

Northern Japanese White Pine

Although this region is heavily covered in deciduous vegetation, the rocky areas around Lake Towada—including the Nakayama Peninsula and the Ogura Peninsula—are home to a northern variety of the Japanese white pine tree (*kitagoyo*). Different species of pine tree are partially identifiable by the number of needles in each bundle. Can you guess how many needles are in each bundle of the northern Japanese white pine? Here's a hint: the tree is also called the “northern Japanese five-needle pine.”

The two pine trees in front of you commemorate the 1921 visit to Lake Towada by two Japanese imperial princes: Prince Yasuhito (also known as *Chichibunomiya*, or Prince Chichibu) and his younger brother Prince Nobuhito (also known as *Takamatsunomiya*, or Prince Takamatsu).