Historical hot springs resort which developed in a riverside district

Kinosaki Onsen (hot springs) Course

Kinosaki Onsen (hot springs) Resort developed on reclaimed land that was once a bay at the mouth of the Otani River, connected to the lower reaches of the Mayosawa River. It is a historical hot springs resort that has been known since the Heian period (794-1185).

Local legend tells us that an Oriental White Stork once healed its wounds in the hot spring water. Local people have made efforts to conserve Kinosaki’s beautiful atmosphere: the Otani River with its Basin embankment decorated with beautiful willows, the town with three-story wooden Japanese buildings, and the seven public bathshouses where local people and visitors mingle.

The water quality of Kinosaki Onsen
Sodium, Calcium, Chloride (Hypotonic/Neutral/High temperature)

The hot springs are known to be good for:
Neuralgia, muscle pain, joint pain, frozen shoulder, motor paralysis, stiff joints, bruises, sprains, chronic digestive diseases, hemorrhoids, sensitivity to cold, recovery after illness, relieving fatigue, promotion of good health, cuts, burns, chronic skin diseases, frostbite, chronic women’s diseases

*For the protection and effective use of the hot springs, the hot water is delivered to each hotel and public bath by a hot water distribution management system that gathers the waste water from hotels directly from the source of distribution.

Quiz! Can you find them?

There are statues of bees, mice, and newts in Kiyamachi-koji. If you cannot find them all, please ask the staff to help you!

Basic Course

1. Kinosaki Onsen Station
2. Source of Kinosaki Hot Springs
3. Kiyamachi-koji & hibuskabe (a firework)
4. Kyu-machi-koji & hibuskabe (a firework)
5. Shinto shrine
6. Toge-onsen (public bath)
7. Omiya-koji (public bath)
8. Onsen-ji Temple
9. Onsen-ji Temple
10. Kinosaki Straw Work Museum
11. Kinosaki Library Museum
12. Kinosaki Straw Work Museum
13. Kinosaki Library Museum
14. Kinosaki International Art Center

Short Course

1. Otani River embankment
2. Sato-nyu (public bath)
3. Sato-nyu (public bath)
4. Sato-nyu (public bath)
5. Sato-nyu (public bath)
6. Togensui (a well)
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Where does the hot water of Kinosaki hot springs come from?

Hot water seeps out of rock crevices into the sand layer, which people traditionally drew water from. In addition to this method, these days some people dig deep wells to draw hot water directly from the crevices.

The best spot for lunch

To preserve these beautiful natural assets, please leave stones and plants as they are. Keep out of dangerous places and do not go off limits. What you can bring home with you are happy memories, photos and local souvenirs!!

Let’s take a short trip by bike!

Recommended cycling course

Cycling along the Mayosawa River, Sasaara and Chubido Cave is a sport of choice. This area is blessed with abundant natural surroundings. Being both fun and ideal for cycling, and a bicycle rental service is available. (Contact: Kinosaki Onsen hotel association for rental bicycle service: 0776-52-4449)

To San’in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council TEL:0796-26-3783 FAX:0796-26-3785 URL:San’in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council
Kinosaki Onsen (hot springs) many places of interest

1. Otani River embankment
The basalt rocks from Gembudo Cave are used to reinforce the banks of the Otani River. In the reconstruction process after the 1925 North Tajima Earthquake, the basalt rocks that fell from Gembudo Cave were carried here by ship to reinforce the river banks. The basalt rocks of Gembudo Cave, featuring regular crescents of columnar joints, were used on the foundations of houses and stone wells as natural blocks. Now it is forbidden to remove the basalt rocks since they are designated as a National Natural Monument.

2. Higashiyama Park
Higashiyama Park is known as a place to enjoy beautiful cherry blossoms in spring as well as autumn leaves. It is the top of the hill commands a panoramic view of the Maruyama River, Sasaura estuary, and Kinosaki Hot Springs Resort. The view from here shows that there is little flat ground along the Maruyama River to the north of Kinosaki, because the mountains are so close to the river. Therefore, ships were the main means of transportation to Kinosaki before the construction of roads.

3. Storehouse which withstood the 1925 North Tajima Earthquake
The 1925 North Tajima Earthquake destroyed many buildings in Kinosaki, and even those that remained had been destroyed by fire. Some buildings did not collapse and survived the fire during the disaster. This storehouse is one of them, being preserved as it was before the earthquake. Storehouses are usually built with fire-proof building materials such as mud walls. The fact that they withstand the fire shows that they had the essential function.

4. Togensu (a well)
Togensu is located on a mountain near a mountainous area discovered in 1650. People could only get hot spring water in winter, with snow, to wash in with a strong metallic odor because the water under Kinosaki is all hot spring water. The water here is drinkable because the water it comes from at the top of the mountain and hot spring water is not mixed in it. The natural spring water “clear like the water in the Gokurakusha Temple in the west of Kinosaki, also flows out from the mountain near the water. The water is no longer drinkable.

