

Are you ready properly for hiking a snowy mountain?

Crampons

Crampons are the metal pins to attach to your boots for walking on snow or ice.



For hiking in Kuju mountains, it is enough to have a pair of light crampons with 4 or 6 pins

Cold Protection

The temperature often gets below zero in Kuju range.

Besides, the strong wind will take your body heat away while hiking along the mountain ridge. Bring clothing with cold protection you can put on and take off easily. Well prepared means no worries.



05 L.Miike

Finally you have made it to the frozen crater lake named Miike! It looks like an ice skate link. Make sure the water is firmly frozen before stepping on it. Mt.Taisen also has a crater lake named "Oike".



a shelter on the way to the peak



People having fun on the frozen lake



Want to see the frozen crater lake, "Miike" ?

Mt. Nakadake

1,791m

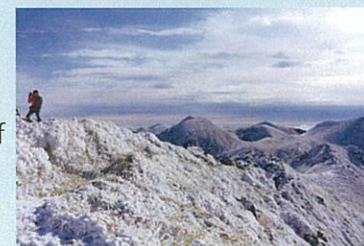
Kuju range has several mountains higher than 1700m. Among them, Mt.Nakadake is the highest one and the highest in mainland Kyushu. There are various routes to access Kuju mountains. The easiest trail for beginners is the one starting from Makinoto Pass trailhead. The first part of it is a steep paved slope. Walking up there for about 30 minutes, the gently-sloping trail starts leading you to the mountain ridge with the beautiful view. It takes about 7 hours with time to spare to go and come back in snow from Makinoto Pass trailhead to Mt.Nakadake.

On the way to Mt.Nakadake, you will be amazed at various shapes of trees covered with silver frost and vivid colors of the blue sky and white snow. Snow may cover up the trail and add the risk of falling down. Refrain from hiking alone. Beginners should go hiking with someone with experience.

03 Mt. Hossho Junction



Mt. lozan seen from Mt. Hossho



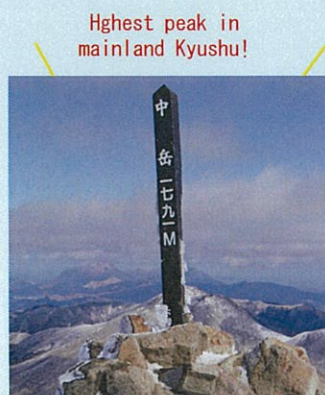
Near the top of Mt. Hossho

06 Mt.Nakadake Top

Hiking for about 3 hours, you will get to the top of Mt.Nakadake. From here you can enjoy the splendid view of Mt.Hiiji, Mt.Taisen, and Bogatsuru marsh. The source of Naruko river can be seen running through Bogatsuru.



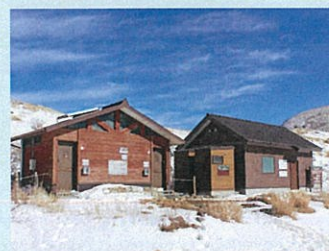
Bogatsuru marsh seen from Mt. Nakadake



Highest peak in mainland Kyushu!

You will reach Mt.Hossho junction after walking for about 1 and a half hours from the trailhead. Mt.lozan is very dynamic! The elevation of Mt.Hossho is 1,762m. The trail to the top is very rocky and steep.

04 Kuju Wakare



Walking for about 2 hours from the trailhead brings you to Kuju Wakare, a junction toward Mt.Nakadake, Mt.Kuju, and Sugamori Pass. You can take a rest here before heading for Mt.Nakadake. It has a shelter you can use to avoid strong winds. The bio-toilets here are closed during winter.

01 Makinoto Pass Trailhead



Makinoto Pass is located at the elevation of 1,330m. Make sure to post your hiking registration form here and start with hiking up a steep paved slope! The slope gets very slippery when it is frozen.

Go to the restroom here before departure. The toilets at Kuju-wakare are closed during winter.



View Point!

02 The top of Mt.Kutsukake



Hiking up for about 40 minutes from the trailhead, you will reach the first peak, Mt.Kutsukake (1,503m). The view from here is beautiful enough for the beginners to set it as the destination of their first trial of hiking in snow.

