



05 Vivid autumn leaves in Mt. Shimosensui



Colorful autumn leaves seen among the rocks in Mt. Shimosensui



The tunnel of Asebi



Susuki field

From Mt. Kamisensui to Mt. Shimosensui, the trail goes downhill along the ridge. Be careful not to slide down. Finishing this steep slope and going through the forest of Asebi bushes (*Pieris japonica*), you will find a small sign of Mt. Shimosensui. On the left, there is a rocky place. The top of the rock is the summit of Mt. Shimosensui. From this rocky summit, you can see the autumn leaves surrounding the rocks. After relishing the scenery here, let's head for the goal, Chojabaru! From Mt. Shimosensui, the trail goes down through the forest to the open grassland. The local people burn the dead grass every spring to maintain the grassland. Before the open burning, the grass along the trail are cut to make a fire belt. Be careful not to miss the signs and yellow tapes marking the path.

Flowers blooming in Autumn

Yamarakkyou (*Allium thumbergii*)



AkinokirinSou (*Solidago virgaurea*)



Matsumushisou (*Scabiosa japonica*)



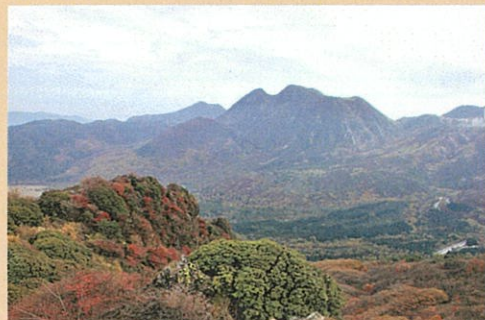
Rindou (*Gentiana scabra*)



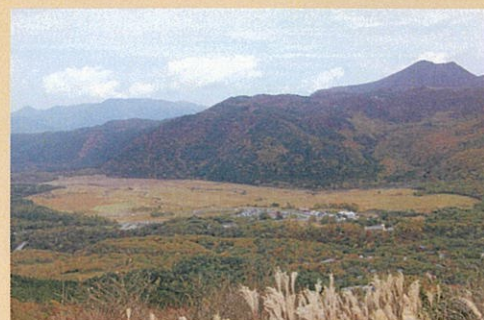
In fall, only autumn leaves are likely to be focused and praised, but little flowers blooming along the trails are also beautiful and adorable. Why don't you look down to the ground to meet these pretty flowers?



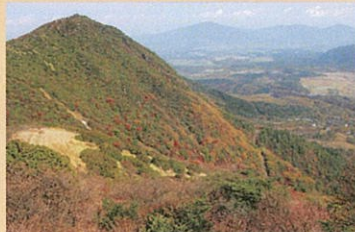
04 The Kuji Range seen from Mt. Kamisensui



Mt. Mimata looks different from Mt. Kamisensui

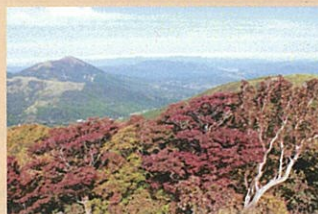
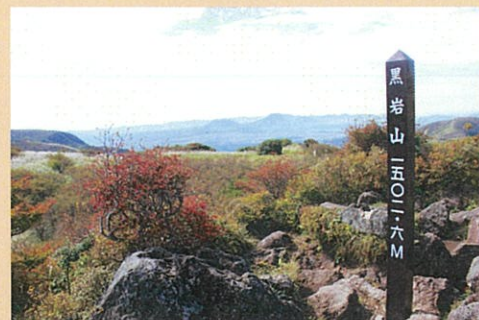


Whole Tadewara marsh can be seen from Mt. Kamisensui. How huge!



