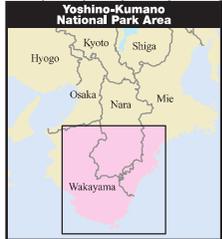
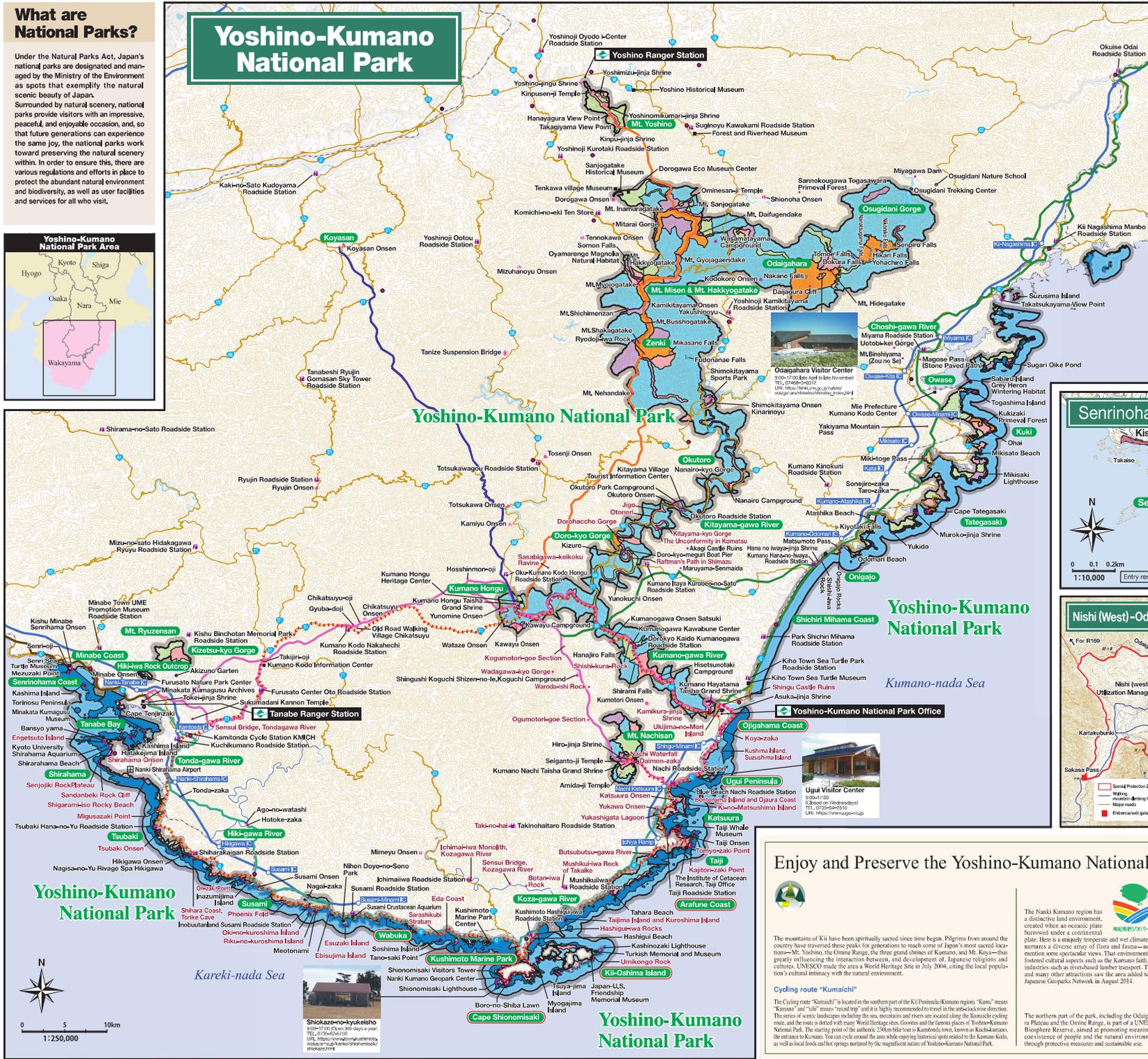


What are National Parks?

