



We introduce geotourism based on three themes to comprehensively show the attractions of Aso Geopark



Memories of eruptions engraved in the grand caldera

The world-class caldera is the symbol of Aso Geopark. Unique land features and strata have been formed by considerable volcanic activities over the past 270,000 years and by a great eruption that occurred 90,000 years ago. Visitors will learn about such geographical information as well as influences of the eruption on various places in Japan through geosites.

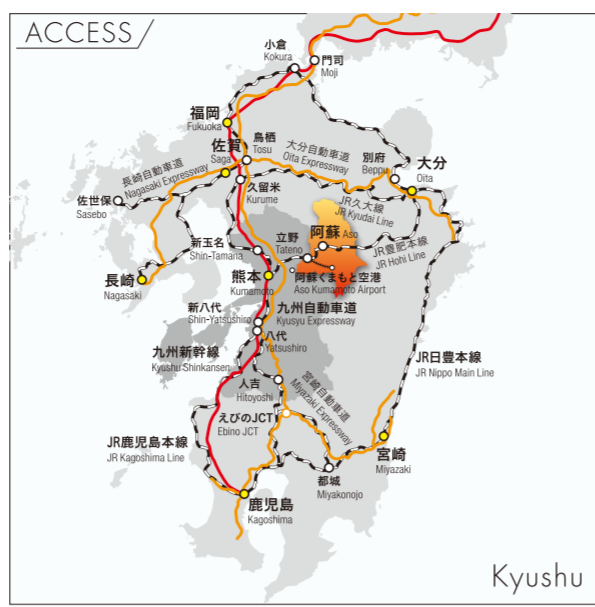
Nakadake Crater: Feeling the breath of the earth



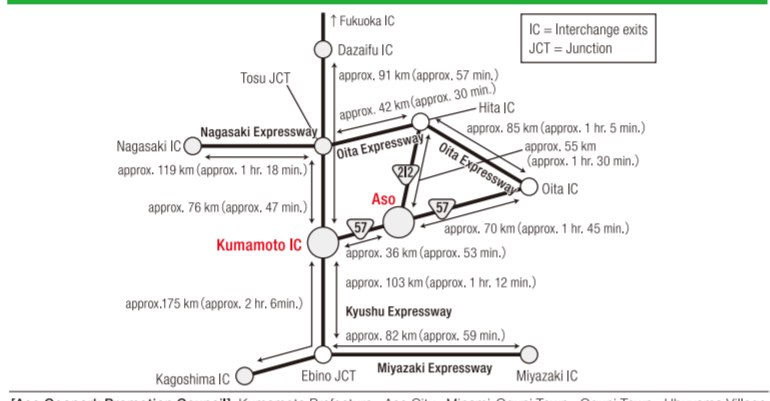
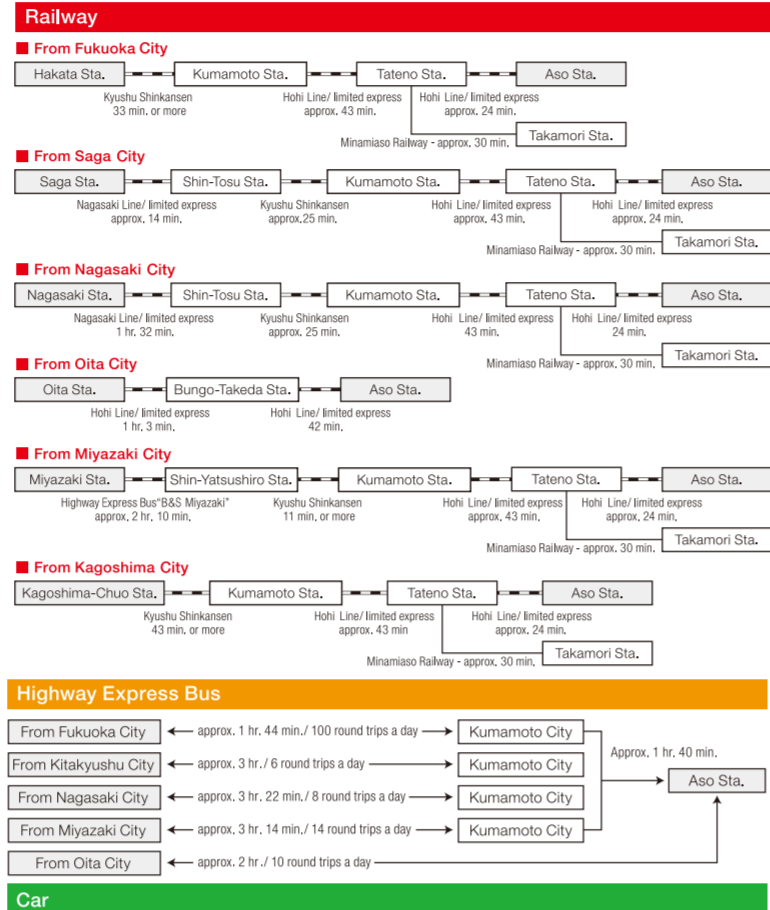
Among the volcanic clusters in the caldera, Nakadake Crater is highlighted because of its repeated and substantial volcanic activities from prehistoric times until the present. We will show you the unique landscape and ecology around Nakadake Crater, and the lives of people who live in symbiosis with the active volcano.

