

Wonderful Forest: Fields

To keep the Yambaru forest healthy and unharmed for future generations, the area is divided into several different fields. Some fields have restrictions on the types of certified guides (Approved or Registered) that can lead tours there.

Forbidden Field

Areas in the Forbidden Field are off-limits to all guides for ecological or other reasons. Visitors are also asked to respect this designation and avoid entering these places.

The Forbidden Field includes:

Tanaga-gumui (Aha area)

The peak of **Mt. Yonaha** (above Marker 9)

Restricted Field

While not off-limits, the Restricted Field contains ecologically and culturally important areas that must be protected from overuse, accidents, or environmental harm, including the introduction of invasive species. Only Approved Guides may show visitors through the Restricted Field, and visitors are asked to respect the rules given by these guides when they do.

The Restricted Field includes:

Asumui Utaki (Mt. Hedo)

Home to the most venerable of Okinawa's seven sacred groves, this karst formation is located at the northern tip of the island. It is very important for the people of Hedo, so it can only be climbed with an Approved Guide.

Gesashi Bay Mangrove Forest

Mangroves are rare in Japan, and those at Gesashi Bay are among the largest on the island of Okinawa. Approved Guides offer kayak tours to explore this fragile ecosystem, which has been designated a National Natural Treasure.

Registered Field

Areas in the Registered Field are more accessible and ecologically robust than those in the Restricted Field, but still require environmental protection and contain some hazards for the unwary. Both Certified and Registered Guides may lead tours in this field; visitors are advised to engage one.

The Registered Field includes:

Mt. Yonaha (to Marker 9)

Mt. Yonaha is Yambaru's highest mountain. It is home to abundant local flora and fauna, which a guide can help you spot along the trail. Note that the peak, above Marker 9, is in the Forbidden Field and is therefore off-limits.

Mt. Ibu

This is a more challenging hike through a range of tough and hilly terrain, ending at an enormous *urajirogashi* oak tree. A guide can help you through the deep Yambaru forest and explain its historical significance. Note that the trackless area above the tree at the end of the trail is off-limits to guides and visitors.

Taa Falls

Unlike the trail to Hiji Falls in the Open Field, the riverside path to these 10-meter falls is rough and unmaintained. As hikers must wade through the river itself in places, the route is not recommended for children or those without the proper equipment.

Open Field

The Open Field contains areas with maintained and structured trails and no particular restrictions, but that still offer the full Yambaru forest experience. Of course, private land remains off-limits. A local guide can help you make the most of all the forest offers.

Popular areas in the Open Field include:

Hiji Falls

These falls are the highest in Yambaru National Park, with a drop of 26 meters. A well-maintained path takes hikers to the falls and back in about 90 minutes, including time for a rest. Camping platforms are also available.

Kunigami Forest Park

Kunigami Forest Park provides accessible experiences in a forest environment, with the Yambaru Forest Toy Museum, walking trails, campsites, bungalows, and an observation deck with panoramic views over the forest as well as out to the East China Sea. This is a favorite destination for local residents and families.
