

Unzen-Amakusa National Park

Guide of Mt. Fugen, Mt. Myoken, and Mt. Kunimi



● Blue-and-White Flycatcher

Caution

- Getting out mountain trail covering short strict prohibition
Be sure to follow the designated route and never stray off the trails.
- Please observe the three pledges to Unzen
: Don't take. Don't bend. Don't throw.

In Case of Emergency

■ Rescue Numbers

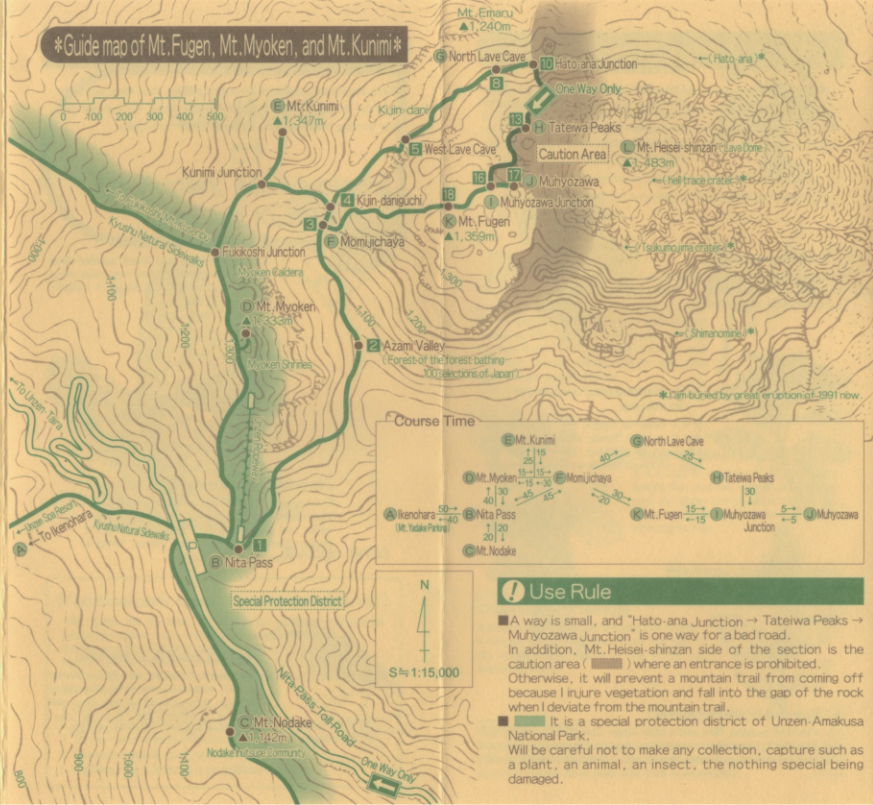
The numbers 1-18 written in road signs and information boards are "rescue numbers" used by rescuers to identify a specific location in the park. When in trouble, call for help and tell the "rescue number" of your location.

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Address : Post No. 854-0621

320 Unzen, Obama-cho, Unzen-city, Nagasaki, Japan.
TEL: 0957-73-3636 FAX: 0957-73-2136 <http://www.dango.ne.jp/unzen/>

Guide map of Mt. Fugen, Mt. Myoken, and Mt. Kunimi



【Autumn Leaves】

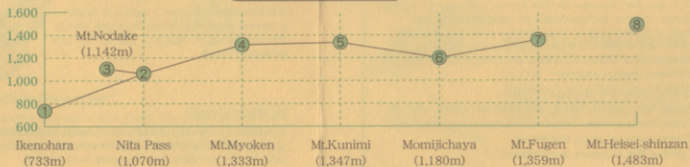
Mt.Fugen and Mt.Myoken begin to turn into red from the middle of October. The best time is up to the early November. The autumn leaves gradually comes down to the town. The autumn leaves of this region is specified for the natural monument of Japan. More than 120 kinds of plants turn their color in autumn.

The conditions of beautiful autumn leaves are to have warm days and cold nights, and little wind and rein not to hurt leaves, and ultraviolet rays enough. Although in a same tree, we see different colors of leaves, which is by the positions of each branch.



Kominekaede (Acer micranthum) Kohautiwakaede (Acer sieboldianum) Urikaede (Acer crataegifolium) Urihandakaede (Acer rufinerve)

The altitude (m)



【Hana-Bōro (Frost flowers)】

Frost flowers can be seen in Mt.Fugen, Mt.Myoken, and Mt.Kunimi in winter. But even in winter, we can not see it very often, because frost flowers needs several conditions below.

