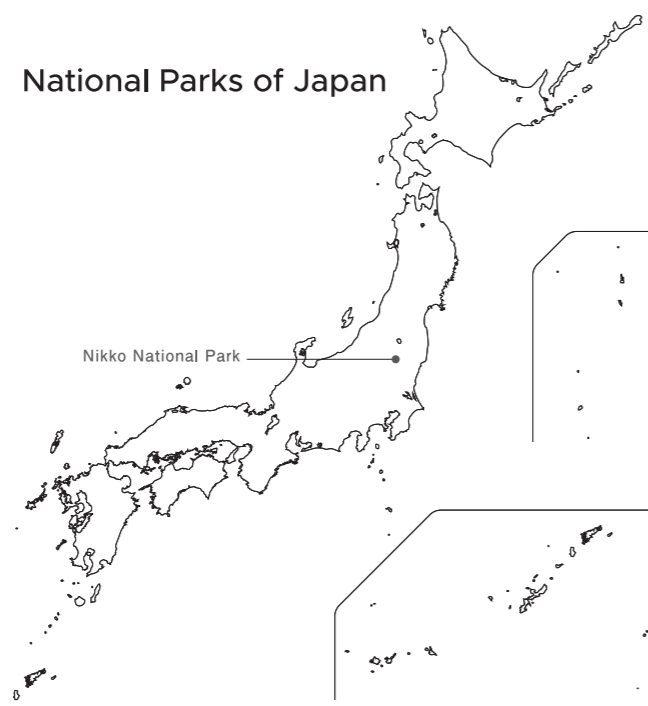


# Nikko National Park

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

Vibrant Natural Beauty and the Majestic Cultural Heritage Woven by Mountains, Lakes, Waterfalls and Wetlands

The Nikko National Park is one of the first national parks in Japan that was established on December 4, 1934. The park area covers three prefectures, which are Fukushima, Tochigi and Gunma with a total area of 114,908 ha.

Most of the park area is a mountainous area belonging to the Nasu volcanic belt and is spread into the following mountains: Mt. Shirane (Mt. Nikko-Shirane) with an altitude of 2,578 m which is the highest mountain in the North Kanto, Mt. Nantai with an altitude of 2,486 m which is known as a sacred mountain from the ancient times, and Mt. Chausu (Mt. Nasu) with an altitude of 1,917 m which is still an active volcano. Further, plateaus spread at the foot of these mountains, to which crater lakes, impressive waterfalls and gorges with beautiful autumn leaves add colors. Meanwhile, a perfect fusion of several historic buildings including shrines and temples registered as the World Cultural Heritage sites and the surrounding natural landscapes can be appreciated.

The Nikko National Park is very popular as a place that is easily accessible by train or vehicle from the Tokyo metropolitan area and as a place where nature, history and culture can be casually appreciated.

[Date of Designation] December 4, 1934 [Area] 114,908 ha  
[Relevant Prefectures] Fukushima Pref., Tochigi Pref., Gunma Pref.



## Wild Animals and Plants

### | Nasukashi / Shiobara

This area is a habitat of wildlife widely seen throughout Japan's main island, including large mammals such as the Japanese serow, Sika deer and the Asian black bear as well as fish and amphibians.

Plants of both the Pacific and the Sea of Japan sides can be found, which are highly diversified. Its characteristic plants include the alpine plants of Nasu Mountain Range, wetland plants such as Numappara Moor.



Buerger's Frog Living by the Stream

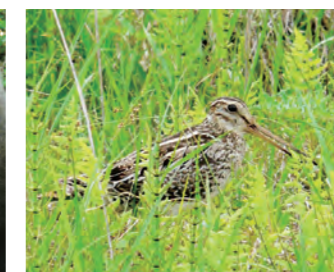


Gautheria pyrotoides (Alpine Shrubs)

Daylilies (Wetland Plants)



Japanese Macaque



Japanese snipe (Wild Bird of Wetlands)



Glaucidium palmatum Siebold et Zucc. (Japanese name "Shirane Aoi" derived from Mt. Nikko-Shirane.)



Ponerorchis joo-iokiana (Japanese name "Nyoho Chidori" derived from Mt. Nyoho.)

