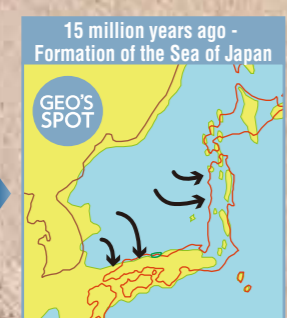




How the Japanese Islands Split from the Eurasian Continent

Formation of the Sea of Japan and the Japanese Islands

Sea of Japan
Land
The form of the present continent
The form of the present Japan Islands
San'in Kaigan Geopark



What is the San'in Kaigan Geopark?

The Geopark is comprised of important geological areas which tell the story of Kami Town's history. Visiting the various Geopark locations lets one experience the area's culture and heritage come to life! The San'in Kaigan Geopark was recognized by the World Geopark Network and has been supported by UNESCO since October of 2010. At the Geopark, one can see the history of mankind's interaction with nature from a period when the Japanese archipelago was just a fraction of continental Asia.

Please send enquiries to:
Kami Town Office, Tourism,
Commerce and Industry Division

Kasumi 870-1 Kasumi Ward, Mikata County
Hyogo Prefecture, JAPAN 669-6592

Tel.0796-36-3355 Fax,0796-36-3809

San'in Kaigan Geopark

KAMI TOWN MAP

GEO'S SPOT

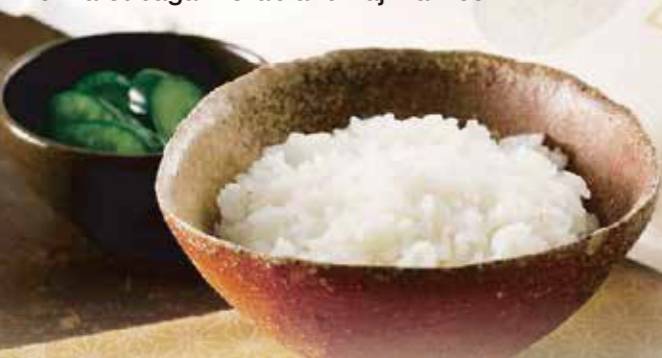
KAMI TOWN

KAMI TOWN
TAJIMA
HYOGO

Food of the Geopark

[Kami Town]

The climate and landforms unique to Kami town, ranging from its dynamic sea to its high mountains, produces high class ingredients like the Matsubagani Crab and Tajima Beef.



Matsubagani crab is a rich, delicious food from the sea. The male snow crabs arrive in winter and are carefully selected and tagged at each port in Shibayama, Kasumi.

Kasumi is the only port in the entire prefecture that catches these crabs, which have a longer fishing season than the Matsubagani crab. Throughout Japan, this crab soars in popularity under the title, "The Crab of Kasumi."



A living dish of white squid. The taste of its translucent white meat and crunchy texture are unrivaled.



The meat of the Rosy Seabass "Nodoguro" is similar to fatty tuna. They are delicious and can be enjoyed grilled, boiled, or as sashimi.

Wealth of Seafood

The secret of the Geopark's dishes is in the foods' "environment."



Muraoka Rice
Muraoka Rice has won first place in the "Annual International Rice Flavor Competition," four times in total. Most recently, it has won for three consecutive years. In this competition, rice is examined for superior flavor. The use of natural agricultural techniques and the unique climate of Muraoka produces this delicious, nationally top-ranked class of rice.



Tanada Rice
Tanada Rice in Kami Town is delicious due to it being grown amongst the Tanada Valley's clean water and air. The Tanada Valley, also known as "The Green Dam," acts as a natural dam and prevents flooding in the valley. The sweet flavor of the rice is determined by harvesting the rice when the temperature is at its highest. The high temperature increases the sugar content in the rice.



Kasumitsuru Sake
Kasumitsuru Sake has a unique, original flavor that is characteristic of the Kimotozukuri process of brewing sake. Made in a brewery that was founded in 1725, the pure water from Kami Town's own Yadagawa River creates refreshing sake that matches perfectly with the local seafood.

