Tateiwa Rock dominating the white beach alone and Byobuwa Rock looking like a folding screen
The Tango Region around Tateiwa Rock is rich in history: a legend of a prince defeating ogres, Takano Shrine and burial mounds. Be inspired as you learn about them and experience the Geopark’s magnificent scenery!

Among many oral traditions in Tango, there is a legend related to a huge block of andesite called Tateiwa Rock. When Meko-shiruto (the third prince of the 3rd Emperor Yomei) defeated giant ogres here, one of them was enclosed in Tateiwa Rock, which fell down from the sky overnight. It is said that even now one can hear the ogres’ wailing on windy nights when the sea is rough. (*Picture scrolls in Takano Shrine show this story.)

Quiz 1
Which side of the bank is connected with Tateiwa Rock? the right bank or the left one? Read Geo-Colum for the answer!

Quiz 2
Which of these is the same height as Byobuwa Rock?
1. Great Buddha of Nara
2. Five-storied Pagoda in Toji Temple
3. The stage of Kyomizu-dera Temple
Read Geo-Colum for the answer!

Key Information
Museum of the Ancient City of Tango
*Closed every Tuesday
*Admission Fee: ¥500 (adult)
*Exhibits relics discovered from archaeological sites in Kyotango City (Estimated time: about 30 min)

Tango Hot Springs Hashidudose
*Hot spring for day-trippers
*Closed the second & fourth Tuesday every month
*Open every day during summer vacation and snow crab season
*Bathing charge: ¥600 (adult)

Burial mounds nearby
Shimmeiyama Burial Mound (Nationally designated historic site)
*One of the largest keyhole-shaped tombs on the coast of the Sea of Japan
Ubusunayama Burial Mound (Nationally designated historic site)
*A stone coffin-shaped in the form of a large oblong chest meant for a King
Masuzuka Burial Mound
*A square tumulus built on the coastal terraces
Onaru Burial Mound Group (Municipally designated historic site)
*A horizontal stone chamber built on the coastal terraces

Tateiwa Rock and Taizan’s many places of interest

① Tenki Tenki Tango Roadside Rest Area

Tenki Tenki Tango is the northeastermost roadside rest area in Kyoto prefecture. The origin of its name is a traditional festival called “Tenki Tenki” handed down from ancient times in Takao. Local people run a market every Sunday/Phone: 0752-75-2525

② Takano Shrine

Takano Shrine was dedicated to Amaterasu Omikami (the Sun Goddess) by Princess Takano-inma, who served the 5th Emperor Kaya. There are pictures of painting a legend of Manisan asie, no-destroying poems. The main hall is designated as a cultural property by Kyoto prefecture and the premises as a protected cultural property area.

③ Shinmeiyama Burial Mound

Shinmeiyama Burial Mound is one of the largest royal tombs of Japan, on the coast of the Sea of Japan. It has a total height of 300 m, with a circumference of about 200 m. It has two Elevated parts where unique cypindrical dag bars (tombs) found only in the Tang region since about the 9th century. It is designated as a national important historical site.

④ Onaru Burial Mounds

Onaru Burial Mounds are a burial mound group consisting of a horizontal stone chamber, built in the late Kofun period (from the late 5th century to the early 7th century). A total of 11 mounds have been discovered here. Local residents with developed canal ports were used to build the store chambers.

⑤ Tateiwa Rock

With a height of 20 m, Tateiwa Rock is a huge andesite boulder that symbolizes Kyotango city. It is known for its beautiful columnar joints that extend vertically. The rock and its legends of a piece of petrifying gneiss have long been familiar to local residents. Sandbars that were washed down the Tateiwa River formed a sandbar that connects the mainland to Tateiwa Rock, which used to be an isolated island.

⑥ Byobuiwa Rock Observatory

Byobuiwa Rock resembles a hanging screen jutting out from the sea. It contains two andesites formed through the solidification of magma that had seeped into the strata of the softer luff. The strata around it were later eroded and some parts of the strata created the formation as seen today. There are several stands offshores of Byobuiwa Rock that are located in a straight line.

An Extra : Statues of Empress Hashidate and Prince Shotoku*

It is said that Empress Haseidate, a mother, took refuge in Tateiwa to avoid floods during a power struggle. She gave her name "hashidate" to this place when she left. The villagers were too humbled to take her name as it was and renamed the place "Tateiwa" (to leave) in honor of her departure. Prince Shotoku was a semi-legendary politician (574-622) who founded the centralized government system of Japan.

An Extra : Tango Hot Springs Hashidateosu

Equipped with open-air baths, the hot springs at Hashidateosu are of high quality and contain sodium, calcium and sulfate. These outdoor baths allow visitors to enjoy their bath while listening to the sound of waves from the Sea of Japan. Visitors are able to drop by on a day trip and are also able to just use the restaurant, which is available by reservation.

About 15 million years ago, magma seeped into strata vertically and accumulated in a plate-like shape. In soft parts of the strata, magma spread out horizontally in a mushroom-shaped pattern along the accumulated strata. After that, the magma cooled down and solidified.

Vertical sections of rock strata-vertical sections of rock strata.

Quiz Answer

Both are correct (see for yourself). A sandbar made of granitic sand carried by the Tateiwa River connects the mainland with Tateiwa Rock. The size of the river changes according to the state of the river.

Coastal terraces around the Takeno region

During the last interglacial period (about 130,000 years ago), wave-cut benches were formed due to the erosion of the rocks created by volcanic activity about 15 million years ago. Gravel, sand, and mud were deposited on the benches. The strata are now at an altitude of 20 meters and are called marine middle terrace deposits.

Production: The San'in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council