## Conservation Efforts

### - Deer Control and Management in Oku-Nikko and Senjogahara -

As the deer population in Oku-nikko increased, there was a damage to the wetland vegetation centered around Senjogahara Marsh. Thus, deer fences were installed in 2001 to preserve the surrounding forest vegetation.

### - Invasive Alien Plant Control -

Eradication and control measures of invasive alien plants have been carried out with the cooperation of volunteers since 1976 as propagation of some invasive alien plants such as the tall coneflower threatened the vegetation of valuable native plants including Spiraea salicifolia and the fireweed in the Oku-nikko area. As a result, these invasive alien plants have been drastically decreased; however, the control measures are still actively carried out since they haven't been completely eradicated yet.

### - Nikko Park Volunteer -

Nikko Park volunteers conduct activities such as litter patrols, wildlife surveys, invasive alien plant control, and nature experience events, mainly in the Oku-nikko area of the Nikko National Park.



Gate of Deer Fence

Deer Tracking Collar for Survey

Nikko Park Volunteers

## Contact List

**Kanto Regional Environment Office**  
18F, Meiji Yasuda Seimei Saitama Shintoshin Building,  
Shintoshin 11-2, Chuo Ward,  
Saitama City, Saitama Prefecture,  
330-6018  
TEL: 048-600-0516 FAX: 048-600-0517  
URL: <http://kanto.env.go.jp/>

**Nikko Nature Conservation Office**  
Honcho 9-5, Nikko City, Tochigi Prefecture, 321-1434  
TEL: 0288-54-1076 FAX: 0288-53-4154

**Nasu Ranger Office**  
2F, Nasu Kogen Visitor Center,  
Yumoto 207-2, Nasu Town, Nasu County, Tochigi Prefecture,  
325-0301  
TEL: 0287-76-7512 FAX: 0287-76-7513

**Nikko National Park Website**  
<http://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/nps/park/nikko/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>)



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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 landscapes

### - Landscapes / Ecosystem -

#### | Nasukashi / Shiobara

The Nasukashi and Shiobara areas have volcanic mountains and highlands, and Mt. Chausu, a typical volcano, is still emitting volcanic fumes.

In addition, several gorges have been formed as mountains and highlands were eroded by many rivers such as Abukuma River.

#### | Nikko / Kinugawa River / Kuriyama

The Nikko, Kinugawa River, and Kuriyama areas have several volcanoes including stratovolcanoes such as Mt. Nantai, Mt. Nyoho and Mt. Akanagi as well as lava domes and small volcanoes, and these are collectively called "Nikko Volcano Group."

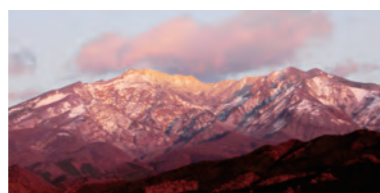
Moreover, mountainsides and bases of this Nikko Volcano Group has various changes in the geographical and geological features since lakes, wetlands, waterfalls, etc. that have been formed by volcanic activity.



Mt. Chausu Emitting Volcanic Fumes



Mt. Nantai and Lake Yunoko (Stratovolcano and Dammed Lake formed by Lava Flows)



Mt. Nyoho (Stratovolcano)

### - Terrain / Geological features -

#### | Nasukashi / Shiobara

From the bottom to the side of the mountains in this area are covered with lush forests. The forests change from deciduous forests mainly including the beech and *Quercus crispula Blume* at the base to coniferous forests including the momi fir and *Tsuga standishii* as the altitude rises.

Although the ridge of the Nasu Mountain Range has an altitude of less than 2,000 m, alpine vegetation including the dwarf Siberian pine can be found due to factors such as cool weather and volcanic soil.

#### | Nikko / Kinugawa River / Kuriyama

The bases of the mountains in this area are covered with deciduous forests of the beech, *Quercus crispula Blume*, and some maple, and the autumn leaves are spectacular.

Coniferous forests cover the mountains above the altitude of approximately 1,600 m, and groves of the Erman's birch



Broadleaf Forest of Nasu Heisei-no-Mori Forest

can be spotted even further above. Areas above an altitude of approximately 2,400 m have open landscapes with alpine vegetation including shrubs and herbaceous plants. Moreover, wetlands such as Kinunuma Swamp and Senjogahara Marsh spread in the flat areas in the mountain-sides and at the foot of the mountains.



