

Guide of Mt. Kinugasa & Shirakumo Pond

Around-in-Unzen-Guide Series [2]



● Japanese pygmy woodpecker

Nature Conservation Charter

Let's respect nature, love nature, and get close to nature.
Let's learn from nature, and let's not spoil natural harmony.
Let's hand down our beautiful and important nature, to our descendants.

Editorial supervision and issue / The Unzen park visitor center management conference
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Guide of Mt. Kinugasa & Gensei Marsh

Around-in-Unzen-Guide Series [2]

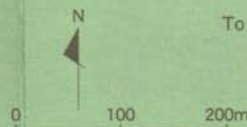


● A rabbit-ear iris

Rules in the natural park

- ① Just observe plants, animals, birds and the insects without taking them.
- ② Do not enter any place other than admitted places of the sidewalk, and open spaces.
- ③ Don't raise a loud voice and do not walk while using radios.
- ④ Take the garbage home to preserve the of beauty nature.

* Mt. Kinugasa / Shirakumo Pond Exploration Map *

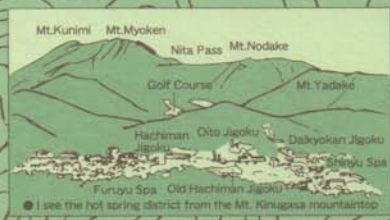
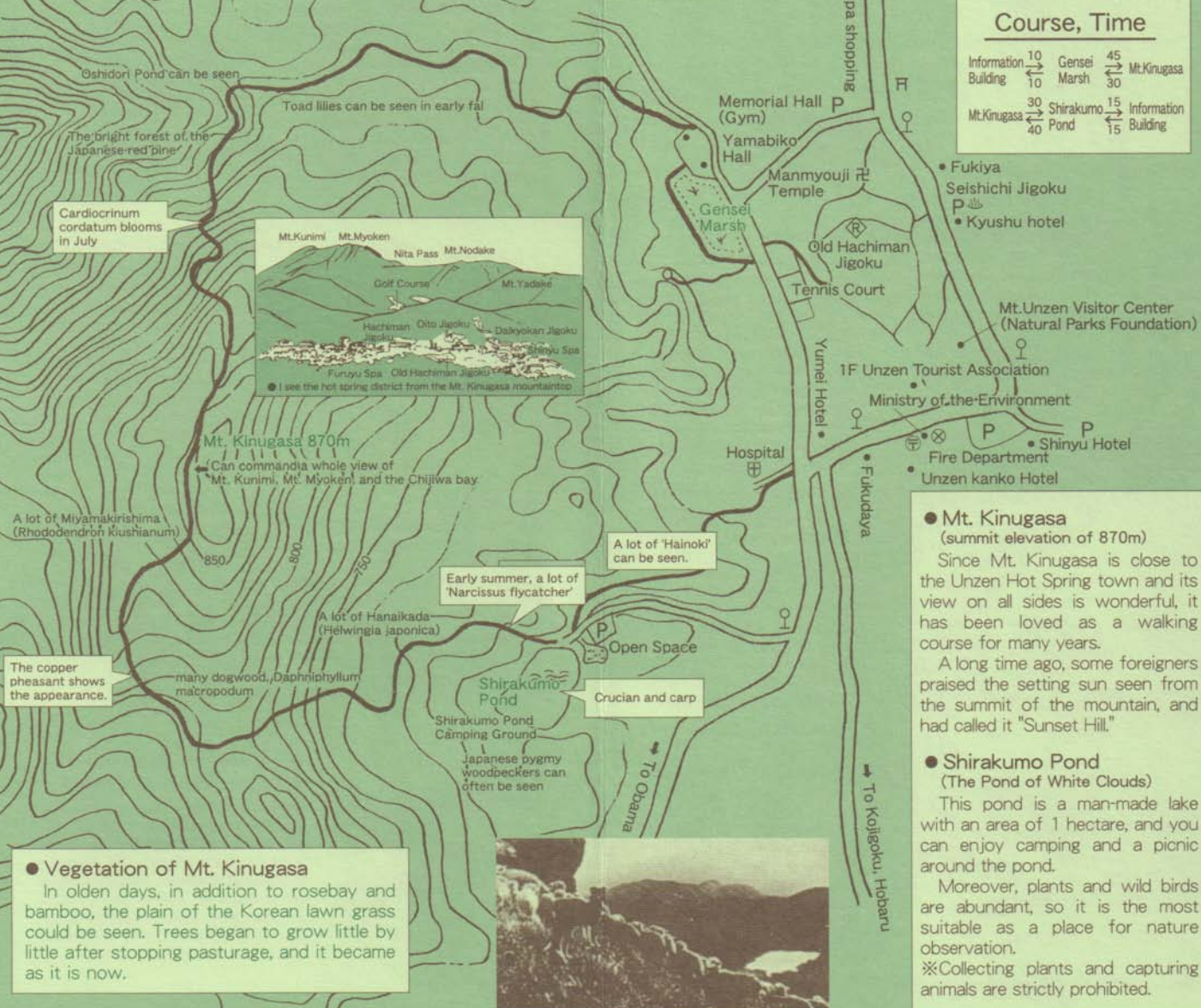


