

Takakumayama Prefectural Nature Park

Excursion Map

TAKAKUMAYAMA GUIDE MAP



Kagoshima Osumi TAKAKUMAYAMA

TAKAKUMAYAMA

The mountains have long been revered in Japan's mountain-worship tradition and designated among Japan's 300 Famous Mountains and Kyushu's 100 Famous Mountains. Takakumayama Prefectural Nature Park

Known as the southernmost limit of beech forests in Japan, the area is designated as a Biotic Community Conservation Forest and is rich in natural beauty. Scenic highlights include Takatoge Pass, Lake Osumi, and Sarugajo Gorge, among many others.

Takakumayama Prefectural Nature Park is one of Kagoshima's signature natural areas, known for its deep, primeval forests and sweeping mountain scenery. At its center rise the Takakuma Mountains—Kagoshima's third-highest massif after Yakushima and Mount Kirishima. The range is anchored by its highest peak, Onogaradake (1,237 meters), and a chain of mountains over 4,000 meters, forming what is often called "the backbone of the Osumi Peninsula."

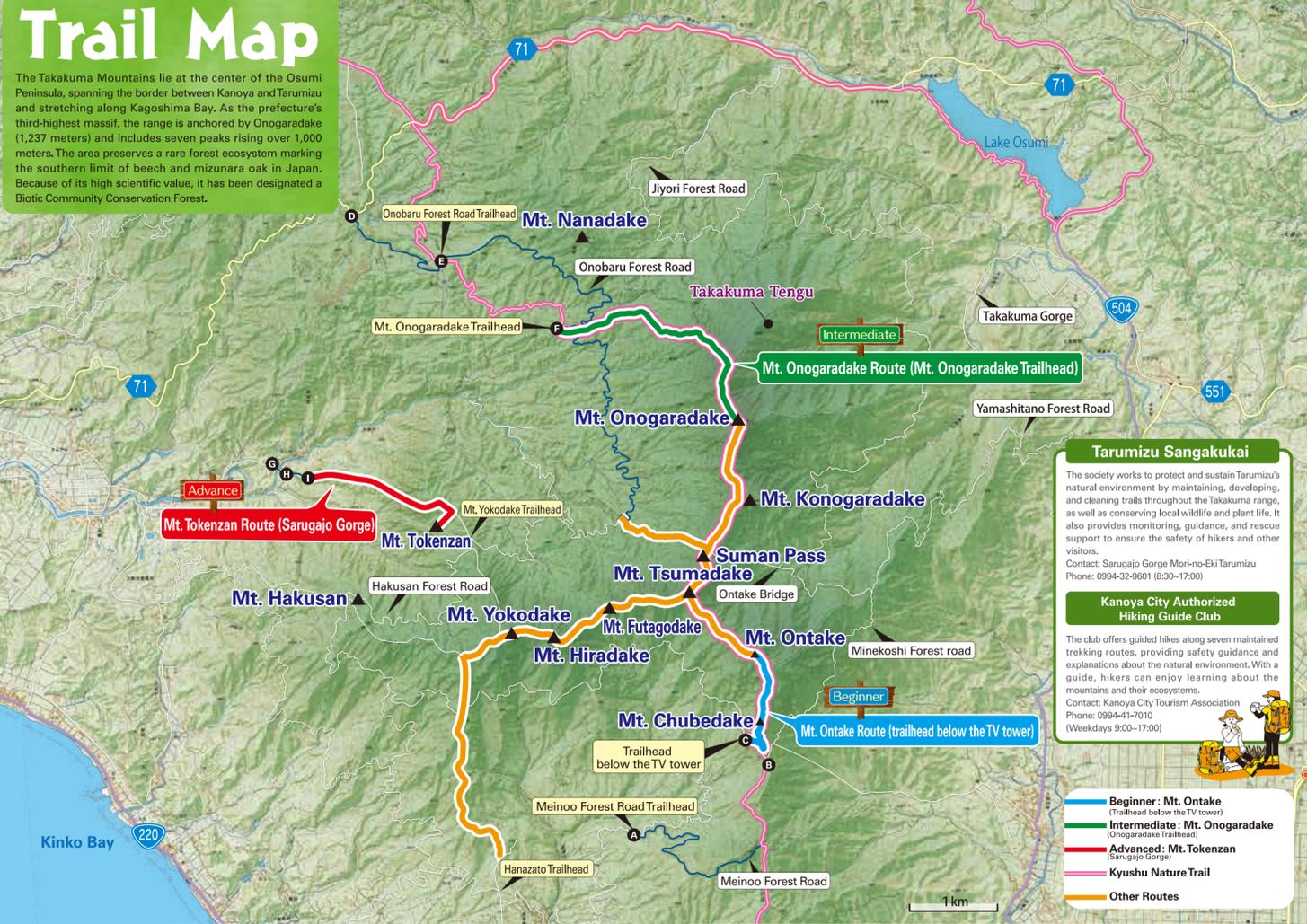
Of the 8,621 hectares of national forest in the Takakuma range, 957 hectares are designated as a Natural Recreational Forest, where dense primeval woodland continues to thrive. Recognized for its exceptional natural environment, the area was selected as a Forest Bathing Site in 1987 and later named one of the 100 Japanese Natural Sites to Preserve for the 21st Century.