5. Ichino-yu (public bath)
The whole of Kinosaki is working together to offer a warm welcome to visitors, like Kinosaki Hot Springs Resort to a big Japanese-style hotel, Tomei. It is a symbol of Kinosaki Hot Springs Resort, seasoned in its center. The building is like a kabuki theater in the brief and decorative Miyamori style. It is equipped with spacious bathhouses, reservation rooms, and a cave-shaped bathhouse that was carved out of the rocks. One way to enjoy Kinosaki is to play at the amusement center and try to find delicious food at various kinds of restaurants while walking around the seven public onsen in yuzusen from the light of this season.

6. Kiyamachi-koji &hibusekabe (firewall)
Kiyamachi-koji is a new spot, consists of Sanjyangenrei (public squares) used for events and a mall with 10 unique teishan (Sanjyangenrei Hime) equipped with a fire prevention wall called hibusekabe. This is the reconstruction of a fire prevention wall made after the damage by a great fire caused by the 1925 North Tajima Earthquake. It is now a symbol of the reconstruction of Kinosaki Hot Springs Resort.

7. Onsen-ji Temple
According to temple legend, Onsen-ji Temple was founded in 738 by a Japanese monk. Dohachi, who is said to have founded Kinosaki Hot Springs. The legend says that the temple’s name was bestowed by the Emperor Shomu on that occasion. The main hall and other buildings, the oldest wooden buildings in the Tajima region built in the early Momonchi period (Momonchi period: 1336-1573), are designated as National Important Cultural Properties. The historical treasures of Kinosaki Hot Springs such as “Onsen-ji-cho no hishi (a historical document of the temple)" are preserved in Onsen-ji Temple. The principal image is open to the public only on April 23 and 24.

8. Kinosaki Straw Work Museum
Kinosaki Straw Work Museum was established not only to hand down the traditional skills of Kinosaki straw work (one of the traditional crafts in Kinosaki) but also for its conservation and exhibition. About 200 works made in the Maji, Tashio and Shioke periods (1888-1988) and about 30 works from the present day are on display, making good use of a storehouse with thick molar walls, a modern construction that withstands the 1925 North Tajima Earthquake. (Open): 9:00-17:00 (last entry: 16:30) (Closed) Every last Wednesday (If Wednesday is a holiday, closed the next day). All Year’s holiday.

9. Kinosaki Literary Museum
The Kinosaki Literary Museum houses material about authors and artists from the Edo period (1801-1868) to mid-20th century, who were closely associated with Kinosaki. These include Naoya Shiga, who wrote a famous novel “Kinosaki” here, Takanori and Aiko Yosano, Tosen Shimazaki, and Seigo Shirono (also known as Seigo Shirono). The title houses some of Kinosaki’s historical materials. The exhibition includes an exhibition and a corner where visitors can experience traditional straw works, as well as a tourist information center of the Kinosaki Hot Springs Tourism Association. (Open): 10:00-17:00 (last entry: 16:30) (Closed) Every last Wednesday (If Wednesday is a holiday, closed the next day). All Year’s holiday.

Benten Park
The rocks making up the peninsula are volcanic rocks which erupted when the island of Japan started to form about 30 million years ago. The volcanic rocks withstand the erosion by wind and rain better than other parts. These volcanic rocks later became the mountain as it is now. At the top and the front of Mt. Benten, one can observe magma flow patterns called "flow structure," which were formed when magma pushed out. The tower erected in memory of Taiga no Moribusa (1794, a military commander of the famous Taiga family) near a shrine at the top of the mountain. It is said that the tower was built by Kinosakumo (his wife and daughter of a local government official in those days).

Kinosaki, the riverside town
The view of Kinosaki Station and the Maruyama River from Higashiyama Park shows that the mountains are so close to the river that there is little level ground. Before the construction and improvement of the region’s roads, ships were the main means of transportation to Kinosaki Hot Springs. So much so that Kinosaki was just like an island due to the fact that it was difficult to access by land. That’s why there are still places nami that contain the word shima (island) such as Yushima and Momoshima.

Kinosaki in the Jomon period (about 2,400-12,000 years ago, the Neolithic period)
Geological surveys show that in the Jomon period, the Toyooka Basin was a huge bay approximately 30-40 meters deep. The area around Kinosaki might have been an island. Fossilized shellfish that inhabited the sea have been dug up here.

Restoration efforts following the North Tajima Earthquake
The Maruyama River basin, especially Toyooka and Kinosaki, were seriously damaged by the North Tajima Earthquake, which occurred directly underneath the region of the mouth of the Maruyama River at 11:10 a.m. on Saturday, May 23, 1925. Kinosaki Hot Springs Resort was completely destroyed when its buildings collapsed and a great fire occurred. However, local people completed the restoration after the disaster through their devoted efforts. During the restoration of Kinosaki, people built three-story wooden houses to restore the town to its elegant pre-earthquake atmosphere. In addition, they prepared emergency equipment to prevent fires caused by earthquakes, such as fire prevention walls. Using basalt from Gembudo Cave to reinforce the banks of the Onami River made them stronger and created an elegant atmosphere.

Production
The San’in Keigan Geopark Promotion Council & Research Section for Geo-environment, Institute of Natural and Environmental Sciences, University of Hyogo

Geo-Column 1
Kinosaki Onsen (hot springs) many places of interest

Geo-Column 2
Kinosaki, the riverside town

Geo-Column 3
Restoration efforts following the North Tajima Earthquake

Press release Kinosaki Hot Springs Resort (Kinosaki Hot Springs Furusato Festival)