Blessings of the volcanic mountain and people's lives

People who live side by side with a volcano have explored ways to live in harmony with nature in awe of the volcano, and developed their own culture and lifestyle. And nature has brought them abundant blessings like spring water and hot springs which are commonly found in volcanic regions.



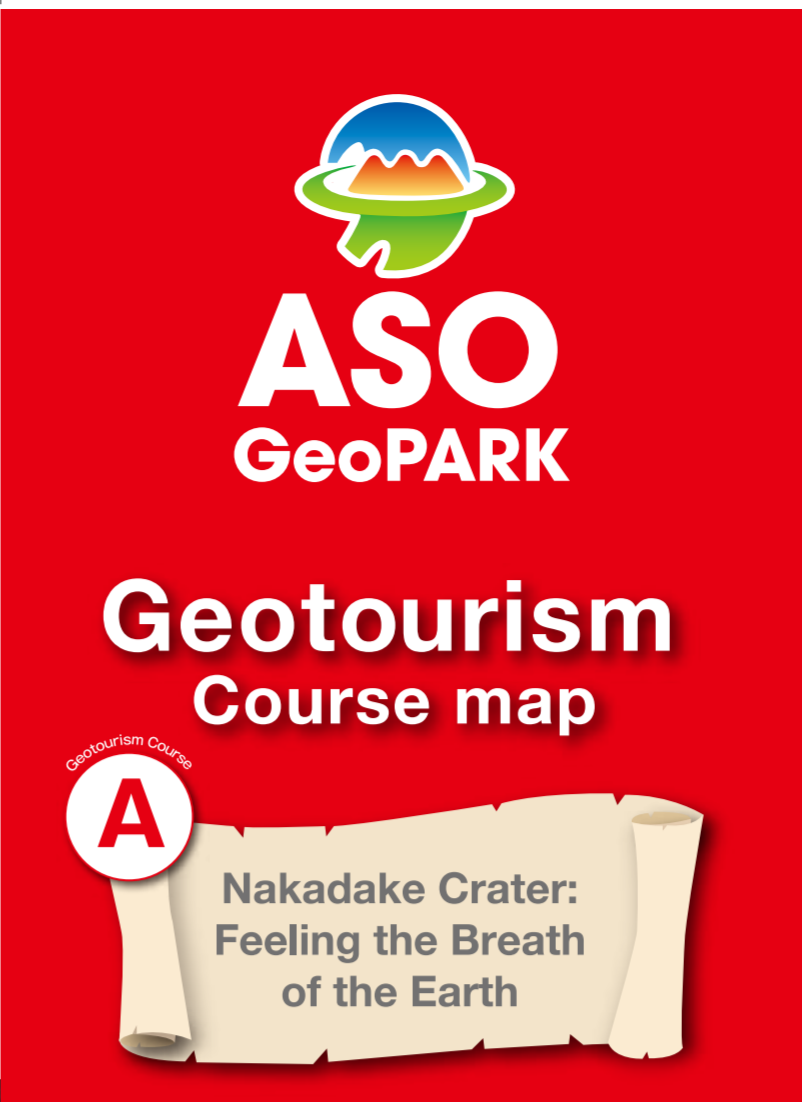
Access to Aso Geopark from each prefecture in Kyushu, Japan



Aso Geopark Promotion Council Kumamoto Prefecture, Aso City, Minami-Oguni Town, Oguni Town, Ubuyama Village, Takamori Town, Minami-Aso Village, Nishihara Village, Yamato Town, Aso Eco Tourism Association, National Aso Youth Center, Aso Nature Guide Association, Aso Den'en Kukan Eco Museum Office, Aso Museum, Naimyo Plateau Natural Recreation and Rest Center, Aso Nature Guide Association, Aso Tanbato Eco Museum, Aso Park Volunteers Association, Aso City Tourism Association, Minami-Oguni Town Tourism Association, Oguni Tourism Association, Ubuyama Village Tourism Association, Takamori Town Tourism Association, Minami-Aso Village Tourism Association, Yamato Town Tourism Association, Aso Volcano Museum, Kumamoto University, Aso Volcanological Laboratory Institute for Geochemical Sciences Graduate School of Science Kyoto University, Kumamoto Geoscientific Association, Kumamoto Geoscientific Consultants Association, Aso Nature Conservation Group, Natural Parks Foundation Aso Branch, Aso Green Stock Foundation, Aso Design Center Foundation, Aso Junior Chamber of Commerce, Kumamoto 21, Japan Linerite Co., Ltd.

