



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



San'in Kaigan
UNESCO
Global Geopark

Hometown of Japanese Cattle: Ojiro

Yoshitaki Waterfalls & Kusube Valley Courses

Ojiro is a village nestled among beautiful valleys and surrounded by majestic mountains. People here have lived in harmony with nature, making use of what little flat land they have and the slopes among the mountains for houses and arable land. Rich water and geological diversity have created numerous waterfalls and valleys. People raised cattle for farming, which later became the origin of Tajima Cattle. The scenery, created by the mountains and people's lives, is an artistic masterpiece.

Tajima Cattle were once raised for the cultivation of rice paddies and transportation. As breeding was limited to separate valleys surrounded by steep mountains, excellent pedigrees unique to each valley were established. With the passage of time, people have continuously improved the breed as beef cattle. Now they are traded throughout the whole country, receiving high praise as the breeding cattle that produce Kobe Beef and other brand beef. Ojiro is famous as one of the production areas of Tajima cattle. Above all, *Tajiri-go* born in Ojiro in 1939 was a special bull that contributed to establishing excellent pedigrees. It is known that most of the mother cattle of high-quality Japanese Black Cattle bred all over Japan are descended from *Tajiri-go*.



Yoshitaki Waterfalls



Tajiri-go



San'in Kaigan Geopark Walk model course

First edition: 2012.10.29 Last updated: 2018.2.28

Ojiro Tourism Center
Local information available here!
TEL:0796-97-2250



Icons: Family, Dining, Parking

Kusube Valley Course

Start Estimated walking time

- ① Hot springs "Ojiron" Source of natural hot springs
1 min ↓ About 30m
- ② Smooth riverbed of Kusube River
20 min ↓ About 600m
- ③ Kusube Mine related facilities
20 min ↓ About 600m
- ④ Kanamedaki Waterfalls & Sandantaki Waterfalls

Necessary time: 41min
Total distance: About 1.23km

Yoshitaki Waterfalls Course

Start Estimated walking time

- ⑤ Yoshitaki campsite
30 min ↓ About 900m
- ⑥ Shimachi Pond & cattle pasture
20 min ↓ About 600m
- ⑦ Nukida basalt
5 min ↓ About 100m
- ⑧ Yoshitaki Waterfalls

Necessary time: 55min
Total distance: About 1.6km

Kusube Valley Short Course

Start Estimated walking time

- ③ Kusube Mine related facilities
20 min ↓ About 600m
- ④ Kanamedaki Waterfalls & Sandantaki Waterfalls

Necessary time: 20min
Total distance: About 600m

Yoshitaki Waterfalls Short Course

Start Estimated walking time

- Parking lot at the entrance of Yoshitaki Waterfalls
10 min ↓ About 200m
- ⑦ Nukida basalt
5 min ↓ About 100m
- ⑧ Yoshitaki Waterfalls

Necessary time: 15min
Total distance: About 300m

Recommend

- Sandantaki Waterfalls** (Keep out of the mining tunnels. *Keep out of the mining tunnels. Turn left to Takimi-tei (restaurant))
- Kanamedaki Waterfalls**
- Yoshitaki Waterfalls** (On the both sides of Yoshitaki Waterfalls, there are two waterfalls called "Kintaki Waterfalls (Golden Waterfalls)" and "Gintaki Waterfalls (Silver Waterfalls)", leaking from the rocks. Quiz 1: How are waterfalls formed?)
- Hot springs "Ojiron" & Source of natural hot springs** (Let's look for ruins of mines in the forest! *Keep out of the mining tunnels.)
- Smooth riverbed of Kusube River Natural water slide**
- Kusube Mine related facilities**
- Source of natural hot springs** (Soft-shelled turtle farming using hot springs water)
- An Extra ① Fureai Historical Park** (The best spot for lunch!)
- An Extra ② Rice terraces of Ueyama**
- Yoshitaki campsite**
- Shimachi Pond & cattle pasture**
- Nukida basalt** (Huge trees)
- Yoshitaki Waterfalls** (The origin of Japanese Cattle! The birthplace of Tajiri-go)

Legend

- Toilet
- Parking lot
- Restaurant
- Explanation signboard
- Route
- Watch your step
- Traffic hazards
- Kusube Valley Course
- Kusube Valley Short Course
- Yoshitaki Waterfalls Course
- Yoshitaki Waterfalls Short Course
- Ojiro Long Course
- Rice paddy
- Farmland & pasture
- Superb view
- Ruin of mining tunnels

Other locations: Ojiron, Kusube River, Ojiro Junior High School, Ojiro Elementary School, Cowsheds, Komyo-ji Temple, Pasture area, Farmland containing kuroboku soil.

