

Kirishima Geopark: The Geopark You Can Travel by Train

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Kitamae-Bune (wooden transport craft), was used to travel from Seto Inland Sea to Hokkaido as the westward marine route. Ogi Port in Ogi Geosite was designated as one of the main ports on the westward marine route in 1672. That port was developed incredibly as a hub of east-west distribution of Japan. The development in Ogi area attracted many people.

We still can see the old town scenery and culture still remaining there. Ogi Port has unique geological features called Shiroyama. Shiroyama was formed when clastic materials from the submarine volcano were lifted up by the earthquake. It has two natural ports such as Uchinoma Port and Sotonoma Port. People can choose one Depending on the wind direction. It was an advantage as a port.

In 1802 a big earthquake of magnitude 6.6-6.8 hit the offshore area of Ogi. Because of its effect, Uchinoma Port was uplifted about 1m and then it lost its function as a port. Instead, they made anchorages at the uplifted seaside and linked them with a canal.

Two anchorages stuck together with a canal looked like joined two Shamisen guitars, so people called it Shamisen guitar canal.

Thanks to its unique geological features of Shiroyama, Ogi Port was developed as a port of call for Kitamae-Bune. Then, Geo guides show people around the area with telling a story from the birth of Shiroyama to Syamisen guitar canal and we make the best use to the story for local development.