Walking the Stories of Ancient Earth
While Walking on the Road to the Amagi Pass: The Setting of Izu Literature

About 600,000 to 1,000,000 years ago, Amagi Volcano erupted repeatedly. The Amagi Pass consists of a steep landfill which was formed by this frequent volcanic activity. The winding path going through the Old Amagi Tunnel has been a setting in modern literature and has helped create a number of masterpieces. Also, the Amagi area is blessed with plentiful water thanks to the clear water of the Kurosawa Seven Falls and ample rainfall made from moist air that the Kurosawa Current brings.

The Waterfalls and Gorges Formed by Amagi Volcano: Scenic Points in the Naka-izu Area

**Terasugi Cedar**

Terasugi is on the woodland path about 1.5km to the southwest of Namae-izu gorge entrance. It is the largest Japanese Cedar in the Amagi area. It is 3m tall, and the circumference at its base is 13.6m. It is thought to be over 400 years old and is designated as a Natural Monument by Sibuzu Pref. It was also selected as one of the 100 Forest Giants.

**Namae-izu Gorge**

A river of lava flowing through the gorge has created into one large rock lying at the bottom of the gorge. The surface of the rock has been eroded by the clear water of the Hatozaki River, and it has beautiful joints (crevices in a rock that form when lava cools down). In autumn, beautiful red leaves can be seen in the area.

**Old Amagi Tunnel**

This stone road tunnel was built in 1904 to cross the Amagi Pass. Thanks to the tunnel, local people did not have to attempt the difficult crossing anymore. The entire tunnel including the arch and the sides, was constructed of only stone walls, and it shows the craftsmanship of Minjō people. It is designated nationally as an Important Cultural Property.

**Kawazu Seven Falls**

The Kawazu River travels over lava which flowed about 25,000 years ago from the Noboribetsu-kanai Volcano, one of the volcanoes in the eastern part of the Izu Peninsula, and has created various waterfalls. The six of the seven falls, including Ebudani Falls, and the Sadasuichikai area, which is at upstream of the seven falls, have beautiful columnar joints, which were formed as lava cooled, hardened, and contracted.

**Izu Modern Literature Museum (伊豆近代文学館)**

The museum is in the Roduct Station "Atsumi" and exhibits materials of 100 Banny men and writers associated with Izu. Especially, the items related to Yasumasa Kawabata and Yashii House are substantial, and the handwritten manuscript of "Izu no Oishii", which takes place in the Amagi area, is a main attraction of the exhibit. In the courtyard is Yashii House's old house, which was moved and reconstructed, and you can see how he wrote his stories.

**How to Walk on the Izu Peninsula Geopark Footpaths**

**What is a Geopark?**

Footpaths are marked with the number "T". People walk here in the same way they do on mountain trails. Geoscientists enjoy visiting geoparks as an opportunity to learn about the history and geology of the area. A footpath network covers the whole Izu Peninsula.

**How to Use the Map**

Before walking, it is important to get an image of the course in your head by checking where it starts, goes through, and ends with the map. While walking, check your current location and the way to the next destination. As signposts may not be available in some places, check natural features or landmarks that tell you which way to take a footpath.

**How to Walk on a Footpath**

- Always walk on the footpath. Make sure that you are not going off the path.
- Walk slowly at steep slopes, and make sure that your full body weight is on the ground, not on your knees.

**Safety Precautions**

- You will walk in the wild, so keep your shoes on and be careful of slippery paths.
- Be careful of sudden change in weather or temperature, as well as insects and plants.

Please note that the natural environment is protected. Do not litter or damage the geopark's premises or natural beauty. Do not use any plastic, alcohol, or shares of water with you.

**Long Trail**

In addition to the Izu Peninsula Geopark Footpaths, you can also enjoy walking such as the long track in the mountains, which are 2km to 10km long, and are also occurring. Since this track is long, you must experience some nature and culture, especially in the Izu Peninsula, where you can go walking throughout the year. You can have a pleasant experience by visiting geoparks in different seasons.