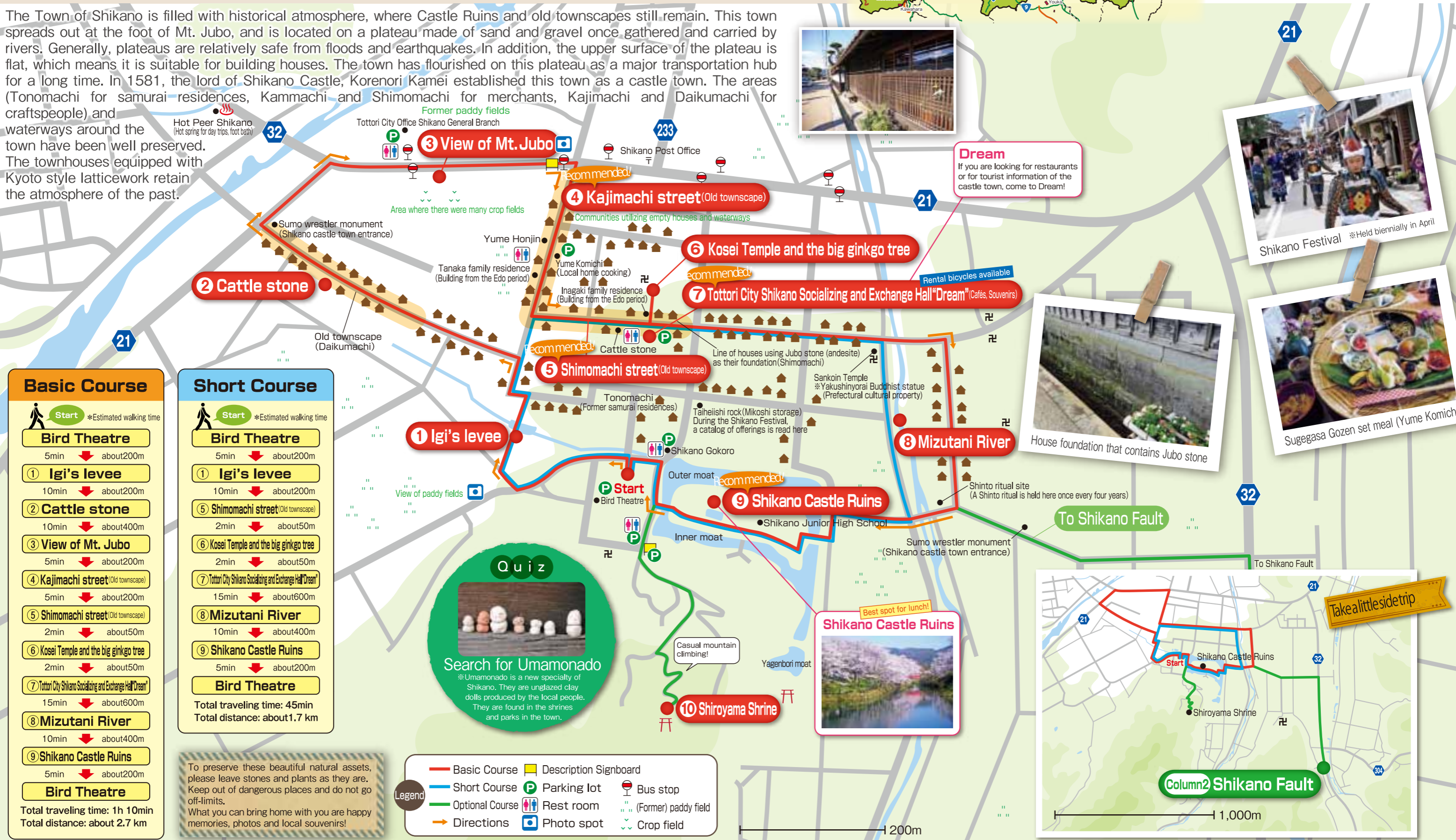


A town full of historical atmosphere with reduced risks of floods and earthquakes

Shikano Castle Town course



The Town of Shikano is filled with historical atmosphere, where Castle Ruins and old townscapes still remain. This town spreads out at the foot of Mt. Jubo, and is located on a plateau made of sand and gravel once gathered and carried by rivers. Generally, plateaus are relatively safe from floods and earthquakes. In addition, the upper surface of the plateau is flat, which means it is suitable for building houses. The town has flourished on this plateau as a major transportation hub for a long time. In 1581, the lord of Shikano Castle, Korenori Kamei established this town as a castle town. The areas (Tonomachi for samurai residences, Kammachi and Shimomachi for merchants, Kajimachi and Daikumachi for craftspeople) and waterways around the town have been well preserved. The townhouses equipped with Kyoto style latticework retain the atmosphere of the past.



