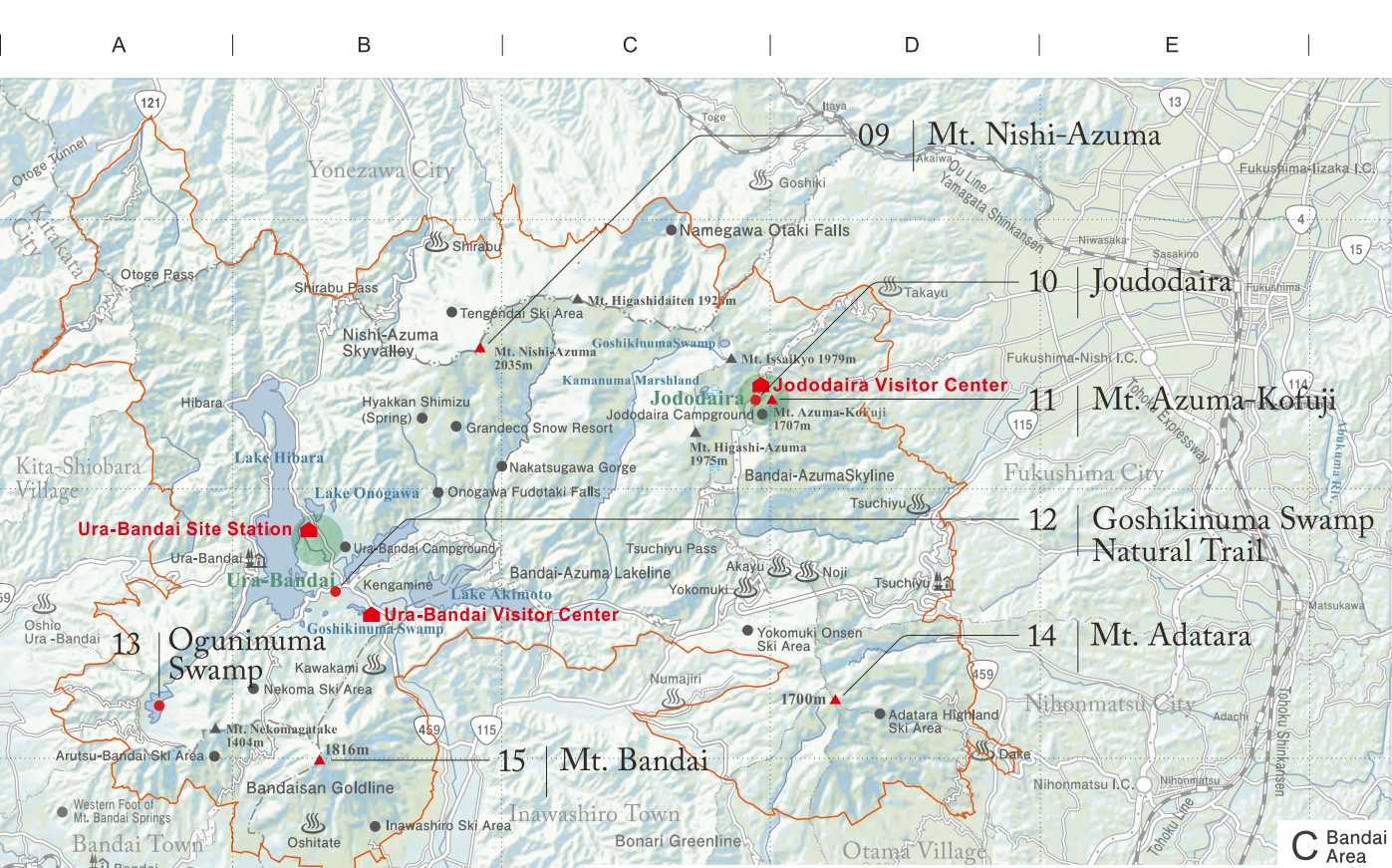
The Goshikinuma Natural Trail of about 4 km in total length is maintained to enjoy a group of more than 10 lakes and swamps of Goshikinuma. The color of water changes depending on the weather and time of a visit, which makes people want to return repeatedly.



Located in the west of Mt. Bandai, Hemerocallis esculenta is in full bloom in the wetland situated in the south of the pond from the end of June to the beginning of July. A wooden walkway of 800 m goes around the wetland for a relaxing walk.



This is a volcano with an altitude of 1,700m, which is also one of Japan's 100 most famous mountains. It is also well-known for being expressed in Kotaro Takamura's poem, “Portrait of Chieko.” Alpine plants and magnificent scenery can be appreciated.



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



Located in the north of Lake Inawashiro, this is a volcano with an altitude of 1,816m, which is also one of Japan's 100 most famous mountains. It is expressed as a treasure mountain in the folk song “Aizu Bandaizan” and is popular as a symbol of Aizu.



