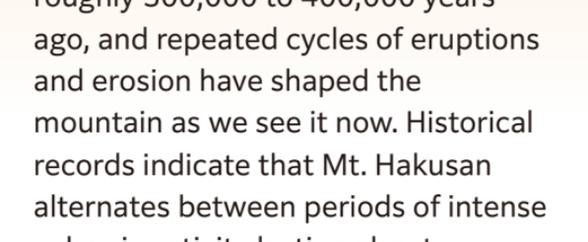


Mt. Hakusan's Volcanic Activity

A History of Eruptions and Volcanic Features



Hakusan is Alive! Volcanic Activity at Mt. Hakusan

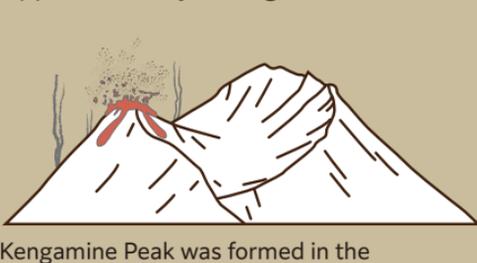
A History of Hakusan's Eruptions

Mt. Hakusan is a volcano that remains active, even today, beneath the surface. Its volcanic activity began roughly 300,000 to 400,000 years ago, and repeated cycles of eruptions and erosion have shaped the mountain as we see it now. Historical records indicate that Mt. Hakusan alternates between periods of intense volcanic activity lasting about 100–150 years and quieter periods of around 300 years. As more than 300 years have passed since the last eruption, the mountain may now be entering the next active phase.

Periods	Volcanic Activity
Approx. 300,000–400,000 years ago	Formation of Kagamuro Volcano.
Approx. 100,000–150,000 years ago	Formation of Ko-Hakusan (Old Hakusan) Volcano – a 3,000-meter-class volcano.
Approx. 20,000–40,000 years ago	Formation of Shin-Hakusan (New Hakusan) Volcano, shaping the current summit.
Approx. 4,500 years ago	Summit collapsed eastward.
Approx. 2,900 years ago	Formation of Kengamine Peak at the site of the collapse.
AD 706	Forest fire recorded, believed to have been caused by volcanic activity.
AD 1042	Formation of today's Midorigaike Pond due to an eruption.
AD 1547	Volcanic activity recorded.
AD 1554	Two years of intense volcanic activity.
AD 1579	Volcanic activity recorded.
AD 1640	Volcanic activity recorded.
AD 1659	Most recent recorded eruption of Mt. Hakusan.

Formation of Gozengamine and Kengamine Peaks

Tens of thousands of years ago



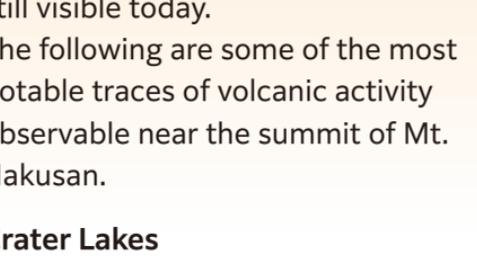
Eruptive activity began around the current summit, forming a stratovolcano (New Hakusan volcano).



Major collapse of the summit. The collapse is thought to have been triggered by an eruption or earthquake, but this is not well understood.



Kengamine Peak was formed in the amphitheater of the collapse. Lava from that eruption flowed as far east as Oshirakawa Village in Gifu Prefecture.



Eruptions occurred around the summit depression. One of these eruptions created a crater that later became Midorigaike Pond.

Exploring Hakusan's Volcanic Activity

Signs of Volcanic Activity Still Visible to Hikers

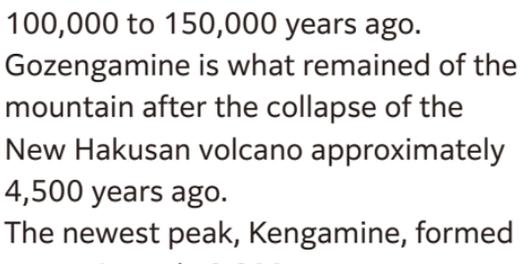
Traces of Hakusan's volcanic past are still visible today. The following are some of the most notable traces of volcanic activity observable near the summit of Mt. Hakusan.

Crater Lakes



Hiking the Tour-around-the-Ponds Course from the summit of Gozengamine Peak, you'll see round ponds here and there. These are crater lakes formed by water accumulating in volcanic craters. The largest, Midorigaike Pond, is believed to have been formed in an eruption in 1042. Seven other crater lakes of various sizes, including Kon'yagaikae Pond and Aburagaikae Pond, are scattered around the summit.

Hakusan's Three Main Peaks



From the summit of Gozengamine Peak, you can see Onanjimine Peak and Kengamine Peak before you. These peaks—Onanjimine, Kengamine, and Gozengamine—are known as Hakusan's three main peaks. All three were formed through volcanic activity.

Onanjimine, the oldest, developed over many years through erosion of the Old Hakusan volcano that formed 100,000 to 150,000 years ago.

Gozengamine is what remained of the mountain after the collapse of the New Hakusan volcano approximately 4,500 years ago.

The newest peak, Kengamine, formed approximately 2,900 years ago.

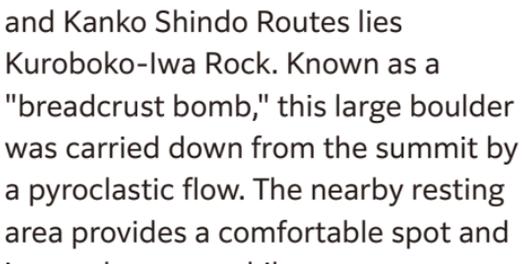
Pyroclastic Flow Deposits



Walking the Tour-around-the-Ponds Course from the foot of Onanjimine Peak to Chinoike Pond, you'll come across a landscape that looks like a rock garden, with huge boulders scattered among whitish sand and pebbles.

Referred to as pyroclastic flow deposits, these rocks formed when red-hot boulders and volcanic ash flowed down the slope along with volcanic gases, like a hot avalanche.

Midagahara



Looking south from Murododaira, you can see how the wide, gentle slope stretches continuously from Murododaira to the Midagahara area. This gently sloping incline was formed by lava flows from the eruption of the Shin-Hakusan volcano. In addition to the beautiful flower fields of Midagahara, take a moment to reflect on Hakusan's ancient volcanic activity.

Kuroboko-Iwa Rock



At the junction of the Sabo Shindo and Kanko Shindo Routes lies Kuroboko-Iwa Rock. Known as a "breadcrust bomb," this large boulder was carried down from the summit by a pyroclastic flow. The nearby resting area provides a comfortable spot and is popular among hikers.

Chubu Regional Environment Office, Ministry of the Environment/Association for Conservation of Circum-Hakusan Area