Legend

- ◇ A rest station
- P Parking Lot
- Bus Stop

Course, Time

Information Building	10	Gensei Marsh	45	Mt. Kinugasa
Mt. Kinugasa	10	Shirakumo Pond	30	Information Building
	30		15	
	40		15	



Cardiocrinum cordatum blooms in July

A lot of Miyamakirishima (Rhododendron Kiushianum)

The copper pheasant shows the appearance.

A lot of Hanaikada (Helwingia japonica)

Early summer, a lot of 'Narcissus flycatcher'

A lot of 'Hainoki' can be seen.

Crucian and carp

Japanese pygmy woodpeckers can often be seen

● Vegetation of Mt. Kinugasa
 In olden days, in addition to rosebay and bamboo, the plain of the Korean lawn grass could be seen. Trees began to grow little by little after stopping pasturage, and it became as it is now.



● Mt. Kinugasa
 (summit elevation of 870m)
 Since Mt. Kinugasa is close to the Unzen Hot Spring town and its view on all sides is wonderful, it has been loved as a walking course for many years.
 A long time ago, some foreigners praised the setting sun seen from the summit of the mountain, and had called it "Sunset Hill."

● Shirakumo Pond
 (The Pond of White Clouds)
 This pond is a man-made lake with an area of 1 hectare, and you can enjoy camping and a picnic around the pond.
 Moreover, plants and wild birds are abundant, so it is the most suitable as a place for nature observation.
 ※Collecting plants and capturing animals are strictly prohibited.

* The wild birds seen around Shirakumo Pond *

☐ A varied tit

The head and the throat are black, and the cream color of the cheek and nut-brown of the ventral side is conspicuous. The head looks bigger than the body by a big sparrow title. It often moves about actively from branch to branch, and is not very frightened of people. It warbles peacefully repeatedly with [tsu-tsu-pi-] and [tsu-tsu-pi-].



☐ Narcissus flycatcher

It is slightly smaller than a sparrow among the summer birds which visit the forest in Unzen. The male has beautiful yellow color from the throat to the breast and characteristic black on the back. However the female has a simple color. It sings brightly a complicated song with a sound quality like a whistle.



☐ A Japanese White (silver) Eye (Zosterops japonicus)

It is slightly smaller than a sparrow among the summer birds which visit the forest in Unzen. The male has beautiful yellow color from the throat to the breast and characteristic black on the back. However the female has a simple color. It sings brightly a complicated song with a sound quality like a whistle.



