

Route Samples

From the earth's dynamic changes, to stunning natural views, to cultural heritage sites including mines and historic roads.
Kurikoma Area geo-guides will lead you on a variety of recommended routes.
Tours with a guide can be enjoyed for around 2,000 yen per hour, so please don't hesitate to request one.

1

Find out the dynamic changes of earth and mountain side village lives.

Kurikoma-Monji Nagaya-Mon Gate

12-b

12km

15 min.

Aizenko Fureai Park (Aratozawa Landslide)

5-c

7km

15 min.

Site of the Hiyashizawa Landslide

7-a

2km

5 min.

Sekaiyachi High Moor

4

10km

30 min.

Gyojataka Falls

7-b

15 min.

Necessary Time

3 hrs. 20 min.

2

Experience the 2008 Iwate-Miyagi inland earthquake and the dynamic shaping of the earth.

Kurikoma-Monji Nagaya-Mon Gate

12-b

12km

15 min.

Aizenko Fureai Park (Aratozawa Landslide)

5-c

7km

15 min.

Site of the Hiyashizawa Landslide

7-a

2km

5 min.

Sekaiyachi High Moor

4

10km

30 min.

Gyojataka Falls

7-b

15 min.

Necessary Time

3 hrs. 50 min.

3

Gorge and Outcrops which created by submarine volcanism at Miocene era.

Ushibuchi Gorge (General Office of Kurihara Region Dams)

10-a

5km

10 min.

Hanayama Furusato Center

7km

5 min.

Sakashita Landslide site

8-d

2km

5 min.

Azabu Gorge

10-b

2km

5 min.

Kogawara Landslide site

8-b

15 min.

Necessary Time

2 hrs. 10 min.

4

Kurihara's Mines heritage (Hosokura mine park)

Kuriden Museum

13-a

23km

40 min.

Hosokura Mine Park

9

8km

35 min.

Ushibuchi Gorge (General Office of Kurihara Region Dams)

10-a

15 min.

Necessary Time

3 hrs. 0 min.

5

Find out about geological volcano.

Kogawara Landslide site

8-b

4km

10 min.

Sakashita Landslide site

8-d

18km

30 min.

Izunozeki water gate

12-c

10km

15 min.

Pyroclastic flow deposit (volcanic pisolite)

11-a

30 min.

Necessary Time

2 hrs. 20 min.

6

The landform and culture based on rice farming by repeated floodings.

The lowest point in the Kurihara

16

8km

15 min.

Takashimizu Spring

15-b

14km

20 min.

Lake Izunuma-Uchinuma

14

1km

5 min.

Izunuma-Uchinuma Sanctuary Center

17km

30 min.

Izunozeki

12-c

20 min.

Necessary Time

3 hrs. 20 min.

7

Images of Kurihara lifestyle and relation to the Tectonic line.

Senpoku Railway Site and Lignite Mine

8km

15 min.

Izunuma-Uchinuma Sanctuary Center

12km

20 min.

Oshu Kaido Road

15-a

18km

30 min.

Izunozeki

12-c

4km

10 min.

Ichihassama Nagaya Gate

20 min.

Necessary Time

3 hrs. 30 min.

*Numbers refer to the numbers on the map in the inside pages.
*Times inside " " brackets indicate time spent at a site.
*Travel times indicate the time it takes by car.
*Please inquire regarding the necessary amount of time from your point of departure.

Transport and Access to Kurihara City (Mt. Kurikoma Area)

By car

- From Urawa IC: To Tsukidate IC: approx. 386 km (approx. 4 hrs. 50 min.)
- From Tsukidate IC: To Hanayama: 35 min. / To Uguisuzawa: 15 min. / To Ichihassama: 10 min. / To Tsukidate: 3 min. / To Shiwahime: 10 min. / To Semine: 10 min. / To Takashimizu: 10 min.
- From Urawa IC: To Wakayanagi-Kannari IC: approx. 400 km (approx. 5 hrs.)
- From Wakayanagi-Kannari IC: To Kurihara: 10 min. / To Kannari: 3 min. / To Wakayanagi: 5 min.

