NIKKO 日光

The glories of NIKKO are two-fold. It enjoys a worldwide reputation for harmonizing human artistry with nature because of such architectural wonders as the Toshogu Shrine, Rinnoji Temple and Futarasan Shrine, set in a grand natural setting of rivers and lakes. It is also blessed with magnificent mountain scenery with lakes, rivers, cascades, plateaus and forests of ancient trees. Nikko National Park has a number of spas, each surrounded by lovely scenery, which yields a plentiful supply of hot mineral water and constitute so many resting places for visitors. In this vast area are excellent facilities for recreation and sports. The visitor can enjoy hiking, camping, mountain climbing, boating, fishing, skiing and skating. Nikko is indeed a year-round resort place.

Travel Tip

At TOBU ASAKUSA Station, you can choose either local or limited express train to Nikko.

By local train: ¥1,320 (regular seat) Time: 2 hours from Tobu Asakusa to Tobu Nikko.

By Limited Express: ¥2,740 (luxury seat) Time: 1 hour 40 min from Tobu Asakusa to Tobu Nikko.

You need to make a reservation for LIMITED EXPRESS train on the TOBU RAILWAY to TOBU NIKKO Station. Reservation and purchasing of the ticket can be made at TOBU ASAKUSA Station or a major travel agent; such as the Japan Travel Bureau (JTB) near YOKOSUKA CHUO Station.

More Information: http://www.tobu.co.jp/ (English version available)

HOW TO GET THERE:

From Yokosuka

1. Go to YOKOSUKA CHUO 横須賀中央 Station and buy a ¥950 ticket for ASAKUSA 浅草 Station on TOEI ASAKUSA 都営浅草線 Line.

2. Take a GREEN or RED KANJI train bound for SHINAGAWA from track #2. ☛**Note:** If you take a GREEN KANJI TRAIN ➡ Exit at SHINAGAWA Station but stay on that same platform. Take any of the next train to ASAKUSA 浅草 Station. If you take a RED KANJI TRAIN ➡ Keep riding on RED TRAIN until you reach ASAKUSA BASHI 浅草Station.

* Keikyu Line joins a part of SUBWAY TOEI ASAKUSA 都営浅草線 Line after SHINAGAWA 品川.

3. Exit ASAKUSA 浅草 Station. Go to MATSUYA DEPARTMENT STORE (松屋デパート), and locate the TOBU ASAKUSA 東武浅草 Station on the second floor of the department store. Here you will catch TOBU 東武線 Line to TOBU NIKKO 東武日光 Station (about a 2-hour ride). Some trains are not direct and require a transfer at SHIMO-IMAICHI 下今市 Station, so please check with the train conductor.

From Ikego

1. Go to JIMMUJI 神武寺 Station and buy a ¥880 transfer ticket to ASAKUSA 浅草 Station on TOEI ASAKUSA 都営浅草線 Line.

2. Take a train from track #2 to KANAZAWA BUNKO 金沢文庫 and change to GREEN or RED KANJI train bound for SHINAGAWA. **Continue with #2 above.**

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This flyer and many more can be found on the FFSC website: **www.cfay.navy.mil/fscyoko/index.htm**

HOW TO GET AROUND

1. Between Nikko Station and Toshogu Shrine.
   On Foot: It takes about 15 minutes to Shinkyo Bridge, beyond which is the shrine area.
   By Bus: Frequent bus services are available from Bus Stops #1 & #2 in front of Tobu-Nikko Station. Get off either at Shinkyo Bridge (5 min. ride) or Nishi-sando (8 min. ride).
   Note: Tobu-Nikko Station and JR Nikko Station is a few minutes' walk from each other.
2. Between Nikko Station and Lake Chuzenji Area.
   Buses from JR or Tobu-Nikko Station drive up the hairpin curved No. 2 Irohazaka Driveway to Lake Chuzenji. It is a 50-min ride to Chuzenji-Onsen where you can walk to Kegon Waterfalls, Ojiri cruise boat pier and to the aerial cable car station for going up to Chanoki-daira Observatory.
3. Between Toshogu Shrine and Lake Chuzenji Area.
   If you are going from the shrine area to Lake Chuzenji, you can catch a bus either at Shinkyo Bus Stop or Nishi-sando Bus Stop. All buses originate at either Tobu-Nikko Station or JR Nikko Station.

