

Walk along the Natural Heritage of the Izu Peninsula

GEOPARK FOOTPATH

Naka-Izu Area

Highway and Literature

Check Out the Video!



New Discovery Every Time! 伊豆半島ジオパーク IZU PENINSULA GEOPARK

What is a Geopark?

The word Geopark consists of “Geo (of the earth)” and “park,” and it is one of the programs that UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) has been promoting worldwide along with World Heritage and Biosphere Reserves. The aim of Geopark is to achieve sustainable development by learning about geographically valuable sites as well as protecting and utilizing them.

Izu Peninsula Geopark – A Volcanic Gift from the South –



伊豆半島ジオパーク IZU PENINSULA GEOPARK

20 million years ago, the Izu Peninsula was a group of submarine volcanoes in the South Seas. As the Philippine Sea Plate moved northwards, the volcanic group also drifted and eventually collided with the main island. 600,000 years ago, it became what it is now. The volcanic activity and slow movement of the earth’s crust have continued and formed hot springs, springs, and mountains, and people have lived by utilizing the rich natural environment. The Izu Peninsula is a “volcanic gift from the South.”

Geopark Footpath in Naka-Izu Area

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

About 800,000 to 200,000 years ago, Amagi Volcano erupted repeatedly. The Amagi Pass consists of a steep landform 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 Kawazu Seven Falls and ample rainwater made from moist air that the Kuroshio Current brings.



The Naka-Izu area course

*The distance and time may vary.

Showanomori-kaikan (Roadside Station Amagigoe)	4.3km	120 min
Amagi-yuyu-no-mori	3.6km	60 min
Old Amagi Tunnel	4.7km	80 min
Hiraname-no-taki Falls	2.0km	40 min
Kamadaru Falls	0.9km	20 min
Kawazu-nanadaru Falls		

Access

*These are just examples. *The time may vary.

By Train

Shin-Osaka Sta.	Nagoya Sta.	Tokyo Sta.
Tokaido Shinkansen Hikari 130 min	Tokaido Shinkansen Hikari 80 min	Tokaido Shinkansen Hikari 44 min
Mishima Sta. Limited Express "Odorikogo"		
Izuhakone Railway 35 min		
Izuhakone Railway Shuzenji Sta.		
Tokai Bus 65 min		Tokai Bus 38 min
Kawazu-nanadaru Falls bus stop ← Showanomori-kaikan bus stop		

By Car

Nagoya Interchange	Tokyo Interchange
145 min	75 min
Tomei Expwy Numazu Interchange Shin-Tomei Expwy Nagazumi-Numazu Interchange	
Izu Chuo Expwy Shuzenji Road 50 min	
Showanomori-kaikan (Roadside Station Amagigoe) (P)	
Tokai Bus ↑ 27 min	
Kawazu-nanadaru Falls bus stop ←	

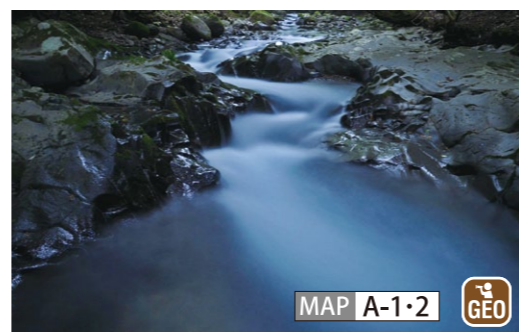
*The number of the parking spaces is limited. Please check by yourself.

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



01 Tarosugi Cedar 太郎杉

Tarosugi is on the woodland path about 1.5km to the southwest of Namesawa gorge entrance, and it is the largest Japanese Cedar in the Amagi area. It is 53m 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 Shizuoka Pref. It was also selected as one of the 100 Forest Giants.



02 Namesawa Gorge 滑沢渓谷

A river of lava flowing through the gorge has cooled 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 Hontani River, and it has beautiful joints (cracks in a rock that form when lava cools down). In autumn, beautiful red leaves can be seen in the area.



03 Old Amagi Tunnel 旧天城トンネル

Length: 445.5m
Width: about 4.1m
Height: about 4.2m

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 hewn stones, and it shows fine craftsmanship of Meiji people's. It is designated nationally as an Important Cultural Property.