(Sake brewery tours can be arranged.)
tel.0796-36-0029



A Delicious Bounty from the Sea
The Sea of Japan was formed when the mainland of Japan separated from the Eurasian continent millions of years ago. As a result of this geographic change, water in the Sea of Japan at depths of less than 300 meters is heated by the warm Tsushima current flowing on the surface of the sea. The presence of both warm and cool seawater in the Sea of Japan provides a welcoming habitat for many plankton which makes the area an ideal fishing ground. The Sea of Japan provides an abundant amount of delicious food from both land and sea all year round.

San'in Kaigan Geopark Center

Kami Town A Center for Ocean Culture

The first floor of the Geopark Center includes the Geopark Corner, which features an introduction to the San'in Kaigan Geopark and Kami Town's charming Geo's Spots. One can view replicas of fossilized footprints and an exhibit of fossilized plants. Tips on how to enjoy the Geopark along with sightseeing brochures for the area are available on this floor. On the second floor is the Reference Room, which displays taxidermed fish of the world and about 1,700 different taxidermed crustaceans. This small museum features a display of a Kitamaebune ship, along with information about fishing in Kasumi.



- Admission fee (2nd floor): Adult ¥300 / Junior and Senior High School Students ¥200 / Child ¥100
- The first floor is free.
- Fixed Holiday: Closed every Wednesday. Closed the next day when Wednesday is a national holiday.
- Free Parking ● tel. 0796-36-4671



Tajima cattle out to pasture



Tajima Beef
Tajima cows were originally kept as a form of transport and to cultivate rice fields. Their excellent genes have been sustained by repeated breeding in villages along valleys surrounded by high mountains. The breed has continued to improve with the passage of time and Tajima Beef is renowned throughout the whole country as a top brand name in cattle, as well as the origin of the famous Kobe Beef.



Turtle dishes



Sturgeon dishes

Suppon Turtles Sturgeon Fish
Suppon Turtles do not hibernate because they are farmed in warm, mineral-rich thermal water. Because of these conditions, the turtles grow faster than normal. In addition, the natural hot spring water and mountain streams in Ojira are ideal for the breeding of sturgeon. Luxurious caviar and fish with a hot, distinctive charm and elegant taste are the results of raising these sturgeon for 8-10 years.

About the Onsens

Experience the relaxing result of 4.6 billion years by bathing in our hot springs. These four hot springs are the pride of Kami Town.



Ojiron Onsen and Spa

Enjoy nature while bathing in this natural hot spring which features a comfortable temperature and mineral-rich light brown water.

tel.0796-97-3232
Hours from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Closed every Monday
Admission Fee Adult ¥300 Child ¥150
Spring Quality Neutral, hypotonic and simple hot spring.

※ Opened when Monday is a national holiday.



Muraoka Onsen and Spa

Muraoka Onsen is characterized by its marble surroundings and comfortable bath towels. Fresh, natural water is constantly flowing through this onsen, so no drop of water is ever used twice.

tel.0796-98-1512
Hours from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Closed Open every day
Admission Fee Adult ¥500 Child ¥300
Spring Quality Slightly alkaline, hypotonic and simple hot spring



Hachikita Onsen and Spa

This onsen's water contains natural elements which remove active oxygen and help to heal illness and injury.

tel.0796-96-1666
Hours from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Closed Closed on the Tuesday in Jul.1-Jul.20 and Sep.1-Nov.20
Admission Fee Adult ¥600 Child ¥300
Spring Quality Simple, refreshing, low-temperature hot spring

