

Tsugaike Mountain Safety Gate

Checklist: 7 Checks

Mountain accidents are on the rise in Nagano Prefecture, hitting record highs for three consecutive years. The main causes of these accidents include a lack of preparation (such as inadequate trekking plans and gear), insufficient physical fitness or skills, and a lack of awareness regarding trekking rules. As part of our efforts to prevent these accidents and raise safety awareness among trekkers, we have temporarily set up a Mountain Safety Gate tent on a trial basis for a quick safety check. Please review the following safety precautions, sign the form, and submit this sheet at the Gate.

- ☒ **Submit a trekking itinerary**

 - ☐ Submitted a trekking itinerary
 - ☐ Have shared the itinerary with family

☒ **Prepare trekking gear**

Gear you are currently carrying or wearing:

 - ☐ Warm clothes ☐ Trekking boots
 - ☐ Rainwear ☐ Helmet
 - ☐ Emergency food ☐ Drinking water
 - ☐ Headlight, Spare batteries
 - ☐ Physical map, Compass, Trekking map apps
 - ☐ Emergency tent
 - ☐ Mobile phones, Portable chargers
 - ☐ First-aid kit
 - ☐ Crampons (if descending the Hakuba Dai-sekkei)

☒ **Confirm your climbing experience**

 - ☐ Have experience trekking this trail or trails of a similar difficulty level
 - ☐ First time on this trail, but have checked the trail conditions in advance
 - ☐ No concerns regarding physical fitness, technical skills, and health

☒ **Prepare accommodation**

Have prepared the following:

 - ☐ Mountain lodge or campsite reservations
 - ☐ Full tent gear (if camping)

☒ **Join mountain rescue insurance**

 - ☐ Have joined

☒ **Check trekking rules**

 - ☐ Understand that trekking is at my own risk, and commit to trekking safely
 - ☐ Follow the Rules for Visitors (see back page)

☒ **Confirm planned entry time**

 - ☐ Ensure the itinerary allows arrival at the mountain lodge or campsite by around 3:00 PM

To Hakuba Oike:
approximately 3.5 hours

To Mt. Shiroumadake (Hakubadake):
approximately 7.5 hours

The party leader must inform the members of the above and confirm their preparations.

☒ **I have checked the above.**

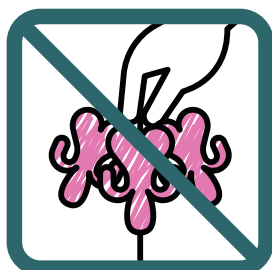
Party size: _____

Signature: _____

Kita Alps Mountain Range; Rules for Visitors

In 1934, the Kita Alps were designated as the Chubusangaku National Park. Japan's national parks are designated by law for the protection and promotion of the country's world-class scenic areas. In order to maintain a balance between enjoyment and preservation of the natural environment, development has been kept to a minimum. In such a unique and rich natural environment, accidents can occur as a result of natural disasters and contact with wild animals. Several associated organizations strive toward the reduction of accidents. However, as the park remains a wilderness area, accidents cannot be eliminated by the efforts of park authorities alone.

For the safe enjoyment and continued protection of the Kita Alps, we ask all climbers to abide by the following rules when entering mountainous areas of the Kita Alps.



Rule1

Do not damage or remove natural objects.

The damage or collection of natural objects such as rocks, animals, and plants (including fallen leaves or branches) is strictly regulated. The ecosystem of the Kita Alps teeters on a fine balance. Please seek to enjoy the natural environment only in this time and place.



Rule2

Do not damage infrastructure such as mountain trails and bridges.

In addition to wooden boardwalks and bridges, simple mountain trails are also valuable public properties. Digging up trails with hiking poles and crampons increases erosion, while using crampons on exposed wooden bridges accelerates their deterioration. Please be mindful when using such climbing equipment.



Rule3

Camp only in designated areas.

Places for camping (pitching tents) are fixed, and camping outside of designated areas is prohibited. Camping outside of these areas negatively impacts the natural environment and can invite misunderstanding from other climbers.



Rule4

Do not leave garbage, food, or human waste.

Please understand that things brought in by humans may upset the balance of the ecosystem. For example, even in the alpine zone, a piece of plastic with leftover food on it can attract wild animals that have become accustomed to the taste, and in some cases, bears have been known to break into tents in search of food.



Rule5

Plan your hike carefully and conservatively.

In contrast to lowland areas, mountain weather can be unpredictable and lead to rapidly changing conditions. Do not rely on information posted on social media and plan to your individual level. Ensure you have the necessary experience and equipment for the given season. Plan conservatively for early departure and arrival and start out with the necessary supplies for self-sufficiency.