

World Heritage Site Shirakami-Sanchi Guide Map

- Guidelines for Visitors to Shirakami-Sanchi
1. Stay on the trails.

2. Do not take any plants or animals home with you.

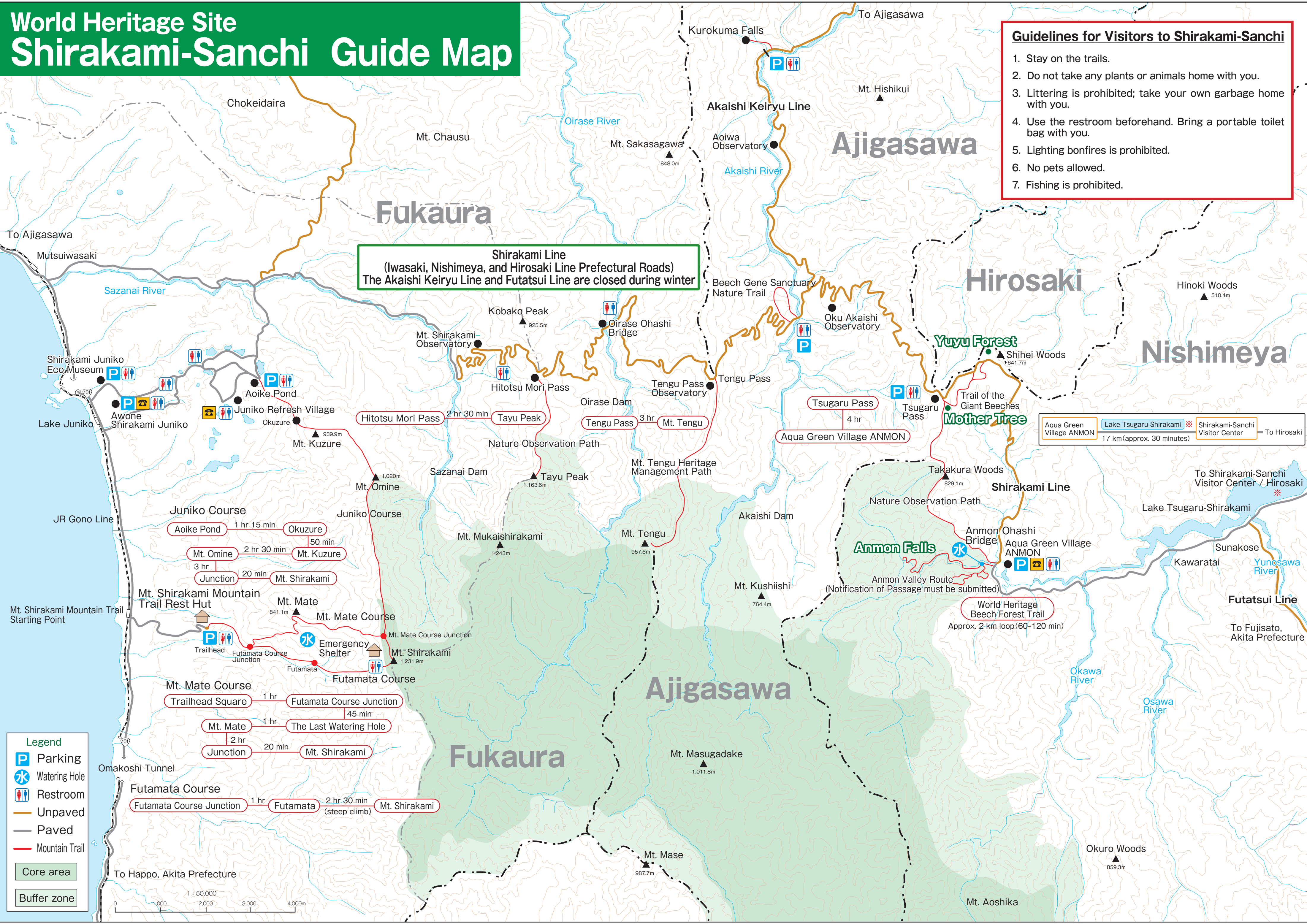
3. Littering is prohibited; take your own garbage home with you.

