

Oku-Nikko-shitsugen High and Intermediate Moor, Freshwater Lake

Geographical Coordinates: 36°47'N, 139°26'E / Altitude: 1475m (Yuno-ko), 1400m (Senjogahara), 1410m (Odashirogahara) / Area: 260.41ha (Yuno-ko 35.71ha, Senjogahara 174.68ha, Yukawa 5.3ha, Odashirogahara 44.72ha) / Major Type of Wetland: High moors, intermediate moors, freshwater lakes / Designation: Special Protection Zone and Special Zone of National Park / Municipalities Involved: Nikko City, Tochigi Prefecture / Ramsar Designation: November 2005



Senjogahara

Principal Features:

Oku-Nikko-shitsugen is located 1400m in altitude, 120km north of Tokyo. It is situated in a valley surrounded by mountains exceeding 2000m in height, including Mt. Nantai (2484m) and Mt. Shirane (2577m), all of which contribute to the beautiful landscapes of Nikko National Park. The designated area includes Yuno-ko Lake, which was created by volcanic activity, the out-flowing Yukawa River, and the two major wetlands of Senjogahara and Odashirogahara in its watershed.

Although the size of Yuno-ko Lake is relatively small at 35 ha, it is a freshwater lake nearly in its natural condition, due to the pristine catchment area. Hotels occupy the lakefront, benefiting from hot springs found in the area. Yutaki, a waterfall renowned for its beauty, is located at the southern end of the lake where the Yukawa River begins. The Yukawa River flows into Senjogahara and replenishes the wetland.

Senjogahara was initially a dammed lake created by the volcanic eruption of Mt. Nantai, whereupon layers of aquatic vegetation gradually accumulated over magma and earth to become a high moor. More than 100 species of wetland vegetation, such as cotton grass and Japanese azalea, have been identified in the area.

Odashirogahara, adjacent to Senjogahara, offers a rare wetland landscape in transition to becoming a grassland. Transient lakes appear after rain showers, featuring the characteristics of both wetlands and grasslands.

Breathtaking Landscapes:

In addition to the diverse wetland vegetation, Oku-Nikko-shitsugen offers rich and natural landscapes of mountains, rivers, and wetlands, whose outstanding beauty changes with every season. Many tourists from Tokyo visit the area especially in the autumn to enjoy the brilliantly colored leaves. With the neighboring tourist hotspots of Lake Chuzenji-ko downstream of Senjogahara, Kegon-no-taki waterfall, and the World Heritage shrine of Toshogu in the vicinity, over 6 million tourists visit the area annually. In the region however, inhabit many deer, which pose a large threat to the local vegetation. In response, measures such as the installation of electric fences have been implemented to conserve the wetlands.

[Koyo] The four seasons of Japan are renowned for their distinct characteristics. At the end of autumn, when temperatures drop below 8°C, the leaves of beech, oak and maple turn into brilliant hues of red and yellow. Such changes before deciduous trees lose their leaves is traditionally called "Koyo", cherished

Koyo at Yuno-ko



by the Japanese for the beauty of landscapes in transformation during autumn. Many residents of Tokyo and surrounding areas take their families there to visit.

Contact Information:

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