



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



San'in Kaigan
UNESCO
Global Geopark

Natural trail taking in singing sand, white sand and green pines

Kotohikihama Beach Course

Kotohikihama Beach is one of the most famous singing sand beaches in Japan. While there used to be singing sand beaches throughout Japan, they have been decreasing due to environmental degradation. Here visitors can experience the treasured singing sand that is protected by natural conservation activities carried out by local residents and volunteers.

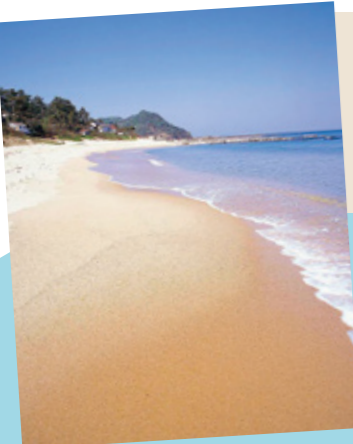


San'in Kaigan Geopark
Walk model course

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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!!

There are very few man-made constructions around Kotohikihama Beach, so it is often used for film and TV locations. Micro shells can be found on the beach, where many people come to enjoy swimming



③ Suishohama Beach



Lion Rock

Hokakeiwa Rock

② Kobama swimming beach

※There are no restrooms from here to Kotohikihama Beach.

Dairin-ji Temple

Hacchohama swimming beach

Amino High School



Manjo-no-iwa Rock

Quiz1

Which family of flowers does the "Veronica Ornate," the municipal flower of Kyotango City, belong to?
1. Orchid 2. Figwort 3. Chrysanthemum
(The answer is at the back!)

※There are many slopes in this area.

Kotohikihama Kaketsu swimming beach

Singing sands area

When you jump here, you can hear a thumping sound

Shirataki Waterfalls

Forest area where one can hear the sound of Haruzemi (Terpnosia vacua, lit. spring cicada) during April to June

Quiz2

What was the Kotohikihama Beach nationally designated as in 2007?
(The answer is at the back!)

Open-air bath

Taikohama Beach

⑤ Kotohikihama Beach

Singing sands area

Micro shells can be found here

Local information available here
Closed every Tuesday
Admission fee: ¥300 (Adults)
Estimated time : 30 min

Start

① Kotohikihama Singing Sand Museum

You may be able to hear the sound of weaving

Tankai Bus (Kotohikihama Beach bus stop)

Kaketsu District

Tango- Furusato Hospital

Lake Hanare

Hanareyama Burial Mounds / Hanareko Burial Mounds

Oka Burial Mounds

⑥ Lake Hanare Park

Legend

	Toilet		Basic Course
	Parking lot		Optional course
	Restaurant		Rice paddy
	Explanation signboard		Farmland & pasture
	Best photo spot		Orchard
	Watch your step		Route
	Traffic hazards		

Optional Course Nature trail around Lake Hanare

	Start	Estimated walking time
	Dairin-ji Temple	5min ↓ About 300m
	Oka Burial Mounds	5min ↓ About 300m
	⑥ Lake Hanare Park	2min ↓ About 100m
	Hanareyama Burial Mounds / Hanareko Burial Mounds	12min ↓ About 700m
	Dairin-ji Temple	
Additional traveling time: 24min Total distance : About 1.4 km		

Basic Course

	Start	Estimated walking time
	① Kotohikihama Singing Sand Museum Parking lot	2min ↓ About 100m
	Tankai Bus (Kotohikihama)	45min ↓ About 2.4km
	Tankai Bus (Kobama)	1min ↓ About 100m
	Dairin-ji Temple	12min ↓ About 700m
	② Kobama swimming beach	13min ↓ About 700m
	③ Suishohama Beach	40min ↓ About 2.1km
	④ Shirataki Shrine	4min ↓ About 200m
	⑤ Kotohikihama Beach	20min ↓ About 1.1km
	① Kotohikihama Singing Sand Museum Parking lot	
Total traveling time : 2h14min 1h 30min by bus Total distance : About 7.2 km		

