

# 05 The summit of Mt. Waita! (1499.6m)



▲The gentle slope from Mt. Medake to Mt. Waita



▲The southern side of Mt. Waita colored by Miyamakirishima



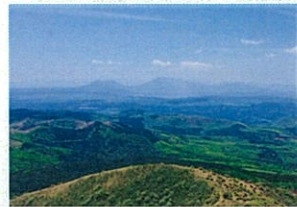
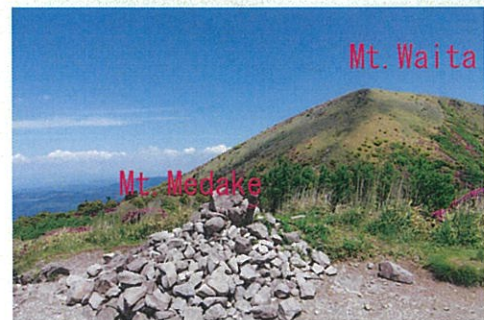
▲The mountain side painted pink



▲Great view of the Kuju Range from the summit

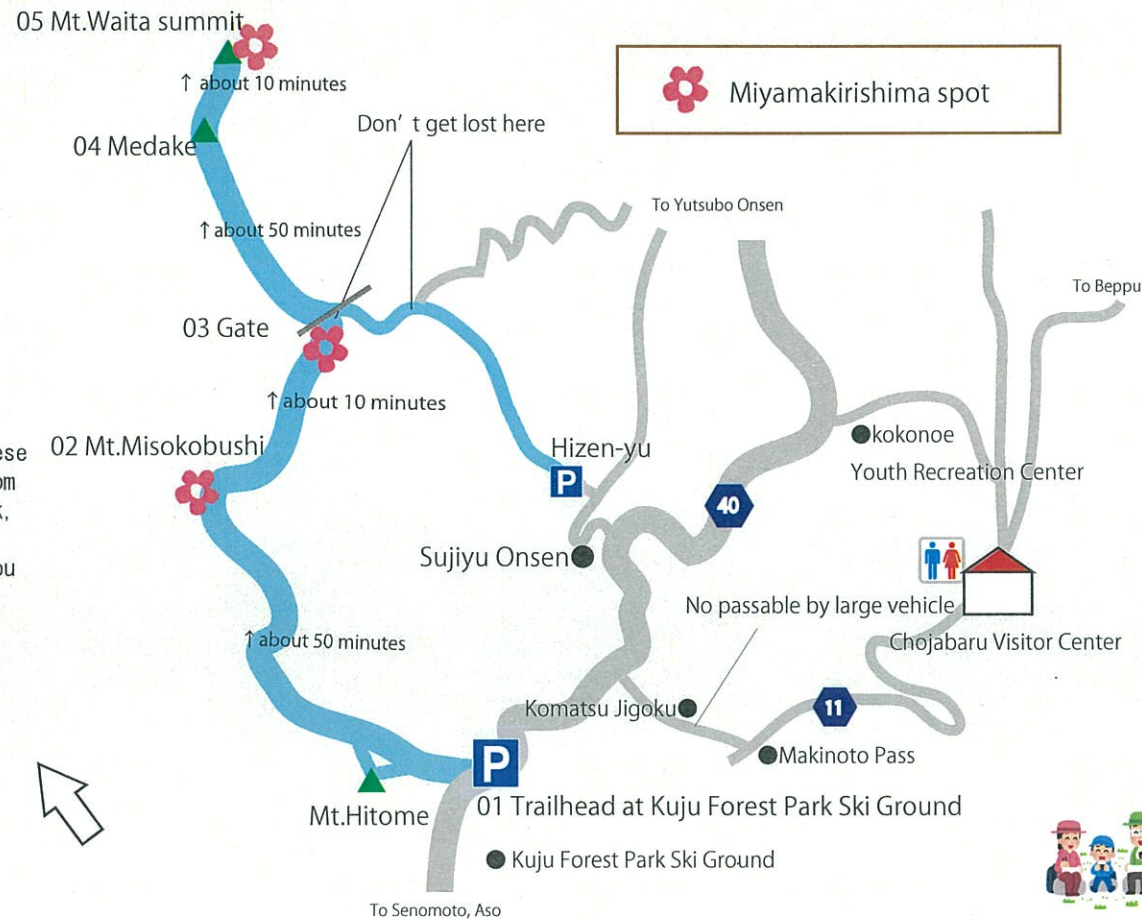
Hiking up the gentle ridge from Mt. Medake about 10 minutes, you will finally get to the summit of Mt. Waita. Here, nothing blocks a 360-degree view! On a fine day, not only the Kuju Range, but also Aso mountains can be seen. Miyamakirishima grow on the southern side of Mt. Waita, painting the mountain side pink in late May.

