



Genbudo Park Renewal

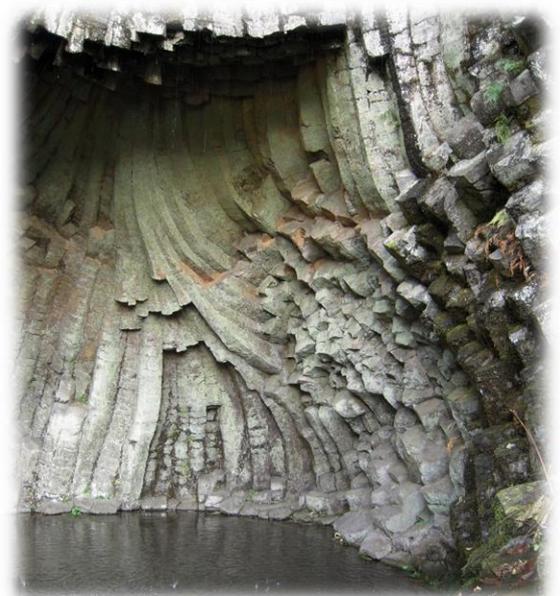


Genbudo, the largest of the five basalt caves at Genbudo Park, with a new lookout and performance stage

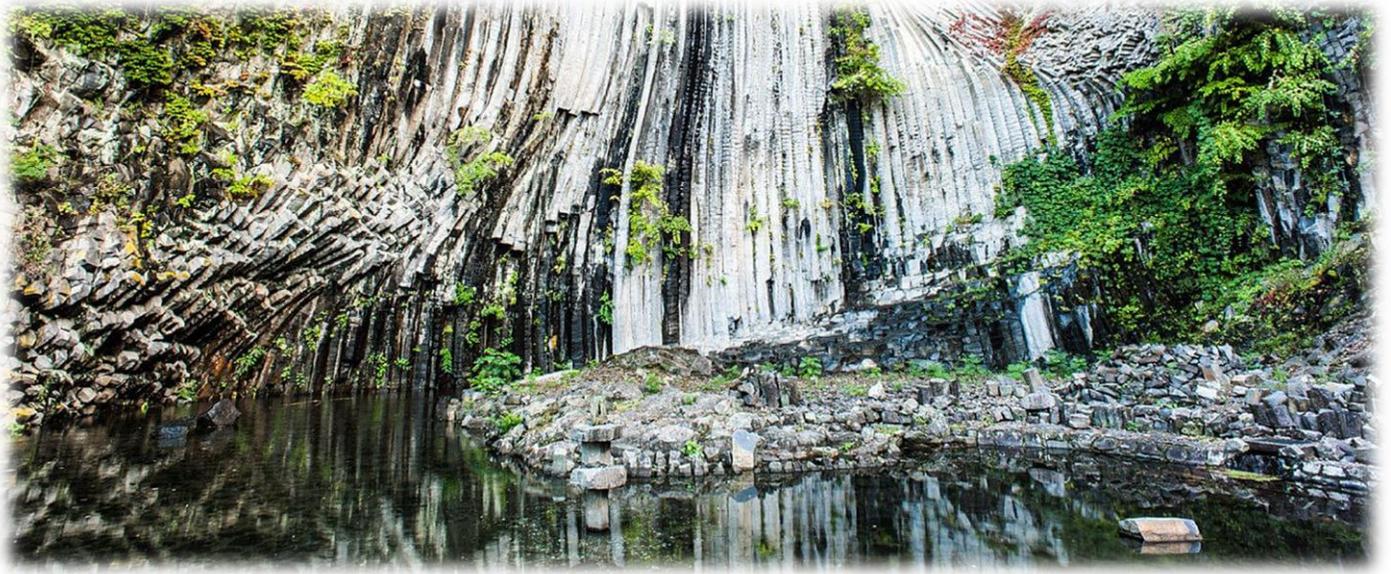
Toyooka City is pleased to announce the awaited re-opening of [Genbudo Park](#)! Home to the five beautiful basalt Genbudo Caves with over 1.6 million years of geological history, Genbudo Park was designated in 1931 as a National Natural Monument by the Japanese Government, and the impressive caves are also part of the San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark, making it a perfect educational outdoor trip for visitors to the area. The newly renovated park grounds welcome back visitors with improved walking paths, lookout points, and explanations and exhibition signs completely translated into English. Entry fees range from 500 JPY for adults and 300 JPY for students (400 JPY for adults and 240 JPY for students with groups of 20 people or more), with viewing hours from 9:00 to 17:00 (last entry at 16:30).

