

# Site Map of Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark



The Geopark is an official UNESCO program aimed at preserving valuable heritage of the earth in the region through sustainable development of local communities.

## Experience Programs to fully enjoy the Geopark

Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark has many experience programs. Here are 5 recommended programs! (Advance reservations required.)

**Making Traditional Japanese Candles of the Shimabara Domain**  
 It's a traditional product that saved the Shimabara domain from a financial crisis after the "Shimabara Taishen (Catastrophe)". You will make Japanese candles by a rare method even with Japan using the fruits of Haze (Japanese wax tree).  
 Operation Period: All year  
 Numbers of Participants: 2-40 persons

**Mt. Fugendake Trekking**  
 A trekking tour with a guide to feel the beautiful nature of Mt. Unzen-Fugendake, created by volcanic eruptions. Refresh yourself in hot springs after trekking.  
 Operation Period: All year  
 Numbers of Participants: 2+ persons

**Experiencing "Obiki" of Shimabara Hand-Made Somen Noodles**  
 Hand-made somen noodles are produced by making use of the climate of the Shimabara Peninsula. You will experience a process of its production called "Obiki" (a tie pull). The fresh somen noodles that can be tasted only here are exceptionally good.  
 Operation Period: All year  
 Numbers of Participants: 3-40 persons

**Dolphin Watching at Amakusa Nada**  
 It's a marine tour to watch the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins up close. Approx. 300 of them inhabit in Hayasaki Strait, the entrance to the Ariake Sea. In early summer, you can see child dolphins swimming with their parent dolphins.  
 Operation Period: All year  
 Numbers of Participants: 2-300 persons

**Harvesting Shimabara Potatoes with a BBQ**  
 You will harvest the potatoes born from the soil of Shimabara Peninsula, created in a warm climate and over 1.5 million years of time. You can also try to operate a tiller.  
 Operation Period: May / Doombor  
 Numbers of Participants: 5-40 persons

Name of Facility	Location on Map	Tel. Number	Admission: General (Group)	Open Hours
Gamasdas Dome (Mt. Unzen Volcano Museum)	E4	0957-65-5555	Adult: ¥1,000 (Volcano Museum) Jr./Sr. High School Students: ¥740 (Volcano Museum) Elementary School Students: ¥300 (Volcano Museum)	9:00 - 18:00 (Last entry: 17:00) Open year round (Closed in early April for maintenance)
Mt. Unzen Visitor Center	C4	0957-73-3636	Free	9:00 - 17:00 Closed on Thursdays (Open if it is a national holiday and closed on the following day)
Heisei-Shinzan Nature Center	D4	0957-63-6752	Free	9:00 - 17:00 Closed on Tuesdays (Open if it is a national holiday and closed on the following day)
Mt. Unzen Suwanoke Visitor Center	B6	0957-76-5010	Free	9:00 - 17:00 Closed on Wednesdays (Open if it is a national holiday and closed on the following day)
Tashirobaru Trail Center	C3	0957-78-0441	Free	10:00 - 17:00 (May 1 - November 30) Closed on Thursdays
Memorial Park of the Houses Destroyed by Debris Flows (Roadside Station "Mizunashi Honjin Fukae")	E4	0957-72-7222	Free	9:00 - 17:00 (Subject to seasonal changes)
Onobaru Site Museum / Former Onobaru Elementary School	D4	0957-72-2499	Free	9:00 - 16:30 Closed on December 29 - January 3
Arima Christian Heritage Museum	C7	0957-85-3217	Adult: ¥300 (Volcano Museum) Jr./Sr. High School Students: ¥150 (Volcano Museum) Elementary School Students: ¥100 (Volcano Museum)	9:00 - 18:00 Closed on Thursdays and December 29 - January 3
Branch of Kuchinotsu History and Folklore Museum	B8	0957-73-6773	Adult: ¥300 (Volcano Museum) Jr./Sr. High School Students: ¥150 (Volcano Museum) Elementary School Students: ¥100 (Volcano Museum)	9:00 - 17:00 (Last entry: 16:30) Closed on Mondays and December 29 - January 3
Obama Town History Museum	B5	0957-75-0858	Elementary School Students and above ages: ¥100	9:00 - 18:00 Closed on Thursdays and December 29 - January 3
Unzen Historical Museum Kunimi Exhibition Hall	C1	0957-78-2334	Free	9:00 - 17:00 Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays (Last entry: 16:30) Please contact the museum for details.
Onobaru Site Museum (in Shimabara Ariake Culture Hall)	D2	0957-68-5800	Free	9:00 - 17:00 Closed on Tuesdays and December 29 - January 3
Shimabara Yusukan (Spring Water House)	E3	0957-62-8019	Free	9:00 - 18:00

