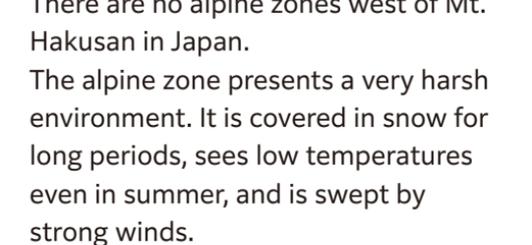


Mt. Hakusan in Bloom

Gorgeous Alpine Plants



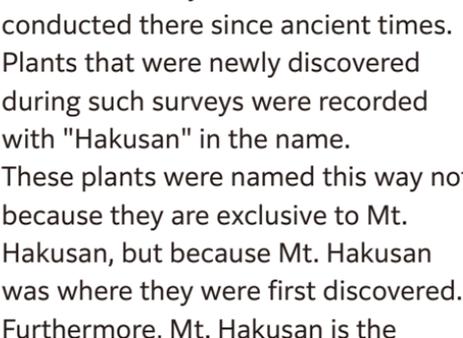
Alpine Plants of Mt. Hakusan

Japan's Westernmost Alpine Zone

The term "alpine zone" refers to high-altitude regions above the treeline where tall trees cannot grow. Mt. Hakusan's alpine zone starts at an elevation of about 2,400 meters. There are no alpine zones west of Mt. Hakusan in Japan.

The alpine zone presents a very harsh environment. It is covered in snow for long periods, sees low temperatures even in summer, and is swept by strong winds.

Yet even in such a severe environment, alpine plants bloom with beautiful flowers, delighting the observer.



↑ Gozengamine's Peak and Alpine Zone

As this photo shows, there are absolutely no tall trees. In areas where the snow has melted, many short trees and grasses have begun to grow. This is the start of the brief alpine summer.

Flowers Associated with "Hakusan"

Many plants on Mt. Hakusan include the term "Hakusan" in their name. In addition, there are other plants that include the names of places in Mt. Hakusan, such as the Gozen's Bunchberry (named after Gozengamine Peak).

Humans have long climbed Mt. Hakusan as a sacred mountain, and botanical surveys have been conducted there since ancient times. Plants that were newly discovered during such surveys were recorded with "Hakusan" in the name.

These plants were named this way not because they are exclusive to Mt. Hakusan, but because Mt. Hakusan was where they were first discovered.

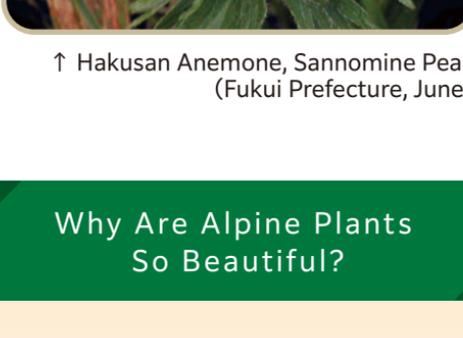
Furthermore, Mt. Hakusan is the westernmost alpine zone in Japan, with no higher mountains to the west. As such, over 100 species of alpine plants grow here at the western limit of their habitat.



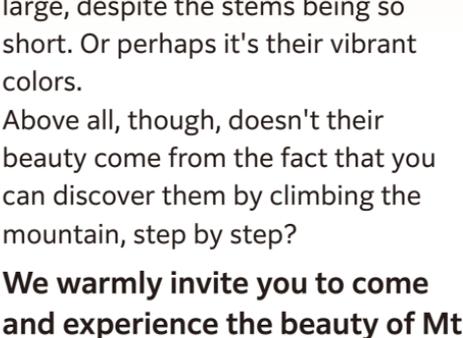
↑ Hakusan Primrose, Minami-Ryuga Banba (Ishikawa Prefecture, July)



↑ Hakusan Monkshood, Observation Trail (Ishikawa Prefecture, August)



↑ Gozen's Bunchberry, Mt. Nodanishoji (Gifu Prefecture, August)



↑ Hakusan Plantain, Minami-Ryuga Banba (Ishikawa Prefecture, July)



↑ Hakusan Spurge, Sannomine Peak (Fukui Prefecture, June)



↑ Hakusan Anemone, Sannomine Peak (Fukui Prefecture, June)

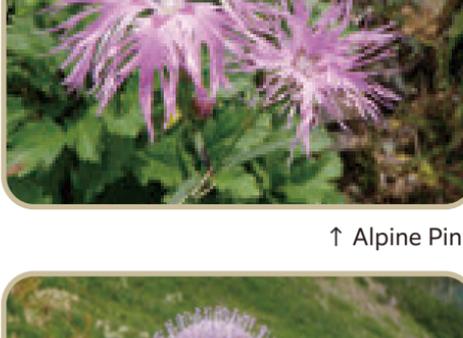
Why Are Alpine Plants So Beautiful?

What makes alpine plants so beautiful?"

There are many reasons. For example, some may say it's because they bloom all at once. Or that the flowers are so large, despite the stems being so short. Or perhaps it's their vibrant colors.

Above all, though, doesn't their beauty come from the fact that you can discover them by climbing the mountain, step by step?

We warmly invite you to come and experience the beauty of Mt. Hakusan's alpine plants for yourself.



↑ Japanese Lousewort



↑ Iwagi Bellflower



↑ Rock Chickweed



↑ Alpine Eyebright



↑ Chocolate Lily and Gozengamine Peak

↑ Aleutian Mountain Heath

↑ Aleutian Avens

↑ Alpine Pink

↑ Alpine Scabiosa

↑ Hakusan Geranium

↑ Hakusan Primrose

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