By JR *Please contact bus operating companies to inquire about bus connections.

Tohoku Shinkansen

Sendai Sta.	Approx. 25 min.	Kurikoma-Kogen Sta.
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Tohoku-Honsen Line

Sendai Sta.	Approx. 55 min.	Semine Sta.
Ichinoseki Sta.	Approx. 6 min.	Arikabe Sta.

By Highway Bus

Sendai Sta.	Approx. 60 min.	Tsukidate
	Approx. 75 min.	Wakayanagi
	Approx. 70 min.	Ichihassama
	Approx. 85 min.	Kannari

* There are also bus routes from JR Kurikoma-Kogen Station, Furukawa Station, Ichinoseki Station, and Ishikoshi Station. (Please contact bus operating companies to inquire.)

By Plane

- On the Tohoku Expressway via Sendai-Tobu Road/Hokubu Road from Sendai Airport IC: To Tsukidate IC: approx. 77 km (approx. 50 min.) / To Wakayanagi-Kannari IC: approx. 89 km (approx. 1 hr.)

Accommodation Please contact the Kurihara Tourism and Local Products Association (tel: +81-228-25-4166) to inquire about accommodation.

Geoparks in the Tohoku Area

Neighboring Geopark "Yuzawa Geopark"

Closest Geosite
Oyasukyo Giant Fumarole

At Oyasukyo Daifunto, high-temperature steam and hot springs vent loudly out of gaps and cracks through the Sanzunokawa sediment formation in the riverbed. White steam rises with a roaring noise from cracks in the rocks on the 60-meter-high sheer cliff walls, making for a dramatic sight.

Inquiries Mt. Kurikoma Area Geopark Promotion Committee

200 Oki, Kannari-Sawabe, Kurihara, Miyagi Prefecture 989-5171
Tel: +81-228-24-8836 Fax: +81-228-24-8810
Homepage: <http://www.kuriharacity.jp/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/geo.kurikoma>



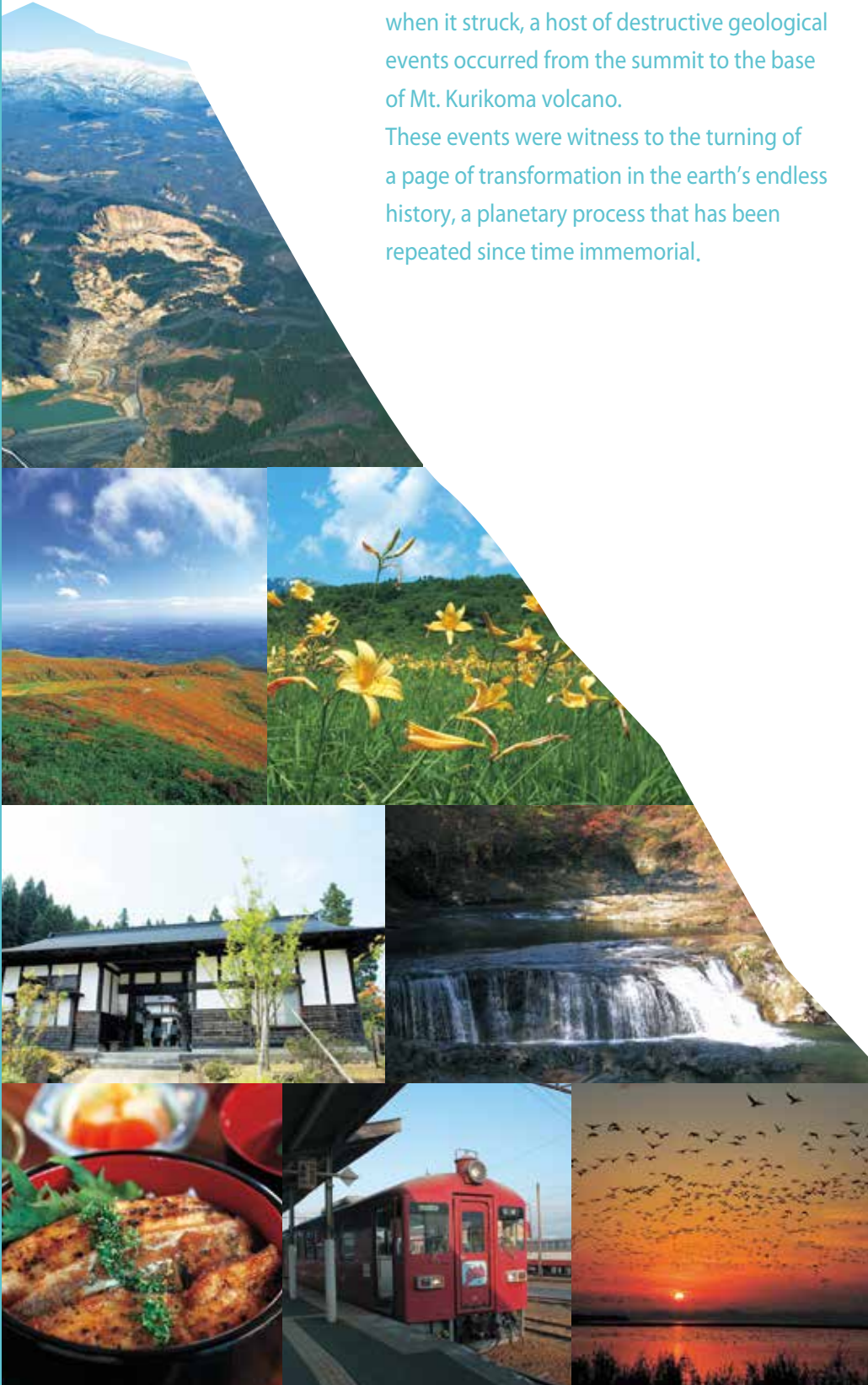
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Site Map of Mt. Kurikoma Area Geopark

