



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



San'in Kaigan
UNESCO
Global Geopark

Historical hot springs resort which developed in a riverside district

Kinosaki Onsen (hot springs) Course

Kinosaki Onsen (hot springs) Resort developed on reclaimed land that was once a bay at the mouth of the Otani River, connected to the lower reaches of the Maruyama River. It is a historical hot springs resort that has been known since the Heian period (794-1192). Local legend tells us that an Oriental White Stork once healed its wounds in the hot spring water. Local people have made efforts to conserve Kinosaki's beautiful atmosphere: the Otani River with its basalt embankment decorated with beautiful willows, the townscape with three-story wooden Japanese buildings, and the seven public bathhouses where local people and visitors mingle.

The water quality of Kinosaki Onsen

Sodium, Calcium, Chloride (Hypotonic/Neutral/High temperature)

The hot springs are known to be good for:

Neuralgia, muscle pain, joint pain, frozen shoulder, motor paralysis, stiff joints, bruises, sprains, chronic digestive diseases, hemorrhoids, sensitivity to cold, recovery after illness, relieving fatigue, promotion of good health, cuts, burns, chronic skin diseases, frail health, chronic women's diseases

*For the protection and effective use of the hot springs, the hot water is delivered to each hotel and public bath by a hot water distribution management system that gathers the water into tanks directly from the source before distribution.

Quiz! Can you find them?

There are statues of bees, mice and newts in Kiyamachi-koji.

If you cannot find them all, please ask the shop staff to help you!

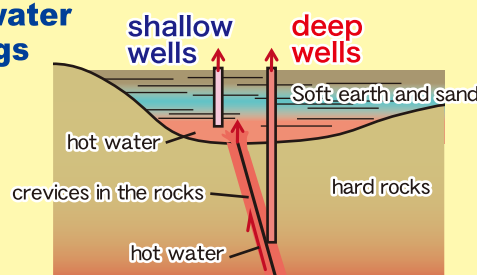
Basic Course

- Start** Estimated walking time
- JR Kinosaki-onsen Station
 - 10min → About 300m
 - ① Otani River embankment
 - 10min → About 300m
 - ② Higashiyama Park
 - 10min → About 300m
 - ③ A warehouse which withstood the 1925 North Tajima Earthquake
 - 3min → About 100m
 - ④ Tougensui (a well)
 - 3min → About 100m
 - ⑤ Ichi-no-yu (public bath)
 - 5min → About 150m
 - ⑥ Kiyamachi-koji & hibusekabe (a firewall)
 - 12min → About 400m
 - ⑦ Onsen-ji Temple
 - 15min → About 500m
 - ⑧ Kinosaki Straw Work Museum
 - 8min → About 200m
 - ⑨ Kinosaki Literary Museum (Kinosaki Tourism Association)
 - 8min → About 200m
 - ⑩ Benten Park
 - 10min → About 300m
 - JR Kinosaki-onsen Station

Total traveling time: 1h 40min
Total distance: About 3 km

Where does the hot water of Kinosaki hot springs come from?

Hot water seeps out of rock crevices into the sand layer, which people traditionally drew water from. In addition to this method, these days some people dig deep wells to draw hot water directly from the crevices.



Deep area (deeper than 100 meters) → hot water over 60°C
Shallow area (about 20 meters) → hot water about 40°C

Short Course

- Start** Estimated walking time
- ① Otani River embankment
 - 8min → About 200m
 - ⑤ Ichi-no-yu (public bath)
 - 5min → About 150m
 - ⑥ Kiyamachi-koji & hibusekabe (a firewall)
 - 5min → About 150m
 - ⑧ Kinosaki Straw Work Museum
 - 8min → About 200m
 - ⑨ Kinosaki Literary Museum (Kinosaki Tourism Association)
 - 8min → About 200m
 - ⑩ Benten Park

Total traveling time: 40min
Total distance: About 900m

Let's take a short trip by bike!



Recommended cycling course
The area along the Maruyama River around Kinosaki hot springs, Sasaura and Genbudo Cave is a spot of scenic beauty that is blessed with abundant natural surroundings. Being fairly flat, it is ideal for cycling, and a bicycle rental service is available.
(Contact Kinosaki onsen hotel association for rental bicycle service: 0796-32-4141)



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

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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!!



