



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



Memories of eruptions engraved in the grand caldera

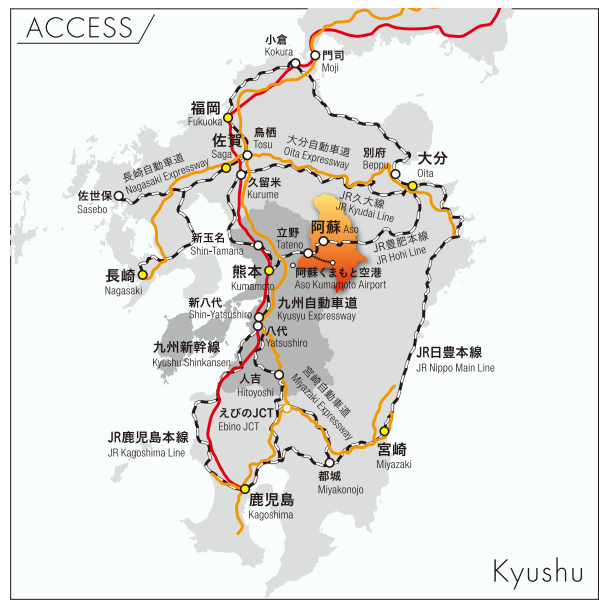
The world-class caldera is the symbol of Aso Geopark. Unique land features and strata have been formed by considerable volcanic activities over the past 270,000 years and by a great eruption that occurred 90,000 years ago. Visitors will learn about such geographical information as well as influences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

Nakadake Crater: Feeling the breath of the earth

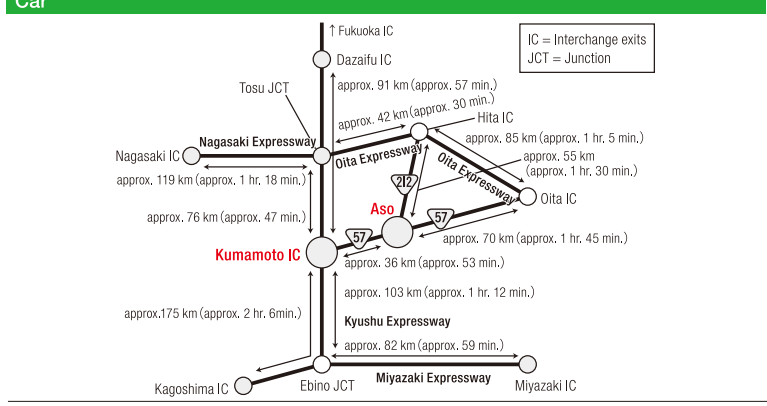
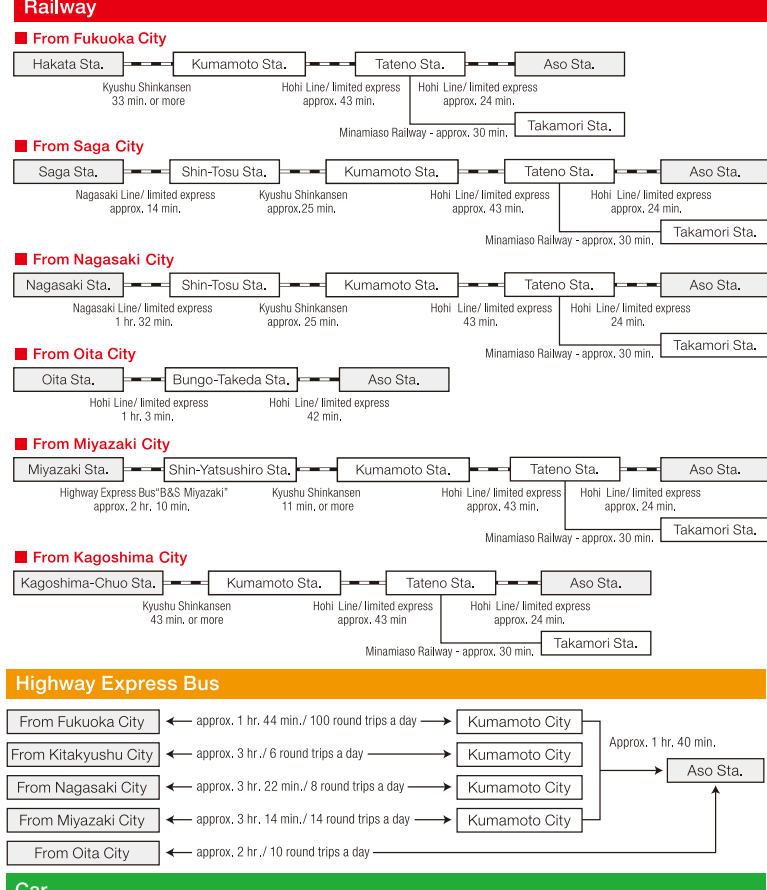
Among the volcanic clusters in the caldera, Nakadake Crater is highlighted because of its repeated and substantial volcanic activities from prehistoric times until the present. We will show you the unique landscape and ecology around Nakadake Crater, and the lives of people who live in symbiosis with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



