

# San'inkaigan National Park

National  
Parks  
of Japan



## National Parks of Japan

San'inkaigan National Park



A national park is designated by the Japanese government as a natural landscape that represents Japan based on the Natural Parks Act. Thirty-five 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

### Museum of Coastal Topography

San'inkaigan National Park covers the coastal areas of approximately 75 km from Kyotango City of Kyoto Prefecture in the east to Tottori City of Tottori Prefecture in the west. It features diverse coastal landscapes which are a ria coast, where mountains lie directly adjacent to the sea (submergent coast), and the place where sea cliffs, sea caves and rock reefs have remarkably developed and integrated with waters. Meanwhile, it also features open sand dune landscapes represented by the Tottori Sand Dunes which have been formed by wave erosion and sands brought from estuaries. Therefore, unique landforms can be found throughout this national park, and these landforms are also referred to as a "Geological Park" or a "Park of Beautiful Rocks" since it is comprised of a variety of rocks. The "San'in Kaigan Geopark" including mainly the San'in kaigan National Park was successfully approved as a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2010, and the value of the San'inkaigan has been recognized worldwide.

[Date of Designation] July 15, 1963  
[Relevant Prefectures] Kyoto Pref., Hyogo Pref., Tottori Pref. [Area] 56,978 ha



Kamogaiso



Tottori Sand Dunes

## Creatures Culture

### – Animals –

Many animals, including large mammals, such as Sika deer and wild boars, and medium-sized mammals such as foxes, raccoon dogs, and Japanese hares inhabit the area. In addition, Nekozaki Peninsula is an important stopover site for migratory birds, and a large number of birds can be seen during the migration season. Further, the Maruyama River basin has become a place to release Oriental White Stork bred in captivity although they once became extinct in Japan

### – Plants –

There are many secondary forests of deciduous broadleaf trees, and a very little of primeval laurel forest remains in a small part of islands, a cape, precincts of temples and shrines. Seaside plants such as Japanese sedge, *Ixeris repens* (perennial plant of the dandelion family with yellow flowers), the Beach vitex, and the American silvertop can be found in the sand dune areas including Tottori Sand Dunes and Tango Sand Dunes. In addition, *Veronica ornata* (perennial plant with flower spikes bearing many small deep violet flowers) that can be found in the Tango Sand Dune area is a very rare plant.



Oriental White Storks



Veronica ornata



Calystegia soldanella (L.) Roem. et Schult.



American silvertop



Neon Damselfish



Hypselodoris festiva



Rakkyo (Allium chinense) Field



Kinosaki Onsen



Fishing Village

## Conservation Efforts

– Tottori Sand Dunes Landscape Restoration Project –  
At the Tottori Sand Dunes, significant infestation of plants other than original native plants of the sand dunes has occurred due to weakened process of migration by erosion. This caused even less migration of the sand, and the distinctive sand dune landscape has been compromised, such as sand ripples which is a unique feature of sand dunes. Therefore, weeding work led by Tottori Prefecture and Tottori City has been conducted. Gradually, the sand migration process is recovering, and the "live sand dunes" are literally coming back to life.

### – Park Volunteer –

Those who can voluntarily cooperate on nature interpretation for nature observation, beautification and cleanup of the park, and various activities including simple maintenance work on park facilities in the national park are registered as park volunteers by the Ministry of Environment. San'inkaigan National Park volunteers are mainly based at the Takeno Snorkeling Center and clean up the coastline, gather information about nature and conduct surveys on wildlife habitats. They also introduce the charms of the San'inkaigan National Park to its visitors.



Weeding of Sand Dunes



Cleanups

## Contact List

Kinki Regional Environment Office  
4F,Sakuranomiya Joint Government Building,  
Tenmabashi 1-8-75,Kita Ward,Osaka City,Osaka Prefecture  
530-0042  
TEL: 06-6881-6504  
URL: <https://kinki.env.go.jp/>

Takeno Ranger Office  
Takeno 3662-4, Takeno Town, Toyooka City, Hyogo Prefecture  
669-6201  
TEL: 0796-47-0236

Uradome Ranger Office  
Deai 1098-3, Uradome, Iwami Town, Iwami County,  
Tottori Prefecture  
681-0003  
TEL: 0857-73-1146



San'inkaigan National Park Website  
<https://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/nps/park/sanin/index.html>

## Terrain Geological Features

The coast area forming the unique landscape of the San'in kaigan National Park is primarily a rocky coast. Sea cliffs, sea caves, and rock reefs have markedly developed due to erosion and weathering by raging waves and seasonal winds of the Sea of Japan, and the coastline is a complex ria coast (submergent coast). In addition, unique, peculiar terrains have been formed everywhere along the coast because these rocks have extensive varieties and diverse geologic structures. In contrast to the rocky coast, sandy beaches have been formed by the sand produced by erosion or brought in from a river mouth. A unique landscape formed by the sand migration can be seen at the representative Tottori Sand Dunes. Geological features mainly consist of volcanic rocks such as basalt, andesite, rhyolite and sedimentary rocks such as conglomerate, sandstone, and mudstone, but some areas have granite as well. As for these volcanic rocks, well-developed jointing can be seen in many places. A variety of modes of occurrence and geologic features including layers, unconformities, dikes, and jointing that have been created by such rocks can be found in the San'in kaigan National Park.