Colored Leaves on Byobuwa Cliff (Broadleaf Forest at the Foot of the Mountain)



Cottongrass of Senjogahara (Marsh Plant)

## Culture

### | Nasukashi / Shiobara

The Nasu Mountain Range was once popular as sacred mountains for Shugendo (Japanese Mountain Asceticism) called "Hakutosan Worship," and there are related historical sites such as Sandogoya Onsen.

### | Nikko / Kinugawa River / Kuriyama

The unique scenery, which is a fusion of natural environment, history and culture, is formed in the vicinity of Nikko City along with the following: several historical buildings and historic sites such as Toshogu Shrine, Futarasan Shrine and Rinnoji Temple that are part of the World Heritage Site, "Shrines and Temples of Nikko" as well as surrounding rich forests. In addition, Lake Chuzeuji's lakeshore was also popular as a summer resort for diplomats and foreign government officials after the Meiji era, and parks built where embassies used to be, and current embassy villas still remain.



Hakutosan Otorii Gate



The World Heritage Site "Shrines and Temples of Nikko" (Futarasan-jinja Shrine)



Italian Embassy Villa Memorial Park

## 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 flowers and 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 bring pets on the mountain trails or natural trails.



Be sure to camp in the designated camping area only.



Stay on the pathways when walking.



Be sure to prevent unexpected bear encounters to avoid accidents with bears.



Pertaining to the use of the park including hiking and climbing, gather prior information, form reasonable plans, and act at your own risk.



This is the Japan's highest-altitude moor with an altitude of about 2,030 m located in the starting point of the Kinugawa River. It consists of more than 40 ponds of various sizes, and summer alpine plants and autumn leaves can be enjoyed.



This mountain with an altitude of 2,578 m lies in the boundary between Tochigi and Gunma prefectures, and it is the highest mountain from the north Kanto region all the up to the northernmost part of Japan. It can be climbed up from the Oku-nikko Yumoto hot spring or the Marunuma Swamp, and mountains of Aizu, Echigo, Kanto and as far as Mt. Fuji can be seen from the top.



Lake Yunoko, Yukawa River, Senjogahara Marsh, Odashirogahara Marsh are registered in the Ramsar Sites as "Oku-Nikko-shitsugen." Pretty flowers can be enjoyed from April to September.



Oku-Nikko Yumoto Onsen is a hot spring with a history of over 1,200 years and located on the northern shore of Lake Yunoko. It is a base for mountain climbing, trekking and skiing in the surrounding area.



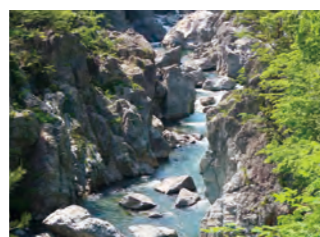
Lake Chuzenji is a lava dammed lake created by the eruption of Mt. Nantai, and the Kegon-no-Taki Falls is located at its outlet. The Chugushi area around Lake Chuzenji is popular as a base for sightseeing.



Setoaikyo Canyon is located in the upper stream of the Kinugawa River, and it stands tall with a height of 100 m, stretching out for about 2 km. It is also well known as a scenic point for autumn leaves.



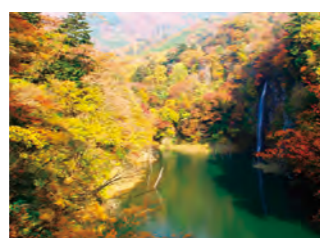
This plateau spreads to the north of the Nikko City area. There are clusters of daylilies and the Kirifurinotaki Falls, and hiking and camping can be appreciated as well.



The beauty of the gorge of the Kinugawa River Basin is very well known, and not only a magnificent view from the land but also riverboat ride and rafting can be enjoyed.



Happogahara is a plateau spreading in the eastern base of Mt. Takahara, and hiking and camping can be enjoyed. It shows off spectacular scenery of 200,000 Japanese azaleas in early summer.



