



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



San'in Kaigan
UNESCO
Global Geopark

Observe capes formed by lava flows,
and coasts where *ama* female divers used to work.

Natsudomari-Nagaobana Course

The Nagaobana Cape was formed by lava flows from a volcano that formerly existed near the Chugoku Mountains, in the central part of Tottori Prefecture. This cape extending into the Japan Sea has complex coastal features formed due to severe wave erosion. At Natsudomari Fishing Port to the west of the cape, *ama* female divers used to collect marine products until recently. The Aoya Kaigan Coast and Idegahama Beach, further west, are famous as beaches of singing sand.

Lava plateau and the Nagaobana Cape

Looking at the Nagaobana Cape from the coast in the eastern part of Tottori Prefecture, you can find a spread of gently sloped highlands. This plateau was formed by andesite, which less sticky lava from an area around the Chugoku Mountains cooled into. Hard, unerodible andesite formed a plateau-like cape extending into the Japan Sea. The area around the cape has complex coastal features with steep cliffs formed due to the severe erosion of raging waves in the Japan Sea. That is why this area is a favorable fishery, and famous as a mecca for surf-fishing fans.



Myojinzaki Cape



Idegahama Beach



First edition 2016.3.31

Natsudomari's and Nagaobana's many places of interest

① Aoya Community Museum



This museum, which reopened in 2014 after being remodeled, provides visitors with information about San'in Kaigan Geopark, and exhibits materials and videos about must-see spots in Aoya-cho, Inshu Washi paper, a marine product collection by *ama* female divers, and singing sand. The gallery housed in the facility holds art exhibitions featuring paintings, drawings or photos.
Phone: 0857-85-2351 Open: 9:00-17:00 (entry allowed till 16:30)
Closed: Mondays; days after national holidays;

② Sorahama Park



Located on a hill, this park offers a panoramic view of the Japan Sea and the townscape of Aoya. The hamlet of Aoya spreads over sand dunes to the north of a lowland area used as farming fields. It can be inferred that the development of the sand dunes separated an enclosed bay that formerly existed here from the sea, and transformed it a lagoon, which dried up to form a wetland (a back slough) and became the current lowland area.

③ Natsudomari Kaigan Coast



This is a rocky coast on the western side of the Nagaobana Cape. Here you can find rocks in various shapes, including the Shishi-iwa (Lion Rock), which, due to weathering and erosion, looks like a lion opening its mouth. The coast is also famous for *ama* female divers who formerly collected marine products there. (See Geo-Column ①.) The Nagaobana Cape was formed by andesitic lava, and the cape area is designated as Nishi Inaba Prefectural Natural Park.

④ Andesitic outcrop



It is thought that the Nagaobana Cape was formed by lava that flowed down from an area around the Chugoku Mountains about 1.6 million years ago. The lava spread widely from Mt. Hachibuse on the border between Tottori City and Yurihama Town to Aoya-cho in Tottori City and Yurihama Town. The lava features platy joints, which are generally thought to result from strain caused by friction between flowing lava and the ground surface.

⑤ Natsudomari Shrine



This shrine is located at Natsudomari Fishing Port. While its age is unknown, the shrine called "Ebisu" (or affectionately called "Obisu-san" by local people) has long been venerated. It boasts *komainu* (guardian dog) statues created in 1839 and a *torii* gate dating back to 1847. (See the quiz answer.)

⑥ Gyoson Park



Gyoson (lit.: "fishing hamlet") Park is located on a hill in the Natsudomari fishing hamlet. The park provides a panoramic view of the seashore in Aoya-cho, and in clear weather, even of Mt. Daisen and the Shimane Peninsula.

⑦ Townscape of the fishing hamlet



The steep slopes are covered with many houses, between which narrow streets run around. The townscape shows a good example of effective use of a small area and steep slopes.

⑧ Aoya Kaigan Coast



Together with Idegahama Beach to the west of it, this coast is famous for singing sand. Walking on the white beach while slipping your feet into the sand, you can hear the sand make squeaking sounds. (See Geo-Column ②.)

⑨ Aoya-cho Sports Park



This sports park is located on sand dunes in Aoya. The park offers you a view of the Japan Sea to the north, and of paddy fields in the lowland area, which was formerly a back slough of the sand dunes, to the south. (See ② Sorahama Park.)

⑩ Townscape of Aoya-cho



Aoya flourished as a post town on a highway and a port town in olden times. You can find some traces of the town's history here and there in its townscape, such as lattices and plastered walls in rows, and red Sekishu-gawara roof tiles.

