

neo/so_

The Aso Grasslands are a gift from our ancestors

Grasslands are integral to the landscape of Aso. While they may look like they developed naturally, Aso's grasslands actually exist thanks to centuries of maintenance by the locals. The result is a diverse grassland ecosystem and rich landscape. Without the help of the locals, these "artificial" grasslands of Aso would revert into scrubland and forests. Aso's 2,200 hectares of grassland are Japan's largest and they represent a culture where people live in harmony with nature.

Q1
Why are Aso's grasslands important?

A1. They are a habitat for many living things.

There are about 600 plant species found in the grasslands of Aso, some of which are very rare. The region is home to all kinds of wildlife, birds, and insects. So many butterflies live here that Aso is known as a butterfly paradise!

A2. They absorb carbon dioxide.

By fixing carbon in the soil as ash and through root growth, grassland soils actually absorb more carbon dioxide into the ground than what is released into the atmosphere by controlled burns. This in turn helps prevent global warming.



A3. They help retain water.

Grasslands allow less water to evaporate and store more water underground than forests. The groundwater that originates in Aso's grasslands feeds six rivers, including the Shirakawa and Chikugo Rivers, in turn providing water for Fukuoka City, Kumamoto City, and other population centers.



A4. Grass is used as a resource.

Grass from the grasslands is used as fodder for cattle and horses. It is also a high-quality building material and is used throughout Japan to make thatched roofs for historical buildings.



Aso's sustainable agriculture involves a cycle of controlled burns, grazing by cattle and horses, and grass harvesting. This cycle earned Aso its designation as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System.

How are the grasslands maintained?

A. By human hands.

Through repeated cycles of controlled burns, cattle and horse grazing, and grass harvesting, Aso's grasslands have been protected by human hands for over 1,000 years. Noyaki (controlled burns) prevent the grasslands from turning into woodland and help eliminate pests that harm crops and animals. Noyaki require many people to be

effective, but fewer farmers and an aging population have made it difficult for noyaki to be carried out in full. We need the understanding and support of many in order for the grasslands to survive.





 $\it Haru$ gentian blooming in a meadow



Aso: A holy place where Shinto and Buddhism coexist

The Aso Nakadake Crater attracts tourists from all over the world. Aso's frequent eruptions earned it reverence as a god of nature. Since ancient times, Aso Shrine has worshiped the crater as the embodiment of Takeiwatatsu-no-Mikoto, the god who created Aso. Buddhism also has religious links to Aso, as the crater was worshiped as the eleven-faced Kannon Bosatsu (an incarnation of Takeiwatatsu-no-Mikoto). According to one theory, the area around the crater became a sacred site starting in 8th century and flourished as a major center of mountain Buddhism, with 37 monasteries and 51 hermitages built as bases for monks and mountain priests. The coexistence of Shinto and Buddhism continues to this day, as do prayers for the volcano to remain calm.



Aso Shrine is the head shrine for about 500 other shrines throughout Japan





Province (modern-day Kumamoto). It combines Shinto religion with the ancient belief in the volcano itself as a deity. The shrine worships a family of 12 deities, including Takeiwatatsu-no-Mikoto, grandson of Emperor Jinmu and the founder of the Aso region. The shrine dates back approximately 2,300 years, with its history passed down through 93 generations of the Aso family.

Restoring one of Japan's Greatest Tower Gates

Aso Shrine was severely damaged by the Kumamoto Earthquakes of 2016. Its worship hall and other buildings were rebuilt in 2021. The remaining major restoration work, the Tower Gate was completed in December, 2023.

Mt. Aso Hondo Saigandenji Okunoin

Saigandenji Temple stands atop Mt. Aso, adjacent to Aso Sanjo Shrine. Buddha and the gods of Japan protect Mt. Aso's summit





The reconstructed main hall of



The spectacular scenery of Aso's Summit: Nakadake Crater, Kusasenri & Sunasenri



The Aso Park Toll Road offers easy access to the crater by car.



Horseback rides on Kusasenri



Sunasenri is a desolate, sandy expanse covered with volcanic ash.

Nakadake Crater and Kusasenri are Aso's most recognizable symbols, and nearby Sunasenri has a landscape that looks like something from Mars. These three major sightseeing spots boast spectacular scenery and are close to one another, making it easy to visit all three in one go. They also offer unique perspectives on Aso's 600-meter-wide active volcanic

Visiting the Aso Nakadake Crater and Sunasenrigahama

Aso Park toll road hours:

Aso Sanjo Plaza

3/20-10/31: 8:30-18:00 (gate closes at 17:30) 11/1-11/30: 8:30-17:30 (gate closes at 17:00) 12/1-3/19 9:00-17:00 (gate closes at 16:30) Open year-round. Entry restrictions may apply due to volcanic activity.

Motorcycle: 400 yen, Standard vehicle: 1,000 yen, Minibus: 2,800 yen, Mid-size bus: 3,300 yen

Parking Lot

Address: 808 Kurokawa, Aso City Parking: Yes Kusasenrigahama (Aso Volcano Museum, Aso Visitor Center)

Address: Kusasenrigahama, Aso City Parking: Yes (Motorcycle: ¥200 yen, Passenger vehicle: ¥500, Bus: ¥2,000 (These rates allow one use of both parking lots on the same day.)

For information on conditions for visiting the crater, check here ▶



Hifuri Shinji & Onda Matsuri: Local Tradition Thrives in Aso

Aso's Agricultural Rituals: A National Important **Intangible Folk Cultural Asset**

Hifuri-shinji (fire-waving ritual) is held in mid-March to pray for a bountiful harvest in Aso. The farm god marries his bride as part of the mystical Goze Mukae ceremony where, in order to welcome the gods, bundles of thatch are lit on fire and swung around on ropes.

The Onda Matsuri is a festival where the 12 deities enshrined at Aso Shrine are transported on four portable shrines to visit the green rice fields around the shrine to observe how the crops are growing.

