

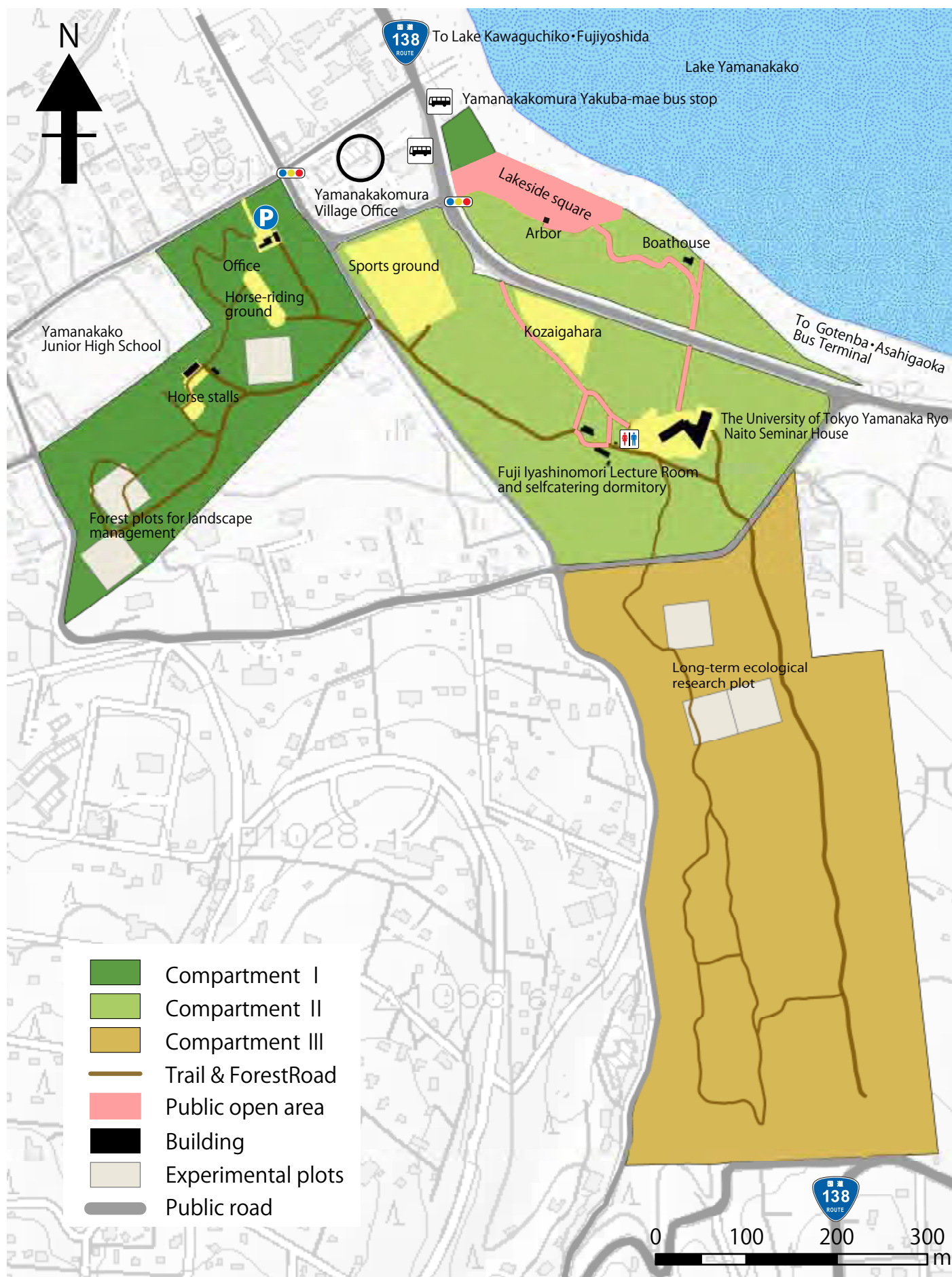


Fuji Iyashinomori Woodland Study Center, The University of Tokyo Forests 2025

Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo



Fuji Iyashinomori Woodland Study Center (FIWSC) Guide map



Fuji Iyashinomori Woodland Study Center

1. History and overview

The Fuji Iyashinomori Woodland Study Center (FIWSC) was established in 1925 as the University of Tokyo Fuji Forest following the donation of approximately 12 ha of land originally owned by the Sengen shrine and residents of Yamanakako. In 1926, land was entrusted to the site by Yamanashi Prefecture, thereby establishing the base for the University Forest. The state-owned land was subsequently transferred to Yamanakako village, and the leased land was returned, resulting in the current 40 ha site, which is a combination of land owned by the University of Tokyo Forests and leased land owned by Yamanashi Prefecture. The name of the site was changed to Fuji Iyashinomori Woodland Study Center (“Iyashinomori” means forest with amenity) in 2011, and the center focuses on research for creating forests with excellent recreational and restoring functions and the development of communities that are friendly to forests.

