

Visiting Japan's National Parks—Rules & Advice

Our national parks are precious. Rules are in place to protect the environment and for the safety of all visitors.



Removing animals, plants, or stones from any park is strictly prohibited, as doing so may disrupt the natural balance of the park's ecosystems.



Use park facilities with care and respect. Refrain from causing excessive noise (including by operating drones), and note that graffiti is a crime.



Do not camp or light fires outside of designated areas. Campfires outside of designated areas may damage vegetation, attract bears and other wild animals in search of food, and cause wildfires.



Do not feed wild animals. Feeding wild animals disrupts the ecological balance, and can cause animals to become aggressive, develop health conditions, or become dependent on humans for food. Changes in animal behavior due to feeding is a cause of road accidents, visitor injuries and other problems in the parks.

**In the event you encounter a bear or boar, retreat quietly and avoid making any sudden movements or noises.*

Please enjoy the national parks responsibly. Be considerate of other visitors, consider your safety, and respect the natural environment.



Plan ahead

Plan your visit to Japan's national parks with care, researching important information before visiting. If you plan to hike, check the weather, trail conditions, access information, and safety warnings such as volcanic activity reports. Be especially careful when undertaking activities in the mountains in winter and when tackling advanced climbing routes that require special equipment.



Drive carefully

If traveling by car, make sure you check each park's traffic rules and restrictions before visiting—Parks employ varied conservation methods, including implementing traffic restrictions. Always drive safely and be careful to avoid collisions with deer and other wild animals.



Check restroom availability

Always check the availability of toilets. Use the restroom before setting out on a hike, and bring a portable toilet bag with you. Do not dispose of any toilet waste within the park in order to prevent water and soil contamination.



Stay on designated trails

Do not stray from designated hiking trails, walking paths, or boardwalks in order to avoid getting lost or damaging the surrounding soil and vegetation. If you use trekking poles, use tip covers to prevent soil erosion on the paths.



Leave no trace

Help protect the natural environment of the parks by taking all waste with you. Bring a trash bag and refrain from disposing of garbage in the national parks. Food waste disposed of improperly can attract wild animals.



Be careful around water

Check water safety regulations at each park and be careful around bodies of water. Be aware of strong currents and riptides, and always check tidal information and water levels.



Be careful around coral

Do not touch coral, and be careful not to damage it with fins when snorkeling or diving.



Smoke in designated areas only

Do not smoke outside of designated smoking areas or while walking. Cigarette ashes and butts may cause wildfires. Use a portable ashtray in designated areas only and dispose of ashes and butts with caution, only where permitted.



Be considerate of local communities

People live in Japan's national parks. Be respectful of local communities, and take care not to trespass on private property or disturb farming, fishing, or forestry activities taking place in the area.