

Figure 1. Base of Mt. Omuro

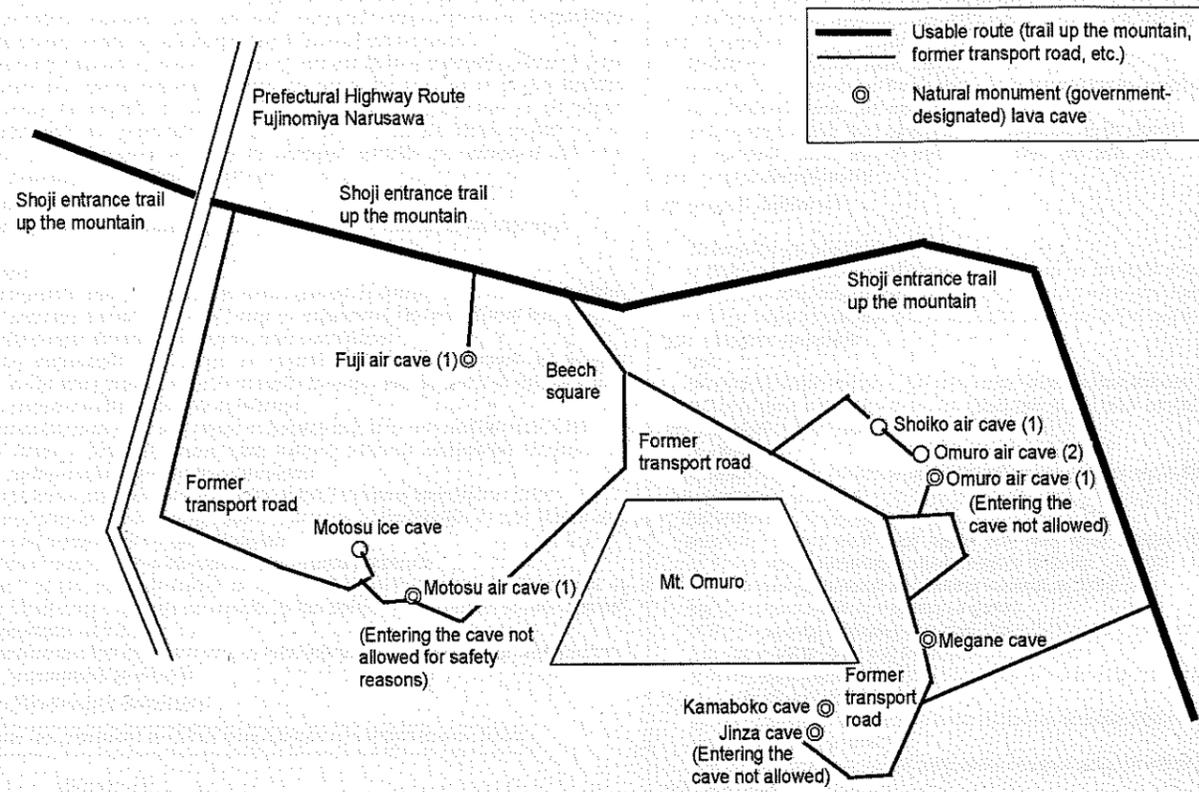


Figure 2. Around Lake Sai

