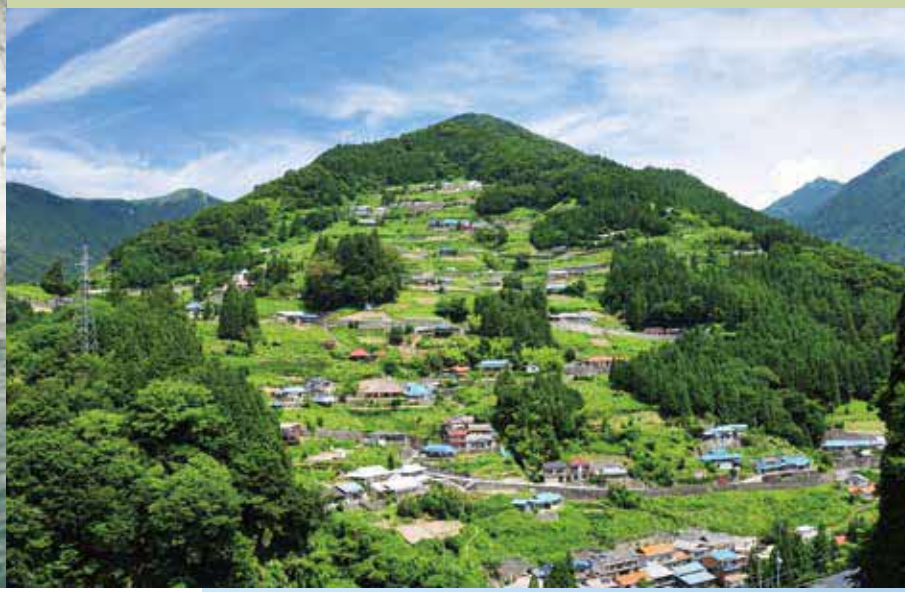
Guide to Traveling the Ever-Moving Land

Miyoshi Geopark

Miyoshi Geopark Map



SNS Access

Welcome to Miyoshi Geopark!

Welcome to Miyoshi Geopark, located in the westernmost part of Tokushima Prefecture. This remarkable area encompasses Miyoshi City and Higashimiyoshi Town. Renowned for its towering mountains, such as Mt. Tsurugi, and the majestic Yoshinogawa River, one of Shikoku's most significant rivers, Miyoshi Geopark offers breathtaking landscapes. Let us guide you through the splendid scenery of Miyoshi Geopark with this comprehensive guidebook!

Are you ready?

Three Tips for Exploring Miyoshi Geopark

① Gather Information About Miyoshi Geopark

Obtain the information you need from brochures or the official website.

② Walk with Local Guides to Discover Your Favorite Scenery

You will encounter fantastic views, such as farm fields on steep mountain slopes.

③ Help Protect This Precious Scenery

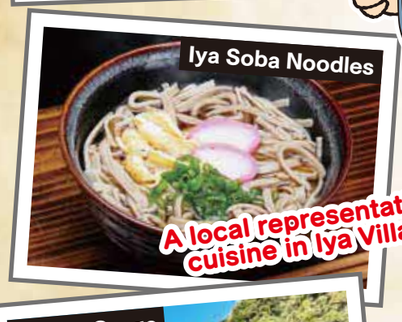
We kindly ask you not to take rocks or plants, damage structures, or enter private property. Thank you for your cooperation.

What is a Geopark?

A Geopark is a place where people can learn about the Earth's past through its geology and landforms, contemplate its future, and engage in a variety of activities. It also represents an ideal model for town planning, fostering a comprehensive understanding of how local geology, geography, biology, and human life are interconnected, and emphasizing the protection of these local heritage. Today, Geopark programs have spread all over the world.

For more details about Geoparks in Japan

Local Unique Attractions Creating Miyoshi Geopark's Scenery



Where can you see these attractions?

Settlements Built in Mountain Slopes

In the Miyoshi Geopark area, you will find many settlements built along the slopes of the Shikoku Mountains and Sanuki Mountain Range. There are more than 200 communities scattered throughout the region. They are typically located on relatively gentle slopes, making life in the mountains more manageable compared to steeper areas.

For more details, check out pages 10 and 11!

There are settlements built on the slopes of the Shikoku Mountains and Sanuki Mountain Range. Here, farming occurs directly on the slopes and houses are built on small, flat fields within the mountains.
These gentle slopes, which form the foundation of the landscape, were created by the past landslides. What caused these landslides?

Most Rugged Valleys and Gorges in Shikoku

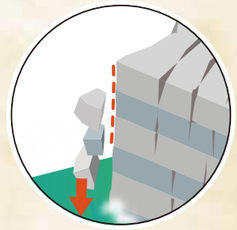
Miyoshi Geopark features three rugged valleys: Oboke-Koboke Gorge along the Yoshinogawa River, Iya Valley along the Iyagawa River, and Mt. Ryugatake along the Matsuogawa River. These areas were once too dangerous for road construction, remaining inaccessible until modern times. To truly appreciate their dramatic landscapes, try viewing them from various anglesmountain peaks, valley roads, and river surfaces.

For more details, check out pages 12 and 13!


Regular view of the river

Flooding (Aug, 2014)

The width of the river cutting through the Oboke-Koboke Gorge is narrow, and bare rocks are visible in the river. The river valleys create a splendid landscape, but they are prone to flooding. When the river water level rises due to floods, it erodes the hard rocks in the river, causing the valley to deepen.



Plains Formed by the Yoshinogawa River

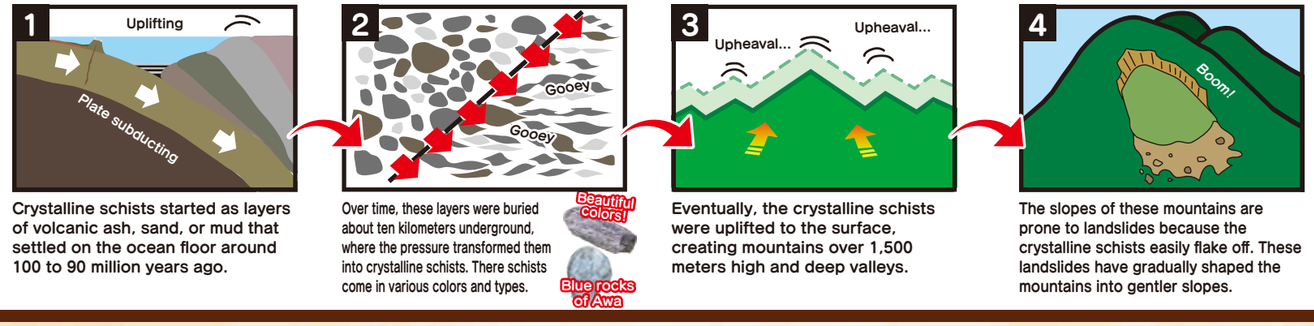
Ikeda Town marks where the Yoshinogawa River shifts eastward, forming plains with distinct geography and history. The north bank has wide, well-drained plains with many ponds, while the south bank, including Ikeda and Ikawa, once thrived on tobacco farming.

For more details, check out pages 14 and 15 (Ikeda), 16 and 17 (Ikawa and HigashiMiyoshi Town),and 18 and 19 (Mino)!

Source: Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (Adding info. on an aerial photo of the GSI Maps)

The variety of landscape seen in Miyoshi Geopark has been created by Earth's past activities.

Shikoku Mountains: The northern Shikoku Mountains are formed from deep-crust crystalline schist, known for high peaks and deep valleys.



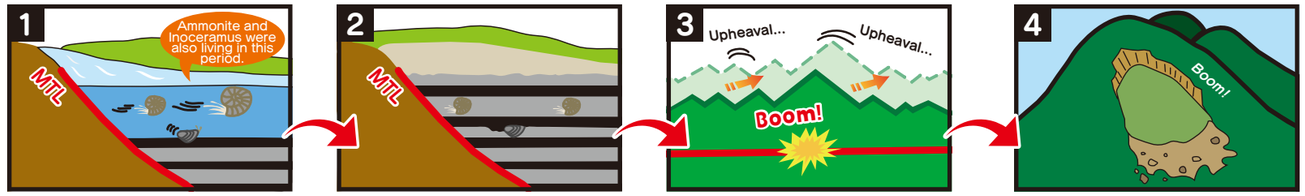
Crystalline schists started as layers of volcanic ash, sand, or mud that settled on the ocean floor around 100 to 90 million years ago.

Over time, these layers were buried about ten kilometers underground, where the pressure transformed them into crystalline schists. There schists come in various colors and types.

Eventually, the crystalline schists were uplifted to the surface, creating mountains over 1,500 meters high and deep valleys.

The slopes of these mountains are prone to landslides because the crystalline schists easily flake off. These landslides have gradually shaped the mountains into gentler slopes.

