

The Animal Footprint Fossils of Hirajima

MAP C-2



In 2003, fossilized traces of large mammals, reptiles and birds were found here. The fossils range from 20 million to 17 million years old. These fossils were discovered in layers of sand and mud at the bottom of a lake which used to connect to the Sea of the Japan. In Hiranojima, you can see fossilized footprints of cranes, elephants, rhinoceros and deer. A signboard is posted to assist visitors in locating and viewing these fossils.



Explanation Signboard

Kaname no taki Falls and Sandan no taki Falls

MAP B-6



Kaname no taki Falls and Sandan no taki Falls are two gentle waterfalls. The source of their streams is Mt. Hotoke-no-O (1227 m). The water from these falls flows into the Kusube River and a branch of the Yada River leading to the Sea of Japan. Both waterfalls measure 10 meters high and are composed of volcanic rock known as rhyolite. One can access the waterfalls by car and a short walk up the road next to the restaurant "Takimitei" in the Kusube Ravine. Sandan no taki Falls are on the right side as you approach and Kaname no taki Falls are on the opposite side.

Niiyahattandaki Falls

MAP B-7

Niiyahattandaki Falls is composed of eroded andesite (igneous volcanic rock) which makes up Mt. Hachibuse. The falls are 32 meters high. The upper part of the waterfall consists of andesite, which has many crevices. The lower part is comprised of a combination of many types of rock. Light pink Rhododendrons start to bloom around the waterfall in the last ten days in April. Around the same time, wild magnolia, walnut and chestnut trees begin to bud. The area around the waterfall is filled with edible wild plants. In fall, one can enjoy the autumn tints of maple trees and in winter, the whole waterfall becomes an icy work of art.

Ojiro Valley

MAP A-7



Ojiro Valley is the source of the Yadagawa River, which ranges from Hyounosengoe's Hyonosen-kosan-naki mountain quasi-national park (960 m) to the lower reaches of the Akioka River. The valley is about 12 km long. A primeval forest containing beautiful horse chestnut and beech trees can be seen along the Yadagawa River, streaming into the valley known as "Tajima Kiso" and coloring the gorge with foliage. The view in autumn is especially astonishing. Ahead of the Ojiro Valley is Uodome Falls. It is said that even fish cannot swim past this waterfall.

Midori no Tawara Ishi

MAP B-4



Midori no Tawara Ishi was formed out of basalt when the present landform of Japan was formed. The geological formation of Midori no Tawara Ishi is similar to that of the Genbu-do basalt formation located in Toyo-oka City. This wall of rock is about 70 meters wide and 20 meters high. Located on this rock wall is a crack with a diameter of about 50 cm. The rocks form the shapes of quadrangles, pentagons and hexagons. The stone has the appearance of a straw bag that has been split open, hence the name "Midori no Tawara Ishi," or, "Straw bag rock."

Okami Park

MAP C-1



A stone lantern standing on a scenic hill marks one of the top 100 places to view the sunset in Japan. In the Edo period, Kitamae-Bune trading boat merchants observed the ocean from here to forecast the weather. This park was once an island called Ichikinejima but a sand bar developed due to earth and soil carried by the Yadagawa and Kasumidanigawa rivers and now it is attached to the mainland. The land here is comprised of layers of tuff (compacted volcanic ash) and andesite (an igneous volcanic rock) which gives the cliff on the west side of the park a beautiful appearance of geometric columns, known as columnar jointing.

Daijyo-ji Temple (Ohkyodera)

MAP C-2



This temple was founded in the Nara period (710-784) and features all 165 paintings on the fusuma (sliding paper door) painted by Maruyama Ohkyo and his clan, which are designated as important national cultural assets. Because of this, the temple is also known as "Ohkyodera Temple." The paintings are arranged according to the actual natural surroundings such as Kasumi Bay and the Yadagawa River. The peaceful atmosphere of the reception hall and the scenic nature harmonize with Buddhist philosophy to create a spectacular art space. On the relaxing guided tour, the unique paintings by the Ohkyo clan do not disappoint.

●Fee: Adult ¥800 Elementary School Student ¥500
●Hours: 9:00 - 16:00 (Last entry 15:40) ●Free Parking
tel.0796-36-0602

Amarube Railroad Bridge

MAP B-1



The new concrete railroad bridge has been in use since fall of 2010. It has dramatically decreased the number of bridge closures due to strong winds in winter.



The original Amarube Railroad Bridge

This historical trestle bridge was built in 1912 for the San'in Honsen rail line. It is 41.5 meters high and 309 meters long. The Amarube Railroad Bridge and the Toukan Tunnel were the most difficult part of the San'in Honsen railroad line to construct. This long iron bridge was built over a valley near Amarube so that the length of the Toukan Tunnel would be as short as possible. Although the Amarube Railroad Bridge has been replaced with a new one made of concrete, three of the original bridge piers still remain standing.

