



Feel the beat of the Earth

地球の鼓動を感じて

Aso is one of the world's few volcanos actually located within a much more enormous volcanic caldera. The cluster of peaks that make up Aso lies in the center of this caldera, with the one currently active peak known as Nakadake. The stratified rock visible in the mouth of Nakadake illustrates the long history of the volcano, and a gaze into the volcano's mouth feels like you're getting a true glimpse of the beating heart of the Earth.

世界有数の巨大カルデラの中には、阿蘇五岳をはじめとする火山が、いくつも存在している。その火山群のほぼ真ん中で、噴煙を上げているのが中岳。火口では、その噴火の歴史を地層の縞模様に見ることができる。はっきりと口を開けた火口は、地球の鼓動を感じさせる場所だ。

Nakadake Crater (map-03)
中岳第1火口



Aso was recently designated as a Global Geopark, and now stands as an expansive area where visitors can get a first-hand look at the power of nature. "Mt. Aso" actually consists of five main peaks (Nekodake, Takadake, Nakadake, Kishimadake, and Eboshidake), in addition to the mountain ring that makes up the Aso caldera and a number of other smaller craters. Volcanic activity means excellent spring water and relaxing hot springs – these coupled with the traditional nature-loving lifestyle of the locals makes Aso one of Earth's true treasures.

阿蘇は「世界ジオパーク」認定を受けた火山と地球の営みを知る巨大な公園だ。根子岳・高岳・中岳・杵島岳・烏帽子岳のほか、多くの火山群と外輪山を含めたエリアがそのステージ。火山の恵みである湧水や温泉、草原を守る人々の暮らしもまた、地球の遺産である。

Nakadake Crater (map-03)
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