

Yakushima / Amami Islands

Yakushima



The World Natural Heritage Site in Japan

Yakushima Island's unique forest of Sugi cedar trees, the Japanese indigenous plant, and the vertical distribution of vegetation ranging from a subtropical zone to a subarctic zone were recognized for its outstanding value. In 1993, Yakushima, together with Shirakami mountain range, were registered as the first World Natural Heritage Site in Japan. An area of 10,747 hectare (about 20 % of Yakushima) was registered as a World Natural Heritage Site by UNESCO.



Yakushima

Amami Islands



World Natural Heritage Site Candidate

The Amami Islands lie between Kyushu Island and Okinawa. It includes 8 inhabited islands, Amami Oshima, Kakeromajima, Ukejima, Yorojima, Kikajima, Tokunoshima, Okinoerabujima, and Yoronjima. The subtropical islands are full of abundant forests, beautiful coral reefs, and much more.

Many rare species inhabit the islands, especially Amami Oshima and Tokunoshima, such as the Amami rabbit. These two islands are aiming to become a World Natural Heritage Site that also includes northern Okinawa Island and Iriomote Island.



Amami Oshima



Kikajima

Tokunoshima



Okinoerabujima



Yoronjima



Canoe



Keihan (chicken rice soup)



Ko kuto Shochu