Scale: 200m

***Ojiro Long Course is a one-day course for hardy hikers**

To preserve these beautiful natural assets, please leave stones and plants as they are. Keep out of dangerous places and do not go off-limits. What you can bring home with you are happy memories, photos and local souvenirs!!

Ojiro's many places of interest Yoshitaki Waterfalls & Kusube Valley

① Hot springs "Ojiron" & source of natural hot springs



With their light brownish-red color, the natural hot springs at Ojiron are gentle on the skin, allowing visitors to relax in a rich natural environment. The water quality is neutral and mild with a temperature of about 35°C. There is a point where a natural hot spring gushes out at a low temperature along the Kusube River, leaving sediment where it flows.

② Smooth riverbed of Kusube River



Along the Kusube River, towards where it joins the Yada River, white rock, or tuff, can be seen. The riverbed next to "Ojiron" hot springs is particularly smooth and is a great place for children to play in summer.

③ Kusube Mine related facilities



Kusube Mine was a working gold mine until the early Showa period (1926-1989). Concrete structures related to Kusube Mine are scattered throughout the area, giving visitors a glimpse of its past prosperity. The mineral deposits found here are hydrothermal deposits, formed by the precipitation of solids from hot mineral-laden water. Mining tunnels still remain there.
CAUTION: Please don't enter any mining tunnels or buildings.

④ Kanamedaki Waterfalls & Sandantaki Waterfalls




Looking upstream, Sandantaki Waterfalls are on the right, and Kanamedaki Waterfalls are on the left. They are gentle waterfalls which contain white rock (tuff) formed by large-scale pyroclastic flows as a result of volcanic activity about 3 million years ago. Visitors are able to get up close to the waterfalls by car, arriving there in a few minutes via the path beside Takimi-tei (restaurant).

⑤ Yoshitaki campsite



The campsite is 600 meters above sea level and has an observatory that overlooks the Ojiro area. Walking around the Yoshitaki Waterfalls, people can savor great scenery and cooler temperatures even in the middle of summer. Stars twinkle brightly in the night sky and you may be treated to a sea of clouds in the early morning. *Open late April to mid November
Phone: 0796-97-2392

⑥ Shimachi Pond & cattle pasture



The location of Shimachi Pond is attributed to the location of a rift in which water accumulated after a landslide. Highland vegetables are cultivated on kuroboku soil farmland on slopes formed by landslides. Tajima cattle grazing on the green meadow create a peaceful highland landscape.

⑦ Nukida basalt



Basalt lava which erupted about 1.3 million years ago is seen on the mountainside along a natural trail that leads from the parking lot to Yoshitaki Waterfalls. The contrast of glittering black lava with water and greenery around it is splendid. There are huge trees, such as Japanese cedar, zelkova and horse-chestnut standing together along the trail. These woods are known for their beautiful autumn leaves.

⑧ Yoshitaki Waterfalls




Yoshitaki Waterfalls, a natural monument designated by Hyogo prefecture, are 28 m high in total; the top section is 23 m and the lower section is 5 m. They are formed of lava (andesite) which flowed out as a result of volcanic activity approximately 3 million years ago. It is a unique waterfall also known as Urami-no-Taki, or "the waterfall seen from behind," since Yoshitaki Shrine is located in a cave behind the waterfall. From rock crevices on the both sides of Yoshitaki Waterfalls, two waterfalls flow: Gintaki Waterfalls (silver waterfalls) on the left and Kintaki Waterfalls (golden waterfalls) on the right.

An Extra ① Fureai Historical Park



Fureai Historical Park is on the site of a medieval castle built atop a mountain, complete with reconstructed towers and moats. Hiroyama Castle is composed of a main compound and four fortresses in the four directions, extending 500 m from north to south and 150 m from east to west. The foot of the mountain is a natural fortress surrounded by the Kusube and Otani Rivers. The park includes a watchtower and old-fashioned signboards.