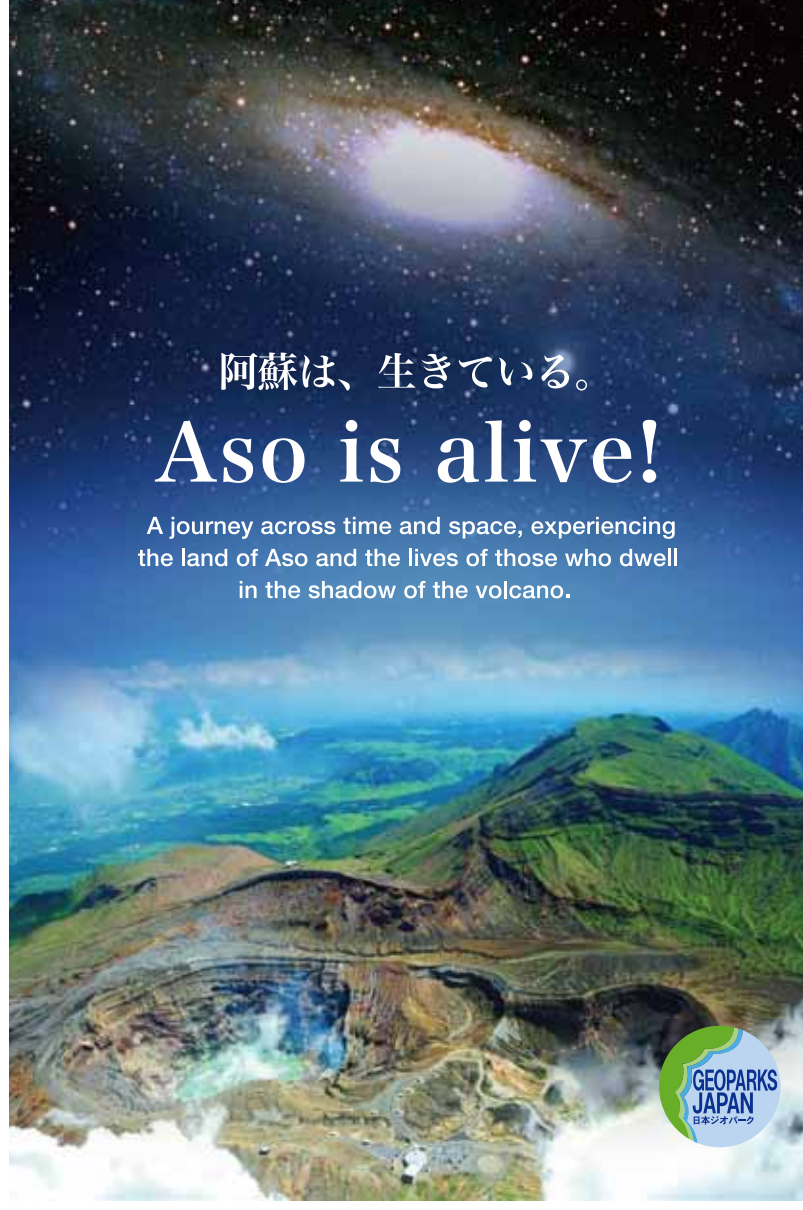
(Aso Geopark Promotion Council) Kumamoto Prefecture, Aso City, Minami-Oguni Town, Oguni Town, Ubuyama Village, Takamori Town, Minami-Aso Village, Nishihara Village, Yamato Town, Aso Eco Tourism Association, National Aso Youth Friendship Center, Aso Dentsu Kukan Eco Museum Office, Aso Museum, Naimino Plateau Yasuragi Recreation and Rest Center, Aso Nature Guide Association, Aso Tanihito 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 Geothermal Sciences Graduate School of Science Kyoto University, Kumamoto Geoscience Association, Kumamoto Geotechnical 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 Limonite Co., Ltd.