\* The information of facilities are as of the issue date of this leaflet. Please contact each facility for details.

Contact for inquiries and reservations for the Geopark Guides and the experience programs:  
**Shimabara Tourism Board**  
 1-1 Heiseimachi, Shimabara City, Nagasaki 855-0879 JAPAN  
 TEL: 0957-62-0655 FAX: 0957-62-0680  
 E-mail: info@shimakanren.com https://www.shimakanren.com/

Contact for this leaflet:  
**The Council of Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark**  
 1-1 Heiseimachi, Shimabara City, Nagasaki 855-0879 JAPAN  
 TEL: 0957-65-5540 FAX: 0957-65-5542  
 E-mail: info@unzen-geopark.jp http://www.unzen-geopark.jp/

Issued February 2021

## Nagasaki, JAPAN in Shimabara Peninsula

# How to enjoy Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark

I am "Geo-kun" I will show you the highlights of Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark!

Official Mascot of Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark

Enjoy a Walk

Fun Experience

Touch & Feel

**What is a "Sukul"?**  
 It is a stationary fishing device made of stone walls assembled in a semi-circular shape at the seashore. The stone walls are built at high tide. Using the tidal range, fish are caught at low tide after they entered inside the stone walls at high tide. In some areas, it is called "Ishihibi" or "Ishihimi".

**What is the history of the Shimabara Rebellion?**  
 Christianity had been introduced by the Tokugawa shogunate in 1614, but there was still a large number of Christians in Shimabara. In 1637, the Tokugawa shogunate ordered the Christians to leave Shimabara. The Christians refused to leave and fought the Shimabara Rebellion. The rebellion was suppressed in 1638, and the Christians were persecuted. The Shimabara Rebellion is one of the most famous rebellions in Japanese history.

**Why is the Shimabara Peninsula so volcanically active?**  
 The Shimabara Peninsula is crossed by deep cracks in the earth's crust called faults. These faults are the cause of volcanic activity. The Shimabara Peninsula is one of the most volcanically active areas in Japan.

**Is it safe to visit the mountains?**  
 Yes, it is safe to visit the mountains. The Shimabara Peninsula is a beautiful area with many scenic views. However, visitors should be careful of volcanic activity and follow the instructions of the local authorities.

**When was the last time a volcano erupted on the Shimabara Peninsula?**  
 The last time a volcano erupted on the Shimabara Peninsula was in 1995. The eruption was a small one, but it was a reminder of the volcanic activity in the area.

**Why do volcanologists have kept close watch over the mountain with an advanced system of monitoring devices, and infrastructure improvements have greatly reduced the risks posed by future eruptions?**  
 Volcanologists have kept close watch over the mountain with an advanced system of monitoring devices, and infrastructure improvements have greatly reduced the risks posed by future eruptions. This is to ensure the safety of the local residents and visitors.