PLACES OF INTEREST

TOSHOGU SHRINE AREA

SHINKYO (神橋), or Sacred Bridge, arches gracefully over the Daiya. Formerly it could have been crossed only on festival occasions, but now, anyone can cross it on any day. There is a small fee to cross.

FUTARASAN SHRINE (二荒山神社), located between Toshogu Shrine and Daiyuin Mausoleum is the oldest building in the district, dating from 1617.

NIKKO AREA MAP

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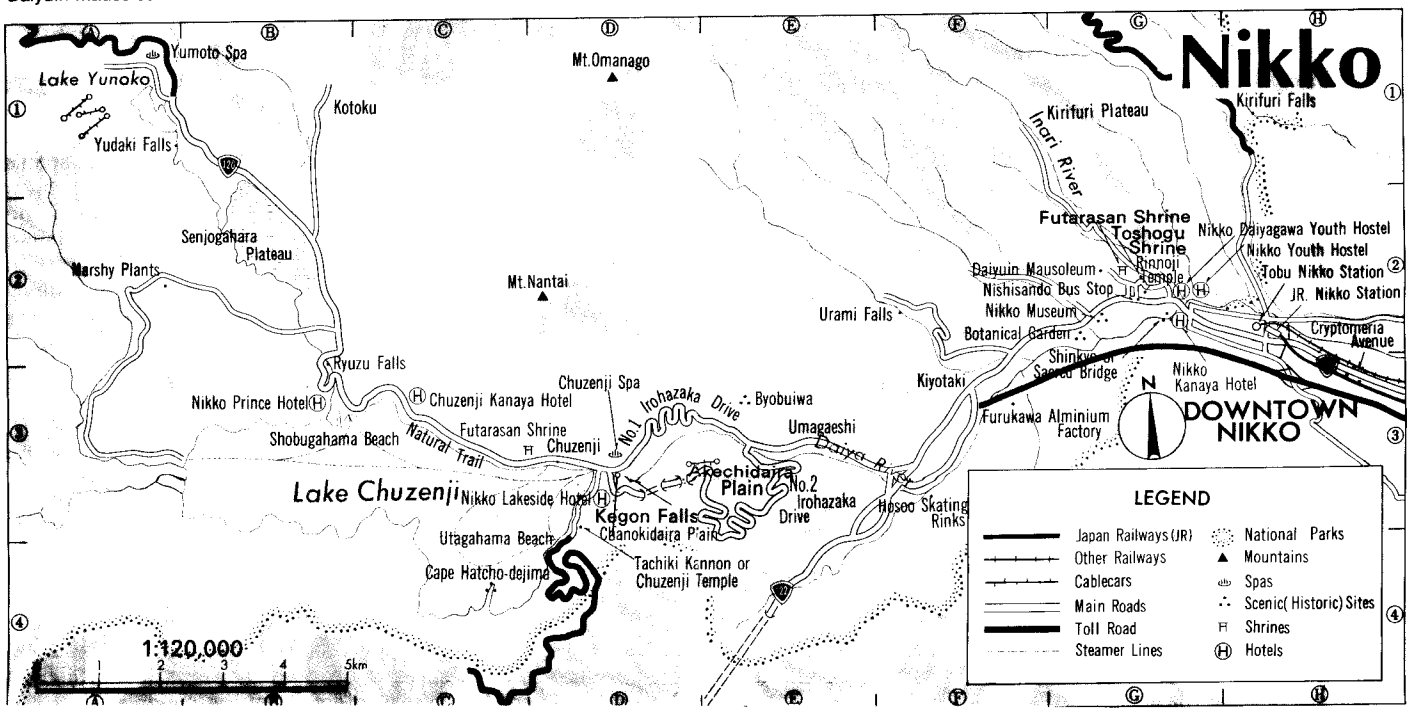


YOMEIMON GATE (陽明門), the gate to the main shrine building of Toshogu is the most famous structure of the shrine. National Treasure.

