West Tottori Sand Dunes Course

The size of Tottori Sand Dunes isn't the largest in Japan. There are many unique features only for Tottori Sand Dunes such as moving sand, unique landforms, animals, plants and sand dune line of big height difference. We can understand how the sand dunes are formed.

On the top of the Second Sand Dune Line called 'Uma-no-se', magnificent view of the Sea of Japan spreads out. Visitors can experience the height of 47m above sea level by looking down the coastline. On the slope of Sand Dune Line, natural beauty such as wind ripples and sand spout appearing occasionally makes visitors enjoy.

Legend

Toilet  Bicycle Rental
Parking lot  Traffic hazards
Restaurant  Rice paddy
Exhibition signboard  Farmland & pasture
Route  Basic Course

Walk Course around Sand Dunes

Arid Land Research Center, Tottori University, Arid Land Dome

Arid Land Dome is open to public only for limited period. Please check the schedule on the website of Tottori University. *URL: https://www.abr.tottori-u.ac.jp/en/about_center/settai_dome.html

Best spot for lunch
Rest house

‘AiKo Yosano’ and ‘Takeo Arishima’ Monument Engraved with Poem

‘AiKo Yosano’ and ‘Takeo Arishima’ Monument Engraved with Poem

When you reach the Tottori Sand Dunes, look for the wooden stakes to check your location. Please read the Tottori Sand Dunes (Central) Exploration Map.

For everyone, from children to adult.

Good restaurant with a view of Tottori Sand Dunes, the Sea of Japan and Tanegaike Pond.

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, photo and local souvenirs!!!

Quiz2

Why are there different strains of old and new dunes in Tottori Sand Dunes? (The answer is at the back.)

Quiz3

How is the maximum water depth of Tanegaike Pond? (The answer is at the back.)

Tottori Sand Dunes’ many places of interest

1. San'in Kaigan National Park Tottori Sand Dunes Visitor Center
   Visitors can get a lot of information about Tottori Sand Dunes’ best things by display and guide. Please feel a variety of geological and geographical features of active Tottori Sand Dunes with the information you get here.

2. Uma-no-se (the Second Sand Dune Line) and Oasis
   There are three sand dune lines in Tottori Sand Dunes, and the Second Sand Dune Line (Uma-no-se) is the second one from the north. Water originating from springs forms small stream and flows into the hollow on the south side of the Second Sand Dune Line. That is called Omai. That means the pond appears seasonally. In summer, the water of small stream disappear by permeating through sand.

3. Exposure of Volcanic Ash
   Other stratum in sand dunes is volcanic ash (Pumice Layer) of Mt. Daisen eroded 53,000 years ago. This exposure appears at different spots because of wind and snow.

4. Oigo Suribachi (hollow)
   In Tottori Sand Dunes, there are mottar-like hollows surrounded steep slopes with curved edge line called Suribachi. ‘Oigo Suribachi’ is one of major suribachi in Tottori Sand Dunes. The record says there used to be spring water at the bottom of hollow.

5. Awasegatan Suribachi
   ‘Awasegatan Suribachi’ is located at the south west of ‘Oigo Suribachi’. On that slope, visitors can see a lot of plants such as sea bells and Arbutus.

6. Ichirimatsu Pine Tree - Takeo Arishima Monument Engraved with Poem
   The poem ‘Takeo Arishima’ wrote in Tottori City in 1923 is engraved on this monument. The pine tree on the side of the monument was planted in Edo period (1603-1868). That was for the distance markers of ancient road (via Tajima) crossing sand dunes. *Takeo Arishima: Japanese novelist, short-story writer and essayist (1878-1937)*

7. Benten-gu Shrine (Tanegaike Pond)
   There is a legend of ‘Ota’, which has long been familiar to local residents. The legend is about a girl called ‘Ota’, who was a millionaire of Miyashita (Miyashita, Kita-ku, Tottori City). She transfixed into serpents to pick up persimmons. ‘Benten-gu’ which is Japanese Buddhist goddess of water is dedicated to the Oshima island of north coast of pond.

8. Tottori Sand Dunes the Sand Museum
   Tottori Sand Dunes the Sand Museum is the world’s first museum specializing in sand sculptures. The highest level of sculptures in the world are exhibited on a different theme every year, inviting sand sculptors from around the world. It houses an information center around Tottori Sand Dunes and local souvenir shops.

9. Exposure of Volcanic Ash Strata
   The stratum of volcanic ash consists of volcanic ash and volcanic ash soil of Mt. Daisen volcanics eroded about 53,000 years ago. Dunes below the volcanic ash stratum are old dunes, while dunes above the volcanic ash stratum are new dunes.

    This facility conducts the research about desertification prevention of dry lands. The related materials and specimens are exhibited. Arid Land Dome is used to perform dryland simulation experiments through the international joint Research.

11. Recommend: Shallow Fields
    Shallow fields (part of Tottori Sand Dunes) are popular shallot fields in Japan. When the shallot flowers bloom in late October and early November, the shallot fields look like a beautiful, vast and purple carpet.

**Geo-Column 1**

Environment at that Time when Volcanic Ash Accumulated
In the underground Tottori Sand Dunes, there are volcanic ash of Mt. Daisen volcano (Mt. Daisen, Kurayoshi Prefecture) eroded 55,000 years ago. Mt. Aso (Kumamoto Prefecture) eroded 90,000 years ago and Mt. Saribe (Shimane Prefecture) eroded 106,000 years ago. Above Mt. Daisen, Kurayoshi, and Mt. Aso, there are volcanic ash of Aira Tanzawa (Kagoshima Prefecture) eroded 25,000 years ago. This era when these above volcanic ash accumulated is called ‘Wurm glacial stage’ when the sea level was lower than five one of present time. That means the coastline was offshore at that time and the former Tottori Sand Dunes used to be located inland. It is said that former sand dunes might be covered with plants.

**Geo-Column 2**

Microtopography of Sand Dunes
In Tottori Sand Dunes, there are microporogaphy such as wind ripples, sand curtains and sand spout. Rainfall forms these sand curtains and sand spout. Wet sand makes steeper slope. When the wet slope gets dried and collapsed, sand curtains are formed. Also, sand spout is formed by the layer of fine soil with resistance of wind erosion. This soil is much finer than the top sand appeared by heavy wind and rainfall. Moreover, strong wind after rainfall makes alternate wet and dry sand banoos. As a result, vertical pattern (caelum transverse sheets) spreads all over sand dunes. This is unique landscape of Tottori Sand Dunes we can’t see in dry land.

**Quiz-Answer**

1. About angle of 30°
2. Because differences of both volcanic stratum is clear by Mt. Daisen Kurayoshi Pumice Layer
3. About 17m