

Journey With Water



Welcome to the Hakusan Tedorigawa UNESCO Global Geopark

The Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark is split into three areas. These include the Snow and Mountain Area where water is born as snow upon the peaks of Mt. Hakusan; the River and Gorge Area where several rivers meet; and the Sea and Alluvial Fan Area where sediment is deposited to form an alluvial fan, and where both the blessings and dangers of water can be seen. Take a moment to explore each area, and experience the journey of water.

What is a UNESCO Global Geopark?

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. In geoparks you can learn about the connection between geodiversity, nature, and people.

There's More than Just Beauty

The small round pebbles that can be found lining the banks of the Tedoru River travelled from miles away, and over hundreds and thousands of years to get there. Behind each seemingly insignificant aspect of nature, like the stones of a river, or the water that springs from beneath - a bigger story lies, just waiting to be discovered.

Turn Your Eyes to Nature

Here, in the Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark, you can take a moment from your daily life, and experience a depth of nature unlike anywhere else; a place where the connection between people and nature is palpable.

3 Mountain and Snow Area

Where Water is Born

Within the Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark you can drink fresh, clean spring water straight from the ground. This water is used for daily drinking, and it's also used to make various specialty products. Water starts as snow atop the peaks of Mt. Hakusan, and travels deep through the region's landscape to reach us.

2 River and Gorge Area

Where Water Grows

Beside the Tedoru Gorge you can see several wide steps called river terraces. These are formed due to sudden changes in the river's rate of erosion. The local people make use of these conveniently sized terraces to build villages, and grow crops. You can see the deep connection that natural landscapes have with people here.

1 Sea and Alluvial Fan Area

Where Water is Used

One of the features of the Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark is the massive Tedoru River Alluvial Fan, which was created from sand and rock transported via the Tedoru River. As the name suggests, this geological structure spreads out in the shape of a fan, toward the Sea of Japan.

The small round rocks found at the sides of the river began as large rocks upon the top of the mountains. Over thousands of years the river has carved away each rock to the size you see today. Each single stone in the river has its own unique and long history.



Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark
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We are Yuki Mama and Shizuku-chan!

These are the mascots of the Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark, and have also been appointed as the tourism guides of Hakusan City. Yuki Mama is made from the snow of Mt. Hakusan, and her baby Shizuku-chan is made from melted snow. Travel together with these two, whether by yourself or in a group, as they teach you about their hometown.

Travelling with Ease

The Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark is an area encompassing the entirety of Hakusan City, which is located southwest from Kanazawa. To see the Geopark to its fullest, we recommend using a car or bicycle to travel around.

Geopark Guides

Registered Guides will show you the best that the Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark has to offer; from trekking high in the mountains, to walking through ancient townscapes.

Contact the Hakusan City Tourism League to book! (details below)

Tourist Information and Rental Bicycles!

The Hakusan City Tourism League offers lots of tourist information about Hakusan City. They also provide rental bicycles for zooming around Tsurugi, the Mt. Hakusan foothills, and more! Prices start from as little as 500 yen per day!