Sanuki Mountain Range: Formed by the uplift of ocean floor layers that are 80 million years old



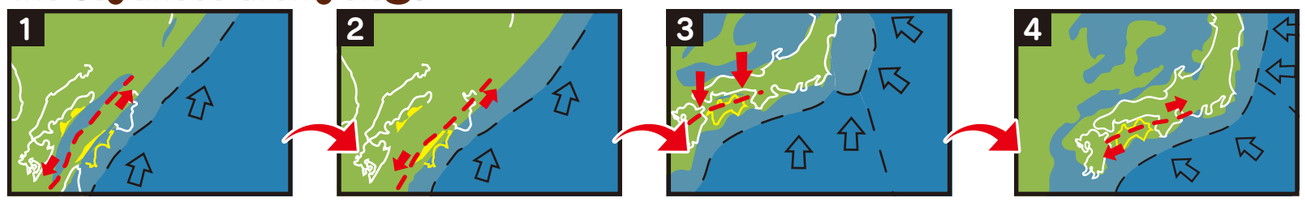
About 80 million years ago, the Sanuki Mountain Range was the ocean bottom. The Median Tectonic Line (MTL) played a significant role in shaping the ocean floor's topography.

Changes in the slip direction of the MTL led to the uplift of the ocean bottom and created the land.

Around 3 million years ago, the slip direction changed to right-lateral, causing uplift north of the MTL. This led to the formation of the Sanuki Mountains.

Repeated landslides in the Sanuki Mountain Range have created gentle slopes in the mountains.

The Median Tectonic Line: The major fault system in the Japanese archipelago



The MTL formed about 100 million years ago. Around 80 million years ago, left-lateral slip placed the ocean north of it.

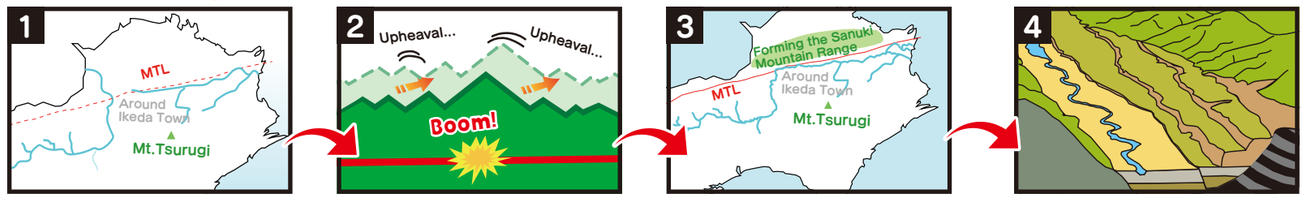
Over time, the MTL experienced changes in its slip direction, transforming the ocean area into land.

This is how it looked before about 3 million years ago. The Yoshinogawa River flowed towards what is now Kagawa Prefecture.

Around 3 million years ago, the slip direction became the same as it is today (right-lateral slip, accompanied by uplift of the land north of the MTL).

Force acting on the MTL | Old plate slipped direction | Plate boundary | Old land | Present Shikoku Island

Yoshinogawa River: The Sanuki Mountain Range cutting off the Yoshinogawa River

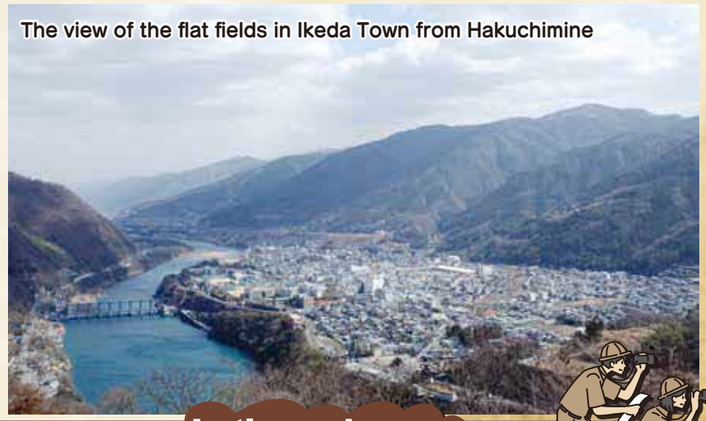


About before 3 million years ago, the Yoshinogawa River flowed north.

Around the same time, the MTL's slip changed to right-lateral, causing uplift north of it. This formed the Sanuki Mountains.

The Sanuki Mountain Range cut off the flow of the Yoshinogawa River, causing the river to change its course to the east about 1.2 million years ago.

Sand and mud brought by the Yoshinogawa River and the Sanuki Mountain Range accumulated around the river, forming flat fields.



Theme of Miyoshi Geopark: Elevated Villages and the Flowing Yoshinogawa River on the Ever-Changing Earth

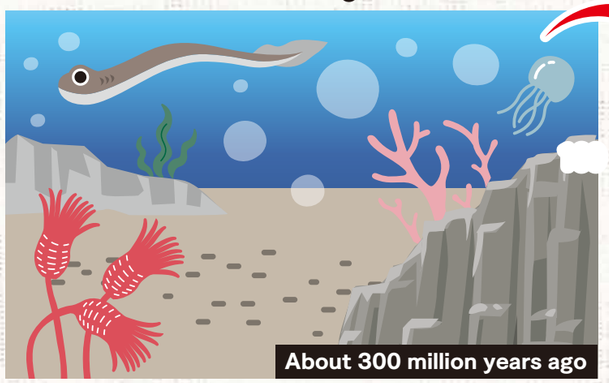
Mt. Tsurugi, Miune, and Tenguzuka Area

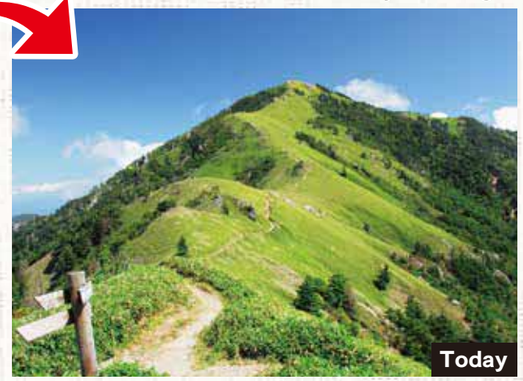
Into Another World of the Shikoku Mountains

Elevation of 1800-1900 Meter Mountains

In the southeastern part of Miyoshi Geopark, there are high-peak mountains such as Mt. Tsurugi (1955m), Mt. Miune (1894m), and Mt. Tenguzuka (1812m). These mountains are known for experiencing strong north-south winds, especially at higher elevations. Tall trees do not grow at these higher elevations; instead, the peaks are covered with rustic grasslands (*Sasa*) and shrub like azalea, creating a unique mountain scenery. Mt. Tsurugi is very famous for being the second highest mountain in western Japan.

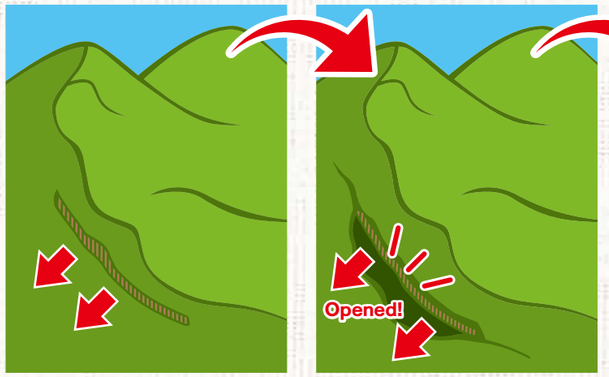
1 .The rocks of Mt. Tsurugi were once the ocean bottom about 300 million years ago.





Around Mt. Tsurugi, you can see white limestones (e.g. Otoishi or the stone monument of Otsurugi Shrine). These rocks contain crinoids and fossilized conodont (primitive jawless fish, a few centimeters in length) that lived in shallow, warm oceans about 300 million years ago.

2.Ponds in the Peaks



Water-filled depressions on the slopes of Mt. Miune and Mt. Tenguzuka form ponds, created by gravity pulling down the slopes and reshaping the ridgeline.