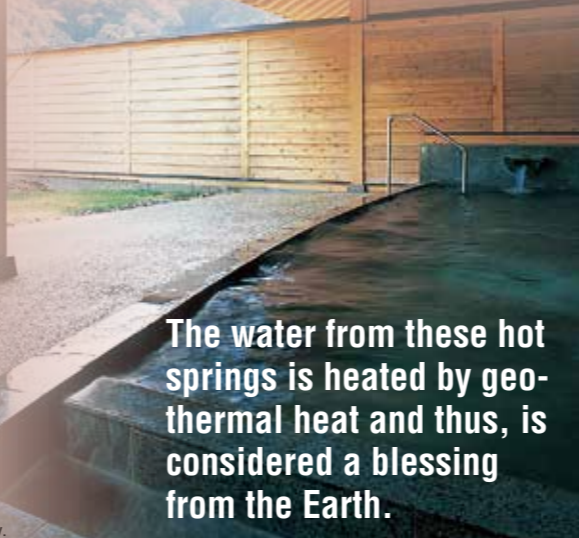


Yadagawa Onsen and Spa

Relax amongst the mountains and Yadagawa River in this outdoor bath.

tel.0796-37-1126
Hours from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Closed every Wednesday
Admission Fee Adult ¥600 Child ¥300
Spring Quality Sodium calcium-sulfate, chloride and hot springs

※ Closed the next day when Wednesday is a national holiday.



The water from these hot springs is heated by geothermal heat and thus, is considered a blessing from the Earth.

Spiritual Places of the Geopark

Kami-Town: Spiritual Power Spots: Bringing Feelings of Awe and Respect for the Earth



Kaerujima (Frog Island)
Kaerujima is an andesite island that, after years of erosion, has come to look like a frog (kaeru). The word which means "to return" in Japanese is also kaeru. Because of this, it is said that in the old days, sailors prayed to Kaerujima for a safe return. Even nowadays, some people pray to Kaerujima for the return of something lost, or for a change in their character.



Yoshitaki Falls [Ojira Ward]
It is said that a visit to this waterfall with a significant other will result in everlasting love. It is also called "urami no taki," because you can view it from behind as well. The upper section of the waterfall is 23 meters high and the lower section is 5 meters high, its total height being 28 meters. The rocks supporting the waterfall are made of andesite and lava, which erupted from Mt. Hachikita.



Saruodaki Falls [Muraoka Ward]
Named "Saruodaki" because of its likeness to a monkey's tail (saru), this waterfall is 60 meters high and was selected as one of the One Hundred Most Famous Waterfalls of Japan. The "Boulder of Saruodaki" is a famous stone comprised of porphyrite, and is also known as Saruodaki Hingan. Saruodaki is located off of Route 9. It is said that if you can see seven naturally occurring stone images of Buddha here, you will gain happiness. When the weather is sunny, one can see a rainbow appear at around 2 p.m.

Please, ask me anything about Saruodaki!

Full of energy! Our special guides can tell you all about Saruodaki Falls!

Specialty Guide in Hyogo, Mr. Nishimura.

For reservations and questions, contact
Kami Town Muraoka Sightseeing Association
tel.0796-94-0123



Naturally Occurring Geographic Sculptures

Three Sister Captains and the Kasumi Seashore



Pleasure Boat Kasumimaru

One can enjoy a sightseeing tour of the finest parts of the Kasumi Seashore.

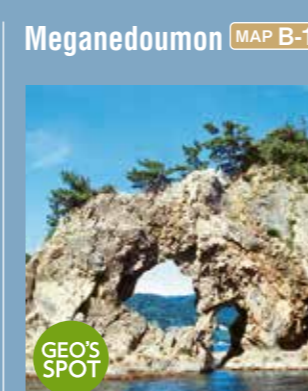
tel.0796-36-0571



Yoro no Sode [Japanese National Treasure]
With a height of 65 meters and a width of 200 meters, this area is considered a natural treasure of Japan.



Taka no Su jima
This area is formed from the red rocks of Yoro no Sode. It is said to resemble a Native American headdress.



Meganedoumon
Due to erosion from the waves, two large holes are located along this line of stone, forming the shape of a pair of glasses (megane).

Located at the center of the San'in Seashore Geopark, a beautiful, grand scene can be seen throughout all four seasons. The cliff is a "sculpture of the ground" that gives you a sense of how the Japan Sea was formed.