

Odashirogahara Wetland

The Odashirogahara Wetland is one of four wetlands most associated with Nikko. Although it is classified as a wetland, it looks more like a grassland or prairie. Japanese larches (*Larix kaempferi*), Japanese oaks (*Quercus crispula* Blume), and a variety of other plants thrive here. Birdwatching can be enjoyed year-round. Access to this sensitive area is restricted to low-emission buses and visitors on foot. The relatively small size of Odashirogahara allows visitors to fully appreciate the tranquility of the wetland via a 2 km wooden walkway around the perimeter.

The wetland is known for its lone white birch, known as “Kifujin” in Japanese which means noblewoman. It attracts many photographers. The multicolored grasses are like a brilliant tapestry in the fall. In the spring and summer, iris and Japanese thistle (*Cirsium japonicum*) bloom, creating a colorful, stunning landscape. On rare occasions after heavy rain, an indigo pond appears as if by magic, creating a unique wetland scene.