Kotohikihama Beach Course

Kotohikihama Beach is one of the most famous singing sand beaches in Japan. While used to be singing sand beaches throughout Japan, they have been decreasing due to environmental degradation. Here visitors can experience the treasured singing sand that is protected by natural conservation activities carried out by local residents and volunteers.

There are very few man-made constructions around Kotohikihama Beach, so it is often used for film and TV locations. Micro shells can be found on the beach, where many people come to enjoy swimming.

There are many slopes in the beach.

Which family of flowers does the "Veronica Ortha," the municipal flower of Kyobashi City, belong to? (The answer is at the back.)

There are no restrooms from here to Kotohikihama Beach.

Singing sands area

When you jump here, you can hear a thumping sound

Kaketsu campsite

Kaketsu District

Quiz

What was the Kotohikihama Beach nationally designated as in 2007? (The answer is at the back.)

Forest area where one can hear the sound of Heruzami (Terpsosia vacua, III, spring cicadas) during April to June

You may be able to hear the sound of weaving

Local information available here

San’in Kaigan Geopark Walk model course

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!!

Micro shells can be found here

Singing sands area

Quiz

Basic Course

Estimated walking time

Kotohikihama Singing Sand Museum Parking lot

Tankai Bus (Kotohikihama Beach bus stop)

Lake Hanare

Optional Course Nature trail around Lake Hanare

Estimated walking time

Haccbohama swimming beach

Legend

Toilet

Parking lot

Restaurant

Explanation signboard

Best photo spot

Watch your step

Traffic hazards

Route

Toilet

Parking lot

Restaurant

Explanation signboard

Best photo spot

Watch your step

Traffic hazards

Route

Kotohikihama Beach’s many places of interest

Kotohikihama Singing Sand Museum
Kotohikihama Singing Sand Museum is a museum centered on the theme of singing sand. The museum features singing sand from around the world, micro sandles, sea turtles, and other objects collected along the coast. A variety of hands-on learning programs are also available.

Phone 0772-72-0511
(Open 9:00-17:00 / Closed every Tuesday / Adult 300)

Kobama swimming beach
Kobama swimming beach in Kobama, Amto-cho, together with Nacohohama in the west, forms a long beach with a total length of about 4 km. The beach is particularly popular with swimmers in summer, and surfers throughout the year. The sand has a high quantity of small fragments, giving it a soft feel. Why not try comparing it with the sand on the Kotohikihama Beach?

Suishohama Beach
Suishohama beach features grains of euhedral quartz, formed through extreme pressures and temperatures. Euhedral quartz has an unusual bipyramidal shape, and can be seen in the stripe of volcanic "tuff" rocks along the beach.

Shirataki Shrine
Shirataki Shrine is dedicated to Okuninushi-no-Mikoto. According to an old legend, during a trip from the Boso region, Okuninushi-no-Mikoto found that there was a hole in his boat. However, he was saved by a turban shell that plugged the hole just as he was about to sink. Since then, it is said that turban shells without eyes can be found in the area. A large gate destroyed by the North Tange Earthquake has been preserved within the shrine. A god who governed the Boso region.

Kotohikihama Beach
Kotohikihama Beach has long been famous as a singing sand beach, and was featured in poems by Yosano Akiko and Tsuchida Akiko. At one time the condition of the singing sand got worse, however, thanks to the devoted efforts of local people, the beach has been preserved. Visitors can enjoy its distinct sound by strolling along the beach on non-carry days. "One of military commanders of the Sengoku period (1436-1590) who governed the Tange region, "Fukashima" a local couple who were active in the late Meiji period as well as the Meiji and early Showa periods of Japan.

Shirataki Waterfalls on Kotohikihama Beach
Rainwater seeping into sand dunes on top of the rocks as the beach becomes groundwater. It flows along the rocks and over the sea cliff beneath, creating Shirataki Waterfalls.

Open-air bath on Kotohikihama Beach
Kotohikihama Beach features an open-air bath with pure hot spring water. It is free of charge and available for use from late April to early November.

NOTE: No dressing room available. Please wear a swimsuit. This is a mixed bath. Do not use any shampoo or soap. Please wash off sand before leaving.

Taikohama Beach on Kotohikihama Beach
In the middle of Kotohikihama Beach, there is a spot on the ground where a drum-like sound can be heard when people stamp on it or pound on it with their feet. For this reason, it is known as Taikohama Beach (Drum beach).

Micro shells on Kotohikihama Beach
Shells that are no longer than five millimeters in size are known as "micro shells". It is said that there are several hundred types of micro shells on Kotohikihama Beach.

Kaketsu Sand Dunes
A gentle hill can be seen to the south of Kotohikihama Beach. This hill is composed of ancient dunes formed 100,000 years ago, along with newer dunes formed in more recent times. The sand on Kotohikihama Beach comes from Kaketsu Sand Dunes.

Lake Hanare Park
Lake Hanare is the largest freshwater lake in Kyoto prefecture. Many historical sites have been discovered around this lake. "Hanami" (cherry blossom viewing) is popular here, due to the many cherry trees planted along its shores.

Why do the singing sands make a sound?
The main ingredient of the sands in the Kotohikihama Beach is quartz. When quartz sand is washed well in clear water or air, its surface friction coefficient becomes extremely large. Therefore, even though a certain force is applied to the sand by being touched or stepped on, the sand doesn’t move until a certain point. However, it moves when the force passes the physical limit. The sand comes to a standstill by setting the force free through movement. The repetition of this process makes the grains vibrate en masse, making their distinctive squeaking sound. On the other hand, the sand doesn’t make a sound when contaminated with tobacco ash and other pollutants. Common sand doesn’t make a sound because the amount of quartz in the sand is small and the surface is dirty.

Geo-Column 1
Kotohikihama Beach spans more than 1.5 km from east to west across the seashore in front of Kaketsu village, centered around the rocky coast of Taikohama Beach. The rocks on the Kobama side, the western margin of the area, are characterized by myristic tuff and lava. On the other hand, tuff and lava are sandwiched in shallow marine strata in the eastern and southern areas of "taikohama beach", which are indicated as "mountains and rocks" on the map. The "ancient dunes" are sand dunes that were formed during the last interglacial period (100,000-120,000 years ago). Most of the ancient dunes in this area were formed between 100,000 to 120,000 years ago. "More recent dunes" are those formed from 10,000 years ago to the present.

Geo-Column 2
Kotohikihama Beach
Lake Hanare
The Kikuchi River
The Kikuchi River
Taikohama Beach
The Kikuchi River
Kotohikihama Beach
Lake Hanare

Production
The Japan Geopark Promotion Council & Research Section for Geo-environment, Institute of Natural and Environmental Sciences, University of Kyogo.

Quiz-Answer
1. Natural monument / Place of scenic beauty
2. It is the first designated singing sand beach in Japan.
3. The answer is 2. (The answer is "Fukashima" a local couple who were active in the late Meiji period as well as the Meiji and early Showa periods of Japan)

The flowers are tartarian in color, as beautiful as the pure water of Lake Dongting in China.

The answer is 2. (The answer is "Fukashima" a local couple who were active in the late Meiji period as well as the Meiji and early Showa periods of Japan).