

Chubusangaku National Park

National Parks of Japan



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A national park is designated by the Japanese government as a natural landscape that represents Japan based on the National 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



Outstanding Mountain Landscapes that are landmarks in Japan
—Breath-taking mountains, beautiful valleys, and to the world of rock ptarmigan—

It is a mountain park symbolizing Japan, occupying the entire Northern Japan Alps. It is one of the first national parks designated in 1934.

This park consists of mountains of altitude 3,000 m in height, such as Ushiro-Tateyama-Renpo(mountain range) includes Mt. Shiroumadake, Tateyama Mountain Range with Mt. Tsurugidake and Mt. Tateyama, Hotaka mountain range with Mt. Yarigadake etc., and Mt. Norikuradake rising to the southernmost part.

There are large varieties of mountainous landscapes, such as rock walls that rise to a large scale, deep and steep valleys, flower gardens in the alpine belt, rock ptarmigan, blankets of snow that remain until the summer, U-shaped valleys scraped by glaciers, lakes formed by volcanoes, lava plateaus, etc. Climbers love visiting it. Also, trailhead such as Kamikochi, Murodo of Mt. Tateyama, Tamamidaira of Mt. Norikuradake, etc are accessible by public transportation. Here visitors can enjoy magnificent mountain landscape and alpine plants.

[Date of Designation] December 4, 1934
[Related Prefecture] Niigata Pref., Toyama Pref., Nagano Pref., Gifu Pref.
[Area] 174,323 ha

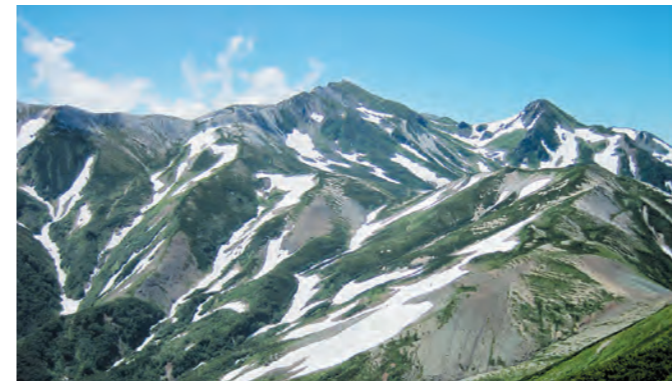


Terrain Geological Features



The Northern Japan Alps was made by crustal deformation and subsequent severe erosion. A major fault line passes through the eastern side. In addition, the volcanic activity makes the terrain of this area more complicated. In the park, there are rivers such as Kurobe River to the north, Azusa River to the south, Takase River to the east and Gamata River to the west. In the park, rich flowing rivers carve deep V-shaped valleys to form a majestic mountain landscape, such as a steeply appreciating rockfall or vast plateau.

The park lies within the heavy snowfall mountain terrain, so some snow remains even in summer. Tsurugisawa Snow Valley, Hakubadaisekkei Snow Valley, Harinoki Snow Valley are the three biggest snow gorges in Japan, there are



Mt. Shiroumadake viewed from the Mt. Yukikuradake



Jujikyo Gorge (Kurobe River)

Midagahara Plain (Lava Plateau)

also various small and larger snow valleys. It also features a lot of curls and U-shaped valleys made by glaciers. Among them, Mt. Tateyama, Mt. Yakushidake, Karasawa Cirque, U-shaped valley of Yarisawa and Mt. Tateyama are landmarks.

The park is dotted with volcanoes which give changes to the topography.

Mt. Yakedake erupted near Azusa River and created Taisho pond. It continues volcanic activity to this day. Also around Mt. Tateyama, there are fumarolic phenomena of Jigokudani (Hell Valley), crater lakes, lava rocks (such as Midagahara Plain), which is one of the picturesque scenery in the park.



