

# KIRISHIMA TREKKING MAP



Kirishima has been certified as a "Japan Geopark"

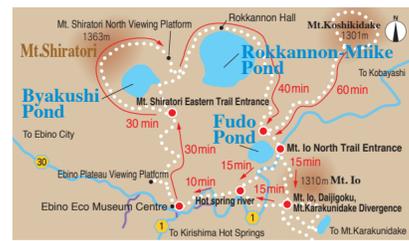


## Lake Tour and Nature Trail

### Shiratoriyama Mt. Shiratori (1363m)

### Koshikidake Mt. Koshikidake (1301m)

This two-hour course begins near the Ebino Eco Museum. Going clockwise, one can enjoy the view of three crater lakes - Byakushi Pond (Byakushi-Ike), Rokkannon-Miike Pond (Rokkannon-Miike), and Fudo Pond (Fudo-Ike). A steep gradient leads to the summit of Mt. Shiratori, where one can find a shallow crater with a diameter of about 600m, and also enjoy the view of Mt. Sakurajima (to the south) and Mt. Karakunidake. With a large variety of flora, this place is clothed in Kyushu Azalea and verdure in early summer, and filled with beautiful autumn leaves in fall. From the forked road located to the north of Fudo Pond, it takes about 60 minutes one-way to hike up Mt. Koshikidake. In the crater of Mt. Koshikidake lies a plain filled with Susuki grass. The centre portion is a low-rise wetland moor (relatively rare in southern Kyushu) where one can find the carnivores sundew plant. There is a steep gradient slightly before the summit and the trail will become narrower so take note not to lose your way.



### Kurinodake Mt. Kurinodake (1102m)

Mt. Kurinodake is one of the oldest volcanoes in Kirishima. One of three hiking trail entrances is located about 200m from the Kirishima Open Air Museum. Hiking through oak and maple virgin forests, one can enjoy the panoramic view of Mt. Karakunidake, and Mt. Sakurajima floating on Kinko Bay.

## Information

### Operates Daily Kirishima Sightseeing Bus Route Map and Timetable



丸尾 ↔ えびの高原 ↔ 高千穂河原	
丸尾 ①	8:30 10:30 12:30
丸尾 ②	8:31 10:31 12:31
丸尾 ③	8:35 10:35 12:35
丸尾 ④	8:38 10:38 12:38
丸尾 ⑤	8:45 10:45 12:45
丸尾 ⑥	8:46 10:46 12:46
丸尾 ⑦	8:50 10:50 12:50
丸尾 ⑧	8:53 10:53 12:53
丸尾 ⑨	8:55 10:55 12:55
丸尾 ⑩	8:56 10:56 12:56
丸尾 ⑪	9:00 11:00 13:00
丸尾 ⑫	9:01 11:01 13:01
丸尾 ⑬	9:03 11:03 13:03
丸尾 ⑭	9:06 11:06 13:06
丸尾 ⑮	9:10 11:10 13:10
丸尾 ⑯	9:11 11:11 13:11
丸尾 ⑰	9:12 11:12 13:12
丸尾 ⑱	9:13 11:13 13:13
丸尾 ⑲	9:17 11:17 13:17
丸尾 ⑳	9:29 11:29 13:29
丸尾 ㉑	13:41
丸尾 ㉒	13:45
丸尾 ㉓	13:46
丸尾 ㉔	13:47
丸尾 ㉕	13:54
丸尾 ㉖	13:57
丸尾 ㉗	14:01
丸尾 ㉘	14:02

### For an Enjoyable Trekking Experience

- ~Things to bear in mind / Mannerisms~
  - Remember to check the conditions of the intended hiking trail and plan with ample allowance.
  - Use the washroom at the start point. While hiking, use portable toilets when necessary.
  - Be sure to bring your rubbish back with you. Do not leave anything in the mountains.
  - Smoking is strictly prohibited during hiking.
  - Give way to the ascending hikers.
  - For safety reasons, do not wander astray from the trails or descend into the valleys or craters.
  - To minimise erosion of the trails, cap the tip of your hiking sticks.
  - Do not pluck flowers, catch animals or feed the deer. Leave nature as it is.
- ~Trekking Outfit and Gear~
  - Wear light, non-restricting outfit and carry items such as food rations, whistle, torchlight, topographic maps, compass, mobile phone, radio, outdoor toilet packs, etc., in your backpack.
    - The weather on the mountains may change quickly and unexpectedly, and it can get quite cold in the morning and at night, so be sure to prepare rain gear (waterproof wear) and warm clothing.
    - Some areas do not have mobile phone signal reception

### Things to note for hikers

Kirishima is an active volcano. Do not enter areas which are out-of-bounds. Even for areas which are not designated as out-of-bounds, do note that during an eruption, there can be impending dangers in these areas as well so kindly read the following notice and be clear about it before climbing.