2. Location and environmental characteristics

The FIWSC is located in one of the most popular resort areas in Japan, Yamanakako village, Minamitsuru-gun, Yamanashi Prefecture, on the shores of Lake Yamanaka at the foot of Mt. Fuji. The FIWSC can be reached by transit bus from Mt. Fuji Station on Fujikyu Railway, or Gotemba Station on the JR Gotemba Line, or by the Chuo Highway Bus from the Shinjuku Expressway Bus Terminal in Tokyo. One should get off at the “Yamanakako-mura Yakubamae” bus stop for all bus routes, from where it is around a 3-minute walk.

The FIWSC extends over gently sloping land on the shores of Lake Yamanaka, ranging in altitude from 990 to 1,060 m. The soil is immature and composed of volcanic gravel, and the forest is located at the transition between the oceanic climate of Omote-Fuji and the inland climate of Ura-Fuji. The climate in the region is cold with slightly high humidity. The average annual precipitation from 2014–2023, recorded at the nearby Yamanaka Automated Meteorological Data Acquisition System (AMeDAS) observatory, was 2,260 mm, while the average annual temperature was 10.3 °C, with the lowest temperature reaching



Photograph 1 The FIWSC surrounded by Mt. Fuji and Yamanaka Lake



Photograph 2 The Fuji Iyashinomori Woodland Lecture Room in the field

–18.6 °C. The maximum snow depth is usually around 30 to 40 cm.

3. Forest characteristics

The forest is in the upper part of the cool temperate zone, where larch forests planted since the 1920s dominate the canopy, while various broad-leaved trees occupy the understory and shrub layers, and the forest is transitioning to a deciduous broad-leaved forest. There are also test sites of different tree species including European spruce, eastern white pine, Sakhalin fir, Sakhalin spruce, Japanese larch. As of 2013, approximately 400 species of vascular plants have been identified.



Photograph 3 Self-catering dormitory which can also be used for long-stay research

4. Facilities

The FIWSC has the Fuji Iyashinomori Woodland lecture room (Lecture Room) and self-catering dormitory, while The University of Tokyo Yamanaka Ryo Naito Seminar House (Yamanaka Hall), run by the Athletic Foundation of the University of Tokyo, is located in the forest. These facilities are used for practical training, seminars, extracurricular activities, and laboratory seminar and training camps.

The Lecture Room is equipped with Wi-Fi and a large touch screen, so it can also be used for online meetings. Self-catering dormitories are equipped with a kitchen and a prefabricated bathroom, making them suitable for

Fuji Iyashinomori Woodland Study Center



Photograph 4 The University of Tokyo Yamanaka Ryo Naito Seminar House



Photograph 6 Practical learning about forest landscape management

long-term stays.

The Yamanaka Ryo is a lodging facility of The University of Tokyo. It has three training rooms of varied sizes, and is also fully equipped with Wi-Fi access; thus, this facility can be used not only for education and research activities but also various types of training.

5. Education

Educational field sites at the FIWSC occur either on flat or gently sloping land, making it optimal for students with entry-level field experience.

Although planted Japanese larches are the dominant species, the forests also have abundant understory vegetation, so it is possible to observe a diverse range of plants and vegetation as well as animal tracks. The FIWSC itself is not very large, but there are facilities and field sites in the surrounding area, which can further enhance educational activities. The Yamanaka Ryo is located in the forest, and offers comfortable accommodation, so educational activities can be spread over a number days. There is easy access to the site from central Tokyo, so day-trip

practical training is also possible.

Indoor facilities such as the Fuji Iyashinomori Woodland Lecture Room and seminar rooms in the Yamanaka Hall are also available, which allow for programs that combine field work with indoor exercises. The Yamanaka Ryo are suitable for international students, because they are ideal for overnight stays. Use of the self-catering dormitory, managed by the FIWSC, is recommended for long-term research, such as for graduate thesis research.

The FIWSC also runs lectures and practical training on the theme of “Iyashinomori”, mainly for students studying liberal arts.

6. Research

The FIWSC conducts multifaceted research on technology and social mechanisms associated with forests with outstanding functions.