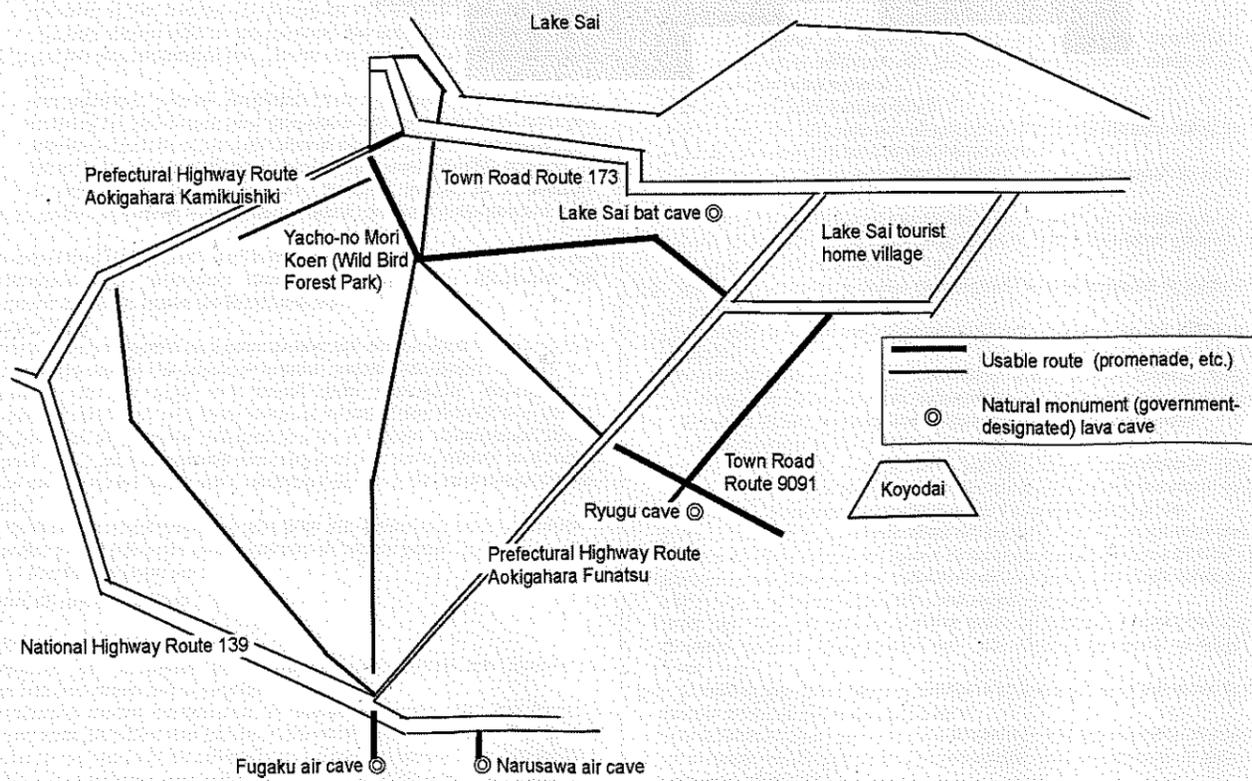
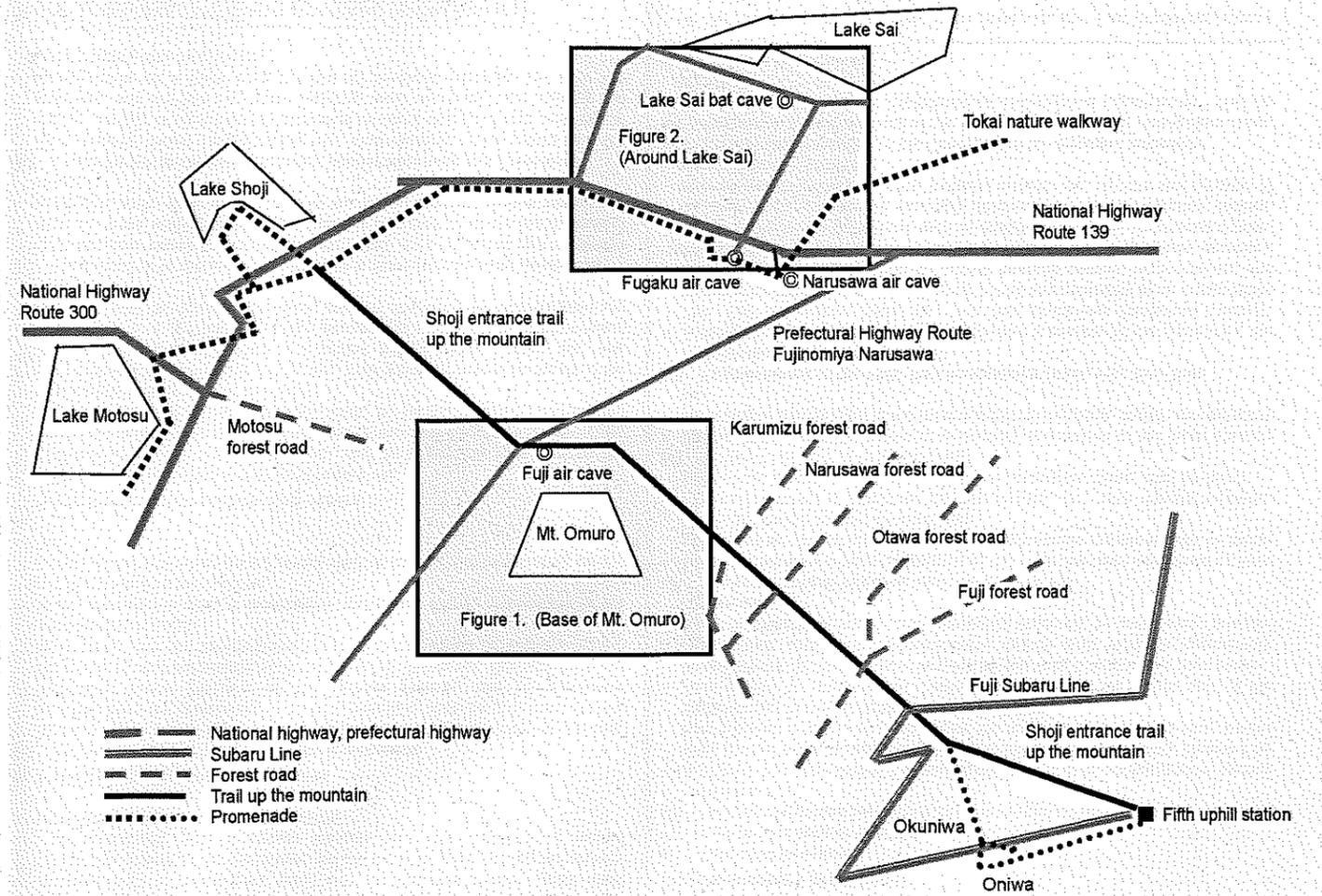


