

Momijigase

Momijigase (“maple shallows”) is a tranquil and shaded section of Kikuchi Gorge. It is located above Reimei Falls, just downstream from the bridge that marks the turning point of the shorter walking path in the gorge. The place is named after the many maple trees that grow on both sides of the river, extending their branches over the rapids. Momijigase is a particularly popular destination in autumn, when the foliage turns brilliant red and orange. When the leaves fall, they occasionally form a colorful carpet along the water. The thick moss cover and cool shade in summer are also noteworthy.

Footpaths from the main trails on both sides of the river lead down to the water’s edge, and it is possible to walk a few dozen meters along the rocky riversides. Extra care should be taken when close to the water, as some sections of the path are often slippery.