Hakusan City Tourism League

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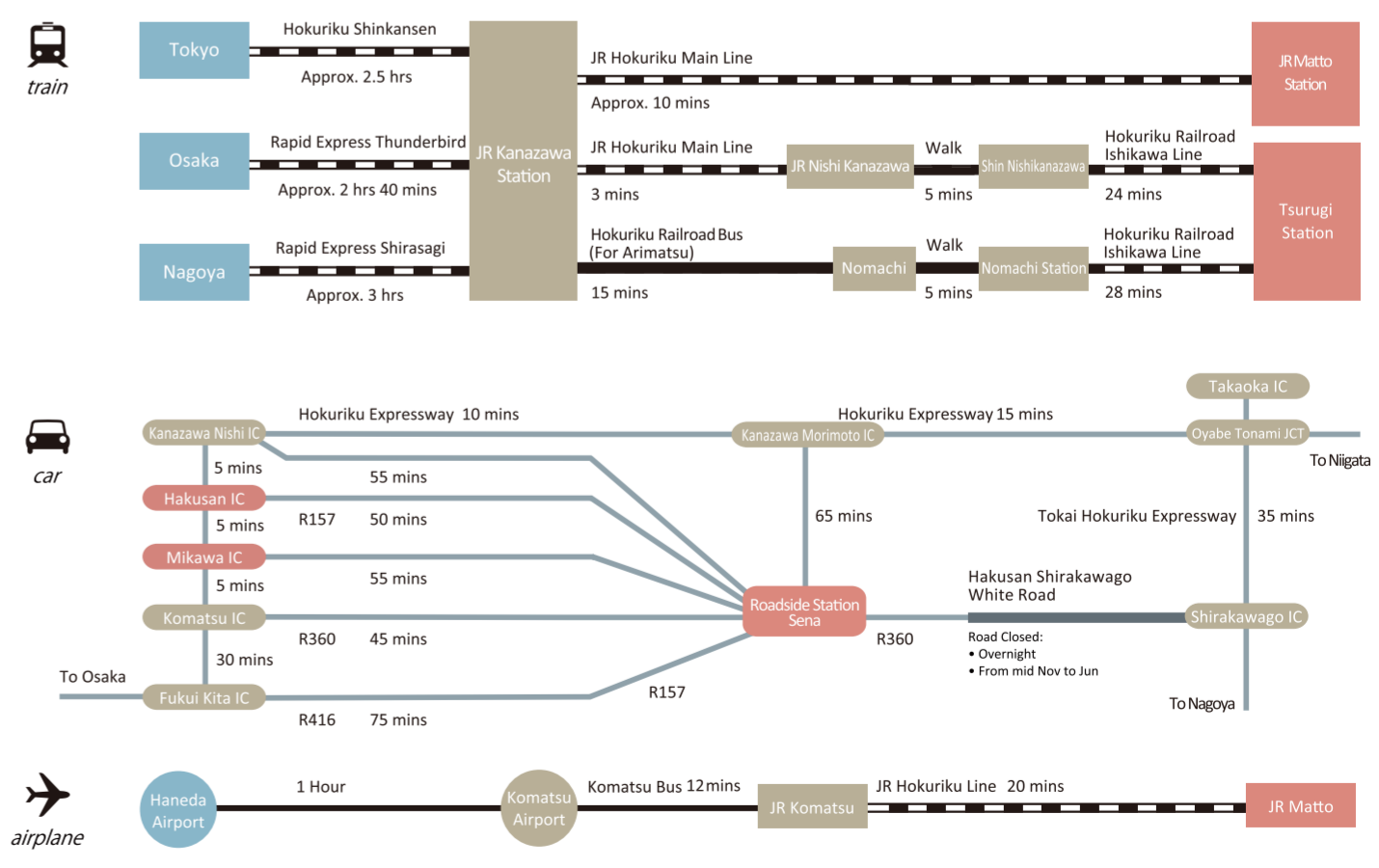
Pocket Geo

Pocket Geo is a free map service that can be accessed online. It includes information about nearby sites and tourist destinations in the geopark. If you click on the sites,

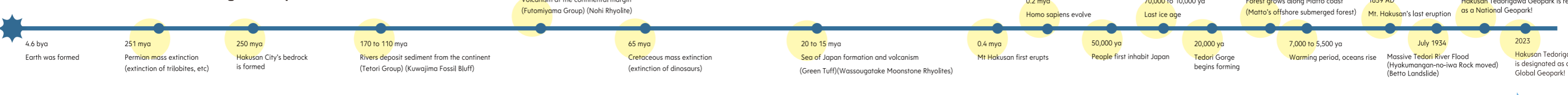
you can see pictures and information about them. Visit the website using the QR code to the right.



pocketgeo.net/hakusan.html



The Formation of the Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark



1 Sea and Alluvial Fan Area

HAKUSAN TEDORIGAWA GEOPARK MAP

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION

There's heaps to see in the Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark!

The park is full of interesting and exciting spots to see, the extent of which cannot be compiled in one pamphlet. Explore the park at your leisure, and find the spots that spark your interest.

The morning glory
Entangles
the
bucket
here
so I go elsewhere



Mikawa Spring Water

Selected as one of the 100 best waters of the Heisei Era (1988 to 2019), this spring water is a part of daily life for nearby residents. The water is freely available to drink, making it popular with not only locals, but tourists as well.



