A town full of historical atmosphere with reduced risks of floods and earthquakes

Shikano Castle Town Course

The Town of Shikano is filled with historical atmosphere, where Castle Ruins and old townscapes still remain. This town spreads out at the foot of Mt. Jubo, and is located on a plateau made of sand and gravel once gathered and carried by river. Generally, plateaus are relatively safe from floods and earthquakes. In addition, the upper surface of the plateau is flat, which means it is suitable for building houses. The town has flourished on this plateau as a major transportation hub for a long time. In 1581, the lord of Shikano Castle, Korenori Kamei established this town as a castle town. The areas (Tonomachi for samurai residences, Kammachi and Shinomachi for merchants, Kajimachi and Daikumachi for craftsmen) and waterways around the town have been well preserved. The townhouses equipped with Kyoto style latticework retain the atmosphere of the past.

Basic Course
1. View of Mt. Jubo
2. Cattle stone
3. Igi's levee
4. Kajimachi street (Old townscapes)
5. Shinomachi street (Old townscapes)
6. Shikano Castle Ruins

Short Course
1. View of Mt. Jubo
2. Cattle stone
3. Igi's levee
4. Kajimachi street (Old townscapes)
5. Shinomachi street (Old townscapes)
6. Shikano Castle Ruins

Basic Course
- Size: about 2.7 km
- Total traveling time: about 1 hour
- Map: View of Mt. Jubo

Short Course
- Size: about 2.7 km
- Total traveling time: about 1 hour

Quiz
Search for Umamonado
Shikano Castle Ruins are surrounded by cherry trees. There are many that are already producing flowers. They are found in the street and parks in the town.

San'in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council
tel.0796-26-3783 fax.0796-26-3785
URL http://sanin-geo.jp/
Shikano castle town’s many places of interest

① Igi’s levee
This is a levee built in the early Edo period (1603-1868). Water flowing from the outer moat of Shikano Castle to this levee was used in the paddies and to prepare for drought. Even now, water flows upstream of the levee, creating beautiful scenery with the houses and its tranquil green Sesko city river (due to its specialty of Shikano Noren).

② Cattle stone
When cows and horses were important animals for transportation and agriculture, cattle stones were placed along the highways to help them stand. This cattle stone was made of Jumbo stone, with a rectangular hole to tie a rope through (circled in red). In the Shikano Castle town, there are several cattle stones remaining, proving that the town used to be a traffic hub.

③ View of Mt. Jumbo

④ Kajimachi street
Old-fashioned houses are lined along this street, and the sound of water coming from the man-made waterfall creates a pleasant atmosphere. Kajimachi, who once governed this area, significantly renovated the castle town and made a waterfall network using the stones of the Shikano. This covers the disadvantage of plateaus having Edo running water in the surface whilst also keeping the benefit of a smaller risk of water flooding.

⑤ Shimomachi Street

⑥ Kosel Temple
This is the family temple of Shikanno Takanori, Kenroku Kama’s father. Takanori, who died a violent death, was originally located in a different place, but was moved to its current location by Kiyonori to pray for the return of Shikano’s soul and renamed as Kosel Temple by taking characters from Shikano’s other name, Yuki. On the premises, a granite stone pillar (34 m high) stands tall and proud.

⑦ Tottori City Shikano Socioeconomic and Exchange Hall "Dream"
This is a base for sightseeing, having displays related to local history and traditional events, bulletins, boards, a specialty shop, a cafe, and a reading room. Bicycle rental and tour guide services are also available.

⑧ Mizutani River
This is a clear stream flowing from Mt. Jumbo. Kenroku Kama, who governed this area after the Battle of Saigawa in 1400, changed the path of Mizutani River and Shimokichi River nearby and improved the castle’s defense. The outer moat (Tenno moat) and Yotaka moat were constructed at that time, and at the Shikano Castle ruins even now, originally, Mizutani River used to flow in the sea without joining Kouchi River. For details, refer to "Geo-column 3."

⑨ Shikano Castle Ruins

⑩ Shiroyama Shrine
Although there standing year is unknown, it was handed down among the Tottori Sengoku for generations. It is said to be the birthplace of Shikano Castle and the castle town. The foundation of the current Shiroyama-cho is fairly recent, currently, the area around the castle ruins has been developed into the Shikano Castle Ruins Park, giving people a relaxing place with beautiful cherry blossoms in spring and colored leaves in autumn.

Geo-column 1
Comfortable living on Shikano’s plateau!
Shikano is located on top of a plateau made of sand and gravel carried by rivers. The plateau is high in altitude, and as such, lacks little flood damage. Moreover, the upper side of the plateau is suitable for building houses. You will see that many of Shikano’s houses have very low foundations. This is because there was no need to raise the houses because of the rarity of floods and the good drainage. The plateau made of sand and gravel was also relatively strong against earthquakes. Even after the 1943 Tottori Earthquake, there was little damage.

Plateau & terraces
Good for building houses and making rice fields because of less flood damage and good drainage.
Plains & wetlands
Good for growing rice, blessed with water.

Conceptual drawing of a plateau and a plain

Place name: Tottori City Shikano Socioeconomic and Exchange Hall "Dream"
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Geo-column 2
Shikano Fault and the Tottori Earthquake
On September 10, 1943, an earthquake of magnitude 7.2 with its epicenter in Tottori city occurred. The Shikano Fault became visible on the surface due to this earthquake. The ground was displaced about 1.5 m in the east-west direction along the Shikano Fault and sunk about 0.5 m. The disconnected waterway that used to cross over the fault is designated as a natural monument by the prefecture, since you can easily observe the displacement of the fault.

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Current Shikano Fault
Location of Shikano Fault (including assumptions)

Geo-column 3
The river flow has changed? ~River capture~
The upstream of the current Kouchi River used to be connected with Hamamura River to the west of Shikano, running towards the north. The downstream of the current Kouchi River eroded and captured Hamamura River, which lost its upstream and became a small river (see the map in Geo-column 2). This phenomenon is called river capture, and happens when there is a difference in the erosion power of two neighboring rivers. The river taking the upstream (capturing river) becomes bigger in its flow, but the captured river ("beheaded river") becomes smaller in its flow.

Production: Graduate School of Regional Resource Management of the University of Hyogo, Tottori University of Environmental Studies, Tottori City, Tottori Prefecture, San’in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council