United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark

A mysterious canyon that has been selected as one of the 100 best unexplored regions in Japan and beautiful landscape of rice terraces.

Torokawa Valley & Itashino Course

San'in Kaigan Geopark Walk Model Course

Itashino has appealing resources such as beautiful nature, history, rich harvest, and people living here. You can enjoy Torokawa Valley, which is selected as the 100 secluded places in Japan, and you can see many historical sites. This area also offers delicious rice grown in rice terraces and plentiful harvests from the highlands. Local people who value the community are putting together events to make this area appealing to visitors.

Roku-jizo
This jizo was made with a wish to stop landslides.

Enogami Tumulus
A straight lines are engraved on the mural painting inside the stone chamber.

To Muraoka, and Route 9

rice terraces

4 Terraced Rice Paddy Fields (Land slide area)

3 Gunshu Shrine

To Hachikita, and Route 9

89

135

To Ojiro

89

Traces of Itashino Castle

Enogami Tumulus

Suisha Goya (Small restaurant with a watermill) "Torokawa"

Start & Goal

2 Landscape of Itashino

House decorated by Udatsu on the roof.

1 Community Center and the *Kojin* Shrine, the deity of Safety

Sarutahikonoomikami is enshrined.

※The road in the area and are very narrow. Please be careful when driving.

※The road in the area and rice terraces are very narrow. Please be careful when driving. You are not allowed to park there.

To protect the beautiful natural, do not take stones or plants home. Please keep out of the danger area, and do not enter the site where you are not allowed to. You can bring back home your memories, pictures, and the local souvenirs!

5 Torokawa Inari Shrine

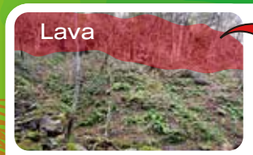
Approach to Torokawa Inari Shrine

6 Daifuku Rocks (Volcanic conglomerate)

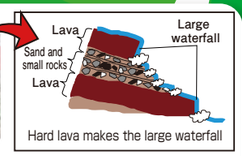
9 "Jusanbutsu" and Roku-jizo

7 Mysterious Boulders

※You will need equipment to climb the mountain from here



Both sides of the valley are cliffs. They show cross section of old volcano.



Traces of volcanic activity after the formation of the Japanese archipelago

8 Soshin Waterfall (Lava erupted 3 million years ago)

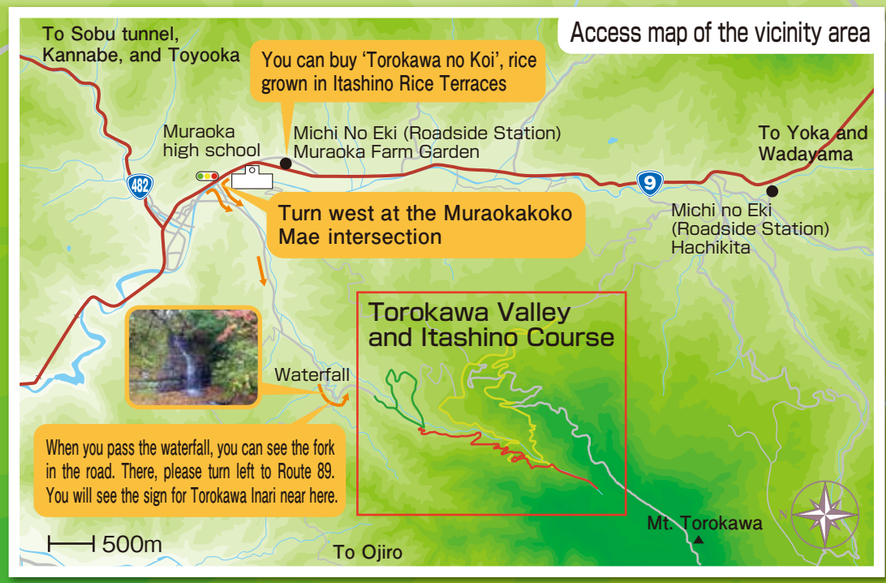
10 Torokawa Waterfall (Lava erupted 3 million years ago)

Trekking with Family
Inquiry : Uzuka no Mori
TEL:0796-96-0024

Legend

- Itashino and Rice Terraces Course
- Torokawa-Inari Shrine Course
- Arukokai Course (Advanced Course) (We offer an event on the third Monday in October)
- Promenade
- Route
- Information Board
- Parking Lot
- Restrooms
- Photo Spot
- Bus Stop
- Rice Fields Trace
- Fields

Access map of the vicinity area



Itashino and Rice Terraces Course

Start ※Walk-Time

- Suisha Goya (Small restaurant with a watermill)
- 5 minutes ↓ About 500m
- ① Community Center and the Statue of *Kojin*, the God of Safety
- 5 minutes ↓ About 300m
- ② Landscape of Itashino
- 5 minutes ↓ About 500m
- ③ Gunshu Shrine
- 20 minutes ↓ About 1km
- ④ Terraced Rice Paddy Fields of Itashino
- 30 minutes ↓ About 1km
- Suisha Goya (Small restaurant with a watermill)