Mikawa Townscape

Built by the mouth of the Tedoru River, Mikawa has been a flourishing port for hundreds of years. A unique local culture developed, based around the nearby ancient shipping route.



Matto Seaside Park

This seaside park offers wide open beaches, hot springs, and a ground golf course. And, at the field museum you can see the effects between sand and water.



Matto Townscape

Built in the center of the Tedoru River Alluvial Fan, the town of Matto has water channels flowing this way and that. With abundant waterways, rope seed oil, fabric dyeing, and silk industries flourished during the Edo Period.



Island Villages

During the early rice-planting season the villages on the Tedoru River Alluvial Fan look almost like islands. In ancient times, villagers built their houses on higher ground to avoid flood damage resulting in this island-like appearance.

This haiku was written by the famous poet Chiyojo, who was born and raised in Hakusan City during the Edo Period. Like the theme of our very own Geopark, her poems encompass her experiences with nature, and its connection with the people living here. Through her poems, we can feel the history of the Hakusan area.



Hakusan Kikusake | GI Hakusan
Hakusan Kikusake is a type of sake named after the ancient Kikusake of the area. Similar to how Champagne wine is produced in Champagne, Hakusan Kikusake must be produced in Hakusan City using Hakusan spring water, following strict guidelines.

Pickled Blowfish Ovaries
This traditional delicacy, which is rare even within Japan, uses the pickling process to remove the poisonous blowfish toxins found in the ovaries.



Between the young grass
Blades upon blades
of green grass
Water can be seen



Tsurugi Townscape

Built at the head of the Tedoru River Alluvial Fan, Tsurugi was a post town, between the mountains to the plains. With abundant water, several brewing industries flourished. Even now you can feel a unique, ancient atmosphere.



Water Channel Gate

Throughout the Tedoru River Alluvial Fan, seven major channels collectively called the Shichika-yousu Water Channel were built. This gate, built in the 1800s, marks their starting point. The initial three tunnels were carved by hand.



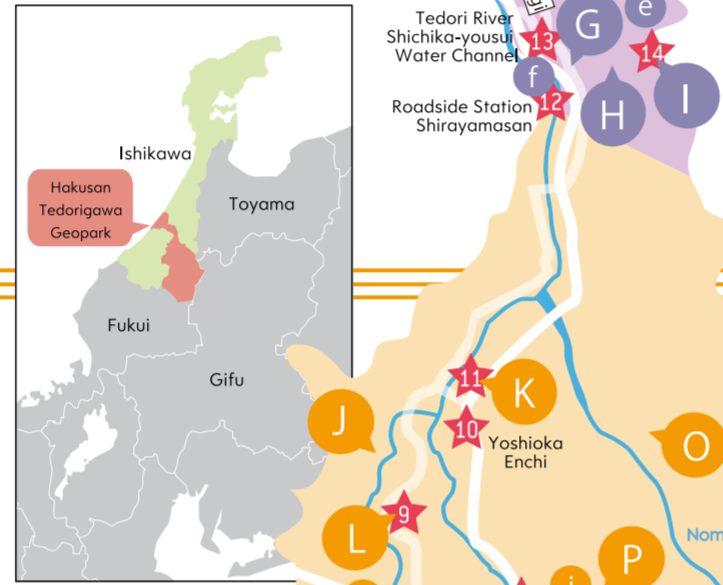
Shirayama Hime Shrine

The Shirayama Hime Shrine, locally called Shirayamasan, is the head shrine devoted to the God of Mt Hakusan. Surrounded by ancient pines, the shrine grounds have a mysterious but peaceful feel.



Shishiku Highlands

Ride to the top of this 600m high mountain in minutes using the Sky Shishiku Gondola. At the top you can see the full extent of the Tedoru River Alluvial Fan, the island villages, and the sea.



2 River and Gorge Area

Spring rain starts
to fall
The ground smiles
in joyful glee
happy fields galore



Myoujin-kabe Bluff

The Myoujin-kabe Bluff is a strangely shaped rock on top of a mountain that overlooks the Dainichi River. If you climb to the top, you can be rewarded with a stunning view of the valley below.



Meoto-iwa Rocks

The erosion of the Tedoru River left behind these 10m high works of art. Because they stand side-by-side they are named "Meoto-iwa" - Husband and Wife, with the rock with a hole being called "Megane-iwa" - glasses rock.

