

Kyushu Olle

Amakusa-Matsushima Course



What is “Kyushu Olle”? With origins in Jeju Island in South Korea, “Olle,” meaning a little alley running between the street and the house, refers to a series of trekking courses. Kyushu Olle is a spin-off of the original Jeju version.

How to Walk in Olle The feature of Kyushu Olle is the landmarks you can find on the road including the Kanse, inspired from the horse head in Jeju, Blue and Red tied ribbons, and Wooden Arrows. Head of the horse and arrows refers to the trekking direction. How to enjoy the attractions is to feel the rich nature, coast and mountains that stimulate all five senses and to feel ease and pleasure while managing your own pace of

walking. You can also enjoy walking with the history and foods of its course.

Kanse Head of the horse pointing hikers direction.



Ribbon Blue and Red tied ribbons are the landmark of the course.



Wooden Arrow Blue arrow refers to forward direction. Red arrow refers to backward direction.



【Amakusa/Matushima Course】

◆ Distance:11.1km Time:4~5 hours

Difficulty:beginner~Intermediate

◆ Stamp Points:

★ Amakusa Shiro Tourism Association (8:30AM~5:30PM /

Close:Dec 30th~Jan 3rd)

★ Koei (倅栄) (9AM~4PM)

★ Mitchan's handicrafts and sewing machine class

(9:30AM~4:30PM)

◆ Access(by public transportation):

Hakata Station (博多駅) ➡ «Bullet Train (Shinkansen)» ➡

Kumamoto Station (熊本駅) ➡ «Bus · Rapid (Kaisoku) Amakusa»

➡ Chiju (知十) 【Start Point】

※Please get on the bus at Matsushima (松島) after the goal.

(By cars):

Park the car in front of Aizu (合津) Port, right next to the Matsushima branch office of Kamiamakusa police station on Route 266. Please take a taxi from the parking lot or take a bus from Matsushima (松島) to Chiju (知十) where is the start point, otherwise you'll have 5km to walk.

【View Points】

a. Chiju Kannon (知十観音) → b. Dago Ishi (だご石)

→ c. Ochozu (御手水) Falls → d. Chiju (知十) Coast (1.7km)

→ e. Extensive Rice Fields → f. Sengen Moridake (千元森嶽)(5.5km)

→ g. Senganzan Mountain (千巖山) (7.3km) → h. Megalith (7.8km)

→ i. Ryu-no-Ashiyu (龍の足湯) (11.1km)

※b and f are located out of the course, but not so far.

a. Chiju Kannon (知十観音) is the start point of Matsushima course. It has been said that babies stopped drooping after their mothers prayed for it. There is the Hatakeyama(畠山) Shrine located above the rock wall behind the Chiju Kannon. The god of Sumiyoshi and Shigetada

Hatakeyama (畠山重忠) who is the samurai in Kamakura (鎌倉) Period (1185-1333) have been worshiped there.



b. Dago Ishi became the rock about 50 million years ago, and it became circular in shape by undergoing weathering and erosion little by little. It's been said that the present shape has almost unchanged since 1 million years ago. It was likely to fall down, but it actually did not fall down. You might get the same good luck as you won't fall down the exam that you would try if you pray for it.



c. The source of **Ochozu (御手水) Falls** is from Mt. Taromaru and Jiromaru. The total length is 2.5km and the tilt angle is 40 degrees. The water falls down as it's sliding on the surface of the rock, and these falls are about 10 meters of width. You are able to see cherry blossoms and fireflies that live in a cluster around here.



d. Chiju (知十) Coast is shallow off the shore and has fantastic views of the surrounding islands of Ariake Sea.

※Please be aware that the seawater rushes to the feet when the tide is full at the spring tide.



e. Extensive Rice Fields are known for their early rice harvest and the total area is approximately over 500,000 square meters. The beginning of the reclamation in this area has started in 1674, the 1st term, and ended in 1838, the 5th term. Both sides of the mountains are the sandstones of Shiratake layers, deposited in layers 50 million years ago. There are powerful bold cliffs on the west side, and you are able to see carps and crucian carps in the stream of the river.

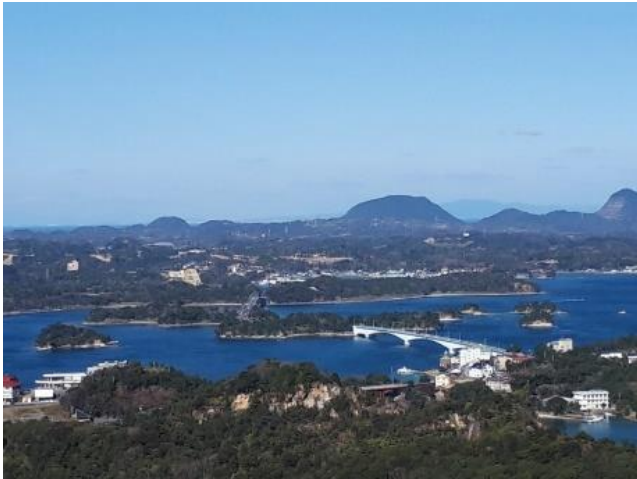


f. Sengen Moridake (千元森嶽) is a cliff and is white sandstones deposited about 50 million years ago, symbolizing Amakusa Kesta Terrain. Climb up the path from the rice fields, and go off the course at the crossroad to Sengen Moridake. The peak commands a spectacular panoramic view of the surrounding area.



g. Senganzan Mountain (千巖山) is a national designated cultural property. From the top of the mountain, you are able to see a panoramic view of a cluster of islands, called one of the three major 'Matsushima's in Japan and Amakusa Five Bridges. In 1637 (Edo Period), before the 'Shimabara-Amakusa Rebellion', Shiro Amakusa collected Christians and took over drinks here.

Senganzan Mountain has lifted up by the crustal deformation, occurred 10 to 20 million years ago. The fantastic views of the islands of Matsushima had been consisted by the wind erosion of sand rocks, bound from the sand in the shallow sea 50 million years ago.



h. Megalith is huge rocks collapsed by erosion. It has been said that a wish would come true if you pass through the cavity between the rocks with praying for your wish.



i. After goal, please heal your feet with the lukewarm water at **Ryu-no-Ashiyu (龍の足湯)**, which is free to use.



★★★ Information of Matsushima Course ★★★

1_If you go off the course at **step-f**, and on the way of descending from the top of the mountain, you can see the ospreys' nest. If you have a good luck, you will be able to see that the ospreys spread out their wings and fly leisurely.



2_Matsushima in Amakusa is one of the three major 'Matsushima's in Japan. By the way, the other two are Matsushima in Miyagi prefecture and Kujukyu Island in Nagasaki Prefecture.