— Stories of Coexistence with Natural Disasters and of the Bountiful Earth —

The 2008 Iwate-Miyagi inland earthquake: when it struck, a host of destructive geological events occurred from the summit to the base of Mt. Kurikoma volcano. These events were witness to the turning of a page of transformation in the earth's endless history, a planetary process that has been repeated since time immemorial.



Site Map of Mt. Kurikoma Area Geopark



1 Kurikoma volcano

This volcano is the symbol of the Mt. Kurikoma Area Geopark. It is famous for colored in autumn, which are said the finest in Japan. Six climbing trails are being designed for hikers. The volcano is covered with snow until early summer, and which shape looks like a horse. This is the sign of the start of rice planting for local people.

- Iwakagamidaira



2 The Five Hot Spring sites

Many sorts of hot springs site in the southern slopes of Mt. Kurikoma. This site gives you opportunities to immerse the geothermal atmosphere.

- Kurikoma Hot Spring Village 2-a (Possible in some areas)
- Hanayama Hot Spring Village 2-b (Possible in some areas)



3 Huge Thuja tree forest

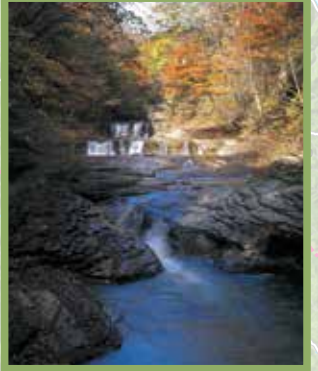
A Japanese arborvitae habitat expands at the stable slope in the active area of the Kurikoma volcano. The biggest tree is more than 1000 years old.



4 Sekaiyachi High Moor

After 20 minutes trail walk in the *Fagus* forest, you will reach the open and flat wetland. The peat swamp has been growing since the glacial age. Many kinds of *Hemerocallis* flowers bloom here and there during summer. You can walk on the boardwalk safely.

- Sekaiyachi Native Flower Park



5 Aratozawa Gorge

The gorge consists smooth and shallow river and many waterfalls. The interesting landscapes are created by the combination of the geological structure and river erosion. The dam also utilizes the geologic structure.