(1) Forest management of the “Iyashinomori”

The foundation of forest management is determining the current condition of the forest, but there are virtually no established methods that focus on the recreational and restoring functions of forests. Basic research for the management of “Iyashinomori” is aimed at developing methods for observing and evaluating forest landscapes using demonstration forest plots. Applied research is being conducted into specific forest management techniques that address various risks, including climate change and damage from wild animals.



Photograph 5 Effective use of dead wood using a wood-burning stove



Photograph 7 Forest surveys using a drone

(2) Recycling and use of resources

Effectively using withered trees and branches, among other materials, may promote forest management while simultaneously facilitating “Iyashinomori”. This research considers recycling of low-quality materials that are not distributed in the general market, as well as suitable technologies to achieve this end. In particular, we are building a firewood utilization system that operates in conjunction with forest management and evaluating the contribution of this system to forest management and the local community. We are also working on developing educational and hands-on programs that deal with the knowledge and skills required to better utilize materials from the forest and forest spaces in the local community.

(3) Social design

Involvement and cooperation of stakeholders that will benefit from Iyashinomori is vital for autonomously maintaining “Iyashinomori” in the local community. The research will examine the ideal conditions for autonomous forest governance in the region and consider usage rules and norms to ensure that everyone can fully and comfortably enjoy an open “Iyashinomori”.

7. Extension

The FIWSC is working on joint projects based on a regional exchange agreement with Yamanakako village that focus on interactions between the forest and local residents and industries, providing information on the relationships between forests and tourism, health, and education. The FIWSC also holds events, such as public lectures for local residents.

Activities aiming to foster a culture of familiarity with the forests in the region are held regularly in conjunction with the “Iyashinomori no Kai”, a volunteer organization comprised of local residents. The FIWSC also collaborates with an organization working on afforestation, mainly in the northern region of Mt. Fuji, thereby endeavoring to contribute to afforestation and culturing familiarity with the forests.



Photograph 8 Concert in the forest



Photograph 9 Conducting comfortable online meetings surrounded by the forest



Photograph 10 Chainsaw workshop for local residents

Fuji Iyashinomori Woodland Study Center

Guide to highlights of the forest

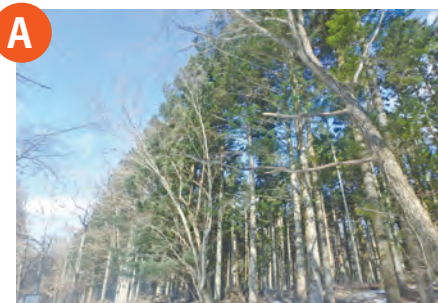
① Practical training and long-term research area

The area incorporates test sites planted with various tree species and long-term research sites.

② Public open area

The area starts from the Yamanaka Ryo, moves through a walking path in the forest, a lawn area on the lakeside, a sports ground, a meadow, and returns to the self-catering dormitory and the Lecture Room. From 2024, it is open to the public, in principle, from 9:00 to 16:00 on weekdays. Mt. Fuji is visible from the lakeside square.

③ Iyashinomori projects



A Cold-region tree species growth test site

Tree species collected from cold regions overseas and Hokkaido have been planted to identify suitable tree species for afforestation in cold climates. The trees have been planted on a trial basis, and the growth of the planted trees is measured periodically.



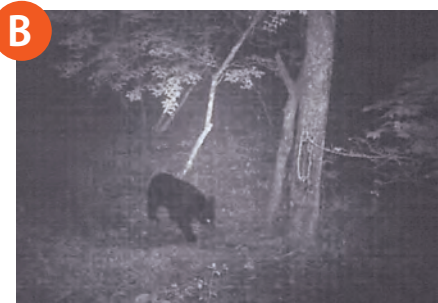
D Lakeside square with an arbor

A lawn area facing Yamanaka lake. Views of the lake and greenery can be enjoyed from this area. The arbor walls are made of firewood logs from dead trees.



G Office

The office is heated with a wood-burning stove. All firewood is collected from dead trees in the forest. There is also a workshop in the back with various tools.



B Nature observation trail

The trail in the forest is used not only for researches on trees and plants, it is also used to observe wild animals, including wild birds. This photograph is of an Asian black bear captured by camera trap.



E Kozaiyahara (the picture on the right shows the statue in front of the library of the Faculty of Agriculture)

This meadow was named after Professor Yoshinao Kozai, the tenth president of the Tokyo Imperial University. The FIWSC was established during Professor Kozai's tenure as president. The background details of the naming process are not known.