Kotohikihama Beach's many places of interest

① Kotohikihama Singing Sand Museum



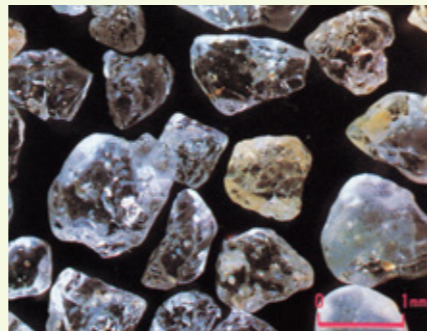
Kotohikihama Singing Sand Museum is a museum centered on the theme of singing sand. The museum features singing sand from around the world, micro shells, sea turtles and other objects found along the coast. A variety of hands-on learning programs are also available. Phone: 0772-72-5511 (Open 9:00~17:00 / Closed every Tuesday / Adult ¥300)

② Kobama swimming beach



Kobama swimming beach in Kobama, Amino-cho, together with Hacchohama in the west, forms a long beach with a total length of about 4 km. The beach is particularly popular with swimmers in summer, and surfers throughout the year. The sand has a high quantity of shell fragments, giving it a soft feel. Why not try comparing it with the sand on the Kotohikihama Beach?

③ Suishohama Beach



Suishohama beach features grains of euhedral quartz, formed through extreme pressures and temperatures. Euhedral quartz has an unusual bipyramidal shape, and can be seen in the strata of volcanic "tuff" rocks along the beach.

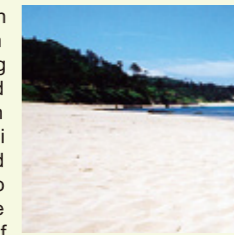
④ Shirataki Shrine



Shirataki Shrine is dedicated to Okuninushi-no-Mikoto*. According to an old legend, during a trip from the Izumo region, Okuninushi-no-Mikoto found that there was a hole in his boat. However, he was saved by a turban shell that plugged the hole just as he was about to sink. Since then, it is said that turban shells without spikes can be found in the area. A torii gate destroyed by the North Tango Earthquake has been preserved within the shrine. *A god who governed the Izumo region.

⑤ Kotohikihama Beach

Kotohikihama Beach has long been famous as a singing sand beach, and was featured in poems by Tadaoki Hosokawa**1, and Tekkan and Akiko Yosano**2. At one time the condition of the singing sand got worse. However, thanks to the devoted efforts of local people, the beach has been preserved. Visitors can enjoy its light sound by shuffling along the beach on non-rainy days. **1One of military commanders of the Sengoku period (1493-1590) who governed the Tango region. **2Famous poet-couple who were active in the late Meiji period as well as the Taisho and early Showa periods of Japan.



Shirataki Waterfalls on Kotohikihama Beach



Rainwater seeping into sand dunes on top of the rocks at the beach becomes groundwater. It flows along the rocks and over the sea cliff beneath, becoming Shirataki Waterfalls.

Open-air bath on Kotohikihama Beach



Kotohikihama Beach features an open-air bath with pure hot spring water. It is free of charge and available for use from late April to early November.

NOTES: No dressing room available. Please wear a swimsuit, this is a mixed bath. Do not use any shampoos or soaps. Please wash off sand before entering.

Taikohama Beach on Kotohikihama Beach



In the middle of Kotohikihama Beach, there is a spot on the ground where a drum-like sound can be heard when people stamp on it or pound on it with their fists. For this reason, it is known as Taikohama Beach (lit. drum beach).

Micro shells on Kotohikihama Beach



Shells that are no larger than a few millimeters in size are known as "micro shells". It is said that there are several hundred types of micro shells on Kotohikihama Beach.

Kaketsu Sand Dunes



A gentle hill can be seen to the south of Kotohikihama Beach. This hill is composed of ancient dunes formed 120,000 years ago, along with newer dunes formed in more recent times. The sand on Kotohikihama Beach comes from Kaketsu Sand Dunes.

⑥ Lake Hanare Park



Lake Hanare is the largest freshwater lake in Kyoto prefecture. Many historical sites have been discovered around this lake. Hanami (cherry blossom viewing) is popular here, due to the many cherry trees planted along its shores.