This is the fourth largest lake in Japan. It is also known as the “Lake of Heavenly Mirror (Tenkyoko)” because the lake surface is as beautiful as a mirror. It is also famous as a place where winter birds such as the tundra swan visit.

i	Information	Facilities
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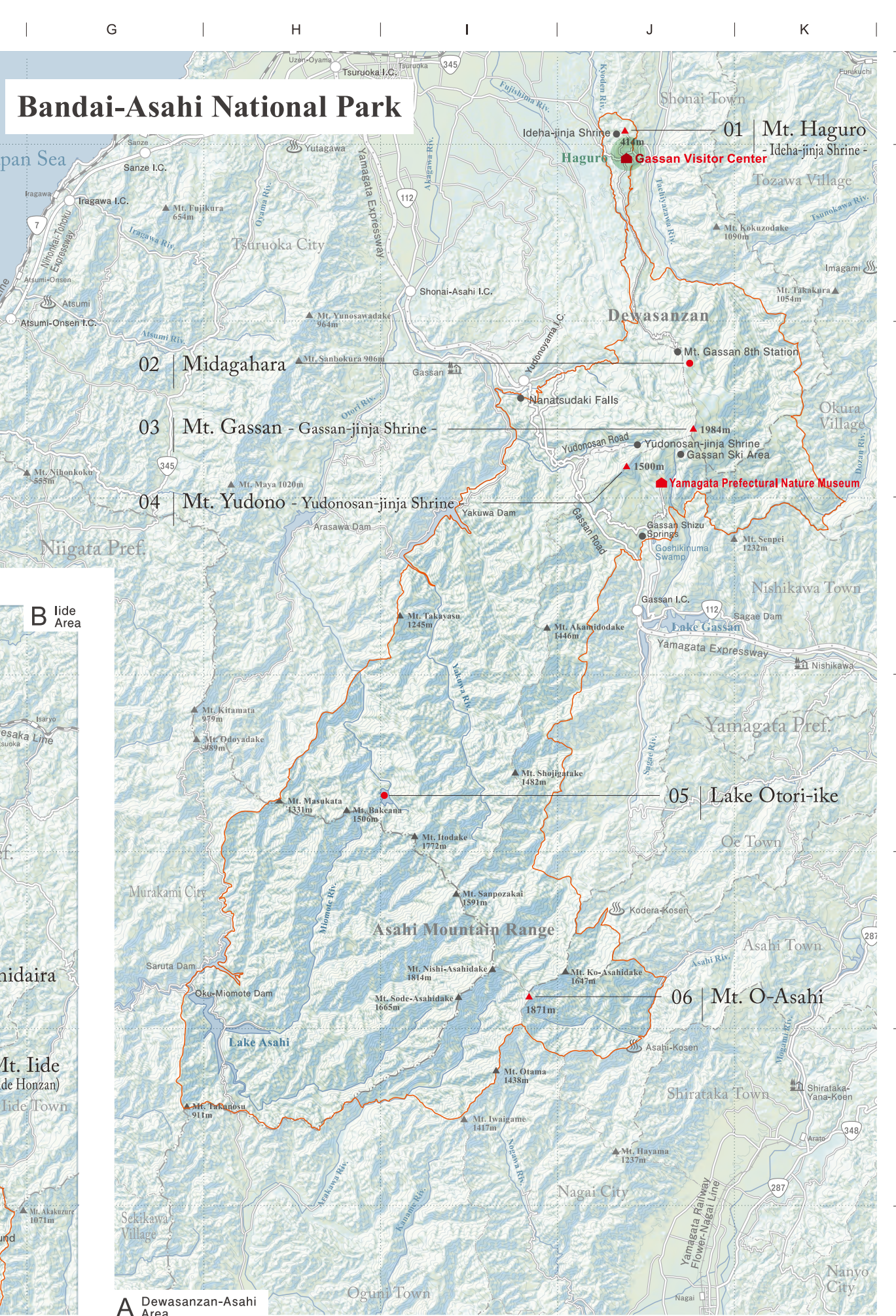
Joudodaira Visitor Center | C2
(Joudodaira), Washikurayama, Tauchiyu-Onsenmachi, Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture 960-0201 [TEL] 0242-64-2105 (Closed for Winter)



Ura-Bandai Visitor Center | B3
Kengamine Hibara1093-697, Kitashibohara Village, Yama County, Fukushima Prefecture 969-2701 [TEL] 0241-32-2850



Mt. Gassan Visitor Center | J2
Hagurosan 147-5, Haguro Town, Touge, Tsuruoka City, Yamagata Prefecture 997-0211 [TEL] 0235-62-4321



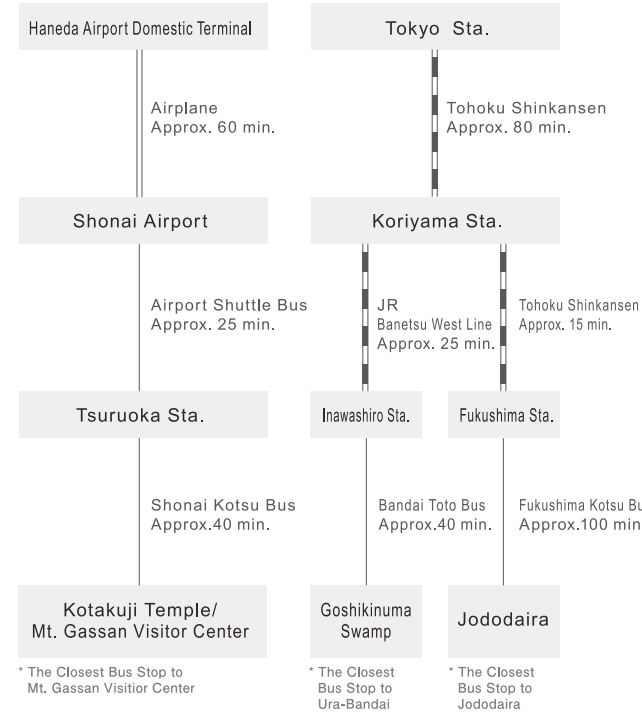
🚗	Access	Transportation
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Yamagata Prefectural Nature Museum | J3
Shizu, Nishikawa Town, Nishi-Murayama County, Yamagata Prefecture 990-0734 [TEL] 0237-75-2010 (Closed for Winter)



Nature Observation Sessions and Nature Experience Program
“A variety of seasonal nature observation sessions and nature experience programs are held at each facility.”



* 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.

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