



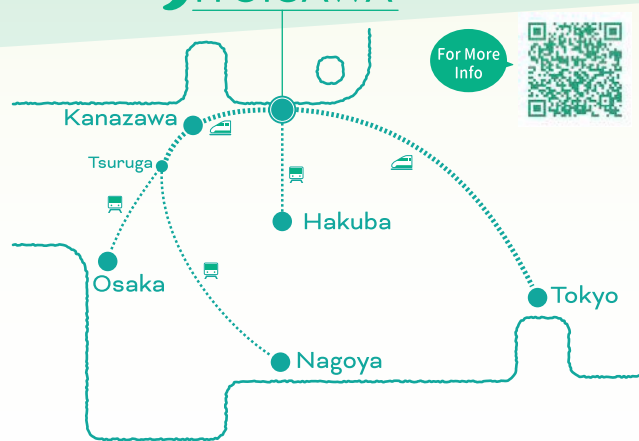
Where is Itoigawa?

ITOIGAWA



From Tokyo	About 2 hr	About 4 hr
From Nagoya	About 4 hr	About 4 hr 30 min
From Osaka	About 4 hr	About 5 hr
From Kanazawa	About 1 hr	About 2 hr
From Hakuba	About 1 hr 30 min	About 1 hr *Using National Route 148 *Excluding Hakuba

Local Lines & Express Trains Shinkansen Car (Using Expressways*)



For More Info



Discover Jade Tour Routes

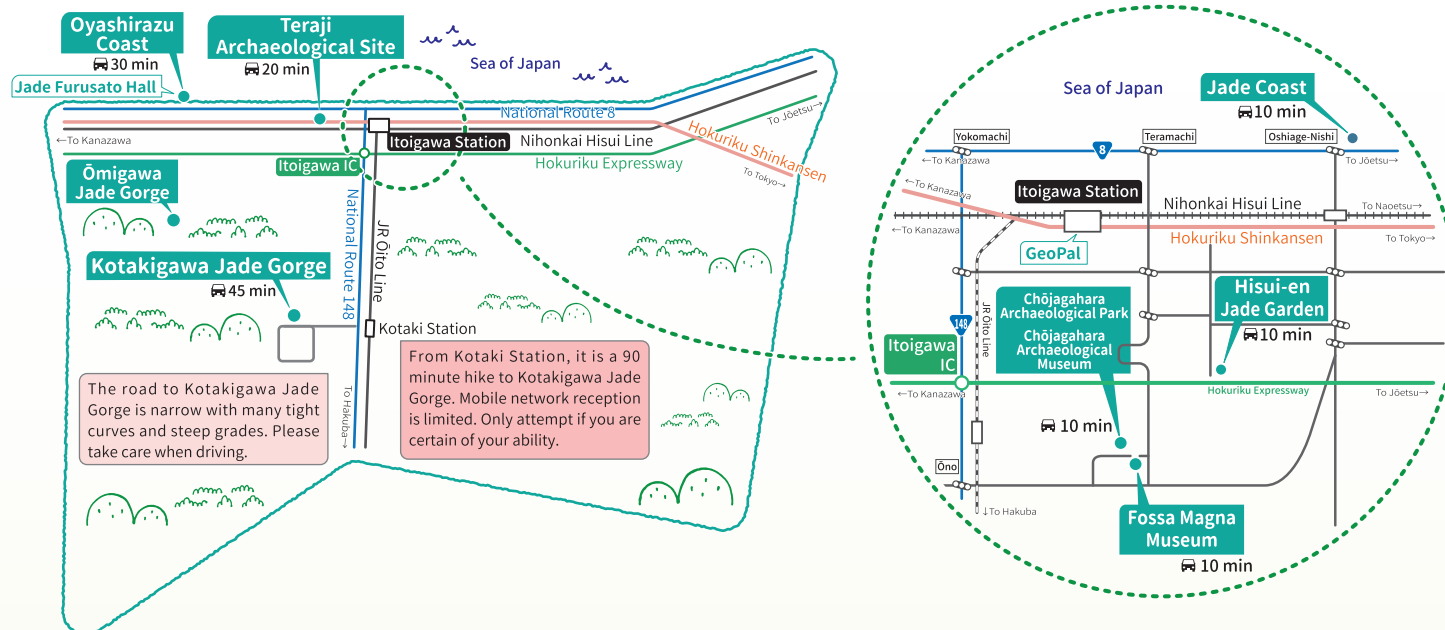
◆ 2 Hour Course

◆ 4 Hour Course



Itoigawa Jade Map

Times are from Itoigawa Station or IC by car



City of Jade ITOIGAWA



The Many Colors of Jade



Contact **Itoigawa City Tourism Association**
1-7-47 Ōmachi, Itoigawa, Niigata 941-0061 TEL 025-555-7344



