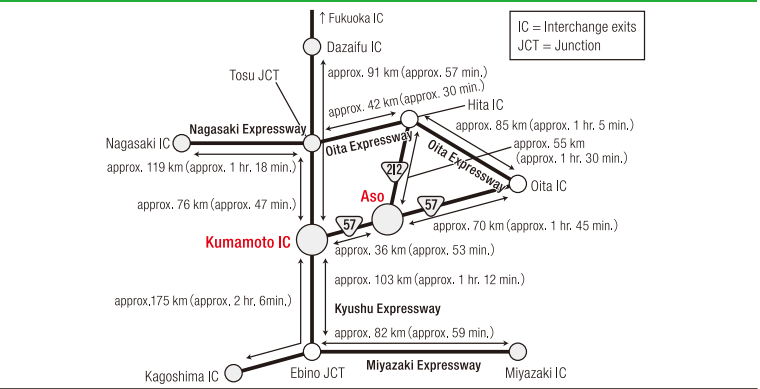
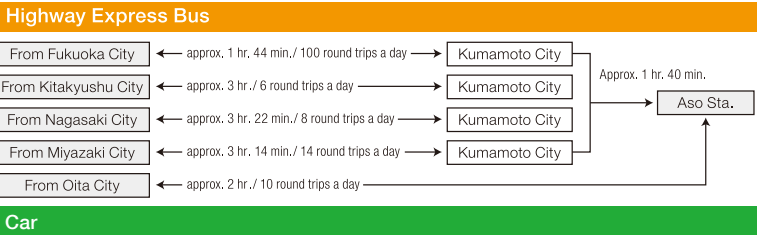
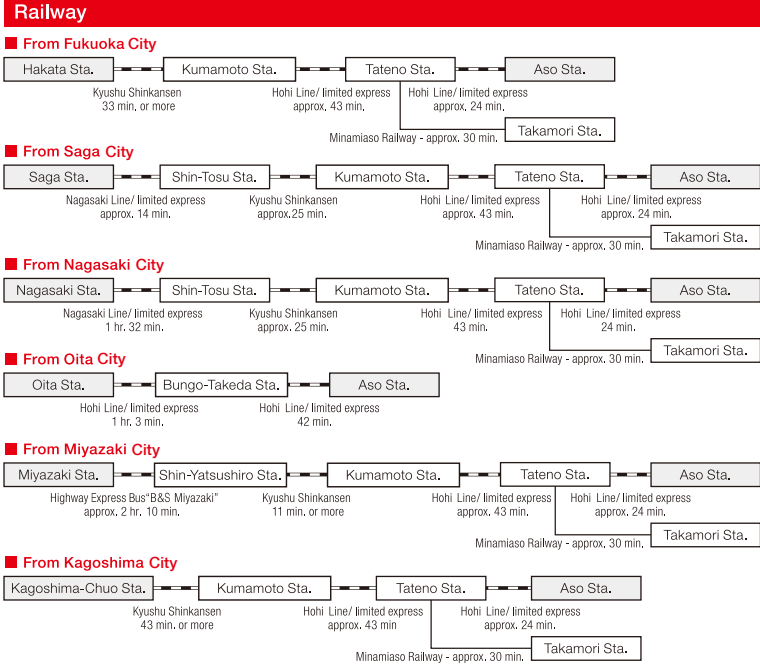




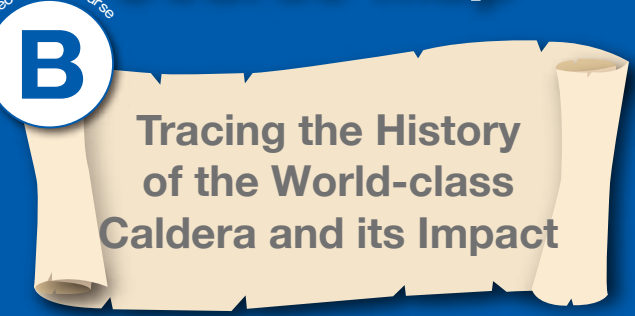
Access to Aso Geopark from each prefecture in Kyushu, Japan



[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 Den-en Kukan Eco Museum Office, Aso Museum, Naminio Plateau Yasuragi Recreation and Rest Center, Aso Nature Guide Association, Aso Tanishiro 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 Geosciences Association, Kumamoto Geochemical 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.