For more details about Mt. Tsurugi, Miune, and Tenguzuka Area:

Geo Geo Site: Areas with notable geological features

Eco Eco Site: Ecosystems shaped by geology

Cultural Cultural Site: Cultural heritage influenced by geology

Representative Sites

Otoishi (Stone Monument) in Mt. Tsurugi

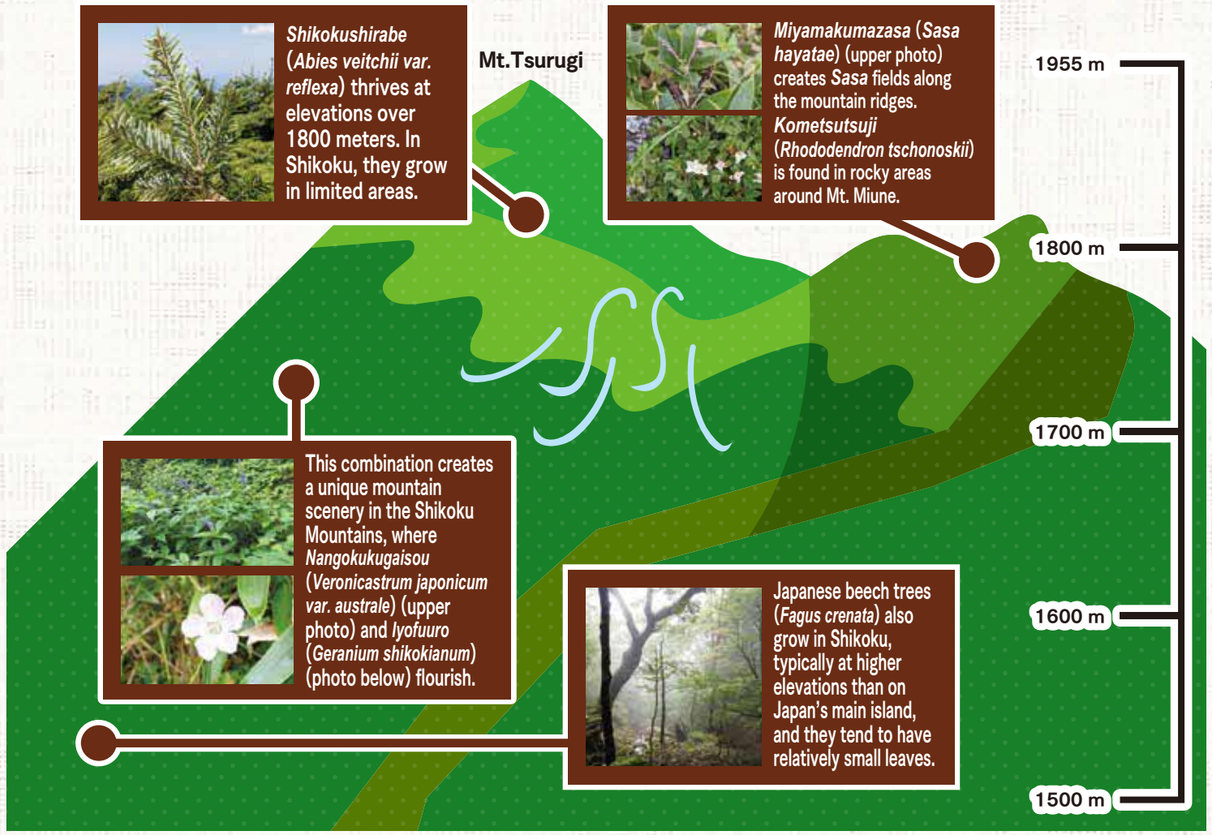
'Otoishi' or stone monument is made of limestones. It is an object of worship housed in Otsurugi Shrine. Since it resembles like a 'sword' (or 'tsurugi' in Japanese) to 'break bad connections,' it is said that Mt. Tsurugi was named after it.

Communities of Miyamakumazasa and Kometsutsuji in Mt. Miune and Mt. Tenguzuka

Around the peaks of Mt. Miune and Mt. Tenguzuka, the distribution of flora and fauna varies depending on differences in natural environmental conditions, such as topography. For example, *Miyamakumazasa* (*Sasa hayatae*) grows in gentle slope areas or holes in the mountains, while very tiny azalea: *Kometsutsuji* (*Rhododendron tschonoskii*) thrives in rocky areas.

Major Plant Distributions Around Mt. Tsurugi

As the elevation of the mountain increases, the temperature becomes colder. This difference in temperature depending on the mountain elevation affects flora and fauna and the scenery

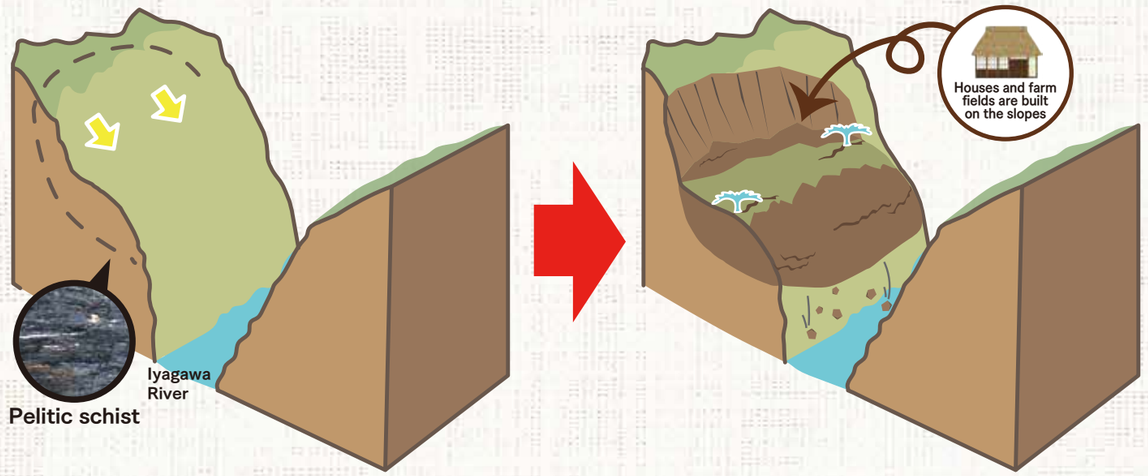


Iya Area ‘Hidden Scenic Spot: Clinging to the Mountain Slopes

The Iya Area is located in the middle to upper stream of the Iyagawa River. Several settlements have been established on the mountain slopes along the Iyagawa River and its tributaries. These settlements, clinging to steep slopes, live close to nature and still retain much of the traditional wisdoms and lifestyles.
When you look at the settlements from afar, they are built on relatively gentle slopes compared to other parts of the mountains. These gentle slopes were formed by the significant land movements in the past.

The Foundation of the Settlement: How Could This Landscape Happen?

The settlements clinging to the slopes are built on relatively gentle slopes compared to other parts of the mountains. These gentle slopes were formed by past landslides.



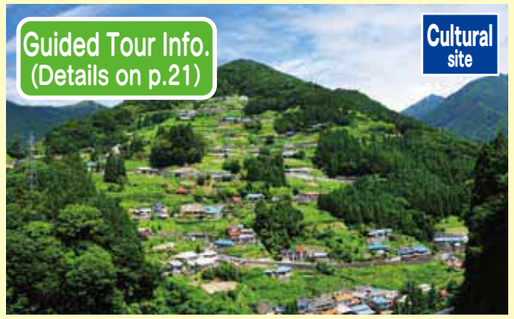
Landslides are more likely to occur on land composed of weak layers of pelitic schists and steep landscape.

Landslides have made the mountain slopes gentler, and sometimes spring water emerges from them.

Representative Sites

For more details about Iya Area:

- Geo: Geo Site: Areas with notable geological features
- Eco: Eco Site: Ecosystems shaped by geology
- Cultural: Cultural Site: Cultural heritage influenced by geology



Ochiai Village

Ochiai Village features houses and stone walls built between the 1700s and early 1900s on mountain slopes formed by landslides. The local wisdom of living on these slopes has been preserved. The village has been selected as a National Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings.

Kazurabashi Vine Bridge

Kazurabashi Bridge was a type of transportation connecting villages in the past. Today, the Kazurabashi Vine Bridge located in Nishiiya, remains a National Important Tangible Folk Cultural Asset.

Asa House of Ancient Heike Warriors

The house, built on gentle slope areas, was owned by a village headman since the Middle Ages. It is a typical design of a main building for upper-class peasantry in mountainous areas, featuring a main garden and stone walls. This house is designated as Prefectural Important Tangible Folk Cultural Asset.

Landslide Topography in Zentoku

Repeated landslides have occurred in Zentoku village. Since future landslides are predicted, the national government has provided countermeasure constructions to prepare for them.

Daily Scenes in Slope Land

Farm fields

Rock-strewn fields in slope land are full of conglomerates. Many crops grow here.

Gifts From the Slope Lands


Buckwheat


Osmunda japonica


Small potatoes


Tea leaves

Koeguro

Koeguro is dried kaya straws collected and piled up in a cone shape to fertilize the soil. You can see this unique shape of dried grasses in autumn (See the left picture).