## Access by Public Transportation

Mode	Route	Time
Plane	The nearest airport	Nagasaki Airport
	From Tokyo to Nagasaki Airport: 1 hour 50 min.	
Train	From Fukuoka City: 3 hours	
	From Fukuoka City: 1 hour 50 min. - 2 hours 10 min.	
Express Ferry	From Nagasaki Port to "Taira Port": 45 min.	
	From "Kumamoto Port" to "Shimabara Port": 30 min. - 1 hour	
Kyushu Shinkansen & Ferry	From Fukuoka City: 3 hours 30 min.	
	Hakata Bus Terminal → Shimabara Port	
Local Bus	From JR "Isahaya Station", a bus service to the Shimabara Peninsula is available.	
	From "Onike Port" to "Kuchinotsu Port": 30 min.	

## Learn with Q&A to enjoy the Geopark 10 times

**Key points to know**

Unzen volcanic area UNESCO Global Geopark

**General Information**

What is the difference between a national park and a Geopark?

Is there a mountain named "The Unzen"?

Why do volcanologists have kept close watch over the mountain with an advanced system of monitoring devices, and infrastructure improvements have greatly reduced the risks posed by future eruptions?

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# Welcome to the Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark - a Place to Enjoy the Wonders and Blessings of Volcanoes

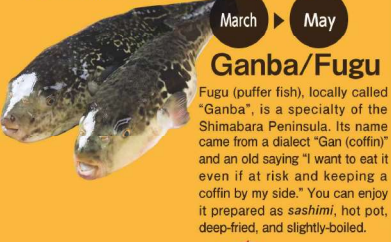
Find the destination by Map Code.  
Map Code is the code number that instantly pinpoints the location on the map. You can find your destination by entering the code into a car navigation system or website supporting the Map Code.

## The genuine taste brought up by the earth Fresh Products in Season



### Tasty Vegetables in the Shimabara Peninsula

The hundreds of thousands of years of volcanic eruptions on the Shimabara Peninsula have created many unique types of fertile soil. Of the many crops grown on Shimabara, potatoes are one of the most famous—in fact, the loose volcanic soil found in the southern half of the peninsula is perfect for growing potatoes. Southern Shimabara is one of the most productive potato-growing regions in the country.



### Ganba/Fugu

Fugu (puffer fish), locally called "Ganba", is a specialty of the Shimabara Peninsula. Its name came from a dialect "Gan (coffin)" and an old saying "I want to eat it even if at risk and keeping a coffin by my side." You can enjoy it prepared as sashimi, hot pot, deep-fried, and slightly-boiled.



### Taira-Gane

Japanese blue crab named "Gazami" is called "Gane" in Shimabara Peninsula. Taira-Gane is the Gazami caught around the coast of Taira Port of Kunimichi, Unzen City and it has characteristic feature of dense meat and rich taste.

## Traditional Unique Food Culture of the Geopark Local Cuisine



This light soup is made using soft, round mochi and a wide variety of other fresh ingredients from across the peninsula. *Souji* soups are quite common in Japan, but this version packs many ingredients into one bowl.



### Shimabara Hand-Made Somen Noodles

Somen are exceptionally thin noodles that are often served cold with a dipping sauce in the summer. One of the most delightful ways to eat them is as *magashi somen*, or "floating noodles," where the cooked noodles are placed in a bamboo chute with water running down it. Diners catch them with their chopsticks as they go sliding by. Many of the *magashi somen* restaurants in Shimabara use spring water to power the noodles along.

Explore and Enjoy the Geopark

Taste the Geopark Flavors

Recommended Souvenirs

## 1 The route to explore the Origins of the Shimabara Peninsula

For lovers of geology, Shimabara Peninsula is an open-air museum featuring more than four million years of volcanic history. On this route, you can explore how natural disasters have shaped the region's culture and history, particularly on its southern coast.

