



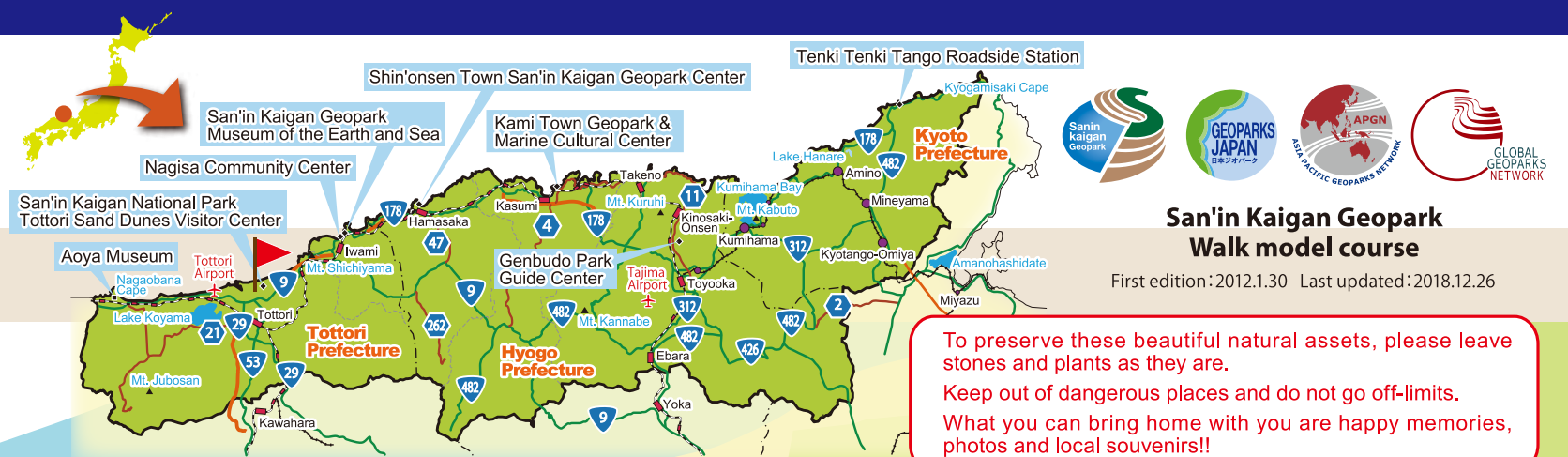
United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



San'in Kaigan
UNESCO
Global Geopark

Sand is Moving! Active Landscape of Sand Dunes

West Tottori Sand Dunes Course



Basic Course

Start Estimated walking time

①San'in Kaigan National Park
Tottori Sand Dunes Visitor Center

20min About 500m

②Uma-no-se (the Second
Sand Dune Line) and Oasis

10min About 400m

③Exposure of Volcanic Ash

8min About 300m

④Oigo Suribachi (hollow)

10min About 500m

⑤Awasegatani Suribachi (hollow)

10min About 600m

⑥Ichirimatsu Pine Tree · Takeo Arishima
Monument Engraved with Poem

30min About 1.8km

⑦Benten-gu Shrine (Tanegaikae Pond)

5min About 200m

⑧Tottori Sand Dunes the Sand Museum

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⑨Exposure of Volcanic Ash Strata

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The size of Tottori Sand Dunes isn't the largest in Japan. There are many unique features only for Tottori Sand Dunes such as moving sand, unique landforms, animals, plants and sand dune line of big height difference. We can understand how the sand dunes are formed.

On the top of the Second Sand Dune Line called 'Uma-no-se', magnificent view of the Sea of Japan spreads out. Visitors can experience the height of 47m above sea level by looking down the coastline. On the slope of Sand Dune Line, natural beauty such as wind ripples and sand spout appearing occasionally makes visitors enjoy.



Legend

- Toilet
- Best photo spot
- Parking lot
- Bicycle Rental
- Restaurant
- Traffic hazards
- Explanation signboard
- Rice paddy
- Route
- Farmland & pasture
- Basic Course
- Walk Course around Sand Dunes

Arid Land Research Center, Tottori University, Arid Land Dome

Arid Land Dome is open to public only for limited period. Please check the schedule on the website of Tottori University.
*URL:
https://www.alrc.tottori-u.ac.jp/japanese/about_center/sisetsu/dome.html

'Akiko Yosano' and 'Takeo Arishima' Monument Engraved with Poem

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Tottori Sand Dunes' many places of interest

①San'in Kaigan National Park Tottori Sand Dunes Visitor Center



San' in Kaigan National Park Tottori Sand Dunes Visitor Center is located at the east entrance of Tottori Sand Dunes. Visitors can get a lot of information about Tottori Sand Dunes' best things by displays and guide. Please feel a variety of geological and geographical features of active Tottori Sand Dunes with the information you get here.

②Uma-no-se (the Second Sand Dune Line) and Oasis



There are three sand dune line in Tottori Sand Dunes, and the Second Sand Dune Line (Uma-no-se) is the second one from the north west. Water originating from spring forms small stream and flows into the hollow on the south side of the Second Sand Dune Line. That is called Oasis. That means the pond appears seasonally. In summer, the water of small stream disappears by permeating through sand.