Total traveling time:1h 30min
Total distance:About 3.5km

Torokawa Valley Course

Start ※Walk-Time

- Suisha Goya (Small restaurant with a watermill)
- 20 minutes ↓ About 1.5km
- ⑤ The Torii (gateway) at the entrance of the Torokawa Inari Shrine
- 5 minutes ↓ About 200m
- ⑥ Daifuku Rocks
- 10 minutes ↓ About 500m
- ⑦ Mysterious Boulders
- 30 minutes ↓ About 1.5km
- ⑨ "Jusanbutsu" and Roku-jizo
- ⑧ Soshin Waterfall
- 20 minutes ↓ About 1km
- ⑩ Torokawa Waterfall
- 80 minutes ↓ About 4km
- Suisha Goya (Small restaurant with a watermill)

Total traveling time: 3h
Total distance: About 9 km

N

300m

Inquiry: **San'in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council** phone.**0796-26-3783** fax.**0796-26-3785** Website **http://sanin-geo.jp/**

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Lots of Places to Visit Itashino / Torokawa Valley

① Community Center and the *Kojin Shrine*, the deity of Safety

From the public hall located in the middle of the village, you can overlook a whole of Itashino village. The gentle slope land on the opposite bank of Torokawa is a landslide area, where is occupied by rice terraces and rice is cultivated. The Kojin shrine, located next to the public hall, enshrines Saltanohikonoomikami, and cute round stones are lined up in front of the shrine.

② Landscape of Itashino

"Itashino" is characterized by the distribution of houses being aligned along the winding topography of the valley. In order to build a house on a sloping land, large stones from the surrounding area are used for the base of the house, creating a tasteful landscape. In some of the houses in the village, you can see "Udatsu", which is a kind of decoration of the roof and also has a role of fire prevention.

③ Gunshu Shrine

A shrine dedicated to Taira no Shigemori. The main shrine, which is said to have been built in 1408, is a cultural property designated by the prefecture. You can see the architectural style of the Muromachi period in the building materials, such as Kumimono (ways of assembling beam) and Kaerumata (building materials that support the load from above).

④ Rice terraces (Land slide area)

Rice terraces laid on gentle slopes of landslide area. Rice is cultivated in old-fashioned rice terraces without land readjustment. Some of the rice harvested here is branded as "Torokawa no Koi (Love of Torokawa) " and "Itashino Rice" and has a good reputation for its taste. *For the relationship between landslides and rice terraces, see Geocolumn ②.

⑤ Torokawa Inari Shrine

A shrine with a unique atmosphere in which huge conglomerate boulders are scattered in a thick forest. The main shrine is also built between these megaliths.
There are many cavities that look like fox habitats between the boulders and the ground. The festival is held here on May 4th every year, and the book is opened once every seven years.

⑥ Daifuku Rocks (Volcanic conglomerate)

The megaliths that are scattered in the precincts of Torokawa Inari shrine are "conglomerates" (Daifuku rocks), which have been made of many stones (gravel) cemented together over a long period of time. You can see that it is made up of a collection of different size and shape of stones. How did this come about? Please see Geocolumn ① for details.

⑦ Mysterious Boulders

A megalith of 2m or more that suddenly appears in the square. Unlike the giant boulders of Daifuku rock, it is very hard and cracked into a plate. This is a volcanic rock that previously rolled down from the top of a cliff, and plate-like cracks (joints) were created when the lava cooled and solidified as it flowed. There is also a round pattern on the surface of the rock, which is thought to be a creature (lichen) that grew in the cracks of the rock.

⑧ Soshin Waterfall (Lava erupted 3 million years ago)

Since the appearance of being bifurcated is likened to a couple, it is also called a couple waterfall, and it is said that the one with more abundant water flowing is the husband. The lava that flows out by the volcanic activities after the formation of the Japanese archipelago is hard and becomes a waterfall with a large head such as Soshin waterfall or a Torokawa waterfall.

⑨ "Jusanbutsu" and Roku-jizo

It was dedicated for the safety and happiness of climbers in 1983 at the occasion of the maintenance of the promnade. The surrounding area is covered with thick forests, including large Japanese Judas tree, and combined with clean water, it creates a fantastic atmosphere. The Torokawa Valley has been selected as one of the 100 best unexplored regions in Japan because of its mysterious atmosphere.