Figure 3. General Drawing



Eco Tour Guidelines for Mt. Fuji Aokigahara Jukai, etc.

Established on June 25, 2004
Mt. Fuji Aokigahara Jukai, etc., Eco Tour Guidelines Promotion Council

1. Purpose of the guidelines

- The guidelines stipulate rules regarding the area to be protected, use forms, etc., as items to be observed by organizations, business owners, tour participants, etc., that enter the target area for such purpose as an eco tour, aiming to protect the unspoiled natural environment of Aokigahara Jukai, etc., and promote proper and sustainable use of the area.
- In addition, the guidelines aim to promote high-quality eco tourism in Aokigahara Jukai, etc.

2. Target of the guidelines

- Area = Aokigahara Jukai, etc.:
The target is the unspoiled area, centered on native forest, of about 30 km² expanding on the Aokigahara lava flow from Mt. Omuro to Oniwa / Okuniwa.
- Eco tour:
An eco tour is a tour, event, etc., conducted by soliciting participants (or "by members, etc.", "as a sightseeing tour conducted by a travel agency, as a school group tour, or as business implemented by a private organization, public organization, and or an individual business owner"), and guiding and leading participants into the field, and having them understand, appreciate, or experience the natural environment, scenery, animals and plants, ecology, etc. Existence or non-existence of a participation fee, and numbers of participants, are of no regard.
- The entities that must follow the guidelines are:
Organizations and individual business owners that implement an above-mentioned (2) eco tour, and participants (tourists participating) in an eco tour
(Note 1) "Unspoiled natural environment" means: the natural environment high in individuality, particularity, and diversity, formed by topography, geology, or meteorological conditions that were strongly affected by volcanic activities of Mt. Fuji, such as new- and old-period scoria hills, centered on new-period lava flow (lava ejected about 2200 years ago and thereafter), such as Aokigahara lava, which was ejected in the year 864.
(Note 2) "Proper and sustainable use" means: use that will not cause extinction of living species high in individuality and particularity from the area; decrease of the number of individuals and habitats that will lead to their extinction; decline of biodiversity; damage of ecology that requires time for restoring; invasion and / or increase of specific species; etc.