The Tanomi Matsuri is an event held at harvest time in which the first harvest rice is offered to the gods out of thanks for the year's bounty. The locals of Aso pass down these Shinto agricultural rituals and events from generation





- ▲Onda Matsuri. The gods are accompanied by a procession of about 200 p
- ◀The Hifuri Shinji ritual is spectacular, with overlapping rings of whirling fire



The breathtaking, endlessly smoking Aso Volcano. Climbing

the mountain to the crater is

religious worship.

called miike-mairi and is a type of





See the sights in Monzen machi & Uchino maki

Uchinomaki

Area



Visit the fountains at the foot of Mt. Aso

Monzenmachi

The Monzenmachi Shopping Street extends from the approach to Aso Shrine. Thirty-six spring water fountains called mizuki are scattered throughout the nearby neighborhood and are great when you need a quick drink of water. Various stores, cafes, and souvenir shops in the area make for an enjoyable day out.

Tanbaya



This stationery store was established in 1913. Inside you'll find *omikuji* (fortunes) that consist of a tenugui (hand towel) that, when dipped in water, reveals your fate!

Address: 1857-1 Miyaji, Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City Tel: 0967-22-0115 Hours: 8:00-18:00 (9:00-18:00 on Sat, Sun, holidays) Closed: Irregular closing days







Aso Ichinomiya Line Torimiya Tanbaya

Parking for Visitors to Aso Shrine

B ASO SPICE Masala Kitchen

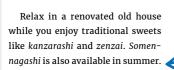
←Kumamoto City Route 57

JR Hohi Main Line

Miyaji Station

Kanzarashi Yui A perfect dessert spot!





Address: 3204 Miyaji, Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City Tel: 0967-22-5488 Hours: 10:00-Last order: 17:00 Closed: Wed

ASO SPICE Masala Kitchen



Masala kitchen is a curry restaurant that features Aso vegetables, signature Akaushi Wagyu beef, and wild game meat. Enjoy the changes in taste and aroma by mixing the curry with various toppings.



Address: 1869-2-101, Miyaji, Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City Tel: 050-1807-1921 Hours: 11:00-15:00, 17:00-20:00

Closed: Wed

Visit the Former Women's Dressmaking School

The Former Women's Dressmaking School is located about five minutes' walk from Aso Shrine past Monzenmachi Shopping Street.

The former school is home to a number of places to shop and eat including Kanzarashi Yui. This retro spot is a great place to enjoy some light shopping and a tasty lunch.



Aso Torimiya



Address: 3092-2 Miyaji, Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City Tel: 0967-22-0357 Hours: 9:00 - 18:00 (fried food from 10:00) Closed: Wed









Meshi no Yamaichi Chirorin-mura Kho Handmade Goods C •Aso Post Office Miyuki Kurokawa River E Yuraku

Patisserie d'Aso Miyuki



Onsen

Uchinomaki

Spend the day in a retro onsen town

Miyuki offers a variety of cakes made with fresh milk, eggs, and seasonal fruits, including the famous Kakasaka Chocolat, recipient of a Superior Taste Award! Miyuki also offers gelato in the summer.



est cakes in town

Address: 224 Uchinomaki, Aso City Tel: 0967-32-0153 Hours: 10:00-18:00 Closed: Tue



Uchinomaki Onsen is dotted with inns and hotels and dates back over 120 years. The area is a base for sightseeing, with plenty of restaurants, sweets shops, and boutiques nearby. A visit to one of the machiyu public bath houses is a must!

Meshi no Yamaichi



First, let's eat!

akaushi wagyu steak bowl topped with sweet garlic soy sauce is to die Address: 235 Uchinomaki, Aso City

This restaurant is owned by

specializing in Aso Takana. The

Yamaichi Shokuhin, a pickle shop

Tel: 0967-32-2511 Hours: 11:00 - 16:00 Closed: Irregular closing days

Kho Handmade Goods





Address: 364-2 Uchinomaki, Aso City Tel: 050-3698-0967 Hours: 10:00-16:00 Closed: Tue, Wed



Chirorin-mura Take a step back in time



reservations required for Showa-kan

Address: 253 Uchinomaki, Aso City Tel: 0967-32-0044 Hours: 11:00-18:00 (10:00 on Sun, holidays) Closed: Wed (open if Wed is a holiday),



Yuraku Uchinomaki Onsen



Find your favorite

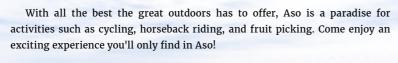
This day onsen opened in October 2020 and is known for its green-tinted, milky hot spring waters. Admission is ¥400 (¥500 yen with nano mist sauna) and ¥1,500 for a private bath (50 minutes).



Address: 1126-1 Uchinomaki, Aso City Tel: 0967-24-6090 Hours: 13:00-22:00 Closed: Tue

Adventure to the max!

Aso: Heaven for Lovers of the **Outdoors**





Experience Aso on horseback!

Horseback Riding

Green Valley is located at an altitude of 850m on Aso's northern outer mountain ring and offers panoramic views of Mount Aso and the Kuju Mountain Range. The entire ranch covers 1.5 square kilometers and visitors can enjoy 360-degree panoramic views of the Aso grasslands, mountains, and valleys on horseback. Horse trekking is also available for riders who have completed training. Come enjoy a ride through grasslands that stretch as far as the eye can see.



Gaze upon the traces of ancient eruptions and feel the power of the Earth

Volcano Trekking

Trek through wide grasslands and feel the power of Mt. Aso. Hike along the dormant crater rim of Kishimadake while enjoying views from above of the dormant craters of Kusasenri and Furunomike. This point offers panoramic views of the highly active Nakadake crater and Takadake (Aso's highest peak) to the east, Mt. Unzen far to the west, and Daikanbo and the Kuju Mountain Range to the north.