Imagoura

MAP D-1



Obikinohana Observatory

This cape, which is composed of andesite (an igneous volcanic rock) is one of the top 100 places to view the sunset in Japan. It is located on the northern end of Imagoura. Visitors can enjoy viewing the Kasumi coast and the Sea of Japan.



Senjoujiki Rock Boards

This rock shore was formed by large waves eroding tuff (compacted volcanic ash) over time. "Senjou" means 1,000 tatami-mat sized area of land. Visitors here can enjoy fishing and observing flora and fauna.



About Kasumi

Kasumi Tourism Association

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About Ojiro

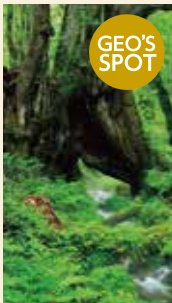
Ojiro Tourism Association

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Wachi no Ookatsura (The Great Katsura of Wachi)

MAP C-6

Located in Wachi, Muraoka-ku is a large Katsura tree that has grown over a mountain stream. It is designated as a natural monument in Hyogo Prefecture. This tree is over a thousand years old. Its trunk is 16 meters around and the tree itself is 38 meters high. Spring water with a temperature of roughly 10 degrees Celsius is continually gushing from underneath the roots of this tree at a rate of about five tons a day. In 2008, this water was selected as one of the 100 Exquisite and Well-Conserved Water Sources of the Heisei period. Because of the extremely high purity and low mineral content of this soft water, it is said to be good for brewing coffee, making maccha and cooking vegetables. Because the water is so delicate to the skin, it is gentle enough to use for a baby's first bath.



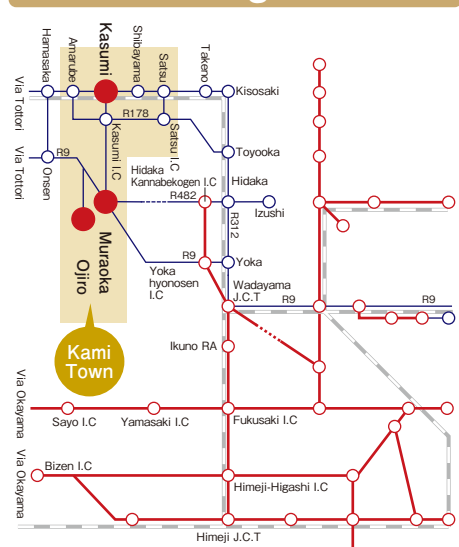
Onuma Marsh of Hachikita

MAP B-6



Mt. Hachibuse is located on the east side of the mountainous region of Chugoku, 1221 meters above sea level. This mountain, formed by years of weathering and erosion, is composed of andesite (an igneous volcanic rock) and tuff (compacted volcanic ash). Onuma Marsh is located in a small valley between Mt. Hachibuse and Mt. Torokawa (1039 m) at 820 meters above sea level. A variety of plants can be found in this area, including about 30,000 Eastern Skunk Cabbages (Zazensou). These plants are notable for their unique appearance when they bloom. From the end of March until the end of April, the flowers grow up through the layer of remaining snow. These plants are designated as a protected plant species in Hyogo Prefecture.

Traffic guide



By Car

From Osaka/Kobe About 2 hours and 20 minutes
●Sanyo expressway→[Sanyo Himeji-higashi IC]→Bantan highway→[Wadayama IC]→Kitakinki-Toyooka tollway→[Hidaka Kannabe-kogen IC]→(via Muraoka-Ojiro-Kasumi R482)(via Kasumi R312→R178)
●Chugoku expressway→[Fukusaki IC]→Bantan highway→[Wadayama IC]→Kitakinki-Toyooka tollway→[Hidaka Kannabe-kogen IC]→(via Muraoka-Ojiro-Kasumi R482)(via Kasumi R312→R178)
●Chugoku expressway→[Yokawa IC]→Maizuru-Wakasa expressway→[Kasuga IC]→Kitakinki-Toyooka tollway→[Hidaka Kannabe-kogen IC]→(via Muraoka-Ojiro-Kasumi R482)(via Kasumi R312→R178)

From Kyoto About 2 hours and 50 minutes
●Trans-Kyoto expressway→[Kyotanba-Mizuho IC]→(R9→R312)→[Wadayama IC]→Kitakinki-Toyooka tollway→[Hidaka Kannabe-kogen IC]→(via Muraoka-Ojiro-Kasumi R482)(via Kasumi R312→R178)

From Himeji About 1 hour and 50 minutes
●Bantan highway→[Wadayama IC]→Kitakinki-Toyooka tollway→[Hidaka Kannabe-kogen IC]→(via Muraoka-Ojiro-Kasumi R482)(via Kasumi R312→R178)

By JR (Japan Railway)

●JR Sanin main line[Hamakaze express]→JR Yoka station
→JR Kasumi station
●JR Sanin main line[Kounotori/Kinosaki express]→JR Yoka Station →JR Kinosaki-onsen station→[Local]→JR Kasumi station