

Izu Peninsula Geopark Access



Volcano Gifts from the South

Izu is more fun than ever before

Izu Peninsula UNESCO Global Geopark

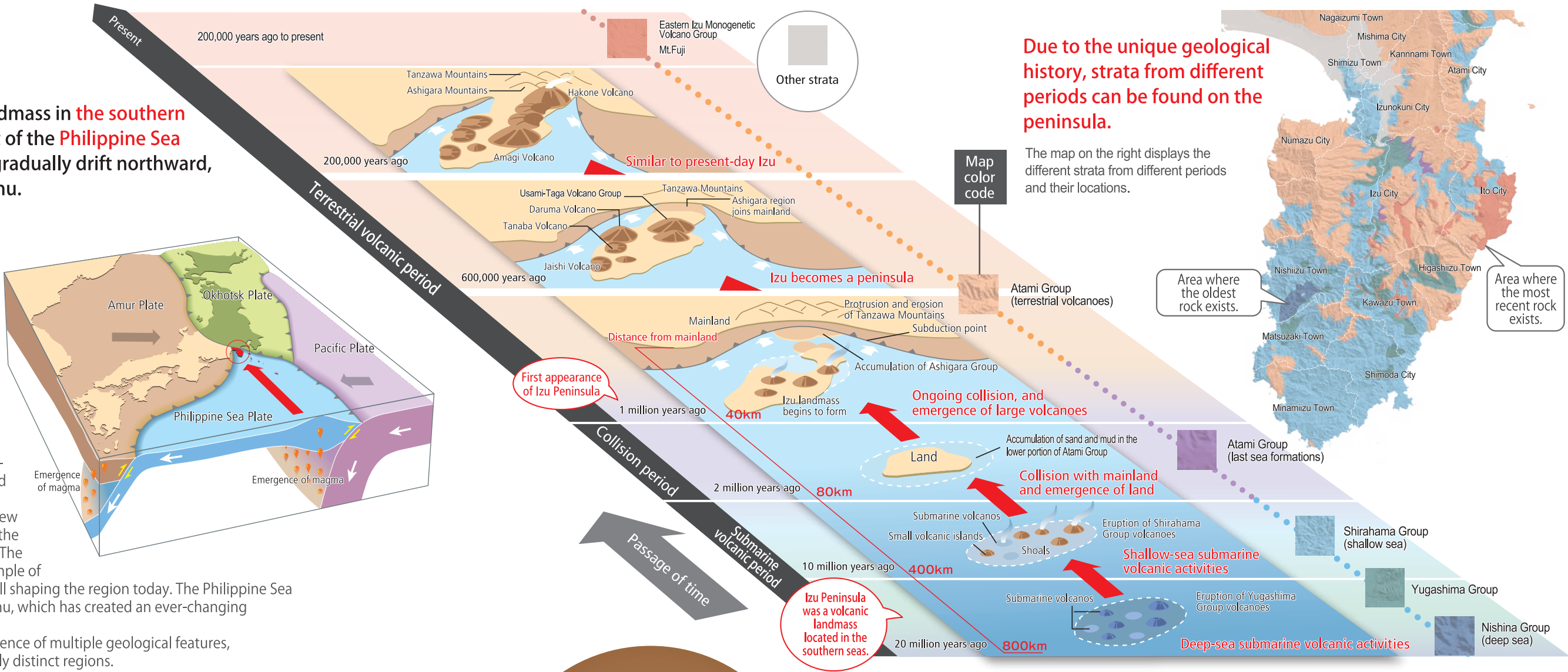
Izu Geo Map



The origins of the Izu Peninsula

Izu originated as a volcanic landmass in the southern seas. Over time, the movement of the Philippine Sea Plate caused this landmass to gradually drift northward, eventually colliding with Honshu.