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Geotourism Course map

Blessings of the Aso Volcano ~Ancient life and Water~



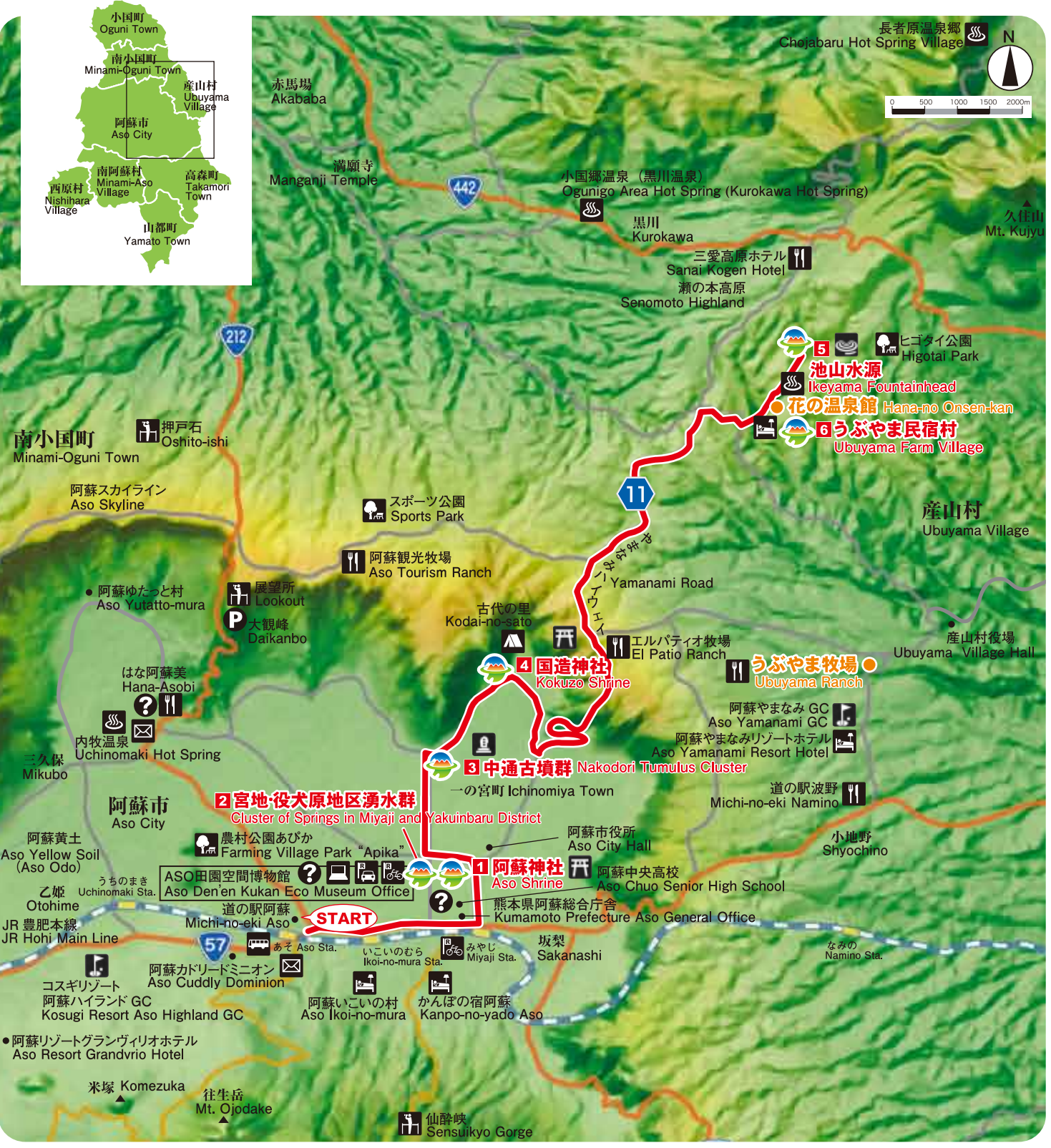
The Land of Aso Volcano and the Lives of Its People

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.