Aso Be Tai

Green Valley

Animal Theme Park & Scenic Helicopter Rides

Take in the beauty of Aso from the sky

The sights around Komezuka and the crater are unbelievable!



Totally adorable animals!

Popular attractions include a "petting zone" where visitors can play with dogs,cats, alpacas and capybaras. You can also cuddle a baby bear, which can only be experienced here in Kyushu.

Cuddly Dominion spans about 300,000 sq.meters where you can meet bears and various animals (400 of 60 species from around the world.) Helicopter tours are available in five different courses, offering a panoramic view of beautiful Aso in each of the four seasons. To get a ride, please register at the helicopter boarding area (no reservation required, Cuddly Dominion admission is required).





Feel the exhilarating wind in your face as you race downhill!

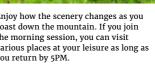
Panorama Cycling

The tour starts near picturesque Komezuka and is all downhill, making it an easy ride for anyone. On the way down, you'll see plenty of great Aso scenery while passing by grazing cattle and horses. Your 700m descent to the base of the mountain offers relaxing views of the bucolic Aso countryside. Be sure to stop frequently along the way and take plenty of



CLAMP

Enjoy how the scenery changes as you the morning session, you can visit various places at your leisure as long as you return by 5PM.



Even more activities!

Get activity information here!

Paragliding /

Aso's grandeur!

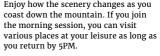
Airsoft /

Zipang

Aso Nature Land

A one-of-a-kind bird's-eye view of

Address: 1092-1 Uchinomaki Phone: 0967-32-4196





Fruit Picking

Pick delicious fruit while enjoying fantastic views of Mt. Aso. Couples grows its apples and strawberries without the use of pesticides. Fresh strawberries are in season from December to May; crisp apples from September to November, and plump, sweet grapes are available in September. Strawberry soft serve ice cream and gelato



are also popular.



An outdoor resort nestled in majestic Aso

Couples Fruit Country

Glandome

With a vast site almost a square kilometer in size, this resort offers three types of accommodations, a BBQ area, a golf course, and plenty of stuff to do during your stay. The large glamping domes are designed in Scandinavian style and furnished with a special attention to detail.



Kosugi Resort



Camping /

Gotanbatake Campground Enjoy camping at the base of Mt. Aso.

Test your mettle on a battleground

Address: 832 Shochino, Namino, Aso City Tel: 090-1876-2947

spanning 20 hectares.

Phone: 070-3967-3021

Address: 1492-1 Kurabaru,





Relax to your core in warm flowing waters

Located in the Kosugi Resort, this private bath facility features free-flowing spring baths that are popular with all ages. Choose from 15 different rooms, including a Japanese-style bath with tatami mats, a bath with a slide, and special rooms (reservations

required) with hot stone spa capsules and a private lounge. There

Hours: 11:00-25:00 (9:30-23:00 on Sun and holidays)

Price: Private baths from 2,000 yen Open year-round

are also special lunch plans that include bath admission and a

(Reception closes 1 hour prior to end time)

Address: 2052-3 Otohime, Aso City

Tel: 0967-32-5526

Refreshing lemonade and rich soft serve

made with Oguni Jersey milk are a hit!

Tel: 090-2969-1990

Hours: 10:00 - 17:00

Enjoy the magnificent view and

100% natural hot spring water, along

with the large bathhouse featuring

cave hot bath and open-air hot bath

Tel: 0967-32-0615

Address: 1095-1 Uchinomaki, Aso City

Closed: Irregular closing days

Hours: 15:00-22:00 (last admission 21:00)

3-6 years old) [Private bath]2,500 yen/60 min.

Prices: [Public bath] 500 yen (300 yen for children of

relax in the six private baths with

Address: 1284-2 Nagakusa, Aso

Closed: Irregular closing days

(Closed during winter season)

Address: 365 Uchinomaki, Aso City Tel: 0967-32-0041 Hours: 10:00-19:00 Closed: Wed



Natural hot springs are the best healing

Yume no Yu - Aso Bochu Onsen

This municipal onsen was built using local lumber. The character-

Address: 1538-3 Kurokawa, Aso City Tel: 0967-35-5777 Hours: 10:00-22:00 (last entry 21:30) Price: ¥400 (elementary school students ¥200)

istic brown-tinged color of this iron sulfate spring leaves you feeling warm and toasty after your bath. Feel the freedom of bathing outdoors in the roofed outdoor baths! The large public bath also features an infrared sauna and cold water bath. Relax in the tatami-floored rest area after your soak. Free footbaths are also available.

Closed: P1st and 3rd Mondays (or next day if holiday)

Aso City boasts plenty of hot spring area known your heart's consent in

high quality hot springs, centering on Uchinomaki, a as a favorite to many great writers. Heal yourself to the natural hot springs around Mt. Aso.

Yurayura

natural food buffet.

City

Hotel Kadoman

A moisturizing dip in a bath cures all

Aso Plaza Hotel

A staple of Uchinomaki Onsen established over half a century ago, the baths at Aso Plaza Hotel feature spring water that bubbles up from two springs on-site and offer great views of the Five Peaks of Aso. The Hobo no Yu on

the 2nd floor of the annex is open to non-overnight guests. The spring is a mildly radioactive (sodium/calcium) sulfate spring that supposedly cures all ills. A relaxing soak in the hot spring will heal both body and soul.



Address: 1287 Uchinomaki, Aso City Tel: 0967-32-0711 Hours: 13:00 - last entry 16:00 Fee: Public bath ¥1,000 (¥1,000 for elementary school students, free for younger children) Closed: Mon through Fri (only available on Sat, Sun, holidays)

This ryokan offers magnificent views of the foothills of the Five Peaks of Aso. Equipped with open-air baths, large public baths, sleeping baths, and barrier-free baths, visitors can fully enjoy all the benefits natural spring

Address: 625-1 Kurabaru, Aso City

Address: 5936 Miyaji, Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City

Hours: 11:00 - 21:00 (last entry 20:00) Prices: Public bath ¥700 (¥300 for elementary school



Based around the concept of univer-

Hotel Aso no Tsukasa

sal design, this onsen hotel features public and private baths with outdoor bathing areas. There are also wheelchair-accessible private baths, making it a space where all can feel at home.