This is my treasure
I cup it in my
hands, so clear
Tasty spring water



Torigoe Castle Ruins

The Torigoe Castle Ruins mark the last fort of the Kaga Rebel Group, who were defeated by the army of Nobunaga. Built on a 312m high hill, the grounds provide an excellent viewpoint of the surrounding valleys.



Dainichi River Spring Water

The Dainichi River is one of the rivers that eventually flows into the Tedoru River. The area surrounding the river is filled with natural springs, which the locals frequently use for drinking.



Komon Bridge

This is the most downstream bridge along the Tedoru Gorge, and gives an epic view of the deep gorge, with the scenery of Mt Hakusan behind. There is also a carpark available for visitors.

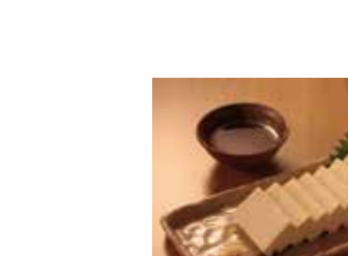
GEOPOINT
The hill that the Torigoe Castle Ruins sit upon is the un-eroded section between the Tedoru and Dainichi Rivers. The two rivers have run side-by-side here, carving this elongated hill into the landscape. This natural platform was the ideal place to build a castle, as it has a clear view up and down both valleys.

3 Mountain and Snow Area



Tedorigawa Dam

The Tedorigawa Dam is the largest dam in Ishikawa Prefecture. It's used for several purposes, including flood protection, hydroelectricity, and drinking water. It's an important part of the lives and economy of the area.



Kata-dofu (Hard Tofu)

Weighing 2 to 3 times the weight of normal tofu, this local food is made from highly condensed soybean.

View Spots
There are 26 view spots which give detailed information on the area. While enjoying the natural beauty, you can also learn about the hidden stories behind the scenery. See our "View Spots" pamphlet for more information.

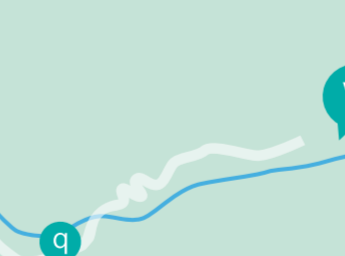


Kuwanjima Fossil Bluff

Hundreds of animal and plant fossils have been discovered in this seemingly insignificant strata of rock, allowing us to imagine the scenery of 130 million years ago. It is also considered the birthplace of paleontology in Japan.

GEOPOINT
When this strata was formed, it was located near the edge of the Eurasian Continent, where several rivers would have converged, pouring into the sea. The plants and animals of that era were buried by the sand and mud of the river, to later become fossils. The Journey of Water and Rock is never ending, and occurs in various places throughout time.

Heavy Snowfall Village Shiramine
Shiramine uses unique architecture. Built 2 to 3 stories high, with thick mud walls, and tall ladders, the buildings can withstand heavy snow. The area is designated as an Important Preservation District for Groups of Historic Buildings.



Tochi Mochi

Made with love and care, these local handmade sweets perfectly balance the bitterness of horse chestnut with the sweetness of red bean.



Iwama Sinter Cones

Made from a hot spring that erupts at almost 100 degrees Celsius, these towers deposit thick coats of lime as they grow. It is designated as a Special National Natural Monument.



Ubagatani Waterfall

Named after the word for 'Old Lady', this waterfall looks like long strands of grey hair. Several sinter cones can be seen nearby, and you can enjoy a natural open-air hot spring, and foot bath.



Mt Hakusan Volcano

Although Mt. Hakusan is a beautiful and stunning mountain, it is still an active volcano! At the summit you can still see the crater lakes that formed during the previous eruptions.

Recently I feel
The wind blows
differently
Alas,
snow once more

GEOPOINT
Up until almost the summit of Mt Hakusan you can see dinosaur-aged strata, similar to that of the Kuwanjima Fossil Bluff. On top of this strata, lava was deposited during volcanic eruptions. Mixed with the effects of spring snowmelt, the underlying rock breaks away and erodes easily. This eroded rock mixes with the water and erodes long, steep valleys. Mt Hakusan is not only the start of the Journey of Water, but also that of the Journey of Rock.

