

NIKKO NATIONAL PARK

Nikko National Park is a national park in the Kanto region, on the main island of Honsho in Japan. The park spreads over three prefectures: Tochigi, Gunma and Fukushima, and was established in 1934.



HISTORY

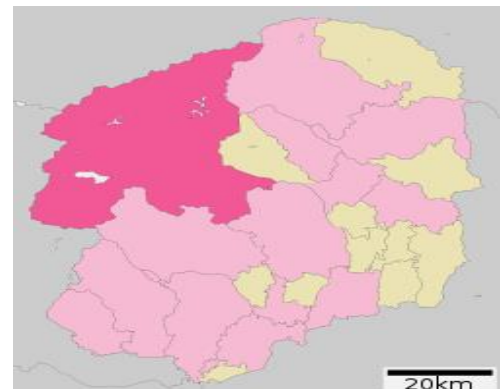
The establishment of Nikko National Park dates to the early 20th century. The Diet of Japan designated Nikko an imperial park in 1911. The National Parks Law was passed in 1931, and Nikko National Park was established in 1934. The park was expanded throughout the 20th century. Oze National Park was once part of Nikko National Park, but became a separate national park in 2007.

DESCRIPTION

The park is considered one of the most beautiful in Japan, and is a popular tourist destination. Beyond its striking scenery, the park is noted for its historical Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines, most notably the Nikko To shu-go and Rinno-ji. They are designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site as the "Shrines and Temples of Nikko". The park is free entry and is divided into three zones, such as Nikko, Kinugawa/Kuriyama, Nasu Kashi/Shiobara.

GEOGRAPHY

Nikko covers a vast area (1,449.83 km²) of rural northwestern Tochigi approximately 140 km north of Tokyo and 35 km west of Utsunomiya, the capital of Tochigi Prefecture. It is the third-largest city (by area) in Japan, behind Takayama and Hamamatsu. Both the Watarase River and the Kinugawa River pass through the city. Lake Chuzenji and the Kegon Falls lie in Nikko, as does the Nikko Botanical Garden. The city's many mountains and waterfalls



have made it an important source of hydroelectric power. The area has also been used for mining copper, aluminum and concrete. Page 2 of 2 The weather in Nikko is fairly similar to that of the northern island of Hokkaido, even though Nikko is much closer to Tokyo than Hokkaidō. The elevation of Nikko plays an important role in this fact. It will usually get cooler as one ascends the mountain. The average temperature of Nikko is around 7 °C (44 °F) with the warmest months reaching only about 22 °C (72 °F) and the coldest reaching down to about −8 °C (17 °F).

NOTABLE PLACE

- Nikko To sho-go, a Shinto shrine, Nikko, Tochigi Prefecture
- Lake Chuzenji, 11.62 square kilometres (4.49 sq mi), a scenic lake, Nikko
- Kegon Falls, 97 metres (318 ft), one of Japan's three highest waterfalls
- Mount Nantai, 2,486 metres (8,156 ft), rises dramatically above Lake Chuzenji
- Mount Nikko-Shirane, 2,578 metres (8,458 ft), a shield volcano
- Rinno-ji, a Buddhist temple, Nikko
- Ryoze Falls, 60 metres (200 ft), a scenic twin waterfalls
- Sessho-seki, a "killing stone" that fractured in 2022

FLORA

Nikko National Park is noted for numerous species of plants and trees, including mizubasho, the white skunk cabbage of the Ozegahara marshland, maples, firs, and magnificent stands of sugi, the Japanese cedar that line the roads around Nikko.

RECREATION

Nikko National Park is a popular destination for hiking, skiing, camping, golfing, and its numerous historical onsen hot spring resorts.