**Mt. Minagasen**

Mt. Minagasen straddles the border between Okayama and Tottori prefectures on the northern side of the Hiruzen Highlands. Its summit lies at an elevation of 1,159 meters, the second-highest peak in the area after Mt. Kami-Hiruzen (1,202 m). “Mina” in the mountain’s name refers to the high moisture levels and abundance of water found on the slopes, conditions favorable to the large Japanese beeches (*Fagus crenata*) and Japanese limes (*Tilia japonica*) that grow across the entire summit. Hikers will pass crumbling earthworks largely hidden in the undergrowth. These are remnants of a 2,300-hectare breeding facility for army horses constructed by the Meiji government in 1898.

**Mt. Minagasen Summit Trail**

The trail leading from the campground to the summit is 3.2 kilometers one way, and a round trip takes an average of three and a half hours. Along the way, hikers cross the peak of Mt. Futamata (1,083 m), where a view opens toward Mt. Minagasen. From Minagasen’s summit itself, one can see the neighboring peak of Mt. Kami-Hiruzen and look out across the entire Hiruzen Highlands.

(Note: there are no restroom facilities along the trail or at the summit.)

Birds and Plants on Mt. Minagasen

Willow Tit (*Poecile montanus*)

Eurasian Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*)

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)

Blue-and-White Flycatcher (*Cyanoptila cyanomelana*)

Narcissus Flycatcher (*Ficedula narcissina*)

Japanese Beech (*Fagus crenata*)

Kurile Bamboo Grass (*Sasa kurilensis*)

Kumasasa Bamboo Grass (*Sasa veitchii*)

Bamboo Lily (*Lilium japonicum*)