Stones of Itoigawa ★
A massive fault splits Japan between two continental plates beneath Itoigawa, giving Itoigawa a wealth of stones and minerals. Four of these stones are displayed on fire hydrant covers in front of Itoigawa Station. Even more can be seen at Kaibo Park!

Discover the many stones of Itoigawa as you make your way to and from the sea.

Princess Nunakawa ◆
A statue of Princess Nunakawa stands in front of Itoigawa Station. Be sure to keep an eye out for the jade and magatama-themed artwork lining the streets.

A statue of Princess Nunakawa was a legendary shaman priestess who ruled Itoigawa in ancient times. Her story is recorded in the Kojiki, Japan’s oldest known historical record. Said to be both beautiful and wise, she has long been worshipped as a patron goddess of Itoigawa. The statue here depicts her looking across the sea toward Izumo, the home of her husband Okuminashi. Beside her is her son Takeminakata, who is worshipped across Japan as a god of agriculture, wind, and hunting. He is the main deity at the famous Suwa Grand Shrine in Nagano.

The train melody for Itoigawa Station is “Hara Yo, Koi,” a well-known children’s song. Its lyrics were written by Gyofū Souma, an Itoigawa-born poet, writer, and scholar. His home is preserved here as it was when he lived in it and is an excellent example of traditional Japanese townhouse architecture.