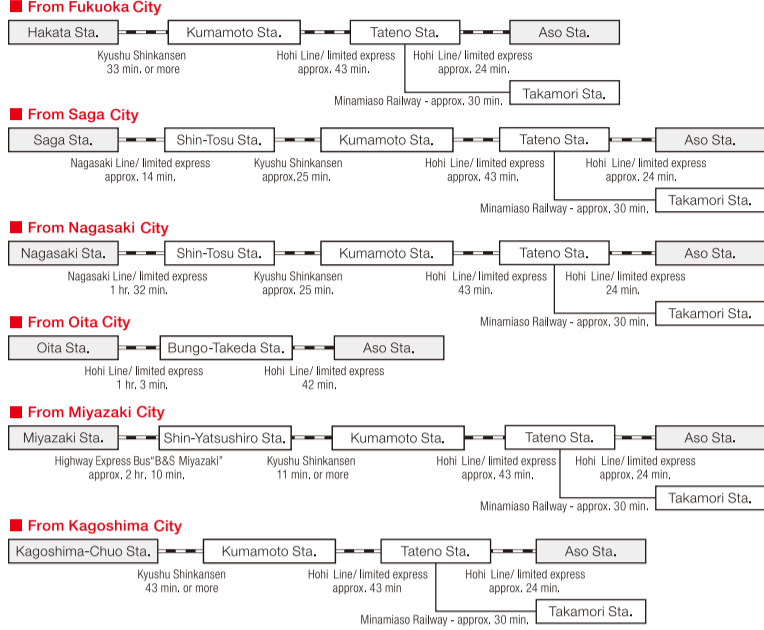


# ASO GeOPARK

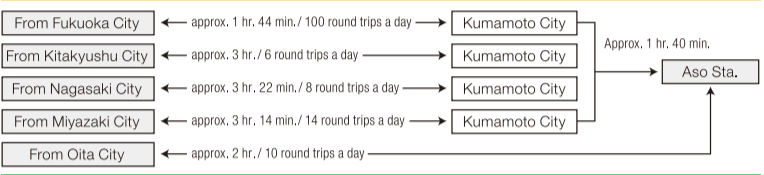


## Access to Aso Geopark from each prefecture in Kyushu, Japan

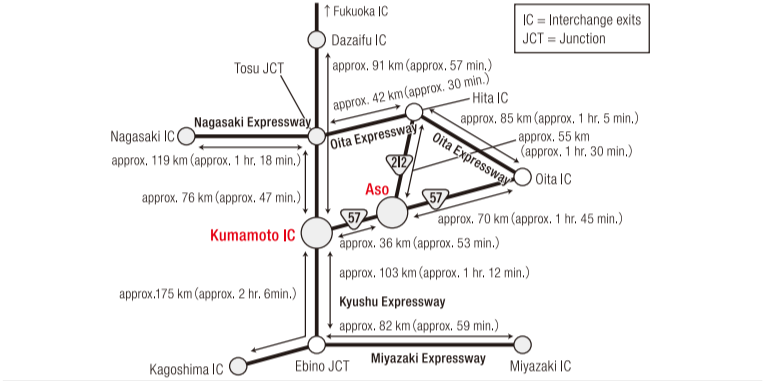
### Railway



### Highway Express Bus



### Car



(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 Den'en Kukan Eco Museum Office, Aso Museum, Naminio Plateau Yasuragi 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 Tourist 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 Geosciences 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.

Aso Geopark Promotion Council  
Aso Volcanic Museum 1F, 1930-1 Akamizu, Aso City, Kumamoto prefecture 869-2232 Japan.  
HP: <http://www.aso-geopark.jp/> E-mail: [info@aso-geopark.jp](mailto:info@aso-geopark.jp)



## Geotourism Course map



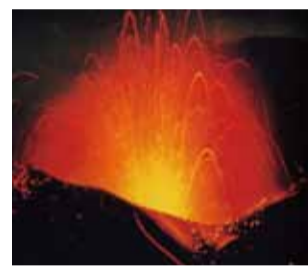
**A** Nakadake Crater:  
Feeling the Breath  
of the Earth

阿蘇は、生きている。  
**Aso is alive!**

A journey across time and space, experiencing the land of Aso and the lives of those who dwell in the shadow of the volcano.

## 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

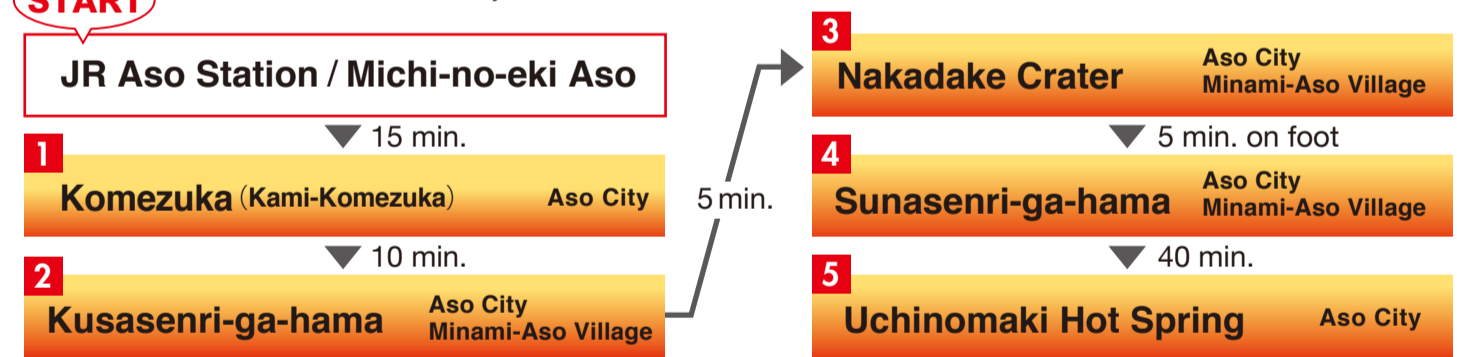
People who live side by side with a volcano have explored ways to live in harmony with nature in awe of the volcano, and developed their own culture and lifestyle. And nature has brought them abundant blessings like spring water and hot springs which are commonly found in volcanic regions.



Information	ロープウェイ	温泉	博物館/美術館	水源	滝	JR豊肥本線
案内所	ケーブルカー	温泉	博物館/美術館	湧き水	滝	JR豊肥本線
案内所	ケーブルカー	温泉	博物館/美術館	湧き水	滝	JR豊肥本線
案内所	ケーブルカー	温泉	博物館/美術館	湧き水	滝	JR豊肥本線

## Nakadake Crater: Feeling the Breath of the Earth

Nakadake Crater has repeatedly erupted since prehistoric times and continues fuming to this day. This course offers you a broad panorama of a special landscape that reminds us of the history of volcanic activities, where various topographical and geological features can be observed. A beautiful hot crater lake (called "yudamari") can be seen in the crater when the volcanic activity is calm.



● Transportation: private car or rental car ● Time required: 4~5 hr.

- ### 1 Komezuka (Kami-Komezuka) (Aso City)

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.
- ### 2 Kusasenri-ga-hama (Aso City · Minami Aso Village)

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.
- ### 3 Nakadake Crater (Aso City · Minami Aso Village)

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.
- ### 4 Sunasenri-ga-hama (Aso City · Minami Aso Village)

It is a double crater which 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.
- ### 5 Uchinomaki Hot Spring (Aso City)

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