Address: 1230 Kurokawa, Aso City Tel: 0967-34-0811

Prices: Public bath: ¥700 (¥350 for ages 3 and up),

Private bath ¥2,000 + ¥700 (¥350 for ages 3 and up)

Hours: 15:00 - 24:00 (last entry 23:30)

(reservations required) Open year-round



Daikanso

This onsen ryokan is supposedly the oldest in Uchinomaki Onsen. The spacious public bath is a natural hot spring and its gypsum/ mirabilite-containing waters are said to be effective for ailments like rheumatism and nerve pain.



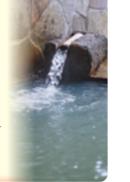
Address: 246 Uchinomaki, Aso City Tel: 0967-32-0999 Hours: 13:00 - 20:00 Closed: Mon Prices: Public bath ¥500 (elementary school students ¥300, younger children free)



Volcanic activity means hot spring activity!

What Makes Aso Onsen Special

Aso is famous for its abundance of high quality hot springs. Uchinomaki Onsen is Aso's most famous hot spring area. The springs of Uchinomaki are high in iron, help moisturize your skin, and are known for their beautifying properties. Bathers love how Uchinomaki water leaves their skin feeling soft and supple. Make sure to visit one of the machiyu public baths frequented by the locals. These steaming waters that bubble up from the foothills of Aso are sure to cleanse both mind and body.



Kamenoi Hotel Aso

water brings.



luxuriously chocolatey crepe

plus a drink for ¥1,100

Tel: 0967-34-0087

Hours: 11:30-16:00

students) Open year-round

M Yumeoisou

Address: 1126-1 Uchinomaki, Aso City

Address: 264 Uchinomaki, Aso City

Prices: Adult ¥350, Child ¥200 yen

Sogaku Hotel

2: 0967-32-1151

Hours: 14:00-23:00

Prihate bath: ¥1,100 and un/40min

Hours: 13:00-22:00 Fee: Adult ¥100, Child ¥50

This ryokan features two different types of spring water. There is plenty to enjoy, from indoor baths at two different temperatures, to outdoor baths with milky white water and two hot spring sources, plus five different private baths.



WKintoki

Irifune

Address: 834-2 Ozato, Aso City Tel: 0967-32-0781 Hours: 13:00 - 21:00 (reception closes at 20:00) Prices: Public bath ¥600 (3 years old - elementary school ¥350), Private bath ¥1,500 and up. Closed: Wed, one other day each month



Check these out, too! More Onsen Spots in Aso City

Yuraku Uchinomaki Onsen

2: 0967-24-6090 Hours: 13:00-22:00 Prices: Adult ¥400, Child ¥200, Private baths from ¥1.500

Shichifuku Onsen Address: 1132 Uchinomaki, Aso City

Address: 385-1, Uchinomaki, Aso City

Prices: Public bath: Adult ¥600, Child ¥300

2: 0967-32-0622

Hours: 6:00-25:00

Unkai Yakushi Onsen M Takarayu Address: 186-1 Uchinomaki, Aso City

Address: 39 Uchinomaki, Aso City ☎: 0967-32-0116 Hours: 10:00-21:00 Prices: Adult ¥300 . Elementary school students and under ¥100

5: 0967-32-1563 Hours: 10:00 - 21:30 Prices: Adult ¥400, Children between age 3-12 ¥200

Address: 1131 Uchinomaki, Aso City **2**: 0967-32-0038 Hours: 13:00-20:00 Prices: Adult ¥500 ven. Child ¥300

Solution Solution

Address: 135 Uchinomaki, Aso City **2**: 0967-32-0157 Open: 7:30 - 21:00 Prices: Adult ¥200, Child ¥100

Shikisai Landscapes of the Four Geasons

From colorful flowers, to green meadows, blankets of silvery grass, and a fantastic world of ice, Aso shows many faces throughout the year, each with different colors to enjoy.

> Komezuka Komezuka is about 80 meters high and looks like an upturned rice bowl. Its unique shape was likely formed in an eruption about 3,300 years ago. The slopes are covered with young grasslands that are a vibrant green in

spring and summer.



Grasslands Human hands have maintained the grasslands of Aso for centuries. Kusasenri is just a small part of the entirety of Aso's grasslands, which give the region a unique landscape and act as a habitat for Aso's

diverse flora and fauna

Sensuikyo

About 50,000 miyama-kirishima nododendrons grow wild in this valley. The best time to see the flowers is from mid-May when they are in full bloom and cover the mountainsides in pink. The paths are well-maintained and crowded with tourists during the blooming season.

summer



Noyaki (controlled burns) Season: Late February to March

Noyaki is done throughout the Aso foothills and outer mountain ring.



Cherry blossoms at Aso Shrine, Azaleas at Chojugaoka Park

> Season: Aso Shrine: late March - early April, Chojugaoka Park: late April - early May

> > March



Miyama-kirishima at Sensuikyo and Takadake

Season: Sensuikyo area: early to mid May, Mt. Aso: late May to early June, Takadake: early to mid June



May

Nakae Iwato Kagura and Children's Kagura are performed at Nakae Kaguraden. (Free entry)

Hana Aso Bi

Lilies of the Valley

in Namino

Season: Mid May

Pretty white lilies

of the valley bloom

in the highlands of

June

Namino

Spring Rose Festival Season: Mid-May to mid-June



Namino Plateau Noryo Matsuri

Date: August 15

The festival is held at Kaguraen at Namino Roadside Station, The festivities also include

Oaso Hinoyama

August

Summer festival held in stalls and fireworks.

