

KIRISHIMA Safty Guide & Map



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On January 26th, 2011 Mt. Shimmoedake erupted since 1700s. Due to the recent eruptions, many of the hiking trails are currently closed. This guidebook shows the current highlights of Kirishima.



Publication: March, 2012

Kyushu Regional Environment Office, Ministry of the Environment

Kirishima – Japan's first national park

Kirishima was the first to be designated as national park in Japanese history in 1934. The beautiful landscapes and crater lakes are the result of volcanic activities. Visitors can enjoy witnessing the unique plants and animals who have adapted to the harsh volcanic environment over the centuries, such as Kyushu Azalea, Mountain Hawk-Eagle, wild deers, who live in the wild forests nurtured by the warm climate and plenty of rain.

Takachihomine Ridge has been revered as sacred land from ancient times. Legend says that the grandson of the Goddess Amaterasu descended from heaven to rule the land.

In March 2012, the park was renamed Kirishima-Kinkowan National Park. In 2010, the park was designated a Japanese Geopark.

Hiking Etiquette in Kirishima

● Stay on trails.

Walking off the trail causes damage to plants. Stay on trails when you take pictures.



● Take your litter home.

● Do not remove plants or animals.

Every plant and living animal is important part of Kirishima. Take great care of them or do not take them home.

● Do not feed the wild life.

Observe wild life from a safe distance and keep them wild and healthy.

! If you see theft, poaching or illegal littering
Contact the authorities immediately. Your action would protect Kirishima! Please see "Contact Information."

Pay attention to eruptions – The Kirishima Mountains are active volcanoes!



January 29, 2011, Mt. Shimmoedake

The Kirishima Mountains consist of over 20 active volcanoes spread over Miyazaki Prefecture and Kagoshima Prefecture. They were formed on the southern edge of the Kinko Caldera, where a huge eruption happened 340,000 years ago. On January 26th, 2011 Mt. Shimmoedake erupted with its most violent explosion in 300 years and still remains active. Stay alarmed for the possibility of eruption.

Check the activity of Mt. Shimmoedake!

● Regarding the eruption alert level of Mt. Shimmoedake

The eruption alert level classifies to five levels according to the extent of the danger and the need for disaster prevention measures. The disaster-prevention measures for each level, which the Japan Meteorological Agency and local municipalities have determined, should be taken seriously by residents, tourists, hikers. As of March 2012, Mt. Shimmoedake is on Level 3, which means it is restricted to go inside of 3km diameter off the crater.

Name of forecast, warning	Level and keyword
Eruption warning	Level 5 Evacuation
Crater outskirts warning	Level 4 Stay ready to evacuate
Eruption forecast	Level 3 Hiking restricted
	Level 2 Crater outskirts restricted
	Level 1 Normal

● Taken from "Eruption Alert Levels for the Kirishima Mountains (Mt. Shimmoedake)" issued by the Japan Meteorological Agency.

● The scope of the restriction areas will differ depending on the Eruption Alert Level.

● Under Level 3 the area covered by the restrictions (2km, 3km, 4km) will change according to the situation.

● Restrictions on hiking trail

The fist-sized volcanic cinders may be carried by the wind even though you stay out of over 3km from the caldera. Hiking restrictions remain Mt. Karakunidake and the Mt. Takachihonomine. Please see the map below for details of the restrictions. You must not enter the restricted areas under any circumstances.

● Wind direction on Mt. Shimmoedake

The volcanic fumes are carried by the wind, causing volcanic cinders and ash to fall. Make sure to check the direction of the wind over Mt. Shimmoedake.

Before you hike,
receive the latest information about the
restrictions on hiking trails,
volcanic activity and seasonal attractions!
At first, please visit the Visitor Center!

● Ebino Eco-Museum Center

【Opening time】9:00~17:00 (every day of the year)

【Reference】0984-33-3002



Located in the Ebino-Kogen Plateau, Ebino Eco-Museum Center is a popular base for visitors. It has trailhead to the Kirishima Mountain Range and crater lakes followed by the nature trail. The center also houses a museum of Kirishima natural history through photographic panels, video images and miniature models of the landscape.