Rules for business owners and guides (consideration items)

1. High-quality guidance

1.1 Attendance of a guide

- Implementation of an eco tour by entering Aokigahara Jukai, etc., shall require attendance of a guide.
- A guide shall have rich knowledge on the natural environment, history, culture, etc., of the area concerned, as well as deep understanding on protection of nature, and be able to provide environmental education.

1.2 Full knowledge on the guidelines

- Each business owner shall train guides with responsibility so that guides will fully know the purpose and content of the guidelines and observe them.

1.3 Implementation of prior orientation

- A guide / business owner shall explain cautions concerning reduction of environmental loads and safety, to participants in an eco tour, prior to a tour.

1.4 Improvement of quality of a guide

- A guide shall always work to develop himself / herself, such as acquisition of new knowledge and skills to entertain participants, aiming to provide high-quality guidance toward eco tour participants.
- A business owner, etc., shall work to implement various training and internal evaluation, aiming to promote improvement of quality of guides, on a regular basis.

2. Avoidance of damage from trampling, protection of valuable ecology

2.1 Limitation of usable routes, etc.

- Aiming to prevent, as much as possible, damage to vegetation and lava geography, by trampling, etc., accompanying entry by many people, and to protect the ecology of valuable plants and animals, etc., also in the future, routes and caves that can be used for eco tours shall be as in the attached detailed drawings (Figure 1, Figure 2) and the general drawing (Figure 3). (The caves that cannot be entered for safety reasons are excluded.)
The Shoji entrance trail up the mountain, well-maintained promenades (including Tokai nature walkway), and forest roads (including former transport roads) can be used, as long as they are within routes.
The beech square at the base of Mt. Omuro is regarded as usable. However, participants shall be reminded to pay full attention not to trample the vegetation area when they pass through or stay in the beech square.
Caves used by bats are regarded as unusable, in principle. In particular, two

caves: Omuro air cave No. 1 and Jinza air cave cannot be entered, because of high need for ecology protection.

- As to usable routes, etc., scientific knowledge shall be collected on the ecology of Aokigahara Jukai, etc., and their protection, and, review shall be conducted flexibly based on the latest information.

2-2 Setting of the upper limit of numbers of users for each business entity, etc.

- Business owners, organizations, etc., that conduct eco tours in Aokigahara Jukai, etc., shall set respective upper limits of numbers of users per route per day, in advance, and conduct eco tours within the range.
- Respective business owners, organizations, etc., shall report the upper limits of numbers of users mentioned above, to the related administrative agency, etc., in advance, and also totalize and report the actual results of use for each route.

2.3 Voluntary restraint of eco tours during breeding periods, etc.

- In periods when some species are highly sensitive to human presence, such as a breeding period and a hibernation period, special consideration, including voluntary restraint of eco tours, shall be made.

2.4 Numbers of participants and guides per organization (group)

- The number of participants per organization (group) shall be 20 to 25, at most, considering reduction of environmental loads and a guide's controlling capability.
- The number of guides per organization (group) shall be one per approximately ten participants, as standard.

2.5 Rigid enforcement of single-file walking, and prohibition of widening of the row during explanations, etc.

- A guide shall make participants walk in single file, in principle, on trails up the mountain, well-maintained promenades, forest roads, etc., except for the beech square.
- A guide shall not allow participants to make the row disorderly or wider, even when he / she stops for an explanation on nature.
- A guide shall pay full attention so that participants will not step out of the route, even when they pass another group.

2.6 Nighttime implementation

- Implementation of nighttime eco tours shall be avoided as much as possible, considering effects on nocturnal animals and to prevent participants from having accidents.

3. Prohibited acts for guides

3.1 Marking

- A guide and business owner shall never conduct marking using tape, paint, etc., on trees, to mark a route.
- Traces of marking shall be removed whenever they are found.

