

Kurago Cave

The entrance to Kurago, a cave in Kojima village, is just ahead, through the metal gate set into the rock face. The natural erosive flow of rainwater from higher altitudes has left the limestone plateau riddled with underground springs like the one that flows through this cave. In the past, nearby villagers would use the spring at the cave mouth to draw fresh water. At New Years, the villagers would draw *wakamizu*, or “young water”—what they called the first flow of the year.

The Route

The cave is approximately 600 meters long, with the far end opening onto the coastal reef area. The passage is marked by unusual rock formations, stalactites, stalagmites, and stone pillars. About 100 meters into the cave is Kurago Falls, a 10-meter-high waterfall with a steady flow cascading into a subterranean pond all year round. Beyond the waterfall, the cave continues toward the sea, but the passage is more challenging, with areas of thigh-deep water and low ceilings. Though the cave ends with an opening onto a coastal cliff with a view of the sea, there is no trail beyond, and cavers must return by the same route.

Cautions for Cave Explorers

This cave is recommended for the more adventurous cavers, who traverse it at their own risk. At one time, the path was clearly marked and maintained, but some sections are now submerged and less visible. There are no working lights, so carry your own light source and a backup.