

●Shirakami-Sanchi

Shirakami-Sanchi is the collective term for the mountainous regions straddling the southwest of Aomori Prefecture (Nishimeya, Ajigasawa, Fukaura) and the northwest of Akita Prefecture (Fujisato, Happo).

●Registration as a World Heritage Site
SiteRegistration as a World Heritage Site

The virgin beech forest, which is one of the largest in the world and almost unaffected by human influence, was registered as Japan's first World Natural Heritage Site by UNESCO in December 1993. Of the total registered area of 16,971 hectares, 12,627 hectares are in Aomori Prefecture, and 4,344 hectares are in Akita Prefecture.

●Beech Forest

The virgin beech forests in Shirakami-Sanchi are composed of trees such as the Japanese beech, *Quercus crispula*, and the Japanese wingnut. It also contains rare plants such as *Silene aomorensis* and the Tsugaru Siebold's stonecrop. Many animals, such as the black bear, Japanese monkey, Japanese serow, black woodpecker, golden eagle, and the dormouse also inhabit the region.



About Shirakami-Sanchi



Shirakami-Sanchi Visitor-Center information



Opening Hours

8:30-17:00 (April 1-October 31)
9:00-16:30 (November 1-March 31)

Admission Fee

Free

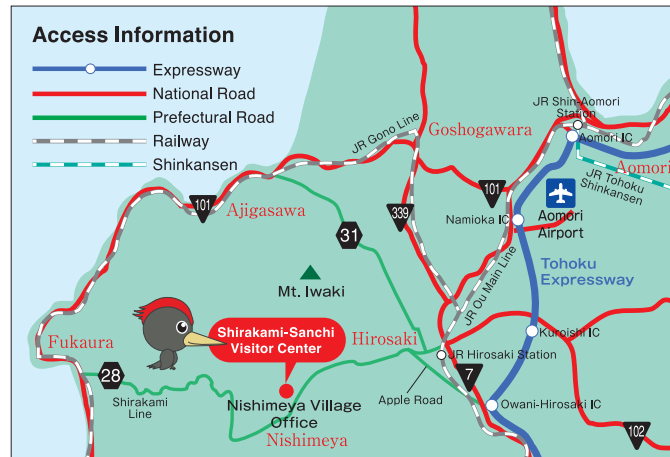
Closed

April-December:
the second Monday of the month
※In August, the fourth Monday
January-March:
every Monday and Thursday
※If Monday/Thursday is a national holiday,
then the next day
Year-end/New Year:
December 29-January 3

Auditorium Admission

Adults : 200yen
Children : 100yen
(junior high school or younger)

Groups of over 20 people are given a group discount of 20% from the above price.
※There are 195 seats available on a first-come basis.
※Patrons are not allowed to enter or exit the hall during the screening.



■Cars/Buses/Trains

Aomori Airport	Bus (60 minutes) Car (40 minutes)	Hirosaki	Bus (55 minutes) Car (40 minutes)	Shirakami-Sanchi Visitor CENTER
JR Shin-Aomori Station	JR Ou Main Line (45 minutes)	JR Hirosaki Station	Bus (55 minutes) Car (40 minutes)	
Tohoku Expressway Owani-Hirosaki Interchange	Car (60 minutes) (Apple Road)			
Hirosaki	Bus (55 minutes) Car (40 minutes)			

白神山地ビジターセンター

Shirakami-Sanchi Visitor-Center
61-1 Kanda, Tashiro, Nishimeya-mura, Nakatsugaru-gun,
036-1411 Aomori Prefecture
Tel: 0172-85-2810 Fax: 0172-85-2833
<http://www.shirakami-visitor.jp/>



白神山地 神秘の森

Shirakami-Sanchi Visitor-Center
ビジターセンター

FACILITY INFORMATION



Admission Free

Exhibition Hall



The Exhibition Hall is a museum displaying the life of the Japanese beech tree, how the beech forest works, the ecosystem of Shirakami-Sanchi, and the relationship between the forest and human life. The museum uses a 20-minute sound and light simulation to allow visitors to experience a summer day in a beech forest.

The origin of the beech tree

How was the Japanese beech tree born? We follow and study the 8,000-year history of Shirakami-Sanchi's beech forests, a World Natural Heritage Site, through geological layers sampled from Shirakami-Sanchi.

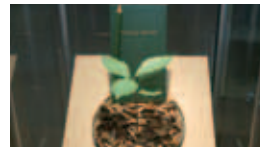


The growth and wisdom of the beech tree

We unravel the ecology of the Japanese beech tree, to see how it lives in harmony with the flora and fauna, and how it passes on its genes.

The life of the beech tree

A Japanese beech tree takes hundreds of years to grow to its full height. We take you through the process of its growth, using miniature dioramas.



One of the World's Largest Beech Forests

Continuing to protect our life, and all kinds of plants and animals

The phenology (yearly life cycle) of Shirakami-Sanchi

Alongside the panorama Shirakami-Sanchi stretching across the whole floor, we showcase the lives of flora and fauna through the calendar year. Here you can experience the world of the virgin beech forest.



Visual Experience Hall



On the giant screen here, visitors can enjoy the powerful digital footage and the wrap-around soundscape.

■ **Screening Times** (The film is about 33 minutes long.)

April 1-October 31

1st screening	9:00	2nd screening	10:00	3rd screening	11:00
4th screening	12:00	5th screening	13:00	6th screening	14:00
7th screening	15:00	8th screening	16:00		

November 1-March 31

1st screening	9:30	2nd screening	10:30	3rd screening	11:30
4th screening	12:30	5th screening	13:30	6th screening	14:30
7th screening	15:30				

195 seats ※Patrons are not allowed to enter or exit the hall during the screening.



High-definition video: "World Natural Heritage Site: Shirakami-Sanchi"



This video was created for the Visitor Center. The footage begins with an overview of the most famous World Natural Heritage sites, then moves on to focus on Shirakami-Sanchi. Through the perspective of people on a trekking tour, we showcase the natural ecosystem that has continued for 8,000 years, studying the many seasonal faces of Shirakami-Sanchi, flora such as the beech trees, the animal life, and the survival wisdom of the local hunters.