3.2 Bringing in, etc., of waste

- A guide shall make thoroughly sure that he / she himself / herself, as well as tour participants, does not leave or bring in waste.
- A guide himself / herself and tour participants shall carry a waste bag, and always collect waste if it should be found.

3.3 Collection of animals and plants, cutting of trees, etc.

- A guide shall absolutely never collect animals / plants; cut trees; break branches; collect lava, rock, stone, soil, and other natural objects, or allow participants to do so either.

3.4 Smoking, drinking

- A guide shall not smoke or drink during an eco tour, or allow participants to do so either.

3.5 Making a fire, camping

- A guide shall not make a fire or camp out in the area concerned, except for designated areas, and he / she shall make sure that participants also follow this rule.

3.6 Outdoor excretion

- A guide shall not excrete outdoors in the area concerned, other than at a toilet, and he/she shall make sure that participants also follow this rule.
- A guide shall take appropriate measures, such as carrying a portable toilet, in preparation for unexpected needs.

4. Safety measures

4.1 Safety management

- A business owner and a guide shall take the best possible measures for participants' safety, and have a well-established crisis management system for an emergency, including eruption of Mt. Fuji.
- A business owner and a guide shall not set up a difficult schedule or dangerous program in planning / implementing an eco tour.

4.2 Taking out of insurance

- A business owner shall take out the necessary insurance, etc., in preparation for unexpected events, and clearly specify the insurance content to participants.

4.3 Emergency system

- A guide shall acquire first aid skills, etc., and carry first aid medicine, etc.
- An emergency system shall be secured to quickly handle injury or sudden illness of participants through collaboration with a local hospital / fire department.

5. Security of an observance system

5.1 Clear indication of the identification of a business owner / guide

- As proof of a business owner / guide who observes the guidelines, a business owner / guide shall clearly indicate the names of the business, organization, and identification, by attaching an arm badge and a name tag, when implementing an eco tour.

5.2 Handling for an encounter with another business owner / organization, etc.

- When encountering another business owner / organization, etc., that is implementing an eco tour, a business owner / guide shall act friendly, such as exchanging greetings, and also confirm mutually that the guidelines are observed.
- When the business owner / organization, etc., encountered does not know about the guidelines, efforts shall be made to make the guidelines known, and information on this entity shall be provided to a related administrative agency.

5.3 Handling when a violation is found

- When a business owner / guide sees an activity / act that is inappropriate regarding environmental protection (making a fire, camping, collection, illegal dumping, etc.) in Aokigahara Jukai, etc., the business owner / guide shall explain the content of the guidelines, tell the violating party to stop the activity / act concerned, with a sincere attitude, and also report to a related administrative agency as soon as possible.

6. Fulfillment of proper procedures

6.1 Procedures for permission to enter a mountain

- To use a usable route stipulated in the guidelines for implementing an eco tour, an application for permission to enter a mountain shall be submitted (to the Prefectural Forest Division of the Yoshida Forestry and Environmental Department), and permission shall be obtained. (However, this rule does not apply when only the Shoji entrance trail up the mountain or well-maintained promenades are used.)
To be permitted to enter a mountain as mentioned above, observation of the guidelines shall be prerequisite.
A copy of the above-mentioned permit shall be carried in implementing an eco tour.

7. Security of sustainability, and others

7.1 Verification investigation of used routes, etc.

- Each business owner / organization, etc., shall be responsible for protecting the routes and lava cave areas that it uses, and consistently check the effects of use for eco tours, such as environmental loads, by such as regularly conducting verification investigation of the fields.

- Each business owner / organization, etc., shall promptly report the result of the above-mentioned investigation to a related administrative agency, etc., and when there is a problem regarding environmental protection, improvement measures shall be immediately taken, such as reviewing the conventional use form.

7.2 Participation in the profit return system for environmental protection

- Each business owner / organization, etc., shall work to return part of profits from eco tours, aiming to build and maintain a system to secure environmental protection in the areas it uses, also in the future, and thus realize sustainable tourism.

7.3 Contribution to the local economy, cooperation with local residents

- Each business owner / organization, etc., shall promote collaboration with the region, aiming to contribute to activation of local industrial and economical activities, and provide eco tours targeting local residents, thus making full consideration on a daily basis so that its business activities can gain full understanding and cooperation.

