

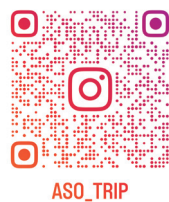


Produced by Aso Regional Tourism Promotion Council



Tips from all over Aso!

Aso Trip
(Aso Regional Tourism Promotion Council)
Official Instagram



Winter Activities in Aso

Aso's Winter Wonderland



1 Feel the Breath of the Earth

Even in winter, Aso exudes the energy of fire.

The wealth of hot springs and their varying mineral profiles provide ample warm refuge from which to enjoy the winter marvels. Furthermore, Aso has a variety of locally grown foods that soften the winter cold, often prepared in a warm fireplace or sunken hearth.

2 Tour Snow-Covered Mountains and Grasslands

In winter, Aso is filled with marvelous sights of snowy trees, white-topped mountains, golden fields, seas of clouds, and clear air. Come tour Aso in the winter and soak in clear mornings, starry nights, and the open country in a brand new way.

3 Winter Sparkles and Heart-Pounding Experiences

Winter in Aso is a special time to enjoy events that can only be held this time of year. Highlights include dreamy candlelit nights, sparkling wintertime lights, and fun physical activities in the great outdoors.



1 *Feel the Breath of the Earth*



MINAMIOGUNI

North Aso



1 Kurokawa Onsen



At 700 meters above sea level, Kurokawa Onsen is a mystic town surrounded by ice and steam. Looking up from one of many outdoor baths at the constellations above is certain to heal your body and mind.

ASO CITY

Central Aso



3 Uchinomaki Onsen



In the winter, Aso's Uchinomaki Onsen is a quiet hot spring town with spectacular views of the Aso five peaks capped in snow. Color your winter by exploring this retro town and enjoying dips in the various hot spring baths.

TAKAMORI

South Aso



2 Shikiminoyu Onsen (Inside Kyukamura Minamiaso)



Shikiminoyu is a hot spring that softens and beautifies skin with its alkaline properties. It has a soul-soothing view of Aso's five peaks during the day, and at night, the starry sky creates an entirely new atmosphere.

OGUNI

North Aso



4 Tsuetate Onsen



Tucked away in a steamy, snow-covered gorge, this onsen town has hot springs that run at 98°C and are great for your skin. Between its old-school pathways, foot baths, and steamed cuisine, this town is truly a delight to experience.

1 *Feel the Breath of the Earth*

MINAMIASO

South Aso



5 Minamiaso Onsen Village



This onsen town is home to five hot spring areas, each with its own unique mineral profile: Tochinoki, Tarutama, Jigoku, Hinoyama, and Hakusui. The town is affectionately referred to as “Gogakugoto,” which likens it to the five peaks of Aso (the “Aso Gogaku”).

OGUNI

North Aso



7 Yamakawa Onsen



A secluded hot spring in the mountains with a host of ryokan. This hot spring area is known for its distinct sulfuric aroma and strong mineral profile that will leave your body feeling warm for hours.

OGUNI

North Aso



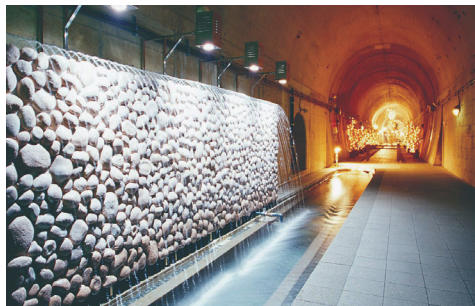
6 Waita Onsen Village



This spot at the foot of Mt. Waita is home to a cluster of hot springs. These hot springs are unique for their 24-hour naturally flowing baths and the "Hell Steam" emitted as a result of immense geothermal heat.

TAKAMORI

South Aso



8 Takamori Yusui Tunnel Park



Yusui Tunnel is a park in a tunnel with a ground-fed stream running down its center. The temperature inside remains around 17°C year-round, making it a warm attraction even in the winter.

