



View Gozengamine, Kengamine and Midorigaike from Onanjigamine

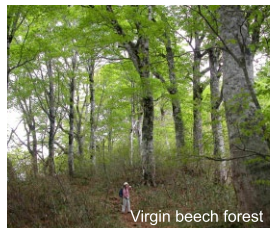
# Magnificent Mt. Hakusan

— The Showpiece of Hakusan National Park —

Hakusan National Park is a mountainous natural park covering an area of 47,700ha and focused on Mt. Hakusan. It touches four prefectures – Ishikawa, Fukui, Gifu and Toyama. It includes a series of 2,000m-class mountains, bounded by Mt. Daimonsan to the north and Mt. Dainichidake to the south. Mt. Hakusan is one of Japan's three famous mountains, along with Mt. Fuji and Mt. Tateyama. It is composed of three summits: Gozengamine (2,702m), Onanjigamine (2,684m), and Kengamine (2,677m). It was also memorialized in waka classic poems such as Shirayama and Koshinoshirane. It was believed that gods lived on Mt. Hakusan, and a shrine, Hakusan Okugu, was built on Gozengamine summit. In 717, Taicho, a priest from Echizen Province, climbed Mt. Hakusan for the first time to practice ascetic rites, and this is said to be the beginning of the mountain style of worship. Up until the Edo period, Mt. Hakusan was an erupting volcano, and is still classified as an active volcano. Since 1659, the volcano has remained quiet, with no eruptions, but there is always the possibility that it will erupt again at some time in the future. The top of the mountain has lingering snow even in summer, and many alpine plants grow there. Mt. Hakusan has many charms, from an extensive virgin forest of beeches that provides a home for an



Murododaira



Virgin beech forest



Bessan

abundance of wildlife, to the many hot springs that gush forth from deep ravines at the foot of the mountain. In addition, it has been recognized as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and is valued highly internationally as well. It is our duty to preserve the beauty of this wonderful mountain for the sake of future generations.

**<A Sea of Clouds and Sunrise>** From the top of the mountain, looking over a sea of clouds, an unbroken wave of mountains is visible – Mt. Shiroumadake, Mt. Tsurugidake, Mt. Tateyama, Mt. Yarigadake, Mt. Hotakadake, Mt. Norikuradake, and Mt. Ontake. The sight of the sun climbing above the Hida Mountains (the Northern Alps) is one that you will never forget.

**<A quiet scenic plateau>** A number of gentle slopes exist around the summit of the mountain, including Murododaira, Midagahara, Minamiryugababa, and Seijogahara, and here a wealth of alpine plants grow. Take a few moments to relax and enjoy these beautiful plateaus.

**<The beauty of a vast expanse of trees>** Wide expanses of protected forests cover this mountainous region, including virgin beech forests, birch trees, Maries' firs, and Siberian dwarf pines, enhancing its value as a national park.

**<An additional draw – Mt. Bessan>** Mt. Bessan (2,399m) lies to the south of Gozengamine, and has the highest peak among the range of mountains that run from Aburasakanokashira to Mt. Sannomine. Bessan Shrine is located on the summit. Hiking the course that runs from Minamiryugababa to Mt. Bessan provides splendid views of the Akaishi, Hida, and Yatsugatake mountain ranges.

## From Summer to Autumn: The best time for seasonal sights and watching the sunrise/sunset

### ★ Approximate blooming periods of alpine plants

	Jul			Aug			Sep	
	Early	Middle	Late	Early	Middle	Late	Early	Middle
Chocolate lilies		★						
Hakusankozakura		★						
Nikkokisuge (daylilies)		★						
Kobaikeso		★						
Hakusanfuuro		★						
Miyamakinbai		★						
Iwagikyō				★				
Oyamaringo						★		



### 🍂 Approximate times for autumn colors

	Elevation	Sep		Oct			Nov
		Middle	Late	Early	Middle	Late	Early
Murodo	2450m						
Midagahara	2350m						
Minamiryugababa	2080m						
Jinnoike Shelter Hut	1965m						
Nakahanba	1500m						
Bettodeai	1260m						
Ichinose	830m						

### 🕒 Sunrise and sunset (at Murodo)

Times may vary depending on the conditions.

		Sunrise		Sunset		
		Sunrise	Sunset	Sunrise	Sunset	
May	1 <sup>st</sup>	5:00	18:42	1 <sup>st</sup>	4:59	19:00
	15 <sup>th</sup>	4:47	18:53	Aug 15 <sup>th</sup>	5:11	18:45
	30 <sup>th</sup>	4:37	19:05	30 <sup>th</sup>	5:23	18:25
Jun	1 <sup>st</sup>	4:37	19:06	1 <sup>st</sup>	5:24	18:22
	15 <sup>th</sup>	4:34	19:13	Sep 15 <sup>th</sup>	5:35	18:02
	30 <sup>th</sup>	4:38	19:16	30 <sup>th</sup>	5:47	17:39
Jul	1 <sup>st</sup>	4:38	19:16	Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	5:48	17:38
	15 <sup>th</sup>	4:46	19:12	15 <sup>th</sup>	6:00	17:18
	30 <sup>th</sup>	4:58	19:02			



# Hakusan National Park



# Map of the area near the summit



## Mountain Climbing Notes

- As a general rule, you climb mountains at your own risk. Mountain weather can change quickly, and when the weather is bad, conditions can be very dangerous. If the weather is bad, the best decision is to cancel your plans for mountain climbing.
- Get into physical shape, and select a schedule and course that best suits your physical condition. The general rule is to **leave early and arrive early**. When planning to stay the night, plan to arrive at the lodging area two hours before sunset. **Climbing at night is extremely dangerous**; do not do this.
- Be sure to carry rain gear, protection against the cold, a change of clothes, and emergency rations.
- Always inform family and friends of your hiking schedule and course. Also be sure to fill out the **Registration Books** at the start of each trailhead.
- The Natural Parks Act absolutely forbids collecting or bringing animals, plants or rocks from or into Hakusan National Park.
- In order to protect the vegetation, prevent damage to the mountain and prevent you from being lost, **be sure not to stray off the marked trails**.
- If hiking alone, attach bells or other noise-making items to your gear, and watch carefully for bears. **Do not take dogs or other pets on the mountain**.
- Every year, the mountain is very crowded on weekends from the end of July to mid-August. For the best climbing experience, if at all possible, make a climbing plan that avoids these times.
- When climbing in spring or autumn, conditions can be as dangerous as climbing in winter, so be very aware of the weather and pack warm clothing and the right equipment.
- There are no garbage cans on Mt. Hakusan. **Do not throw your garbage away**. Always pack it out and take it home.
- Do not discard cigarette butts on the ground.
- Do not bring bicycles or other wheeled vehicles on mountain trails.
- The only camping facility is located on Minamiryugababa.

### Clothing for Mountain Climbing



Hakusan Tourism Association, Hakusan City, Ishikawa Prefecture

Hakusan Tourism Association web site <http://www.kagahakusan.jp>

Created March 2012