

Yakushima
Natural Recreation Forest
Shiratani area



Recreation
Forests of
JAPAN

A World Natural Heritage site,
Yakushima
Shiratani
Unsuikyo
Ravine

Yakushima Recreation and Forest
Conservation Management Committee



※The letters A to E on the maps are locations for the contact information listed below.

Emergency phone numbers

- Police - TEL 110
(no additional area code is necessary for both regular and mobile phones.)
- Emergency Ambulance Service - TEL 0997-42-0119
(Yakushima North Station of Kumage District Community Fire Fighting Association)

Contact information

- A** Yakushima Recreation and Forest Conservation Management Committee (8:00-17:00)
1593 Miyanoura Yakushima-cho Kumage-gun Kagoshima Japan
Email:yakureku@major.ocn.ne.jp Website:http://y-rekumori.com/ TEL-FAX:0997-42-3508
- B** Shiratani Unsuikyo Ravine Administration Building (8:30-16:30)
Mt. Miyanoura area in National Forest
Miyanoura Yakushima-cho Kumage-gun Kagoshima TEL:090-5384-6261
- C** Yakushima Town Office Commerce and Tourism Section (8:30-17:15)
849-20 Kosedo Yakushima-cho Kumage-gun Kagoshima TEL:0997-43-5900 FAX:0997-42-1505
- D** Yakushima Tourism Association (8:30-18:00)
310-1 Kosedo Yakushima-cho Kumage-gun Kagoshima TEL:0997-49-4010 FAX:0997-49-4011
- E** Yakushima Forest Ecosystem Conservation Center of the Forestry Agency (8:30-17:15)
1577-1 Miyanoura Yakushima-cho Kumage-gun Kagoshima TEL:0997-42-0331 FAX:0997-42-0333

**Forest Environmental Enhancement
Promotion Fund / Admission Fee**

Entrance
Donation
Fee

- High school students and up
- 500 yen per person
※ You may get a discount by using the Shiratani Unsuikyo 200-yen discount ticket on your Yakusugi Land admission ticket.
- Group rates (15 or more people)
- 400 yen per person
※ Shiratani Unsuikyo 200-yen discount tickets are not applicable for groups.

Forest Environmental Enhancement Promotion Fund/admission fees are used for maintaining and repairing trails, maintenance of facilities, and administration of Yakushima Natural Recreation Forests (Shiratani Unsuikyo Ravine and Yakusugi Land). We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Thank you for your cooperation and Support.

Released March 2019

Shiratani Unsuikyo Ravine
Yakushima Natural Recreation Forest (Shiratani area)

Shiratani Unsuikyo Ravine is a nature park situated at a height of 600 to 1,050 meters covering an area of 424 hectares. Because of its beautiful nature and virgin forest with many yakusugi cedar trees and easy access, it was designated as a Natural Recreation Forest together with Yakusugi Land in March 1974 and is one of the most popular destinations in Yakushima.

Shiratani Unsuikyo Ravine is only 10 km from Miyanoura, about 25 minutes by car. There are route buses from Miyanoura Port.

A favored feature of this park is its hiking trails. There are several trails you can choose from according to its level of difficulties and times: Yayoisugi cedar course (about 1 hour), Bugyosugi cedar course (about 3 hours), Taikoiwa rock course (including part of the Kusugawa walking path, 4 hours).

The Kusugawa walking path will take you through a moss and fern carpeted forest of yakusugi cedar and broadleaf trees. Shiratani Unsuikyo Ravine was the inspiration for the animated film "Mononoke Hime (Princess Mononoke)".

In addition, you will see clear streams of the Shiratani River flowing through the forest near the park's entrance. You will be able to appreciate and savor up close the distinctive ravine formed by the river flowing over and around huge boulders. Especially during early spring the Sakura Azalea flowers on the banks and the colors of the Satsuki in early summer makes for a natural garden.

Furthermore, a route to Mt. Miyanoura, the highest mountain in Kyushu, by way of Tsujitoga pass, Wilson stump, Daiousugi cedar, and Jomonsugi cedar is accessible within the park.

**Major yakusugi cedar trees
in Shiratani Unsuikyo Ravine**

Name	Trunk Circumference(m)	Height (m)	Altitude (m)	Course
Yayoisugi Cedar	8.1	26.1	710	Yayoisugi Cedar Course
Nidaiousugi Cedar	4.4	32.0	730	Yayoisugi Cedar Course Bugyosugi Cedar Course
Sanbon-ashisugi Cedar	3.9	25.0	800	Bugyosugi Cedar Course
Sanbon-yarisugi Cedar	2.7	25.0	830	Bugyosugi Cedar Course
Bugyosugi Cedar	8.5	24.0	820	Bugyosugi Cedar Course
Shiratani Unsuikyo Ravine Kugusugi Cedar	3.1	22.0	820	Taikoiwa Rock Round Trip Course
Nanahousugi Cedar	8.3	18.0	840	Taikoiwa Rock Round Trip Course

On October 26th, 2013 a naming event was held for the unnamed yakusugi cedars in Shiratani Unsuikyo Ravine. From a public survey names were chosen. It was part of the World Natural Heritage Site, Yakushima 20th anniversary celebration.