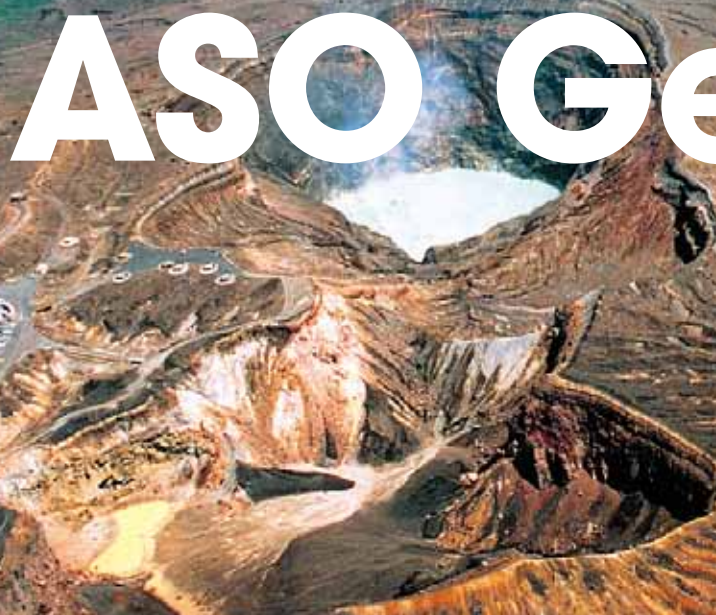
Geotourism Course map



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

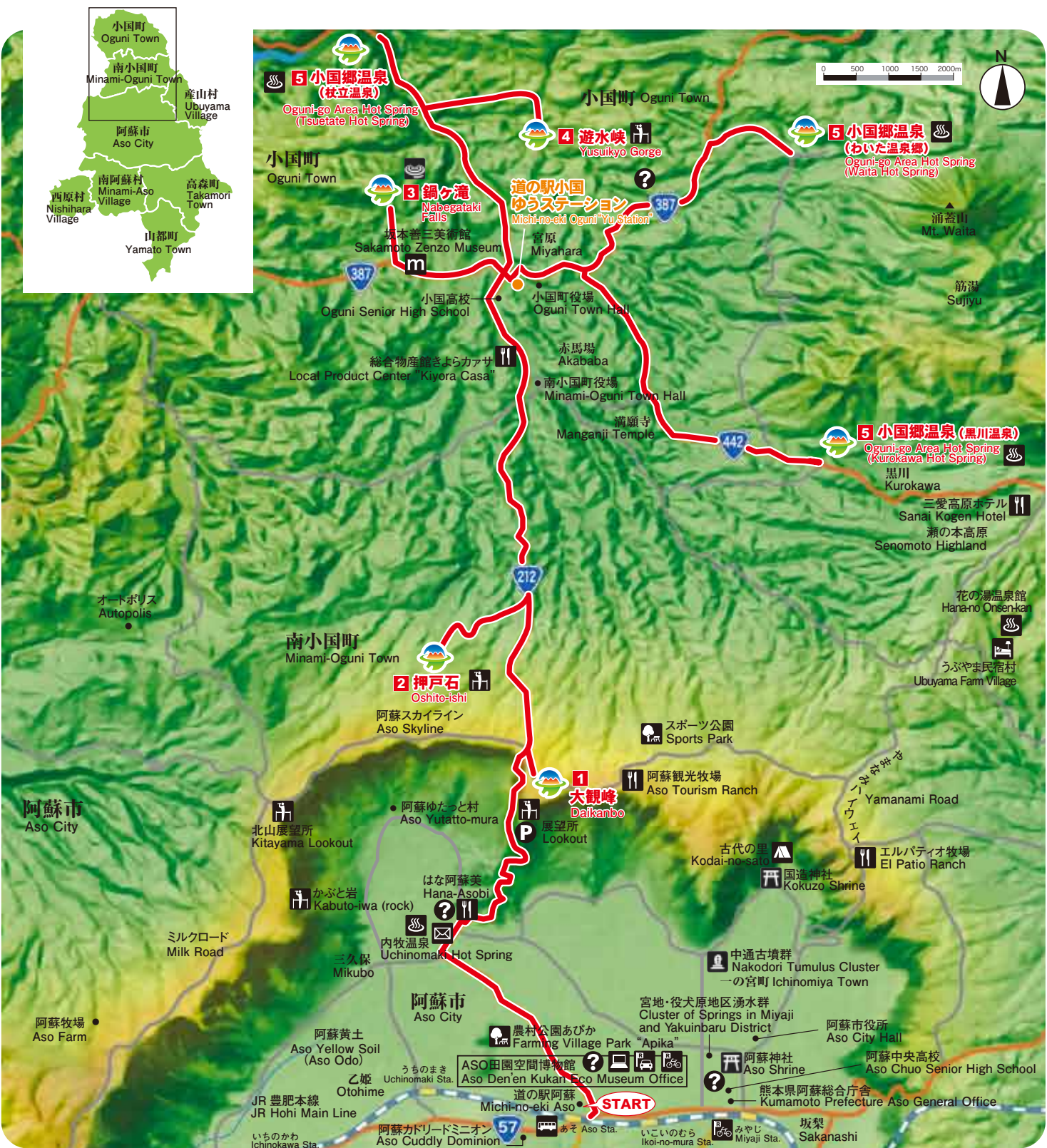
The Aso Caldera is situated in central Kyushu, Japan. It is one of the largest calderas in the world, covering a total area of 350 km² and measuring 18 km east-west and 25 km north-south in width. In the caldera are the five peaks of Mt. Aso: Mt. Takadake, Mt. Nekodake, Mt. Kijimadake, Mt. Eboshidake, 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	水源 Spring	滝 Waterfall
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	公園 Park
鉄道 / 鉄道駅 Railway / Railway Station	レンタル自転車 Electric Bicycle Rental	郵便局 Post Office	展望地 Viewpoint	キャンプ場 Camp Site	南阿蘇鉄道 Minami Aso Railway Line
バス / バスのりば 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	ジオパークミュージアム Geotourism Course

