



WAKAYAMA Region



Overlooking at Tomogashima Island from Miyama Observatory



The Ministry of Environment
The Kinki Regional Environment Office

What is Setonaikai National Park?

Setonaikai National Park

Islands and the Sea that Keep on Shining
The Archipelago seascapes of the inland sea
and islets where people live in
harmony with nature.

Setonaikai National Park is a vast area designated as a national park, centered around the Bisan Seto region and surrounded by the four major straits of Kitan, Naruto, Kanmon, and Hoyo. It encompasses expansive sea areas dotted with islands and scenic viewpoints on the surrounding land. Spanning across 11 prefectures, it is the largest national park in Japan. The park consists of and is characterized by unique islands within the inland sea. Along the coastal areas, many viewpoints offer stunning vistas of these islands. Historically, the Seto Inland Sea region has been a flourishing cultural hub where people and nature have coexisted. This harmony is reflected in the terraced fields on the islands, the historic port towns, and the landscapes that seamlessly blend natural beauty with everyday life. The Wakayama Prefecture region of the park was designated in 1950.

Overview

- **Designation** March 16, 1934
(Additional designation of the Wakayama Prefecture region on May 18, 1950)
- **Area** 66,934 ha (land area only)
- **Website** <https://www.env.go.jp/park/setonaikai/>

Contact Information

Ministry of the Environment,
Kinki Regional Environment Office,
Osaka Nature Conservation Office
Address: 4F Sakuranomiya Government Building,
1-8-75 Tenmabashi, Kita-ku, Osaka City,
Osaka Prefecture, 530-0042
Phone: 06-6881-6504

Some of these English-language text was created by
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Kada & Miyama

Kada & Miyama

Located in the northwestern part of Wakayama City, this area is home to forests of Japanese cheesewood and ubame oak, offering opportunities for nature observation and recreation in both the woods and the sea. From spring to summer, the coast comes alive with visitors enjoying clam digging, swimming, and rock fishing. The area also features well-maintained facilities, including observation decks with stunning views of the Seto Inland Sea, an auto camping ground, and a grassy field. Additionally, you can find accommodations, day-use hot springs, shrines nearby to enhance your visit.

View across the Kitan Strait

Kada offers a magnificent panoramic view over the Seto Inland Sea. On a clear day, Akashi Kaikyo Bridge—the suspension bridge that connects the mainland to Awaji Island—is visible about 40 kilometers away. Nor far offshore is the four-island cluster known as Tomogashima, while behind them is the 53-kilometer-long Awaji Island. To the southwest are the Shikoku Mountains on Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's four main islands. The view is particularly beautiful at sunset.

Miyama 1st Gun Battery Ruin

It has been regarded as a key point for the defense of Osaka Bay since the late Edo period (mid-1800s), as it is a route from the Kitan Strait to Osaka Bay. As part of the Yura Fortress, it was developed by the former Imperial Japanese Army during the Meiji era (1868 to 1912), and remnants such as gun emplacements and ammunition depots can still be seen today.



Walking trail leading to
Miyama 1st Gun Battery Ruin



Miyama 1st Gun Battery Ruin

Kada Auto Camping Ground

This is a campground located within the Kada Park Area. It features 20 auto-camping sites surrounded by forests of Japanese cheesewood and Ubame oak, where you can park your car right next to your campsite. You can use it as a base for exploring the surrounding area, enjoy a relaxing campfire, or have a variety of other experiences.

Grass Field

A vast grass field stretches out, making it ideal for strolling. In spring, it becomes lively with people enjoying cherry blossom viewing as the trees bloom beautifully.



Kada Auto Camping Ground

Topography of the Jogasaki Coast

The rocky coast around Cape Jogasaki and the Tomogashima island cluster is notable for its jagged washboard-like topography, which appears at low tide. The rock formation consists of alternating layers of harder sandstone and softer shale. Tilted at an angle by the movement of the Earth's crust, the uneven topography is the result of erosion of the exposed shale layer by the waves. There are numerous fossils in the rock and abundant marine life in the tidal pools.



Jogasaki Coast

Tomogashima Island

Tomogashima Island

Tomogashima Island is the collective name for four islands: Okinoshima, Jinoshima, Torajima and Kamizima Islands. Okinoshima is accessible by ferry from Kada Port, where visitors can land and explore the island.

Okinoshima Island

The islands are covered with forests consisting of species such as Sudazii trees and Ubame oak. At Shinjaik Pond, a wetland dominated by Hitomoto Susuki (a type of Chinese silvergrass) supports around 400 species of wetland plants, including the warm-climate species like Hottentot fern and the northern species such as thick-nerve sedge. Due to its rich biodiversity, it has been designated as a Natural Heritage Site of Wakayama Prefecture under the name "Shinjaik Wetland Plant Community." The south of Shinjaik Pond, at Gamaura Coast, visitors can observe coastal vegetation, including Iwataigeki (Euphorbia jolkinii), listed as Near Threatened species in the Wakayama Prefecture Red Data Book, and clusters of Hamago (beach vitex). The former Japanese Army and Navy constructed gun batteries and ammunition depots from 1889, leaving numerous ruins scattered on the island. Additionally, Tomogashima Island has long been a sacred training ground for Katsuragi Shugen, a form of mountain asceticism. There are five ascetic training sites still exist today: Kannenkutsu Cave, Johinkutsu Cave, Ruins of Akai Well, Shinjaik Pond, and Tsuruga Pond within the island, along with one Kyojuka (Buddhist scripture mound).



Hitomoto Silvergrass at Shinjaik Pond

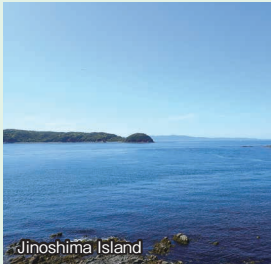


Mt. Takanosu Observatory Terrace

Japan's first Western-style lighthouse is located on the island, and well-maintained walking trails allow visitors to explore the gun battery ruins and the lighthouse.

Jinoshima Island

Rare bird species such as Ospreys and Pacific Reef Herons inhabit the area as resident birds. In addition, many migratory birds, including Grey-tailed Tattlers and raptors, pass through. You can also observe colonies of Great Cormorants, which are winter birds.



Jinoshima Island

Wakaura & Saikazaki

Wakaura & Saikazaki

The area features a secondary forest dominated by Japanese black pines, intermingled with evergreen broad-leaved trees such as camellias, Cinnamomum, and Japanese laurel. Located on the southern side of the central ridge, the marine erosion cliff, formed by green schist—known as the "Blue Rock Cliff" (Takanosu Cave)—creates a unique and striking landscape.

Saikazaki Lighthouse

This scenic area, celebrated in ancient Manyoshu poetry anthology, offers breathtaking views of tranquil fishing villages, stunning sunsets, and famous landmarks such as Banshono Hana Point.



The view from Saikazaki Lighthouse

Takozushiya Park Area

Located on Mt. Takozushi, the area features well-maintained walking trails and an observation deck offering panoramic views of southern Wakayama Prefecture.



The view from Takozushiya Park Area

Harvests of the Sea

Wakaura & Saikazaki

Unique Features of the Area

The area is rich in fresh seafood, offering a variety of local specialties. Visitors can enjoy Kada's sea bream, beltfish, whitebait, dried fish, and nori seaweed at restaurants and accommodations.