

Tateiwa Rock and Taiza's many places of interest

① Tenki Tenki Tango Roadside Rest Area



Tenki Tenki Tango is the northernmost roadside rest area in Kyoto prefecture. The origin of its name is a traditional festival called "Tenki Tenki" handed down from ancient times in Takano. Local people run a market every Sunday. Phone: 0772-75-2525

② Takano Shrine



Takano Shrine was dedicated to Amaterasu Omikami (the Sun Goddess) by Princess Takano-hime, who served the 9th Emperor Kaika. There are picture scrolls depicting a legend of Maroko-shin' no defeating ogres. The main hall is designated as a cultural property by Kyoto prefecture and its premises as a protected cultural property area.

③ Shinmeiyama Burial Mound



Shinmeiyama Burial Mound is one of the largest keyhole-shaped tombs on the coast of the Sea of Japan, with a total length of about 200 m. It has two-level flat parts where unique cylindrical clay figures (haniwa) found only in the Tango region once stood. The mound is a nationally designated historic site. In the rice-planting season, the view from the mound's rounded top looks like an ancient lagoon and visitors will be inspired by the ancient scenery.

④ Onaru Burial Mounds



Onaru Burial Mounds are a burial mound group containing a horizontal stone chamber, built in the late Kofun period (from the late 6th century to the early 7th century). A total of 11 mounds have been discovered here. Local andesite with developed columnar joints was used to build the stone chambers.

⑤ Tateiwa Rock



With a height of 20 m, Tateiwa Rock is huge andesite boulder that symbolizes Kyotango city. It is known for its beautiful columnar joints that extend vertically. The rock and its legend of a prince defeating ogres have long been familiar to local residents. Sands that were washed down the Takeno River formed a sandbar that connects the mainland to Tateiwa Rock, which used to be an isolated island.

⑥ Byobuiwa Rock Observatory



Byobuiwa Rock resembles a folding screen jutting out from the sea. It contains hard andesite formed through the solidification of magma that had seeped into the strata of the softer tuff. The strata around it were later eroded and some parts of its dikes create the formation as seen today. There are several islands offshore of Byobuiwa Rock that are located in a straight line.

An Extra : Statues of Empress Hashiudo and Prince Shotoku*



It is said that Empress Hashiudo, Prince Shotoku's mother, took refuge in Taiza to avoid riots during a power struggle. She gave her name "Hashiudo" to this place when she left. The villagers were too humbled to take her name as it was and renamed the place "Taiza" (to leave) in honor of her departure.

*Prince Shotoku:
A semi-legendary politician (574-622) who founded the centralized government system of Japan.

An Extra : Tango Hot Springs Hashiudoso



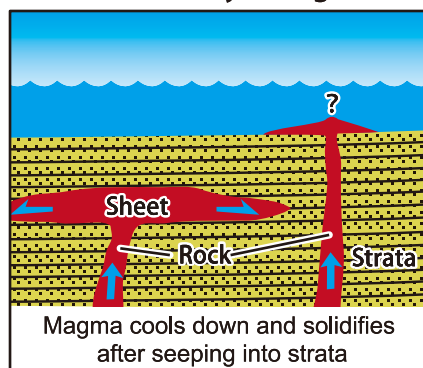
Equipped with open-air baths, the hot springs at Hashiudoso are of high quality and contain sodium, calcium and sulfate. These outdoor baths allow visitors to enjoy their bath while listening to the sound of waves from the Sea of Japan. Visitors are able to drop by on a day trip, and are also able to just use the restaurant, which is available by reservation.