● Takachihogawara Visitor Center

Takachihogawara Park Service Center

【Opening time】9:00~17:00 (every day of the year)

【Reference】0995-57-2505



Located in Takachihogawara, this Visitor Center provides an information on the natural environment of Kirishima, and seasonal attractions such as timing for the flowers to bloom.

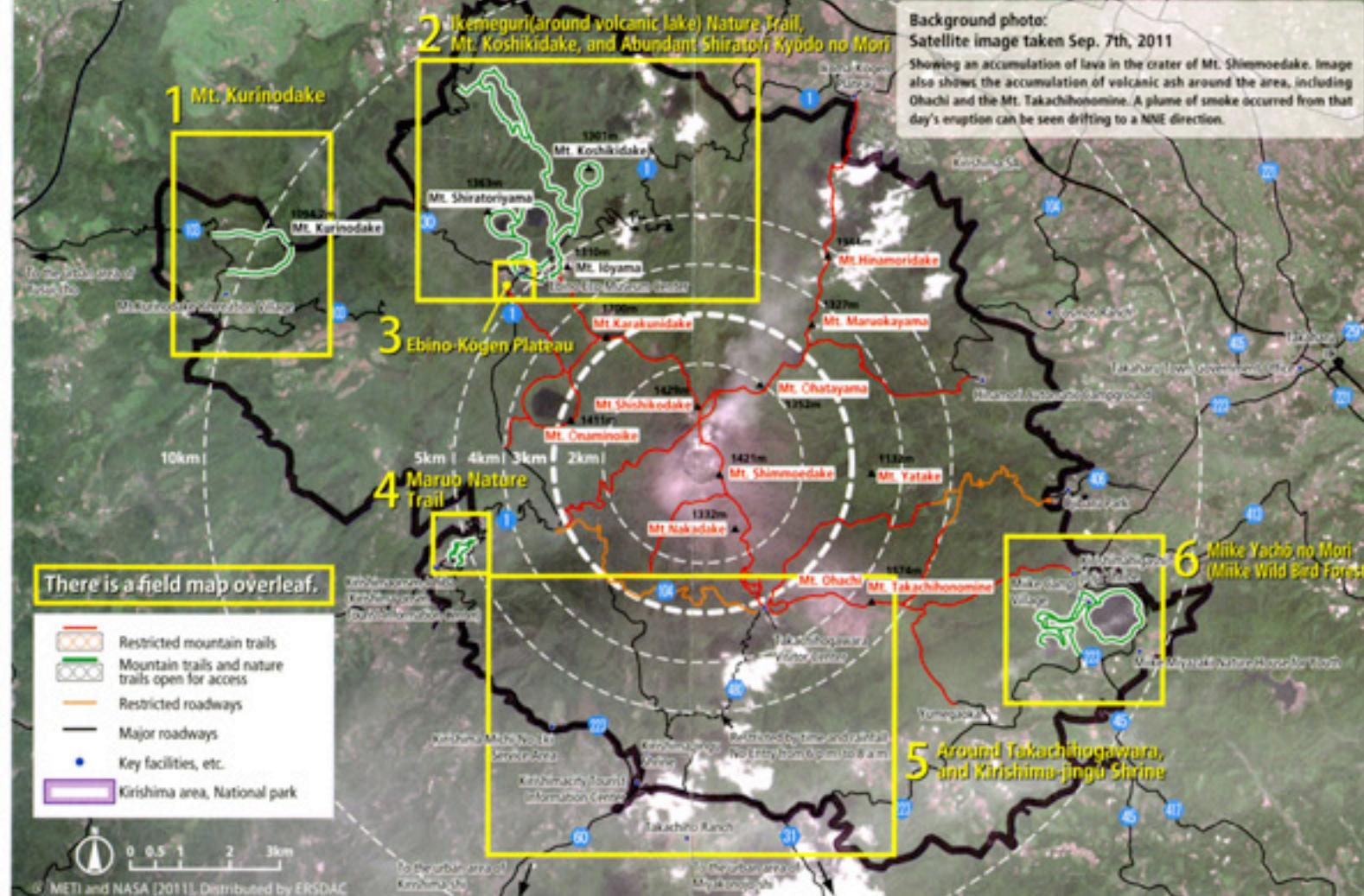
! If an eruption should occur while you are hiking....