Mikurigaikie Pond (Crater Lake)

Contact List

Shin-Etsu Nature Conservation Office
Nagano Joint Government Building No. 1, Asahi Town 1108,
Nagano City, Nagano Prefecture
380-0846
TEL: 026-231-6570 FAX: 026-235-1226

Chubu Sangaku National Park Office
Azumi 124-7, Matsumoto City, Nagano Prefecture
390-1501
TEL: 0263-94-2024 FAX: 0263-94-2651

Tateyama Ranger Office
Maezawashimachi 282, Tateyama Town, Nakanaiikawa County,
Toyama Prefecture
930-0229
TEL: 0764-62-2301 FAX: 0764-63-5472

Hirayu Ranger Office
Hirayu 763-12, Okuhida Onsen-go, Takayama City, Gifu Prefecture
506-1433
TEL: 0578-89-2353 FAX: 0578-89-3638

Kamikochi Ranger Office
(Winter-season contact: Matsumoto Nature Conservation Office)
Azumi 4468, Matsumoto City, Nagano Prefecture
390-1516
TEL: 0263-95-2032 Fax: 0263-95-2172

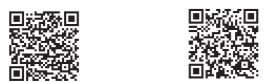
Chubu Regional Environment Office
Sannomaru 2-5-2, Naka Ward, Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture
460-0001
TEL: 052-955-2135 FAX: 052-951-8819

Chubusangaku National Park Website
<http://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/nps/park/chubu/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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* 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.

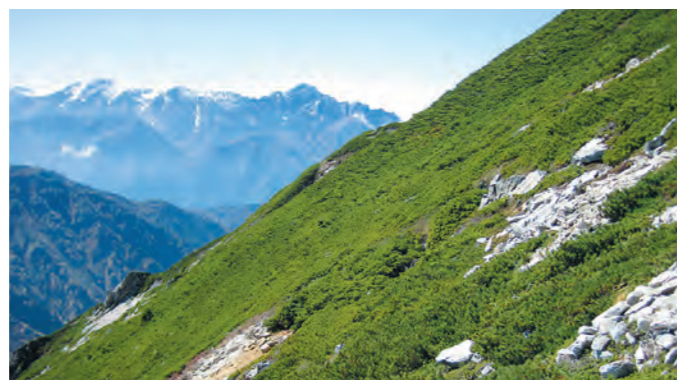
Wild Animals and Plants



- Plants -

The park has vast and varied natural wilderness. The vegetation changes according to the altitude. The alpine belt beyond altitude of 2,500 m is inhabited by Japanese stone pine communities and flower gardens. From approximately 1,500 m to 2,500 m in altitude, Coniferous and Erman's birch forests are spreading, the subalpine belt is dominated by kinds of firs (*Veitch's fir* and *Maries' fir*). At an altitude of roughly 1,500 m or less, summer green broadleaved forests including Japanese beech and Mongolian oak are distributed.

In the alpine zone of this park, visitors can see various



Japanese Stone Pine Communities (Mt. Karamatsudake)



Japanese Stone Pine Communities (Mt. Karamatsudake)

plants that respond to differences in the environment such as topography, geology, and snow depth.

In particular, Mt. Shiroumadake area is famous for rich alpine plants, flower gardens are developed. Kinds of chives (Shirouma asatsuki; *Allium schoenoprasum* var. *Orientalis*), kinds of Japanese gentian (Shirouma rindou; *Gentianopsis yabei*) and many other plants with names derived from Mt. Shiroumadake are also growing. The vegetation of the riverside forest near Chosenia (kinds of willow) on the Azusa River is famous. The vegetation of the moor of Kumonotaira, and Tsugaikie are also features of this park.



Chosenia River Forest in Kamikochi



Vegetation of Kumonotaira Moor

Dicentra peregrina

Aleutian avens

- Animals -

Mammals such as Asian black bear, Japanese serow, Japanese macaque, stoat etc. have inhabited the area. Birds of prey such as the Golden eagle and Mountain hawk-eagle, rock ptarmigan, Spotted nutcracker, etc. have also inhabited the area. Fish, such as species of char (Nikko Iwana; Salvelinus), species of goby (Japanese fluvial sculpin, etc.) live in mountain streams. In this park, it is characteristic that animals living mainly in the alpine zone, such as rock ptarmigan, alpine butterflies (such as Poplar Admiral), Norse grayling, moorland clouded yellow are seen.