4. Use the restroom beforehand. Bring a portable toilet bag with you.

5. Lighting bonfires is prohibited.

6. No pets allowed.

7. Fishing is prohibited.



Legend

Parking

Watering Hole

Restroom

Unpaved

Paved

Mountain Trail

Core area

Buffer zone





Kurokuma Falls



Anmon Falls (First Waterfall)



Japan Canyon



Japanese Serows

The Japanese serow is a large herbivorous mammal. They are a primitive kind of bovid and can therefore be called living fossils. They only inhabit Japan and have been designated a Special Natural Monument by the Japanese government.



Harlequin Ducks

Harlequin ducks were thought to be sea birds that seasonally migrate to Japan from overseas in the winter, but it was recently confirmed for the first time that they breed in Japan at the source of the Akaishi River.



Black Woodpeckers

Black woodpeckers are the largest of the five species of woodpeckers living in Shirakami-Sanchi. They are as big as crows and have black bodies. The males are entirely red-crowned whereas the females exhibit red coloring only on the back of the head. They have been designated a Natural Monument.



Japanese Wood Poppy (Glaucidium palmatum) The Japanese wood poppy is unique to Japan, the only species and genus in its family. They are found in depressions on slopes where snow remains long into the spring.



Lake Juniko (Aoike Pond)



Japanese Macaques

The Japanese macaque is a monkey of the Cercopithecidae family. They live in groups of 20-30 individuals. The Japanese macaques living on the Shimokita Peninsula are said to be the northernmost-inhabiting monkeys in the world, and so have been designated as a Natural Monument. Those living in Shirakami-Sanchi also draw attention for their scientific value.



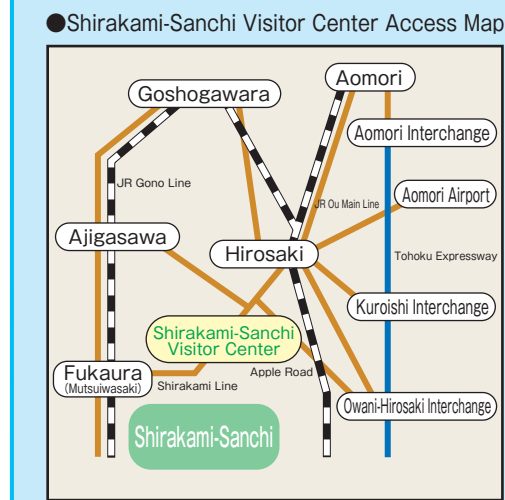
Ogomashijimi Butterflies (Maculinea arionides) The Ogomashijimi is a butterfly found only in certain areas of Shirakami-Sanchi. They lay eggs on a plant of the mint family called isodon trichocarpus. Grown larvae are brought to the hole of a Myrmica ant colony to eat the ants' larvae. They only inhabit wholesome natural environments.



Aomori Mantema (Silene aomorensis) The Aomori mantema is a plant of the family Caryophyllaceae. They were first discovered in Aomori and are thought to have survived the ice age.



Tsugaru Misebaya (Hylotelephium tsugaruense) The Tsugaru misebaya is a plant of the family Crassulaceae, first discovered in Aomori. They inhabit collapsed slopes and rocky areas.