* Closed: The 2nd / 4th Tuesday (Open through summer vacation and crab season) * Entrance fee: ¥500 (Adult) Phone: 0772-75-2212

Geo-Column ①

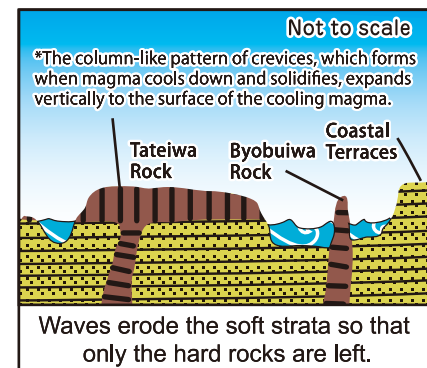
Byobuiwa Rock is a dike while Tateiwa Rock is a sheet

About 15 million years ago



① Volcanic activities began at the bottom of the sea about 15 million years ago. Magma seeped into strata vertically in a plate-like shape. In soft parts of the strata, magma spread out horizontally in a mushroom-shaped pattern along the accumulated strata. After that the magma cooled down and solidified.

Present



② Waves, wind and rain erode strata when the sea level falls and the ground's surface rises up. Some parts of the andesite (a kind of volcanic rock) formed by the solidification of magma have been left because they are harder than other surrounding strata (sandstone, mudstone and tuff). This andesite later became Tateiwa Rock and Byobuiwa Rock. Byobuiwa Rock has a plate-like shape because the magma from which it is formed seeped horizontally in to strata along fault lines.



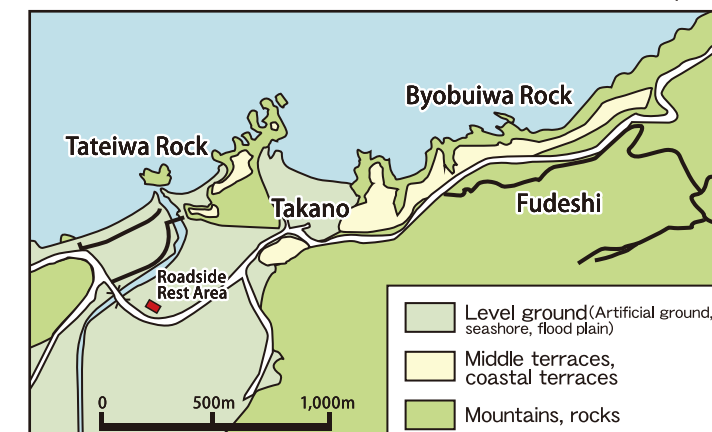
①: Both are correct (see for yourself). A sandbar made of granitic sand carried by the Takeno River connects the mainland with Tateiwa Rock, creating what is called a tombolo. The side of the river connected with the land changes according to the state of the river.

②: 2. The stage of Kiyomizudera Temple (Byobuiwa Rock is about 13 m high. The Great Buddha of Nara is about 18 m high, and the Five-Storeyed Pagoda in To-ji Temple is about 54.8 m high.)

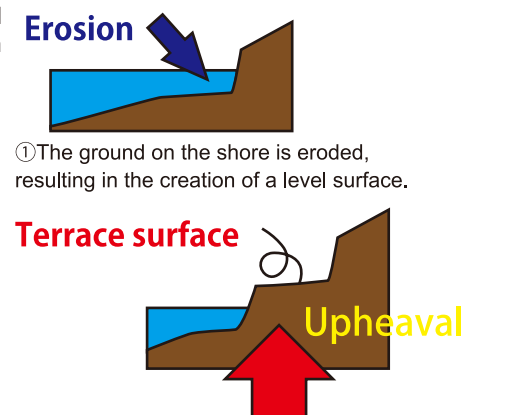
Geo-Column ②

Coastal terraces around the Takano region

During the last interglacial period (about 130,000 years ago), wave-cut benches were formed due to the erosion of the rocks created by volcanic activity about 15 million years ago. Gravel, sand and mud were deposited on the benches. The strata are now at an altitude of 20 meters and are called marine middle terrace deposits.



How the wave-cut benches are formed



① The ground on the shore is eroded, resulting in the creation of a level surface.

Terrace surface
Upheaval
② When the earth rises up, the parts eroded by waves on the shore are heaved upward and become coastal terraces.