September

Season: Mid- to late

Flowers in Namino Hana Aso Bi Autumn Rose buckwheat fields

October

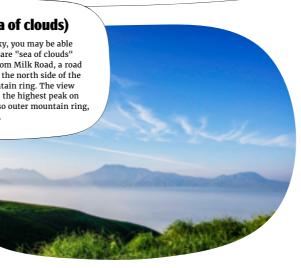
Season: Hana Aso Bi: Mid October to mid November. Aso Panorama Line: early October to late November



This is the site of a mansion where the ruling Hosokawa clan rested on trips to the capital. The garden viewed from the approach to Hayataka Tenmangu Shrine and the autumn leaves reflected in the pond next to the temple are one of Aso's top

Unkai (sea of clouds)

If you're lucky, you may be able to observe the rare "sea of clouds" phenomenon from Milk Road, a road that runs along the north side of the Aso outer mountain ring. The view from Daikanbo, the highest peak on the northern Aso outer mountain ring. is breathtaking.





Dates: July 26 at Kokuzo Shrine, July 28 at Aso

This event prays for a good harvest and honors the gods of Aso for making the land arable and prosperous

Oaso Genki Walk

Aso Panorama Line There are three routes to the 1150-meter-high Sanjo Plaza at Aso's summit: the northern Bochu Line, the Shimono Line to the west, and the Yoshida Line to the south. These roads lead to the Nakadake crater of Mt. Aso, which is surrounded by wispy pampas grass

in the fall.

autumn

Dates: First Saturday and Sunday in September

Experience the people nature, and townscape in the green and vibrant village performed on the 25th of the Fire God

 Tanomi Matsuri
 Kagura Festival (Aso Shrine)

Date: September 25

Thanksgiving festival for rice harvest. Yabusame (horseback archery) is

Date: First Saturday in

November

Koga Falls This waterfall consists of Otoko Falls (height: about 80 meters) and Onna Falls (height: about 100 meters). At the coldest parts of the year, the frigid winds from the Aso Valley freeze the falls, creating beautiful, delicate ice sculptures along the exposed

neafsa

winter

About 10 groups from around Japan perform regional kagura together at Kaguraen at the Namino

rock face.

October

January

Koga Falls illumination

Dates: Every Sat night

from the 2nd Sat in Janu-

ary to the end of February

Koga Falls freezes over in

February

Hifuri Shinji (Aso Shrine)

Date: The day of the monkey between the first day of the rabbit in March and

the day of the boar

This is the wedding date of the gods. Bundles of thatch are lit on fire and spun in circles to welcome the goddess.

Haru gentian and kisumire violets in Aso grasslands

April

Season: Spring gentian: early April to early May, Kisumire violets: early April to late April

Nakae Iwato Kagura Performances

Dates: First Sunday of month from April to November (except October)

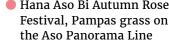
July

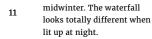
Matsuri

Date: Around August 20

Uchinomaki with many food







every year



A famous Aso dish that is simple yet addictively delicious!

Sanzoku Tabiji Bochu

This meal includes takana rice $^{\mathrm{Aso\,City}}$ made with homemade pickled takana
Tel: 0967-34-2011
Hours: 11:00 - 15:00 last greens and sesame seeds, and dagojiru, a miso-based soup packed with Closed: Wed vegetables. Items are also available a (or next day if la carte, allowing you to fully enjoy all holiday) the flavors and aromas of Aso.



Himeii

In addition to the combo meal of takana meshi made with housegrown Koshihikari rice and dagojiru made with flavorful vegetables and savory soup and dumplings, other sampler meals and the stewed horumon meal are popular.

Address: 1732-1 Otohime Tel: 0967-32-4252 Hours: 11:00-15:30 (last when out of



Yamaiori

The light-tasting homemade pickled takana and dagojiru are the must-tries. You can relax and spend comfortable time at the restaurant with an old folk house style décor. The speciality menu, daoke udon is also popular.

Address: 1344-6, Namino shochino. Aso City Tel: 0067-22-1488 Hours: 11:00-15:00 Closed: Tue.

Nagomino Sakanashi

The restaurant is decorated like an old home and serves dagojiru, a hearty soup filled with vegetables from the restaurant's own garden. The dumplings are known for their pleasantly chewy texture. The takana meshi, made with homemade pickled takana greens, is also popular.

Namino Soba

Address: 569-7 Sakanashi,

Asoii Matoishi

Located along Route 57, this restaurant is oppular for its takana meshi and dagojiru. The takana pickles are furuzuke style, which are made by pickling takana greens and letting and effort put into the takana is what makes it taste so good. It goes perfectly with dagojiru, a Chinese cabbage, carrots, and other vegetable

make you feel at home

Rustic Aso cuisine that will

Takana Meshi

& Dagojiru

Address: 1476-1 Matoishi, Tel: 0967-35-0924 Hours: 11:00

Aso Hanabishi

This restaurant is located near Aso Shrine. The akaushi-don comes topped with an onsen tamago and comes with soup and housemade pickles. The Akaushi Aburi Gyukatsu-ju is also Closed: Tue popular, featuring a healthy lean beef cutlet fried to perfection.

Gotoya uses secret dashi soy sauce and

Akaushi meat miso, made with Maboroshi no

Miso from the long-established soy sauce maker

Yamauchi Honten. Don't miss the akaushi-don.

a fusion of healthy akaushi beef and traditional

Address: 1861 Mivaii. Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City

Address: 3075-1 Mivaii.

order 15:30) Closes early

Tel: 0967-22-5080

Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City



Iwasaki

Offering rare akaushi wagyu beef on a bed of rice topped with an onsen tamago (soft-boiled egg). Enjoy it a few different ways: first as-is, Closes when out of stock then with some of our original meat miso made in Closed: Fri, collaboration with Hamada Soy Sauce, then with $\,$ $\,^{2nd\;Thu}$ wasabi and the egg mixed in.