- 1 Shirakami-Sanchi Visitor Center
61-1 Kanda, Tashiro, Nishimeya-mura, Nakatsugaru-gun, Aomori Prefecture ☎0172-85-2810
- 2 The Shirakami-Sanchi World Heritage Conservation Center
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- 3 Aqua Green Village ANMON
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- 4 Shirakami Promenade
1-26 Yagurayama, Fukayamachi, Ajigasawa, Nishitsugaru, Aomori Prefecture ☎0173-79-2009
- 5 Awone Shirakami Juniko
14 Shimohamamatsu, Matsukami, Fukaura, Nishitsugaru, Aomori Prefecture ☎0173-77-3311
- 6 Juniko Refresh Village
14 Shimohamamatsu, Matsukami, Fukaura, Nishitsugaru, Aomori Prefecture ☎0173-77-3311
- 7 Shirakami Juniko Eco Museum
1-3 Matsukamiyama, Matsukami, Fukaura, Nishitsugaru, Aomori Prefecture ☎0173-77-3113
- 8 WeSpa Tsubakiyama
226-1 Nebeishi, Henashi, Fukaura, Nishitsugaru, Aomori Prefecture ☎0173-75-2261
- 9 Forest Science Center Hachimori Bunakko Land
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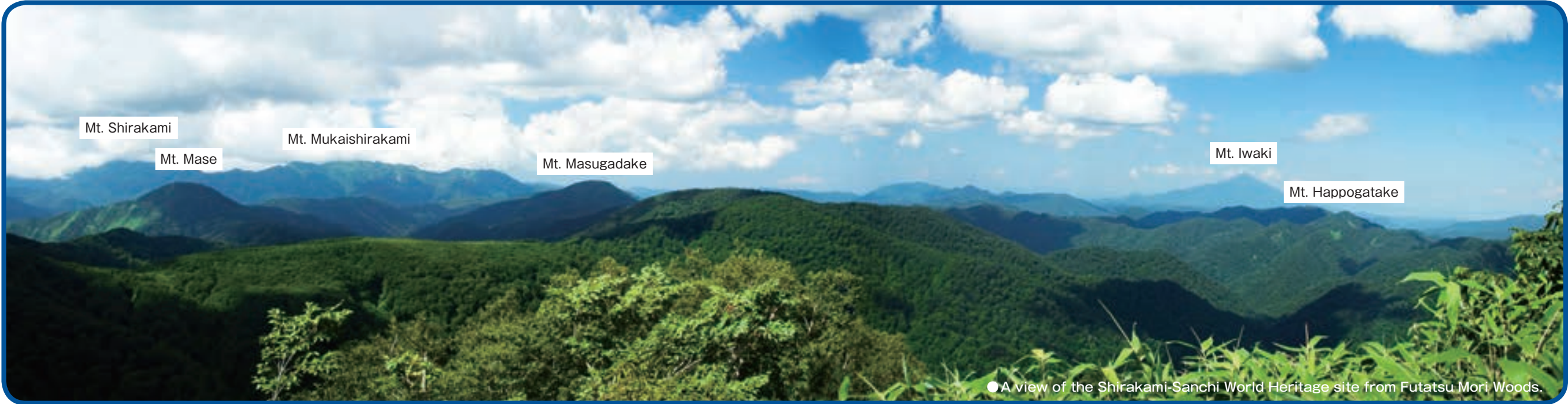
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About Shirakami-Sanchi

Shirakami-Sanchi is a vast mountainous area of approximately 130,000 hectares located in southwestern Aomori Prefecture and northwestern Akita Prefecture. In this area lies the world's largest virgin beech forest (16,971 hectares), which in December 1993 was registered, along with Yakushima in Kagoshima Prefecture, as one of Japan's first World Natural Heritage Sites under the World Heritage Convention. About three quarters of the beech forest (12,627 hectares) belong to Aomori Prefecture and about a quarter (4,344 hectares) to Akita Prefecture. Geologically, Shirakami-Sanchi consists of thick 2 to 20 million year-old layers of sedimentary rocks formed from sand, mud, and volcanic ashes lying on a bed of granite from the Cretaceous period (146 million to 65 million years ago). The mountains of Shirakami-Sanchi were formed by violent upheaval of these layers. The rivers thus carved steep valleys and a number of high waterfalls were created. Shirakami-Sanchi boasts abundant flora and fauna: animals such as Japanese black bears, Japanese macaques, Japanese serows (Special Natural Monument), black woodpeckers (Natural Monument), and golden eagles; many kinds of trees such as beech, Mongolian oak and Japanese wingnut; and a variety of plants including endemic species such as the Aomori mantema and the Tsugaru misebaya. It is thus said that Shirakami-Sanchi is a genetic storehouse. Traditional hunters called Matagi have made their living out of the bounty of these rich forests, creating their own unique culture. Given its abundant resources, Shirakami-Sanchi has also been an important region for forestry. There are deserted mines as well, such as Oppu Mine in Nishimeya. Currently, the preservation and management of this World Heritage Site are based on the Shirakami-Sanchi World Heritage Site Management Plan and carried out by the multiple relevant administrative organizations responsible for its enforcement.

● Contact information
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● A View of the Shirakami-Sanchi World Heritage site from Futatsu Mori Woods.