Uradome Coast West Course

The Uradome Coast West Course has a rocky coast with beautiful contrasting colors such as the white granite beaches, the blue ocean, and the green pine forest. Unlike the sandy beaches at the Tottori Sand Dunes, you can see a diverse coastal terrain along the San’in Kaigan.

Large and small islands are scattered along the shore at Kamogasuo creating a beautiful landscape. The sand on the beach is white and coarse since it is mainly made of quartz. Moreover, the area around the Shiretoko coast is one of the most transparent areas on the Uradome coast, where rich ocean ecosystems are nurtured.

Legend

- Toilet
- Parking lot
- Bicycle rental
- Restaurant
- Explanation signboard
- Route
- Marine Park course
- Ajiro Port course
- Recommended

Basic Course

Quiz 1

Do you know what the talus terrain located near the base of a sea cliff eroded by waves is called? (The answer is on the next page)

Quiz 2

The northeast island about 900m offshore from Shiretoko Coast is called Kuroshima (Black Island). Do you know why? (The answer is on the next page)

Basic Course

Start Estimated walking time

Uradome Coast Island Touring Boat
30min About 1.2km

Sengan Matsushima
10min About 200m

Oshiro Cliff / Ajiro Observatory
10min About 200m

Tsubakidani Columnar Joints
10min About 200m

Ajiro Tunnel
10min About 200m

Uradome Coast Island Touring Boat
110min About 2.6km

Ajiro Port Course

Start Estimated walking time

Uradome Coast Island Touring Boat
25min About 700m

Sengan Matsushima
10min About 200m

Tsubakidani Columnar Joints
5min About 100m

Ajiro Tunnel
5min About 100m

Uradome Coast Island Touring Boat
15min About 2.9km

Total traveling time: 1hr26min
Total distance: About 2.9 km
Uradome Coast’s many places of interest

1. Uradome Coast Island Touring Boat
   Enjoy the diverse landscape on a touring boat. Witness the strong waves crash into the sea cliffs. Peer into the mouth of the sea cave. Gaze at the beauty of the islands covered with black pine wood and pure white beaches of quartz sand. There are large and small boats. Small boats can go into the caves.

2. Sengan Matsushima
   The polygonal granite columns separated by cracks and formed an isolated island with a sea arch. In the Edô era, Daigo Sada, the lord of Tottori, saw this beautiful scenery and said “I will give money to anyone who can move this rock with the pine tree attached on top to my garden.” This story is regarded as the origin of the island’s name.

3. Oshiroi Cliff/Ajioro Observatory
   Oshiroi Cliff reaches as high as about 70 m. It is said that the white color of the cliff is caused by the bones of wild birds. On top of the cliff there is Ajioro Observatory. It allows you to see the beautiful Uradome coastal landscape and the Tottori Sand Dunes.

4. Mizusurui Cave Mouth/Mizusurui Valley
   It is said that because the valley water pours like a waterfall into a small cove creating the image of a tail of water, the area is known as “Misurui (waterfall).” The cave mouth is about 100 m northwest from this waterfall is called Mizusurui Cave Mouth. Its hole was made by the rough waves due to the violent monsoon.

5. Monument for Russian Military Officers
   In 1905, after the Battle of Tsubak, during the Russian-Japanese war, three dead bodies were found on Tajiri coast. Local people courteously buried them in Tsubakidani and held a memorial service for them, even though they were enemies. To honor the local’s actions, Renzo Sawada, who was one of Japan’s first ambassadors to the United Nations, built a monument in 1963.

6. Tsubakidani Columnar Joints
   Dikes of quartz porphyry cuts through the polygonal joints distributed throughout this area. Columnar cracks (columnar joints) were made when the magma cooled down and the polygonal rocks were formed. Columnar joints are commonly seen in basalt and andesite volcanic rocks, but porphyry is not very common.

7. Kamogaiso/Sakamotai Cave Mouth
   Kamogaiso is a beautiful coast with scattered islands and white sand beaches made of quartz and other kinds of minerals. There are Okamogaiso and K-Kamogaiso. The cave mouth located on the east side of the shore is called Sakamotai Cave Mouth. It is said that Toto Sempai, who visited here in 1927, was also fascinated with this beautiful scenery.

8. Shirawara Coast
   This coast has a gravel beach made of granite and a sandy beach made of quartz sand. Between the rocky shore and the small island, you can see the dikes of quartz which has columnar joints cut into the granite rock. The sea area from Kamogaiso to Shirawara Coast has a beautiful beach with a high transparency of sea water. This area is designated as a Marine park.

9. Natanejima island/Natane-goto islands
   The five islands bred off the Shirawara Coast are called Natane-goto islands. It is said that they were a one cape fox. After some cave mouths formed, the ceiling separated and that created those islands. Natanejima is the only island where reed grass blooms.

10. Ajiro Tunnel
   Before this tunnel was created, there was a cliff between Ajiro and Kabukuro. The narrow path on the cliff called “Sakaihachimizu” was the only way to go over. In 1805, the village chief of Ajiro came up with the idea of building a tunnel through this cliff and it was finally finished in 1912. At that time, the granite was excavated inside of the tunnel and could be leased. During the winter, ice pillars hung from the ceiling of the tunnel so they said it was very dangerous.

11. Recommended: Tajiri
   Tajiri, a fishing village where residences are densely located on the slope of the valley that opened toward the sea. The cliffs of the fishing village is started from the five houses of Tajiri. The storehouse, which is settled in the place close to the beach in the Edô era and the residents who dwell until now lived the former area on both banks along the river and the Naka River of the west side and that opened the inner land. It has a lot of slopes and the cliffs with stone steps and piled stones which prevent from collapse when heavy rain.

12. Recommended: Hiyoriyama
   Hiyoriyama, located on the North edge of Tajiri, has a stone lantern from the Edo era. This lantern was used as a lighthouse during that time. Underneath this lighthouse, there is a rocky reef called “Owagiga” and the tide is fast. It is considered that the lighthouse worked well as a landmark for the safety of those sailing during the night.

Quiz-Answer
1. Natural Platform
   It is made of darker rock called Basaltic rock, whereas the other coast and island are made of white granite rock.

Geo-Column ①

Columnar joints and Coastal Topography
On granite rock around Uradome coast, Northern to southeast diagonal columnar joint (Regular fracture) is formed as well as columnar joints and fracture zones (faults) in orthogonal directions. Along those columnar joint and faults, winter seasonal wind and rough ocean wave eroded granite rock. That created coastal topography of Uradome coast. You can see linear structure eroded along the joints in shape of the island and shore at Uradome.

Geo-Column ②

Geopark in the ocean
The sea area from Kamogaiso to Shirawara coast is designated as a marine park zone. This sea area has a high transparency of sea water. It also has seaweed like Sargassum which is flourishing due to the abundance of sunlight. This seaweed becomes a home and feeding area for sea creatures which helps cultivate a rich ecosystem. The mixture of straight lines from the cracks of the columnar joints reaches into the ocean and with the sun shining down it creates a fantastic view. That is exactly "the geopark in the ocean."