H Japanese red pine forest

Once a year, all the fallen leaves on the forest floor are collected and burnt in a bonfire to maintain the clean and refreshing landscape of the Japanese red pine forest.



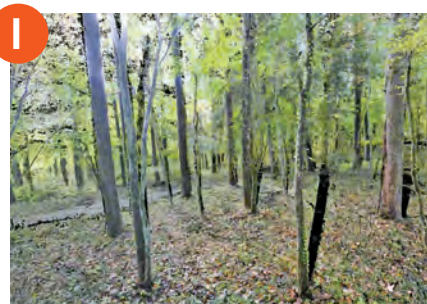
C Long-term ecological research plot

Three 0.25 ha plots have been set up to record natural succession of the forest over the long term, and measurements are taken once every 5 years.



F Fuji Iyashinomori Lecture Room and self-catering dormitory

This is a wooden structure built using Tsugabushin (construction using a luxury wood called Tsuga [Japanese hemlock]) around 90 years ago, and it retains the atmosphere of when it first opened. It is still in use, while undergoing careful renovation. The interior of the lecture rooms is fitted out with Japanese larch from the FIWSC.



I Iyashinomori projects - Demonstration forest plots for landscape management

Three sections with different management conditions have been prepared in the forest to evaluate the impact on the landscape and people and survey the vegetation. This photograph is a 3DCG image of the forest using laser survey data.

The FIWSC has a large number of test sites for researching forest ecosystems and forest management processes. Long-term academic surveys are conducted at these sites, where access is restricted to the public. We ask for your understanding and cooperation.

User guide

Usage plans and notification of usage must be submitted for surveys, research, and forest visit conducted at the FIWSC. Please make inquiries by telephone or email at least two weeks in advance, and submit the application form at least one week in advance. The Use Application Form can be downloaded from the FIWSC website.

Lecture room

The Fuji Iyashinomori Lecture Room is available for use (Capacity: approximately 20 persons). Please contact the FIWSC regarding use of the lecture room.

Lodging facility

The FIWSC Yamanaka lodging facility (self-catering dormitory; capacity: 3 persons; period: May-November) is available for use. Please submit an Accommodation Application Form if you would like to use the lodging facility.

If you would like to use The University of Tokyo Yamanaka Ryo Naito Seminar House accommodation, please contact the Yamanaka Hall directly (TEL +81-555-62-0491).

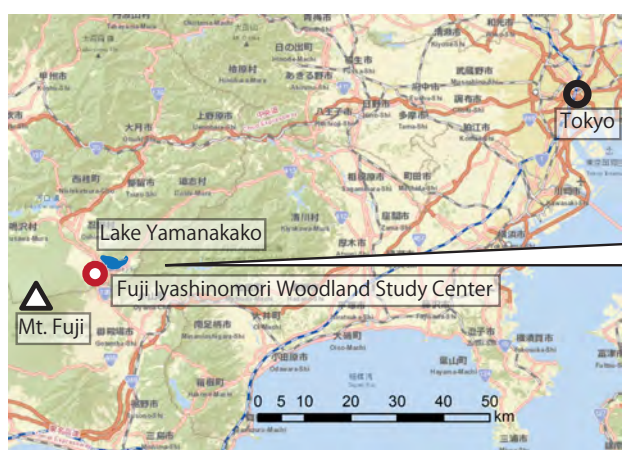
There are also many private accommodation facilities available in the surrounding area.

Usage conditions and usage fees

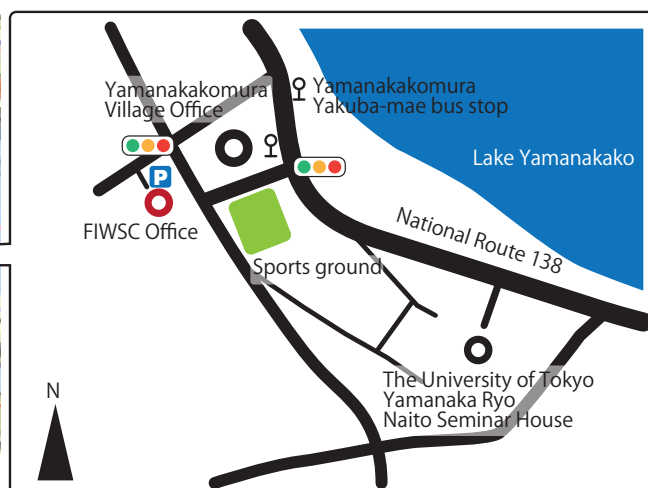
Facilities	University of Tokyo		Other universities		Other	Students still attending compulsory education
	Students	Faculty and staff	Students	Faculty and staff		
Self-catering dormitory (accommodation fee per night)	JPY0	JPY500	JPY350	JPY600	JPY1000	JPY0
Self-catering dormitory (day use fee)	JPY1000/day					
Self-catering dormitory (heating fee)*	JPY200/day					
Self-catering dormitory (cleaning fee)	JPY300/day					
Fuji Iyashinomori Lecture Room (day use fee)	JPY1000/hour					