Name	Namer	Reason for choosing the name
Shika no yado, "Lodging for deers"	Yaya Mori, a 5th grader in Yokohama	I imagined a deer taking shelter from the rain in the hollow of this cedar tree.
Bukesugi Cedar & Kugesugi Cedar, "Samurai Cedar & Aristocrat Cedar"	Daisuke Hattori, a staff member of public association in Yakushima	I pictured the left side was "Bukesugi", a samurai wearing moss armor, and the right side was "Kugesugi", wearing a noble white silver bark like an aristocrat.
Kaminari onji	Taku Sakai, a 2nd grader in Yakushima	I imagined the lightning struck of the yakusugi cedar looking like an old man.
Megamisugi Cedar, "Goddess Cedar"	Sakie Tanaka, a housewife in Yakushima	The beautiful curved line of this cedar reminded me of the beauty of a woman's body.

Yakushima Natural Recreation Forest Shiratani area Shiratani Unsuikyo Ravine Guide Map

- Yayoisugi Cedar Course (about 2 km or an hour hike)
 - Bugyosugi Cedar Course (about 4 km or a 3 hour hike)
(※ The number from ⑦ to ⑪ are hard hikes with lots of ups and downs and will take about 2 hours.)
 - Taikoiwa Rock Round Trip Course (about 5.6 km or a 4 hour hike)
(※ Round trip from the entrance to Moss Covered Forest takes about 2 and a half hours.)
- Note that no. ⑥-⑬ are mountain trails. Please check your equipment and know your physical condition for your climb.
- The numbers in red indicate the elevations and the numbers in blue indicate the approximate distances.

Rhododendron Tashiroi blooms during April

Symplocacaea blooms from April to May

Japanese Rowan blooms from April to May

⑬ Cherry blossom seen from Taikoiwa Rock during spring

Hydrangea luteovenosa blooms from May to June

Satsuki Azalea blooms during June

⑬~⑭ Moss Covered Forest

Kaminarionji 985m

Tsujitoge Pass 990m

Tsujinoiwaya 100m

To Ohkubu Mountain Trail via trolley railroad

⑮ 250m

⑭ 350m

Megamisugi Cedar 1,010m

Taikoiwa Rock 1,050m

⑪~⑬ Kugurisugi Cedar

① a beautiful colors of Stewartia in autumn

⑬~⑭ Goddess Cedar in winter

⑩ Bugyosugi Cedar

⑨ Sanbon-yarisugi Cedar

⑧ Sanbon-ashisugi Cedar

Sanbon-yarisugi Cedar 830m

Bibinkosugi Cedar 300m

Beware of rising water

⑨ 200m

Beware of rising water

⑩ 800m

Bugyosugi Cedar 820m

Beware of rising water

⑪ 900m

Beware of rising water

⑫ 700m

Beware of rising water

⑬ 600m

Beware of rising water

⑭ 140m

Beware of rising water

⑮ 300m

Beware of rising water

⑯ 600m

Beware of rising water

⑰ 1,200m

Beware of rising water

⑱ 600m

Beware of rising water

⑲ 1,000m

Beware of rising water

⑳ 600m

Beware of rising water

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Beware of rising water



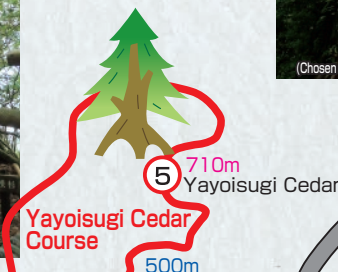
④-⑤ A wooden walkway in Yayoisugi Cedar Course



②-⑤ Kikinsugi Cedar



⑤ Yayoisugi Cedar (Chosen as one of the hundred biggest trees in Japan)



⑤ 710m Yayoisugi Cedar

500m

620m Administration Building

Entrance / Exit

② 300m

① 140m

③ 700m

④ 300m

⑤ 600m

⑥ 600m

⑦ 600m

⑧ 600m

⑨ 600m

⑩ 600m

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Things to keep in mind when hiking

- Please stay on the mountain trails.
- Please do not stray off the trails. Plants and tree roots can be damaged from your trading on them.
- Yakushima Natural Recreation Forest is maintained to be as natural and untouched as possible. Be aware of natural hazards such as falling branches and trail conditions. Be alert and take extra care when walking on the trails.
- After a heavy rain, the creeks will be swollen and very dangerous. For your safety we recommend waiting until creeks are safe to cross.
- Course times indicated on the map are based on the average time an adult will need to finish the course. Please give yourself plenty of time to enjoy your hike.
- In the mountains, especially during winter, daylight will pass quickly so please be aware of your time.