Rock Ptarmigan



Japanese macaque

Poplar Admiral

Conservation Efforts



-Activities such as Clean-up / Beautification and removal of alien species -

Many people who visit use bases such as in Kamikochi, Mt. Tate Murodo, Mt. Norikura Tamamidaira. Nevertheless, there is little garbage on the paths and a beautiful natural environment and landscape is maintained. This is thanks to a lot of local people who protect the area. A group formed to make Kamikochi beautiful was founded in 1963. There's also the Kamikochi Park volunteers, who want to share the beauty of nature with many people. They engage in clean-up and beautification activities, elimination of alien species, maintenance and repair of footpaths and trails, nature commentary activities, guidance for visitors, and a survey of animals and plants, and so on.

-The restriction of Private Cars-

At Kamikochi, the traffic of vehicles is restricted in order to conserve the natural environment and to ensure comfort and safety of visitors. Access to the Prefectural Route Kamikochi-koen line is restricted for private cars during the climbing season, as well as for tour buses during the busy season. Shuttle buses and taxis are operated from Sawando and Hirayu as alternative transportation means. Mt. Norikuradake also regulates private cars.

Both Norikura Skyline and Norikura Echo Line lead to Tamamidaira, shuttle buses and taxis are operated as alternative transportation methods from the Norikura highland, Honoki Daira parking lot and so on. Also at Mt. Tateyama, Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route which extends to Murodo is regulating private cars for nature protection and traffic safety. Regarding buses that can enter the park, we also regulate emissions to reduce the impact on the natural environment.

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 chase around the Rock Ptarmigans and walk on the vegetation.
- Submit a mountain climbing plan.
- Always have a map handy while climbing. Be sure to turn back to the starting point if you lose your way.

Traditionally, the mountains such as Mt. Tateyama, Mt. Kasagadake and Mt. Yarigadake were worshiped as sacred. In particular, Mt. Tateyama, together with Mt. Fuji and Mt. Hakusan, were known as Japan's Three Holy Mountains, and during the Edo period many climbers visited them.

During the Meiji period (1868-1912 AD), the mountainous areas (including the park) were named the Japan Alps by W. Gowland, a British engineer who is said to have carried out Western style mountain climbing for the first time in Japan. In addition, it was widely introduced to the world by the English missionary W. Weston's book, and became a modern climbing mecca in Japan.



A Memorial Plaque of W. Weston



Mt. Shiroumadake is visited by many Mountaineers

01 | Tsugaike Natural Park | F2



It is a high rising moor which spreads to an altitude of 1,900 m. Visitors can enjoy the characteristic scenery of each season. It features a majestic landscape with the Hakuba mountain ranges in the background, a large bloom of Asian skunk-cabbage, alpine plants, autumn leaves and so on.

02 | Kurobe Gorge | D2



The Kurobe Gorge is one of Japan's famous gorges that divides Tateyama Mountain Range and Ushiro-Tateyama Renpo (Mountain Range). A deep V-shaped valley has developed, and there are many picturesque scenery and hot springs. From the station Unazuki to Keyakidaira, there are Railways running through the canyons, and visitors can enjoy impressive view.

03 | Mt. Shiroumadake | E2



It is the highest peak of the Ushiro-Tateyama Mountain Range, Hakubadaisekkei Snowy Valley is one of Japan's largest gorges. It is said to be a treasure trove of alpine plants. Visitors can observe the plants of the Japanese beech forest at "Shirouma deep snow gorge promenade" at the foot of the mountain. [Altitude] 2,932 m

04 | Happo-Ridge | F3



In "Happo-Ridge Nature Study Trail" from Mt. Kurobishitaira to Happo pond, you can see high moors, alpine plants (such as lingonberry), alpine butterflies and so on. You can command a view of the 3,000-meter mountains such as Hakuba Sanzan (Three Mountains) and Mt. Goryudake closely.

