



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



San'in Kaigan
UNESCO
Global Geopark

Mt. Kabuto Climbing Course

The view of Kumiham Bay
& Shotenkyo Sandbar

Kumiham Bay is a lagoon that is blocked off from the Sea of Japan by a sandbar called Shotenkyo. Mt. Kabuto is an isolated mountain made up of volcanic rocks that rise up in the center of the Kumiham Bay. Visitors are able to enjoy a unique panorama created by the magnificent Sea of Japan and its currents from here.

Mt. Kabuto looks like an island sticking out from Kumiham Bay. It is not particularly high (191.7 m), but the view from its peak is excellent thanks to its surroundings.

Quiz!

What is the winter delicacy farmed in Kumiham Bay?
The answer is at the back.

Basic Course

- Start** Estimated walking time
- KTR Koyama Station**
35 min ↓ About 2km
 - ①Mt. Kabuto Park**
17 min ↓ About 700m
 - ②Hitokui-iwa Rock (Man-eater rock)**
2 min ↓ About 100m
 - ③Kumano Shrine**
2 min ↓ About 100m
 - ④Mt. Kabuto Observatory**
30 min ↓ About 1.7km
 - ⑤Kosan-ji Temple**
14 min ↓ About 700m
 - KTR Koyama Station**
- Necessary time: 1h 40min
Total distance: About 5.3km

Short Course

- Start** Estimated walking time
- ①Mt. Kabuto Park**
17 min ↓ About 700m
 - ②Hitokui-iwa Rock (Man-eater rock)**
2 min ↓ About 100m
 - ③Kumano Shrine**
2 min ↓ About 100m
 - ④Mt. Kabuto Observatory**
19 min ↓ About 900m
 - ①Mt. Kabuto Park**
- Necessary time: 40min
Total distance: About 1.8km

Optional Course

- Start** Estimated walking time
- ⑤Kosan-ji Temple**
15 min ↓ About 800m
 - ⑥Tsukanonaru Burial Mounds**
8 min ↓ About 500m
 - ⑦Lotus Pond**
16 min ↓ About 1km
 - KTR Koyama Station**
- Necessary time: 2h5min
Total distance: About 6.9km
(In addition to the Basic Course)

Hama Park

Boarding point for Kumiham Bay boat tour
(Reservation required: TEL.0772-82-0045)

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, photos and local souvenirs!!

Kumiham Bay

Campsite

①Mt. Kabuto Park

④Mt. Kabuto Observatory

Mt. Kabuto

⑤Kosan-ji Temple

②Hitokui-iwa Rock (Man-eater rock)

⑥Tsukanonaru Burial Mounds

⑦Lotus Pond

KTR Koyama Station

Kitakinki Tango Railway (KTR) Miyazu Line

Kawakamidani River

250m



San'in Kaigan Geopark Walk model course
(San'in Kaigan National Park)

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Roadside Rest Area Kumiham SANKAIKAN

Check here for a variety of fresh foods, souvenirs and local specialties unique to Kumiham

A little detour on the way

- Start** Estimated walking time
- KTR Kan'no Station**
20 min ↓ About 1.2km
 - Roadside Rest Area Kumiham SANKAIKAN**

KTR Kan'no Station



Toilet



Parking lot



Restaurant



Explanation signboard



Route



Best photo spot



Watch your step



Traffic hazards



Rice paddy



Farmland & pasture



Orchard

Legend

Basic Course

Short Course

Optional Course

Mt. Kabuto and Kumihamas many places of interest

①Mt. Kabuto Park



Mt. Kabuto Park is a spacious grassy area with a campsite that commands a great view of Kumihamas Bay, allowing families and groups to enjoy the outdoors.
Phone: Campsite 0772-83-1457
(Open April to November / Reservation required)

②Hitokui-iwa Rock (Man-eater rock)



A reddish brown rock can be seen on the south side of Mt. Kabuto. This rock is known as "Hitokui-iwa Rock" (Man-eater rock). There is a legend that says a young man stopped the rock from eating a man, by communicating with it, asking about its dislikes and then stuffing its mouth with red clay, which it hated the most. This legend has since been handed down among the local residents.

③Kumano Shrine



It is said that a daughter of Tamba-no-Michinouchi-no-Mikoto* and Kawakami-no-Masu-no-Iratsume became the empress of Emperor Suinin. To celebrate this, Kawakami-no-Masu, her grandfather, built Kumano Shrine. *A royal family member who governed the Tamba region.

④Mt. Kabuto Observatory



Mt. Kabuto Observatory is located at the top of the mountain (191.7 m). The views of Kumihamas Bay, Shotenkyo Sandbar, and the Sea of Japan to the north are splendid. The name Shotenkyo Sandbar (lit. small bridge to heaven) is attributed to the fact that it looks like Amanohashidate (lit. bridge to heaven) in that the pine trees along it are located in a straight line. *Amanohashidate: One of Japans three most scenic spots in Kyoto.

