



~ What is a Geopark? ~

A geopark is a park in which one can enjoy beautiful scenery and nature while experiencing the results of geological activity, such as volcanic eruptions. Geoparks also have significant connections to the people that live in the area, their lives, history, and culture. A geotour can show you just how amazing our planet really is!

▼ Try Starting Here! ▼

Ebino Highlands

The starting place for geotourism among Kirishima's bountiful nature

Central Facility

Ebino Eco Museum Center

Entry Fee: Free
Standard Parking: 500 Yen



Current information on hiking trails, seasonal points of interest, the state of the Kirishima volcanoes, weather, and more are all available here. Three-dimensional scale models and photographs are also on display. Stop here on your way to exploring the outdoors!

Address: Miyazaki Prefecture Ebino City Suenaga 1495-5 Tel. 0984-33-3002

Takachihogawara

Another central facility closely linked with history



Takachihogawara Visitors' Center

Entry Fee: Free Standard Parking: 500 Yen

Information on nature in Kirishima is available at this central destination for Kirishima tourism.

Address: Kagoshima Prefecture Kirishima City, Kirishima Taguchi 2583-12 Tel. 0995-57-2505



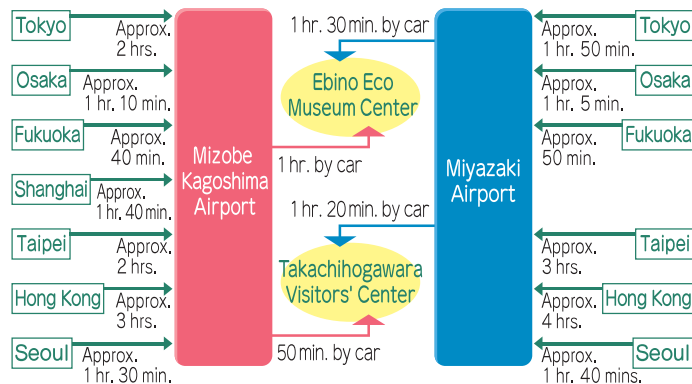
Takachihogawara

Here, Mt. Ohachi becomes a backdrop to a giant stone torii gate, and the ruins of the old Kirishima Jingu Shrine remain, giving the area a mysterious atmosphere.

The Kirishima Volcanoes are active volcanoes even to this day. For this reason, some areas are restricted from entry. Please obey all restrictions for your own safety. Restrictions may change depending on current volcanic activity. Before hiking, always consult all current information!



From Airport to the Kirishima Geopark



Kirishima Geopark Promotion Council

〒899-4394 Kagoshima Prefecture, Kirishima City, Kokubu Chuo 3-45-1

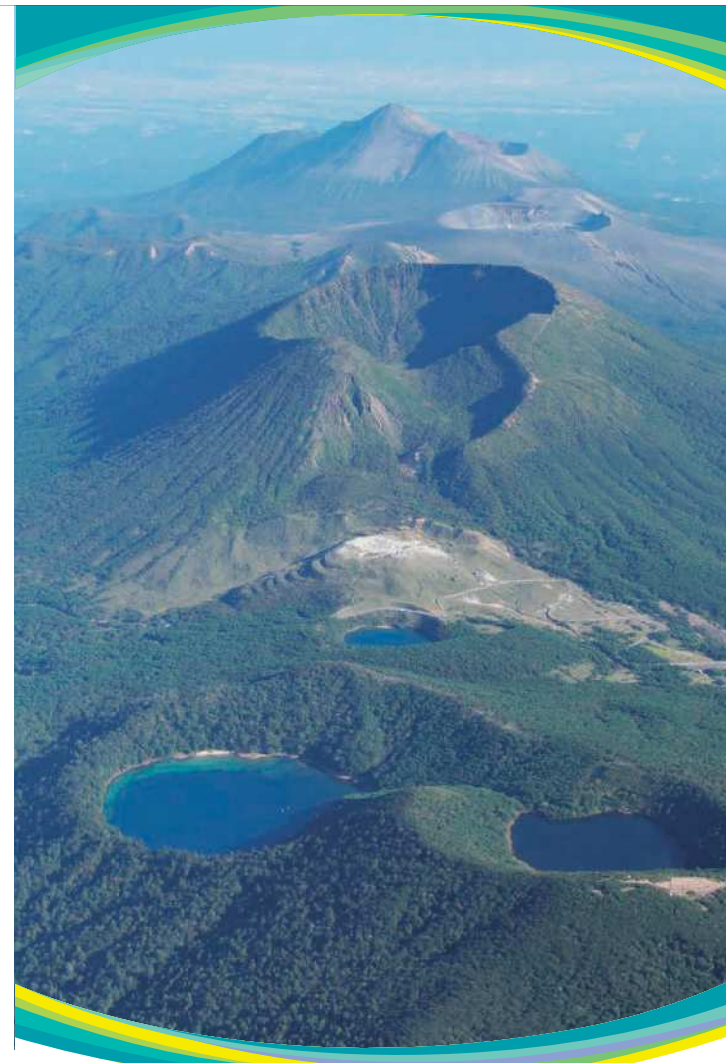
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<Photographs Provided By/Special Thanks>