05 | Mt. Tsurugidake | D4



It is also called "The Hall of Fame of snow and rock" from the sharp mountain range influenced by glaciers. The mountain trails have many perilous passes, such as iron chains and rock ridges, requiring climbers to have a high level of skill and physical strength. [Altitude] 2,999 m

06 | Mt. Tateyama | D4



Since ancient times, this mountain has been referred to as one of Japan's Three Holy Mountains, together with Mt. Fuji and Mt. Hakusan. It is composed of three mountains, Mt. Onanji, Mt. Oyama, and Mt. Fujinooritate. "Oyama Main Shrine" at the peak of Mt. Oyama is bustling with many visitors making a pilgrimage to receive the virtues of an incarnation of the deity of the Mountain) [Altitude] 3,015 m (Mt. Onanji)

07 | Midagahara Plain | C5



This is a high moor that spreads across a lava plateau and is dotted with myriads of small ponds (Chito). These ponds were formed when the gaps of the deposited peat layer refilled with water. It referred to as a rice field of prenas (Gaki). The moors are equipped with wooden footpaths where visitors can observe varieties of alpine plants.

08 | Mt. Yarigadake | D7



Due to the erosion process of glaciation, the summit area is sharp and troughs (U-shaped valleys) and cirques have been formed. It is a mountain that reminiscent of the Matterhorn of the European Alps, so it has become the admiration of many climbers. [Altitude] 3,180 m

09 | Mt. Hotakadake | D8



The Hotaka Mountains is a generic name for Mt. Kita-Hotakadake, Mt. Karasawadake, Mt. Oku-Hotakadake, and Mt. Mae-Hotakadake. Mt. Oku-Hotakadake is the highest peak of Northern Japan Alps at an altitude of 3,190 m. Besides the overwhelming spectacle of sheer rocky cliffs, alpine plants, autumn leaves, snow/ice, and many seasonal attractions are also drawing mountaineers.

10 | Kamikochi | D8



The rocky ridges of Hotaka Mountains, the riparian forest, and the clear stream of Azusa River combine to provide spectacular gorge scenery, attracting hordes of visitors. The Taisho Pond was formed by damming up the Azusa River due to volcanic activities of Mt. Yakedake.

11 | Norikura Highland Ichinose-enchi Pasture | D10



This grassland is encircled by a forest of white birch trees. Visitors can enjoy flowers of the four seasons such as Japanese azalea and wetland plants like Asian skunk-cabbage and Bog-bean. Maimenoi Pond near Ichinose-enchi Pasture is famous for the image of Mt. Norikuradake being reflected in the surface of the pond in the foreground.

12 | Mt. Norikuradake (Mt. Kengamine) | C10



The mountain ranges from Mt. Kengamine, with an altitude of 3,026 m, at the main peak, spreading its base in the east and west. By using Norikura Echo Line and Norikura Skyline, you can access Tatamidaira at an altitude of 2,700 m by public transport. The beautiful autumn leaves from the end of September to the beginning of October provide the scenery. When the mountains are ablaze with yellow Erman's birch and red Japanese Rowan trees, it creates a splendid contrast with the green Siberian dwarf pine trees. [Altitude] 3,026 m

Activity | Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route



It is a mountain sightseeing route connecting between Tateyama station in Toyama prefecture and Ogizawa, Omachi Area in Nagano prefecture by cable car, bus, trolley bus, rope-way, walk etc. Highlights of the northern part of the park are concentrated, such as Shomyo Falls, Midagahara Plain, Murodo and Kurobe Dam.

Information | Facilities

Kamikochi Visitor Center
Kamikochi 4468, Azumi, Matsumoto City, Nagano Prefecture
390-1516
[TEL] 0263-95-2606

Provides information to get familiar with the natural environment of Kamikochi through exhibits related to the natural environment, outdoor nature classrooms, videos, and lectures, etc.