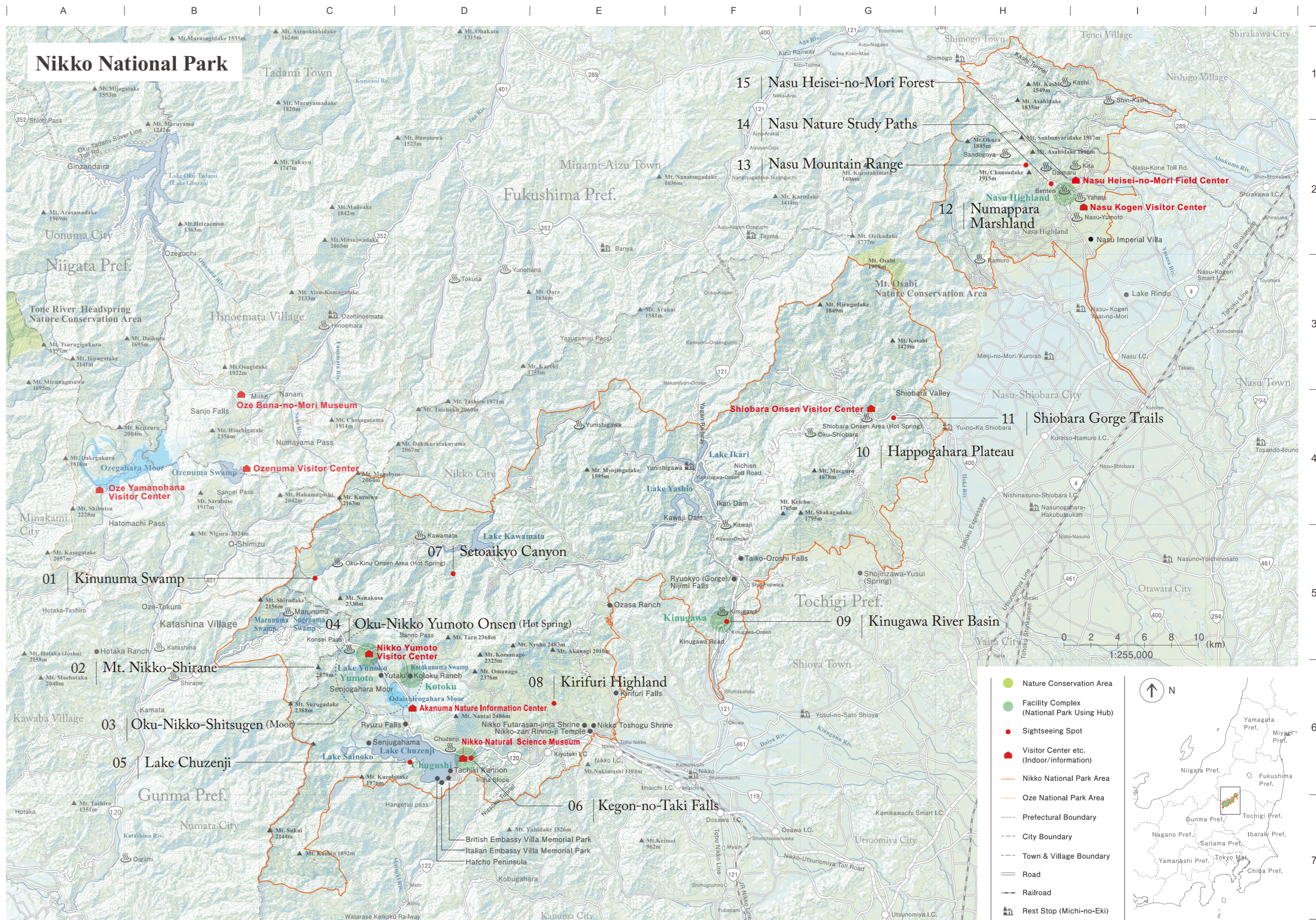
There are three trails in the vicinity of the Shiobara Gorge to choose from according to own physical strength or interests. You can walk on the path along the gorge covered with lush greens (or colorful leaves in autumn) while appreciating the scenery of waterfalls, suspension bridges, wetlands, etc.



This is a wetland with an altitude of 1,230 m, and various seasonal plants can be enjoyed. Daylilies blooming from early to mid-July are breathtaking.