The geological history of the Izu Peninsula began approximately 20 million years ago, when Izu was a cluster of submarine volcanoes situated hundreds of kilometers to the south of mainland Japan. As a result of the northward movement of the Philippine Sea Plate, Izu gradually approached and eventually collided with mainland Japan, forming the peninsula approximately 600,000 years ago. After the collision, volcanic eruptions persisted across the peninsula until approximately 200,000 years ago, producing large volcanoes such as Mt. Amagi and Mt. Daruma. After this phase of terrestrial volcanism, the peninsula experienced a new type of volcanic activity: the eruptions of the Eastern Izu Monogenetic Volcano Group. The Omuroyama Volcano in Ito City is an example of this latest phase of volcanism, which is still shaping the region today. The Philippine Sea Plate continues to push Izu against Honshu, which has created an ever-changing diversity of landforms on the peninsula. The Izu Peninsula, formed by the convergence of multiple geological features, represents one of Earth's most geologically distinct regions.



Celebrating the Earth

Izu is a land to celebrate the Earth. Diverse landscapes shaped by the dynamic motion of the planet's crust, thermal springs powered by Earth's internal heat, food enriched by natural resources, and unforgettable adventures that await you.

The map codes ("MAP: X-X") correspond to the map on the reverse side.

Scenery

Discovery and activities 1

Izu is rich in natural resources, and its breathtaking scenery is appreciated by many travelers. You can appreciate the beauty of this land by admiring the scenery and exploring its attractions.



Jogasaki Coast MAP: F-4

Approximately 4,000 years ago, a large amount of lava erupted from Mt. Omuro and flowed into the Sagaminada Sea, forming the stunning Jogasaki Coast. The hardened lava outcrop and symmetrical columnar joints have shaped a beautifully jagged coastline. A walking trail runs along the northern part of the coast.



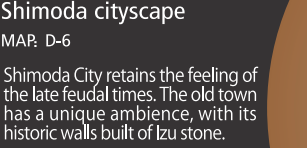
Muroiwado MAP: B-5

Muroiwado is an old quarry where Izu stone was extracted until 1954. In 1982, the quarry was opened as an exhibition for tourists. You can explore the tunnels that were used for quarrying and observe the remnants of the cut stones.



Sagano River Gorge MAP: D-5

Volcanic eruptions often form beautiful gorges. Clear streams from the Amagi Mountain Range have carved through volcanic rocks, exposing exquisite columnar joint formations.



Ebisujima Island MAP: D-7

The landscape of Ebisujima Island is famous for its beautifully striped strata, which formed when volcanic pumice and ash accumulated on the sea floor. The island is important as a relic of ancient submarine volcanism, and as a place where profound ties exist between the sea and local community.

Hot springs

Discovery and activities 2

Izu is a land shaped by repeated volcanic activities. Magma heats groundwater deep within the Earth's crust, and the heated water mixes with various minerals before eventually rising to the surface as springs. These hot springs are available across the peninsula and hold significant value for local life and culture.



Open Air Bath at Odaru Hot Spring MAP: D-5

You can enjoy the hot spring while looking at the Odaru Waterfall, one of the largest in Izu. The waterfall and the hot spring created by the abundant water of Mt. Amagi are spectacular to see.



Open Air Bath at Sawada Park MAP: B-5

This natural hot spring bath is located on a steep cliff, where waves crash against rocky walls, creating a pleasant atmosphere. You can enjoy western Izu's famous sunset from the bath.



Kurone Iwaburo Hokkawa Hot Spring MAP: E-4

The open-air bath offers a great refreshment with the sea right in front of you. Enjoy the 100% natural onsen and the spectacular view.



Mine Hot Spring Geyser Park MAP: D-5

The Mine Hot Spring Geyser is the largest on the Izu Peninsula. The waterspout reaches a height of 30 meters.

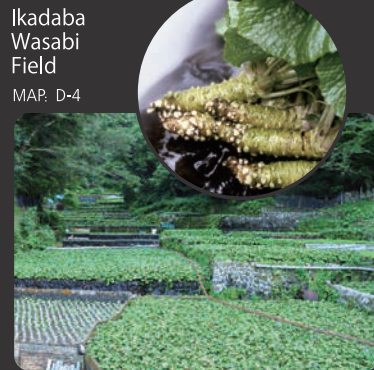
Food

Discovery and activities 3

The unique geological history of the Izu Peninsula has created rich land and sea legacies. The landscape is defined by volcanic soil, clear waters, and deep seas off the coasts that support abundant fish stocks. Izu is a land full of Earth's blessings, which appear in different forms throughout the peninsula.

