

The Allure of the Dakigaeri Valley

Approximately 10 kilometers of forest encompass the Dakigaeri Valley, stretching from Jindai Dam to Dakigaeri Shrine. The area boasts numerous waterfalls cascading into the sometimes turquoise, sometimes green Tamagawa River.

The river valley's majestic scenery stretching downstream from the dam draws nature lovers from across Japan to revel in its seasonal transformations, from summer's vivid green foliage to autumn's rich show of color.

The steep banks of the valley account for its unusual name. In the past the trails were so narrow and steep that if two people met going in opposite directions, in order to pass, they would have to "*dakigaeri*," meaning embrace and turn around.

Wending through part of the valley is a hiking course that leads through the valley's forest, with spots here and there for viewing the Tamagawa River and several waterfalls. Mikaeri-no-taki Waterfall, with its thick veil of water plunging down the rockface framed by lush leafage, is one of the highlights of the valley.

The hiking trail through the valley is closed from late November until late April.