Legend

- Toilet
- Public bath
- Foot bath
- Parking lot
- Explanation signboard
- Route
- Watch your step
- Traffic hazards
- Superb view
- Basic Course
- Short Course
- Promenade

Kinosaki Onsen (hot springs) many places of interest

①Otani River embankment



San'in Kaigan Geo-Liner running across a bridge over the Otani River

The basalt rocks from Genbudo Cave are used to reinforce the banks of the Otani River. In the reconstruction process after the 1925 North Tajima Earthquake, the basalt rocks that fell down from Genbudo Cave were carried here by ship to reinforce the river banks. The basalt rocks of Genbudo Cave, featuring regular crevices of columnar joints, were ideal for the foundations of houses and stone walls as natural blocks. Now it is forbidden to remove the basalt rocks since they are designated as a National Natural Monument.

②Higashiyama Park



Higashiyama Park is known as a place to enjoy beautiful cherry blossoms in spring as well as autumn leaves. The top of the hill commands a panoramic view of the Maruyama River, Sasaura estuary, and Kinosaki Hot Springs Resort. The view from here shows that there is little flat ground along the Maruyama River to the north of Kinosaki because the mountains are so close to the river. Therefore, ships were the main means of transportation to Kinosaki before the construction of roads.

③A storehouse which withstood the 1925 North Tajima Earthquake



The 1925 North Tajima Earthquake flattened many buildings in Kinosaki, and even worse, burned down almost all of the buildings. Some buildings did not collapse and survived the fire during the disaster. This storehouse is one of them, being preserved as it was before the earthquake. Storehouses are usually built with fire-proof building materials such as mud walls. The fact that they withstood the fire shows that they fulfilled their essential function.

④Togensui (a well)



Togensui is a well located near a mountain, which was reportedly discovered in 1650. People could only get hot spring water or water with a strong metallic odor because the water under Kinosaki is all spring water. The water here is drinkable because the vein it comes from starts in the mountain behind and hot spring water is not mixed in with it. The natural spring water "Dokko-sui" that emerges at Gokuraku-ji Temple in the west of Kinosaki, also flows out from the mountain nearby. The water is no longer drinkable.

⑤Ichi-no-yu (public bath)



The whole of Kinosaki is working together to offer a warm welcome to visitors, likening Kinosaki Hot Springs Resort to one big Japanese-style hotel. Ichi-no-yu is a symbol of Kinosaki Hot Springs Resort, located at its center. The building is like a Kabuki theater in the lavish and decorative Momoyama style. It is equipped with spacious bathtubs, reserved bathrooms, and a cave-shaped bathtub which was carved out from the rocks. One way to enjoy Kinosaki is to play at the amusement center and to try out delicious food at various kinds of restaurants while walking around the seven public baths in yukata (informal summer kimono).

⑥Kiyamachi-koji & hibusekabe (a firewall)



Kiyamachi-koji is a new spot, which consists of Sanju-sangen-hiroba (a public square) used for events and a mall with 10 unique tenants. Sanju-sangen-hiroba is equipped with a fire prevention wall called hibusekabe. This is the reconstruction of a fire prevention wall made after the damage by a great fire caused by the 1925 North Tajima Earthquake 1925. It is now a symbol of the reconstruction of Kinosaki Hot Springs Resort.

⑦Onsen-ji Temple



According to temple legend, Onsen-ji Temple was founded in 738 by a Japanese monk, Dochi, who is said to have founded Kinosaki Hot Springs. The legend says that the temple's name was bestowed by the Emperor Shomu on that occasion. The main hall and other buildings, the oldest wooden buildings in the Tajima region built in the early Muromachi period (Muromachi period: 1336-1573), are designated as National Important Cultural Properties. The historical treasures of Kinosaki Hot Springs such as "Onsen-ji-engi-cho (a historical document of the temple)" are preserved in Onsen-ji Temple. The principal image is open to the public only on April 23 and 24.

⑧Kinosaki Straw Work Museum



Kinosaki Straw Work Museum was established not only to hand down the technical skills of Kinosaki straw work (one of the traditional crafts in Kinosaki) but also for its conservation and exhibition. About 200 works made in the Meiji, Taisho and Showa periods (1868-1989) and about 40

works from the present day are on display, making good use of a storehouse with thick mortar walls, a modern construction that withstood the 1925 North Tajima Earthquake.