Horseradish (Wasabi)

Wasabi is farmed where clear, flowing water from the mountains is available. It is a key ingredient in Izu's cuisine.



Ikadaba Wasabi Field MAP: D-4



Citrus Fruits

The production of Satsuma Mandarins owes its success to the region's gently sloping hills, well-drained volcanic soils, and abundant daylight. Volcanic ash from eruptions created these slopes ensuring excellent drainage and exposure to plenty of sunlight.



Spider Crab
The giant spider crab, the largest crab species on Earth, lives in deep-sea waters. It is a culinary specialty of western Izu. When served, the crab makes a striking impression due to its size.



Seafood Bowl
Seafood bowl is a dish combining local seafood and rice. The rich seas of Izu, shaped by plate subduction and lava flows, make this dish widely available across the peninsula.

Adventure

Discovery and activities 4

The seashores of southern and western Izu exude an atmosphere similar to that of more southern locations in the world. The Amagi Mountain Range provide water resources and greenery to the peninsula, and are a major destination for adventure. You can enjoy the natural diversity of the peninsula by embarking on adventures in these areas.



Sea Kayaking

Sea Kayaking offers an up-close experience of the sea. The breathtaking landscapes include beautiful strata formed by volcanic deposition, cliffs sculpted by wind and waves, magmatic dikes, and eroded sea caves. These are some of the sights that make the peninsula a dynamic place to explore.



Walking Trails

Explore the area's stunning beauty by walking along its paths and mountain courses at your own pace.

<https://izugeopark.org/enjoy/footpath/>



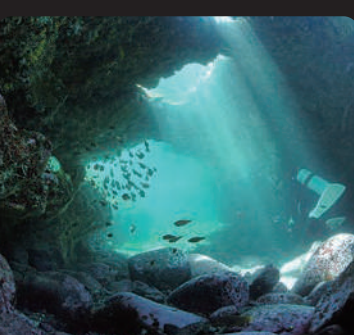
Sightseeing Boats

Boat tours allow visitors to relax and enjoy the seashore landscapes. Boats are an excellent way to visit the remnants of ancient submarine volcanoes, navigate choppy waves, and observe newer volcanoes along the coastline.



Guided Tours by Geopark-Guides

Tours led by official Geopark-guides are certified by the Izu Peninsula Geopark. Guides cover the entire Izu Peninsula, with popular tours combining in-depth geological knowledge with regional charm.

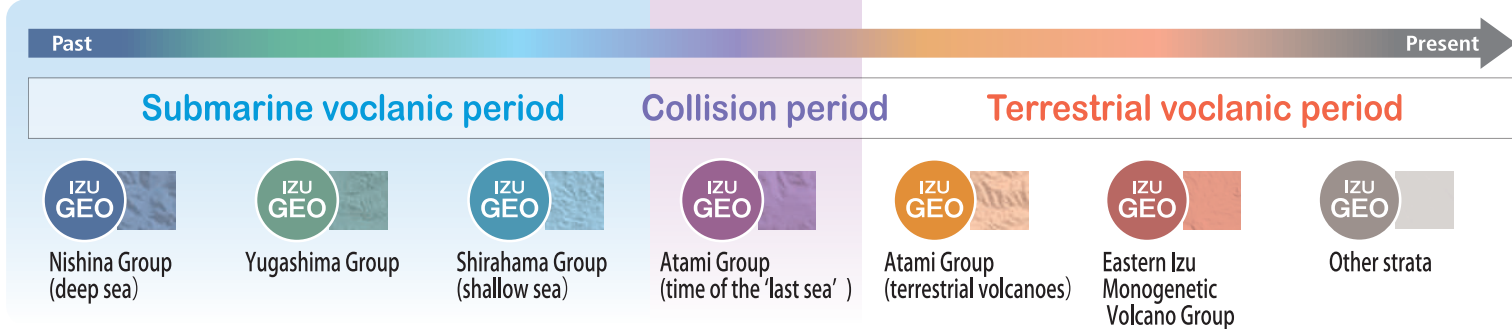


Diving

The seas surrounding the Izu Peninsula are full of geological wonders. Scuba diving is the best way to explore underwater landscapes and observe the organisms that inhabit the seas. This activity is available throughout the year in Izu.