Aso City Tel: 0967-32-2677 Hours: 11:00-14:30

This restaurant has been loved by locals for over 70 years and is a great cozy spot to enjoy a meal. The akaushi wagyu cooked rare on a bed of lettuce matches perfectly with Yayoi's homemade special sauce. The meal includes miso soup and

Address: 3079 Miyaji, Hours: 11:00 - 21:00



Yoka Yoka Tei - Sakanashi

Sakanashi Honten

Gotoya

flavor.

Yoka Yoka Tei offers Koseigyu beef, a prized brand of akaushi wagyu carefully raised Yoka Yoka Tei's own ranch. Koseigvu beef is elegant, mellow, and deliciously tender. The akaushi rice bowl comes with an onsen tamago (soft-boiled egg).

Address: 1400-1 Sakanashi Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City Tel: 0967-22-0917 Hours: 11:00-20:00



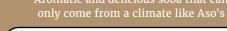
Aso Calendrier

An eight-course Kaiseki Akaushi-don meal is available at this restaurant on the first floor of Open: Sat, Sun, Mon Hotel Sun Crown Oaso. The Akaushi Koharuni-don can be enjoyed three different ways (with sauce, with broth, etc.).

Address: 4518-4 Mivaii. Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City Tel: 0967-22-4823 Hours: 11:30-14:30



Namino Soba: Made with buckwheat grown in the Aso highlands with pure water



Iwatobiraki

Namino

on flavored with delicious broth are also available

Address: 1602 Shochino, Namino, Aso City Tel: 0967-24-2331

Hours: Market 8:00-18:00, Restaurant 11:00-15:30 (last order 15:00) Closed: 2nd Wed (except in May



Ubuan

The store is run by Shiga Shokuhin, which makes and sells homemade pickles. The soba restaurant serves Kurumi Soba, a style of soba noodles made with walnut paste served in a rich, savory broth.

Sakanashi, Ichinomiya-machi. Aso City Tel: 0967-22-0515

Hours: 11:00-16:00 (last order 15:30; pickle shop open 9:00-17:00) Closed: Tue (open if holiday): closed on one Wed a month

Address: 1435-1

se inquire each business about the latest hours and fees, as they are subject to change.

In addition to local cuisine, you'll find bread, fried food, izakaya, cafes, and much more! Here are some more gourmet foods unique to Aso.





Bread



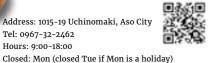
Karaage

Bakery Genki



Bakery Genki offers a wide variety of breads, from standards like shokupan and baguettes to fruit-filled danishes and stuffed breads. The café space in the back offers a panoramic view of majestic

Address: 1015-19 Uchinomaki, Aso City Tel: 0967-32-2462 Hours: 9:00-18:00



Richmond



Located near JR Miyaji Station and popular with all ages for its hamburgers and pizza toast and sweeter options like French toast and cupcakes.

Address: 7717-1 Mivaii. Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City Tel: 0967-22-3849 Hours: 7:00-19:00 Closed: Sun

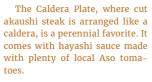






Izakaya

Makanaiya Matsu



has a distinctly retro atmosphere where you'll find old-fashioned

dishes like choboyaki, ham

cutlets, and neapolitan. They

also offer ramen as a tasty way

to end to your meal.

Address: 2311-5 Miyaji, Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City Tel: 0967-22-1188

Hours: 11:00-15:00 last order (last order at 14:00 on Mon), 17:30-20:00 last order

Closed: 1st Mon and Tue *Open only for lunch on Mondays



Murakami Shoten The interior of the restaurant



Address: 217 Uchinomaki, Aso City Tel: 090-7472-8916 Hours: 18:30-22:30 Closed: Wed



唐揚げ

Yoshida Karaage



Offering karaage, potato tempura, eggplant tempura, and more. The karaage is perfectly crispy with just the right amount of salt!

Address: 1246-43 Miyaji, Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City Tel: 0967-22-1217 Hours: 10:30-18:00 Closed: Thu





Juicy karaage made with young herb chicken. The karaage are fried-to-order and come in a choice of fried with panko or potato starch.

Address: 216-3 Otohime, Aso City





Morimoto Kashiwa



The crispy garlic-soy sauce flavor breaded karaage are popular. Choose from either bone-in or boneless.

Address: 11-1 Uchinomaki, Aso City Tel: 0967-32-1181 Hours: 9:00-17:00 Closed: Irregular closing days





Cafes

Tien Tien

Features great menu items like Curry with Coarse Minced Akaushi Beef with Seasonal Steamed Vegetables and Grilled Akaushi Beef Salad Bowl. Accessories and boutique items are also available.

Address: 3204 Miyaji, Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City Tel: 080-6406-8133 Hours: 11:30-17:00 Closed: Wed and Thu



Kusasenri Coffee Roastery

This café overlooks Kusasenri, one of Aso's most popular tourist attractions, and offers pour over coffee, lattes, and cappuccinos.