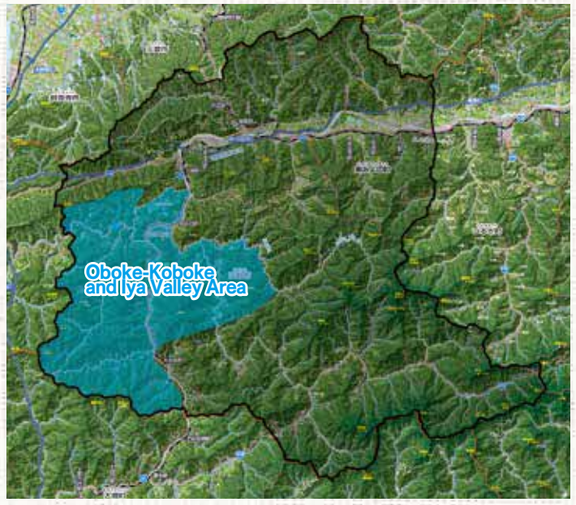
Materials for Kazurabashi Vine Bridge

This is a stem of kiwi vines (*Actinidia arguta*). About 6 tons of vine stems are used in the construction, and they are replaced every three years.

Oboke-Koboke and Iya Valley Area What Made the Valley So Steep? - A Top Tourist Spot in Shikoku

For more details about Oboke-Koboke and Iya Valley Area:

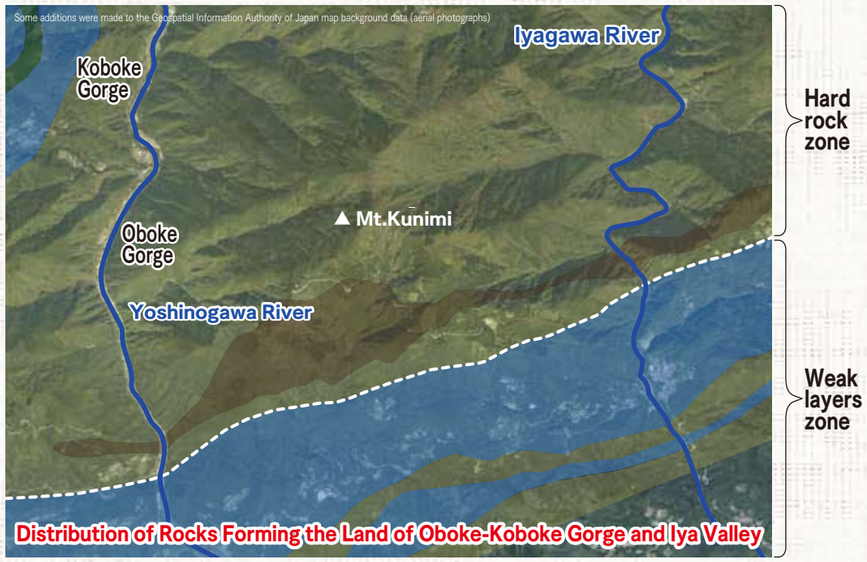
- **Geo** Geo Site: Areas with notable geological features
- **Eco** Eco Site: Ecosystems shaped by geology
- **Cultural** Cultural Site: Cultural heritage influenced by geology



"Very rough!" is the best way to describe Oboke-Koboke and Iya Valley Area. The Shikoku Mountains are well known for their rugged terrain in western Japan, and Oboke-Koboke and Iya Valley are the roughest places among them. The word 'boke' from 'Oboke-Koboke' comes from old Japanese, meaning "sheer cliffs along rivers." What made the valley so rough?

Hard Rocks Made the Rugged Valley

Oboke-Koboke Gorge is mainly made of psammitic and conglomerate schist, formed about 100 million years ago from ocean-floor sediments compressed deep underground. These rocks were later uplifted, shaping the gorge' s landscape today.

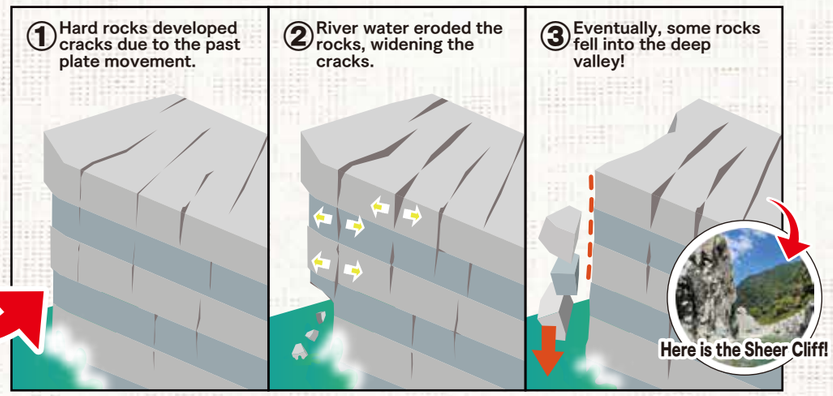


- Psammitic schists
- Conglomerate schists
- Pelitic schists
- Green schists

Three Key Factors Behind the Rugged Terrain

1)Hard rocks cracking vertically, 2) the rise of the Shikoku Mountains, and 3) the powerful flow of the Yoshinogawa River. These three natural forces worked together to carve out the steep, dramatic valleys of Oboke-Koboke and Iya.

How Sheer Cliffs Forms

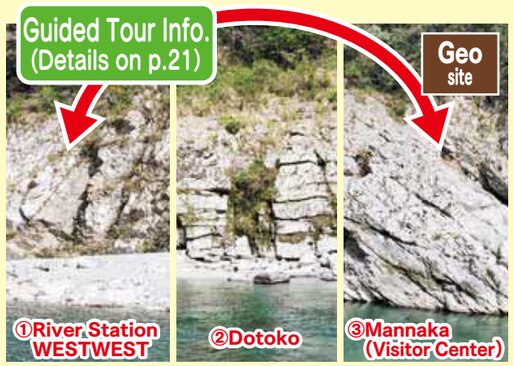


Do You Want to Experience the Rough Nature?

Hi-no-ji Valley

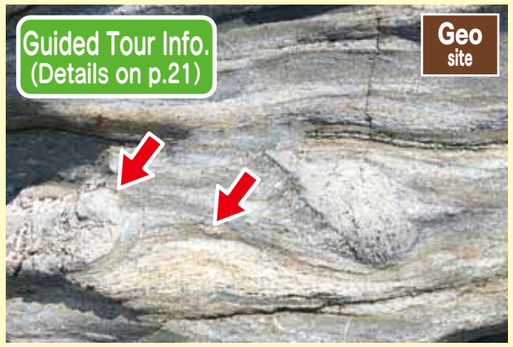
Iya Valley is located over Mt. Kunimiyama, to the east of the Oboke-Koboke Gorge. Here, you will find the sheer cliff called "Hi-no-ji Valley," named for its resemblance to the Japanese letter "hi" (ひ). The meandering river flow appears to write the "hi" letter. This area is also composed of hard rocks such as psammitic schist.

Sites Showcasing Features



Anticline (Dome-shaped large bending strata)

There are three spots in Oboke Gorge where you can find rock arches (large bends in the rock layers).



Conglomerate Schists

These can be found in two places; on the walking trail to the Oboke Gorge Pleasure Cruise and in Iya Valley. This rare rock was formed by being stretched under intense pressure deep underground.

Flood-Tolerant Plants

There are plants well-adapted to thrive in rocky areas prone to flooding. For example, they have made their leaves thinner to live in harmony with the surrounding nature.

Stories of Yokai (Gobrins)

There are many stories of yokai (goblins) passed down in dangerous spots around Oboke-Koboke Gorge and Fujikawadani River. These stories were told to warn children away from steep and dangerous places.

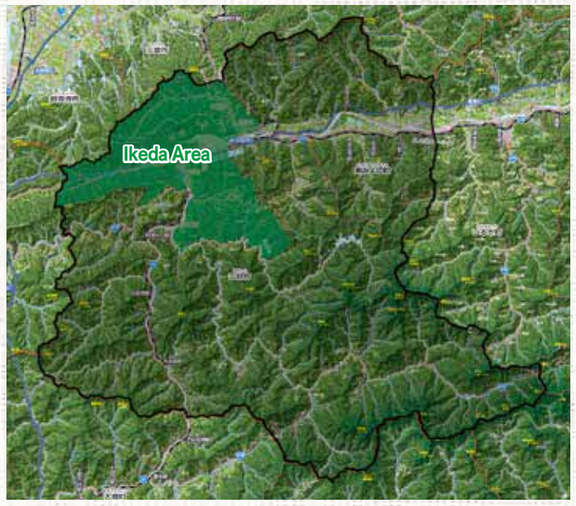
Ikeda Area Behind Stories of the Drastically Curved Yoshinogawa River

For more details about Ikeda Area:

Geo Geo Site: Areas with notable geological features

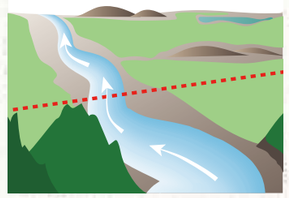
Eco Eco Site: Ecosystems shaped by geology

Cultural Cultural Site: Cultural heritage influenced by geology



The Yoshinogawa River changes its flow at the Ikeda Area. The present river flow has provided the area with various local cultures. The Yoshinogawa River used to flow in a different direction from today. The Median Tectonic Line (MTL), the great fault of Japan, played a significant role in changing the river's flow.