Kamikochi Information Center
Kamikochi 4468, Azumi, Matsumoto City, Nagano Prefecture
390-1516
[TEL] 0263-95-2433

Provides various information such as nature of Kamikochi, mountaineering, transportation, and accommodation. It can be used for gathering information before walking and for a rest.

Sawando National Park Gate
Azumi 4466-20, Matsumoto City, Nagano Prefecture
390-1514
[TEL] 0263-93-3355
(Open daily throughout the season)

It is a transit facility of a shuttle bus and taxi when entering Kamikochi. Provides information to assist in enjoying Kamikochi, and the rules and regulations to be followed in the park. There are public toilets and benches for visitors.

Keyakidaira Visitor Center
Kurobe Okuyama, Unazuki Town, Kurobe City, Toyama Prefecture
938-0200
[TEL] 0765-62-1155
(Open daily throughout the season)

It introduces nature and landscape of Kurobe Gorge. Visitors can get real-time information such as key points around the Keyakidaira and climbing paths.

Tsugaike Visitor Center
Chikumitsu, Otari Village, Kitazumi County, Nagano Prefecture
399-9422
[TEL] 0261-83-3113

Tateyama Nature Conservation Center
Ashikaraji (Murodo-daira), Tateyama Town, Nakanikawa County, Toyama Prefecture
930-1414
[TEL] 076-463-5401

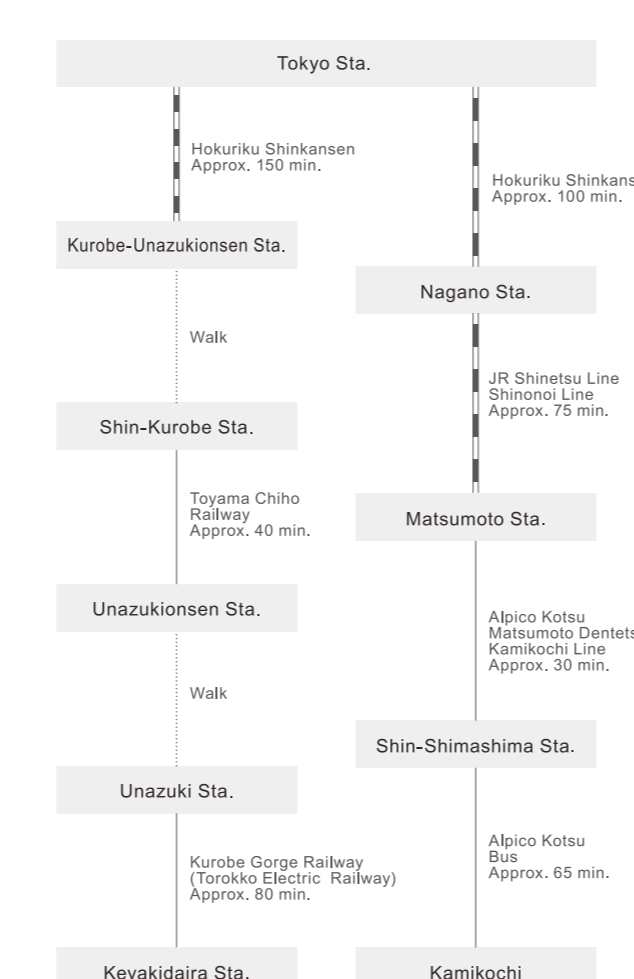
Omachi Alpine Museum
Omachi 8056-1, Omachi City, Nagano Prefecture
398-0002
[TEL] 0261-22-0211

Norikura Nature Center
Azumi 4306-5, Matsumoto City, Nagano Prefecture
390-1520
[TEL] 0263-93-2045