2024.3

Itoigawa City, Niigata Prefecture



Jade History Timeline

500 million years ago Jade is born deep underground

250 million years ago Jade appears on the surface

Itoigawa's jade formed deep underground over 500 million years ago and rose up to the surface about 250 million years ago. It was used by our ancestors to make jade beads which were traded across Japan. Today we can still enjoy this jade in its natural setting deep in the mountains or along the coast.

Kotakigawa Jade Gorge

National Natural Monument

The Kotakigawa and Ōmigawa Jade Gorges are areas where jade was pushed from deep underground up to the surface.

Ōmigawa Jade Gorge

National Natural Monument

Fossa Magna Museum

This museum has a huge collection of raw jade found in Itoigawa's rivers and coasts. You can also buy traditional jade handicrafts here.

Fossa Magna Museum
Address: 1313 Ichinomiya, Itoigawa
Tel: 025-553-1880

Get a good look at jade at these places



Hisuien Jade Garden

This walkable Japanese garden features a variety of beautiful stones, including a massive jade boulder.



Hisuien Jade Garden
Address: 2-11-1 Rendaiji, Itoigawa
Tel: 025-552-9277

Chōjagahara Archaeological Site

National Historical Site

Jade beads were made in a variety of shapes over the years, including the comma-shaped 'magatama'

A 'taishu' style jade pendant unearthed at the Chōjagahara Site

Jade beads unearthed at the Teraji Site

Teraji Archaeological Site

National Historical Site

After being forgotten to history, jade was rediscovered in the mountains of Itoigawa.

1938 Jade is discovered in the Kotaki River

Jade is discovered in the Ōmi River 1955

Kotakigawa Jade Gorge is designated a National Natural Monument 1956

Ōmigawa Jade Gorge is designated a National Natural Monument 1957

Jade is designated as Japan's National Stone 2016
(Japan Association of Mineralogical Sciences)

Jade is designated as Niigata's Prefectural Stone 2022

Kotakigawa Jade Gorge

View from the Jade Gorge Lookout Point

Chōjagahara Archaeological Museum



Explore the beauty and mystery of one of the world's oldest jade cultures.



Chōjagahara Archaeological Museum
Address: 1383 Ichinomiya, Itoigawa
Telephone: 025-553-1900

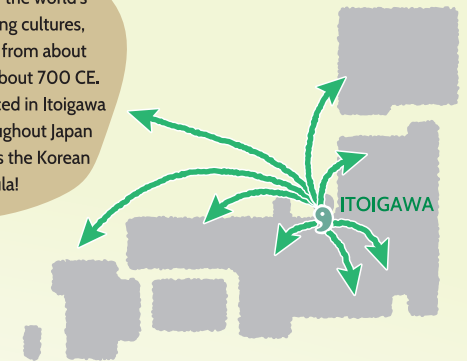
Jade gets washed down from the mountains along rivers to the beach. The beaches of the Jade Coast and Oyashirazu Coast are covered in palm-sized pebbles. With a little luck, you might see some jade hidden among the many stones.

Jade is heavier than other stones of the same size and angular instead of round. While most people think of jade as green, most jade is white in color.



Jade Coast

Itoigawa is the site of one of the world's oldest jadeworking cultures, which flourished from about 5,000 BCE until about 700 CE. Jade articles produced in Itoigawa were traded throughout Japan and even as far as the Korean Peninsula!



Itoigawa City is Japan's first UNESCO Global Geopark



In addition to jade, Itoigawa is known for the Itoigawa-Shizuoka Tectonic Line, a massive fault which splits Japan in two. In recognition of this and other valuable heritage, all of Itoigawa City is designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark.

Itoigawa Geopark promotes the conservation of natural resources and heritage in accordance with local laws and traditions.