Rules for eco tour participants (travelers) (action bylaws)

1. Avoidance of damage from trampling; protection of valuable ecology

- Never go off or leave a route established by the guidelines, on a trail up the mountain, promenade, etc.
- Pay detailed attention so as not to trample plants, roots of trees, and living creatures while walking.
- Observe single-file walking where the width of a route is limited. Pay full attention not to trample vegetation, etc., by going off or leaving a route, when passing with another group, etc.
- Listen very carefully to a guide's explanation on nature while keeping the form of single-file walking, without making the row disorderly or wider.

2. Prohibited acts

Do not engage in acts as listed below.

- Littering; leaving behind, and bringing in waste
- Smoking, drinking
- Collecting / trampling animals and plants; cutting trees, breaking branches

- Marking, graffiti
- Frightening living creatures by such as shouting and bringing in a sound-making device
- Bringing in an animal, such as a pet; bringing in plants / seeds from outside
- Feeding wild animals; leaving behind food, etc.
- Making a fire, camping

3. Attitude in participating in an eco tour

- Always listen to and follow a guide's instruction.
- Go to the bathroom in advance, and do not excrete outdoors (use a portable toilet for unavoidable needs)
- Cultivate an attitude to aggressively understand and practice environmental protection, by such as carrying a trash bag, and to aggressively learn the region's nature, history, and culture, through participation in an eco tour.
- Manage your physical condition, and do not be overconfident about or overtax your physical strength.
- Pay attention to surrounding safety, and never engage in a dangerous act.

[Supplementary provisions]

(1) Date of enforcement

- The guidelines became effective on July 1, 2004.

(2) Making the guidelines known and thoroughly observed by new business owners, etc.

- A related business owner / organization, and related administrative agency shall always work to make the guidelines known and thoroughly observed by new business owners, etc., who enter the target area for an eco tour, toward diffusion and firm establishment of the guidelines.
- Also toward an organization / individual that enters the target area of the guidelines for another purpose besides an eco tour, a related business owner / organization, and related administrative agency shall work to aggressively make the guidelines known and thoroughly observed, by using every possible opportunity.

(3) Measures toward violating business owners, etc.

- Toward a business owner / organization, etc., that has been confirmed to have committed an act violating the guidelines, appropriate measures shall be taken, timely as needed, toward its correction.
- Especially toward a malicious business owner, etc., who repeats violation, appropriate measures, such as publicly announcing the name, shall be taken.

(4) Review / revision of the guidelines

- The guidelines shall be reviewed as needed, and revised to the latest content, according to the changes in the local natural environment, social circumstances, etc.

(5) Establishment of the "Mt. Fuji Aokigahara Jukai, etc., Eco Tour Guidelines Promotion Council"

- Aiming to promote appropriate and effective operation of the guidelines, the "Mt. Fuji Aokigahara Jukai, etc., Eco Tour Guidelines Promotion Council" (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") shall be established as an organization for discussion and promotion by related business owners, organizations, and related administrative agencies, etc., regarding detailed regulations necessary for operation of the guidelines, such as establishment of an observance system, familiarization toward and thorough observance by newly entering entities, etc.; measures toward violating business owners, etc.; review and revision of the guidelines, and others.
- The establishment outline of the Council shall be stipulated separately.
- Accompanying establishment of the Council, the "Mt. Fuji Aokigahara Jukai, etc., Eco Tour Guidelines Establishment Investigative Commission" shall be dissolved.

- For inquires on Mt. Fuji Aokigahara Jukai, etc., Eco Tour Guidelines, please contact:

Mt. Fuji Aokigahara Jukai, etc., Eco Tour Guidelines Promotion Council
Secretariat: Tourist Resources Division, Tourism Department,
Yamanashi Prefecture
Tel.: 055-223-1521

(Inquiries regarding permission to enter the mountain)
Yoshida Forestry and Environmental Department, Eastern Region
Promotion Bureau, Fujihokuroku, Yamanashi prefecture
Tel.: 0555-24-9045