For local products and tourism information in Oguni Town Michi-no-eki Oguni "Yu Station"

A two-storied roadside station fully covered with glass walls. There are shops of local specialties on the first floor and a gallery and information center of Oguni Town on the second floor.

[TEL] 0967-46-4111

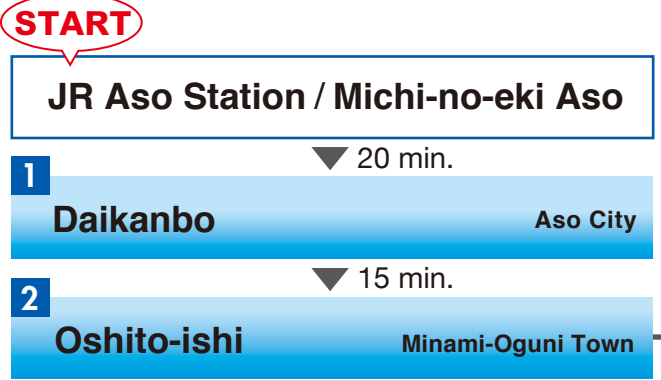
An array of local specialties of Minami-Oguni Town Bussan-kan (Local Product Center) "Kiyora Casa"

The building is characterized by the pyramid shaped structure. It boasts an array of local products including agricultural products such as vegetables, mountain vegetables, and puddings made from Jersey cow milk.