- 1 : Fog to have enough moisture in the air.
- 2 : Temperature below the freezing point.
- 3 : Cold wind.

Frost flowers is made by moisture in the air blown toward trees by cold wind. So the frost grows only in wind's direction that looks like a sward. The glittering trees are very beautiful.

To enjoy seeing frost flowers, I recommend taking a ropeway from Nita pass to Mt.Myoken and walk the trail course from Mt.Myoken to Mt.Kunimi.



Information
Unzen Ropeway
TEL 0957-73-3572
<http://www6.ocn.ne.jp/~unzenr.w/>



Japanese Green Woodpecker

It is a kind of woodpecker of ash green color and smaller than pigeon. Male's top and back of the head and female's back head are red. It twitters like "pyo-pyo".



Narcissus Flycatcher

It is a kind of summer bird and a little smaller than sparrow. It has black back and vivid orange chest and twitters in complex harmony voice.



Oriental Cuckoo

It is a kind of cuckoos and a summer bird of size of pigen. It twitters like "popopopo" like tapping bamboo. It commits its egg to sendaimushiku and misosazai.



Grey Thrush

It is a black small bird and its yellow around eyes and beak stands out very clearly. Though other birds stop twitting in July, only kurotsugumi sings in beautiful voice.

[Plants of Mt. Fugen, Mt. Myoken, and Mt. Kunimi]

The forest around these mountains is divided roughly into three groups which are Momi (*Abies firma*) trees' forest in Akamatsudani area, Yamaguruma trees on the top of rock mountain, and deciduous trees' forest in the other much larger part of these mountains.

As for the woods in those forest, there are so many kinds of bush and grass that we can constantly see flowers and berries from spring to autumn.

Rhododendron Kiushianum

It is a kind of azalea that represents Unzen. There are about 100,000 miyakirishima bushes in Nita pass. It begins to bloom from the late May. The flower and leaf are small and have various colors such as red, pink, light orange, purple, and so.



Rhododendron nudipes

It is a kind of azalea of 2 or 3 meters in height that puts out many branches and puts the three leaves on the tip of each branch. The flower blooms with leaves opening in May.



Tripetaleia paniculata

It is a deciduous bush of 2 meters in height. It blooms white tiny flower from late June to the early August, which is one of the last azaleas in Unzen.



(*Abies firma*)

It reaches 25 meters in height and 1 meter in diameter. The branches grow in horizontal direction. The leaves are evergreen and shaped like pins. We can see them from Nita pass to Azamidani.



Viola eizanensis

This viola is featured by its deep incision on the leaf. It blooms light red flower from the middle of April to the early May. After that leaves become larger. We can see them around Azamidani.

Weigela decora

It is a deciduous tree of 3 meters in height. It blooms trumpet shaped flower in the early summer.



Hydrangea macrophylla var. acuminata

It is 1 meter in height. We can surely see the dark blue flower in mountaineering Mt. Fugen in summer. For the acid soil light red flower can be seen uncommonly.

Unzen torikabuto aconite

It blooms blueish purple flower in the early September. Aconites' root contains hard poison "alkaloid".



(Blue-and-White Flycatcher)

It is a kind of summer bird and a little larger than sparrow. Male has dark blue back, black chest, and white stomach. Female is reddish or brownish color. It stays at high branch and twitters like "peeck peeck" slowly.

[Birds in Mt. Fugen, Mt. Myoken, and Mt. Kunimi]

These mountains are kept so much nature that they are very good for bird watching. Especially in summer, we can see not only staying birds but also summer birds very often.



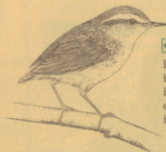
Wren

It is dark brown and much smaller than sparrow. They build their nest with moss on the rock around Mt. Fugen. It twitters long in loud voice.



Crowned Willow Warbler

It is a summer bird of smaller size than sparrow. The head and back is green, the stomach is ash white, and eyebrow is light yellow. Some says it twitters like "shochu ippai gui" means "Drink a glass of Japanese vodka fast."



Short-tailed Bush Warbler

It is a kind of warbler and 10 centimeters in size, which is one of smallest birds in Japan. It has a short tail and clear white eyebrow. It twitters like "sh-sh-sh" like a insect although it is a kind of warbler.