

Amagaike

There are several hiking trails in the Bogatsuru area where visitors can enjoy the natural landscape molded by historic volcanic activity. When taking the hiking route from Chojabaru to the Bogatsuru wetland, visitors pass through various natural environments, including the Amagaike area where high rainfall in the rainy season creates a pure spring water pond.

The hollow area, a former volcanic crater, fills with rainwater. Due to the characteristics of the volcanic rock beneath, this forms a pond for a number of weeks every year. The origin of the name Amagaike comes from the Japanese *ame*, which means “rain” or “sky.” Depending on the quantity of rainfall, there are months when the pond doesn’t form. However, after heavy rainfall—the area experiences around 2,500 mm annually—or a typhoon, the pond will usually form here.

Amagaike, located at 1,400 m above sea level, features a wooden walkway that forms part of the hiking route itself. The area is rich in vegetation, with rare wetland plants that attract various butterflies, insects, and animals. The diverse natural environment adds to the charm of the area and is a highlight of the hiking route.