* Only during winter (October to April of the following year) (However, as a general rule, closed from November to April)

Location of the FIWSC



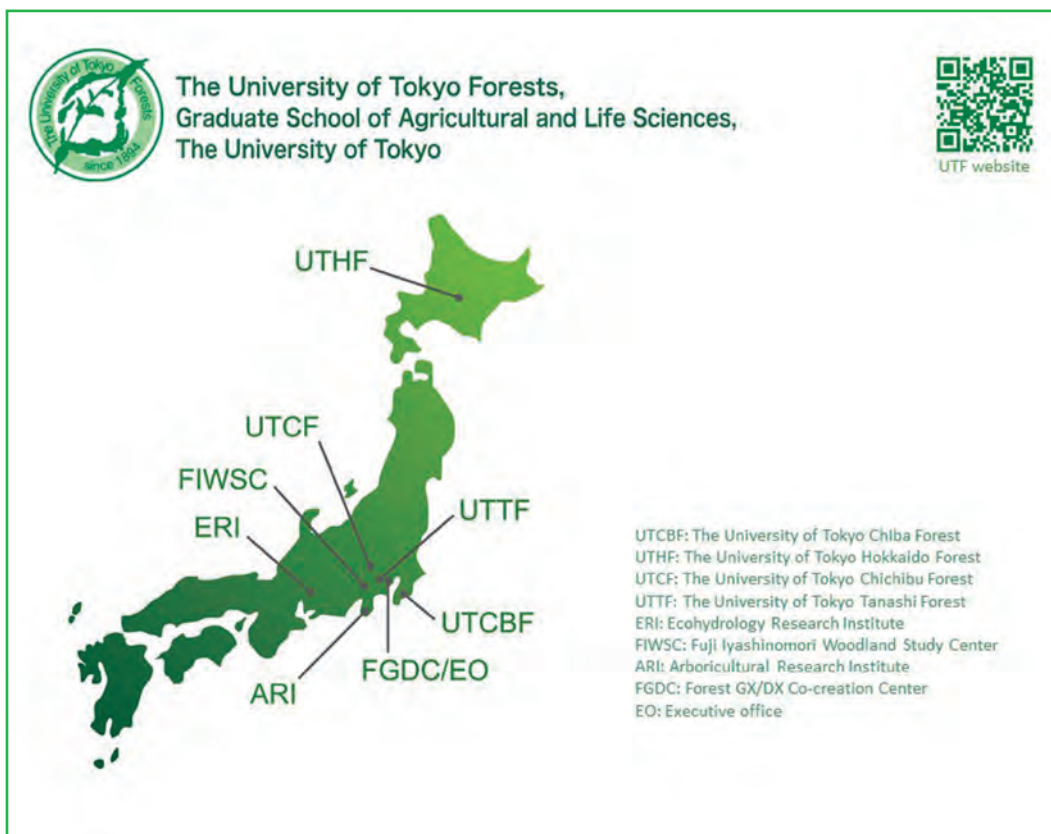
Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Transportation information

Get off the Yamanakako--mura Yakuba-mae bus stop, walk approximately 3 minutes

1. About 2 hours 15 minutes from the Shinjuku Expressway Bus Terminal in Tokyo by Chuo Highway Bus on the Shinjuku Fujigoko Route
2. Take the Fujikyū Railway from Otsuki Station on the JR Chuo Line and get off at Mt. Fuji Station
About 25 minutes by Fujikyū Bus bound for Gotemba or Lake Yamanaka/Hirano
3. About 40 minutes by Fujikyū Bus from Gotemba Station on the JR Gotemba Line to Kawaguchiko Station
4. About 10 minutes by car from the Yamanakako Interchange on the Higashi-Fujigoko Road, heading east on Route 138



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FIWSC website

Cover photograph
Upper left photograph: Frost flower
Upper right photograph: Narcissus flycatcher
Middle left photograph: Colors of fall
Bottom left photograph: Fuji cherry
Bottom right photograph: Sika deer