③Exposure of Volcanic Ash



Other stratum in sand dunes is volcanic ash (Pumice layer) of Mt. Daisen erupted 55,000 years ago. This exposure appears at different spots because of wind-blown sand.

④Oigo Suribachi (hollow)



In Tottori Sand Dunes, there are mortar-like hollows surrounded steep slope with curved edge line called 'Suribachi'. 'Oigo Suribachi' is one of major suribachi in Tottori Sand Dunes. The record says there used to be spring water at the bottom of hollow.

⑤Awasegatani Suribachi



'Awasegatani Suribachi' is located at the south west of 'Oigo Suribachi'. On that slope, visitors can see a lot of plants such as sea bells and Asiatic sedge.

⑥Ichirimatsu Pine Tree・Takeo Arishima Monument Engraved with Poem



The poem Takeo Arishima wrote in Tottori City in 1923 is engraved on this monument. The pine tree on the side of the monument was planted in Edo period (1603-1868). That was for the distance markers of ancient road (via Tajima) crossing sand dunes.
* Takeo Arishima: Japanese novelist, short-story writer and essayist (1878-1923)

⑦Benten-gu Shrine (Tanegaike Pond)



There is 'Legend of Otane' related to 'Tanegaike Pond' which have long been familiar to local residents. This legend is about a girl called 'Otane', who served a millionaire of Miyanoshita (Miyanoshita, Kokufo-town, Tottori City). She transformed into serpent to pick up persimmons. 'Benzaiten' who is Japanese Buddhist goddess of water is dedicated to the Oshima Island of north coast of pond.

⑧Tottori Sand Dunes the Sand Museum



Tottori Sand Dunes the Sand Museum is the world's first museum specializing in sand sculptures. The highest level of sculptures in the world are exhibited on a different theme every year, inviting sand sculptors from around the world. It houses tourist information center around Tottori Sand Dunes and local souvenir shops. (TEL) 0857-20-2231

⑨Exposure of Volcanic Ash Strata



The stratum of volcanic ash consists of volcanic ash and volcanic ash soil of Mt. Daisen volcano erupted about 55,000 years ago. Dunes below the volcanic ash stratum are old dunes, while dunes above the volcanic ash stratum are new dunes.

Recommend: 'Akiko Yosano' and 'Takeo Arishima' Monument Engraved with Poem



The poem of Akiko Yosano is engraved with the one of Takeo Arishima on the monument. That is to remember the memories of Takeo Arishima who died just after one month when he visited Tottori Sand Dunes.
*Akiko Yosano: Japanese author, poet, thinker, keyperson of Romanticism literature (1878-1942)

Recommend: Arid Land Research Center, Tottori University, Arid Land Dome



This facility conducts the research about desertification prevention of dry lands. The related materials and specimen are exhibited. Arid Land Dome is used to perform dryland simulation experiments through the International Joint Research.

Recommend: Shallot Fields



Fukube Sand Dunes (part of Tottori Sand Dunes) are popular shallot fields in Japan. When the shallot flowers bloom in late October and early November, the shallot fields look like a beautiful, vast and purple carpet.

Geo-Column①

Environment at that Time when Volcanic Ash Accumulated

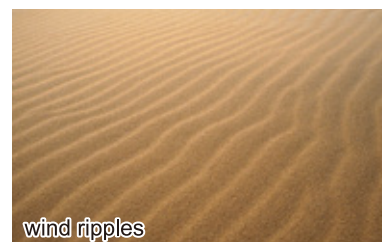
In the underground Tottori Sand Dunes, there are volcanic ash of Mt. Daisen volcano (Mt. Daisen Kurayoshi Pumice) erupted 55,000 years ago, Mt. Aso (Kumamoto Prefecture) erupted 90,000 years ago and Mt. Sanbe (Shimane Prefecture) erupted 100,000 years ago. Above Mt. Daisen Kurayoshi Pumice, there are volcanic ash of Aira Tanzawa (Kagoshima Prefecture) erupted 25,000 years ago. This era when these above volcanic ash accumulated is called 'Wurm glacial stage' when the sea level was lower than the one of present time. That means the coastline was offshore at that time and the former Tottori Sand Dunes used to be located inland. It is said that former sand dunes might be covered with plants.



Geo-Column②

Microtopography of Sand Dunes

In Tottori Sand Dunes, there are microtopography such as wind ripples, sand curtains and sand spout. Rainfall forms these sand curtains and sand spout. Wet sand makes steeper slope. When the wet slope get dried and collapsed, sand curtains are formed. Also, sand spout is formed by the layer of fine silt with resistance of wind erosion. This silt is much finer than the top sand appeared by heavy wind and rainfall. Moreover, strong wind after rainfall makes alternate wet and dry sand bands. As a result, vertical pattern (aeolian transverse sheets) spreads all over sand dunes. This is unique landscape of Tottori Sand Dunes we can't see in dry land.



wind ripples



sand spout



aeolian transverse sheets



sand curtains

Quiz-Answer

- ①About angle of 30°
- ②Because differences of both volcanic stratum is clear by Mt. Daisen Kurayoshi Pumice Layer
- ③About 17m

Production

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