⑤Kosan-ji Temple



Kosan-ji Temple is a historic temple founded by Gyoki (a Buddhist monk) in 736. Amida Nyorai, the temple's principal image, was made by Gyoki, and the statue of Fudo Myo-o in the priest's living quarters was made by Kobo Daishi (a famous Buddhist priest).

⑥Tsukanonaru Burial Mound



Tsukanonaru Burial Mound, located near the Lotus Pond, is a round tomb containing a stone inner chamber with a horizontal passage connecting the chamber's center to the outer wall, built in the late Kofun period. It is built on the surrounding ancient dunes.

⑦Lotus Pond



Lotus Pond is a pond left in an old backmarsh along the Kawakamidani River, on the east side of Mt. Kabuto. Crucian carp, common carp, catfish as well as many plants, such as reed and lotus, can be seen there.

Kumihamas Bay



Kumihamas Bay is a brackish water lagoon separated from the Sea of Japan by a long sandbar called Shotenkyo. Whooper and Tundra swans stay here over the winter because of the calm state of the bay, even when the Sea of Japan is made rough by the north wind in winter.

Geo-Column①

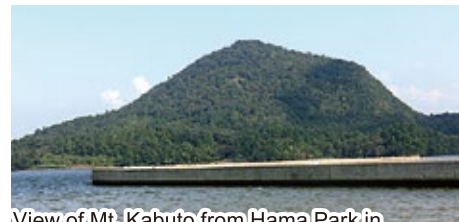
Mt. Kabuto

Mt. Kabuto (191.7 m) is a dome-shaped mountain that looks like a samurai's helmet. About 15 – 20 million years ago, highly viscous magma rich in silica (a material that forms quartz) was extruded and solidified.

The hard part of the rock which was formed in this process was left without erosion. It became the mountain we now call Mt. Kabuto. Many mountains in Kumihamas Bay were formed in the same process.

"Hitokui-iwa Rock", or man-eater rock, is located on the south side of the mountain, and commands a fine view. It is used as the brand name of a local sake. We can guess it was named that way because the reddish part that was created due to oxidation of the metallic elements in the rock looks like a big mouth.

Every year on August 9, the Sennichie-Kankosai Festival, in which the character 大 (dai) is lit up on the mountain, is held. The view of Shotenkyo Sandbar from the observatory at the peak is splendid.



View of Mt. Kabuto from Hama Park in Kumihamas City. Can you find the character 大?



Mt. Nyoijigatake (164 m) on the opposite shore of Mt. Kabuto. This mountain also looks like a samurai's helmet, doesn't it?



"Hitokui-iwa Rock" as seen from below on the path on Mt. Kabuto

Formation of the lava dome (15 million - 20 million years ago)



The lava dome has been eroded as far as the dotted line over a long period of time, resulting in the formation of Mt. Kabuto.

Mt. Kabuto

Geo-Column②

Formation of Kumihamas Bay & Shotenkyo Sandbar

The present-day map



From the Yayoi period (4th/5th century BC - 3rd century AD) to the present



The present-day topography was formed about 2,500 years ago, during the Yayoi period when it became a little bit cooler.

Approx. 6,000 years ago (During the Jomon period: 2,400 – 12,000 years ago)



A warmer period began approximately 10,000 years ago. In those days, the sea level was a little bit higher than it is now. A sandbar which was formed by the sand carried by coastal current developed to form Shotenkyo Sandbar and Kumihamas Bay.

Sea and river

Middle terrace & ancient dunes

Twenty-meter tall terraces stretch from Hakoishi to Mt. Kabuto. These are middle-level terraces, some parts of which are covered with the sand of ancient dunes.

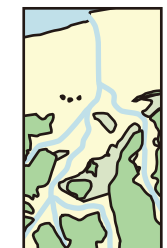
Plains

Deposits that accumulated from the last interglacial period to the present, including Shotenkyo Sandbar and more recent dunes

Hills & mountains

Granite, volcanic rocks and layers of sediment from the Miocene (5-23 million years ago) are the main rocks that form hills and mountains. They are also found in the rocky stretches along the coast and on offshore islands.

Approx. 20,000 years ago (The coldest time in the Last Glacial Maximum)



A large quantity of earth and sand flowed down to the lower reaches of the river as the river gradient became steeper in the middle and upper reaches. As a result, the plain spread 10 kilometers further from the present coastline. The slow and meandering flow of the river developed deltas and alluvial fans (fan-shaped areas of sediment crossed and built up by streams).

Approx. 130,000 years ago (During the last interglacial period)



When the sea level rose due to the warm climate, beach sand accumulated on the rock mass. After that, the sea level dropped and the ground level rose. The surface of the sandy strata is now about 20 meters high.

The sea level is estimated to have dropped 120 meters lower than it is now.

Quiz-Answer

[Answer: Oyster] Kumihamas Bay is a brackish lagoon that is blocked off from the Sea of Japan by a sandbar called Shotenkyo. It is ideal for oyster farming because it is the habitat of abundant plankton, which is necessary for oysters to grow.