

Shikisai Landscapes of the Four Seasons

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.

spring

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 rhododendrons 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

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.

autumn

Autumn leaves at site of Matoseki Teahouse and Hayataka Tenmangu Shrine

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 autumn spots.

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.

winter

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 rock face.

EVENT CALENDAR

● 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



● 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

● Lilies of the Valley in Namino

Season: Mid May

Pretty white lilies of the valley bloom in the highlands of Namino.



● Onda Matsuri
Dates: July 26 at Kokuzo Shrine, July 28 at Aso Shrine

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



● Oaso Genki Walk

Dates: First Saturday and Sunday in September

Experience the people, nature, and townscape in the green and vibrant village of the Fire God.

● Tanomi Matsuri (Aso Shrine)
Date: September 25 and 26

Thanksgiving festival for rice harvest. *Yabusame* (horseback archery) is performed on the 25th.

● Kagura Festival
Date: First Saturday in October

About 10 groups from around Japan perform regional *kagura* together at Kaguraen at the Namino Roadside Station.

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

● Koga Falls illumination

Dates: Every Sat night from the 2nd Sat in January to the end of February every year

Koga Falls freezes over in midwinter. The waterfall looks totally different when lit up at night.



● 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 kikumire violets in Aso grasslands

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

● Nakae Iwato Kagura Performances

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

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

● Hana Aso Bi Spring Rose Festival

Season: Mid-May to mid-June



Free entry

● Namino Plateau Noryo Matsuri

Date: August 15

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

● Oaso Hinoyama Matsuri

Date: Around August 20

Summer festival held in Uchinomaki with many food stalls and fireworks.

● Flowers in Namino buckwheat fields

Season: Mid- to late September



● Hana Aso Bi Autumn Rose Festival, Pampas grass on the Aso Panorama Line

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