A few minutes after the eruption begins, volcanic cinders and volcanic ash rain down on you. Pay attention to the direction of fumes rising from the volcano, cover yourself with a protection, and take shelter. Once erupted, you must evacuate. There is a chance pyroclastic flow might occur.



- Check the direction of the wind from the Japan Meteorological Agency website and disaster zone forecasts before hiking. Information are also available at local government website and the Visitor Center, etc.

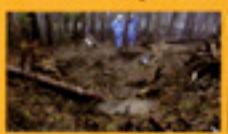
Hiking restrictions (as of March 2012)



Different kinds of volcanic phenomena

Volcanic cinders, volcanic bombs

Eruption hurls hot rocks out of the crater with great force, which then fall to earth. The eruption of Mt. Shimmoedake caused small volcanic cinders to fall on the streets of Kobayashi City, 10km from the crater, shattering car windows.



Photo, left:
A hole in the ground formed 3.2km from the crater by the fall of a volcanic bomb.
Photo, right:
Volcanic cinder that fell on the hiking trail 3km from the crater.

Volcanic ash

Fragments of foaming magma (pumice) or lava are thrown into the air by the eruption, and then fall to earth. The pumice and volcanic ash fall downwind of the volcano, so pay attention to the direction of the wind overhead. If volcanic ash starts to fall, cover your nose and mouth with a mask or wet handkerchief. If the ash gets into your eyes, wash it out; do not rub your eyes.

Volcanic gas

This contains sulphur dioxide, hydrogen sulphide and other toxic gases. Do not enter restricted areas. Gas tends to accumulate in depressions and valleys, and emergent caution is needed when there is no wind.



Pyroclastic flows and hot air blasts

This is a very dangerous phenomenon where the volcanic fumes rising from the caldera lose their momentum and hot volcanic ash or rocks mixed with volcanic gases flow at high speed down the slope. The hot air blast accompanied with the pyroclastic flow travels a greater distance.

Lava flow

Magma flows out over the lip of the crater and come down to the side of the mountain. The lava flows slowly but is very dangerously hot.

Avalanche of earth and rocks

Thick accumulations of volcanic ash or cinder mixed with rainfall flow down the valleys at the great speed. Special caution is needed in the heavy rain.

Infrasonic wave

This is a vibration of the air or shock waves caused by an eruption. It causes shattering windowpanes that directly face the volcano.

For more details on volcanic phenomena, please see the Japan Meteorological Agency website.

Contact Information

If you are in distress or poor health or require rescuing

Police station: 110 Fire department: 119

Weather, volcanic action etc.

KAGOSHIMA Local Meteorological Observatory: 099-250-9913

MIYAZAKI Local Meteorological Observatory: 0985-25-4031

If you discover theft, poaching or illegal littering

Police station or Ebino Ranger Office: 0984-33-1108

Miyazaki forest management station Miyakonojo branch: 0986-23-4566

Kagoshima forest management station: 099-247-7111

Information on rainfall, water levels, flood control

Information can be accessed via mobile phone by scanning in the QR code on the right.

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

"Real-time river disaster prevention information"

<http://www.river.go.jp/>



Information on volcanoes, earthquakes, weather

Information can be accessed via mobile phone by scanning in the QR code on the right.