2 *Tour Snow-Covered Mountains and Grasslands*

OGUNI

North Aso



9 Nabegataki Park



Visitors to this 10-meter-tall, 20-meter-wide waterfall can go behind the falls for a spectacularly unique view. The waterfall occasionally freezes in winter to form a magnificent wall of icicles. Reservations can be made in advance.

UBUYAMA

North Aso



11 Farm Village Ubuyama (Ubuyama Observatory)



From Ichiran Sanzan no Dai, stargazers can see the Milky Way and magnitude six stars, no viewing equipment required. Visitors can stay in a variety of accommodations, from private lodges to campsites.

UBUYAMA

North Aso



10 Ogi Terraced Rice Fields



The Ogi Terraced Rice Fields are one of the Top 100 Terraced Rice Fields of Japan & 100 Best Rice-Growing Regions and have a unique appearance in each season. In winter, snow covers the terraces, creating a wonderland of icy silver.

ASO CITY

Central Aso

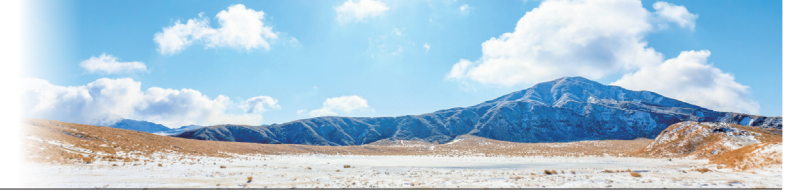


12 Nakadake Crater



Nakadake Crater's aura of power only increases in winter as its rough walls are covered in snow and the smoke becomes a billowing white cloud that looks like the warm breath of the Earth itself.

2 Tour Snow-Covered Mountains and Grasslands



ASO CITY

Central Aso



13 Koga Falls Jan. - Feb.



The Married Couple Waterfall is composed of a 100m "female" waterfall and an 80m "male" waterfall. The winter winds of the Aso Valley transform this waterfall into an impressive icefall in the winter months.

ASO CITY

Central Aso



14 Sensuikyo Gorge Falls



This gorge sits at an elevation 900m above sea level to the north of Mt. Takadake. The gorge offers stunning views of the Aso Valley and the outer caldera. In the winter, icicles hang from rock faces formed from ancient lava flows.

NISHIHARA

South Aso



17 Winter Rice Fields: Water Mirrors and Unparalleled Landscapes



Flooding rice fields in winter is an innovative way of recharging groundwater during the off-season. The clear water surfaces reflect the mountain landscape and winter sky like beautiful paintings.

TAKAMORI

South Aso



18 Pristine Scenery from the Minamiaso Railway



Many fields in Minamiaso are flooded for groundwater recharge in the winter, creating mirrors that reflect the clear sky and the snowy mountains for you to enjoy from aboard the Minamiaso Railway.

ASO CITY

Central Aso



15 Aso Panorama Line



This course gives drivers a full panoramic view of Aso as it passes the white-painted five peaks, leaving visitors wondering if they've traveled to another world.

ASO CITY MINAMIASO

Central Aso

South Aso



16 Kusasenrigahama



Kusasenrigahama has breathtaking views of the silver-laced grasslands as they stretch to the majestic five peaks of Aso. The fresh air and grazing horses create a truly picturesque winter scene.

TAKAMORI

South Aso



19 Takamori Toge Observation Deck



The Minamiaso plains and Aso's five peaks line up perfectly from this angle, making this a popular picture spot. In winter, Aso's rock faces take on a special sheen as if they are glowing, especially in the morning sun.

MINAMIOGUNI

North Aso



20 Public Access to Mazeno Gorge November



Fill your senses with nature in this gorge that is only open to the public twice a year during spring and fall. Come see all the different colors the leaves take on in autumn.

3 Winter Sparkles and Heart-Pounding Experiences



MINAMIASO

South Aso



21 Caldera Trail December



This event is held twice a year (in summer and winter). Unlike summertime, hikers take this path over piles of snow and ice in the silent winter for unparalleled sights of Aso's five peaks and the outer caldera blanketed in snow.