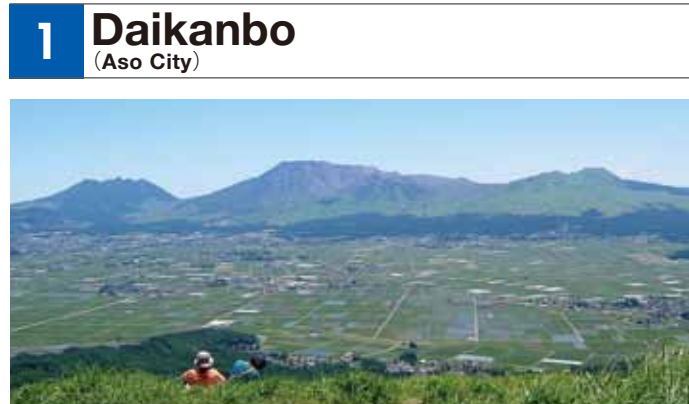
[TEL] 0967-42-1213

Tracing the History of the world-class Caldera and its Impact

The Aso caldera is believed to have been formed by the great eruption about 90,000 years ago. About 50,000 people live inside the caldera and have developed the unique culture of Aso. This course is designed to experience Aso by enjoying its beautiful caldera land features and landscape created by the volcano and people.



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

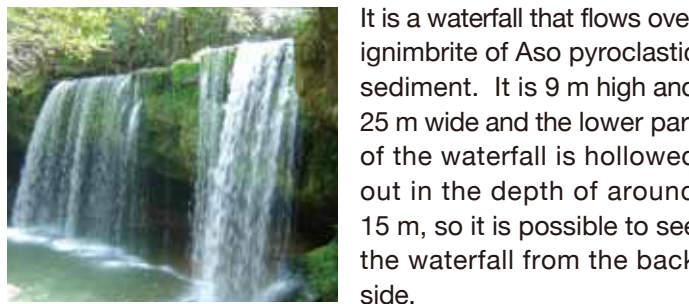


A geopoint where you can enjoy a panoramic view of the five Aso peaks and the caldera. One can appreciate the scale of the eruption which formed the caldera by observing the geographical features visible from this site.

2 Oshito-ishi (Minami-Oguni Town)

A group of andesite megaliths located on a hill 845 m above sea level. The biggest stone has a pyramid shape with a height of 5.5 m and circumference of 15.3 m. The stones have been long worshiped by local people as "Iwakura" or holy rocks. This place offers a grandstand view of the grassland on the pyroclastic plateau of the north outer rim.

3 Nabegataki Falls (Oguni Town)



It is a waterfall that flows over ignimbrite of Aso pyroclastic sediment. It is 9 m high and 25 m wide and the lower part of the waterfall is hollowed out in the depth of around 15 m, so it is possible to see the waterfall from the back side.

4 Yusuikyoo Gorge (Oguni Town)



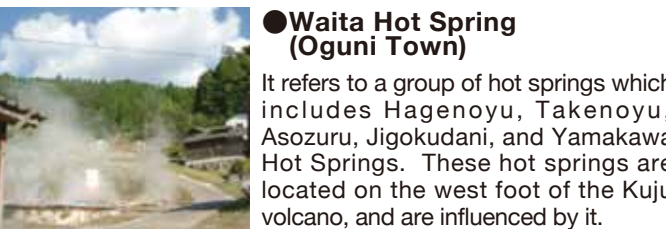
A rock riverbed found in a small river in the northern caldera. It is formed by ignimbrite of Aso pyroclastic sediment. The normal water depth is around 50 cm, making it a popular destination for summer holidays.

5 Oguni-go Area Hot Spring (Minami-Oguni Town - Oguni Town)



●Kurokawa Hot Spring (Minami-Oguni Town)

Started as hot spring resort for recuperation in 1961, Kurokawa Hot Spring has become famous nationwide. Its thermal source is considered to be the Kuju volcanic system.



●Waita Hot Spring (Oguni Town)

It refers to a group of hot springs which includes Hagenoyu, Takenoyu, Asozuru, Jigokudani, and Yamakawa Hot Springs. These hot springs are located on the west foot of the Kuju volcano, and are influenced by it.



●Tsuetate Hot Spring (Oguni Town)

The hot spring wells up along Tsuetate River, whose thermal source is the Kuju volcanic system. It is traditionally said that Kobo-Daishi Kukai was impressed by the efficacy of the hot spring during his journey in the beginning of the Heian Era.