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

"Disaster Prevention Information Service Center"

<http://www.mlit.go.jp/saigai/bosajohofu/index.html>



Tourist information, miscellaneous inquiries

Miyakonojo City: 0986-23-2111 Miyakonojo City Tourism Association: 0986-23-2460

Kobayashi City: 0984-23-1111 Kobayashi City Tourism Association: 0984-22-8684

Ebino City: 0984-35-1111 Ebino City Tourism Association: 0984-35-3838

Takaharu Town: 0984-42-2111 Takaharu Town Tourism Association: 0984-42-4560

Kirishima City: 0995-45-5111 Kirishima City Tourism Association: 0995-78-2115

Yusui-cho: 0995-74-3111 Yusui-cho Tourism Association: 0995-74-5690

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Reference: Ebino Ranger Office

Address: 889-4302 1495-5, Suenaga, Ebino-shi, Miyazaki

Tel: 0984-33-1108 Fax: 0984-33-6160



Hiking Map

Make a flexible plan

- Start hiking early in the morning and come back before sunset.
- If the weather condition or your physical condition are not good, wait until the next occasion.

Preparations for hiking and essential equipment

Personal responsibility is a basic for hiking. Carefully check your planned route and the weather forecast before you take off, and make sure that you are properly equipped.

- Map
- Compass
- Drinks
- Emergency food
- First aid
- Emergency telephone number
- Headlamp
- Wireless phone or mobile phone
- Rain gear
- Clothes to protect against cold weather
- Cap
- Gloves
- Whistle
- Portable toilet
- Things that identify yourself and your telephone number

Submit the hiking registration form

Submit the hiking registration form to the local police station or the visitor center.

Pay attention to the danger while hiking

There are many hazards at the mountain. Be sure to stay on the trail, but be aware of danger that lurks all around, such as falling rocks, fallen trees, hornets and pit vipers.

If you come across hornets

Pass by quietly not to provoke bees. If they fly toward you with making a clicking sound, the nest should be located nearby. You should turn around quickly and leave the area.

Change of temperature and weather

While hiking, temperature may drop rapidly and the weather changes, not being predicted by the weather forecast. Pay attention to the state of clouds, change of the temperature, direction and strength of the wind, visibility, etc.

Rapid increase of water

When you walk along the river and swamp in the rain, you should pay close attention to the rapid increase in the water level. While raining, you should avoid hiking at the mountain, particularly in the region where volcanic ash is piled up, because there is a higher risk of avalanche of earth and rocks.

Map legend

- Major facilities
- Parking
- Campground
- Hot Springs
- Shrine
- Restricted mountain trail
- Usable trails and Sidewalk-trail for sightseeing
- Main roadway
- Restricted roads
- No Entry

1 Mt. Kurinodake Mountain Trail

Mt. Kurinodake is one of the oldest of the volcanoes in the Kirishima Mountains that were active some 200,000 years ago. You can see volcanic activity even today near Kurinodake Onsen Hot Spring Yawata Jigoku. Close by are the Mt. Kurinodake Recreation Village and the Kirishima Art Forest.



2

Ikemeguri(around volcanic lake) Nature Trail, Mt. Koshikidake, and Abundant Shiratori Kyōdo no Mori

The Ebino-Kōgen Plateau and the surrounding area offer plenty to see: the Ikemeguri (around volcanic lake) Nature Trail, Mt. Koshikidake, the Abundant Shiratori Kyōdo no Mori and the Tsutsujigaoka Walking Trail. Newest version of information is available at the Ebino Eco-Museum Center.

