



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



A rias coast cove with tradition and a history

Tajima Mihonoura Course

Mio is a village that is located in a cove on the rias coast. Coming out of the tunnel, you will see a majestic view of the village. The place that was once only accessed by sea has many folk tales and rich beautiful nature.



Mihonoura village revitalization group
In order to revitalize the village, ladies residing in Mio engages in the gathering, processing and sales of Wakame (sea weed).

Quiz!

Why is Wakame in Mio tasty? (Please look on the reverse side to find the answer)

Basic Course

- Start (Komio bus stop)
Estimated walking time
- ① Komio Stone Buddha statues
15min ↓ 1km
 - ② The view of the tunnel & the district of Mio
15min ↓ 1km
 - ③ Mihashira Shrine
5min ↓ 300m
 - ④ Observation deck
5min ↓ 150m
 - ⑤ Kageiwainari Shrine
10min ↓ 300m
 - ⑥ Nagasakibana Cape & Ebisu Shrine
 - ⑦ Mio Oshima Island & Itsukushima Shrine (View from Nagasakibana Cape)
10min ↓ 300m
 - ⑧ Yahashira Shrine
- Total traveling time : 1h
Total distance : About 3 km

Optional Course

- Start Estimated walking time
- ⑧ Yahashira Shrine
25min ↓ 1.5km
 - ⑨ Frou no mizu
5min ↓ 300m
 - ⑩ Nokogiri Cape seen from the observation deck
25min ↓ 2km
 - Mio Bus stop
- Total traveling time : 55min
Total distance : About 3.8km

Legend

Toilet	Farmland & pasture
Parking lot	Watch your step
Explanation signboard	Traffic hazards
Route	Basic Course
Superb view	Optional Course

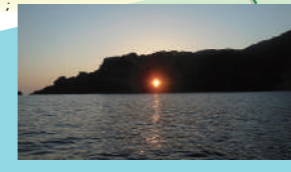


Sunaji
At the observatory park, you can see multi-layered strata that were formed around when the Sea of Japan opened as well as dike swarms that are the paths for magma.

Recommend
⑦ Mio Oshima Island & Itsukushima Shrine



You will be overwhelmed by the blue sea cave!
You can enter the sea cave tunnel and the sea cave by water taxi!



The sunrise through the tunnel of the Asahi Sea Cave.

Mihonoura water taxi
(Reservation required. Available from May through to September)
Phone: 0796-82-5757
Business hours: from 10:30 to 13:30 Two trips per day
※Your taxi may be cancelled depending on the weather.
※There are taxis for three passengers and four passengers.



Kirin-jishimai dance, which is still practiced in Mio district, has been designated as an important intangible cultural property by the prefecture. Also, there are many living old tales and myths that have been passed down for generations, such as a myth that the raccoon in Kageiwainari Shrine can announces a good catch of fish.



Mascot Mihorin (Kageiwa Miho)

Please do not touch the stones and plants to protect the beautiful nature and make sure to stay away from dangerous or off-limits areas. We are sorry, but you can only bring home good memories, photos and local souvenirs.



San'in Kaigan Geopark Walk model course (San'in Kaigan National Park)
First edition: 2013.10.26 Last updated: 2019.3.31



【About transportation】

●Buses are available from Hamasaka station to Mio on weekdays (as of April, 2017) ●There is a taxi station in front of Hamasaka station.

So many places to visit ! Tajima Mmihoura

①Komio Stone Buddha statues



During the Edo period, Jizo statues (the Buddhist guardians deity of children) was carried away by avalanche and debris slides. The 48 Jizo statues you see here are the ones that were found in the sand on the beach and in the ocean by villagers. The large ones are called "Mataemon jizo". In the Meiji period, Mataemon built the statue to pray for the health and recovery of villagers.

②The view of the tunnel and the district of Mio



At the entrance of the Mio district, you can see the old Mio tunnel completed in 1952 next to the new Mio tunnel completed in 1982. Until the first tunnel was built, Mio was so-called "inaccessible land". Coming out of the tunnel, you will see the magnificent view with Mio Oshima Island floating on the sea.

③Mihashira Shrine



It is an Ujigami shrine (a shrine acts as a protective force sent by one of your ancestors) in Komio, and the front shrine has a ceiling decorated with 100 votive tablets of people, animals, flowers and birds, while the shrine Heiden (hall of offerings) has an aisle with a votive tablet of a dragon. In the approach to the shrine, there is the ruins of a rhyolite Torii gate.

④Observation deck



From here, you can view the area that includes Komio and Mio Oshima Island. Also, there are signboards with myths and old folk tales written on them in the park. On the Sunaji (sand island, see the map) located in front of the observatory, you can see multi-layered strata and dike swarms that are the paths for magma.

⑤Kageiwainari shrine



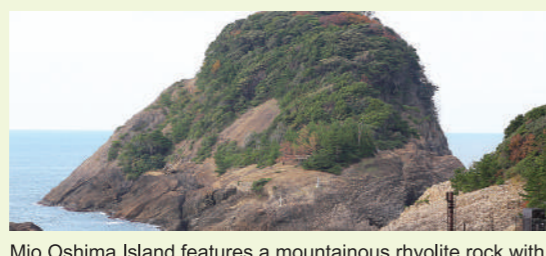
It has been worshipped as a place where the god of fishery is enshrined. A small shrine made of cypress is placed in the cave. The rock mass is a tuff that was formed 20 million years ago around when the Sea of Japan started to open as a result of volcanic activities.

