

# For tourists climbing Mt. Mihara

## The condition of volcanic activity in Izu-Oshima

The Volcanic Alert Level in Izu-Oshima is Level 1 (Be mindful that the volcano is potentially active) now. There is some weak emitting activity in the crater and some other areas atop Mt. Mihara. According to ground deformation observation, Oshima island has been continuously expanding in the long term. There are periods of active volcanic earthquakes that occur once a year to once every few years. However, these volcanic earthquakes are not common outside the periods. According to the fieldwork carried out every month, the temperature of the crater has been stable since 1999. Volcanic gas like carbon dioxide hasn't been observed. Based on these observations, no sign of eruption has been detected, but please be mindful that the volcano is potentially active.



Mt. Mihara

## Let's check volcano information

Below is the official Japan Meteorological Agency announcement web site. It contains news of Izu-Oshima's volcanic activity, Volcanic Alert Levels, etc. Please check before climbing Mt. Mihara.

• Japan Meteorological Agency (Information about all Japanese volcanoes)

<http://www.data.jma.go.jp/svd/vis/data/tokyo/volcano.html>

• Izu-Oshima Resident Office for Volcanic Disaster Mitigation (Japanese only)

[http://www.data.jma.go.jp/svd/vois/data/tokyo/rovdm/Izu-Oshima\\_rovdm/Izu-Oshima\\_rovdm.html](http://www.data.jma.go.jp/svd/vois/data/tokyo/rovdm/Izu-Oshima_rovdm/Izu-Oshima_rovdm.html)



## Preparing to climb Mt. Mihara

Mt. Mihara's hiking paths have some areas with poor footholds. Try to wear mountain boots or hiking shoes. To equip yourself in case of a sudden eruption, protective equipment like helmets can be effective in protecting yourself from physical harm. You can borrow helmets for free at Mt. Mihara's summit entrance buildings.

## How to protect yourself from a sudden eruption

### Volcanic projectiles

- It is possible for fist-sized volcanic projectiles to fly more than 1km from the site of the eruption.
- Evacuate to a shelter or hide behind rocks.
- Protect your head with a helmet or a knapsack.

### Volcanic ash

- Unlike ashes formed by combustion, volcanic ashes are tiny particles of lava and are as hard as glass.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask or a wet towel to prevent inhalation of volcanic ash.
- If it gets into your eyes, do not rub them.

### Volcanic gas

- Sulphur dioxide has a pungent smell and hydrogen sulfide is a dangerous volcanic gas with the smell of rotten eggs.
- If you don't have a gas mask, you should cover your mouth and nose with a wet towel and leave the area.
- Don't enter depressions in the ground because volcanic gas fills there.

# Lending of helmets

In Oshima, we lend helmets for visitors for free in order to prepare for a sudden eruption. We have helmets in two places, Uta-no-chaya (Summit entrance's shop) and the Observatory and Rest House (Summit entrance's building). Please feel free to use them when you climb Mt.Mihara. And please return them after use.



Summit entrance's parking lot



Uta-no-chaya (Summit entrance's shop)



Observatory and Rest House (Summit entrance's building)

# In case of a sudden volcanic eruption

Along Mt.Mihara's hiking path, we set up shelters to protect yourself temporarily from volcanic projectiles and volcanic ash. The observation deck on top is also available as a temporary shelter for evacuation. If a sudden eruption occurs at the crater, evacuate to a safe place away from the site of the eruption. Depending on the situation, get away from the crater via a route from the map below. In case of emergency, act according to the circumstances to protect yourself.

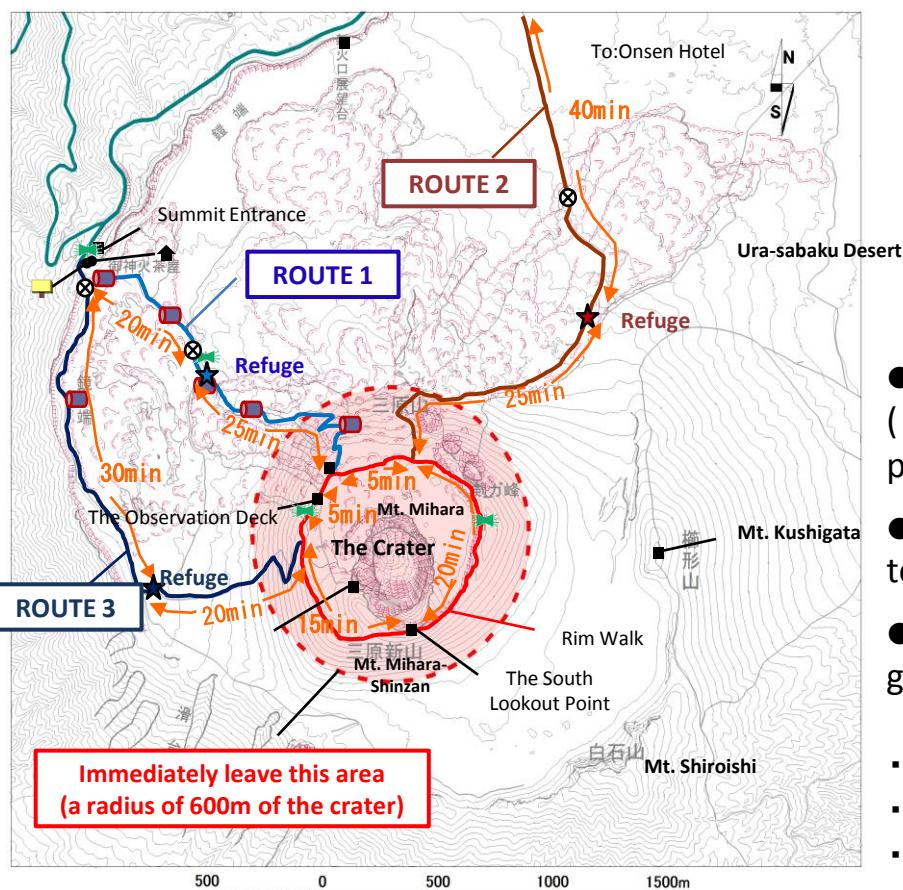


The crater

The observation deck



A shelter



“The evacuation course map for the case a sudden eruption occurs at volcanic alert LV.1”

( Maps issued by Geospatial Information Authority of Japan )



- Go remote from the crater AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ( to the outside of a radius of 600m at least; to any refuge if possible.)
- If volcanic projectiles were flying over, temporarily evacuate to a nearby shelter and keep watching the situation.
- Escape via a proper evacuation course and got as far as either goal ( Summit Entrance or Onsen Hotel ) in the end.

- ROUTE1: Rim Walk ~ Summit entrance ( 2.2km, 45min )
  - ROUTE2: Rim Walk ~ Onsen hotel ( 3.2km, 65min )
  - ROUTE3: Rim Walk ~ Summit entrance ( 2.5km, 50min )
- \*Check the map out for required times on the rim.