TOSHOGU SHRINE (東照宮), 15-minute walk from Shinkyo Bus Stop, was completed to its present splendor in 1636 by Ienitsu Tokugawa, the third Shogun of Tokugawa Shogunate, to be dedicated to his grandfather, Ieyasu, founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate. Most of the shrine buildings are designated as National Treasures or Important Cultural Properties. Points not to miss are the carving of the Three Monkeys, the carving of the Sleeping Cat and the Honjido Hall with 'Nakiryu' a crying dragon picture on the ceiling. Admission fees: ¥1250 to the shrine, ¥500 for the Sleeping Cat

DAIYUINBYO (大院廟), 7-minute walk from Toshogu, is the mausoleum of the third Shogun Iemitsu. It resembles Toshogu in the style and arrangement of the building, but on a smaller and simpler scale.

RINNOJI TEMPLE (輪王寺), is located at Omotesando (the main approach to the shrine) on the way from Shinkyo Bridge. Its Sambutsudo Hall houses the three images of Buddhist goddesses. ¥850

The Kyotsu-Haikan-Ken (共通拝観券) Coupon costs ¥900 and is accepted at the Toshogu Shrine, Rinnoji Temple and Futarasan Shrine. To see the Sleeping Cat, you still must pay ¥500.

LAKE CHUZENJI AREA

LAKE CHUZENJI (中禅寺湖) is especially beautiful in mid-May for its cherry blossoms and in October for its brilliant crimson foliage. Regular boat service on the lake connects Ojiri Pier (3-min. walk from Chuzenji-Onsen Bus Stop) with Shobugahama in 20 minutes. A sightseeing boat is operated between Ojiri Pier and Chuzenji Temple (55-min. round trip). Both services are terminated from December to March, as the lake freezes over.

CHUZENJI ONSEN (中禅寺温泉), on the northeastern shore of the lake. It is the center of the Lake Chuzenji Area. There are many souvenir shops, restaurants and Japanese-style inns with hot spring baths.

KEGON FALLS (華厳の滝), 5-minute walk from Chuzenji-Onsen Bus Stop. It is one of the most famous waterfalls in all Japan. An elevator takes you down the observatory platform. ¥520

FUTARASAN SHRINE (二荒山神社), 15-minute-walk from Chuzenji-Onsen Bus Stop. Founded in 784.
A trail to the top of Mt. Nantai begins here. ¥300

TACHIKI KANNON (立木観音), 20-minute walk from Chuzenji-Onsen Bus Stop, it houses the famous statue of the One-Thousand-Armed Goddess. ¥300

CHANOKIDAIRA (茶ノ木平), 6-minute by aerial cable car from Chuzenji-Onsen, is an observatory with a panoramic view. There is a botanical garden of marshy plants.

AKECHIDAIRA (明智平), 40-minutes by bus from Nikko Station, then 3 minutes by aerial cable car, is an observatory, which commands a view of Mt. Nantai, Lake Chuzenji and Kegon Falls. It is on the No. 2 Irohazaka Driveway on the way from Nikko Station to Lake Chuzenji and accessible only by an upward bus (since a downward bus doesn't drive on No. 2 Irohazaka).

INNER PART OF NIKKO (OKU-NIKKO)

MT. NANTAI (男体山), alt 2,484 meters, is opened to climbers from May 5 until October 15. 4 hr climb.