- Hayasaki Seashore
- Majima
- Futagoiwa Rock
- Kunisaki Peninsula
- Tanabatake Observatory
- Hanabusa Observatory
- Hara Castle Site
- Tatsuisai Seashore



**1 Hayasaki Seashore**  
This pleasant walk along the coast will bring you face-to-face with the peninsula's oldest rocks. The dark basalt visible here was produced by underwater volcanoes over 4.3 million years ago.  
Geosite Map A-8 | 173 006 605

**5 Tanabatake Observatory**  
This lookout point offers a majestic view of the region's terraced farms (*tanabatake*). The southern half of Shimabara is one of Japan's greatest potato-producing regions! The region's rich volcanic soil is enclosed into terraced fields by walls made from igneous rocks dug from the earth.  
Geosite Map A-6 | 173 273 365

**7 Hara Castle Site**  
The site of the final battle of the Shimabara Rebellion in 1638, Hara Castle was built on a hill created by the massive eruption of Mt. Aso (1,692 m) in Kumamoto Prefecture more than 90,000 years ago. Ash and debris reached this point from over 150 kilometers away.  
Geosite Map C-7 | 173 165 179

**8 Tatsuisai Seashore**  
The exposed side of this coastal hill reveals 500,000 years of the Shimabara Peninsula's geological history. Each layer shows changes in sea level, different types of volcanic eruptions, and the movement of tectonic faults.  
Geosite Map C-6 | 173 228 838

## 2 The route to trace the Shimabara Catastrophe

The Shimabara Catastrophe of 1792 was the worst volcanic disaster in Japanese history. Its earthquakes and landslides dramatically changed the town of Shimabara and evidence of this event is still clearly visible in the landscape.

- Shimabara Castle
- Lake Shirachi
- Hyotanike Park
- Nita Park
- Chichibugaura Park
- Gamadas Dome (Mt. Unzen Volcano Museum)



**2 Lake Shirachi**  
Lake Shirachi appeared shortly after Mt. Mayuyama (819 m) collapsed and fresh spring water began to bubble out of the resulting cracks in the earth. Although the lake is smaller now, 40,000 metric tons of water still pour out of the ground every day filling it.  
Geosite Map E-3 | 173 719 189

**4 Nita Park**  
A quiet park in a hillside neighborhood, this spot has spectacular views of the town of Shimabara. From this vantage point, you can still see the aftermath of the 1792 earthquake in the steep cliffs of Mt. Mayuyama and the many islands off the coast. Each island was originally a chunk of land that sheared away from the mountain and tumbled into the sea.  
Geosite Map D-4 | 173 627 597



**5 Chichibugaura Park**  
Here you can see the islands created by Mt. Mayuyama's collapse up close. The new coastal landscape was a hidden blessing, as the shallow waters are a perfect habitat for many native fish. Remnants of stone structures once used for fishing can still be seen from the nearby beach at low tide.  
Geosite Map E-4 | 415 300 366

## 3 The route to enjoy Onsen and Springs

Although it occasionally poses extreme danger, the volcanic activity of the region provides as many boons as it does risks. The same forces that cause earthquakes and volcanoes have created countless hot springs and freshwater springs. Shimabara contains all kinds of evidence of geologic forces at work.

- Chijiwa Fault
- Obama Hot Spring Stroll
- Unzen Jigoku Stroll
- Nita Pass Second Observatory
- Shimabara Spring Water Stroll



**1 Chijiwa Fault**  
At 14 kilometers long and 450 meters above sea level at its highest point, the Chijiwa Fault is easily the largest and most obvious fault line on the whole peninsula. You won't see any spring water here, but you will begin to gain an appreciation for the tectonic power beneath your feet.  
Geosite Map B-3 | 173 756 043

**2 Obama Hot Spring Stroll**  
The hottest hot-spring water on the peninsula can be found in the town of Obama. Here you can visit "Hot Foot 105," Japan's longest foot bath. The water emerges from the earth at 105°C, but it is cooled down before it reaches your feet.  
Geosite Map B-5 | 173 489 747

**3 Unzen Jigoku Stroll**  
It is easy to understand how the *jigoku* ("hells") of Unzen earned their name—they fill the air with clouds of hot steam and the smell of sulfur. One of these hot springs even sounds like it is screaming! This is the perfect place to learn more about the region's natural beauty and history.  
Geosite Map C-4 | 173 556 411