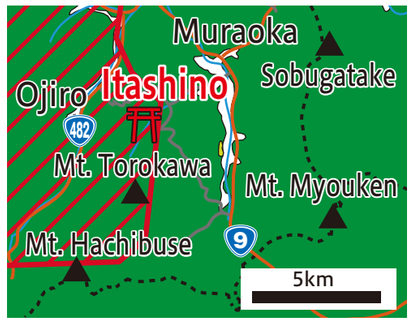
⑩ Torokawa Waterfall (Lava erupted 3 million years ago)

Water is flowing like sliding down on a hard lava step created by withstanding erosion, and the head is about 50 m. The glowing black lava walls and the glowing white water create a beautiful contrast with the colors of the surrounding trees and sky, entertaining climbers throughout the four seasons. Fudo Myoo stands on the far right of the waterfall basin.

Geo Column ①

How was this strange rock of Torokawa-Inari Shrine formed?

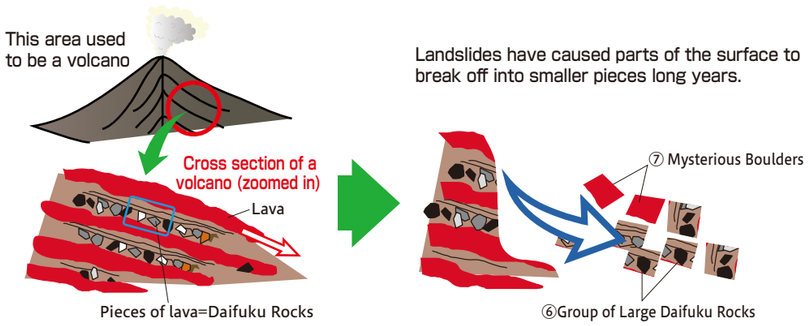
1) Around Torokawa and Mt. Oginosen, there used to be especially large calderas. This region had lots of volcanic activity between about 3 million years ago and 400,000 years ago. Today, the area of Itashino is located along the edge of that caldera.



The part shaded in red on this map indicates a "caldera," which is a large volcanic crater. The area of Itashino is located along the edge of the caldera and the houses are located inside of it. Rice Terraces are located outside of the caldera.

2) About 3 million years ago, volcanoes erupted around Torokawa area. Lava and volcanic ash accumulated around volcanic crater. Specifically, rainfall caused the rubble to slide, which became part of the layers of volcano – making the volcano larger. We call it Daifukuiwa (Daifuku Rocks: volcanic conglomerate). Many years later, it hardened together.

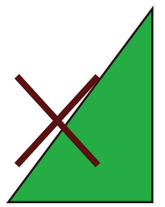
3) Alongside riverbeds, many years of wind, rain, and river flow eroded the mountain slide so the layers are visible. One day, a landslide caused parts of the surface to break off into smaller pieces.



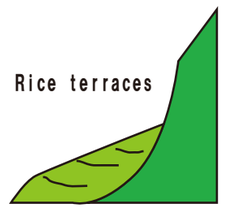
Geo Column ②

Why the rice grown in rice terraces is delicious?

The rice terraces of Itashino were created by many landslides. You can see many similar cases all around the Chugoku Mountains, where there are hardly any flat surfaces that grow rice. The soil in this type of environment is rich in nitrogen, which is a vital nutrient. It is also easy for us to control the water, which means that this area is suited for growing rice. There is a big difference in temperature between night and day, so we can have the high-quality rice with increased sweetness. The area around Itashino rice terrace is mainly composed of Miocene sedimentary rocks (shallow marine sediments) which was formed with formation of Sea of Japan. These rocks are brittle, so frequently landslides occur in this area. While praying to Jizo landslide not occur, they have been making best use of landslide area.



The slopes of the mountains are too steep for rice fields or building house

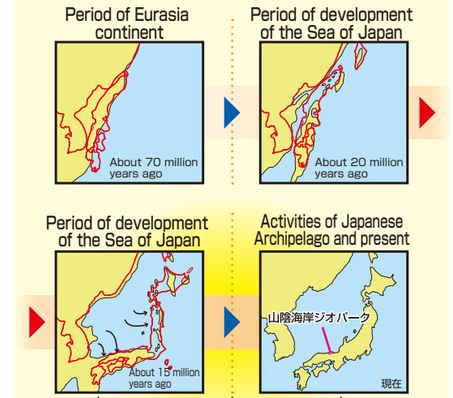


The gentle slopes caused by landslides can be used for rice fields and building houses.

Geological environment of the area around Itashino

The theme of San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark is…

Diverse topography, geology, climate and people's lives related to the development of the Sea of Japan.



The area around the rice terraces in Itashino is occupied by sediments of mud and sand deposited in the sea during the latter half of the development period of the Sea of Japan.(Geo Column②)

The lava and conglomerate of the Torokawa Valley and the conglomerate of Daifuku Rocks were formed by volcanic activities that continued even after the formation of the Japanese archipelago.(Geo Column① 1･2)

Occurrence of landslides and using the area as rice terraces, worship of Torokawa Inari shrine, people's lives a little before continues to live. (Geo Column① 3.②)

Produced:San'in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council,Graduate School of Regional Resource Management,University of Hyogo