Ojirō is a village nestled among beautiful valleys and surrounded by majestic mountains. People here have lived in harmony with nature, making use of what little flat land they have and the slopes among the mountains for houses and arable land. Rich water and geological diversity have created numerous waterfalls and valleys. People raised cattle for farming, which later became the origin of Tajima cattle. The scenery created by the mountains and people's lives, is an artistic masterpiece.

Tajima cattle were once raised for the cultivation of rice paddies and transportation. As breeding was limited to separate valleys surrounded by steep mountains, excellent pedigrees unique to each valley were established. With the passage of time, people have continuously improved the breed as beef cattle. Now they are traded throughout the whole country, receiving high praise as the breeding cattle that produce Kobe Beef and other brand beef. Ojirō is famous as one of the production areas of Tajima cattle. Above all, Tajirī-go born in Ojirō in 1939 was a special bull that contributed to establishing excellent pedigrees. It is known that most of the mother cattle of high-quality Japanese Black cattle bred all over Japan are descended from Tajirī-go.

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**Kusube Valley Course**

- **Oyakata Todoroki**
  - Source of natural hot springs
  - Estimated walking time: 1 min, About 30m

- **Todoroki Hot Spring**
  - Estimated walking time: About 90m

- **Ryokan Kusube**
  - Estimated walking time: About 30m

- **Todoroki Pond & cattle pasture**
  - Estimated walking time: About 60m

- **Kusube Mine related facilities**
  - Estimated walking time: About 60m

- **Kusube River**
  - Estimated walking time: About 60m

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**Yoshitakai Waterfalls Course**

- **Oyakata Todoroki**
  - Source of natural hot springs
  - Estimated walking time: 1 min, About 30m

- **Todoroki Hot Spring**
  - Estimated walking time: About 90m

- **Ryokan Kusube**
  - Estimated walking time: About 30m

- **Todoroki Pond & cattle pasture**
  - Estimated walking time: About 60m

- **Kusube Mine related facilities**
  - Estimated walking time: About 60m

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**Kusube Valley Short Course**

- **Oyakata Todoroki**
  - Estimated walking time: 1 min, About 30m

- **Todoroki Hot Spring**
  - Estimated walking time: About 90m

- **Ryokan Kusube**
  - Estimated walking time: About 30m

- **Todoroki Pond & cattle pasture**
  - Estimated walking time: About 60m

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**Legend**

- **Toilet**
- **Parking lot**
- **Traffic hazards**
- **Restaurant**
- **Explanation signboard**
- **Rice paddy**
- **Farmland & pasture**
- **Superb view**
- **Rain of mining tunnels**

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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!!
**Ojirō’s many places of interest**

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<tr>
<td><strong>Hot springs “Ojirō” &amp; source of natural hot springs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Smooth riverbed of Kusube River</strong></td>
<td><strong>Kusube Mine related facilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>Kanamedake Waterfalls &amp; Sandantaike Waterfalls</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yoshitake campsite</strong></td>
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*With their light brownish-weathered color, the natural hot springs at Ojirō are gentle on the skin, allowing visitors to relax in a rich natural environment. The water quality is neutral and hot, with a temperature of about 35°C. There is a point where a natural hot spring gushes out at a hot temperature along the Kusube River, leaving sediment where it flows.*

*Along the Kusube River, towards where it joins the Yodsu River, white, rock, or tuff, can be seen. The closest to “Ojirō” hot springs is particularly smooth and is a great place for children to play in summer.*

*Kusube Mine was a working gold mine until the early Showa period (1926-1989). The structures related to Kusube Mine are scattered throughout the area, giving visitors a glimpse of its past prosperity. The mineral deposits found here are pyrometamorphic deposits, formed by the precipitation of solids from hot mineral &eden, water. Mining work still remains, CAUTION: Please don’t enter any mining tunnels or workings.*

*Looking upstream, Sandantaike Waterfalls are on the right, and Kanamedake Waterfalls are on the left. They are gentle waterfalls which contain white rock tuff formed by large-scale pyroclastic flows as a result of volcanic activity about 3-4 million years ago. Visitors are able to get up close to the waterfall by car, arriving there in a few minutes via the path beside Takihata (restaurant).*

