Interview with a constructor

---What was the hardest part to restore? A: The heavy rain in 2017 prevented us to restore the trail smoothly. Carrying a lot of materials up the hill was also hard work.

--- How did you carry such a great amount of matreials?

A: We carried them up on our back.

that hiking involves some risk.

---What a labor! Well, would you give some words for the people who hike on this trail? A: Mt.Kuju has various seasonal charms such as Mivamakirishima in early summer and colorful leaves in autumn. I hope they will enjoy hiking with careful preparations and consideration for safety, keeping in mind

We interviewed with a staff of Oita prefectural office in carge of the natur conservation and trails.

...........

04 Circle up the collasped ground



The trail was originally hollowed out and hard to walk on. In 2016, a terrible earthquake did devastating damage to this trail. Thanks to the restoration project, the trail reopened in 2017. The new trail is still as steep as before, but the new stairway makes it much easier to go up the hill!



Mt.Hossho

Mt.Ogigahana Mt.Kuju

P

Route 442

Mt.Tengugajo

05

Shinmeisui

South Trailhead

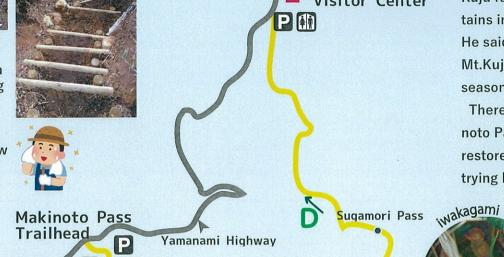
▲ Mt.Inaboshi

Kuju wakare

1786.5m

Akagawa

Trailhead



Mt.Kutsukake

Elevation: 1786.5m

s hike Mt. Kuju!

Hisava Fukada, a novelist and a vice-president of the Japan Alpine Club, described Kuju range as "Kuju Republic, not Kuju Dictatorship" in his book "100 Famous Mountains in Japan". He praised Mt.Kuju for being most dignified among Kuju mountains. He said, "Mt.Kuju perfectly shows the spirit of the head of Kuju mountain family." Mt.Kuju has so many charms in every season that it is hard to decide when the best season to hike is. Therefore, Mt.Kuju always attracts hikers regardless of the season.

There are several routes to hike Mt.Kuju. The most popular one starts from Makinoto Pass trailhead. The shortest one starts from Akagawa trailhead, which has been restored and renewed in 2017. Here, we are introducing Akagawa route. How about trying less popular trail to approach Mt.Kuju?

*Check the trail conditions before you go on our websites!

05 Hike up to the top of Mt.Kuju





▲Miyamakirishima in early June ◀Sign on the top of Mt.Kuju

The trail gets steeper and steeper as you go up... you need to climb up the rocks at some points. In early June, Miyamakirishima along the way will confort your soul. Coming to the joint of Mt. Inaboshi, you will soon reach the top, where smoking Mt.lo and Yufu city can be seen.

① 1 Akagawa Trailhead







Take National Route No. 442 into Akagawa Onsen. Diving 1.5km brings you to Akagawa trailhead, which has a parking lot and a restroom. Do some warm-up exercise and kick off!





▲ a wooden bridge over the stre

a source of hot spring

Read this note carefully for the safety of hiking!

Akagawa route is the shortest to approach Mt.Kuju. It also means that it is steeper than other (The necessary time differs routes. For your safety, remember the notice below.

Post your hiking registoration form!

Each trailhead has a post and registration forms.: Fill in the form and post it. Plan your hiking schedule carefully beforehand, and let your family know your plan.

Make an early starts. !

Start early so as to finish before dark. It is dangerous to start Akagawa in the afternoon. ·Carry rainwear, flashlight, map, food, warm clothing. Prepare for the worst occasion even if the condition of the weather and your body seem to be good.

·Return the trail when too tired!

Give up positively and return the trail when you feel that the trail is much harder or it takes much longer than you thought. The mountains always stay there and wait for you to come back.

Which route to go down?

There are several routes to go down from Mt.Kuju. Make a plan which route to take. depending on the individual.)

Retrace the same course Enjoy the scenery of Aso or Mt.Sobo. Peak→Akagawa Trailhead; 1h30min.

Circle up Mt.Ogigahana toward Akagawa**. Circle up Mt.Ogigahana whose elevation is 1698m. Peak→Mt.Ogigahana→Akagawa Trailhead; 2h20min.

Pass kuju Wakare toward Makinoto Pass Enjoy walking Nishisenrigahama toward Makinoto Pass. Peak→Makinoto Pass; 1h35min.

To Aso, Kumamoto

Pass Sugamori toward Chojabaru Go down the rocky trail toward Chojabaru. Peak→Chojabaru trailhead ;2h20min.

Pass Shimmeisui toward South Trailhead Pass Shinmeisui toward Kuju Flower Park in Kuju Highland. Peak→South Trailhead; 2h40min.

Through a Forest

The first part of Akagawa route is a gentle slope in a forest. Crossing a stream, you will find the source of Akagawa hot sping. The elevation gets higher as you hike through the forest. Many Dodantsutsuii (Enkianthus campanulatus) grow along this trail and you can enjoy the blossoms in early summer. The great columnar joint of Hizengajo can be seen from this trail.

◀Hizengajo seen from the trail