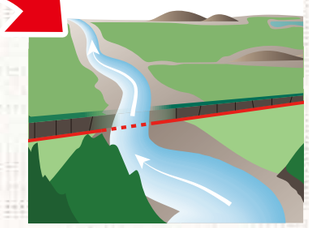
Why Did the Yoshinogawa River Curve Drastically?



Before 3 million years ago

The MTL' s movement caused repeated right-lateral slip and uplift in its northern part, forming the Sanuki Mountain Range.

---- Median Tectonic Line fault



About 3 million years ago

The MTL started to slide, leading to repeated right-lateral slip and upheaval in the northern part of the MTL. This phenomenon formed the Sanuki Mountain Range.

—·—· Median Tectonic Line fault

1-2 million years ago

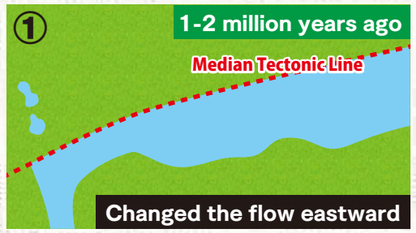
The river's northward flow was cut off by the Sanuki Mountain Range, causing it to turn eastward.

—— Median Tectonic Line fault

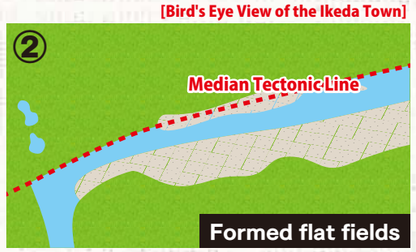
Land Formation Processes of Ikeda Town

What Happened After the Yoshinogawa River Changed Its Direction of the Flows

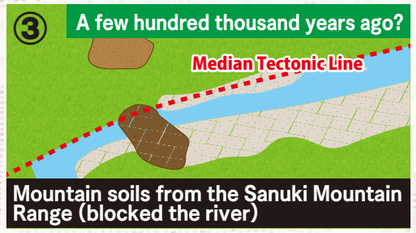
[Bird's Eye View of the Ikeda Town]



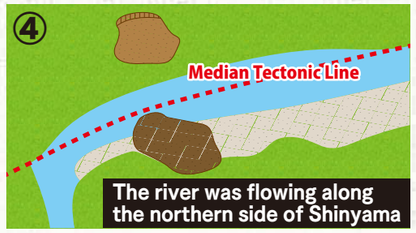
After the river's flows became eastward



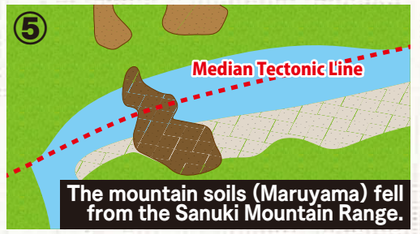
Flat fields were formed along the River.



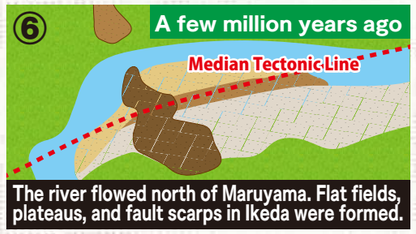
Over time, landslides occurred in the Sanuki Mountain Range, which might have stopped the river's flow.



The river continued to flow eastward over the soils.



Landslides happened again, causing the river to flow over the soil once more.



The River formed flat fields that later slipped due to MTL movement, creating cliffs.

Sanuki Udon Noodle

Kagawa Prefecture lost the Yoshinogawa River due to MTL movement, becoming a low-rainfall area. Wheat, used in udon noodles, replaced rice, leading to the rise of Sanuki Udon.

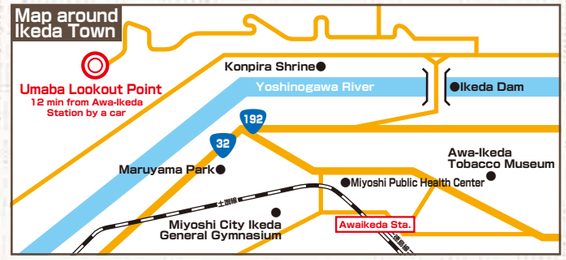
Awa Indigo: Tokushima's Economic Backbone

Repeated flooding of the Yoshinogawa River enriched the soil, prompting locals to grow Persicaria tinctoria for indigo dye. This led to Tokushima's traditional culture, Awa Indigo.

View Point in Ikeda Area

Let's see Ikeda Town from Umaba Lookout Point

Umaba Lookout Point, located halfway up the Sanuki Mountain Range, offers a stunning panoramic view of the Yoshinogawa River and Ikeda Town.



Representative Sites

Fault Scarp Formed by Ikeda Fault

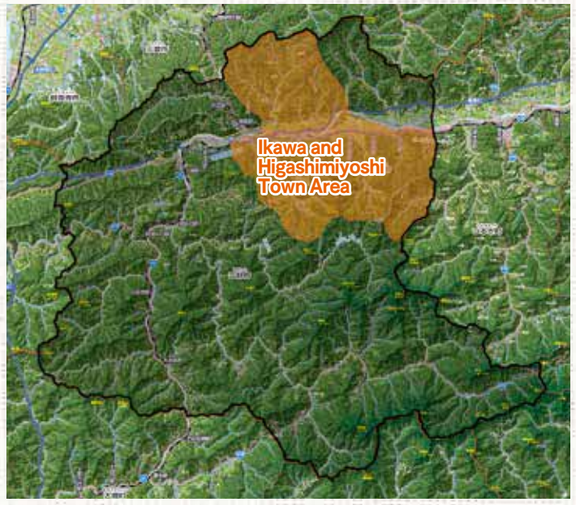
A 20–30 m fault scarp separates Ueno and Machi-Sarada districts in Ikeda Town, formed by MTL-induced land slips.

The Stone Wall at Ikeda Castle Ruins

The stone wall at Ikeda Castle ruins in Ueno district uses crystalline schist from the south and sandstones from the north of the MTL.

Ikawa and Higashimiyoshi Town Area

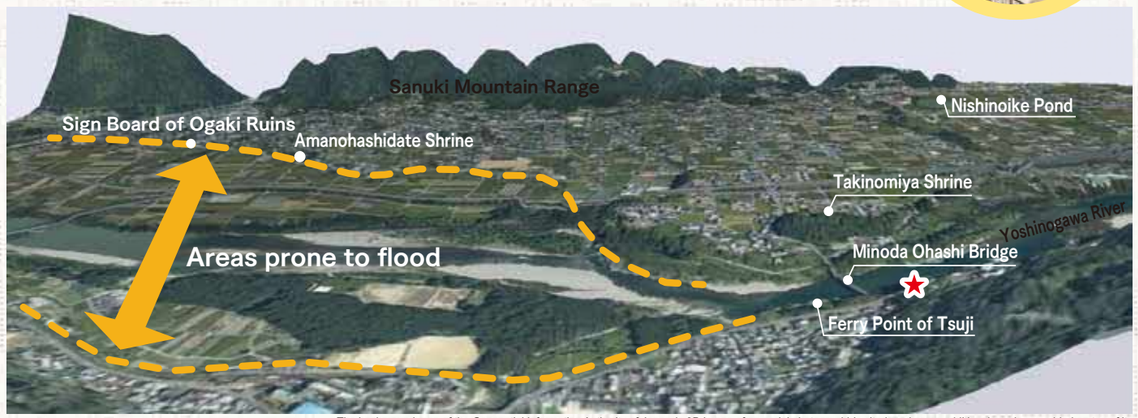
Life Along the Yoshinogawa River



Higashimiyoshi Town has many ancient ruins and tombs along the Yoshinogawa River and in the mountainous areas, indicating that people have lived in this area since ancient times. Tsuji distrcit of Ikawa Town, situated in small flat fields, has thrived due to the shredded tobacco industry.
Higashimiyoshi Town and Ikawa Town showcase how local people have shaped their lives in harmony with the Yoshinogawa River over time.

