

Mt. Nantai

Mt. Nantai mountain was considered sacred by followers of *Sangaku Shinko*, which places significant emphasis on the sacredness of mountains, and the mountain has close ties to the temples and shrines of Nikko. In 782 CE, Shodo Shonin (735–817), who established the shrines and temples in Nikko, climbed the mountain and built a small shrine on its summit. Worshippers pray to the deities of Mt. Nantai at this Okunomiya Shrine which belongs to the Nikko Futarasan Shrine.

Volcanic activity by Mt. Nantai created Lake Chuzenji and the surrounding landscape in ancient times. The hiking trails up the 2,486 m mountain pass through Japanese beech (*Fagus crenata*) changing to Northern Japanese hemlock (*Tsuga diversifolia*) forests. The summit offers a view of majestic Lake Chuzenji, the Senjogahara Wetland, and Mt. Fuji on clear days. A symbol of the Oku-Nikko region, Mt. Nantai is designated as one of Japan's top 100 mountains. There are stunning views of Mt. Nantai from vantage points throughout Oku-Nikko.