Major Geosites on the Izu Peninsula

The geological strata of the Izu Peninsula can be broadly divided in two categories: strata from the **submarine volcanic period**, and strata from the **terrestrial volcanic period**. The strata from each period are color-coded on the map below. (For more details, see reverse).



13 Tanna Fault Park



In 1930, the North Izu Earthquake struck the northern part of Izu Peninsula. A strike-slip fault created during the earthquake is preserved in this park. Studies of the Tanna Fault revealed that repeated fault movements have caused significant lateral displacement. This discovery has greatly contributed to further develop active fault research.

Approx. 40 min. by car from the Tomei Expressway Numazu IC / the SHIN-TOMEI Expressway Nagaizumi Numazu IC

14 Nishikigaura



Nishikigaura, named after the reflection of the rising sun, is a dramatic cliff composed of rock that was once part of Usami-Taga Volcano Group. Repeated eruptions, which ended 300,000 years ago, caused uplifts that created the wave-cut platforms along the shoreline.

Approx. 15min. by bus from JR Atami Sta.

13 Omuroyama Volcano



Mt. Omuro, formed approximately 4,000 years ago by an eruption, is one of the largest cinder cone volcanoes in the Eastern Izu Monogenetic Volcano Group. You can ascend to the mountain summit using a cable-chair system, where a stunning panorama awaits. The nearby Jogasaki Coast was created by lava from this volcano. The beautiful appearance of the mountain is preserved through controlled burning conducted annually on the second week-end of February. It is designated as a natural monument.

Approx. 25min. by bus from Izu Kyuko Line Izu-Kogen Sta.

1 Ayutsubo Falls



Approximately 10,000 years ago, the Mishima lava that flowed from Mt. Fuji created a wide stretch of land where present-day Nagaizumi Town and Mishima City now stand. Lava rocks in northern Izu also retain an abundance of natural springs. An approximately 9-meter steep waterfall flows from the edge of the lava mound, with Mt. Fuji in the distant background. This landscape contrasts the peaceful Mt. Fuji of today with its violent eruptions 10,000 years ago.

Approx. 5 min. walk from JR Gotenba Line Shimotogari Sta.

2 Rakujuen Park



When Mt. Fuji erupted approximately 10,000 years ago, lava flowed all the way to Mishima. As a result, the area around what is now Mishima Station was shaped with beautiful landscapes created by the lava flow, and plentiful meltwater springs that emerge from gaps in the hardened rock. In 1891, Prince Komatsu Akihito built his villa in this beautiful location, which is now open to the public as Rakujuen Park.

Close to JR Mishima Sta. South Exit

3 Kakita River



Among the many natural springs formed by Mt. Fuji's lava flows, the Kakita River is the largest. The clear springs of Kakitagawa Park emerge between the rocks and provide habitats for diverse wetland species, including the Mishima Baikamo plant.