The Scenery Created by the Narrowing River Width

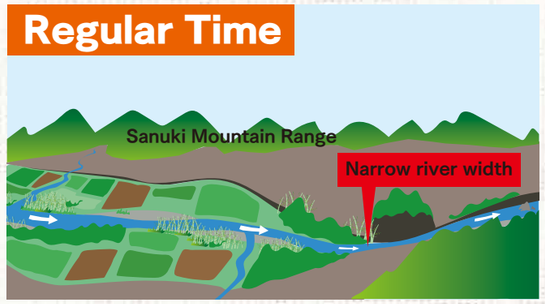
Find ★ symbol on the map.



The background map of the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (a 3D image of an aerial photograph) is cited, and some additional words are added on top of it.

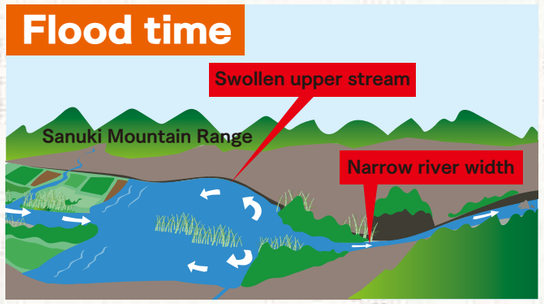
Let's view the land of north bank of the river from the south bank. You will notice that the area around Amanohashidate Shrine, (situated in the western part of the north bank), is at lower elevation and has paddy fields. As you move eastward towards Minoda Ohashi Bridge, the river width narrows. Downstream of the Bridge, there are several rocky areas.

Regular Time



The Yoshinogawa River flows smoothly near Minoda Ohashi Bridge with a regular amount of water.

Flood time



The narrow river width near the bridge limits downstream flow, causing upstream flooding when water levels rise.

Sites Showcasing Features of the Land

For more details about Ikawa and Higashi Miyoshi Town Area:

Geo Geo Site: Areas with notable geological features

Eco Eco Site: Ecosystems shaped by geology

Cultural Cultural Site: Cultural heritage influenced by geology

Remains of Ferry Point of Tsuji

The ferry point, located upstream from Minoda Ohashi Bridge, was a gateway connecting the north and south banks.

Tsuji Townscape

Ikawachotsuji Town, thrived due to the shredded tobacco industry. You can find several elegant merchant houses that reflect the town's prosperity.

Records of Flooding at Amanohashidate Shrine

Typhoon June hit this area in September 1954, causing severe flood damage. The stone wall at the shrine records the swollen river levels with studs. (Natural Disaster Monument).

Kainayama Ranch

Mt. Kaina is located in south neighbor of Ikawa Town. Its peak has several holes created by landslides. There is also a ranch owned by Tokushima Prefecture.

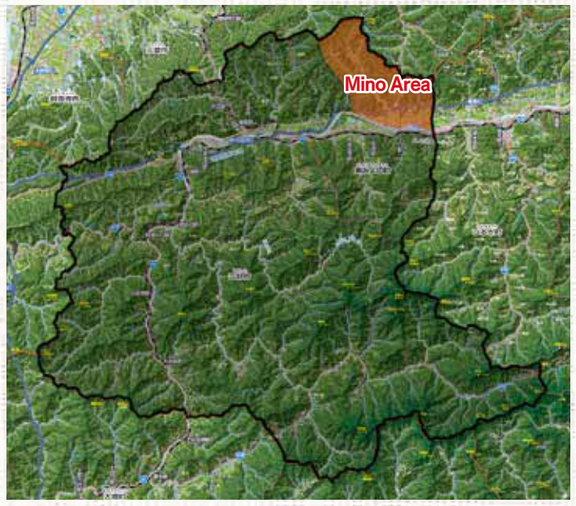
Giant Camphor Tree in Kamo

In Kamo Area, locals treasure a giant camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*) with a root circumference of 23 meters and a trunk of 16 meters, estimated to be 1,000 years old.

Ashirohigashibara Ruin

The ruins, dating to the 3rd century AD, include a keyhole-shaped tomb and over 36 cairns made of Sanuki Mountain Range conglomerates.

Mino Area Formation of the Yoshinogawa River's North Bank



Mino Area, on the north bank of the Yoshinogawa River, was formed by deposits from the river and the Sanuki Mountain Range. Alluvial fans at the mountain base, with well-drained soils, are ideal for growing fruits and vegetables.

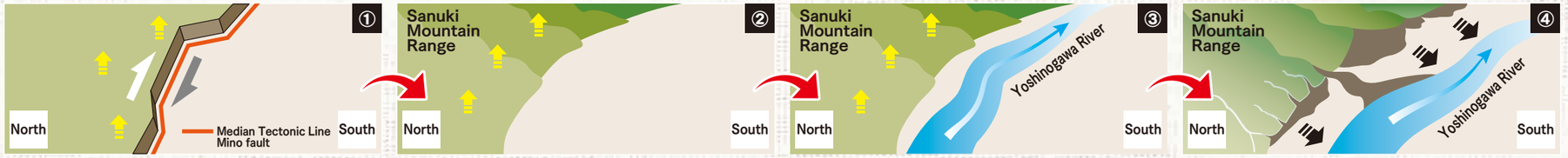
For more details about Mino Area:

Geo Geo Site: Areas with notable geological features

Eco Eco Site: Ecosystems shaped by geology

Cultural Cultural Site: Cultural heritage influenced by geology

The Median Tectonic Line (MTL), the Great Fault Creating the Flat Fields of Mino



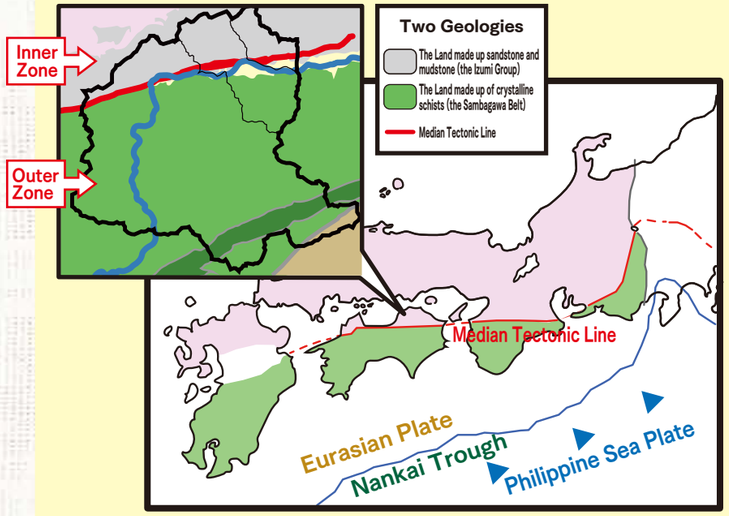
① The slip direction of the MTL became the same as it is today (right-lateral slip), causing the land north of the MTL to rise.

② The Sanuki Mountain Range was formed due to the MTL

③ The Yoshinogawa River flowed between the Sanuki Mountain Range and the Shikoku Mountains, creating the flat fields.

④ Conglomerates and sands from the Sanuki Mountains formed alluvial fans, creating the flat fields on the river's north bank.

What is the Median Tectonic Line?



The Median Tectonic Line (MTL), Japan's most active fault, stretches 1,000 km and divides the Izumi Group (made up of sandstone and mudstone) and the Sambagawa Belt (composed of crystalline schist) in the Miyoshi Geopark Area. You can see evidences of its movements in the landscape, like cliffs or bending rivers. When the MTL shifts, it causes a right-lateral slip, making the land north of the MTL rise by several tens of centimeters. This geological activity has been happening on and off for millions of years, shaping the Sanuki Mountain Range we see today.

Outcrops of the MTL in Tachino

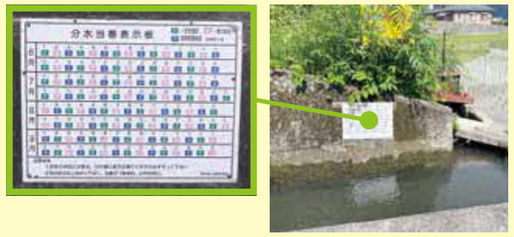
South of the Roadside Station Mino parking area, you can see fault fracture zones of the MTL, where rocks and clay were crushed by fault movement. Please avoid entering the fragile outcrop areas.

Geological Features in Mino Area!

Ohji's Alluvial Fan

The flat fields in Mino Town receive plenty of sunlight. The well-drained alluvial fans, made up of conglomerates and sands from the Sanuki Mountain Range, support thriving fruit farming. Citrus fruits such as "Harehime" and "Hassaku" are grown here.

