

Welcome to Ishigaki Island

“The Island of Crested Serpent Eagles”

Crested serpent eagles, listed under Category **IA** in the **Red Data Book** of the Ministry of the Environment and designated as the **Nationally endangered species of wild fauna and flora**, are close by. You there, driving! They might be close to you. Please be careful!

Right Photo:
Baby Crested Serpent Eagle

Left Photo:
Adult Crested Serpent Eagle

They are slightly larger than a crow.

Top: Crow (a crow from Yaeyama)
Bottom: Crested Serpent Eagle



Crested Serpent Eagle (Order: **Accipitriformes**, Family: **Accipitridae**)

Crested serpent eagles can be found on Ishigaki Island and Iriomote Island all year round in Japan. They also have been spotted on the remote islands of Yaeyama. They prefer a combination of woodlands and wetlands (e.g., paddy fields) and feed on a wide variety of small animals such as frogs, snakes, lizards, crabs, and insects as well as birds. It is a bird of prey at the top of the food chain and is an organism that represents the rich nature of Yaeyama.

Scientific Name: *Spilornis cheela perplexus*

Common Name: Crested Serpent Eagle

Length: Approx. 53 cm

Wing Span: Approx. 110 cm Weight: Approx. 800 g

- Nationally endangered species of wild fauna and flora (Ministry of the Environment/Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)
- Nationally Designated Special Natural Monument (Agency for Cultural Affairs/Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties)
- Category of Threatened IA (Ministry of the Environment/Red Data Book)
- Category of Threatened IA (Okinawa Prefecture/Red Data Okinawa)

Crested Serpent Eagle Road Map



Recommended Observation Paths for Crested Serpent Eagles on Ishigaki Island

Crested serpent eagles are closer than you expect.
Look carefully.
Car accidents are increasing.
Please be careful!

Observation Precautions

- Breaking or backing suddenly is dangerous! Follow driving manners and rules.
- Do not get too close to crested serpent eagles. Remember that you are the one intruding into their habitat.

Between Kuura & Hirakubo

A quiet road surrounded by the stretches of farms and fields. Crested serpent eagles can be found eating their food on the roads due to low traffic.

Hirakubo Lighthouse

Seikai National Fisheries Research Institute Area

Many crabs are found on this road that runs along a coastal forest. Crested serpent eagles prey on crabs, too.

Omoto Tunnel Area

If you find crested serpent eagles, park your car at a safe location, and observe quietly. If you get too close, they will fly away. The entrances and exits of tunnels are an accident prone area. Be extra cautious!

Between Kabira & Yonehara

A popular spot among tourists as well as crested serpent eagles. The road running towards Kabira Bay is slightly dark even at noon. Please watch out for traffic accidents.

Between Nagura & Sakieda

Paddy fields stretching out against the mountain in the backdrop is a desirable habitat for crested serpent eagles. They sometimes fly towards the road, so watch out!!

