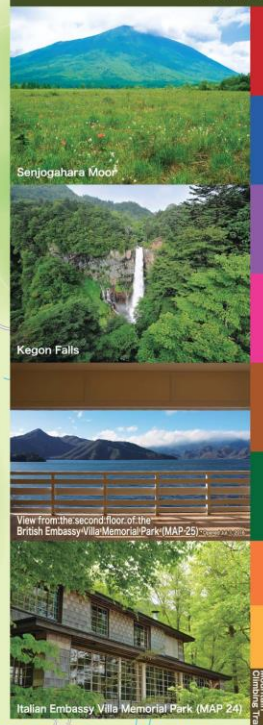
OKUNIKKO HIKING MAP

The Charm of Okunikko

Climb to the top of Iroha Slope and see Okunikko's majestic nature, with its mountains, rivers, waterfalls, lakes, and swamps, spread out before your eyes. The regions geographic features were formed by volcanic activities and flowing rivers into a shape reminiscent of the three-tiered doll stand used in the Japanese Doll Festival held in March. Lake Chuzenji is on the first tier, Senjogahara Moor on the second, and Lake Yunoko on the third. The differences in elevations create natural habitats for a variety of plants and animals. Okunikko has been a center of religious activity since a monk named Shoudo-Shonin founded temples in the mountains of Nikko about 1,200 years ago. In 1934 Okunikko was designated as Nikko National Park in order to preserve it as a representative scenic place in Japan and promote its utilization. Okunikko shows a different side of itself in each of the four seasons. We hope you will take this map and enjoy a hike here.

* Please also stop by the Nikko Natural Science Museum for more information on nature.

* The following routes do not include break times. Please plan your trip accordingly.



A MAP 1~7 Senjogahara Moor Nature Research Trail

Level: Beginner | Distance: 6.3km | Reqd. Time: 2 hrs. 20 min.

Yudaki Entrance – 40 min. – Izumiyadoike Pond – 25 min. – Aoki Bridge – 35 min. – Akanuma Junction – 10 min. – Shakunage Bridge – 30 min. – Ryuzu Falls

Okunikko's main hiking route. Most of the trails are smooth so you can enjoy a relaxed walk and look at wetland plants and birds. About a 5-minute walk from the Yudaki Inguchi Bus Stop to the breathtaking Yudaki Falls Observatory. Then, head along the Yugawa river, with the option to change course at the Akanuma Junction. The foliage season is in October.

Yudaki Falls (MAP 3)

B MAP 8~9 Odashirogahara Moor Sightseeing Trail

Level: Beginner | Distance: 7.2km | Reqd. Time: 2 hrs.

Akanuma – 10 min. – Shakunage Bridge – 35 min. – Odashirogahara Observatory – 40 min. – Izumiyadoike Pond – 35 min. – Kotoku Entrance

Take the ecological bus that departs from Akanuma Garage and get off at Odashirogahara Bus Stop to save time. In July and August, you can see wild thistle and spiraea salicifolia on the wooden trail from Odashirogahara Observatory. Izumiyadoike Pond is a popular spot to take a rest.

Izumiyadoike Pond (MAP 9)

C MAP 10~16 Lake Kirikomi / Lake Karikomi Sightseeing Trail

Level: Moderate | Distance: 9.6km | Reqd. Time: 4 hrs. 15 min.

Yumoto Onsen – 40 min. – Kotoge Pass – 10 min. – Lake Karikomi – 10 min. – Karenuma Pond – 20 min. – Sanno Pass – 10 min. – Kotoku Pond – 20 min. – Kotoku Entrance

Take this route to walk through the coniferous forest in the subalpine zone. Watch your step on the steep slopes. Enjoy the nature as you look down at Lake Yunoko from Kotoge Pass, and see the Kotoku Onsen pasture. Enjoy birdsongs, such as the summer calls of robins on the way down to Lake Karikomi.Please check the bus timetable beforehand as the buses between Kotoku Entrance and Kotoku Onsen do not run frequently. On the reverse course, the uphill trail leading to Sanno Pass is hard to walk.

Yumoto Onsen (MAP 10)

D MAP 17~19 Hiking trail around Lake Yunoko

Level: Beginner | Distance: 2.9km | Reqd. Time: 1hr. 10min.

Yumoto Onsen – 40 min. – Yudaki-Ue – 20 min. – Usagijima Peninsula – 10 min. – Kohan-Mae

A short hiking trail. In May and June, there are azaleas and rhododendrons in full bloom on the forest floor around Lake Yunoko, you can see cuckoos and robins, and butterflies and dragonflies among the azaleas and wasteland and wild ducks along the waterside. In winter, ducks fly to this lake, which is also famous as a fishing spot.You can also enjoy the scenery around the lake by renting a row boat.

Usagijima Peninsula (MAP 19)

E MAP 20~26 Lake Chuzenji Sightseeing Trail

Level: Advanced | Distance: 11.0km | Reqd. Time: 4 hrs. 55 min.