TAKAMORI

South Aso



22 Christmas Fantasy (Takamori Yusui Tunnel Park) December



Decorated Christmas trees hang from the ceiling of Yusui Tunnel during the Christmas season. The tree lights and their reflections sparkle and dance for a truly splendid spectacle.

ASO CITY

Central Aso



25 Winter Lights Dec. - Feb.



This light display spans the entire fountain plaza in front of Aso Station, with the fountain and lights combining to create a romantic atmosphere to enjoy with close friends and family.

MINAMIASO

South Aso



26 Winter Lights at Miharashidai Station, Minamiaso Railway Dec. - Feb.



Because the station is lit up while the trains are still running, riders can enjoy the lights from their train. If you time it right, you can see both the station and a specially illuminated train at the same time.

OGUNI

North Aso



23 Christmas Market (Tonomachi area, Oguni) December



Not only is this event a chance to check out what local businesses and creators are working on, it's a perfect opportunity to experience Aso's regional hospitality and do-it-yourself attitude.

ASO CITY

Central Aso



24 Aso Candle Night December



Aso Candle Night began with a hope for revival and development. Held under the theme of a rose ball, the candles fill the chilly mountain air with warm light to create a delightful ambiance.

MINAMIOGUNI

North Aso



27 Yuakari Festival Dec. - Mar.



Three hundred bamboo lanterns and bamboo ball lights decorate the river and softly light the surroundings, creating a dreamy scene of a winter's night in this cozy onsen town.

NISHIHARA

South Aso



28 Fuyuakari Festival February



Three thousand handmade candles illuminate Bato Park, soaking the hill in a dreamy light. This winter gathering brings the community together to enjoy a night with stage performances and food stalls.

3 Winter Sparkles and Heart-Pounding Experiences



UBUYAMA

North Aso



29 Ubuyama Winter Flea Market

February



Held in a well-heated, window-covered building, this event features around 40 shops, offering everything from food to handmade crafts, and is perfect for the whole family.

UBUYAMA

North Aso



30 Mountain Biking in the Snow: 100-Minute Endurance Challenge

February



A 1.5 km loop course set up to test participants' endurance and see how many laps they can do in 100 minutes. Rides can be done solo or in pairs. Afterwards, take a break in the rest space and enjoy a view of the winter landscape.

ASO CITY

Central Aso



33 Aso Shrine's Illuminated Cherry Blossoms

March



The scene of illuminated cherry blossoms combined with a low-lit shrine gate looks straight out of a fantasy and gives visitors a chance to enjoy the season even after dark.

MINAMIASO

South Aso



34 Kannon Sakura Park Cherry Blossom Festival

March



Standing in the pastures of the caldera's southern edge, this 90-year-old cherry blossom tree commands a fantastic view of the Nango Valley. The tree was nicknamed "Kannon Sakura" because there's a statue of Bato Kannon nearby.

TAKAMORI

South Aso



31 Shinshu Express

Feb. - Mar.

On this special Minamiaso Railway train, riders can taste freshly brewed Reizan sake made locally with Aso water and rice as they watch the five peaks of Aso go by their window.

Shinshu to Furusato no Aji Festival Sake Kasu Walk

Held every year from February to March, this festival focuses on tasting the newly finished batch, called "shinshu," of Yamamura Sake Brewery's Reizan sake. Enthusiasts from all around the country gather every year for this unique shinshu.



ASO CITY

Central Aso



32 Aso Shrine's Hifuri Shinji Ritual

March



In a ritual said to originate from a wedding of the gods, brave participants spin rings of fire, bathing the shrine in color and generating a spectral atmosphere.

MINAMIASO

South Aso



35 Aspecta Sadaharu Sakura Festival

March



The park's approximately 6,700 cherry blossom trees were planted to surround one of the world's largest outdoor stages. The different varieties bloom in different shades of pink, and the higher elevation means a longer time in bloom.

MINAMIASO

South Aso



36 Strawberry Picking

Dec. - May



Picking strawberries in the clear air at the base of the Aso mountains is a popular winter activity, so come join and enjoy the sweet, juicy fruits of your labor.

*Available at locations throughout Minamiaso. Scan the QR code for more info.