04 Kawazu Seven Falls 河津七滝

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

* The picture above is one of the seven falls called Kamadaru Falls.
* Kawazu Seven Falls is “Kawazu-nanadaru” in Japanese.



Izu Modern Literature Museum

伊豆近代文学博物館

The museum is in the Roadside Station “Amagigoe” and exhibits materials of 120 literary men and writers associated with Izu. Especially, the items related to Yasunari Kawabata and Yasushi Inoue are substantial, and the handwritten manuscript of “Izu-no-Odoriko,” which takes place in the Amagi area, is a main attraction of the exhibit. In the courtyard is Yasushi Inoue's old house, which was moved and reconstructed, and you can see how he wrote his stories.

For Advanced Walkers / Long Trail

In addition to the Izu Peninsula Geopark Footpaths, where you can enjoy walking easily, the long trails in the peninsula, which are 20km to over 100km, are also fascinating. Since these trails are long, you stay overnight and enjoy nature and culture. Especially in the Izu Peninsula, where you can go trailing throughout the year, you can have a profound experience by visiting geosites in different seasons.



Image of Long Trail

How to Walk on the Izu Peninsula Geopark Footpaths

What is a Geopark Footpath?

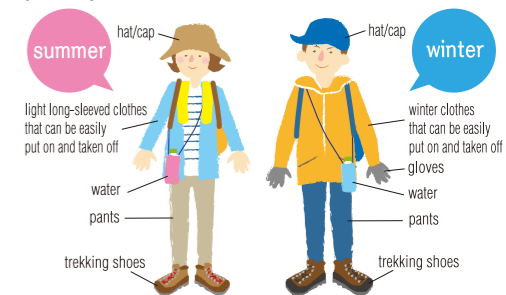
Footpath is originally from the U.K., and it's a “path” to enjoy walking (“foot”). People walk from town to town as they enjoy scenery in forests, around rivers, on coastlines, in rural areas, or in old towns. Some people enjoy eating local products as they experience nature, culture, and history of the area at a walking pace. A footpath network covers the whole country in the U.K. Recently, footpath activity has begun in Japan, and footpaths that utilize appealing points of the areas have been developed.

How to Use the Map

Before walking, it's 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 at a fork.

Clothing and Equipment

Since you will walk in the wild, wear pants, long-sleeved clothes, and trekking shoes. Wear a hat/cap even in winter since the sun is strong in many areas. Depending on the weather and season, bring gloves, rain gear, a windbreaker, or winter clothes. Be sure to bring enough water with you as there aren't many places where you can get water.



Others: a map, snacks, medicine, a camera, a cellphone, binoculars, etc.

How to Walk on a Footpath

- Do a warm up to loosen up your body and legs before walking.
- Walk slowly to enjoy grand landscapes and nature at the Geopark.
- Take a five minute break every hour. Make a solid plan and give yourself plenty of time to spare.
- Walk slowly with short steps, and make sure that your whole sole touches the ground evenly.

Safety Precautions

- You will walk in the wild, so you will need to take full responsibility for your actions.
- When there is a sudden change in weather or your condition, consider your safety, and don't strain yourself.
- Watch out for dangerous animals and plants such as hornets, pit vipers, tiger keelbacks, poison ivy, etc.
- In some areas, your mobile phone may be out of the coverage area, or smartphone maps and GPS may not be available.

To Protect the Natural Environment

Please don't try to do anything that may cause environmental changes so that children will be able to use the current natural environment in the future. Some areas are protected by laws including the Natural Parks Law and the Cultural Properties Protection Law.

- Do not take any plants, animals, or stones home with you.
- Take your litter away with you.
- Do not make a fire outside unless it's necessary.

Inquiries

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Bus : TOKAI MOTORS CO.,LTD.	Tel 0557-36-1112
Taxi : Shizuoka Prefecture Taxi Association	Tel 054-261-1401
Izu City Hall, Industry Department, Tourism, Commerce, and Industry Division	Tel 0558-72-9911 http://kanko.city.izu.shizuoka.jp/
Izu City Tourist Association	Tel 0558-73-1958 http://www.izushi.info/
Kawazu Town Hall, Industrial Recovery Division	Tel 0558-34-1946 http://www.town.kawazu.shizuoka.jp/
Kawazu Tourist Association	Tel 0558-32-0290 http://www.kawazu-onsen.com/

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