**Notice!**

- In principle, every individual is responsible for himself/herself when hiking.
- Please bring along radio, mobile phones, compass, etc., to constantly check for updates on wind directions, weather, etc.
- Abandon hike and commence descent quickly but calmly, when abnormalities such as earthquakes, earth rumblings, etc., are felt.
- Please ensure you read the information and notices below (at the bottom of this brochure).
- Before attempting to climb the mountains, please submit a climbing notification.

..... Hiking trail open to public  
 ●●● Hiking trail currently out-of-bounds

National Road  
 Prefectural Road  
 City/Town Road  
 Highway

Places selling portable outdoor toilet pack  
 Toilet pack collection box  
 portable toilet area  
 Siren 避難 Evacuation shelter

### Bring it with you, bring it back with you!

#### Use portable outdoor toilet packs!

The disposal of excretion (from hikers) has always been a serious problem. Besides causing unpleasantness and inconvenience to other fellow hikers, the amount of excretion left behind is too large for natural breakdown (by micro-organisms; due to the low temperatures at high elevation), and results in serious environmental damages. Also, when hikers wander off the trail into the vegetation, besides endangering themselves, they also trample and kill the precious flora. To protect the beautiful natural environment of Kirishima and also to exercise good manners by being considerate to other hikers, please kindly make use of portable outdoor toilets.

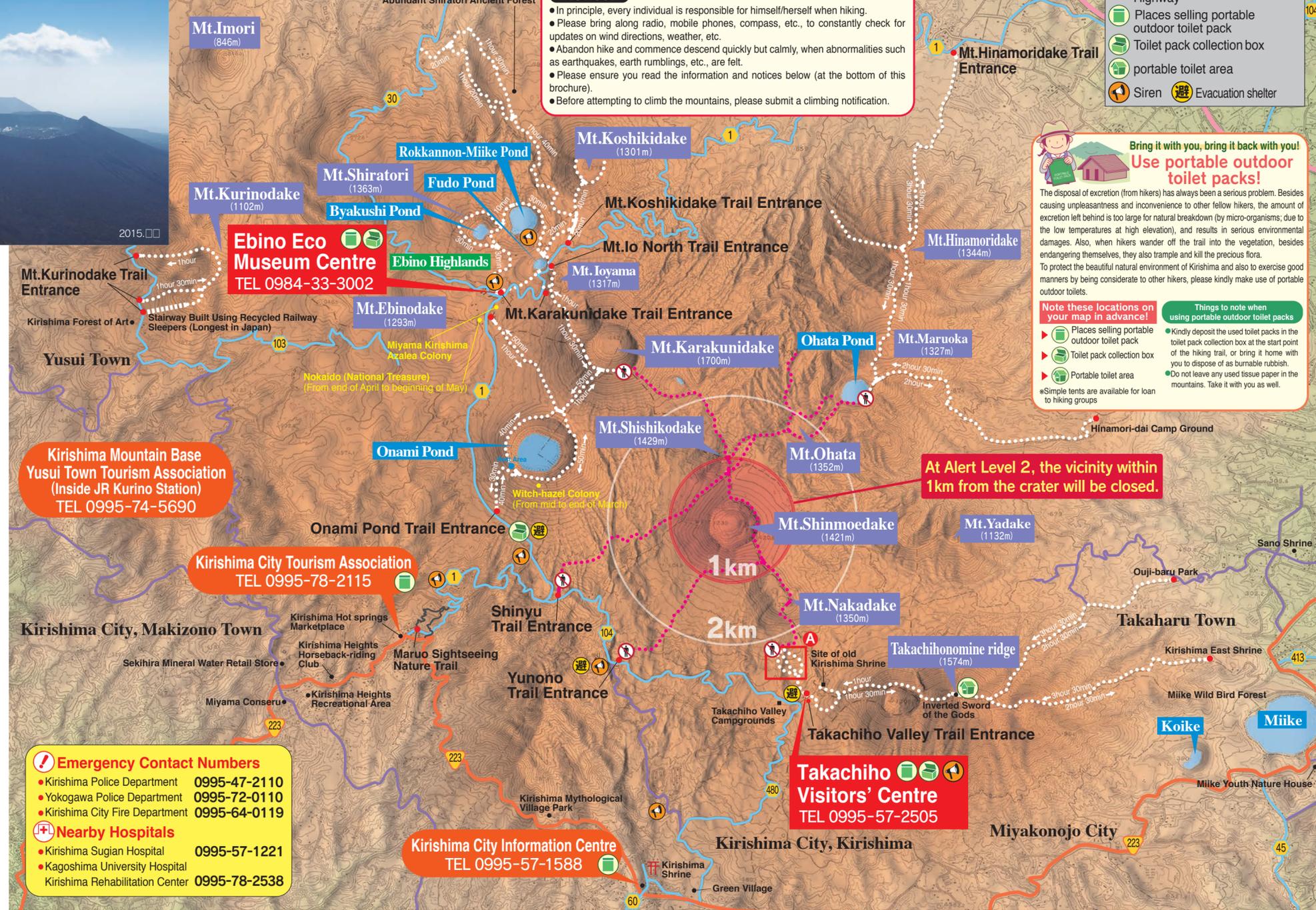
**Note these locations on your map in advance!**

