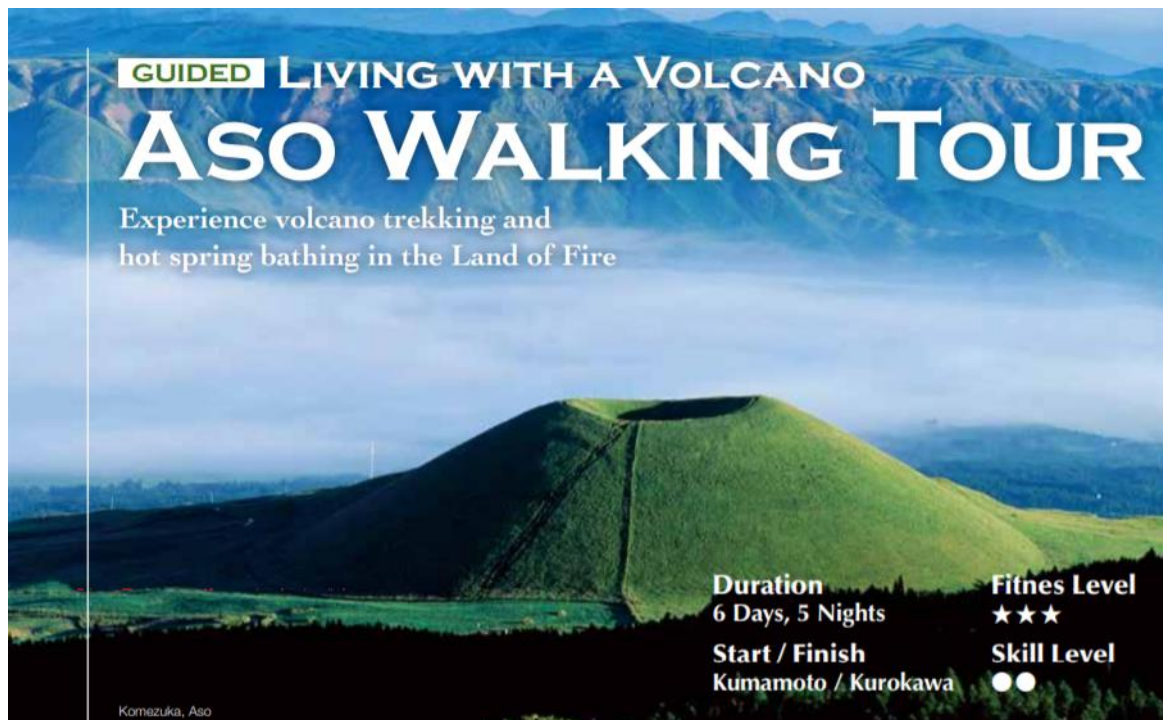


Aso Walking Tour 5 Nights 6 Days



Highlights

- See the heartland of Japan in the ancient landscape of Kumamoto, known as the ‘land of fire’.
- Hike Mount Aso, Japan’s most active volcano and one of the world’s largest caldera volcanoes.
- Explore scenic trails in Aso National Park and Aso Geopark, a *UNESCO Site*.
- Trek Futaenotouge Pass, a historic route once traversed by samurai.
- Eat Kumamoto aka ushi, a Japanese beef renowned for its rich flavor and tenderness.
- Experience the relaxing Japanese custom of bathing in a hot spring.
- Enjoy a traditional Japanese performance of kagura.

Overview

The Aso Walking Tour is a fully guided tour, suitable for anyone who can walk for more than 1 to 3 hours in comfort. This is a 6-day, 5-night tour that will take you through the geographical highlights of Aso, a historical city in Kumamoto Prefecture located in the region of Kyushu. On the surface, Aso is a place of tranquil beauty. Charming villages offer breathtaking views of Mount Aso.

Yet underneath the beauty is a volatile force that cannot be tamed. Dotted with volcanic mountains, Kumamoto Prefecture is frequently referred to as hi no kuni, the “land of fire”. Kumamoto is home to Mount Aso, Japan’s most active volcano and one the world’s largest caldera volcanoes.