Harmony Between Nature and Industry

After a volcanic eruption over 1.6 million years ago, the basalt rocks of the caves formed columnar joints due to magma cooling, contracting, and eventually forming vertical hexagonal cracks. Before becoming a park and museum for the public to enjoy, the Genbudo Caves were utilized as a quarry during the Edo Period (1603~1867), resulting in the recessed areas of the cave that are still viewable to this day. Locals discovered that the rocks could easily be used for building materials, and visitors can still see these basalt rocks just about everywhere during one's visit to the area, including in the park's walkways.



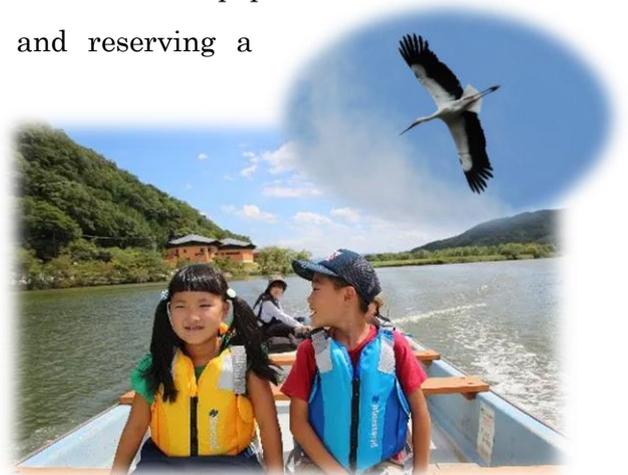
Seiryudo, one cave with visible mining traces.



Getting to the Caves

Access to the Genbudo Caves is possible via a variety of options, including sightseeing boat, [rent-a-car](#), and bicycling from Kinoshiki Onsen Station. Driving from [Kinoshiki Onsen](#) to Genbudo Park takes approximately seven minutes, however, the most adventurous (and most popular) option for foreign tourists is calling Genbudo Museum and reserving a sightseeing boat across the Maruyama River from JR Genbudo Station. The slow-paced ride is particularly popular for families with children.

Visitors who enjoy scenic [cycling routes](#) also won't be disappointed after a 20-minute ride from Kinoshiki Onsen to Genbudo Park. Travelling to the caves by bicycle leads cyclists down a countryside road lined with the Maruyama Riverside on one side and forested mountains on the other. Especially lucky visitors may see an [Oriental White Stork](#) flying overhead.



Genbudo Park's sightseeing boat

An Illumination Celebration

In honor of Genbudo Park's re-opening, nightly [light up events](#) are held every day throughout the month of September, painting the caves in a rainbow of glowing illuminations. Stage shows are also to be held on specified evenings in conjunction with the light up displays, including tap dancing and also a performance from the [Toyooka Theater Festival](#).



For inquiries regarding this press release

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[Kinosaki Onsen](#) is a town of time-honored hot springs dating back 1300 years ago. It is home to seven public bathhouses, all located within walking distance of each other and the train station. Guests are encouraged to wear yukata and geta, stroll through the town, and go onsen-hopping.

[Toyooka](#) is home to the Oriental White Stork, a bird that was revived from extinction in this very town. Tour the storks' natural habitat with an English-speaking guide and learn about the town's sustainability efforts, such as stork-friendly farming methods, to keep stork populations thriving and healthy.



[Izushi](#), lovingly referred to by locals as “Little Kyoto,” is popular for its nostalgic atmosphere of Edo-era Japan. Together with an English-speaking guide, tour Izushi Castle Ruins, Shinkoro clock tower, and Eirakukan Kabuki Theatre. Enjoy Izushi Sara Soba for lunch, buckwheat noodles served on five small plates.

[Kannabe](#) is a mountainous area teeming with natural wonders and scenic views. Take flight into the highland skies on a paragliding adventure, hike a lava flow trail with an experienced guide, and enjoy relaxed camping and picnic spots together with the town's locals.



[Takeno](#) is a quaint fisherman town that is a hidden gem among the northern coast of Hyogo Prefecture. Enjoy a plethora of outdoor activities such as sea kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and hiking Nekozaiki Peninsula, the northernmost point in Japan's Hyogo Prefecture.

[Tanto](#) is a quiet countryside town with magnificent nature—including a festival of tulips in the spring and sunflowers in the summer.

