

Landscape (short version)

A wide variety of natural landscapes lie both inland and along the coasts of Ise-Shima National Park.

The coastal area of Ise-Shima National Park is notable for its indented ria coasts. These were thought to be formed over a long period of time by various factors, including river valleys that were drowned when sea levels rose after the last glacial period. The calm seas and puzzle-piece shapes of Ago Bay's islands create an aesthetically pleasing, peaceful landscape. On the Pacific side of the Shima Peninsula, erosion from rough waves has created jagged cliffs and terraces. This dramatic scenery can be seen along the coast from Daiozaki Headland to Minami-Ise.

Ise-Shima National Park's inland area is characterized by lush forests and low mountains. These offer many hiking trails to explore, as well as numerous vantage points from which to view the patchwork coastline and seas.

In Ise-Shima, rich nutrients flow from the inland forests to the coastlands and surrounding seas. The warm ocean current also enriches marine life, supporting the local fishing villages. Local aquafarming practices, such as pearl cultivation and tending the rafts floating on Ago Bay, compliment the natural scenery.