



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



San'in Kaigan
UNESCO
Global Geopark

The mythology "Inaba no shirousagi"(the hare of Inaba)
and the growth of sand dunes.

Hakuto Beach Course

The Hakuto Beach is famous for the mythology "Inaba no shirousagi"(the hare of Inaba). And it is also located at the west end of the Tottori sand dunes that extends 16km east and west. There are many sights here, such as Okinoshima Island, where it is believed hares lived, and the Hakuto Shrine where the Shirousagi no kami is celebrated, and two other nationally designated natural monuments.

Think of the worlds of mythology and experienced the geo!

We can see the shore platform on the north and south sides of Okinoshima Island where it is believed that hares lived. The shore platform appears above sea level at low tide and looks like the back of a ferocious shark. Although there are various theories about the island where hares lived, it would be a good idea to superimpose the myths and natural landscapes.



Okinoshima Island seen from the Ketamisaki Cape



Coastline seen from the Ketanosaki observation open space

Basic Course

Start Estimated walking time

① Michi-no-eki (Roadside station)
Mythology Village Shirousagi

2min About 170m

② Fuzo-fugen-no-ike
(pond of no increase, no decrease)
Mitarai-ike Pond

1min About 20m

③ Hakuto Shrine

5min About 370m

④ Hokyoin-to pagoda
and Gorinto tower group

8min About 600m

⑤ The southern limit zone of Hamanasu
(Rugosa rose) grow naturally

1min About 100m

⑥ An outcrop of Hakuto gravel layer

10min About 670m

⑦ Kojijima

7min About 420m

An arbor of Ketamisaki Cape

7min About 350m

⑧ Ketanosaki observation open space

9min About 600m

① Michi-no-eki (Roadside station)
Mythology Village Shirousagi

Total traveling time: 50min
Total distance: About 3.5 km

San'in Kaigan Geopark
"Kozomi Coast Course" located here.

Quiz3

What is the name of the box with a heart shaped hole, which is located on the Ketanosaki observation open space?
(Find the answer on the reverse side!)

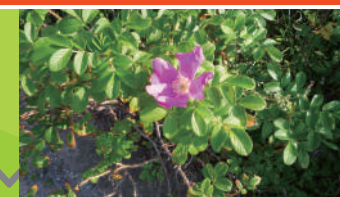


Quiz1

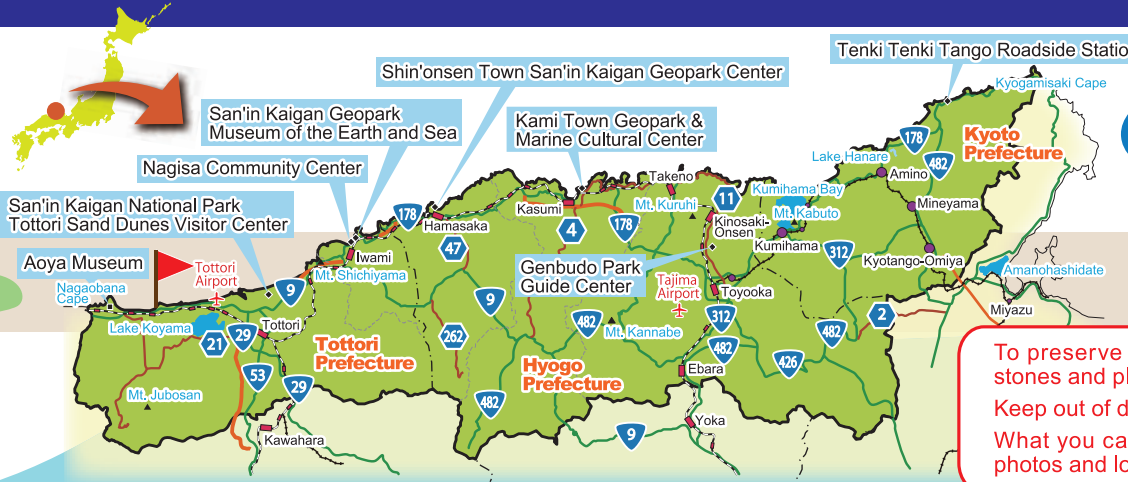
The foundation stone (Kikuza-ishi) that supports the main shrine of Hakuto Shrine has a chrysanthemum emblem engraved on it. How many petals does a chrysanthemum have?
(Find the answer on the reverse side!)