Basic Course	
Bird Theatre	5min ↓ about200m
① Igi's levee	10min ↓ about200m
② Cattle stone	10min ↓ about400m
③ View of Mt. Jubo	5min ↓ about200m
④ Kajimachi street (Old townscape)	5min ↓ about200m
⑤ Shimomachi street (Old townscape)	2min ↓ about50m
⑥ Kosei Temple and the big ginkgo tree	2min ↓ about50m
⑦ Tottori City Shikano Socializing and Exchange Hall "Dream"	15min ↓ about600m
⑧ Mizutani River	10min ↓ about400m
⑨ Shikano Castle Ruins	5min ↓ about200m
Bird Theatre	5min ↓ about200m
Total traveling time: 1h 10min Total distance: about 2.7 km	

Short Course	
Bird Theatre	5min ↓ about200m
① Igi's levee	10min ↓ about200m
⑤ Shimomachi street (Old townscape)	2min ↓ about50m
⑥ Kosei Temple and the big ginkgo tree	2min ↓ about50m
⑦ Tottori City Shikano Socializing and Exchange Hall "Dream"	15min ↓ about600m
⑧ Mizutani River	10min ↓ about400m
⑨ Shikano Castle Ruins	5min ↓ about200m
Bird Theatre	5min ↓ about200m
Total traveling time: 45min Total distance: about 1.7 km	

Legend

- Basic Course (Red line)
- Short Course (Blue line)
- Optional Course (Green line)
- Directions (Orange arrow)
- Description Signboard (Yellow square)
- Parking lot (P icon)
- Rest room (Person icon)
- Photo spot (Camera icon)
- Bus stop (Bus icon)
- (Former) paddy field (Dotted pattern)
- Crop field (Green checkered pattern)



Shikano castle town's many places of interest

Quiz-Answer Let's ask the townspeople!

① Igi's levee



This is a levee built in the early Edo period (1603-1868). Water flowing from the outer moat of Shikano Castle to this levee was used in the paddy fields and to prepare for drought. Even now, water pools upstream of the levee, creating beautiful scenery with the houses and their orange-colored Sekishu clay roof tiles (a specialty of Shimane Prefecture).

② Cattle stone



When cows and horses were important animals for transportation and agriculture, cattle stones were placed along the highway to tie them to. This cattle stone was made of Jubo stone, with a rectangular hole to tie a rope through (circled in red). In the Shikano castle town, there are several cattle stones remaining, proving that the town used to be a traffic hub.

③ View of Mt. Jubo



Mt. Jubo, with an elevation of about 920.6 m, is an isolated mountain in the southern part of Shikano. Jubo means "eagle peak," and it was named this way because it looks like an eagle with its wings spread if observed from the north. Most of the mountain is made of andesite lava, which was made into Jubo stone and was used as a stone material. Even now, when walking in the town of Shikano, you will find the stones being used for the foundations of houses and other structures.

④ Kajimachi street



Old-fashioned houses are lined along this street, and the sound of water coming from the moat into waterways creates a pleasant atmosphere. Korenori Kamei, who once governed this area, significantly renovated the castle town and made a waterway network using the slopes of the plateau. This covers the disadvantage of plateaus having little running water on the surface whilst also keeping the benefit of a smaller risk of water flooding.

⑤ Shimomachi Street



When walking down this street, you may find that the floor height of many houses is nearly the same as the surface level of the street. On the plateau, there is little worry about flooding. Therefore, it was unnecessary to take measures against flooding such as raising the floor height using masonry work. Jubo stone from nearby was used for the foundation of the houses.

⑥ Kosei Temple



This is the family temple of Shikanosuke Yamanaka, Korenori Kamei's father-in-law who died a violent death. It was originally located in a different place, but was moved to the current location by Korenori to pray for the repose of Shikanosuke's soul and renamed as Kosei Temple by taking characters from Shikanosuke's other name, Yukimori. On the premises, a giant ginkgo tree (34 m high) stands tall and proud.

⑦ Tottori City Shikano Socializing and Exchange Hall "Dream"



This is a base for sightseeing, having displays related to local history and traditional events, bulletin boards, a specialty shop, a cafe and a resting place. Bicycle rental and tour guide services are also available.
 ◆ Opening hours / 9:30-17:30
 ◆ Cafe are closed on Thursdays
 ◆ May be closed without notice due to maintenance or other reasons.
 ◆ TEL: 0857-38-0030 FAX: 0857-38-0031

⑧ Mizutani River



This is a clear stream flowing from Mt. Jubo. Korenori Kamei, who governed this area after the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600, changed the paths of Mizutani River and Suemochi River nearby and improved the castle's defense. The outer moat, inner moat and Yagenbori moat constructed at that time exist at the Shikano Castle Ruins even now. Originally, Mizutani River used to run into the sea without joining Kouchi River. For details, refer to "Geo-Column 3."