### | Tottori Sand Dunes

The Tottori Sand Dunes are the largest sand dunes in Japan with an area of 16 km crosswise and 2.4 km in lengthwise. Sand, which flowed out of the Chugoku Mountains was carried to the rivers and sea and blown up by the wind, formed these sand dunes. Beautiful sand ripples (wind ripples) created by the sand and wind as well as a slipface (concave-shaped slopes) can be seen, and such unique terrain with numerous changes, ups and downs is one of many charms of the Tottori Sand Dunes.

### | Tanega-ike Pond

Located on the south side of Tottori Sand Dunes, it is a natural pond with about 3.4 km in diameter and an area of 0.23 km<sup>2</sup>. The lake surface is about 16 m higher than the sea level, and the maximum depth is about 17 m. There is a tale of the "Legend of Otane" told of a white snake which is the guardian spirit of Tanegaika Pond.

### | Uradome Coast

It is a rocky coast of 15 km in total length with "Hakusha-Seisho" where a white sand beach is surrounded by sharp cliffs, various-sized islands with lush pine trees, and a cape. This has been praised as a scenic spot, "Uradome Hakkei (Eight Best Scenery of Uradome)."

### | Sengan-Matsushima Sea Cave

Sengan-Matsushima literally means one thousand gan and a pine tree island. It is a small island made of granite appearing on the sea just north of Ajiro Port. About 300 years ago, a lush, beautiful pine tree had already grown on the top, and the 2nd lord of the Tottori Domain, Tsunakiyo Ikeda, said "I will give 1,000 gan of silver (equivalent to 3,750 kg of silver) to whomever successfully brings that pine tree with the rock to my garden." This is said to be the origin of the name of the island.



Tottori Sand Dunes



Tanega-ike Pond



Uradome Coast



Sengan-Matsushima Sea Cave

### | Yoroinosode

Located on the western part of the Kasumi Kaigan Coast, these enormous, sharp sea cliffs with a height of 65 m, a length of 200 m, and at a tilt angle of 70 degrees, are designated as Natural Monuments of Japan. Yoroinosode literally means "sleeves of armor." These cliffs with columnar jointing and platy jointing crossed each other were named because they resembled a shape of sleeves of armor.

### | Hasakari-iwa (Hasakari Rock)

It is located on the coastline of a zone of rock reefs formed by wave erosion of the Takeno Kaigan Coast. It is a cave created along the strata of the conglomerate. It is thought that this shape was created when the rock ceiling of the sea cave fell and stuck between the two walls of the cave. This is designated as a scenic sport of Hyogo Prefecture.

### | Nekozaki Peninsula

Located at the northernmost tip of Hyogo Prefecture, and its shape resembles a cat crouching down when seen from the offshore. Although it was originally an island, it became connected with the main island by the gravel carried from the river. There is a sandy beach (Takeno Beach) on the east side. Wave-cut platforms shaped by the rough waves of the Sea of Japan can be seen on the west side, as well as a pothole cut out by waves and gravels.



Yoro-no-Sode



Hasakari Rock



Nekozaki Peninsula

### | Genbudo Cave

It is designated as a Natural Monument of Japan. Beautiful columnar jointing and platy jointing of "Genbu rocks" (basalts) created by volcanic activity that occurred about 1.6 million years ago can be found. Japanese name of basalts, Genbu rock, is derived from this Genbudo Cave.

### | Kumiham Bay

After the last glacial period of about 20,000 years ago, shoals formed when the sea level rose separating the seashore from the Sea of Japan, which created Kumiham Bay. Currently, the Kumiham Bay (a lagoon) measures approximately 28 km in length and is connected with the Sea of Japan with the Omukai Waterway (about 50 m in width) of the harbor district.

### | Mt. Kabuto

This is a cone-shaped mountain with an altitude of 191 m that lies in the southeast of Kumiham Bay. It was formed from rhyolite lava, and the mineral Chalcedony can be found in its surrounding areas. There is Kumano-jinja Shrine on the mountaintop and has been revered as an object of worship.



Genbudo Cave




Kumiham Bay





Mt. Kabuto

## 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.

 Do not idle your car in the park.

### Requests While Visiting the Tottori Sand Dunes

Please observe the following while staying in the sand dune area to protect the beautiful sand dune landscape and nature as well as for everyone's comfort.

\*No motor vehicles or motorcycles are permitted on the sand dunes.  
\*Do not take sand out of the sand dune area.  
\*Do not draw letters or pictures on slopes of the sand dunes.  
\*Keep your pets on leash at all times.  
\*Do not litter.  
\*No fireworks are permitted.  
\*Do not camp outside of designated campgrounds.  
\*Respect others. Do not behave in a manner that bothers or inconveniences others.

\* 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.