Ebino City Tourism Association, Kirishima City Tourism Association, Natural Park Foundation Takachihogawara and Ebino Branches, Kagoshima Tourism Federation, Nagatomo Takeharu, Kirishima Art Forest, Kagoshima Uni. Prof. Iwamatsu Akira, Kagoshima Uni. Environmental Studies Assoc. Prof. Imura Ryuusuke



What Kind of Place is Kirishima?



霧島三才 [一] 口

Kirishima Geopark



This is the Kirishima Geopark!

A place that illustrates the connection between numerous volcanoes, a variety of nature, and people

Nature created by water and volcanoes ■■■

Within Japan, the area including the Kirishima Volcanoes receive a large amount of rain. Many beautiful natural formations have been created when this bountiful source of water combines with these volcanoes, such as clear natural springs, magnificent waterfalls, and beautiful gorges. The seasonal flowers, plants, and wild animals of the Kirishima Volcanoes and the area surrounding them offer a chance to fully enjoy nature.



■ **Sekino-o Falls** This waterfall flows over deposit from a pyroclastic flow from an eruption in the Kirishima Volcanoes. The river upstream is 600m long and includes a rare collection of naturally occurring potholes.

Location: Miyazaki Prefecture, Miyakonojo City, Sekino Town 6620-4
Tel. 0986-37-2929



■ **Miyama Kirishima** (starts blooming from the beginning of May)
These flowers paint the mountainside pink.

Location: The Kirishima Volcanoes

A volcano museum - The Kirishima Volcanoes ■■■

More than 20 overlapping volcanoes make up the Kirishima Volcanoes. Within the mountain range, there are trekking courses for everyone from beginners to experienced hikers, offering many ways to enjoy the nature of the four seasons and magnificent scenery in Kirishima.



■ **The panoramic view from the top of Mt. Karakunidake**

Required time to climb Mt. Karakunidake: approx. 3 hours.

Location: Hiking trail from Onami lake, Ebino Highlands



■ **Onsen** Many onsen, one of the blessings of volcanic activity, can be found in the Kirishima Volcanoes area. These onsen, located from within the mountains to their foothills, each have a unique water composition, thanks to the effect of the volcanoes. They vary in style as well, from large, expansive public bath houses to small, private onsen for family use. Lodging establishments also vary just as much, meaning there is sure to be one perfect for any type of trip, from large hotels to rustic ryokan (traditional Japanese-style inn).

History and culture connected to the earth ■■■

Mt. Takachiho, one of Kirishima's volcanoes, is the backdrop for ancient literature and legends. The many shrines that have been built here, the kagura (Shinto theatrical dance) dedicated to the gods, and the harvest spirit statues made to pray for a bountiful harvest, are all parts of a local culture deeply related to the history of the Kirishima Volcanoes. This connection illustrates the relationship between geological activity of the area and the people that live here.



■ **Kirishima Jingu** The shrine that tells the legend of Japan's origin

Address: Kagoshima Prefecture, Kirishima City, Taguchi 2608-5 Tel. 0995-57-0001



■ **Tanokansaa** These statues, made from natural stones, represent a fear and respect for nature.

Location: In each area surrounding the Kirishima Volcanoes



■ **Kagura** A type of dance dedicating a prayer to the gods.

Miyazaki Prefecture, Nishimorokata District, Takaharu Town's Haraigawa Kagura

■ **Kirishima Art Forest** A place that connects nature and people

Address: Kagoshima Prefecture, Aira District, Yuusui Town, Koba 6340-220
Tel. 0995-74-5945



▲ Title: Earth - Red & Black
Artist: Fukumoto Shuichiro

◀ Title: You Are the Art
Artist: Choi Jeonghwa
Kagoshima Prefecture, Kirishima Open-Air Museum Collection