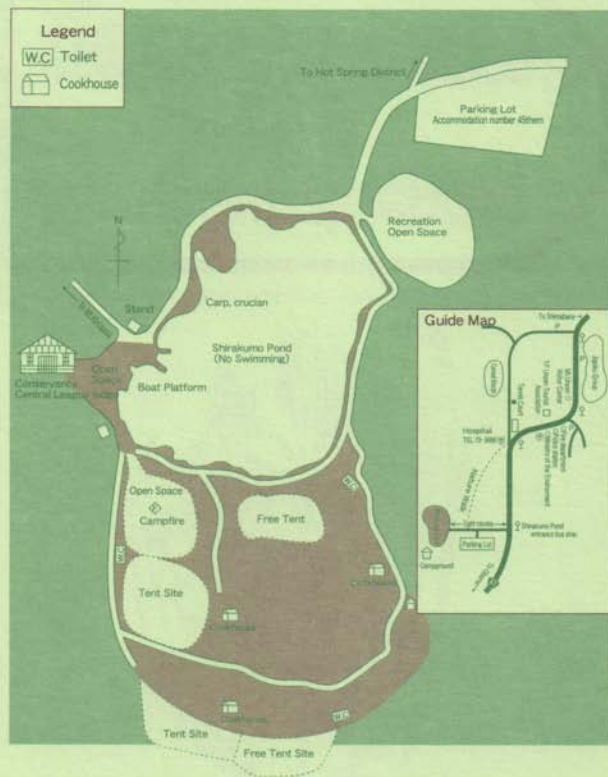
● Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker (cover) (Dendrocopos kizuki)

It is the smallest of the woodpeckers and is the size of a sparrow.

By the spots pattern of dark brown and white, to the whole, it stops at a tree perpendicularly, a trunk and a branch are poked with a strong beak, and an insect etc. is caught to it. It cries so that it may creak with GITSU, and in Unzen, it sees in a large area.

In a scorching tea and white spotted pattern, it stops on the tree and it stops in length. The trunk and the branch are poked at with a strong beak and insects are captured by the bird. It barks to be raspy, and it is thought by Unzen people to sound like "Ghee!" in the large area.

* Translations of signs around Shirakumo Pond *



★ Guide of Camping site

Facilities to let	Tent to let (five persons) 15 sets
	Blanket on hire 200 blankets
on-site facilities	Cookhouse...3 ridge Toilet...3 ridge
※Contact	Natural Parks Foundation Unzen branch office TEL 0957-73-2543

All proceeds from this campground are used for the beautification of the natural park, maintenance of park facilities and to support the continuing work of the natural park.

Natural Parks Foundation

* The plants of Gensei Marsh and Marsh lands *

Gensei Marsh located in the west of the Unzen hot spring area is a Natural Treasure designated by the country and is a rare sphagnum bog moss marsh in Kyushu. The area is about 1 hectare. The result of pollen analysis shows sphagnum moss began to grow briskly circa 500 CE. All together in May, in addition to marsh plants, such as ditch reeds, sundews, rosebays, the cinnamon fern and Japanese Azalea are seen. But by the outflow of earth and sand along the trail, it turns into a bamboo grass field.

Vegetation of Gensei Marsh

【Legend】

(1) Eleocharis wichurae colony (1)

(2) Sphagnum cuspidatum colony

a) Model group

Sphagnum cuspidatum pioneer aspect (3a1)

Eleocharis wichurae subgroup

A model varied subgroup (2a2)

A Japanese paras grass varied subgroup (2a3)

A reed subgroup (2a4)

b) Eriocaulon miquelianum group

E. miquelianum subgroup (2b1)

A reed subgroup (2b2)

c) Carex phacota Spreng group

A reed subgroup (2c)

Sorus assistus Beetz subgroup (2c2)

d) Carex dispalata group (2b)

Sphagnum palustre colony

a) Carex dispalata group

A model strange subgroup (3a1)

A Carex phacota Spreng subgroup (3a2)

b) Carex phacota Spreng group

A model varied subgroup (3b2)