Quiz-Answer

- ① Natural monument / Place of scenic beauty
It was the first designated singing sand beach in Japan
- ② The answer is 2. Figwort
Veronica Ornate is a perennial plant which inhabits the area along the coast between Kotohikihama Beach and Tottori Prefecture. It is called toutei-ran in Japanese, which literally means "indigo blue of Lake Dongting." The flowers are lazuline in color, as beautiful as the pure water of Lake Dongting in China.

Geo-Column ①

Why do the singing sands make a sound?

The main ingredient of the sands in the Kotohikihama Beach is quartz. When quartz sand is washed well in clean water or air, its surface friction coefficient becomes extremely large.

Therefore, even though a certain force is applied to the sand by being touched or stepped on, the sand doesn't move until a certain point. However, it moves when the force passes the physical limit. The sand comes to a standstill by setting the force free through movement. The repetition of this process makes the grains vibrate en masse, making their distinctive squeaking sound. On the other hand, the sand doesn't make a sound when contaminated with tobacco ash and other pollutants. Common sand doesn't make a sound because the amount of quartz in the sand is small and the surface is dirty.

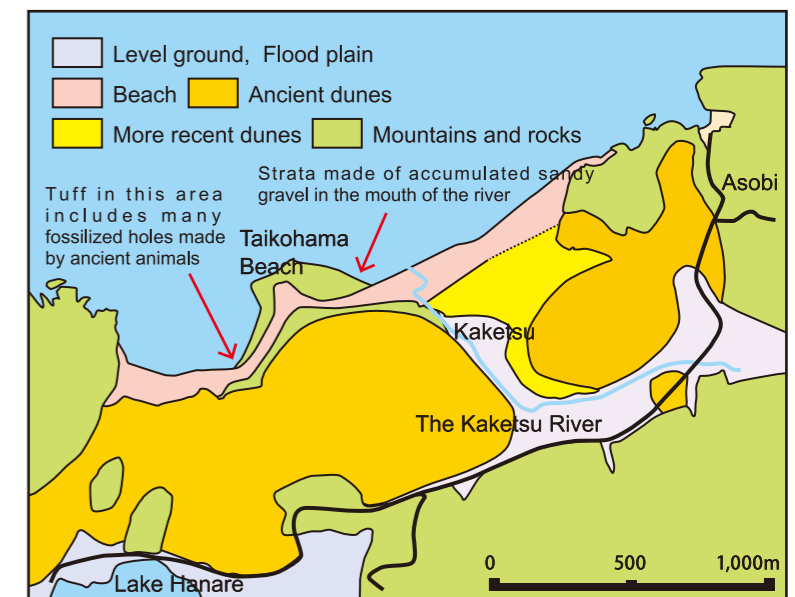
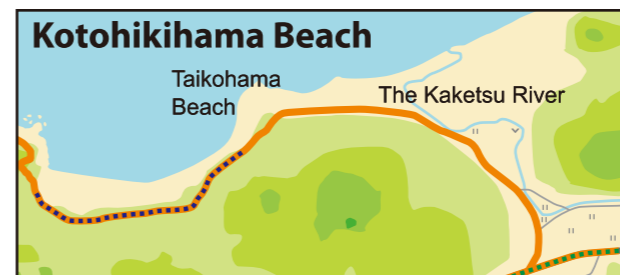


Geo-Column ②

Geological features of Kotohikihama Beach

Kotohikihama Beach spans more than 1.5 km from east to west across the seashore in front of Kaketsu village, centered around the rocky coast of Taikohama Beach.

The rocks on the Kobama side, the western margin of the area, are characterized by rhyolitic tuff and lava. On the other hand, tuff and lava are sandwiched in shallow marine strata in the eastern and southern areas of Taikohama Beach, which are indicated as "mountains and rocks" on the map. The "ancient dunes" are sand dunes that were formed during the last interglacial period (10,000-120,000 years ago). Most of the ancient dunes in this area were formed between 100,000 to 120,000 years ago. "More recent dunes" are those formed from 10,000 years ago to the present.



Production
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