

## **Yashima's Place in the Landscape of Takamatsu**

Yashima's distinctive flat top has made the mountain a landmark since ancient times. It was considered both a sacred site and a defense lookout post long before the city of Takamatsu existed. Today, the plateau attracts visitors from around the world with its sweeping views of the Seto Inland Sea, and its eye-catching profile holds a special place in the landscape of the city. For many local residents, Yashima is a symbol of home and of safety at sea.

Yashima is visible from almost anywhere in Takamatsu. By day, it appears as a large green park in the sky beyond the city's high-rise buildings. By night, the mountain looms on the horizon and shields the city from sea winds. On rainy days, Yashima can rapidly become shrouded in mist, which causes difficulties for pilgrims and hikers but makes the plateau look beautiful from a distance. In autumn the foliage of the forested mountain bursts into brilliant color, and in winter its landscape is occasionally dusted with snow.

Yashima looks different depending on the angle from which it is viewed. When seen from the north or south, the flat top is obscured and it looks conical, like a typical mountain. The best vantage point from which to admire Yashima's distinctive plateau silhouette is the sea. Fine views of its majestic form can be enjoyed from the ferries that travel from Takamatsu to islands in the Inland Sea and as far as the city of Kobe.