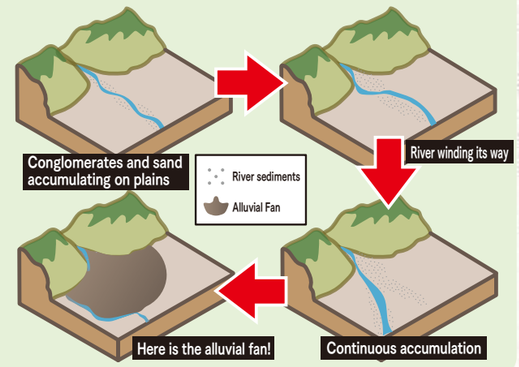
Let's Find Out Geological Features



Sanson Irrigation

The Sanson irrigation system is still used by Shibo, Seiriki, and Kamomiya, with each district taking turns from June to September.

Formation Processes of Alluvial Fan



Recommended Itinerary in "Ever-Moving Land"

① Experiencing rugged landscapes and people life 4-hour travel

Several villages in Miyoshi Geopark clinging to the mountain slopes, shaping their lives in harmony with the surrounded landscapes and climate.

Get all the info. about Miyoshi Geopark!

Miyoshi Geopark Information Center : Toko-GEO Base

Oboke Gorge

▶ 20 min.by drive

Hi-no-ji Valley — Geo site

Guided tours available

Peer into the deep, sheer cliffs!

▶ 10 min.by drive

Kazurabashi Vine Bridge — Cultural site

Guided tours available

You should cross the bridge for sure!

▶ 30 min.by drive

Ochiai Village — Cultural site

One of the best villages nestled on mountain slopes.

Ochiai Village Location Ochiai, Higashiiya, Miyoshi City, Tokushima Prefecture MAP QR

Ochiai Village, a National Preservation District in Nishi Awa, offers stunning views from Nakaue Village across the valley.

② How the Yoshinogawa River Got Its Curve 3-hour travel

Around Itano in Ikeda Town, the Yoshinogawa River shifts eastward. Let's explore its original flow and riverside culture.

Panoramic view of the river

Umaba Lookout Point

▶ 15 min.by drive

Mizugiwa Park (Itano district) — Geo site

The river changes its course.

Managing river water control

▶ 10 min.by drive

Ikeda Dam — Cultural site

▶ 5 min.by drive

Guided tours available

Suwa Shrine — Cultural site

This was once a ferry point.

▶ 10 min.on foot

Ikeda Townscape — Cultural site

Cliffs formed by the MTL shaped the Yoshinogawa River's flow.

▶ 15 min.on foot

Fault Scarp Formed by Ikeda Fault — Geo site

Traditional houses with udatsu still remain.

Umaba Lookout Point Location Nishiyama, Ikeda Town, Miyoshi City, Tokushime Prefecture MAP QR

Enjoy sweeping views of the curved River and Ikeda Town from Umaba Lookout Point, where the river dramatically shifts course near Mizugiwa Park.

Use Your Five Senses for Activity Programs

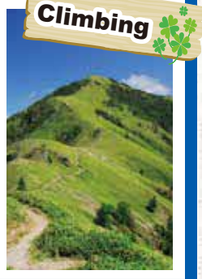
Outdoor Sports

Rafting in the Yoshinogawa River

Oboke-Koboke Gorge's rugged Yoshinogawa River creates world-class rapids, perfect for rafting from May to October.

Contact Info.:Miyoshi City Tourist Association (TEL 0883-76-0877)

Trekking the High Peaks of the Shikoku Mountains



In southeastern Miyoshi Geopark, high peaks like Mt. Tsurugi and Mt. Miune offer seasonal views of colorful leaves and flowers. A chairlift provides easy access for year-round hiking.

Contact Info.:Miyoshi City Tourist Association (TEL 0883-76-0877)

Other Programs

Kazurabashi Vine Bridge

This bridge was used for major transportation to connect villages on the mountain slopes. Crossing the bridge is a thrilling experience.

Location 162-2, Zentoku, Yamamura, Nishiiya, Miyoshi City, Tokushima Prefecture

Price ¥550 per person (adult), ¥350 per person (child)

Oboke Gorge Pleasure Cruise

You will see the rugged landscapes of Oboke-Koboke Gorge from the river on a boat. The magnificent view, varies with seasons and climate.

Location Nishiu, Yamashiro Town, Miyoshi City, Tokushima Prefecture

Price ¥1500 per person (adult), ¥750 per person (child)

Local Specialties

Hirara Yaki Stew

Stewed farm crops and river fish with miso

Local sake

Sake made with locally sourced water.

Decomawashi

A skewer consisting of Iwa tofu, round konjac, and buckwheat dumplings etc., all seasoned with miso sauce.

Yokan, Japanese sweet bean jelly

Miyoshi's signature dessert, once made with ingredients transported via the Yoshinogawa River.

Iya soba noodles

Iya soba, made from mountain-grown buckwheat, is a must-try local dish.

There's more to explore!

Local Guides in Miyoshi Geopark

Contact Information and Reservation
Miyoshi City Tourist Association (TEL: 0883-76-0877)

Miyoshi Geo-Guide Association

Guided programs in Miyoshi Geopark connect geology, history, culture, and biology through two courses: Ikeda Downtown and Oboke.

Price ¥1000/hour (~2 hours)
Reservation 3 days prior

Iya Local Guides Yobigoto

Explore Iya's top sights—Kazurabashi Bridge, Iya Valley, Heike Residence, Ochiai Village, Scarecrow Village, and Okuiya Double Vine Bridge—with local guides.

Price ¥3000 for up to 10 persons (1 hour)
Reservation 1 week prior

Culture Guides in Tsuji Machi Area

Walk through Tsujimachi's traditional townscape and learn how the shredded tobacco industry shaped its history.

Price ¥700 per person
Reservation 3 days prior

Animal Mystery Tour in Hashikura-ji Temple

Visit Hashikura-ji Temple, a sacred site blending Shinto and Buddhism, nestled in the Sanuki Mountain Range with many historic buildings.

Price ¥1000 per person (¥800 per person for groups of more than 10)
Reservation 3 days prior

Sengoku Border Walkers in Yamashiro

Guided tours in Yamashiro Town highlight the area's rich history and former country borders.

Price varies depending on events
Reservation depending on events

Collect Information about Miyoshi Geopark

Miyoshi Geopark Information Center Toko-GEO Base

A great starting point for exploring Miyoshi Geopark, with exhibits on its geology, culture, history, and ecosystem.

Location 1520, Nishiu, Yamashiro Town, Miyoshi City, Tokushima Prefecture (B1 Floor Oboke Onsen Hotel Oboke-kyo Mannaka)

Open Hours A9am – 4pm Holidays Open year-round Closed during bad weather TEL 0883-72-7653

Kazurabashi Yumebutai

Access all information about Kazurabashi Vine Bridge here. Panel exhibitions explain how kiwi vines for the bridge are replaced.

Location 345-1, Imakubo, Nishiiya, Miyoshi City, Tokushima Prefecture

Open Hours 9am – 6pm (Apr.-Nov.) 9am – 7pm (Dec.-Mar.)

Holidays Open year-round TEL 0883-87-2200

Higashi-Iya Museum of Local History and Folklore

This museum exhibits many items that illustrate the old way of life in the Iya Area. Admission fee: ¥410 per adult, ¥210 per junior high, ¥100 per child

Location 14-3, Kyoujou, Higashiiya, Miyoshi City, Tokushima Prefecture

Open Hours 10am – 4pm TEL 0883-88-2286

Holidays Wednesdays (Weekends, National Holidays, and New Year Holidays between Dec. and Feb.)

Roadside Station Mino

Located along the Yoshinogawa River, this facility includes a geosite named "Median Tectonic Line in Tachino."

Location 1909-1, Tachino, Mino Town, Miyoshi City, Tokushima Prefecture

Open Hours 9am – 5pm TEL 0883-76-2050

Holidays Mondays *If Monday is a national holiday, the next day will be closed. The farmer's market is open year-round.

Miyoshi City Tourism Association Tourist Information Center

This center offers information about tourist attractions, recommended routes, and accommodations in Miyoshi City.

Location 1810-18, Sarada, Ikeda Town, Miyoshi City, Tokushima Prefecture

Open Hours 9am – 6pm TEL 0883-76-0877

Holidays Open year-round

Roadside Station Oboke

Located in south Oboke Gorge, this facility includes the Yokai (goblin) House (Entrance fee: ¥700 per adult, ¥350 per child).

Location 1553-1, Uena, Yamashiro Town, Miyoshi City, Tokushima Prefecture

Open Hours 9am – 5pm TEL 0883-34-1489

Holidays Open year-round from Mar. to Nov; closed on Tuesdays from Dec. to Feb. (If Tuesday is a national holiday, the next day will be closed.)

Yoshinogawa Highway Oasis

Dine, soak, and explore.