Day 01 Kumamoto – Aso

- 13:30-14:00 Meet at Kumamoto Shinkansen West Exit Ticket Barriers – Briefing
- 14:00-15:40 Microbus to Aso City
- 15:40-16:40 1.6km walk of Bunga Kaido and Futae no Toge
- 16:40-17:30 Microbus to hotel
- 19:00-20:30 Dinner
- 20:30-22:00 Onsen hot spring, free time



Futae no Toge

Day 02 Aso – Minami Aso

- 8:00-9:00 Breakfast
- 9:00-9:30 Microbus to former girls' school
- 9:30-10:00 Walking tour from former girls' school to Aso Shrine
- 10:00-10:30 Tour Aso Shrine
- 10:30-11:00 Walk back to former girls' school
- 11:00-11:30 Microbus to Kokuzo Shrine
- 11:30-12:30 Tour of Kokuzo Shrine and Tombs
- 12:30-13:30 Lunch
- 13:30-14:00 Microbus to Mt. Nakadake base
- 14:00-16:00 2 hour trek of Mt. Nakadake
- 16:00-16:30 Microbus to hotel
- 17:30-18:30 Check in, onsen hot spring, free time
- 18:30-20:30 Dinner



Kokuzo Shrine

Day 03 Minami Aso – Takamori

- 8:00-9:00 Breakfast
- 9:00-9:30 Microbus to Nishinomiya Shrine
- 9:30-10:00 Tour of Nishinomiya Shrine
- 10:00-11:30 Walk from Nishinomiya Shrine to Yasaka Shrine
- 11:30-12:00 Tour of Yasaka Shrine
- 12:00-12:30 Microbus to Minami Aso
- 12:30-13:30 Lunch
- 13:30-14:00 Microbus to Takamori
- 14:00-15:00 Tour of Marukichi Soy Sauce and Miso Factory
- 15:00-16:30 Tour of Reizan (Yamamura Shuzo) Sake Brewery and tasting
- 16:30-17:00 Microbus to hotel
- 17:00-18:00 Check in and free time
- 18:00-20:00 Dinner
- 20:00 Onsen hot spring, free time



Nishinomiya Shrine

Day 04 Takamori – Ubuyama – Namino – Ubuyama

- 8:00-9:00 Breakfast
- 9:00-10:00 Microbus to Ubuyama Hot Spring and Higotai Park
- 10:00-11:30 Walk from Higotai Park to Ogi rice terraces
- 11:30-12:00 Microbus to Yamanosato
- 12:00-13:00 Local Wagyu Beef Lunch
- 13:00-13:30 Microbus to Ikeyama Fountainhead
- 13:30-14:30 Walk Ikeyama Fountainhead to Ikeyama Ranch
- 14:30-15:00 Microbus to Aso Namino
- 15:00-17:00 Watch kagura performance at Aso Namino
- 17:00-17:30 Microbus to hotel
- 17:30-18:30 Check in and free time
- 18:30-20:30 Dinner
- 20:30 Onsen hot spring, free time



Higotai Park

Day 05 Ubuyama – Tsuetate – Waita – Oguni – Kurokawa

- 8:00-9:00 Breakfast
- 9:00-10:00 Microbus to Tsuetate Hot Spring
- 10:00-11:30 Walk around Tsuetate Hot Spring
- 11:30-12:00 Microbus to Waita Hot Spring
- 12:00-14:00 Tour and lunch at Waita Hot Spring
(Hot spring steamed chicken and vegetable cooking experience)
- 14:00-14:30 Microbus to Houraiyoshimi Shrine
- 14:30-16:00 Walking tour from Houraiyoshimi Shrine to Nabegataki Falls
- 16:00-17:00 Microbus to Kurokawa Hot Spring
- 17:00-18:00 Check in and free time
- 18:00-20:00 Dinner
- 20:00-20:30 Microbus to Koibitotachi no Oka (Lovers' hill)
- 20:30-21:00 Stargazing
- 21:00-21:30 Return to hotel
- 21:30 Onsen hot spring, free time



