

The autumn leaves spots you must see in Kuju!

The wooden path is built through the marsh and you can stroll around enjoying the autumn scenery. Going farther into the forest, you will find various trees with colorful leaves.



TadeWara Marsh

From October to November, Susuki cover the marsh. You can see Mt. Taisen beyond the field of Susuki waving in the wind.



Bogatsuru Marsh

From the parking toward Kakushi-mizu, you can walk through the tunnel of colorful leaves such as Kohauchiwa-kaede and Chidorinoki. At the entrance, you need to donate 100 yen for the park conservation.



Oike Pond

Mt. Hossho



From the top of Ogigahana, you can see beautiful autumn leaves on Mt. Hizengajyo. [About 40 ~70 minutes on foot from Makinoto trailhead]

The crater lake named "Oike" is surrounded by the gorgeous autumn leaves such as maples, creating the atmosphere of a Japanese garden.

This is the spot you can enjoy the first autumn leaves of the year in Kuju. [About 4~5 hours on foot from Chojabaru trailhead (one way)]

brief note

You can easily get lost on the course to go around the craters of Mt. Mimata. Be sure to hike there with an experienced person.



Mt. Taisen



Mt. Kurodake

Deep forests cover the mountain and show us various autumn leaves. Not only the mountain top, the valley around Fuketsu is also beautiful with autumn leaves.

one more spot

Within an hour on foot from Yoshibu trailhead, you will reach Kurasame falls surrounded by colorful autumn leaves.

Let's fully enjoy autumn leaves in Kuju!

Kuju gets busy with people who want to enjoy beautiful autumn leaves. Walking in a forest of colorful leaves makes you feel like wandering in another world. To enjoy fully autumn in Kuju, let's check the good spots and the names of the trees and raise your hiking level!

Leaves start changing their colors at the place of high elevation, then gradually sweep down to the lower elevation. In Kuju, it starts off at the top of Mt. Taisen (elevation:1786m) and down to Oike pond (elevation: 800m). There is 1,000m elevation gap between them, which means we can enjoy autumn leaves in wide range and long period. Usually, we can enjoy autumn leaves from the middle of October around the top of the mountains to early in November at the foot of the mountains. Mt. Taisen has a crater lake named "Oike", around which becomes colorful with autumn leaves. Normally in the middle of October the autumn leaves reach the peak there. Then Danbaru, at the peak of Mt. Mimata and Mt. Kurodake follow, and Mt. Kutsukake reaches later in October. Early in November, you can still enjoy autumn leaves in Chojabaru and Oike areas. Around this time, Susuki (*Miscanthus sinensis*) are shining against the sunlight in the field at the foot of the mountains. In the middle of November, the first snow or hoar frost cover the mountain top.

	October			November	
	early	middle	late	early	middle
Mt. Taisen		██████████			
Mt. Mimata		██████████			
Mt. Hossho		██████████			
Mt. Kurodake		██████████			
Mt. Ogigahana		██████████			
Mt. Kutsukake			██████████		
Chojabaru				██████████	
around Oike pond				██████████	
Kyusui-kei					██████████

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The peak of the autumn leaves is hard to predict precisely. Depending on the weather condition, it can be a week earlier or later than usual. However, either the early pale autumn colors or the fallen leaves covering the trails has their own beauty. You can find something wonderful in autumn scenery when you visit here from the middle of October to the middle of November. Don't you feel excited when you imagine what autumn scenery is waiting for you?

There are as many colors and shapes as kinds of Kaede (Acer). Here, we are introducing six kinds of Acer which we can often find in Kuju region. The figure ① is Kohauchiwa-kaede (*Acer sieboldianum*). Its leaves are pretty fan-like shape, and their color turn bright red.



The figure ② is Itaya-kaede (*Acer pictum*). The edge of its leaf is wavy, but not serrated like a saw. Most of them turn yellow.

The figure ③ is Kaji-kaede (*Acer diabolicum*). Its decent shape reminds us of the national flag of Canada. They turn yellow. The figure ④ is Komine-kaede (*Acer micranthus*). It often grows on the ridge lines. The leaves turn beautiful deep red.



The figure ⑤ is Chidorino-ki. Its unlobed leaves do not resemble other Acer, but the leaves arranged in opposite pairs prove that they surely belong to Acer. The leaves turn yellow and rarely turn red.

The figure ⑥ is Urihada-kaede (*Acer rufinerve*). Its leaf is double-serrated and three-lobed. The color turns bright orange and red.

The color of autumn leaves are different depending on the condition.

Enjoy the variety of autumn leaves!



What leaves can show us beautiful autumn colors in Kuju? The red leaves of Momiji are associated with autumn generally. "Momiji" is a general term of various kinds of Acer. In Kuju, you can find Komine-kaede (*Acer micranthus*), Kohauchiwa-kaede (*Acer sieboldianum*), Urihada-kaede (*Acer rufinerve*), Chidorino-ki (*Acer carpiniifolium*) and so on. They have their own unique hues to color mountains. They spread widely from the top to the bottom of the mountain. Especially in Oike Pond park and Mt. Kurodake, you can find various kinds of Acer. Among the autumn leaves, Dodantsutsuji (*Enkianthus*) is characteristic in Kuju region. The leaves of Shirododan (*Enkianthus peulatus*), Benidodan (*Enkianthus cernuus*), and Tsukushidodan (*Enkianthus campanulatus*) paint Kuju mountains orange and red. They stand out growing in groups at the high elevation such as Mt. Taisen. Nishikigi (*Euonymus*) also shows us unique autumn color. Nishikigi in chinese character is 錦木, which means a tree with various colors. Its name describes how beautiful it becomes in autumn. Tsurumemodoki (*Celastrus cobiculatus*) and Tsuribana (*Euonymus oxyphyllus*) are also beautiful with colorful leaves and bright red seeds. Mayumi (*Euronymus sieboldianus*) also bears splendid red seeds to draw our attention.

Red seeds of Mayumi



Dodantsu-tsuji



Kaede