YUMOTO SPA (湯元温泉), 1 hour, 25 min. from Nikko Station or 25 min. from Chuzenji-Onsen by bus, this spa lies 1,800 meters above sea level and is surrounded by mountains on all sides, except on the south, where it is opened to Lake Yunoko. There are many luxurious Japanese-style inns.

LAKE YUNOKO (湯の湖) is good for fishing, boating and skating in season. Yudaki Waterfalls is on the southern end.

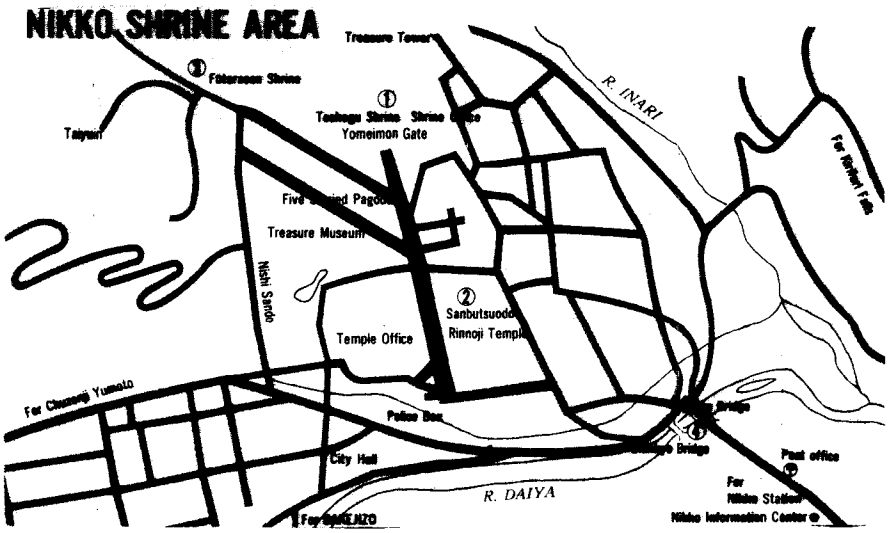
SENJOGAHARA PLAIN (戦場ヶ原), extending on the way between Lake Chuzenji and Lake Yunoko, is a very marshy plateau. A good place for hiking.

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST IN AND AROUND NIKKO

NIKKO BOTANICAL GARDEN (日光植物園), close to Hanaishicho Bus Stop, which is 10 minutes by bus from Nikko Station, contains about 1,300 varieties of plants, including many Nikko alpine floras. Opened 0900 to 1600. Closed December to April 14 and Mondays. ¥330

NIKKO MUSEUM (日光博物館), 15 minutes by bus from Nikko Station. Get off at Tamosawa Bus Stop. The museum building is a former Imperial villa. On exhibit are materials, which describe fauna and flora and nature of Nikko National Park, and local arts and crafts. Open daily 0800 to 1700 from April to November (0900-1600 from December to March). ¥400

EDOMURA VILLAGE (日光江戸村) is an amusement park, which reproduces Edo-period culture and life through a variety of attractions and performances. There are several types of admission. Extra admission is required for some of the attractions and games such as Ninja's Fight in Ninja House, Mysterious Temple and Shibaigoya Theater. Open daily 0900 to 1700 (Mar. 20-Nov. 30) and 0930 to 1600 (Dec. 1-Mar. 17). Access: Get off at Tobu Railways' Kinugawa Onsen Station. Shuttle bus is operated between the station and Edomura Village. For bus schedule, call Tokyo Office of Edomura Village at (03) 3357-0640.

KINUGAWA ONSEN SPA (鬼怒川温泉) is a popular hot-spring resort with many multi-storied Ryokans with large capacity. Minshukus are also available. Trips on the Kinu River by man-oared boat operate from early April through early November. A nice nature trail is laid out in Ryuokyo Gorge, 15 minutes by bus from Kinugawa-Onsen Station.

DOWNTOWN NIKKO & TOSHOGU SHRINE AREA