Aso Geopark Promotion Council
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Aso Geopark search 平成24年度環境省地域コーディネーター活用事業



A Nakadake Crater: Feeling the Breath of the Earth



The Land of Aso Volcano and the Lives of Its People

The Aso Caldera is situated in central Kyushu, Japan. It is one of the largest calderas in the world, covering a total area of 350 km² and measuring 18 km east-west and 25 km north-south in width. In the caldera are the five peaks of Mt. Aso: Mt. Takadake, Mt. Nekodake, Mt. Kijimadake, Mt. Eboshidake, and the still-fuming Mt. Nakadake. There also lie volcanic clusters consisting of various mountains. A plain spreads at the foot of the mountain range from north to south. Surrounding the plain and volcanic clusters, the outer rims form a gently-sloping pyroclastic plateau. This unique geography is formed by the Aso volcano, which has displayed repeated volcanic activities since approximately 270,000 years ago. The major theme of Aso Geopark is to provide visitors with information about the geological history of the Aso volcano and its relation to the lives of people: how they have enjoyed the bounties of the earth, engaged in their livelihood, and developed a unique culture and landscape.



Stromboli Phenomenon

What is the "Geopark"?

By observing the earth and nature scientifically, we define a place of scientific importance as a geopark, where many valuable and beautiful natural heritages exist such as strata, rocks, topography, volcano, and faults. A geopark values conservation and utilization of geological heritages. It is a place for people to become familiar with "geo" (the earth), learn about its history and mechanisms, and think about its relation to ecology as well as human life through natural heritages including the culture of the people in the area. Geoparks are promoted around the world by the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), which was established in 2004 and is supported by UNESCO.

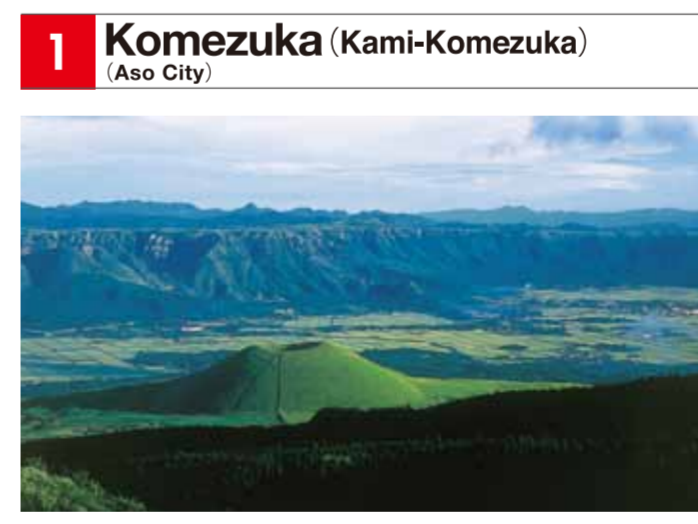


凡例 Legend

案内所 Information	ロープウェイ Ropeway	温泉 Hot Spring	博物館/美術館 Museum	水湧 Spring	滝 Waterfall
パソコン PC Facility	駐車場 Parking	ゴルフ場 Golf Course	ホテル/宿泊施設 Hotel / Accommodation	史跡 Historic Site	公園 Park
鉄道/駅 Railway / Railway Station	レンタサイクル/電動アシスト付き自転車 Rental Electric Bicycle	郵便局 Post Office	展望地 / 景勝地 Viewpoint	キャンプ場 Camp Site	JR豊肥本線 JR Hoho Line
バス/バスのり Bus / Bus Stop	レンタカー Car Rental	キャッシュサービス Cash Service	神社 Shrine	レストラン Restaurant	南阿蘇鉄道 Minami-Aso Railway Line

