

Influence on local sightseeing industry with the setting of the regulation area in the Kirishima volcano

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Mt. Shinmoedake, a part of Mt. Kirishima, one of the most prominent active volcanoes in Japan, last erupted in January 2011, in what was the first eruption there in about 300 years. At the moment, it is at alert level 2, and the area in the 1km radius around the crater continues to be off limits. In addition, in August of 2014, Mt. Ioyama experienced volcanic tremors. This led to the area in the 1km radius of Mt. Ioyama to also be placed off-limits in October.

Based on the volcanic activity and warnings, we have seen a decrease in visitors to Kirishima, especially after the 2011 eruption, which saw many hotel cancellations.

As a geopark with a volcano, are mulling our options on how to deal with the current tourism trends and the local tourism industry.

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