**5 Shimabara Spring Water Stroll**  
Called the "City of Water," Shimabara is a town built around springs. Water flows through small canals in the city's older neighborhoods, and various parks and gardens make use of the abundant water.  
Geosite Map E-3 | 173 749 280

## 4 The route to revisit the Heisei Eruptions

The Heisei Eruptions of 1990-1995 is a sobering reminder of the dangers that come from living so close to the volcanoes on the Shimabara Peninsula. Memorials to this disaster commemorate the loss of life and homes, as well as the many lessons we can learn from the damage it caused.

- Gamadas Dome (Mt. Unzen Volcano Museum)
- Memorial Park of the Houses Destroyed by Debris Flows
- Former Onokoba Elementary School
- Farthest Reaching Point of Proclastic Flow
- Heisei Shinzan Nature Center
- Senbonji Observatory



**1 Gamadas Dome (Mt. Unzen Volcano Museum)**  
As the headquarters of the Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark, the Gamadas Dome brings together science, culture, and history. Inside is the Mt. Unzen Volcano Museum, which uses hands-on exhibits and simulations to introduce the natural calamities experienced by the peninsula's inhabitants over the centuries.  
Geosite Map E-4 | 415 240 761

**2 Memorial Park of the Houses Destroyed by Debris Flows**  
This park has preserved the remains of a group of homes destroyed by the pyroclastic flows caused by the Heisei Eruptions. Many were almost completely buried under an avalanche of mud, ash, and rock.  
Geosite Map E-4 | 173 509 270

**3 Former Onokoba Elementary School**  
A hot cloud of ash burned—and in some places melted—much of this elementary school. The concrete husk has been left untouched as a memorial to the disaster. A ginkgo tree that was burned by the pyroclastic flow has regrown and now shades the former playground of the school.  
Geosite Map U-4 | 173 396 065

**5 Heisei Shinzan Nature Center**  
This scientific and educational facility is located just 2.5 km away from Mt. Heisei Shinzan (1,483 m), the tall peak created by the Heisei Eruptions. The view from the nature center is extraordinary, as is the boardwalk path through the recovering environment at the foot of the mountain.  
Geosite Map D-4 | 173 654 845

## 5 The route to retrace People's Lives and Struggles

Ever since people began to live on the Shimabara Peninsula, there has been conflict between them. This route, which follows the path of sites across the north of the peninsula, illustrates the connection between history and geography.

- Yamada Castle Ruins Park
- Moriyama Otsuka Tumulus
- Unzen Historical Museum Kunimi Exhibition Hall
- Onohama Seashore
- Onoharu Shin Museum
- Site of the Battle of Okitanawate
- Shimabara Castle



**1 Yamada Castle Ruins Park**  
Conflict over control of the peninsula's rich farmland was common until the Shimabara Rebellion in 1638. The powerful Otomo clan had built a castle here in 1372, using the hill created by the flow of the river to secure an easily defensible position in their attempt to take over the peninsula.  
Geosite Map B-2 | 173 878 070

**2 Moriyama Otsuka Tumulus**  
Huge burial mounds called *kofun* were built in ancient Japan between about 300 and 540 CE. This *kofun*, one of the largest in Nagasaki Prefecture, is an archaeological treasure. Local residents created a graveyard on top of the tomb.  
Geosite Map B-2 | 325 039 013

**3 Unzen Historical Museum Kunimi Exhibition Hall**  
This building, formerly a junior high school, was turned into a museum that now displays artifacts discovered across the Shimabara Peninsula.  
Geosite Map C-1 | 325 137 016

**6 Site of the Battle of Okitanawate**  
During the Sengoku period (1467-1568), clans across Japan battled for regional supremacy. In 1584, the combined forces of the Arima and Shimazu clans, numbering only 8,000 soldiers, defeated the 50,000-strong army of the Iiyazoi clan. The Arima and Shimazu cleverly used the hilly terrain of Okitanawate to give themselves the advantage they needed to win.  
Geosite Map E-3 | 173 779 780

### Local Dishes Brought up by Nature

**Somen-Bachi Project (Somen-Noodle Bowl Project)**  
In this project, handmade *somen* noodles, a specialty of the Shimabara Peninsula, are served in a bowl of Hasami Pottery with cross-shaped floral patterns. You can try it in around 20 restaurants in Minamishimabara City.