Nakadake Crater: Feeling the Breath of the Earth

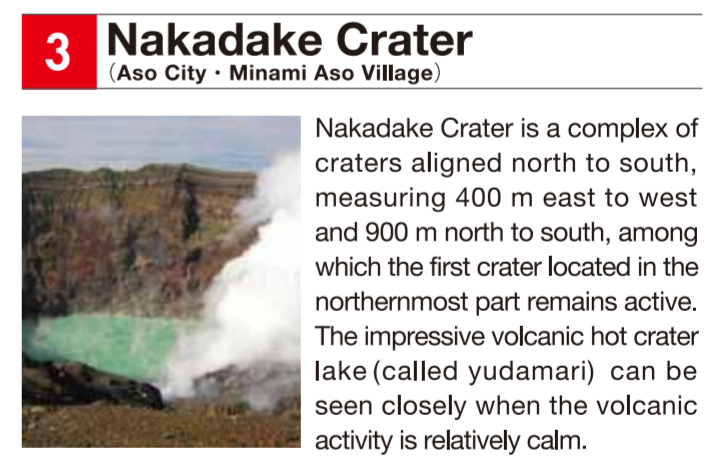
- START**
- 1 Komezuka (Kami-Komezuka)** (Aso City) ▼ 15 min.
 - 2 Kusasenri-ga-hama** (Aso City · Minami-Aso Village) ▼ 10 min.
 - 3 Nakadake Crater** (Aso City · Minami-Aso Village) ▼ 5 min. on foot
 - 4 Sunasenri-ga-hama** (Aso City · Minami-Aso Village) ▼ 40 min.
 - 5 Uchinomaki Hot Spring** (Aso City)
- Transportation: private car or rental car ● Time required: 4-5 hr.



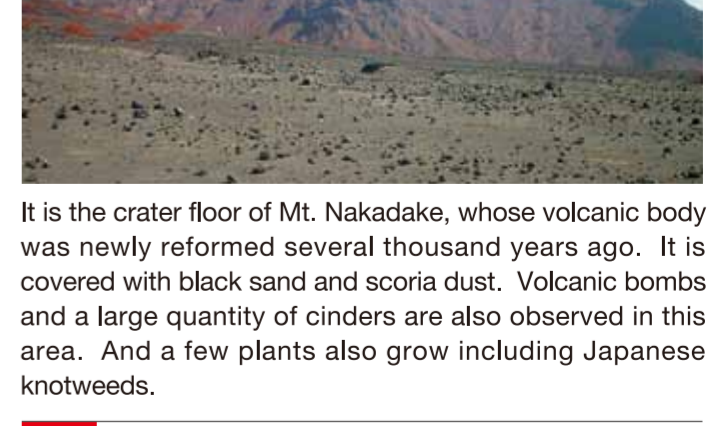
It is a typical scoria cone which was formed about 2,000 years ago, making it relatively new among Aso volcanic clusters, and is one of the most well-balanced cones in Japan. Komezuka was formed through a series of volcanic activities, which spewed a large amount of basaltic lava, depositing it widely on the north to west side.



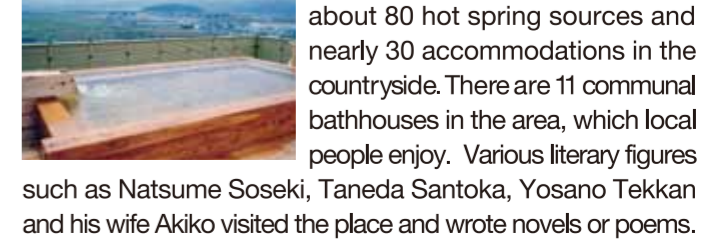
A double crater was formed 30,000 years ago when a small crater of 400 m in diameter was created in a crater of 1 km in diameter. Today, two ponds remain as remnants of volcanoes. You can observe the characteristic topography and marshy vegetation around the ponds.



Nakadake Crater is a complex of craters aligned north to south, measuring 400 m east to west and 900 m north to south, among which the first crater located in the northernmost part remains active. The impressive volcanic hot crater lake (called yudamari) can be seen closely when the volcanic activity is relatively calm.



It is the crater floor of Mt. Nakadake, whose volcanic body was newly reformed several thousand years ago. It is covered with black sand and scoria dust. Volcanic bombs and a large quantity of cinders are also observed in this area. And a few plants also grow including Japanese knotweeds.



It is a hot spring area which has about 80 hot spring sources and nearly 30 accommodations in the countryside. There are 11 communal bathhouses in the area, which local people enjoy. Various literary figures such as Natsume Soseki, Taneda Santoka, Yosano Tekkan and his wife Akiko visited the place and wrote novels or poems.



Eco Museum for discovering treasures in Aso
Aso Den'en Kukan Eco Museum Office
Roofless Museum ranging over the whole of Aso City. It aims to rediscover treasures in people, things, and lifestyle, and to hand them down to future generations.
[TEL] 0967-35-5077

Enjoy the rose garden and farm-village-style buffet meal
Hana-Asobi
A rose fair is held in spring and autumn in the rose garden that has the largest dome-shaped greenhouse in western Japan. A smorgasbord restaurant and a flower shop are fully equipped.
[TEL] 0967-23-6262