Akechidaira – 5 min. – Akechidaira Observatory – 10 min. – Chanokidaira – 10 min. – Nikko Kegonjo Parking 1 – 40 min. – Hangetsu Pass – 20 min. – Mujinakubo – 20 min. – Akatori

This is a long course with many ups and downs. Please leave early in the morning and leave yourself plenty of time to complete it. In Chanokidaira, proceed carefully as the trail branches frequently and it is easy to get lost. It is recommended that you take along the trail near the lake, which leads to Hangetsu Pass. Cross a road for cars parking along your hike. Enjoy a marvelous view of the wooden observatory just before reaching Hangetsu Pass. The trail then heads downhill toward Mujinakubo. Then, head toward Onsen View, taking the trails along Lake Chuzenji and passing through the Italian Embassy Villa Memorial park. The azalea and beech trees turn bright colors in October.

Akechidaira Observatory (MAP 20)

F MAP 27~30 Lake Sainoko, Senjugahama Beach, and Ryuzu Falls Sightseeing Trail

Level: Moderate | Distance: 8.0km | Reqd. Time: 2 hrs. 55 min.

Sainoko Iriguchi – 25 min. – Lake Sainoko – 35 min. – Senjugahama Beach – 35 min. – Akaiwa – 40 min. – Lake Chuzenji

Walk straight for about 15 minutes from the Sainoko Inguchi Bus Stop to reach Lake Sainoko. You will cross a red suspension bridge along the way. Senjugahama beach is famous for beautiful Japanese primrose in June. There, you can be overwhelmed by the sight of the magnificent Mt. Nantai. The trails are relatively smooth and easy to walk. Along the way, you can enjoy a leisurely pace as you enjoy the changing scenery.

Lake Chuzenji Boat House (MAP 32)

G MAP 31~32 Lake Chuzenji Chugushi Shobu Sightseeing Trail

Level: Beginner | Distance: 3.5km | Reqd. Time: 1 hr. 15 min.

Futarasan-Jinja Mae – 5 min. – Nishi-Rokuban Memorial Garden – 20 min. – Maruyama – 10 min. – Lake Chuzenji Boat House – 20 min. – Shodo/Turanosen Hatchyakusho

This waterside trail is an easy walk. In Nishi-Rokuban Memorial Garden, you can enjoy the beautiful landscape of the nearby Lake Chuzenji, as you go through this area that used to be a base for international social gatherings. Feel free to use Lake Chuzenji Boat House, once a summer retreat for foreign visitors and now a rest house. It is easier to get around by bus.

Nishi-Rokuban Memorial Garden (MAP 31)

H Lake Chuzenji Southern Coast Sightseeing Trail

Level: Advanced | Distance: 10.0km | Reqd. Time: 4 hrs.

Senjugahama Beach – 20 min. – Senjudou Temple – 15 min. – Bonjiiwa – 15 min. – Dainichizaki – 30 min. – Asegata – 30 min. – Mujinakubo

On this course, you can enjoy the superb views from the southern coast of Lake Chuzenji and the imposing sight of Mt. Nantai and its lush foothills. The trails sometimes grow narrow and go up and down, so you should be sure to bring good hiking gear so as not to lose your footing. In terms of accessibility, it is recommended that you start from the Senjugahama Beach side.

Asegata

I Mt. Nantai Climbing Trail

Level: Advanced | Reqd. Time: Up 3 hrs. 30 min. Down 2 hrs. 30 min.

Futarasan-Jinja Chugushi Shrine – 30 min. – Station No. 4 – 30 min. – Station No. 8 emergency lodge – 50 min. – Mt. Nantai summit (Reverse route: 2 hrs. 30 min.) – Futarasan-Jinja Chugushi Shrine

The mountain is open for about 3 1/2 months a year, starting the 1 St day of the mountain opening ceremony on Oct. 25, the day of the mountain closing ceremony. In 2016, it will be from Apr. 29 - Nov. 11.The Tanba Shrine is found at mountain station No. 8, and the Okumiya shrine is found at the summit. The difference in elevation from the starting point of the mountain trails to the top of the mountain is 1,200 m. It takes about 3-4 hours to climb the mountain trails, which are mostly rough, steep, and best suited to strong hikers.

Mt. Nantai

J Mt. Shirane Climbing Trail

Level: Advanced | Reqd. Time: 8 hrs. 35 min.

Yumoto Onsen – 25 min. – Mt. Mae-Shirane – 30 min. – Jarashiike Inspection Pond – 30 min. – Mt. Shirane – 30 min. – Goshiki – 30 min. – Yumoto Onsen

About a 3 1/2 hour walk from the Yumoto Ski Resort, where the mountain trails begin, you can look down on Lake Goshikinuma and the summit of Mt. Mae-Shirane. Another 1 1/2 hours of hiking will take you to the top of Mt. Shirane. This trail is also best suited to strong hikers.

Mt.Shirane

Around Chuzenji Onsen "Doko-Navi" MAP

Use the "Doko-Navi" guide signs when walking through Chuzenji Onsen.

In Chuzenji Onsen, there are guide signs called "Doko-Navi" posted on lampposts and elsewhere throughout the town. They show the current location, the district name, and the distance to nearby sightseeing spots. Use them for your reference.

1 Doko-Navi guide sign showing the route from Akatori to Nishi-Rokuban Memorial Garden

1 Doko-Navi guide sign showing the route from Akatori to Kegon falls

1 Doko-Navi guide sign showing the route from Akatori to Italian Embassy Villa Memorial Park