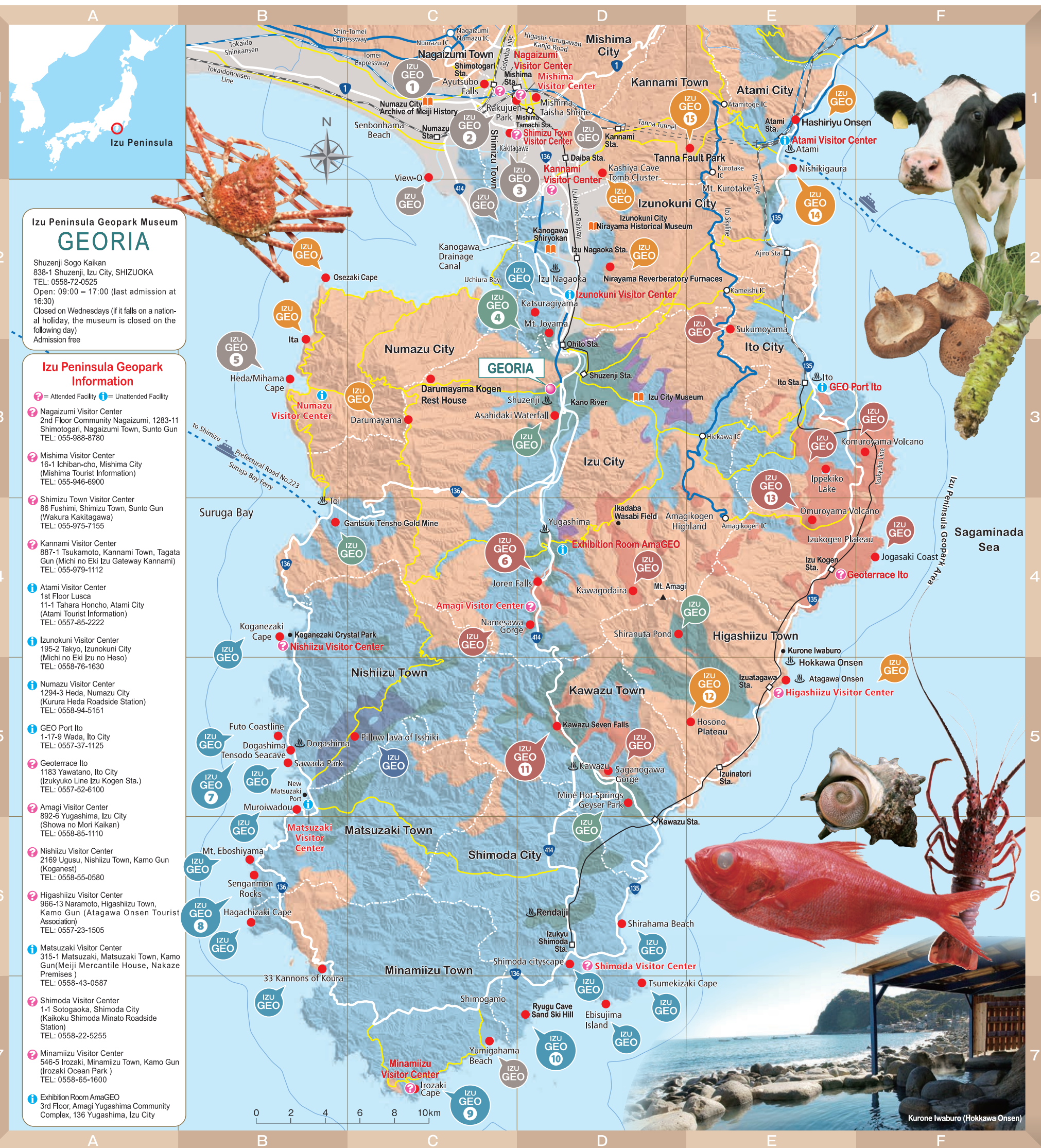
Approx. 15 min. by bus from JR Numazu Sta. South Exit • Mishima Sta. South Exit

4 Joyama (Castle Mountain)



The striking beauty of Mt. Joyama owes to the volcanic neck (magma conduit) that surfaced from submarine volcanoes millions of years ago. Volcanic ash accumulated in the area to create massive mountains, which erosion has since reduced to their hard rock base. You can hike to the summit and enjoy the views of the nearby Kano River.

Approx. 15 min. walk from Izu Hakone Railway Ohito Sta.



This map was created, using base map information published by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (authorization number 2018, #1606).