3 Winter Sparkles and Heart-Pounding Experiences

MINAMIASO

South Aso



37 Soba Making

Year-Round



For an activity that is both fun and delicious, try your hand at making and eating soba at the Soba Dojo inside the Asobo no Sato Kugino Roadside Station.

ASO CITY

Central Aso



38 Hot Air Ballooning

Year-Round



Soar the skies in a hot air balloon! Feel the heat and listen to the exhilarating sound of the burner as you enjoy a view from 40 meters in the air that you can't get anywhere else.

ASO CITY

Central Aso



39 Horse Riding

Year-Round



Experience a timeless moment riding a horse over snowy grasslands in the fresh air of Aso. No riding experience necessary to get in on the fun.

*Available at locations throughout Aso City. Scan the QR code for more info.

ASO CITY

Central Aso



38 ATV Riding

Year-Round



There's nothing more exhilarating than tearing through the crisp air and serene grasslands on an ATV while surrounded by the snow-capped Aso mountains. Let the icy wind and great outdoors invigorate your whole body.

Aso Event Calendar

Aso winters are known for the snow-capped mountains of outer caldera, the feeling of fresh air, and the warm steam clouds rising up from hot springs. The beautiful sights, experiences, and encounters of the season await you.

Season	Event	Municipality	Location	Map No.
Dec	Caldera Trail	Minamiaso	Aspecta Outdoor Theater	21
Dec	Christmas Fantasy	Takamori	Takamori Yusui Tunnel Park	22
Dec	Christmas Market	Oguni	Sakae Street, Miyahara, Oguni	23
Dec	Aso Candle Night	Aso City	Aso Milk Factory	24
Dec-Feb	Winter Lights	Aso City	Aso Station	25
Dec-Feb	Winter Lights at Miharashidai Station, Minamiaso Railway	Minamiaso	Miharashidai Station, Minamiaso Railway	26
Dec-Mar	Yuakari Festival	Minamioguni	Kurokawa Onsen	27
Feb	Fuyukari Festival	Nishihara	Moe no Sato	28
Feb	Ubuyama Winter Flea Market	Ubuyama	Ubuyama Outdoor Multipurpose Facility	29
Feb	Mountain Biking in the Snow: 100-Minute Endurance Challenge	Ubuyama	Ubuyama Place	30
Feb-Mar	Shinshu Express/Shinshu and Hometown Flavor Festival: Sake Kasu Walk	Takamori	Yamamura Sake Brewery	31
Mar	Aso Shrine's Hifuri Shinji Ritual	Aso City	Aso Shrine	32
Mar	Aso Shrine's Illuminated Cherry Blossoms	Aso City	Aso Shrine	33
Mar	Kannon Sakura Park Cherry Blossom Festival	Minamiaso	Kannon Sakura Park	34
Mar	Aspecta Sadaharu Sakura Festival	Minamiaso	Aspecta Outdoor Theater	35
Dec-May	Strawberry Picking	Minamiaso	Spots in Minamiaso	36
Year-Round	Soba Making	Minamiaso	Asobo no Sato Kugino Roadside Station	37
Year-Round	Hot Air Ballooning	Aso City	Fureaimizube Park	38
Year-Round	Horse Riding	Aso City	Throughout Aso City	39
Year-Round	ATV Riding	Aso City	Aso Buggy Land	40

*Please scan the QR code for details about when the event will be held.

