

The rich basin, which embraces the oriental white storks

Toyooka Basin & Hiyoriyama Course

Driving Course

- Toyooka Downtown
- Nakashima Shrine
- Genbudo Park
- Ramsar Convention Wetlands
- Kinosaki Onsen (hot springs)
- Hiyoriyama Kaigan Coast

San'in Kaigan Geopark
Recommended Courses
(San'in Kaigan National Park)



Oriental white storks, bags, sweets, onsen (hot springs), crab, and basalt represent Toyooka. These are blessed with the unique nature of this area. Come enjoy these great gifts from nature. Created during the formation of the Sea of Japan.

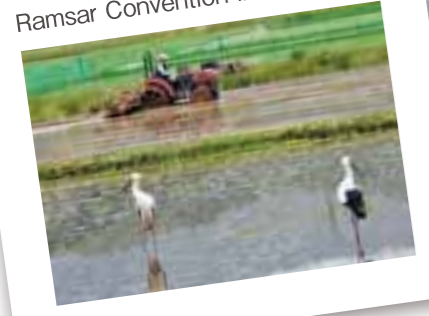


Geopark Tour Guide available!
Hiyoriyama Kaigan Tour Guide Center
Tel.0796-28-2300
(Kinosaki Marine World)

Toyooka Basin used to be a large inlet of the sea. The valley around Genbudo (with a bottle-neck shape) was filled with the sediment brought from upstream. It formed a basin, which now is used as lush rich fields.



Oriental white storks and many other creatures live in the rice fields and wetlands located downstream of the Maruyama River. We have tried to protect and preserve them. It was partially registered as the Ramsar Convention in 2012.



Quiz 1
How was Elephant Rock made?

Quiz 2
What does this pole represent?
(Next to Kuruhi Intersection)



Please avoid touching rocks and plants for the protection of our beautiful nature. You may not enter the dangerous areas or prohibited areas. Don't forget to bring your best memories, photos, and local souvenirs back home!

Examples

- Basic Course
- Optional Course
- Route
- Homeward Journey
- Parking
- Restroom
- Photo Spots

Basic Course											
5min. 1km	20min. 8km	15min. 7km	15min. 8km	10min. 5km	5min. 600m	10min. 2km	10min. 5km	5min. 1km	5min. 1km	10min. 3km	10min. 5km
1 Toyooka Station	2 Toyooka Townscape and Bag Street	3 Nakashima Shrine where the God of Sweets is worshiped	4 Toyooka Municipal Eco Museum for the Oriental White Stork	5 Genbudo Park	6 Sasaura Inlet and Hanakake Jizo Statue	7 Kinosaki Onsen (hot springs)	8 Kinumaki Shrine & columnar joints	9 Elephant Rock	10 Monument of the Earthquake of 1925 at Tai and Tai Wetland	11 Fisherman's Village at Tsuiyama Port	12 Kinosaki Marine World at Hiyoriyama Kaigan Coast
Toyooka Station											
About 3 hours of traveling in total / The total distance: 55km											


Optional Course				
5min. 1km	10min. 5km	10min. 3km	10min. 3km	30min. 20km
1 Kinosaki Marine World at Hiyoriyama Kaigan Coast	2 Views of the Sea of Japan	3 Hidden Village: Takui	4 Hidden Village: Ui	5 Toyooka Kaigan Coast
Toyooka Station				
About 1.5 hours of traveling in total / The total distance: 30km				

Tons of great sightseeing spots

Toyooka Basin & Hiyoriyama Course


Driving Course

1 Toyooka Townscape and Bag Street



Houses and buildings in Toyooka Town were once burned down in the North Tajima Earthquake in 1925. The rebuilt modern architectural buildings were recovered. Now you still can see them, 90 years later. You can also meet bag artisans and encounter their exquisite skills in the Toyooka Bag shops on Kaban Street.

2 Nakashima Shrine where the God of Sweets is worshipped




The God of Sweets is called, "Tajimamori-no-Mikoto." Suinin Emperor ordered Tajimamori-no-Mikoto to bring back a mandarin orange (for perennial youth and long life) from another country overseas. This is how he became "the God of Sweets."

3 Hyogo Prefectural Homeland for the Oriental White Stork & Toyooka Municipal Eco Museum for the Oriental White Stork




These are institutions for research and experiments. They encourage the storks to breed in the wild to conserve the species. The Oriental White Stork Center is open to public. You can have a tour of Oriental White Storks.
Tel.0796-23-5666 (Hyogo Prefectural Homeland for the Oriental White Stork)
Tel.0796-23-7750 (Toyooka Municipal Eco Museum for the Oriental White Stork)

4 Genbudo Park




Volcanic activity, about 1.6 million years ago, made regular cracks and formed the pillar joints of basalt in the process of cooling down the hot magma. You can see how valuable this geology is, how beautiful the naturally formed joints are, and how important the academic lessons that can be learned are.