5 Mihama Cape



Situated near the deep waters of Suruga Bay, formed by plate subduction, the Heda Port is famous for Japanese spider crab fishing. Mihama Cape, located at the port entrance, was shaped by sand deposition carried through ocean currents. At the promontory, the Heda Shipbuilding and Local Records displays an anchor from the Russian warship Diana, which was struck by a tsunami caused by the 1854 Tokai earthquake, and the Suruga Bay Deep Sea Museum exhibit spider crab specimens.

Approx. 70 min. by car from the Tomei Expressway Numazu IC / the SHIN-TOMEI Expressway Nagaizumi Numazu IC

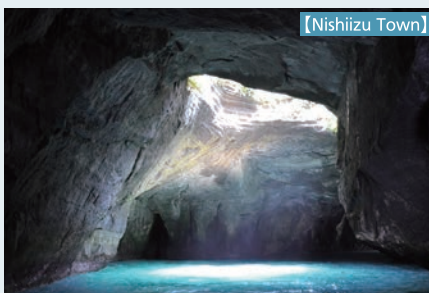
6 Joren Falls



Mt. Hachikubo erupted approximately 17,000 years ago, and its lava filled up the valley. Cooling lava formed systematic clefts (columnar joints) in the bedrock, creating the beautiful scenery of the waterfall. Jeweled Chain Fern, designated as a natural monument by the prefecture, also grows here.

Approx. 35 min. by bus from Izu Hakone Railway Shuzenji Sta.

7 Dogashima Tensodo Sea Cave



The contrast between the blue waters and the dynamic white cliffs of Dogashima is breathtaking. White pumice stone from submarine volcanic eruptions flowed towards the seafloor, forming beautiful striped cross-bedding patterns through waves and currents. Tensodo, a marine cave, features a round opening its roof through which sunlight pours in, creating an atmosphere of magical wonder.

Approx. 90 min. by bus from Izu Hakone Railway Shuzenji Sta.

8 Senganmon Rocks



Along the southern coast of Matsuzaki Town, lies a rocky shoreline. Its rocks were shaped by ancient volcanic necks that surfaced from submarine volcanoes. The Senganmon Rocks is part of this volcanic source, where magma accumulated and hardened into columnar joints. Shaped like a towering gate by wave erosion, Senganmon means "gate worth a thousand coins," reflecting its priceless beauty.

Approx. 20min. walk from Kumomi Iriya bus stop stop

9 Iro Cape



Rugged rocks distributed around Iro Cape are lava flows from the submarine volcano. The cliff is dotted with numerous hollows called "tafoni." The Iro Shrine is situated within one of the largest tafoni. Visitors can enjoy guided tours departing from the visitor center and a boat tour from Irozaki Port.

Approx. 45 min. by bus from Izu Kyuko Line Izu-kyu-Shimoda Sta.

12 Hosono Plateau



Hosono Plateau is a gently sloping field on Mt. Amagi, a large terrestrial volcano on the Izu Peninsula. The slope is covered with Chinese silver grass, which glimmers like a sea of gold under the sunlight in autumn. Wetland plants and animals can be found in the four marshes of Hosono.

Approx. 15 min. by car from Izu Kyuko Line Izu Inatori Sta.

11 Kawazu Seven Falls



Approximately 25,000 years ago, the Noborio Minami Volcano, located south of Mt. Amagi, erupted and spilled lava into the Kawazu River. The lava flowed approximately 2 kilometers downstream into the valley. Over time, the flowing waters of the river polished the lava rock into beautiful formations, creating Kawazu Seven Falls. A series of waterfalls, each with its unique character, can be admired from the nearby walkway as they flow over the lava rock.

Approx. 25 min. by bus from Izu Kyuko Line Kawazu Sta.

10 Ryugu Cave



Ancient deposits from submarine volcanic eruptions are found over a large area in the southern Izu Peninsula. This area has beautiful strata and rock formations that were uplifted after the submarine volcanic period. The Ryugu Cave, shaped by wind erosion and wave erosion, is a result of these processes and stands out for its aesthetic. Depending on where you stand, its shape resembles a giant heart.

Approx. 20 min. by bus from Izu Kyuko Line Izu-kyu-Shimoda Sta.