Address: 2391-15 Nagakusa, Aso City Tel: 080-3519-5151 Hours: 10:00 - 17:30 (last order: 17:00) (Subject to change depending on season and weather) Closed: Irregular closing days



List of Hotels, Ryokan, and **Guest Houses**

Name	Phone	Address	Rooms
Asonoshiki	0967-22-3618	3030-2 Sakanashi, Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City	8
Aso no Tsukasa Villa Park Hotel & Spa Resort	0967-34-0811	123 Kurokawa, Aso City	219
Asonoyu	0967-32-1521	6 Ozato, Aso City	11
Aso Plaza Hotel	0967-32-0711	1287 Uchinomaki, Aso City	95
Aso Resort Graandvrio Hotel	0967-35-2111	1600-3 Akamizu, Aso City	180
Aso Hakuun Sansou	0967-35-0111	7-1 Muta, Aso City	66
Aso Hotel 1-Bankan, 2-Bankan	0967-32-0008	99 Uchinomaki, Aso City	99
Arumu no Mori	0967-32-4500	2083-115 Otohime, Aso City	5
Irifune	0967-32-0781	834-2 Ozato, Aso City	7
Windy Umbrella	0967-32-3951	2132-102 Otohime, Aso City	4
Ogasawara	0967-34-2000	2323 Kurokawa, Aso City	16
Kakashi no Kakureya	0967-32-4111	2083-111 Otohime, Aso City	5
Kamenoi Hotel Aso	0967-22-1122	5936 Miyaji, Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City	66
Kintoki	0967-32-0038	1131 Uchinomiya, Aso City	32
Gogaku Hotel	0967-32-1151	264 Uchinomiya, Aso City	42
Hotel Crown Oaso	0967-22-3888	4518-4 Miyaji, Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City	15
Syukubo Aso	0967-34-0194	1076 Kurokawa, Aso City	11
Shinwaen	0967-32-0330	1354 Uchinomaki, Aso City	12
Pension Snoopy	0967-32-4123	2070-1 Otohime, Aso City	8
Sozankyo	0967-32-0515	145 Uchinomaki, Aso City	20
Daikanso	0967-32-0999	246 Uchinomaki, Aso City	18
Taizansou	0967-32-0631	1164-2 Uchinomaki, Aso City	13
Tsuruya Ryokan	0967-22-0102	1873 Miyaji, Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City	5
Hokosugi-so	0967-32-0079	415-10 Uchinomaki, Aso City	12
Hotel Kadoman	0967-32-0615	1095-1 Uchinomaki, Aso City	103
Moshimoshi Pierrot	0967-32-4112	2083-112 Otohime, Aso City	5
Yumeoi-sou	0967-32-0622	385-1 Uchinomaki, Aso City	94
Asobei	0967-32-0381	1952-18 Otohime, Aso City	14
Rokugatsu no Kaze	0967-24-6555	1884 Otohime, Aso City	2
Taka no Sho	0967-32-5880	686 Ozato, Aso City	10
El Patio Ranch	0967-22-3861	2305-1 Sanno, Ichinomiya-machi, Aso City	9

Please inquire each business about the latest fees, as they are subject to change.

Here are some special Aso items that you might want to pick up or have delivered home!

Souvenirs from Aso

Aso's finest, world-renowned **Drinkable Yogurt**

Just milk and Sensoto sugar (mildly sweet sugar) slow fermented and aged. The natural taste of the milk really shines through, earning it the highest rank of three stars by the iTQi (International Taste Institute).



Abe Farm



A quality daily drinker Aso Sansou Tea

This caffeine-free mountain herb tea is a blend of 17 different kinds of mountain herbs, centered around Aso corn. Each pack is filled with pesticide- and chemical fertilizer-free wild grasses from Aso.

Aso Yakusoen



So good with rice! Pickled Aso Takana

ASO MILK

This pickled takana is made by hand with local and domestic ingredients using traditional methods. Thanks to Aso's unique climate. Aso Takana develops a crunchy texture and spicy flavor. It makes for tasty takana onigiri or as a snack to enjoy with a drink.

Kenzo (Eto Processed Foods)

05



Gold medal winner in Germany

Bacon, Sausages, Ham

Made with an original blend of spices,

spring water from Aso, and natural salt with

no preservatives or coloring agents. Awarded

gold at the SÜFFA Processed Meat Awards in

Chocolate that erupts like Mt. Aso! Nakadake Chocolat

This fondant chocolat has mochi in it and, when microwaved for about 10 seconds, the surface expands as if it were erupting.

Kashin Nakamura



06

Takana seeds transformed into mustard

Aso Takanade

Aso Takana is a traditional vegetable that grows only in the Aso region. This mustard is made from takana seeds and a traditional mix of rice vinegar and local Amakusa salt. This innovative product is a new way to enjoy takana!

Aso Sato Farm



Hibari Factory



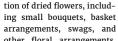
Healthy donuts made with ingredients from Aso

Donuts

Donuts made with local ingredients such as okara from the local Kimura Tofu Shop and milk from Abe Farm. The dough is made without butter and fried in rice oil, giving the donuts a



Marugo Donuts



Artistic dried flowers

Dried flowers are great for

decoration and relaxation

Peony offers a diverse selec-

Floral Swags

tion of dried flowers, includother floral arrangements. Arrangements can be made to order as well.

Station

Tel: 0967-35-5088

Aso Roadside

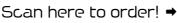
Address: 1440 1 Kurokawa, Aso City

Hours: 9:00-18:00 Open year round



Kaguraen Namino **Roadside Station**

Address: 1620 Shochino, Namino, Aso City Tel: 0967-24-2331 Hours: 10:00-19:00 Closed: 2nd Wed.





An online store where you can order from Aso's famous stores and fine Aso products made according to authentic methods and traditions.



aikanbo

This 936-meter-high overlook lies on the northern outer rim of the Aso Caldera. The view from here is spectacular and the Five Peaks of Aso seen from here supposedly resemble a reclining Buddha. Under the right conditions, you may even see the rare "sea of clouds," where a layer of clouds fills the valley and only the mountain tops are visible. There is also a souvenir store and a restaurant at Daikanbo, and it is a popular spot for star gazing.

Daikanbo

The Five Peaks of Aso resembling a reclining Buddha.

A sea of clouds filling the entire Aso Valley.

Address: Yamada, Aso City (Aso Daikanbo Tea Shop) Hours: 8:30-17:00 Parking: Yes



This spot overlooks Kusasenri, one of the symbols of Aso. The volcanic smoke from the Nakadake crater can be seen from this elevation of 1,100 meters. Many tourists visit with their cameras to capture the stunning scenery. The lush green grassland and ponds formed when it rains are a beautiful sight that should not be missed.