- Places selling portable outdoor toilet pack
- Toilet pack collection box
- Portable toilet area

**Things to note when using portable outdoor toilet packs**

- Kindly deposit the used toilet packs in the toilet pack collection box at the start point of the hiking trail, or bring it home with you to dispose of as burnable rubbish.
- Do not leave any used tissue paper in the mountains. Take it with you as well.

Simple tents are available for loan to hiking groups



**Kirishima Mountain Base**  
 Yusui Town Tourism Association  
 (Inside JR Kurino Station)  
 TEL 0995-74-5690

**Kirishima City Tourism Association**  
 TEL 0995-78-2115

**Emergency Contact Numbers**

- Kirishima Police Department 0995-47-2110
- Yokogawa Police Department 0995-72-0110
- Kirishima City Fire Department 0995-64-0119

**Nearby Hospitals**

- Kirishima Sugian Hospital 0995-57-1221
- Kagoshima University Hospital 0995-78-2538
- Kirishima Rehabilitation Center 0995-78-2538

**Kirishima City Information Centre**  
 TEL 0995-57-1588

**Takachiho Visitors' Centre**  
 TEL 0995-57-2505

At Alert Level 2, the vicinity within 1km from the crater will be closed.

Onami-no-Ike  
**Onami Pond** (1411m)  
 Karakunidake  
**Mt. Karakunidake** (1700m)

There are many trails for Mt. Karakunidake - the highest peak in Kirishima, but the most interesting one circles Onami Pond, which is one of the highest altitude crater lakes in Japan. From the starting point, it takes about 40 minutes to get to the Onami-no-Ike rest station. From the nearby rocky formation, one can enjoy the picturesque view of Onami Pond below, with the majestic Mt. Karakunidake sitting atop. The circular trail leading to Mt. Karakunidake splits east-west from the rest station. As both the split routes are roughly equal distances, one may choose to climb Mt. Karakunidake via one of the split routes and descend via the other. Descending from the crater of Onami Pond, one will come across an emergency evacuation hut. Going past the hut leads straight to the summit of Mt. Karakunidake.



### Takachiho-no-Mine Takachihonomineridge (1574m)

Regardless of history or the majesty of its appearance, Takachihonomineridge, rumoured to be the place where the heavenly deities descended into the mortal world in the mythical legend "Tenson Korin" (Descent of the Heavenly Child), is undoubtedly the main peak of Kirishima. From the start point located near Takachiho Visitors' Centre, the trail extends under a Torii gate (typical Japanese shrine gate), past the Furumiya-Ato (relics of the original Kirishima Shrine) and the volcano Ohachi (or Mihachi), leading to Takachihonomineridge. Emerging from the forested area, the trail leads up a steep gradient. Ascending the brownish slope, one goes to the left of the crater of Ohachi Peak, which is nicknamed Uma-no-Se (Horseback). The trail on Horseback is narrow and in times of strong winds or fog, one has to be extremely careful here. From Horseback, the trail descends into the saddleback before leading up to the summit of Takachihonomineridge, where one can find the artifact "The Heavenly Halberd" from the Tenson Korin mythology. Kindly take note that the hiking trail from the peak to Takaharu town is out of bounds so do not use that trail. There are many steep slopes from the start point to the summit of Takachihonomineridge. Be extra careful not to tumble and fall as the trail can be slippery. Keep a lookout for falling rocks too.



Nakadake  
**Mt. Nakadake** (1350m) <Currently closed>  
 Shinmoedake  
**Mt. Shinmoedake** (1421m) <Currently closed>

Having been dormant for around the past 300 years (the last eruption was in 1716-1717), Mt. Shinmoedake recently erupted violently on 26 January 2011, sending a billowing smoke plume of about 2000m into the air. The eruption lasted for 25 hours into the next day (27 January).