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<th><strong>6</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shimachi Pond &amp; cattle pasture</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nukida basalt</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yoshitake Waterfalls</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fureai Historical Park</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rice terraces of Ueyama</strong></td>
</tr>
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*The location of Shimachi Pond is attributed to the location of a rift in which water accumulated after a landslide. The higher vegetation is cultivated on the Mount Murofune site. The mantle of the hill is basalt, and the grass is greener around the hill. There are huge trees, such as Japanese cedars, oak, and pine trees, standing side by side along the trail. These woods are known for their beautiful autumn leaves.*

*Basalt lava which erupted about 1.3 million years ago is seen on the mountainside along a natural trail that leads from the parking lot to Yoshitake Waterfall. The contrast of the black lava with water and greenery around it is splendid. There are huge trees, such as Japanese cedars, oak, and pine trees, standing side by side along the trail. These woods are known for their beautiful autumn leaves.*

*Yoshitake Waterfall, a natural monument designated by Hyogo Prefecture, are 28 m high in total, the top section is 25 m and the lower section is 5 m. They are formed of basalt lava which flowed out as a result of volcanic activity approximately 3 million years ago. It is a unique waterfall also known as Urainose-Taki, or “the waterfall seen from behind.” Urainose Shrine is located in a cave behind the waterfall. From rock crevices on both sides of Yoshitake Waterfall, two waterfalls flow. Ogitake Waterfall (white waterfalls) on the left and Kintaike Waterfall (golden waterfalls) on the right.*

*Fureai Historical Park is on the site of a medieval castle built atop a mountain, complete with reconstructed towers and moats. The castle is composed of a main compound and four frontiers in the four directions. Extending 300 m from north to south and 150 m from east to west. The foot of the mountain is a natural forest surrounded by the Kusube and Ochiba Rivers. The park includes a watchtower and observation points.*

*The rice terraces of Ueyama that developed on gentle slopes formed by landslides are included in the 100 best rice terraces in Japan. Rice terraces also have the dual purpose of mitigating natural disasters as a so-called “Green Dam,” by retaining rainfall and groundwater to prevent floods. They also prevent rainwater from flowing down from the higher ground all at once. One reason why rice grows in rice terraces is that it is grown with clean valley water and clean air. It is also because the daily temperature fluctuations are largest in the opening period, during when the soil’s flavor is determined. This increases the sweetness of the rice.*

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**Geo-Column ①**

**Beautiful panorama created by geological diversity and rich water**

**Waterfalls & Valleys**

The ground of Ojirō and its surrounding areas is mainly composed of sandstones and mudstones which accumulated in rivers and sea during the expansion of the Sea of Japan. It is also formed of lava from active volcanoes and volcanic tuff (solidified volcanic ashes) made of pyroclastic flow. This geological diversity is one of the causes of the various landforms. Lava and welded tuff (tuff that was welded together with its own heat and weight at the time of rapid deposition) are especially hard, and they often create smooth riverbeds and waterfalls. Yoshitake Waterfalls are formed of lava, while Kanamedake Waterfalls and Sandantaike Waterfalls are formed of welded tuff, each showing their own landscapes.

**Water erodes the earth and creates waterfalls and valleys over long periods of time.**

**Quiz & Answer**

① Read Geo-Column① ② An abundance of clear water, which is an essential condition for growing rice ③ Daily temperature fluctuations that increase the sweetness of the rice ④ Meticulous care by farmers (due to limited acreage of paddies caused by geographical factors)

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**Geo-Column ②**

**Usage and disaster risk reduction on the land formed by landslides**

Because of the steep slopes and lack of flat land, there is only limited space for houses and fields. People have created today’s beautiful scenery with houses and rice terraces along valleys and on slopes by developing villages and rice paddies on the flat land of river terraces and on the gentle slopes formed by the landslide. The area where many landslides occur has a lot of spring water, and因此, it is able to keep enough water for rice growing.

The soil of the land formed by landslides is also good for vegetation because soil movement creates the soil and mixes nitrogen into it. Rice terraces work for keeping rainwater and for preventing rainwater from seeping into the underground, thereby preventing further landslides.

In addition, the villages on the land formed by landslides have taken various measures against slope disasters, for example, making collecting wells to drain off groundwater and prepare another landslide caused by the rise of groundwater level.

**Produced by: The San’in Kōgeikai Geopark Promotion Council & Research Section for Geo-environment, Institute of Natural and Environmental Sciences, University of Hyogo**