**Mt. Kyonotake**

**A singular shield volcano**

Mt. Kyonotake is one of the few shield volcanoes in Japan completely visible from base to summit. Shield volcanoes get their name from their unique shape, which resembles a warrior's round shield placed on the ground. They are formed through eruptions of low-viscosity basaltic lava, and in general are known as complex volcanoes. Mt. Kyonotake, located in the center of Fukue Island's Miiraku Peninsula, is also a monogenetic volcano, meaning it has erupted only once. This is true of all the Goto Island volcanoes.

The Miiraku Peninsula was formed by Mt. Kyonotake's eruption about 300,000 years ago. A Japan Self-Defense Force base is now located at the summit, where a pond is believed to mark the spot of the volcano's crater. A few circular-shaped farms in the area grow *satsuma imo*, a kind of sweet potato, because the water here is not conducive to rice cultivation.