- Aratozawa Gorge 5-a
- Aratozawa Dam 5-b



6 Aratozawa Landslide

A massive landslide occurred at the Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku Earthquake in 2008. It was the largest catastrophic critical landslide ever in Japan. See the nature power by your own eyes. The park shows the incredible real landslide mechanism and its aftermath.

- Aizenko Fureai Park 5-c



7 Landslides and waterfalls zone of the volcano

A huge number of landslides occurred at the Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku Earthquake in 2008. The measures have been being considered yet. The Gyojanotaki Waterfalls are in a sacred mountain. It is also located in the landslide zone.

- Site of the Hiyaizawata Landslide 7-a
- Gyojotaki Falls 7-b



8 Landslide Zone in the Hanayama Area

More than 1000 landslides occurred in this area at the Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku Earthquake in 2008. We can recognize what the landslide is and also learn how the measures were carried out for local community recovery.

- Site of the Yubama/Yunokura Landslide 8-a
- Site of the Kogawara Landslide 8-b
- Site of the Azabu Landslide 8-c
- Site of the Sakashita Landslide 8-d



9 Hosokura Mine, a Gift of Hydrothermal Ore Deposits

The site of the Hosokura Mine is renewed into a theme park. The mine tunnels, mine facilities and the area around the mine are open for sightseeing and attractions.

- Hosokura Mine Park (Reopened after renewal in July 2016) (Possible in some areas)



10 Hillside Gorge and Green Tuff

Three gorges have been growing at the boundary of hill and Kurikoma Mountain. There are several waterfalls, deep gorges and typical submarine volcanic geological features. The submarine volcanic sediments named "Green Tuff" that is the sign of Japan Sea creation.

- Ushibuchi Gorge 10-a
- Azabu Gorge 10-b
- Kawadai Gorge 10-c



11 The hills made by deposit from Plio-Pleistocene Era

During last several million years, the displacement was continued in the Kurikoma area. Kurikoma volcano started erupting. The interacted process between the crustal movements, volcanic activities and fluvial processes made the landscapes of the hills and flood-plain. Sometimes you can get fossils made with raindrops named Pisolite.

- Volcanic pisolite 11-a
- The Onoda formation, a pyroclastic flow deposit 11-b



12 The alluvial plains of the three Hasama Rivers

The three Hasama rivers begin from Mt. Kurikoma. We can image the overcoming history from the flooding disaster.

- Nagaya Gate 12-a
- Izonozeki 12-b
- Confluence of the three Hasama rivers 12-d



13 Kurihara's railways

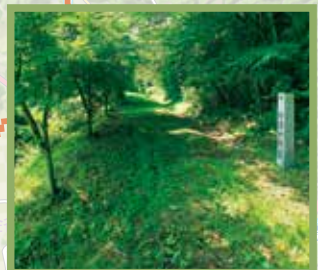
See the station building of the former Kurihara Den'en Railway and train cars preserved in working condition. Find out about the history of commuting and the transport of goods.

- Kuriden Museum 13-a (opened April 2017)
- Senpoku Railway Site and Lignite Mine 13-b



14 The Coexistence of farmers and wetlands: Lake Izunuma-Uchinuma

The lakes Izunuma and Uchinuma are known for the lotus flower in summer. The area is one of largest wintering habitats for migratory geese and swans. The wetlands are given as natural treasure status and registered under the Ramsar Convention.



15 The old national road telling us about history and geological event

Spatial location of mountains, rivers, and transportation facilities of Tohoku district are stretch from north to south. The location originated by the plate tectonics. We can find out about the plains that formed on the eastern edge of the Green Tuff Geo-event and the Morioka-Shirakawa Tectonic Line.

- Oshu Kaido Road 15-a
- Takashimizu Spring 15-b
- Hanayamamura Nuruyu Bansho Historic Site 15-c



16 Symbol of the contrast in elevation

At 1.8 meters above sea level, it is the place with the lowest elevation of the Mt. Kurikoma Area Geopark. The area provides us the vertical landscape from the top of the Mt. Kurikoma and wide horizontal landscape of paddy fields.