Feel the grandeur of Aso's nature

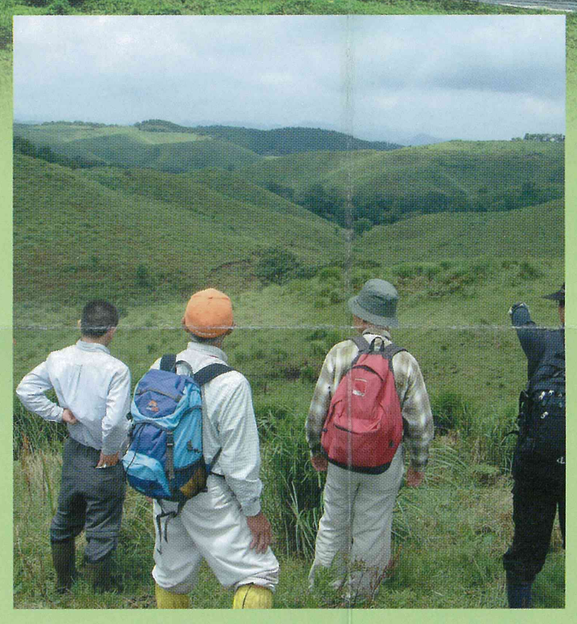
Aso City is located near the center of Kyushu in Aso Kuju National Park. Its greatest enticement, of course, lies in the magnificent natural beauty of Mount Aso, with the caldera, one of the largest of its kind, at the top of the list. The dramatic smoke of Mount Nakadake, the vast grasslands, the hot springs, the charms of Japanese tradition and culture, and the variety of activities in the natural environment — with these abundant charms,

Aso awaits,,,

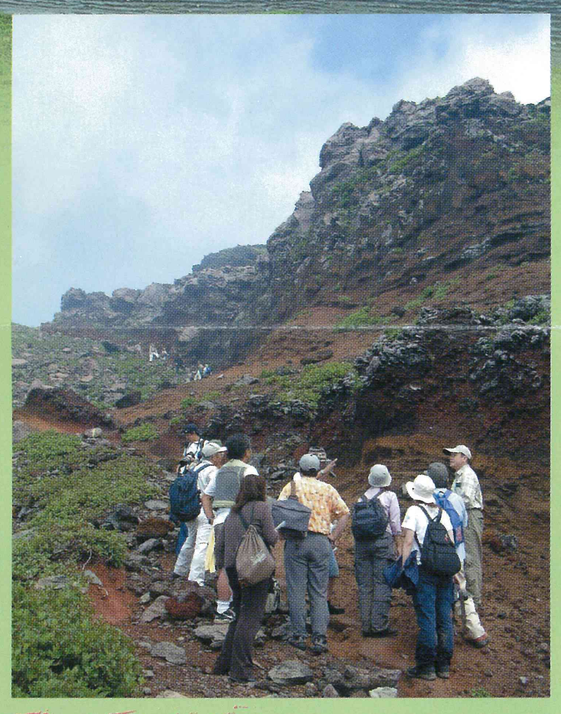
Kusasenrigahama
Kusasenrigahama is a round area of grassland found en route to Mount Nakadake. This area, 1 km in diameter, used to be a crater. Two large ponds formed by rainwater now serve as an ideal watering place for cows and horses put to grazing. The sight gives a poetic touch to Aso. (Located about 35 minutes by bus from JR Aso Station.)

Komezuka Komezuka is a gentle, beautiful hill. A legend says that Aso's god of cultivation piled up harvested rice to create this hill.

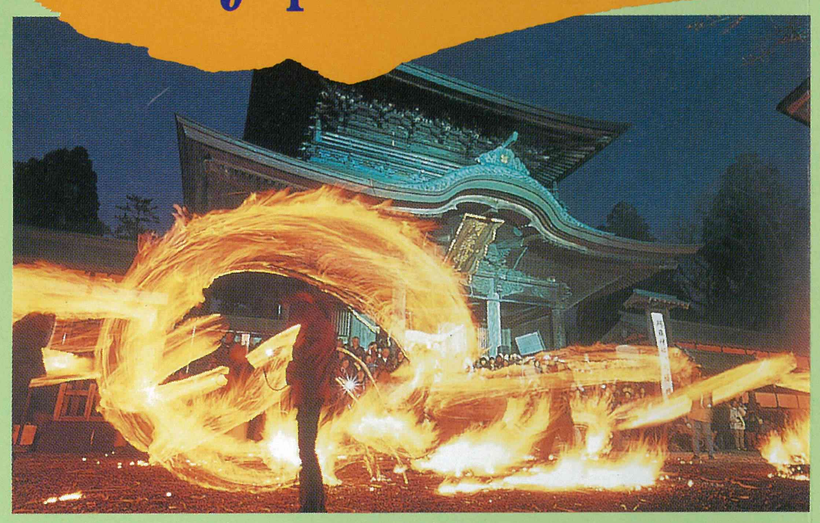
Koga no Taki Koga no Taki consists of two waterfalls: the male waterfall Otokodaki, with a drop of 80 meters, and the female waterfall Onnadaki, with a drop of 100 meters. In winter, cold winds from the valley Aso-dani entirely freeze both waterfalls, creating a dynamic view.