The mountains, whose scenery changes beautifully with each season, are a popular destination for hiking and climbing. From the summit, you can enjoy sweeping 360-degree views of the Kirishima range and Sakurajima. The Takakuma River, which rises on the range's eastern slopes, runs through the clear waters of Takakuma Gorge before flowing into Lake Osumi, creating a continuous natural link from mountain to lake. Lake Osumi is a tranquil body of water sustained by the abundant flow from the Takakuma Mountains. Its calm surface reflects the surrounding peaks, creating a peaceful setting for visitors. Paths and viewpoints around the lakeshore are designed for easy strolling, allowing people to take in the shifting scenery throughout the year at a relaxed pace.



Trail Map

The Takakuma Mountains lie at the center of the Osumi Peninsula, spanning the border between Kanoya and Tarumizu and stretching along Kagoshima Bay. As the prefecture's third-highest massif, the range is anchored by Onogaradake (1,237 meters) and includes seven peaks rising over 1,000 meters. The area preserves a rare forest ecosystem marking the southern limit of beech and mizunara oak in Japan. Because of its high scientific value, it has been designated a Biotic Community Conservation Forest.



Tarumizu Sangakukai
The society works to protect and sustain Tarumizu's natural environment by maintaining, developing, and cleaning trails throughout the Takakuma range, as well as conserving local wildlife and plant life. It also provides monitoring, guidance, and rescue support to ensure the safety of hikers and other visitors.
Contact: Sarugajo Gorge Mori-no-Eki Tarumizu Phone: 0994-32-9601 (8:30-17:00)

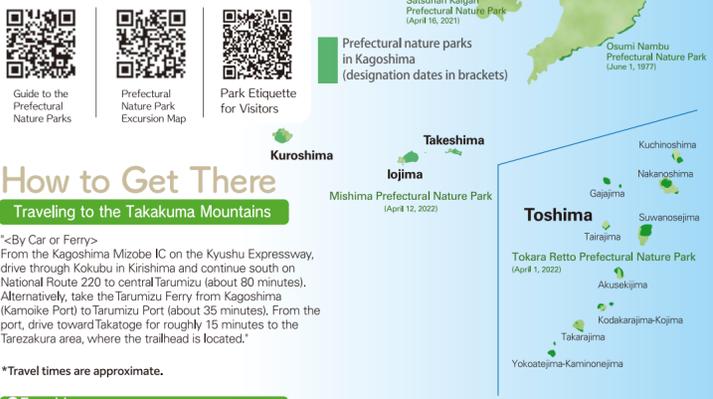
Kanoya City Authorized Hiking Guide Club
The club offers guided hikes along seven maintained trekking routes, providing safety guidance and explanations about the natural environment. With a guide, hikers can enjoy learning about the mountains and their ecosystems.
Contact: Kanoya City Tourism Association Phone: 0994-41-7010 (Weekdays 9:00-17:00)

- Beginner:** Mt. Ontake (Trailhead below the TV tower)
- Intermediate:** Mt. Onogaradake (Onogaradake Trailhead)
- Advanced:** Mt. Tokenzan (Sarugajo Gorge)
- Kyushu Nature Trail**
- Other Routes**

Immerse yourself in nature!

Discover the Prefectural Nature Parks!

Prefectural nature parks are established to protect the region's outstanding natural landscapes and to encourage their use for residents' health, recreation, and overall well-being. There are currently ten designated parks.