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.



案内所 Information	ロープウェイ Ropeway	温泉 Hot Spring	博物館/美術館 Museum	水通 Waterfall	JR 豊肥本線 JR Hohi Line
パソコン PC Facilities	駐車場 Parking	ゴルフ場 Golf Course	ホテル / 宿泊施設 Hotel / Accommodation	史跡 Historic Site	南阿蘇鉄道 Minami-Aso Railway Line
鉄道 / 鉄道駅 Railway / Railway Station	レンタサイクル付き自転車 Electric Bicycle Rental	郵便局 Post Office	展望地 Viewpoint	キャンプ場 Camp Site	ミヤジヤ Aso Camp Site
バス / バスの待合室 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	ジオパークジオコース Geotourism Course



Enjoy country style in a pastureland Ubuyama Ranch

In the vast ranch with a windmill, you can mingle with animals, make ice cream, and try horseback riding. You can also enjoy red cattle beef dishes in the restaurant.

[TEL] 0967-25-2900

Greeted by a variety of flowers in each season Hana-no-onsen-kan

Hot spring facility in an idyllic rural setting in Ubuyama Village. You can enjoy various kinds of hot spring baths such as open-air bath, herb bath, cold spring, or sauna.

[TEL] 0967-25-2341



Blessings of the Aso Volcano~Ancient life and Water~

Abundant underwater gushes forth from the ground, which is composed of deposited volcanic ash, lava and pyroclastic flows from past eruptions. By visiting headsprings and venerable shrines, let us cast a spotlight on people's lives that have been inherited by generations since ancient times.



1 Aso Shrine (Aso City)

Twelve deities, including "Takeiwatatsuno-mikoto", are enshrined here. It is an old imperial shrine that has more than 500 branch shrines nationwide. Six structures, namely the First Shinden or sanctuary, the Second Shinden, the Third Shinden, Romon Gate, Miyukimono Gate, and Kangyomon Gate are designated as important national cultural assets.

2 Cluster of Springs in Miyaji and Yakuinbaru District (Aso City)

In the wide area ranging from Miyaji to Yakuinbaru, there are a number of springsheds. The water is considered to be replenished mainly on the northern hillside of the central volcanic cones, which is utilized for daily life and irrigation.

3 Nakadori Tumulus Cluster (Aso City)

The largest cluster of ancient burial mounds dot a paddy field area in the northeast of Aso Valley, where Kurokawa River and its tributary, Higashidakegawa River meet. There are 12 burial mounds, including zempokoefun (keyhole-shaped tumulus) and round barrows, which are thought to have been constructed in the first half of the 5th century.

4 Kokuzo Shrine (Aso City)

Hayamikatamano-mikoto, who is the first son of Takeiwatatsuno-mikoto, and three other deities are enshrined in this venerable shrine. Situated in the north of Aso Shrine, it is also called Kitamiya (North Shrine). "Teno-no-Osugi (large cedar in Teno), which was once a state natural monument, is preserved.

5 Ikeyama Fountainhead (Ubuyama Village)

Ikeyama Fountainhead is one of the 'top 100 waters' in Japan, selected by the Ministry of the Environment. The water temperature is 13.5 °C and the volume of spring is as abundant as 30 tons per minute. The spring water becomes the Tamaraigawa River and flows into the Onogawa River, which runs into Beppu Bay in Oita Prefecture.

6 Ubuyama Farm Village (Ubuyama Village)

"Ubuyama Farm Village" was initiated by local farmers who entertained tourists with homemade dishes at their farm houses. Visitors can enjoy a variety of local cuisine with more than 30 kinds of pickles and red cattle beef which are lovingly prepared by farm wives.