5 Hachigoro's Toshima Wetland




Toshima Wetland of Hachigoro, is located downstream of Maruyama River. The first reintroduced wild stork, Hachigoro came to fly on August 5th, 2002. This wetland is full of rare living creatures and plant life with a mix of fresh and brackish water. It has become a registered Ramsar Convention Wetland since 2012.

6 Sasaura Inlet and Hanakake Jizo Statue



The seashore of Rias coastal inlet has a peaceful and exquisite view all year around. Fishing in the river used to be prosperous, and some boat houses still remain. The Hanakake Jizo Statue around this inlet is from an old Japanese folklore. It is said that only one wish will be granted if you don't ask for too much.

7 Kinosaki Onsen (hot springs)




Kinosaki Onsen hot springs are located at the entrance of the beautiful Maruyama River. The onsen town was developed on the soil, which filled in Otani River Inlet. It is very well known for its tour of their seven sotoyu hot springs. Each sotoyu has its own origin and style. Come stroll along the river under willow trees while wearing a Japanese yukata (summer kimono). Enjoy the great atmosphere of this onsen town.

8 Kinumaki Shrine & columnar joints




The Kinumaki Shrine is under Mt. Kinumaki at the mouth of Maruyama River. At the entrance of the shrine, you will see columnar joints of volcanic rocks. They resembled a pile of fabric rolls of silk. The surrounding woods are recognized as a Japanese Cultural Property, designated by the prefecture. This lovely natural forest is known for its warm-climate vegetation at the Kinumaki Shrine.

9 Elephant Rock



It is called, "Zō Iwa" because the stone's shape closely resembles an elephant. The rock was naturally carved by the ocean waves during the Jomon Period. The dented shaped rock is called, "Notch." It is separated from the coast because the sea level became lower there. It has been said, that the sea level was once 5 meters higher than it is now, during the Jomon Period.

10 Monument of the Earthquake of 1925 at Tai and Tai Wetland




During the earthquake of 1925, local residents in Tai district worked together to extinguish fires. Therefore, the damage was very limited. In the center of the district, we have a monument of the earthquake of 1925. Together, we continue not to forget the earthquake. Tai-district rice fields are a man-made wetland and a good feeding ground for Oriental White Storks.

11 Fisherman's Village at Tsuiyama Port



This port faces the Sea of Japan and is the largest in Toyooka. We have a huge catch of squid, Matsuba crab (snow crab), sea bream, flounder, sandfish, and turban shells all year around. You can purchase our finest fresh seafood at Fisherman's Village.


12 Kinosaki Marine World at Hiyoriyama Kaigan Coast




This area has an aquarium on the beautiful coast, facing the Japan Sea. You can enjoy seasonal views from Hiyoriyama Kaigan Coast Guide Center. You will also find Rhyolite, a kind of volcanic rock, and solidified rocks of volcanic ash created by the volcanic activities at the birth of the Sea of Japan.

Geo-column 1 Toyooka Basin used to be part of the sea a long time ago.

We have learned that Toyooka Basin used to be a large inlet of the sea during Jomon Period. In Izushi, behind the inlet, the Izushi Shrine is a place to worship the alien Ameno Hiboko. The Nakashima Shrine is the shrine of sweets, with legends of a trade with a country over the sea (China). The coast around the Sea of Japan was historically used as a base for international trade. You still see the remains of these interactions throughout Takeno and the Maruyama River.



Afterwards, the narrow mouth of the inlet was buried with the sand and soil.




Bottlenecked geological shape does not exhaust the sand!

The sea during Jomon Period


Legend:
 Ruins of Jōmon Period
 Shell-Mound (red square)
 Other ruins (red triangle)
 The sea during Jōmon Period (blue area)
 Assumption from the sea level of 5m (dashed line)

Geo-column 2 Here is a townscape with basalt


Houses and storehouses used basalt for the base and the walls of their structures. The land level in Toyooka is almost exactly at sea level. We had to have high floors to protect against floods. For that purpose, we often used strong and heavy basalt. It is a natural resource from Toyooka's Genbudo Cave.



Stone piled with basalt and stairs (Tachino)



Toyooka Keiko-do (old Toyooka Town Hall)



Shozakai

※ You will see poles showing how high the floodwaters of 2004 reached throughout Toyooka City. Let's look for them!

Answers to the quiz

① Answer: The sea level used to be 5 meters higher than the present during Jomon Period. Here is the water's edge. Waves naturally carved the rock into an elephant like shape.

② Answer: The pole indicates which level the flood of 2004 reached. For the details, see Geo-column 2.

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[Production]
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