Mt. Banna-dake & Mt. Maese-dake Area

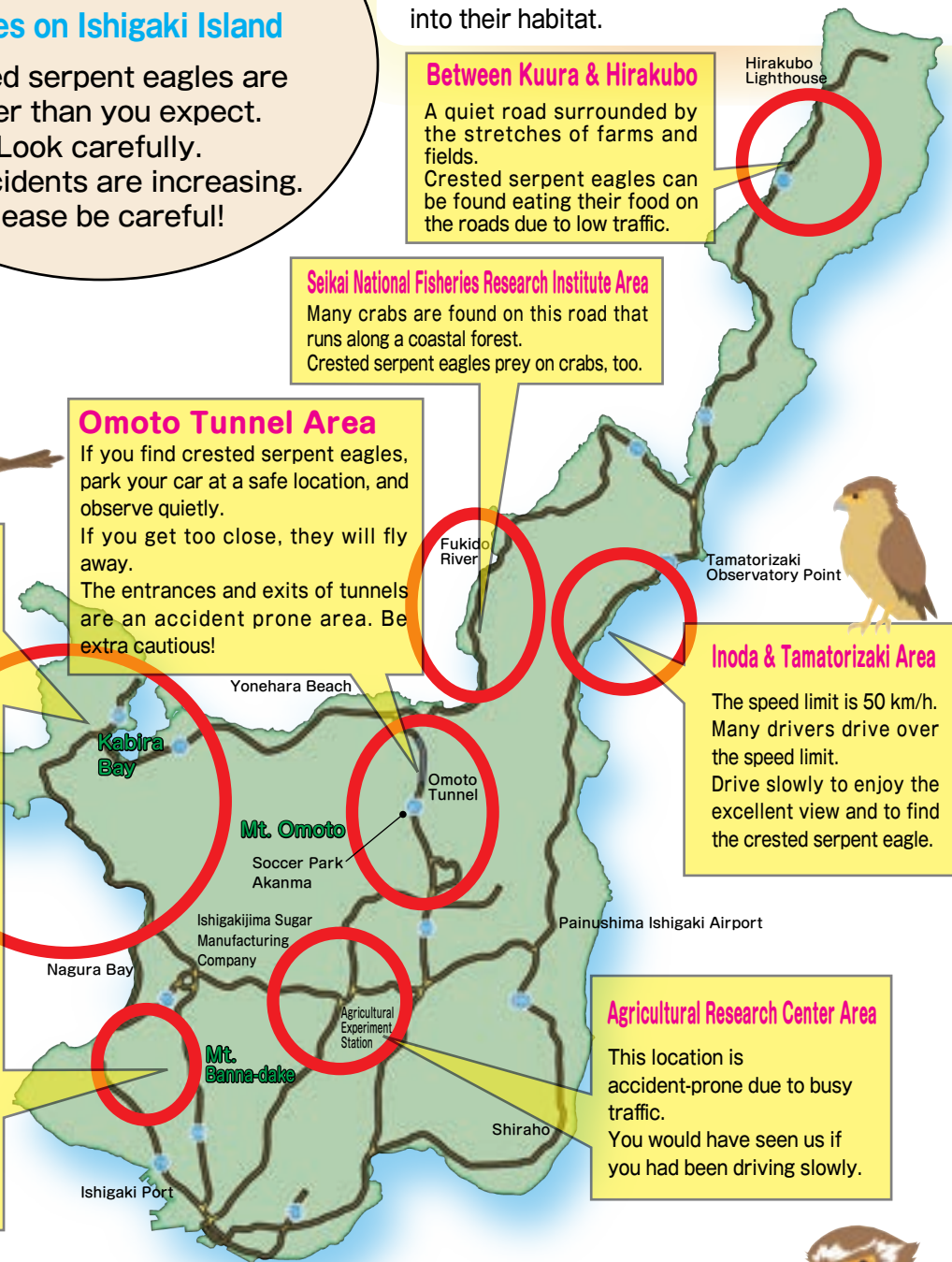
Do not park your car on the mountain roads. You may find them perched on the utility poles by the paddy fields.

Inoda & Tamatorizaki Area

The speed limit is 50 km/h. Many drivers drive over the speed limit. Drive slowly to enjoy the excellent view and to find the crested serpent eagle.

Agricultural Research Center Area

This location is accident-prone due to busy traffic. You would have seen us if you had been driving slowly.



Contacts for Conservation

- Ministry of the Environment
Ishigaki Ranger Office
0980-82-4768
Outside Business Hours:
090-5287-6119
- Cultural Assets Division
Ishigaki City Board of Education
0980-83-7269
- Iriomote Wildlife Conservation Center
0980-85-5581



Crested serpent eagles are found eating their food on the roads. They fly away to the woods when cars approach. That's when accidents occur. Recently, accidents have been increasing, but you can avoid them if you keep the legal speed limit.

Let's drive (Slowly, Slowly).