From Mt. Kuroiwa to Mt. Kamisensui, the field of bamboo grass is spreading. Going forward, you will see Mt. Mimata and Tadewara marsh on the right and even Mt. Hiji far away. The top of Mt. Kamisensui is the good spot to look around the Kuji Range. The scenery changes season to season, and each season has its own charm. It's nice to have a lunch break here, enjoying the beautiful scenery spreading before your eyes.

03 The scenery from Mt. Kuroiwa



As you get closer to the mountain top going through the open grassland, the summit sign appears. The sign is surrounded by the rocks. Watch out your steps in approaching it. From the rocky top, autumn leaves, Mt. Waita, Mt. Hitome, and Hacchobaru Geothermal Plant can be seen. It is a good place to take a rest and enjoy the scenery.

Enjoy the colorful autumn leaves in the refreshing breeze! Mt. Kuroiwa ~ Mt. Kamisensui ~ Mt. Shimosensui

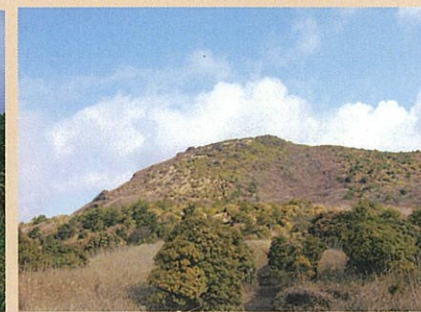
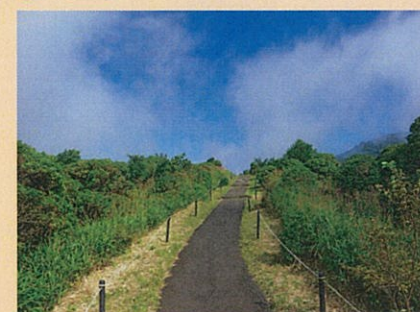
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In autumn, Kuju mountains get as crowded with hikers as in early summer when Miyamakirishima is in full bloom. Kuju mountains covered with red, yellow, and orange by autumn leaves are truly beautiful!

The leaves around the top of the mountains start turning red or yellow in the middle of October. Then, the autumn colors gradually come down to the foot of the mountains. We can enjoy these colorful leaves until early November.

Here, we introduce the course to traverse from Mt. Kuroiwa to Mt. Shimosensui. The word "traverse" may give you an impression of "long and hard hike", but it takes only about 3 hours to finish this course! On the way, you can enjoy the view of autumn leaves, panoramic Kuju mountains, Tadewara marsh, and even as far as Mt. Aso.

01 Makinoto Pass Trailhead 1330m



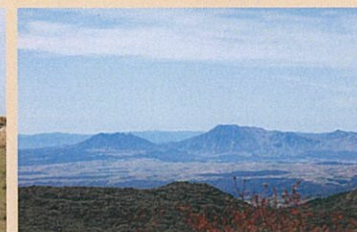
You can start from either Chojabaru or Makinoto Pass. Here, we are introducing the course starting from Makinoto Pass. The parking lot in Makinoto gets full even in the early morning in autumn. In case the parking is full, you can park your car in Chojabaru area and take the bus up to Makinoto Pass. It takes only 10 minutes. The goal of this course is in Chojabaru anyway, so it may be wise to leave your car in Chojabaru.

There are toilets near the parking. Go to the toilet before starting your hike. The trail to Mt. Kuroiwa starts from the paved slope across the parking lot. Susuki (Japanese pampas grass) waving in the wind will beckon you to show you the way to Mt. Kuroiwa.

02 Grand views along the way



A sign you can find at the end of the first steep slope. Take a rest and go forward.



Mt. Aso can be seen on a fine day



The shop at Makinoto Pass looks so small



Mt. Hoshio and Mt. Ogigahana can also be seen,

The slope gets steeper as you hike. Stop time to time and enjoy the scenery or the flowers along the trail. On a fine day, Mt. Aso can be seen. At the end of the steep slope, open grassland is spreading. In 30 minutes, you will reach the top of Mt. Kuroiwa.

