The small fishing port built on the rough rocky cove.

Ui & Takui Course

The Ui and Takui Area is a small fishing village built in the cove on the Ria Coast. It is on the rocky coast where you can see the steep cliffs. People chose this area as a place to live, because the fresh water pours into the cove from the mountain and they can use the cove as a natural fishing port. It has a tough and rocky field around the Ui and Takui area. The ocean around it is deep, and waves crash there. Hence, you can catch a lot of fish and shell fish. It is a great fishing site. Local fishermen still go coastal fishing and they catch great seafood such as turban shell, abalone, and seaweed.
**Lots of Places to Visit**

**Ui / Takui**

1. **Pebble Beach**
   - The beach in Ui is made of small and round stones. These stones are shaped like this because they are worn against each other while they are moved around by waves. The reason why the beach only has the stones is that smaller particles such as sand are removed by the waves. There are interesting stones such as heart-shaped stones. Let's find them!

2. **Boat Houses in Ui**
   - On the Shingle Beach, you can see some houses with the entrance on the ocean side. They are called “boat houses” in the fishing boats. The cove of the Ria Coast is a natural harbor. However, in the winter the boats and fishing equipment would be damaged when the sea gets rough. To avoid that, they built the boat houses to protect their boats and fishing equipment.

3. **Senjo**
   - There is a flat sand beach on the west side of the cove. It is called a wave-cut platform. The waves cut the rock and formed this terrace. These platforms are made of many large and small angular rocks. When the Sea of Japan was forming, granite or volcanic rocks were brought by the river, gathered, and then eroded here. You can also see the pattern of the shoreline called “cross bedding.”

4. **Mishashira Shrine**
   - This shrine is built on the high ground of the village. You can see the words on the stones covering the ground under the shrine. It is said that these were used to pray for the survival of young people who went to the Pacific War. People piled up the stones from the pebble beach and dedicated them to the shrine. On another hill around near the shrine there is a monument of a turtle.

5. **Ichihara Onsen**
   - When you go upstream of the village, you will find the smooth land surrounding the valley. It is the rice paddies. There are low flat lands in the cove of the Ria, however, the beds of Ui is comparatively flat. Therefore, people were able to make the rice paddies on the land along the river. You can see the volcanic rock with beautiful pillowed patterns (coulmmer joints) along the river and the path.

6. **Saikai-machi Ancient Site**
   - This ancient tomb is on the hill overlooking the Sea of Japan. There is a stone monument by the road. When the road was under construction, a lot of ancient pottery pieces were found. On the right side of it, there is a path going down to the coast. On the slope, there used to be farms. The coastal landscape from the hill is so beautiful and you can see a fishing boat at night.

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**GeoColumn 1**

**The Ria Coast and People’s Lives**

**How The Ria Coast Was Formed And Its Features**

- The land is worn by the rain or the river. This created mountain or valley.
- When the sea and hills, the valley becomes a coast, and the hill becomes a promontory. Because the promontory holds the sediments, and a coast becomes the coastal area.
- The coast became the coastal area of the ocean which is a great place to live. It is hit by big waves or heavy rains and winds. There are storms and waves that have rock stones made of tuff to prepare for the storm and big waves. In winter, Taku is usually hit by strong winds. Most of the wood siding (cedar or fir on houses) is also one of the countermeasures against them. In this way, the bottom part, which is easy to decay, would be replaceable.

**GeoColumn 2**

**The Rock Which Recorded The Expansion Of The Sea Of Japan. "Green Tuff"**

About 25 million-15 million years ago, while the Sea of Japan was forming, there were a lot of volcanic activity all over Japan. When it happens under the lake or the ocean, the component of the volcanic rock would be changed, and its color would possibly turn to green. (Hydrothermal alteration) Those green volcanic rocks are called “green tuff,” and those can be found in various places in Japan, especially in the Sea of Japan side.

- The house which has Yakushi-tali parallel horizontally and has the roof stone made of tuff.
- The distribution of the green tuff. (Green highlighted area)

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Produced by: Ura-Takui, Saikai Geopark Promotion Council, Graduate School of Regional Resource Management, University of Hyogo.