- Enquiries**
- Tarumizu** Tarumizu City Tourism Association 114 Kanmachi, Tarumizu Phone: 0994-32-1111
 - Kanoya** Kanoya City Tourism Association 3-11-1 Nishihara, Kanoya Phone: 0994-41-7010
 - Osumi** Osumi Tourism Information Website (Osumi Tourism Future Council) 8-8 Kitada-cho, Kanoya Phone: 0994-35-1266

This map was created with the generous support of local residents in Tarumizu and Kanoya. We hope you enjoy discovering the "local-only" spots they love. Published by: Kagoshima Prefecture Nature Conservation Division 099-286-2617 March 2025

Discover and Learn About the Area Surrounding Takakumayama Prefectural Nature Park

The area surrounding Takakumayama Prefectural Nature Park is rich in soothing scenery and untouched nature. It is also home to stories shaped over many years by people who have learned to live skillfully and harmoniously with the land. Local high school students recently visited individuals who carry on traditions and techniques in fields such as agriculture and fishing, listening to the stories and knowledge they have passed down through generations.

Kanoya Agricultural High School
Lake Osumi Revives! Kasanohara Plateau Agriculture—Plus Three More Stories!

Tarumizu High School
The Shibaizeki Weir at Kawaharazono

Kushira Commercial High School
Mt. Tokenzan Hiking Guide Plus One More Story!

Kanoya Technical High School
The Ono District and Kagoshima University forests!

Kanoya Girls' High School
Onobaru's tsurasageimo (sweet potato)

Takakuma Mountains Hiking trails through history

Beginner
Mt. Ontake Route (trailhead below the TV tower)
Duration: 90 min one way
Starting near Meinoo Ranch, follow the Meinoo Forest Road and begin your hike where the road ends. From the summit, you'll be treated to sweeping 360-degree views of the Kirishima range, Sakurajima, and Mt. Kaimon.

Intermediate
Mt. Onogaradake Route (Mt. Onogaradake Trailhead)
Duration: 150 min one way
From Prefectural Route 71, pass through the Terezura settlement and begin your hike via the Onobaru Forest Road. From the third station onward, the trail becomes steep with repeated sections. By the fifth station, the view opens up, offering sweeping vistas of Sakurajima and Kinko Bay.

Advance
Mt. Tokenzan Route (Sarugajo Gorge)
Duration: 150 min one way
Start your hike from Uchinono Bridge in the Uchinono settlement. The trail offers a mix of terrain, including stream crossings, rocky stretches, rope-assisted climbs, and ladders. Each ascent reveals something new, making it an engaging and rewarding route. Hiking with an experienced companion is recommended.

Kyushu Nature Trail

A long trail connecting Kyushu's seven prefectures like a necklace

The Kyushu Nature Trail, opened in 1980 as Japan's second long-distance trail, stretches roughly 3,000 kilometers, including about 560 kilometers within Kagoshima Prefecture. The Kagoshima section links one national park and seven prefectural nature parks, and the route passes through the Takakuma Mountains. Trail markers feature a small snail symbol and are affectionately nicknamed "Yamabiko-san."

Takakuma Mountains: A Natural Gem Wild Flora



Tarumizu Sakkabira
Legends of Samurai Who Fell in Their Prime
In 1572, the Kimotsuki clan, then at war with the Shimazu, established their camp on this site. But when the Shimazu staged an ambush, the Kimotsuki forces found themselves trapped with no way out. One after another, the warriors leapt from the cliffs on the northern side. The sight was said to resemble scattering flower petals, and the area came to be called Sangedaira ("Scattering Blossoms Plateau"). Over time, the name shifted to Sakkabira. Even today, the northern cliffs still retain the original name, Sangedaira.

History

Tengu and Yamabushi Kanoya
The Mountain Lore of Tengu and Yamabushi in Takakuma
A legendary ascetic called Tokimura Tengu was said to dwell deep in the Takakuma Mountains. One day, a yamabushi wandered up to visit him, and the two clashed over a young horse Tengu was keeping. The yamabushi tried to escape, chanting spells as he ran, but Tengu drew on his supernatural power and sent an arrow after him, killing him on the banks of the Amori River in Kokubu. Tales of tengu and yamabushi like this have been told throughout the Osumi Peninsula for generations.