ASO MAP

- North Aso
- Central Aso
- South Aso

36 STRAWBERRY PICKING (SOUTHERN ASO)

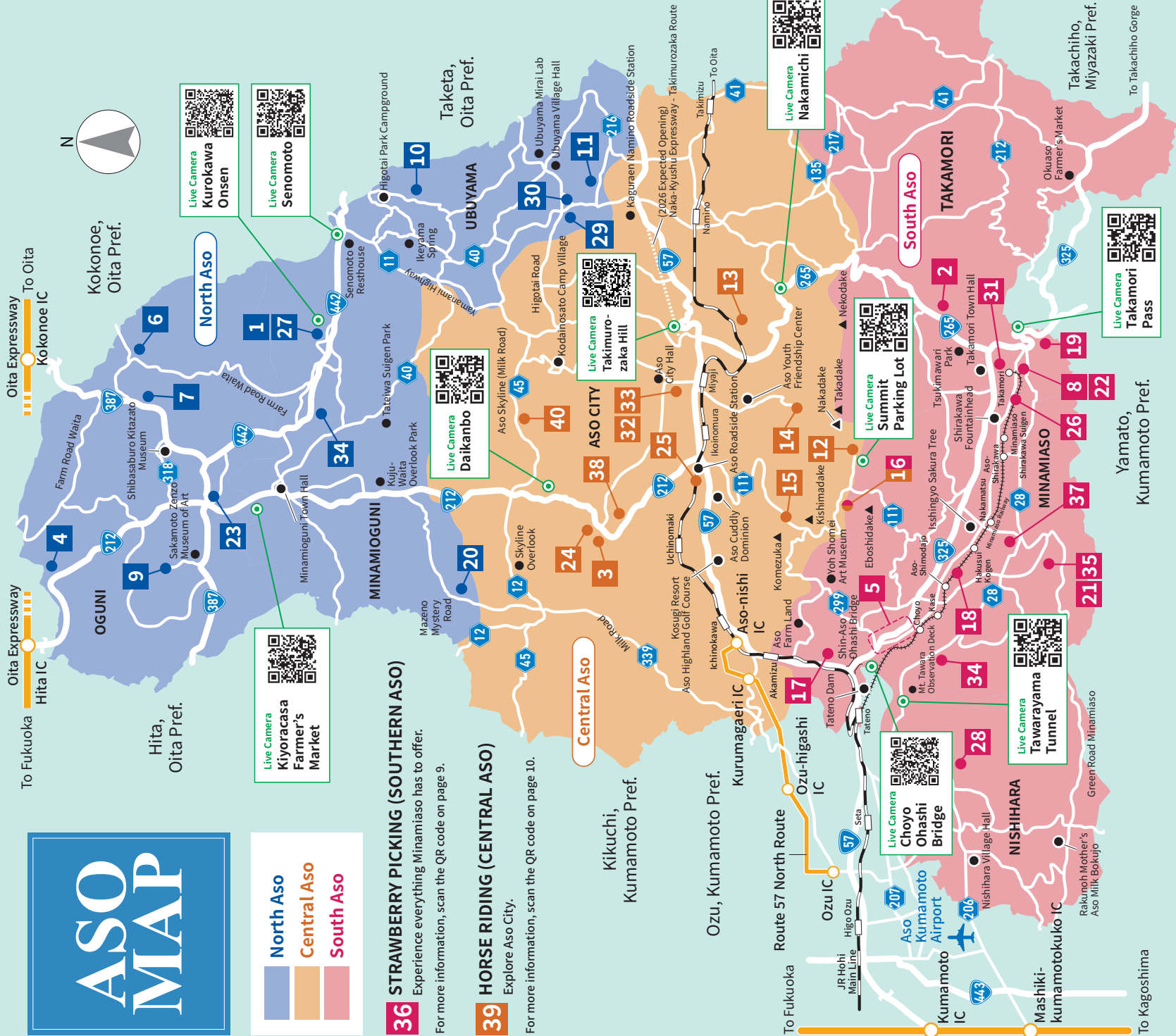
Experience everything Minamiaso has to offer.

For more information, scan the QR code on page 9.

39 HORSE RIDING (CENTRAL ASO)

Explore Aso City.

For more information, scan the QR code on page 10.



Tips for Driving in Aso in Winter

- Check the most recent road conditions before departing
- Have studless snow tires and chains ready if necessary
- Drive safely and slowly when it's foggy or snowing
- * Roads may accumulate snow or freeze due to high elevation.

The local bus and sightseeing facility schedules may vary due to winter weather. Please check the most up-to-date information before embarking.



Real Time Traffic Cameras

Aso City Traffic Camera
(Aso City Official Website)



Aso Area Road Information
(Kumamoto Prefecture Northern Regional HQ website)



Minamiaso Traffic Camera
(Official Minamiaso website)