⑥Nagasakibana Cape & Ebisu Shrine



Much like Mio Oshima Island, Nagasakibana Cape features mountainous rock of rhyolite with beautiful columnar jointing. You can also see dike swarms that are the paths for magma on the edge of water. The sea between Nagasakibana Cape and Mio Oshima Island is a good spot for large fish called "Torido". Hirukonomikoto that is enshrined in the Ebisu shrine has been worshipped as the deity guardian of fishery by villagers.

⑦Mio Oshima Island & Itsukushima Shrine



Mio Oshima Island features a mountainous rhyolite rock with vertical cracks (columnar jointing). It is considered that the island was once connected to Nagasakibana Cape, although the humongous rock was shaved off by sea waves allowing sea water to flow through in between. Deep in the island, there is the Itsukushima Shrine with the statue of Benzaiten (Buddhist god) that is worshipped as the god of sea, voyage and transportation.

⑧Yahashira Shrine



The Ujigami shrine in Omio enshrines Susaonomikoto (the brother of the Sun Goddess). It has a long-passed-down red long red banner, which is the same as that of the Heike clan. In addition, there are a Gorinto (5-tiered stupa) and Hōkyōintō, a Japanese pagoda, installed on the middle level of the shrine. Mikoshi, a portable shrine, and Kirinjisimai dance are dedicated to the god of the shrine during the festival.

⑨Frou no Mizu (Eternal youth water)



Clear water flows out from the bedrock. With the rich forest acting as a dam, the water keeps running throughout the year. Surrounding rocks are lava flowing out during an eruption about 20 million years ago, which proves the fact that there was a large volcano in this area.

⑩Nokogiri Cape seen from the observation deck

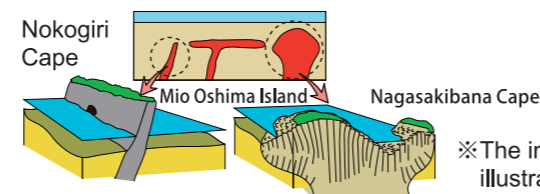
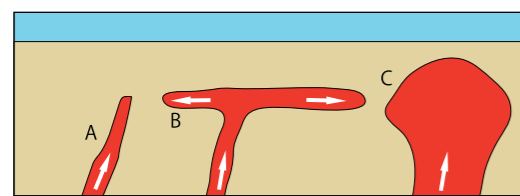


Nokogiri Cape is a folding-screen-like cape pointing north, which is basically a hard rock stratum that remained even after weak rock stratum were scraped off. It was formed as magma blasted into fragments penetrated through underground cracks looking for a place to be consolidated (pyroclastic dyke). The name, "Nokogiri" (chainsaw) came from the protruding ridges of the cape that remind you of a chainsaw teeth. In the middle of the cape, you can also see a sea cave called "Asahi-domon".

Geo-Column ①

Magma injected into the earth? Difference in terrain between Mio Oshima Island and Nokogiri Cape

Nokogiri Cape and Mio Oshima Island, the two places that have beautiful views in Tajima Mionoura. Both places were formed as a result of magma solidifying within the Earth's crust. However, one is a folding screen-shaped narrow and long cape, and the other is an island round like a bun. Why such difference? It is because there are differences in ways how magma was injected into the crust. As for Nokogiri Cape, the strata was built along the cracks on the ground, while Mio Oshima Island is a dome on the ground where lava was extruded into. As volcanic rocks formed from the cooling process of lava are hard, they survived and turned into a cape and an island, while weaker strata were washed away by bad weather and waves.



※The image is for illustration purposes.

It can be said that Nokogiri Cape is a dike swarm, while Mio Oshima Island is possibly a lava dome.

※The vertical cracks on the rocks in Mio Oshima Island (columnar jointing) were formed during the cooling process of lava and are vertically along the cooling surface of magma.

Typical example of how magma penetrates into the earth's crust.

- A. Magma migrates vertically along the cracks on the ground (to be a dike swarm)
- B. Magma migrates horizontally along strata (to be a bedrock).
- C. Magma penetrates into the ground and forms a dome (to be a cryptodome)

Geo-Column ②

Mio—the cove of the rias coast

The cove of the rias coast, having less wind and waves, naturally makes a good port. Also, the inland terrain with a river is gentle and has always been used as a residential area.



The cove makes a natural perfect port.



It is calm on the leeward side.

As rocks tend to be exposed to the sea on rias coasts, shells and fish can be found near the seaweed growing around the rocks. Meanwhile, the surrounding forests provide nutrients to the sea and support sea creatures.

This way, human residents who live there are blessed with a variety of nature's gifts.

Quiz-Answer

Nutrients from rich forests in the surrounding areas are poured into the sea. With the clean ocean, sunny weather and the rocky area, growing conditions are great for sea weeds, such as Wakame.

Production Mio district (Shin'onsen Town) & Research Section for Geo-environment, Institute of Natural and Environmental Sciences, University of Hyogo