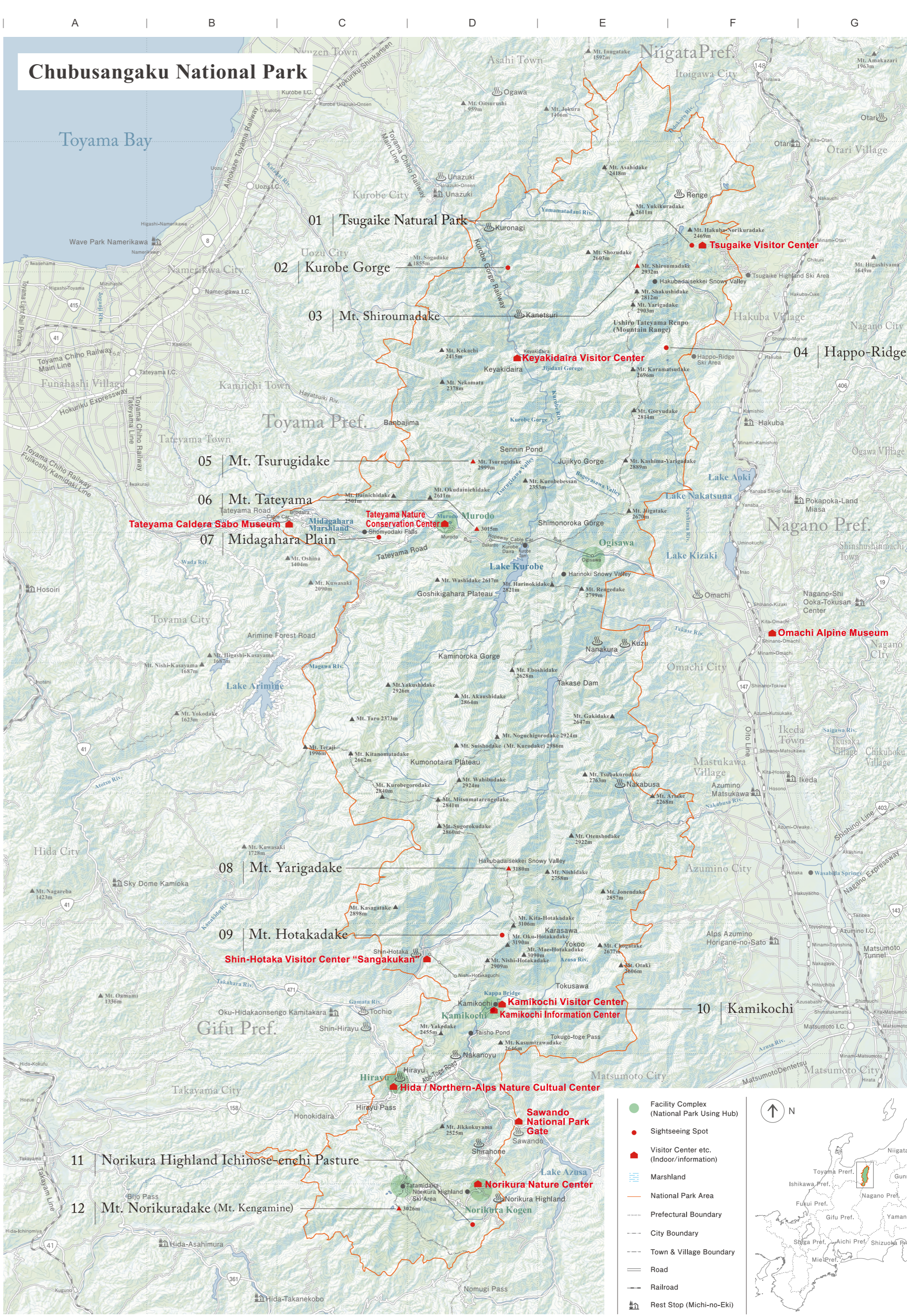
Hida / Northern-Alps Nature Cultural Center (Hirayu Visitor Center)
Hirayu, Okuhida Onsenjo, Takayama City, Gifu Prefecture
506-1433

*Please contact each facility for details on opening hours etc.

Access | Transportation



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