Tsuetate Hot Spring



Stargazing Kurokawa

Day 06 Kurokawa

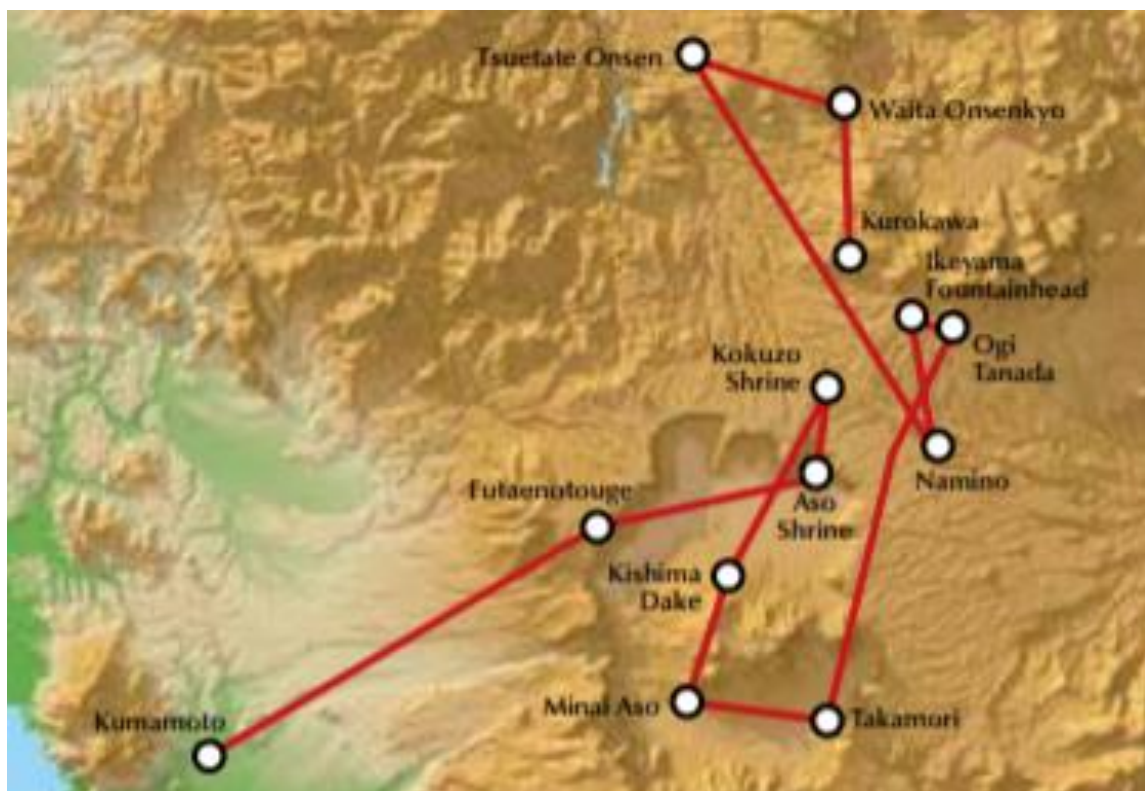
- 8:00-9:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 End of tour

Package Information

Package Includes:

- All transport from starting point to end, and throughout tour by private car or coach
- Professional English speaking guide throughout tour
- All entrance and activity fees during tour
- 05 nights hotel accommodation
- Daily breakfast at hotels
- Daily lunch as specified in itinerary
- Daily dinner as specified in itinerary
- All relevant government taxes

Do note that we shall tailor the itinerary to suit your needs and budget, we look forward to creating your Bespoke Itinerary.



Some tours we offer focus on nature and the outdoors, there is some level of fitness required, we provide a guide for the level of activity expected for each day. Should you wish to do more / less we can tailor made the tour according to your preference:

Fitness Levels

- * You should be OK to carry your own luggage for up to an hour and climb stairs, most long distance travel will be by private car or public transport.
- ** Additionally to level 1 requirements, you should be able to walk around 5km per day. Longer works are mostly over flat ground and range from 01-03hrs.

*** Additionally to level 1 requirements, you should be able to walk 15-25km per day. Walks may include some hills but not over extended period of times. Walks range from 3-5hrs per day.

Skill Levels

- * Walking on roads and stair climbing
- ** Walking on well-made paths and flat earth surfaces
- *** Walking on forest trails which may not be even surfaced. The use of walking poles or sticks is recommended.
- **** Walking mountain paths, which may include loose rocks. Walking poles and proper hiking shoes and recommended.