Quiz2

What kind of family does the Hamanasu belong to?
(Find the answer on the reverse side!)



Hamanasu (Rugosa rose)



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!!



The place is crowded with people as swimming beach in summer season.

Okinoshima Island

An arbor of Ketamisaki Cape

① Michi-no-eki (Roadside station)
Mythology Village Shirousagi

⑦ Kojijima Rock

⑥ An outcrop of Hakuto gravel layer

Geopark Road

⑧ Ketanosaki observation open space
(Pet name: Hakuto-no-oka)

Let's cross the pedestrian bridge!

You can eat and shop

You can take meals, breaks and buy souvenirs.

② Fuzo-fugen-no-ike
(pond of no increase, no decrease)
Mitarashi-ike Pond

③ Hakuto Shrine

⑤ The southern limit zone of Hamanasu
(Rugosa rose) grow naturally

④ Hokyoin-to pagoda and Gorinto tower group

Legend

- Toilet
- Traffic hazards
- Basic Course
- Parking lot
- Restaurant
- Best photo spot
- Explanation signboard
- Route
- Rice paddy
- Farmland & pasture

There are lots of spots to enjoy at Hakuto Beach.

①Michi-no-eki (Roadside station) Mythology Village Shirousagi



The view of Hakuto Beach, which is famous for the mythology "Inaba no shirousagi", spreads in front of you. You can directly cross the pedestrian bridge and reach the Hakuto Beach from the second floor. It is bustling with surfers, beachgoers, and worshipers of Hakuto Shrine. Tel: 0857-59-6700 / Open hours: 8:00 am - 10:00 pm / open all year round (From December 3 to February 28 open hours change to 8:30 am - 10:00 pm)

②Fuzo-fugen-no-ike (pond of no increase, no decrease) Mitarashi-ike Pond



It is a small freshwater pond with a diameter of about 30m, a circumference of about 100m, and a depth of 1.0m. But it is a mysterious pond and said that the water level does not rise even if it rains heavily, and almost does not decline even if dry weather continued. The pond has been called "Fuza-fugen-no-ike (pond of no increase, no decrease)" from the Edo period. In addition, it is said that "the pond where the Usagi has washed its body which has been peeled off by the ferocious shark (Wanizame)".

③Hakuto Shrine



It is unknown about the founding, but it was re-created by Kamei Yoshinori, who had been the lord of Shikano Castle, and it was also called "Usagi no Miya", "Daito Daimyojin", or "Hakuto Daimyojin" during the Edo period. It is known as a Shinto shrine wonder-working for skin diseases, and in recent years it has been regarded as the god of marriage, as it had arranged the marriage of Ōkuninushi no Mikoto and Yakami-hime.

Bembix niponica habitat (Hakuto Shrine)



The precincts of Hakuto Shrine are beautifully managed sandy soil, and there are many hard-to-find Japanese sand wasp habitat. This species is a hunting bee that digs holes in sandy soil such as beaches and is designated as endangered species nationwide. You can see them flying around the grounds about July when they are active. You may see the bee carrying in hunted other insects into the hole. The bee is not dangerous with strong aggression, so please watch them warmly.

④Hokyo-in-to pagoda and Gorinto tower group



When digging sands in May 1973, from sand dunes called "Miboshiyama" behind the Hakuto Beach, several Gorinto towers and Hōkyōin-to pagoda were excavated, which were built as tomb towers and memorial towers. Since they were relics that can be determined the age, we could identify the formation age of sand dune. (Refer to ※ Geo column 2)

⑤The southern limit zone of Hamanasu (Rugosa rose) grow naturally



Hamanasu (Rugosa rose) is a deciduous shrub of the Rosa Rosacea. It is a plant that grows in cold regions, and in Japan, it is often found in Hokkaido. In Tottori Prefecture, it is found on the Hakuto Beach and Beach of Daisen-cho, and both are designated as natural monuments of the country as the southern limit zone of Hamanasu (Rugosa rose) grow naturally.