An Extra ② Rice terraces of Ueyama



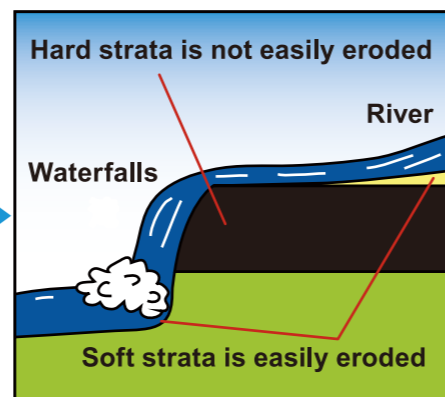
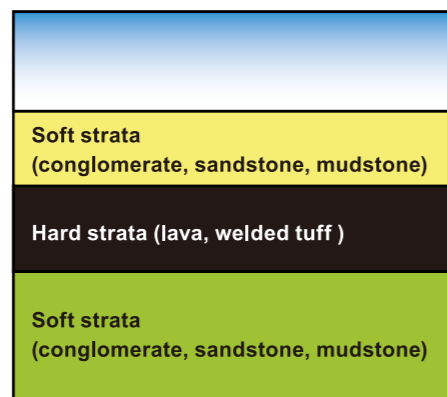
The rice terraces of Ueyama that developed on gentle slopes formed by landslide are included in the 100 best rice terraces in Japan. Rice terraces also have the dual purpose of mitigating natural disasters as a so-called "Green Dam," by retaining rainwater and groundwater to avert floods. They also prevent rainwater from flowing down from the higher ground all at once. One reason why rice grown in rice terraces is delicious is that it is grown with clean valley water and clean air. It is also because the daily temperature fluctuations are largest in the ripening period, during when the rice's flavor is determined. This increases the sweetness of the rice.

Geo-Column ①

Beautiful panorama created by geological diversity and rich water

~Waterfalls & Valleys~

The ground of Ojiro and its surrounding areas is mainly composed of sandstones and mudstones which accumulated in rivers and sea during the expansion of the Sea of Japan. It is also formed of lava from active volcanoes and volcanic tuff (solidified volcanic ashes) made of pyroclastic flow. This geological diversity is one of the causes of these various landforms. Lava and welded tuff (tuff that was welded together with its own heat and weight at the time of rapid deposition) are especially hard, and they often create smooth riverbeds and waterfalls. Yoshitaki Waterfalls are formed of lava, while Kanamedaki Waterfalls and Sandantaki Waterfalls are formed of welded tuff, each showing their own landscapes.



Water erodes the earth and creates waterfalls and valleys over long periods of time.

Quiz-Answer

- ①: Read Geo-Column ① ②: (1) An abundance of clear water, which is an essential condition for growing rice (2) Daily temperature fluctuations that increase the sweetness of the rice (3) Meticulous care by farmers (due to limited acreage of paddies caused by geographical factors)

Geo-Column ②

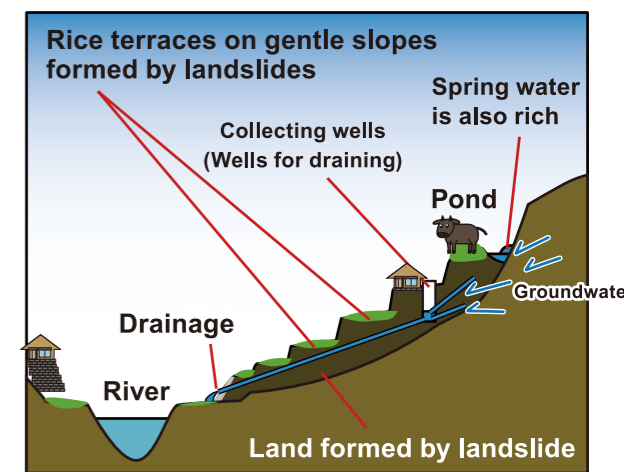
Usage and disaster risk reduction on the land formed by landslides

Because of the steep slopes and lack of flat land, there is only limited space for houses and fields. People have created today's beautiful scenery with houses and rice paddies on the flat land of river terraces and on the gentle slopes formed by the landslide. The area where many landslides occur has a lot of spring water, and therefore, it is able to keep enough water for rice growing.

The soil of the land formed by landslides is also good for vegetation because clod movement cultivates the soil and mixes nitrogen into it. Rice terraces work for keeping rainwater and for preventing rainwater from seeping into the underground, thereby preventing further landslides. In addition, the villages on the land formed by landslides have taken various measures against slope disasters, for example, making collecting wells to drain off groundwater and prevent another landslide caused by the rise of groundwater level.



Collecting wells (Wells for draining)



People live their lives, taking advantage of natural topography.