

Living Near a Volcano

The relationship between people and Aso has developed over thousands of years. People have inhabited and farmed this area, cultivating and preserving the characteristic grasslands, wetlands, and ancient forests, while shaping a unique culture with Mt. Aso at its heart.

Nakadake, an active volcano, is monitored constantly to predict volcanic eruptions and earthquakes resulting from seismic activity on the Aso fault line. Safety measures and warning systems are in place, helping to ensure that locals and visitors can safely enjoy the natural beauty of the area.

In spite of the potential risks associated with living so close to an active crater, the people living in the Aso area also enjoy beneficial interactions with the volcano. The area has plenty of pure spring water, filtered through volcanic rock, which is essential for use in everyday life and agriculture. Hot springs are abundant, with many relaxing onsen that have attracted visitors and contributed greatly to the local economy. Broad grasslands sweep across the foot of Mt. Aso. These are ideal for raising livestock and growing crops. The grasslands also create unique ecosystems that provide habitats for rare plants, insects, and birds.