Under the National Parks Act, Japan's national parks are designated and managed by the Ministry of the Environment as spots that exemplify the natural scenic beauty of Japan. Surrounded by natural scenery, national parks provide visitors with an impressive, peaceful, and enjoyable occasion, and so that future generations can experience the same joy, the national parks work toward preserving the natural scenery within. In order to ensure this, there are various regulations and efforts in place to protect the abundant natural environment and biodiversity, as well as user facilities and services for all who visit.



Yoshino-Kumano National Park



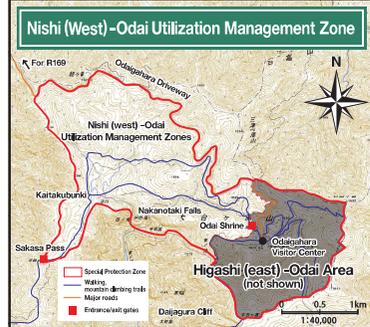
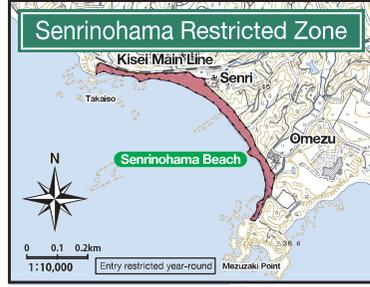
Legend

- Highway
- National Road
- Town Office
- Roadside Station
- Shrine
- Cultural Property
- Hot Spring
- Sonic View Spot
- Famous Water Courses
- Temple
- Information Center
- Other Roads
- Japan Rail Train
- Waterfall
- Swimming Location
- Campsite
- Museum, etc.

Protected Areas

Approximate map data on designated areas. Data will differ to protect the specific areas.

- Special Protection Zone:** Areas where the natural environment is of high value and requires special protection.
- Class I Special Area:** Areas where the natural environment is of high value and requires special protection.
- Class II Special Area:** Areas where the natural environment is of high value and requires special protection.
- Ordinary Area:** Areas where the natural environment is of high value and requires special protection.



Enjoy and Preserve the Yoshino-Kumano National Park

The mountains of Kii have been spiritually sacred since time began. Pilgrims from around the country have traversed these peaks for generations to reach some of Japan's most sacred locations: Mt. Yoshino, the Omine Range, the three great shrines of Kumano, and Mt. Koyasan. The area is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the starting point of the historic Shikoku Pilgrimage, known as the Kumano Kodo. You can cycle around the area while enjoying historical spots related to the Kumano Kodo, as well as local food and hot springs nurtured by the magnificent nature of Yoshino-Kumano National Park.

Cycling route "Kumanoichi"
The cycling route "Kumanoichi" is located in the southern part of the Kii Peninsula (Kumano region). "Kumano" means "Kumano" and "ichi" means "road" and is highly recommended to travel in the anti-clockwise direction. The series of scenic landscapes including the sea, mountains and rivers are located along the Kumanoichi cycling route, and the route is dotted with many World Heritage sites, Geotopes and the famous places of Yoshino-Kumano National Park. The starting point of the route is the historic Shikoku Pilgrimage, known as the Kumano Kodo, the entrance to Kumano. You can cycle around the area while enjoying historical spots related to the Kumano Kodo, as well as local food and hot springs nurtured by the magnificent nature of Yoshino-Kumano National Park.

The northern part of the park, including the Otagahama Peninsula and the Omine Range, is part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, aimed at promoting meaningful coexistence of people and the natural environment through protective measures and sustainable use.

The Nanki Kumano region has a distinctive land environment, created when an oceanic plate burrowed under a continental plate. Here is a temperate and wet climate that nurtures a diverse array of flora and fauna – not to mention some spectacular views. That environment also fostered cultural aspects such as the Kumano faith, and industries such as river-based lumber transport. These and many other attractions saw the area added to the Japanese Geoparks Network in August 2014.

Japan has some 21,000 km of Long Trail, the ideal way to refresh your mind and body through discovery of the local natural environment, history, and culture. The 1,200 km Kinki Long Trail has many courses, including the Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Route, the Raftman's Path, and the Koya Pilgrimage Route.

This map is based on digital topographic maps published by Geospatial Information Authority of Japan.