3 Ebino-Kōgen Plateau

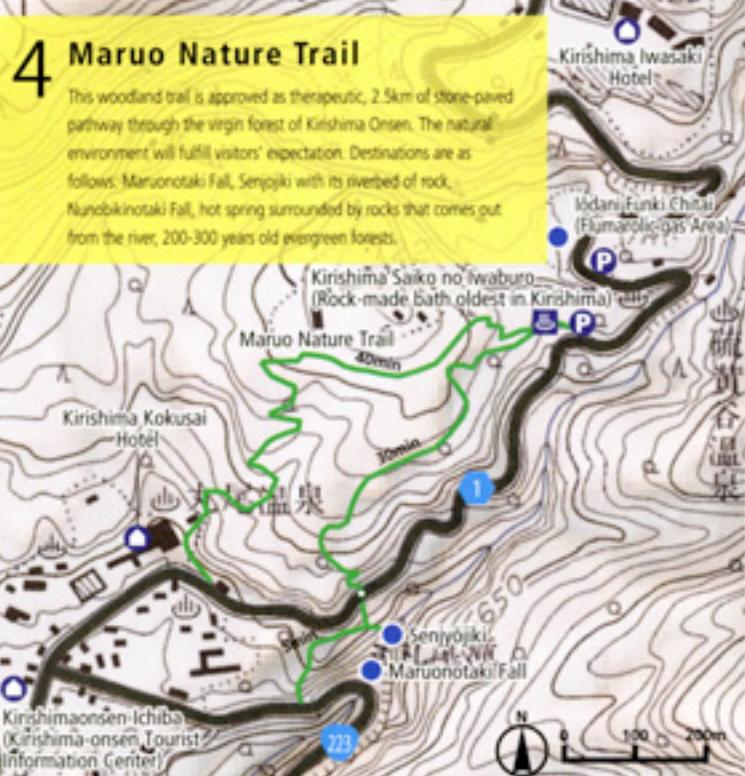


3 Ebino-Kōgen Plateau

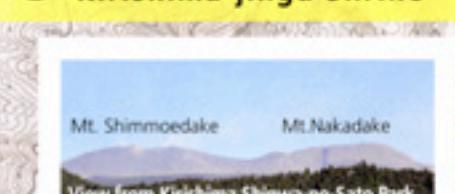


4 Maruo Nature Trail

This woodland trail is approved as therapeutic, 2.5km of stone-paved pathway through the virgin forest of Kirishima Onsen. The natural environment will fulfill visitors' expectation. Destinations are as follows: Maruo-naki Fall, Senyōjiki with its riverbed of rock, Nudobinotaki Fall, hot spring surrounded by rocks that comes out from the river, 200-300 years old evergreen forests.



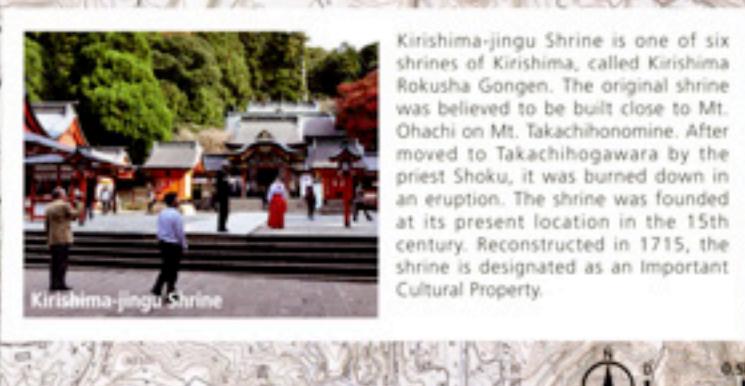
5 Around Takachihogawara, and Kirishima-jingu Shrine



A Michi-no-Eki (roadside rest area) on National Route 223. There is a restaurant and a grass-ski run, and panoramic views of Mt. Sakurajima and Kinkowan Bay. Reaching the top by the chairlift, you can see the volcanic fumes from Mt. Shimmoedake.



Tourists can tour the farm facilities and experience dairy farming activities, such as milking. There are panoramic views of the Kirishima mountain range. You can also see Mt. Shimmoedake and Mt. Takachihonomine nearby.



6 Miike Yachō no Mori (Miike Wild Bird Forest)

Lake Miike is the biggest crater lake in Kirishima mountain, having a circumference of 4km and a 103m in depth. There are oaks and other evergreen hardwoods around the lake, forming a thick forest that is a nationally-designated wild bird forest.