**Miso-Soup with Arakabu**  
Arakabu (scorpion fish) grown in Hayasaki Strait, known for its fast tidal current, tastes good with its firm flesh and light flavor. The miso-soup made with plentiful Arakabu is exceptionally delicious.

### Specialties Born from the Shimabara Catastrophe

**Kanzarashi**  
These small, soft mochi rice cakes are made with local spring water and served in a bowl with a light syrup. This is a refreshing conclusion to a meal, especially during the summer.

**Rokube**  
An inventive dish that saved the people from the food crisis after the Shimabara Catastrophe. It is made by cutting the dough of sweet potato powder into the shape of noodles and steaming them.

### Great Combination of Blessings of the Sea and the Volcanoes

**Obama Chanpon**  
One of the 3 greatest *chanpon* noodles in Japan. Cooked with a variety of local seafood and vegetables, it features unshelled shrimps and light-flavored broth.

**Onsen Tamago (Hot Spring Steamed Egg)**  
The egg steamed by the heat of Unzen Jigoku hot spring. It has an old saying "Eating 1 egg and you live 3 years longer, 2 eggs and 5 years longer, 3 eggs and live until your death". This is absolutely a blessing of Unzen Volcano.

### Fugu Dishes Unique to the Shimabara Peninsula

**Ganba Yubiki**  
The slightly-boiled Ganba/Fugu (puffer fish), served with a dipping sauce made with *umeboshi* (pickled plum), soy sauce, sake, and vinegar, and eaten with a condiment made with grated radish and chili.

**Gane-daki**  
A simmered dish of Fugu (puffer fish), cooked with garlic shoots, *umeboshi* (pickled plum) and soy sauce. The name "gane" comes from the local name "gane" for a crab since the crab-like bubbles are produced when it is cooked.

### Superb Foods Made from the Blessings of Volcano

**Unzen Koba-takana Bun**  
A bun filled with Unzen Koba-takana, a local variety of leaf mustard. You can enjoy the unique taste of Unzen Koba-takana, listed as an endangered and specially-preserved vegetable by the Slow Food International.

**Jagachan (Fried Potato)**  
Deep-fried whole potatoes made with locally harvested potatoes. Crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside, you will be addicted to their savory aroma and slightly-sweet coatings.

### Minamishimabara Nanban Croquette

The Croquette, a deep-fried mashed potato coated with bread crumbs, is a specialty of Minamishimabara City, known as a potato-growing area in Japan. Under its Nanban Croquette Project, a variety of Croquette menus from light snacks to set meals have been created.

### Kurobo

Kurobo, meaning a black stick, is a fluffy square cake coated with brown sugar. It is a popular souvenir among tourists.

### Yu-Senpei

A traditional sweet cracker made with wheat flour, egg, sugar, and cooled hot spring water. It is a popular confectionary for its light-sweet taste and crispy texture, as well as its retro packaging designed with a birds-eye-view map.

### Heisei Shinzan and Unzen Lava-Roasted Coffee

This coffee is carefully roasted at low temperature using the lava blocks of Mt. Unzen. It is mild-bitter coffee, and its mellow taste can be enjoyed even when it gets cold.

### Tofu Kamaboko

A wide variety of hand-made Kamaboko (boiled fish paste) are made from fresh fish from the Ariake Sea. Tofu Kamaboko is a kind made with fish and *tofu* (soybean curd). Visit the Unzen Kamaboko Road, connecting many Kamaboko shops, to find your favorite one.