Data Kusasenri Overlook

Address: Nagakusa, Aso City Parking: Yes



A treasure trove

of superb views

Shiroyama Overlook

Kusasenri Overlook



This overlook is located along the Yamanami Highway connecting Ichinomiya-machi, Aso and Yufuin, Oita. Located on the 748-meter-high outer rim of the Aso caldera, it faces the Five Peaks of Aso and overlooks the townscape of Aso below. The sunset here is beautiful and, if you are lucky, early in the morning from spring to autumn you may glimpse the sea of clouds

Shiroyama Overlook

Address: 2351 Mino, Ichinomiya-machi Aso City

Open 24hr Parking: 15 cars



Kabutoiwa Overlook



339 (Milk Road) on the west side of the north outer rim of the caldera. The spot offers panoramic views of the Five Peaks of Aso and the Aso Caldera, and is a good spot to see the sea of clouds in the morning.. There is also a restroom next to the store. making it a convenient stopover on a road trip. The store sells souvenirs and refreshments.

This overlook lies along Route

Kabutoiwa Overlook

Address: Nishikozono, Aso City (Kabutoiwa Overlook Shop) Hours: 9:00-16:30 Parking: 40 cars



Ogidake Overlook

From the overlook at the top of Mt. Ogidake, there is a magnificent 360-degree panoramic view of the Five Peaks of Aso to the west, the Kuiu Mountains to the north, and the mountains of Sobo to the south. The Furusato Nature Trail is easy enough for beginners and is a great hiking spot. Asahi Inari Shrine is located near the summit and is marked by a series of red torii gates.

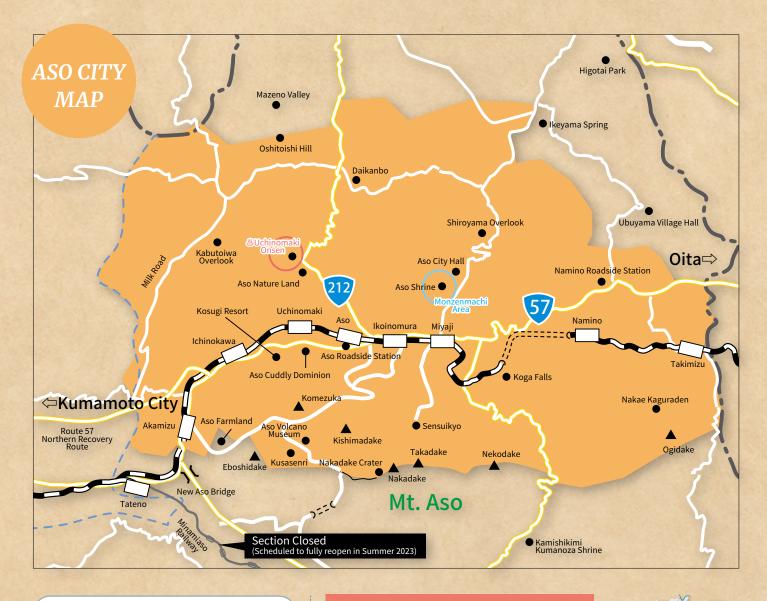


Ogidake Overlook

Address: Nakae, Namino, Aso City Parking: Yes







Getting to Aso

From Kumamoto City



JR Hohi Main Line, Local for Oita

Kumamoto Station - Aso Station (approx. 1hr 40min), Kumamoto Station - Miyaji Station (approx. 1hr 55min)

Train

JR Hohi Main Line, Trans-Kyushu Express Kumamoto Station - Aso Station (approx. 1hr 15min), Kumamoto Station - Miyaji Station (approx. 1hr 25min)



Kyushu Sanko:

Yamabiko Limited Express (for Oita)

Kumamoto Ekimae - Aso Ekimae (approx. 1hr 50min), Kumamoto Ekimae - Miyaji Ekimae (approx. 1hr 55min)

Bus

Kyushu Sanko: Kyushu Odan Bus (for Kurokawa Onsen, Yufuin, Beppu)

Kumamoto Ekimae - Aso Ekimae (approx. 1hr 50min), Kumamoto Ekimae - Uchinomaki (approx. 2hr 10min)

From Fukuoka



For visitors by car

It takes about 1hr 20min from Fukuoka IC to Kumamoto IC. After getting off at the Kumamoto IC, drive north on Route 57 for about 50 minutes to Aso City.

It takes about 50 minutes from Fukuoka IC to Hita IC.
After getting off at the Hita IC, drive south on Route
212 for about 1 hour and 40 minutes to Aso City.



For visitors by train

Take a train on the JR Kagoshima Main Line from Hakata Station to Kumamoto Station. Transfer to the JR Hohi Main Line and get off at Aso Station or Miyaji

From Aso Kumamoto Airport



For visitors by car

Take Route 36/Route 443 north and turn right at Ozu onto Route 57. It takes about 30 minutes to Aso City.



For visitors by bus

From Aso Kumamoto Airport, take the Yamabiko Limited Express (Kyushu Sanko Bus) bound for Oita to Aso Station. Takes about 60 minutes.

■ Times to Aso Kumamoto Airport

· From Haneda Airport

...... about 1hr and 55mi

· From Narita International Airport

....... about 2hr and 10min • From Kansai International Airport

...... about 1hr and 20min

• From Chubu International Airport

...... about 1hr and 25min

>>> For tourism inquiries about Aso



● Aso Information Center TEL.0967-34-1600



● Ichinomiya Information Center TEL.0967-22-8181



● Aso City Tourism Division TEL.0967-22-3174



● Aso Roadside Station (Aso Denen Kukan Museum & General Information Center) TEL. 0967-35-5077











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