Location 1650, Ashiro, Higashi Miyoshi Town, Miyoshi County, Tokushima Prefecture

Open Hours
Souvenir Shop: 9am – 6:30pm (Weekdays), 9am – 7pm (Weekends, National Holidays)
Bath House:10am – 9pm (Last admission at 8:30PM)
Restaurant Tsumugi: 11am – 9pm (Last order at 8:30PM)
Hours may vary depending on each shop and season.

Holidays Not fixed TEL 0883-79-5858

Roadside Station Nishiiya

Located along Prefectural Road 45 on the way to Kazurabashi Vine Bridge, this facility serves local cuisines, such as Iya soba noodles here.

Location 348-2, Oinouchi, Nishiiya, Miyoshi City, Tokushima Prefecture

Open Hours 9am – 5pm (Jan-Feb: 10am – 4:30pm) TEL 0883-87-2670

Holidays Souvenir Shop Open irregularly during winter (Dec. 20 – end of Feb.).

Higashimiyoshi History and Folklore Museum

This museum exhibits cultural assets collected from Old Stone Age to the present, as well as local articles for everyday use from 1920s to 1930s.

Location 1189, Nakanosho, Higashimiyoshi Town, Tokushima Prefecture

Open Hours 9am – 4:30pm TEL 0883-82-3964

Holidays Mondays, Weekends, and Dec 25 to Jan. 5.

Miyoshi Geopark Area MAP

Kurokawa Station
Mitoyo City
Onohara IC
Kanonji City
Minoura Station
Tsubojiri Station
Hashikura Station
Ikeda Area
Awa-Ikeda Station
Kawa-Ikeda IC
Yoshinogawa Highway Oasis
Awa-Kamo Station
Mikamo Station
Eguchi Station
Yoshinogawa Blue Line
Tokushima Expwy
Minawa Station
Kawanoe Station
Kawanoe IC
Kawanoe IC
MishimakawanoeIC
Shikoku chuo City
Iyaguchi Station
Awa-Kawaguchi Station
Mino Area
Roadside Station Mino
Higashi Miyoshi Town
Iwaka and Higashimiyoshi Town Area
Miyoshi City
Oboke-Koboke and Iya Valley Area
Koboke Station
Miyoshi Geopark Information Center : Toko-GEO Base,
(located within in the B1 Floor of Oboke Onsen Hotel Oboke-kyo Mannaka)
Roadside Station Nishiiya
Roadside Station Oboke
Ōboke Station
Iya Area
Shingu IC
Motoyama Town
Tosa-Iwahara Station
Ōtaguchi Station
Tosa-Ananai Station
Toyonaga Station
Ootoyo Town
Tsurugi Town
Mt. Tsurugi, Miune, and Tenguzuka Area
Wakimachi IC
Median Tectonic Line
Mima IC
Kawata Station
Anabuki Station
Oshima Station
Awa-Handa Station
Sadamitsu Station
Mima City
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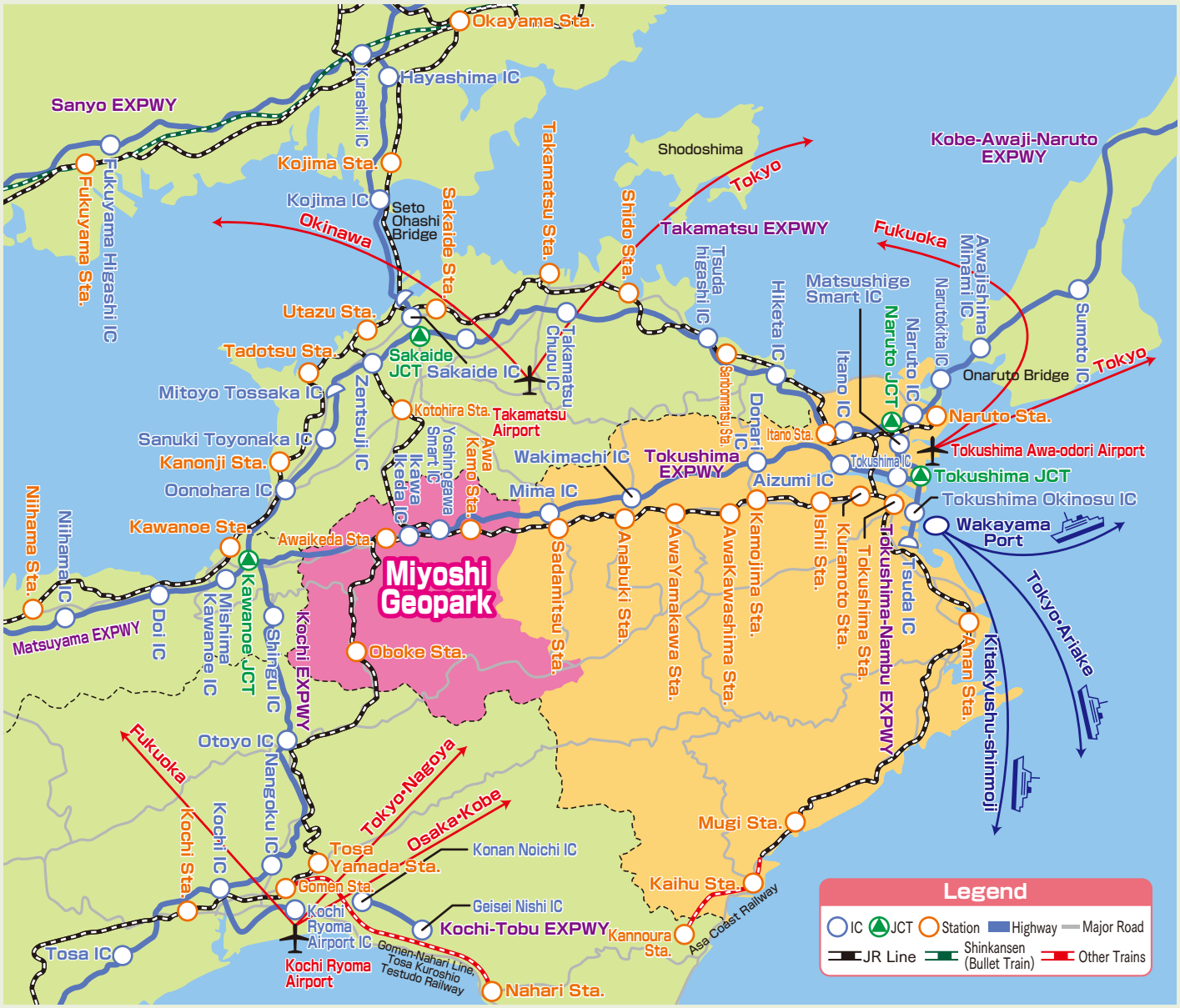

Access to Miyoshi Geopark

(Miyoshi City and Higashimiyoshi Town)

Duration of Travel

●JR

- ○From Tokyo Station ····Okayama Station···· Awa-Ikeda Station 5 hours
- ○From Shin-Osaka Station··Okayama Station·· Awa-Ikeda Station 2 hrs 30 min
- ○From Okayama Station ····· Awa-Ikeda Station 1 hr 30 min
- ○From Tokushima Station····· Awa-Kamo Station 1 hr 10 min
- ○From Takamatsu Station····· Awa-Ikeda Station 1 hour
- ○From Kochi Station ····· Oboke Station 1 hour
- ○From Matsuyama Station ··Tadotsu Station·· Awa-Ikeda Station 3 hours
- ○From Awa-Ikeda Station ····· Oboke Station 20 min
- ○From Awa-Ikeda Station ····· Awa-Kamo Station 10 min

●Car

- ○From Kobe ····· Tokushima ····· Awa-Ikeda 2hrs 30 min
- ○From Okayama ····· Zentsuji Temple ····· Awa-Ikeda 1hr 40 min

*It takes 30 min between Awa-Ikeda and Oboke by car.
*It takes 20 min between Awa-Ikeda and Higashimiyoshi Town by car.

●From Airports by car

- ○From Kochi Ryoma Airport to Oboke ·····1 hr 20 min
- ○From Takamatsu Airport to Awa-Ikeda ·····1 hr 20 min
- ○From Tokushima Awaodori Airport to Awa-Ikeda ·····1 hr 20 min

●Highway Bus

- ○From Osaka ····· Miyoshi Bus Stop (Yoshinogawa Rest Area) 3hrs 50 min
  Awa-Ikeda Bus Terminal 4hrs
- ○From Kobe ····· Miyoshi Bus Stop (Yoshinogawa Rest Area) 3hrs 20 min
  Awa-Ikeda Bus Terminal 3hrs 30 min

Contact Information

Miyoshi Geopark Promotion Council

Miyoshi City Hall 1610-1, Sarada, Ikeda Town, Miyoshi City, Tokushima Prefecture, 7788501, JAPAN
TEL 0883-72-7653 FAX 0883-72-7202 URL:https://miyoshi-geopark.jp

2025.07