⑪ Aoyakamijichi Ruins Exhibition Center



This museum exhibits earthenware and woodenware discovered at the Aoyakamijichi ruins, to introduce visitors to the lives of Yayoi people, and surrounding geomorphological features at that time. (See Geo-Column ②.)
Phone: 0857-85-0841 Open: 9:00-17:00 (entry allowed till 16:30)
Closed: Mondays; days after national holidays; New Year holidays

Our recommendation: Yuhigaoka Observatory Plaza



This observatory, located near the tip of the Nagaobana Cape, provides you with a beautiful view of the shoreline in Aoya-cho and sunset, and, if you are lucky, of Mt. Daisen and the Shimane Peninsula, and even Oki Islands over them.

The Nagaobana Cape is associated with a legend about a poisonous dragon. The red and black marks on the rock surface at the cape are believed to be paths left by the poisonous dragon.

Geo-Column ①

Marine product collection by *ama* female divers at Natsudomari Fishing Port

At Natsudomari Fishing Port, *ama* female divers collected marine products until recently. Tradition has it that a marine product collection by *ama* female divers was introduced from Chikuzen Province to this port over 400 years ago by the wife of a fisherman named Sukeemon, who served as a pilot for Kamei Korenori, the lord of Shikano Castle, on the occasion of Toyotomi Hideyoshi's invasions of Korea. The peak of the marine product collection by *ama* female divers at Natsudomari was in the 1950s, with a group of about 30 female divers collecting *wakame* seaweed and other products. Collected *wakame* seaweed was processed with a traditional technique called "shibori wakame" (lit.: "wakame squeezing").



Quiz Answer

Kawaroku (Ozaki Rokurobei)

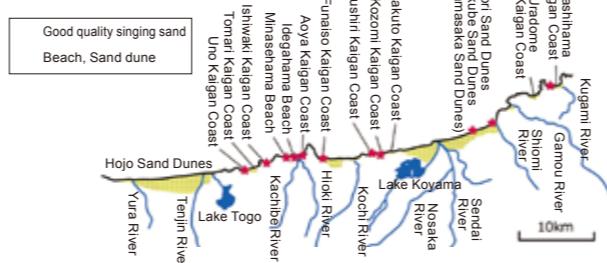
Kawaroku was a stonemason who worked in this area around the end of the Edo period. A number of his works, including *komainu* (guardian dog) statues and stone lanterns, still remain in the western part of Tottori City.

Geo-Column ②

Beaches of singing sand

Aoya-cho in western Tottori City is known as an area with nationally famous beaches of singing sand (Aoya Kaigan Coast, Idegahama Beach, and Minasehama Beach). The beauty of these white beaches comes from a high content of transparent quartz in the sand grains. In September 2015, the Japan Singing Sand Summit was held in this a

Distribution of quality singing sand in the eastern part of Tottori Prefecture



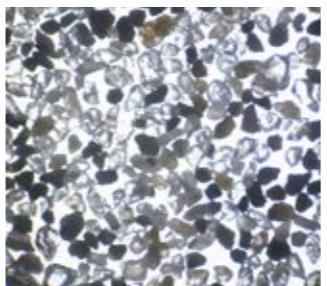
A simplified map based on the Tottori Sand Dunes Marugoto Handbook edited by the Official Textbook Editorial Committee for the Certification Exam on Tottori Sand Dunes (2012)

Characteristics of singing sand

- ① Sand grains are uniform in size.
- ② Sand grains are of round shape.
- ③ The sand contains neither granules of sand nor pollutants.
- ④ The waves often wash the sand and polish the surfaces of sand grains.
- ⑤ The sand is adequately dry.

Singing sand is so delicate that environmental changes, such as pollution of the sea or beach, would stop it from making sounds.

Singing sand grains of the Aoya Kaigan Coast



Geo-Column ③

Ancient objects protected under the wetlands

The Aoyakamijichi ruins feature the remains of a hamlet in the Yayoi period, which were discovered during an excavation survey conducted on the occasion of construction works for the San'in Expressway. Many objects related to the lives of people at that time were excavated from the ditch surrounding the hamlet, and some of them, such as elaborate wood-enware, would have rotted away and not have survived such a long history under ordinary conditions. In ancient times, a lagoon spread over this area, and people lived in the low-lying wetlands by the lagoon; the wetlands' clay layers containing a large amount of moisture happened to create an airtight environment and prevent organic substances, including wood, from being decomposed by bacteria. That is why many well-preserved ancient objects were excavated from the ruins, which is called an "underground museum of the Yayoi period." Moreover, a brain was discovered in the excavated skull of a Yayoi-period person, and became a focus of public attention. Even in global terms, only several reports have so far been made on discoveries of human brains dating back to the prehistoric age.



Aoyakamijichi ruins
Yayoi-period objects excavated from the ruins