

## Gozaisho-Numa Pond Walking Trail

The Gozaisho-Numa Pond walking trail is a 1.5-kilometer-long pathway, an approximately 45-minute walk each way. Roughly midway along the path, visitors will find Gozaisho-Numa Pond and the smaller Akanuma Pond (also known as Goshiki-Numa, or “five-colored pond”) along with a small gazebo that is a convenient place to rest and admire the two ponds.

As its alternate name suggests, the water of Akanuma Pond changes color five times as the seasons shift over the year. It goes from cloudy blue to brilliant blue, then turquoise, over the course of the summer. In fall it returns to a cloudy blue, and then shifts to brown in winter and spring.

Wetland plants bloom along the walking trail from spring through midsummer. *Mizubasho* (Asian skunk cabbage) is in flower between April and July, *mitsugashiwa* (bogbean) between May and August, cottongrass and bog rosemary in June and July, and deer cabbage in July and August. In fall, the landscape blazes red and orange with the changing leaves.

Note that there are no water sources or toilets facilities along the trail; visitors should prepare accordingly.