⑨ Shikano Castle Ruins



The year of construction is not certain, but the castle was built in the Muromachi period (1336-1573) by the Shikano clan. Korenori Kamei governed this area after the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600, and significantly renovated Shikano Castle and the castle town. The foundation of the current townscape was formed then. Currently, the area around the castle ruins has been developed into the Shikano Castle Ruins Park, giving people a relaxing place filled with beautiful cherry blossoms in spring and colored leaves in autumn.

⑩ Shiroyama Shrine

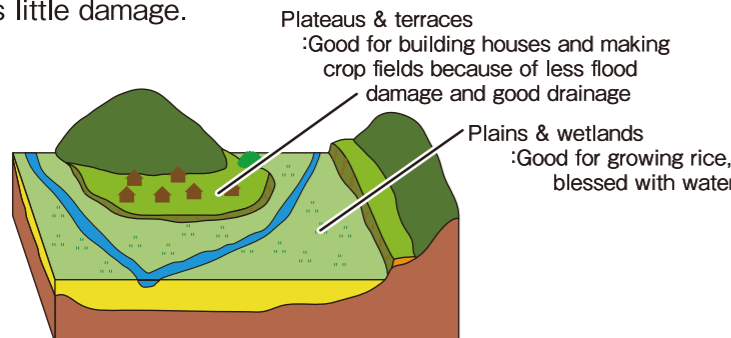


Although the founding year is unknown, it was founded to worship Susanoo-no-Mikoto and has long been venerated by local people. In the days of Korenori Kamei's governance, the shrine was considered as the guardian of Shikano Castle. The shrine's festival known as Shikano Festival was designated by Tottori Prefecture as an intangible cultural property in 1957, showing traditional performances featuring mikoshi (a portable shrine), sakaki (a plant used in Shinto rituals), four yatai (floats), warrior processions, and shishimai (lion dance). The shishimai was also designated as a prefectural intangible cultural property in 1954.

Geo-Column ①

Comfortable living on Shikano's plateau!

Shikano is located on top of a plateau made of sand and gravel carried by rivers. The plateau is high in altitude, and as such, takes little flood damage. Moreover, the upper side of the plateau is suitable for building houses. You will see that many of Shikano's houses have very low foundations. This is because there was no need to raise the floors due to rarity of floods and the good drainage. The plateau made of sand and gravel was also relatively strong against earthquakes. Even after the 1943 Tottori Earthquake, there was little damage.



Conceptual drawing of a plateau and a plain

Geo-Column ②

Shikano Fault and the Tottori Earthquake

On September 10, 1943, an earthquake of magnitude 7.2 with its epicenter in Tottori city occurred. The Shikano Fault became visible on the surface due to this earthquake. The ground was displaced about 1.5 m in the east-west direction along the Shikano Fault and sunk about 0.5 m. The disconnected waterway that used to cross over the fault is designated as a natural monument by the prefecture, since you can easily observe the displacement of the fault.



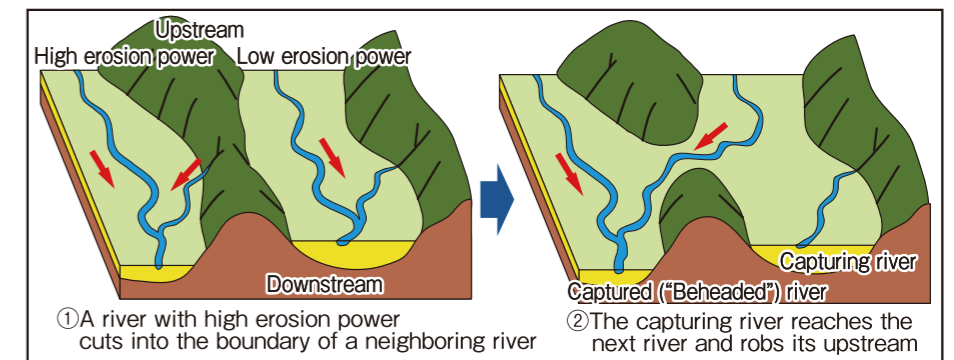
Current Shikano Fault

Location of Shikano Fault (including assumptions)

Geo-Column ③

The river flow has changed? ~River capture~

The upstream of the current Kouchi River used to be connected with Hamamura River to the west of Shikano, running towards the north. The downstream of the current Kouchi River eroded and captured Hamamura River, which lost its upstream and became a small river (see the map in Geo-column 2). This phenomenon is called river capture, and happens when there is a difference in the erosion power of two neighboring rivers. The river taking the upstream (capturing river) becomes bigger in its flow, but the captured river ("beheaded river") becomes smaller in its flow.



① A river with high erosion power cuts into the boundary of a neighboring river
 ② The capturing river reaches the next river and robs its upstream

Map of the river capture concept