Pilea peploides subgroup (3b1)

c) Rhododendron kiusianum group

Carex phacota Spreng subgroup (3c1)

Pteridium aquilinum subgroup (3c2)

(4) Sasa gracillima colony

Forest part

Japanese paras grass group

(5) Others

Stagnant water and a waterway

Nymphania colony

P Pinus densiflora forest

C cedar forest

Ilex crenata colony

Fallopia japonica colony

Conyza sumatrensis colony



● Japanese Azalea
(*Rhododendron japonicum*)



● Sundew
(genus *Drosera*)

● Sundew
(genus *Drosera*)

Different plants grow in the same marsh, corresponding to the conditions of the location (especially, degree of dampness). The *Sasa gracillima* colony is seen in the driest part, and the *Eleocharis wichurae* clustering is seen in the wettest part.

(wet=) stagnant water > *Eleocharis wichurae* colony > *Sphagnum cuspidatum* colony > *Sphagnum palustre* colony > *Sasa gracillima* colony (=dryness)

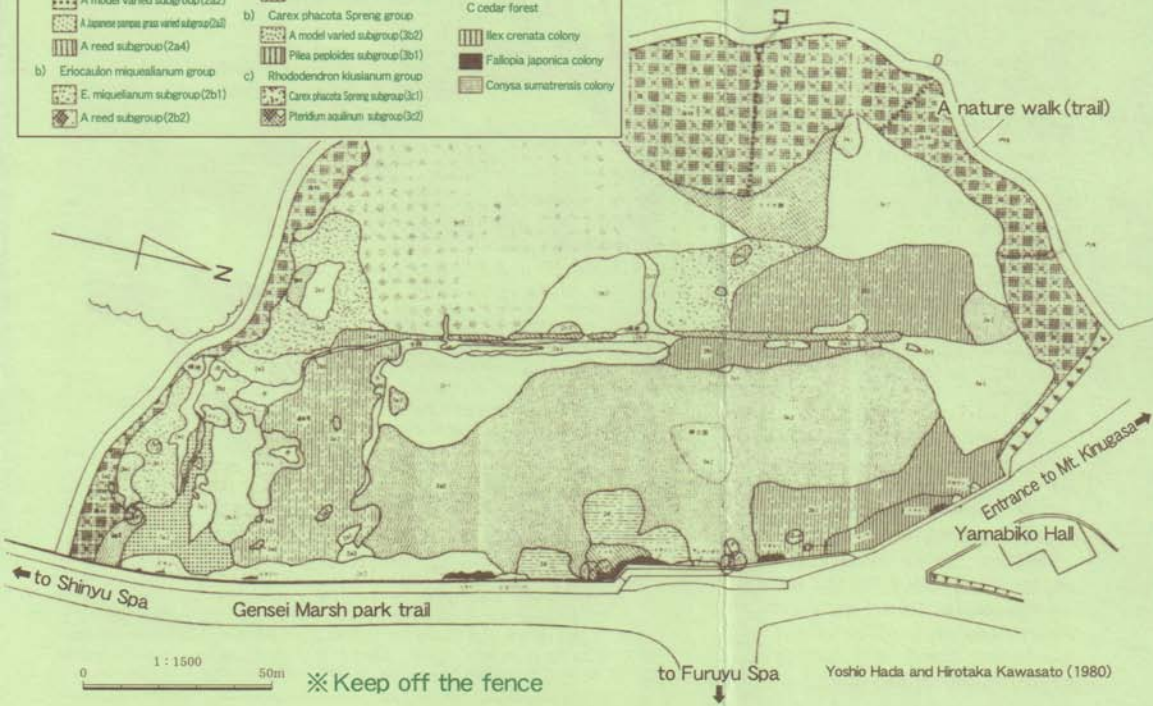
It is not a moss, but an insectivorous plant growing on the damp ground where the sun shines. There are a lot of light red, glandular hairs that send a secretory fluid on the flat, wooden spoon-type leaves, which immobilizes and dissolves tiny insects when they touch the leaves.