This is a collective term for multiple volcanoes in the boundary of Tochigi and Fukushima prefectures. It includes Mt. Chauus which is still emitting volcanic fumes, steep rock-wall like Mt. Asahi, dense green covered Mt. Sambonyari which is the tallest mountain of the Nasu Mountain Range, etc.



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



This is a trail connecting Yahata, Bente and Omaru hot springs. The highlights are beautiful azalea blossoms surrounding the path in the Yahata Park and the view of Mt. Chauus.



This area of approximately 560 hectares used to be part of the Nasu Imperial Vila, which is now opened to the general public. It contains an expansive natural forest of beech, and various nature programs are offered.

Information	Facilities
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**Nikko Yumoto Visitor Center**  
Yumoto, Nikko City, Tochigi Prefecture, 321-1662  
[TEL] 0288-62-2321  
[URL] <http://www.nikkoyumoto-vc.com>

**Nasu Kogen Visitor Center**  
Yumoto 207-2, Nasu Town, Nasu County, Tochigi Prefecture, 325-0301  
[TEL] 0287-74-2301  
[FAX] 0287-74-2302  
[URL] <http://www.nasuheiseinomori.go.jp/vc/>

**Shiobara Onsen Visitor Center**  
Shiobara Maeyama National Forest, Nasushiobara City, Tochigi Prefecture, 329-2921  
[TEL/FAX] 0287-32-3050  
[URL] <http://www.siohara.or.jp/vc/>

**Nikko Natural Science Museum**  
Chugushi 2480-1, Nikko City, Tochigi Prefecture, 321-1662  
[TEL] 0288-55-0880  
[FAX] 0288-55-0850  
[URL] <https://www.nikko-nsm.co.jp>

**Nasu Heisei-no-Mori Field Center**  
Takaki-cho 3254, Nasu Town, Nasu County, Tochigi Prefecture, 325-0302  
[TEL] 0287-74-6808  
[FAX] 0287-74-6809  
[URL] <http://www.nasuheiseinomori.go.jp>

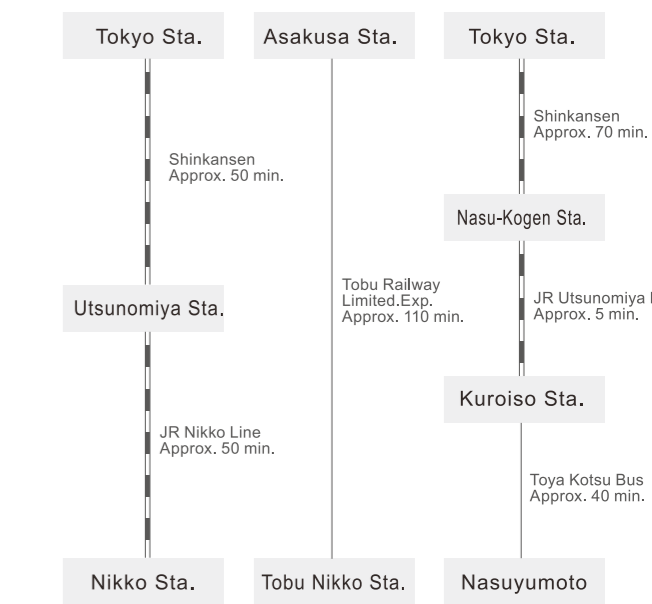
**Akanuma Nature Information Center**  
Chugushi 2494, Nikko City, Tochigi Prefecture, 321-1661  
[TEL] 0288-55-0880  
(Nikko Natural Science Museum)

**Nikko City Tourism Association**  
Imachi 7174, Nikko City, Tochigi Prefecture, 321-1261  
[TEL] 0288-22-1525 [FAX] 0288-25-3347  
<http://www.nikko-kankou.org/>

**Shiobara Onsen Tourist Association**  
Shiobara 747, Nasushiobara City, Tochigi Prefecture, 329-2921  
[TEL] 0287-32-4000 [FAX] 0287-32-4286  
<http://www.siohara.or.jp/>

**Nasu Tourism Association**  
Yumoto 182, Nasu Town, Nasu County, Tochigi Prefecture, 325-0301  
[TEL] 0287-76-2619  
<http://www.nasukogen.org/>

Access	Transportation
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\* The access route below 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.