(Open) 9:00~17:00 (last entry 16:30) (Closed) Every last Wednesday (If Wednesday is a holiday, closed the next day) & New Year's holiday

Adult: ¥300 Junior and senior high school students: ¥200 Groups (more than 20) Adult: ¥200 Junior and senior high school students: ¥100

⑨Kinosaki Literary Museum



Kinosaki Literary Museum displays materials about writers and artists from the Edo period (1603-1868) to mid 20th century, who were closely associated with Kinosaki. These include: Naoya Shiga, who wrote a famous novel "In Kinosaki"

here, Tekkan and Akiko Yosano, Toson Shimazaki, and Seigo Shirotori (aka Shogo Shirotori). It also houses some of Kinosaki's historical materials. The facilities include an exhibition and a corner where visitors can experience traditional straw works, as well as a tourist information center of the Kinosaki Hot Springs Tourism Association.

(Info) 0796-32-2575

(Open) 9:00~17:00 (last entry 16:30)

(Closed) Every last Wednesday (If Wednesday is a holiday, closed the next day) & New Year's holiday

⑩Benten Park



The rocks making up Mt. Benten are volcanic rocks which erupted when the Sea of Japan started to be formed about 20 million years ago. The volcanic rocks withstood the erosion by wind and rain because they are harder than other parts. These volcanic rocks later became the mountain as it is now. At the top and the foot of Mt. Benten, one can observe magma flow patterns called "flow structure", which were formed when magma moved. There is a tower erected in memory of Taira no Moritsugu (?-1194, a military commander of the famous Heike family) near a shrine at the top of the mountain. It is said that the tower was built by Kinumaki-hime (his wife and a daughter of a local government official in those days).

Geo-Column①

Kinosaki, the riverside town

The view of Kinosaki Station and the Maruyama River from Higashiyama Park shows that the mountains are so close to the river that there is little level ground. Before the construction and improvement of the region's roads, ships were the main means of transportation to Kinosaki Hot Springs. So much so that Kinosaki was just like an island due to the fact that it was difficult to access by land. That's why there are still place names that contain the word shima (island) such as Yushima and Momoshima.



Geo-Column②

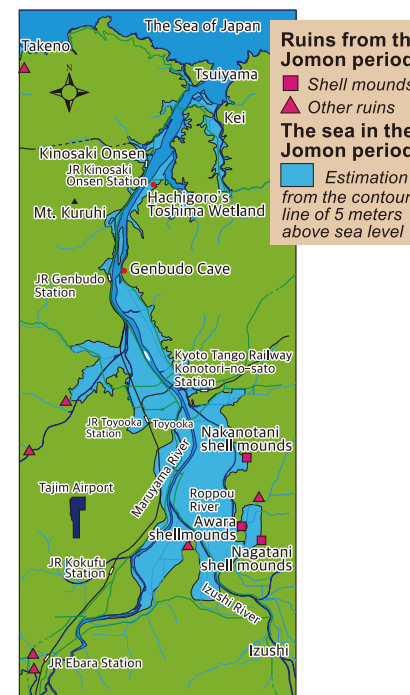
Kinosaki in the Jomon period

(about 2,400-12,000 years ago, the Neolithic period)

Geological surveys show that in the Jomon period, the Toyooka Basin was a huge bay approximately 30-40 meters deep. The area around Kinosaki Station might have been in the sea, and Bentenyama may well have been an island. Fossilized shellfish that inhabited the sea have been dug up here.



Toyooka Basin



Ruins from the Jomon period
 ■ Shell mounds
 ▲ Other ruins
 The sea in the Jomon period
 ■ Estimation from the contour line of 5 meters above sea level

Geo-Column③

Restoration efforts following the North Tajima Earthquake

The Maruyama River basin, especially Toyooka and Kinosaki, were seriously damaged by the North Tajima Earthquake, which occurred directly underneath the region of the mouth of the Maruyama River at 11:10 a.m. on Saturday, May 23, 1925. Kinosaki Hot Springs Resort was completely destroyed when its buildings collapsed and a great fire spread. However, local people completed the restoration after the disaster through their devoted efforts. During the restoration of Kinosaki, people built three-story wooden houses to restore the townscape to its quaint pre-earthquake atmosphere. In addition, they prepared equipment to prevent fires caused by earthquakes, such as fire prevention walls. Using basalt from Genbudo Cave to reinforce the banks of the Otani River made them stronger and created an elegant atmosphere.



Present-day Kinosaki Hot Springs Resort (Kinosaki Hot Springs Furusato Festival)

Production

The San'in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council & Research Section for Geo-environment, Institute of Natural and Environmental Sciences, University of Hyogo