● Japanese Azalea
(*Rhododendron japonicum*)

In Unzen, it is an azalea which grows wild only in Gensei Marsh. Unzen is the western limit of distribution of this azalea. An orange flower blooms before the leaves open in May. The azalea of this kind with a yellow flower is called 'Yellow Japanese Azalea'.

● A rabbit-ear iris
(Cover)

It is a plant which resembles an iris growing in colonies on the damp ground. A purple and white flower will bloom late in May, and the marsh is beautifully colored. The distinction from an iris can be made by a little wider leaf and by the absence of "Angle eyes" at the center of the outer petal.



※ Keep off the fence

to Furuyu Spa

Yoshio Hada and Hirota Kawasato (1980)

* The plant of Mt. Kinugasa and Shirakumo Pond *

☞ A Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa* subsp. *buergeri*)

The mountains of Unzen, including Mt. Kinugasa, are covered with white flowers of this tree in early summer, but what looks like a petal is four pieces of the whole phyllary (specialized reproductive leaf). Each light green "grain" crowded in the center is an actual flower. Some phyllaries are light red.

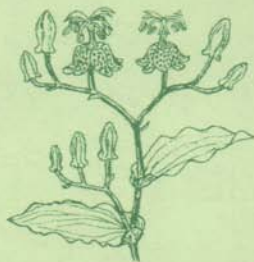


☞ A bellflower (*Campanula punctata* Lam.)

It is the perennial plant of a kind of bellflower growing in the fields and on sunny mountains. The height of the grass is 40-80cm. In early summer, a slightly long, temple bell-shaped flower opens, but most of them in Unzen have white blossoms. In olden days, children would put a firefly into this flower and play with it.

☞ A toad lily

It is a perennial plant, which puts up an oddly-shaped, white flower with purple spots in early fall. The roots of the leaf produce a handle, and put forth several flowers on the point; that's the difference from the normal kind.



☞ Ubayuri (*Cardiocrinum cordatum*)

You can see a white, trumpet-shaped flower tinged with green, 50-60cm in height, in early summer in a forest. When the flower blooms, the leaves always wither; as when a girl comes of age, the woman who took care of the girl also become old; that's where the Japanese name comes from.



* The nut around Shirakumo Pond *

☞ *Callicarpa japonica*

It is a deciduous shrub bearing slightly small fruit which is a beautiful purple. This tree lets the light purple flower bloom in early summer, but the nut is far more outstanding than the flower. 'Yabumurasaki' (*Callicarpa mollis*) which attaches a purple nut too by the same kind is also seen.



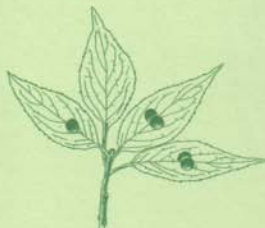
☞ *Euscaphis japonica* subsp. *kanitz*

The nut of this tree makes a red semicircle, but when it ripens it opens from one side and shows the scarlet inside and a black seed. This is one of the deciduous trees in the forest. The branch is thickly tinged with dark purple, and the leaves are a pinnate-compound-leaf and are a fascinating deep green.



☞ Hanaikada (*Helwingia japonica*)

It is a deciduous shrub bearing black, global fruit centrally on the leaf. There are male stocks and female stocks, and a green-white flower blooms in the center of the leaf together in early summer, but it is only the female that bears a fruit. The Japanese name is the combination of a comparison of the leaf to a raft, and the black nut to a person.



☞ Crane gentian (*Tripterosperum japonica*)

It is a herbaceous perennial plant belonging to the gentian family; it grows along the surface of the earth and twines around other plants. Many oval fruits, bright red purple, are borne in autumn. A cylindrical, light purple flower blooms during the early summer.