Although there were no human casualties, on 1 February, volcanic bombs of up to 80cm in diameter fell on two places located more than 3km away from the volcano, causing depressions of 8m wide and 2m deep. Hotels and residences near the volcano suffered from damages such as broken glass windows from the shock waves of the eruption.

Due to the westerlies, Mt. Nakadake, Mt. Shinmoedake, Miyakonojo city and Takaharu town of Miyazaki prefecture, etc. were deeply covered in volcanic ash and pumice. The crater lake of Mt. Shinmoedake, once filled with cobalt blue waters, is now a lava lake. The growth of the Kyushu Azalea and Mitsuuba-Tsutsumi flowers, which once covered the hillsides of Mt. Nakadake, is now endangered because of the eruption. Due to the volcanic activities, we might be able to witness vegetation succession cycles. Currently, due to volcanic activities, Mt. Shinmoedake (Shinmoedake), Mt. Nakadake (Nakadake), Mt. Shishikodake (Shishikodake), and Mt. Ohata (Ohatayama) are out-of-bounds. Hopefully someday when the situation settles down, the peaks will be open to the public again.

※ A ●●● open to public

### Kirishima is an Active Volcano!

~Enjoy Great Nature while Ensuring your Safety~

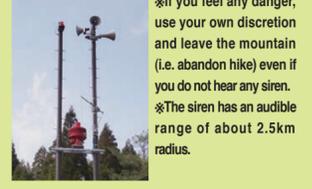
A major eruption happened at Kakuto Caldera (on Kyushu Island) about 340,000 years ago. There are about 20 volcanoes located on the southern rim of the Kakuto Caldera, between Miyazaki prefecture and Kagoshima prefecture, and they are collectively called "Kirishima". Having been dormant for the past 300 years, Mt. Shinmoedake recently erupted violently on 26 January 2011 and has been active again since then. To enjoy a safe hike, be sure to check the activities of Mt. Shinmoedake, prevailing wind direction, etc. in advance.

**Checking the Eruption Alert Level of Shinmoe Peak!**  
 Divided into five levels, the "Eruption Alert Scale (Funka Keikai Reberu)" demarcates areas which are considered "dangerous" during an eruption and indicates the necessary procedures to be taken. Depending on the alert level, the necessary action and procedure will be decided by the relevant municipalities the Japan Meteorological Agency. Be sure to check the alert level before commencing a hike, and never enter areas which are out-of-bounds.

Forecast Warning	Applicable Area	Alert Level	Action by Climber
<b>Eruption Alarm</b>	Residential area, especially areas near the crater	<b>5: Evacuate</b>	Evacuate from residential areas identified as dangerous
		<b>4: Prepare to Evacuate</b>	Prepare to evacuate from residential areas identified as dangerous
<b>Crater Vicinity Alarm</b>	From crater to residential area	<b>3: Do not enter mountain</b>	Mountain to be closed. Hiking / Trekking forbidden
	Around the crater	<b>2: Do not enter crater</b>	Crater vicinity closed
<b>Eruption Forecast</b>	Within the crater	<b>1: Be mindful that these are active volcanoes</b>	Depending on circumstances, the crater may be closed

### Siren ~Sounding of the siren alarm during an emergency~

In hope to reduce or even prevent damages and injuries from any possible disasters, five sirens are being set up in Kirishima city around the vicinity of Mt. Shinmoedake to give early warning to residents, tourists, accommodation facilities, etc., within 5km range of the crater of Mt. Shinmoedake. In times of emergency such as during a volcanic eruption, where cinders, pyroclastic flow and volcanic mud-flow would endanger the lives of residents, the siren would be sounded to alert residents in the area to evacuate to safety.



※If you feel any danger, use your own discretion and leave the mountain (i.e. abandon hike) even if you do not hear any siren. ※The siren has an audible range of about 2.5km radius.

### Enquiries (English language assistance is available)

- Takachiho Visitors' Centre 0995-57-2505
  - Nature Parks Foundation Ebino Branch (Ebino Eco Museum Center) 0984-33-3002
  - Kirishima City Tourism Association 0995-78-2115
  - Ebino City Tourism Association 0984-35-3838
  - Kirishima City Information Centre 0995-57-1588
  - Kirishima City Tourism Division 0995-45-5111
- Enquiries (Enlistment of Hiking Guides)**
- Kirishima City Furusato Guide Club 0995-57-1588