# 04 Mt. Medake



▲Aso 5 mountains

Walking through the woods of sawtooth oak and Japanese Andromeda, you will come to an open trail again. From here, a long and steep slope continues. Looking back, you can see the wonderful view of Mt. Aso. About 50 minutes' hike from the Gate to Mt. Waita will take you to the top of Mt. Medake with a cairn. The summit of Mt. Waita is almost there!



# 03 The gate to Mt. Waita



Descending Mt. Misokobushi and going straight in the bamboo grass field, you will find the gate to Mt. Waita. In the thick fog, it is easy to lose direction. Make sure from which direction you have come so far before going through the gate. Passing the gate and going forward along the route, you will come to the forest road. When you turn left, a sign at the junction showing the way to the peak of Mt. Waita appears. Follow the sign and head for the summit of Mt. Waita.

# Hiking course with the vast grassland and Miyamakirishima

## Kuju Forest Park Ski Ground~ Mt. Misokobushi~Mt. Waita

Mt. Waita, ranging Kumamoto prefecture and Oita prefecture, is a single peak mountain which is called "Oguni Fuji" after its beautiful shape.

The greatest charm of this mountain is the grand scenery of the vast grassland. Mt. Hitome, which is in front of the ski ground, is entirely covered with the grass. This idyllic scenery has been maintained by the controlled burning conducted by local people in every spring. The bright and open grassland leads you from Mt. Hitome to Mt. Waita. Along the course, Miyamakirishima grow here and there. In late May, you can enjoy the pretty pink blossoms.

Here we introduce the course starting from Kuju Forest Park Ski Ground to the top of Mt. Waita. Enjoy the course full of the charms of the Kuju Range!

# 01 Trailhead at Kuju Ski Ground

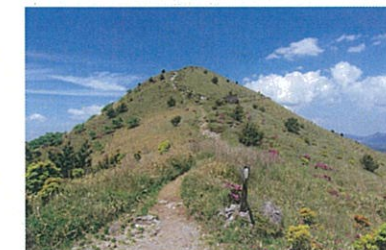


By the Prefectural Road 40, along which the Ski Ground is located, you can find the trailhead with a parking space (about 20 vehicles). There is no toilet around there. The hiking course starts with the paved pasture road. Seeing Mt. Hitome on your left, just walk along the path for a while.



▲grassland burning

# 02 Mt. Misokobushi (1299.6m)



▲the trail to the peak of Mt. Misokobushi



▲Miyamakirishima along the trail



◀ Beyond Mt. Misokobushi, Miyamakirishima appear again. This place is flat and covered with bamboo grass. A good spot to take a rest.

At the end of the paved pasture road, the trail goes into the forest and soon it leads to the open space. Hiking from the trailhead for about 50 minutes, you will reach the first Miyamakirishima spot. The summit of Mt. Misokobushi can be seen in front of you from here. Even little children or those who are not confident in their physical strength can enjoy hiking to Mt. Misokobushi.

## Course from Hizen-yu to Mt. Waita

There is a private charged parking at Hizen-yu trailhead. It takes about an hour to hike from this trailhead to the gate to Mt. Waita. The duration is almost the same as the course from the Ski Ground.



▲The sign to Mt. Waita. Be careful not to miss the direction on the way back.



▲Hizen-yu trailhead. The trailhead is in the back of the inn "Sanso Yamano-iro".



▲The paved road appears in about 10 minutes from the trailhead. Turning right, you will find a sign.



▲Hizen-yu trailhead parking capacity: about 20 vehicles (charged)