

なか せ ぬま
中 瀬 沼
NAKASE SWAMP



磐梯山は約70万年前から活動を開始した安山岩を主体とする成層火山です。この山は過去に何度となく水蒸気爆発により山体を崩壊させる噴火をしてきました。1888(明治21)年7月15日に発生した最後の噴火(水蒸気爆発)では、磐梯山を構成していた大磐梯・小磐梯・櫛ヶ峰・赤埴山の4つの峰のうち、小磐梯の山体が崩壊し、この時に生じた岩なだれが山麓の集落を襲い、5ヶ村100数十戸がのみ込まれ477名もの犠牲者を出しました。

中瀬沼は、大小300余りの湖沼が点在する裏磐梯において、湖沼が最も多く分布する高原中央部に位置します。1888(明治21)年の磐梯山噴火によって生じた岩なだれがここまで到達し、無数の丸い形の小山(流れ山)を形成しました。そして小山の間の窪地に水がたまり、たくさんの小湖沼が誕生しました。

磐梯山の爆裂火口を背景に、中瀬沼の水面と、それを覆うばかりに広がる樹海が組み合わさった景色は、裏磐梯高原でもトップクラスの美しさを誇っています。沼の周りにはハンノキやヨシが繁茂し、水面にはヒルムシロやヒツジグサなどの水草が豊富で、魚や野生動物の生息数も多い沼です。



Mt. Bandai, a mostly andesite composite volcano, first began volcanic activity around 700,000 years ago. This volcano has experienced many phreatic (steam blast) eruptions which have drastically altered its face. During the last such eruption, occurring on July 15, 1888 (Meiji 21), of the four ridges which comprised Mt. Bandai, (Ōbandai, Kobandai, Kushi-ga-mine, and Akahani-yama) Kobandai was destroyed, and the resulting landslide afflicted 5 towns and hundreds of houses, leaving some 477 victims.

In the grand scheme of Ura-Bandai's layout, which is dotted with over 300 various sized lakes and marshes, Nakase Swamp is located in the middle part of the plateau—which is where the greatest amount of lakes and marshes are distributed. The resulting landslide of 1888 reached as far as the location of present day Nakase Swamp, and as a result, countless round-shaped knolls were formed. Water collected in the basins between these knolls and subsequently formed the many lakes and marshes present in the area today.

The surface of Nakase Swamp against the background of Mt. Bandai's explosion crater, combined with the backdrop of a sea of trees makes this spot an especially beautiful area within the Ura-Bandai Plateau. Around the swamp, there are ranks of Japanese Alder trees and common reeds, and *Potamogeton distinctus* plants and water lilies can be found in abundance on the swamp's surface. There are also a large number of fish and wildlife inhabiting the swamp.