Trekking Aso is an ideal destination for a variety of activities enjoyed in the natural environment, from easy hiking to serious mountain climbing.



Touch Japanese traditions and culture

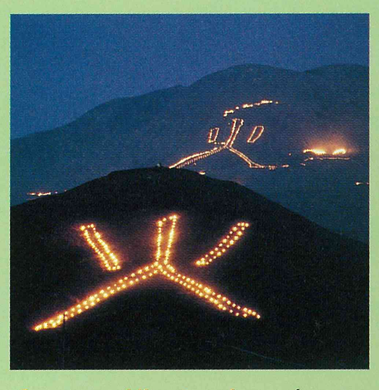


Aso Shrine and *Hifuri Shinji* *Hifuri Shinji*, or fire service, is a traditional annual ritual held in mid-March at Aso Shrine. It is a festival to celebrate a wedding of deities. During the service, every participant is allowed to light and wave a torch made of thatch.

Food Aso's rich natural environment is a source of abundant healthy and tasty food. Enjoy Japanese food in Aso.

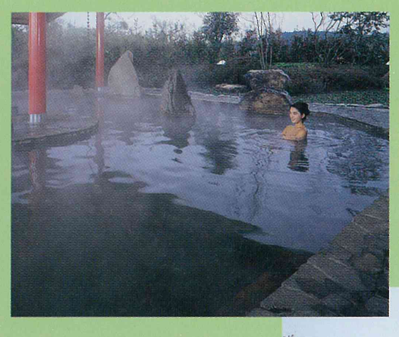
Tofu Kaiseki *Tofu Kaiseki* is a full-course meal with *tofu*, made from soy beans grown in Aso, as a main ingredient. Savor the healthy taste of Japan!

Dengaku *Dengaku* is a traditional Japanese dish. *Tofu* and other ingredients are skewered onto bamboo sticks, topped with miso, and grilled over a charcoal fire. It is well worth trying!



Aso no Himatsuri *Aso no Himatsuri*, or the Aso Fire Festival, announces the advent of spring in the Aso area. A definite must-see is the Chinese character "火(fire)" flaming upon the mountains at night.

***Kagura* Dance** This dramatic dance performance, based on a Japanese myth, is designated as a National Intangible Cultural Asset.



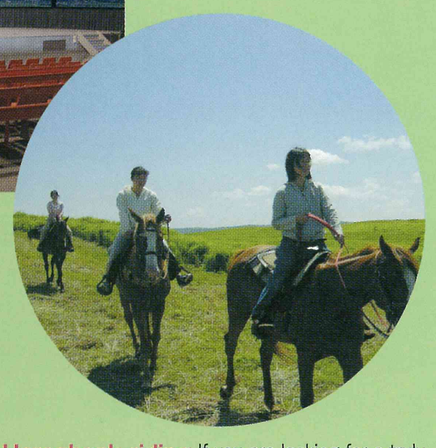
Hot Springs Thanks to volcanic activity, Aso is blessed with high-quality hot springs. *Ryokan* (Japanese-style inns) with open air baths, *minshuku* (private guesthouses providing accommodation and meals), and many other hot spring facilities for day travelers are ready to offer you their services.

Youth Hostel Aso Youth Hostel offers you accommodation at a very reasonable price. Equipped with kitchen and laundry facilities, it is highly popular with foreign travelers. (20-minute walk from JR Aso Station.)

Enjoyable activities in Aso!

Cycling Rent a bicycle in front of Aso Station and go cycling in nature.

Aso Volcano Museum Learn about Mount Aso and other volcanoes in the world. The monitor provides real-time pictures of the crater at Mount Nakadake, while the diorama shows the evolution of Mount Aso. This museum allows you to see the crater even during times when no one can enter the crater area. (Approximately 35 minutes by bus from JR Aso Station.)



Horseback riding If you are looking for a truly memorable activity during your stay in Aso, horseback riding is the one to have. Enjoy pleasant riding on the spacious grasslands of Aso.