⑥An outcrop of Hakuto gravel layer



In the geological strata seen here contain many round large stones (or gravel). Such strata are called gravel layers. Some of the stones include large stones as large as 40 cm, but such stones are not carried by river's sluggish stream. It is thought that it was carried by a strong flow called "mudslide" generated by heavy rain and so on.

⑦Koijima Rock



A rock that has just appeared on the beach and said to be a place where Ōkuninushi no Mikoto fall in love with Yakami-hime. A stone lantern was built on the highest Kagura-iwa by the local young people in 1858.

⑧Ketasaki observation open space



From the observation open space on top of the Kitanosaki, you can see the coastline of Tottori sand dunes and the mountains behind it, as well as the entire Hakuto Beach.

Recommend Okinoshima Island



Okinoshima Island is made up of rocks (volcanic tuff rock) that were piled up of volcanic ash and volcanic scoria from volcanic activity of Miocene epoch about 20 million years ago. The island is divided into blocks by faults running east to west. The shore platform spreads to the north and south of the island, the north side is called "Senjojiki", and the south side is connected like a stepping stone, so it has been likening the back of a ferocious shark that appears in "Inaba no shirousagi (the hare of Inaba)."

Geo-Column①

The mythology "Inaba no shirousagi" (the hare of Inaba)

The story of "Inaba no shirousagi" is a myth described in "Kojiki (The Records of Ancient Matters)", which was compiled about 1,300 years ago. It is written in the beginning of the story of the Ōkuninushi no Mikoto as "Inaba no shirousagi." The Kanji character's meaning of "Shiro Usagi" means "Usagi (hare) returned to its original appearance" or "naked Usagi (hare)". The story of the Myth is as follows. "In the old days, a hare tried to cross the sea, from the Okinoshima Island to the other side of Ketamisaki Cape and cheated a ferocious shark and try to land. Then, when a hare told the shark that he was deceiving, the shark got angry and peeled off the rabbit and made it naked. The elder-brother gods of Ōkuninushi no Mikoto who passed by to get to Yakami-hime to propose her, tell the struggling hare, 'cleanse in the seawater and exposed to wind,' and when the hare follow their instructions, his pain increased. When Ōkuninushi no Mikoto passed by lastly, he thought the hare to 'Wash yourself with the fresh water of the water gate and attach common cat-tail's pollen to his body,' and when the hare followed his instructions the hare returned to its original body." This is the end of the widely known story. There are various theories of the stage of mythology, and some said "Okinoshima" is another island located offshore or Shimane Prefecture's "Ōki no shima Island."



Stone statue of the mythology "Inaba no shirousagi."

Quiz-Answer

- ①: 28Petal
- ②: Rosaceae
- ③: A divine message box of Shirousagi

Geo-Column②

Formation of a Miboshiyama (Hakuto Sand Dunes)

From the south to the southeast of Hakuto Shrine, there is the Miboshiyama (Hakuto Sand Dunes), which is said "a hare dried up its body." When sand is dugged at the southern end of this sand dune in 1973, two layers of black humus sand and many Gorinto towers and Hōkyōin-to pagoda, clayware of Kofun period (tumulus period), porcelain and old coins of medieval era were discovered. The black humus sand indicates that the sand dune is covered with plants and is the cessation period of sand dune formation. And, because fragments of clay pots of the Yayoi period were discovered from the top of the lower black humus sand, and pots of Sue pottery, Hajiki, and the stone coffins inside the kofun were found from the top of the upper black humus sand, we can imagine that the people of that days were living on the black humus sand. In addition, from the sand dunes above the black humus sand, medieval relics and stone pagodas of 1717 (Kyoho 2) were found. The stone towers standing on the current ground surface are from the end of the Edo period. Thus, from each sand dune layer and its excavated items, we could say that sand dunes were not formed continuously but were formed within a short period of time while putting some resting stage. And, according to the development and cessation of the sand dune, people also moved their place of life, and the history is inscribed in the sand dunes.

Histogram of the excavated items of the Miboshiyama (Hakuto sand dune.)

Kiyoharu Hoshimi, 1987 the changes from the original

