

## Lake Miike Wild Bird Forest

Lake Miike Wild Bird Forest is a 115-hectare national wildlife sanctuary located in the eastern Kirishima mountains. The forest is home to many local and migratory birds and is an important breeding area.

The sanctuary is also a haven for mammals and other wildlife, including deer, wild boar, Japanese badgers, and Ussurian tube-nosed bats.

Some of the forest's trees can reach 20 to 30 meters in height, such as the *ichiigashi* (ring-cupped oak), *kagonoki* (*Litsea*), *tabunoki* (*Machilus*), and Japanese bigleaf magnolia. Smaller trees such as camellia and conifers like Japanese *torreya* are also numerous.

Wild mushrooms thrive on decaying plant matter on the forest floor, including *amihikaritake*, a type of agaric; *usukikinugasatake*, a mushroom completely encased in a vivid yellow net-like structure; *hamakitake*, a southern variety rarely found outside of Miyazaki Prefecture; and the ethereal *inusenbontake* inkhorn. These mushrooms can be spotted in the forest between June and November, depending on the variety.