

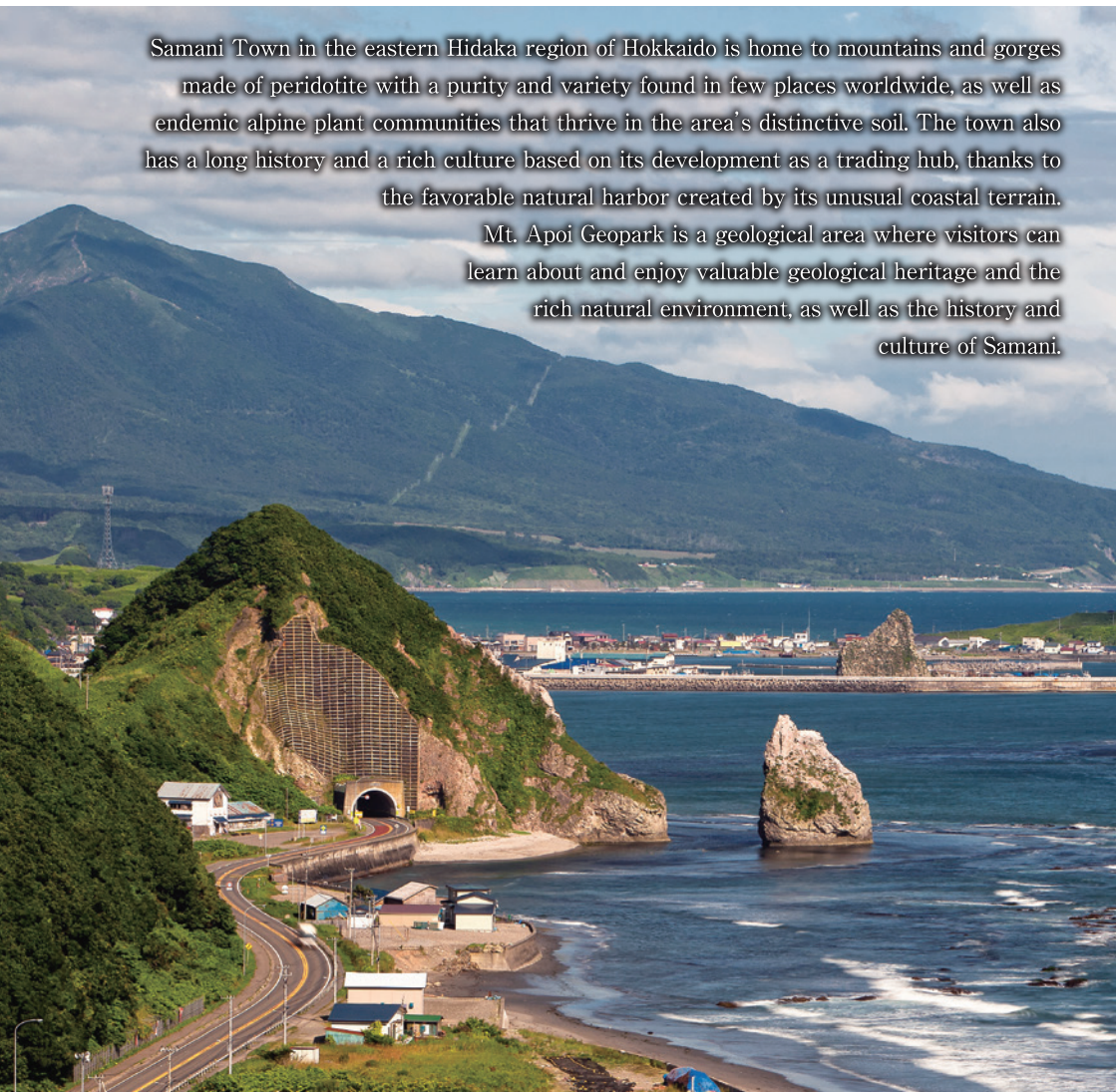
Mt. Apoi Geopark



A Story of Gifts from Deep Inside the Earth Connecting Land and People Together

Samani Town in the eastern Hidaka region of Hokkaido is home to mountains and gorges made of peridotite with a purity and variety found in few places worldwide, as well as endemic alpine plant communities that thrive in the area's distinctive soil. The town also has a long history and a rich culture based on its development as a trading hub, thanks to the favorable natural harbor created by its unusual coastal terrain.

Mt. Apoi Geopark is a geological area where visitors can learn about and enjoy valuable geological heritage and the rich natural environment, as well as the history and culture of Samani.



Mt. Apoi Geopark Promotion Council in Samani

Samani Town, Hokkaido
Tel: 0146-36-2159 (Direct phone)
Fax: 0146-36-2662 (Switchboard)
E-mail: apoi-geopark@samani.jp

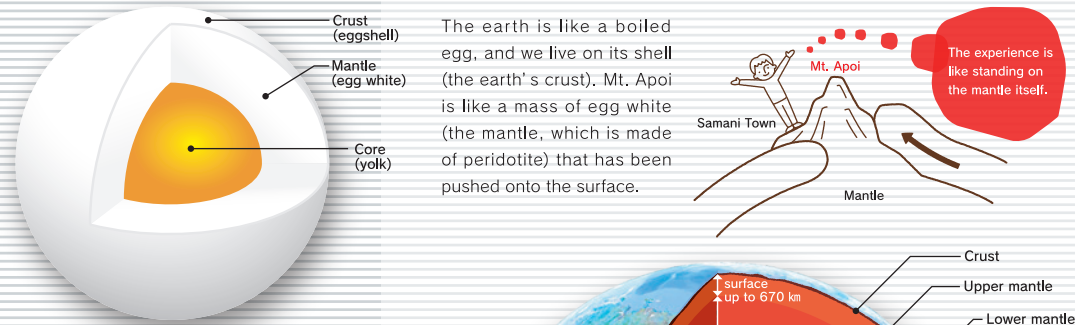
Mt. Apoi Geopark Mascots

Kamran-kun
Apoi-chan

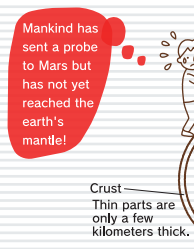
Visit the Mt. Apoi Geopark website for information on the geopark and Samani Town.
<https://www.apoi-geopark.jp/english/>

QR code

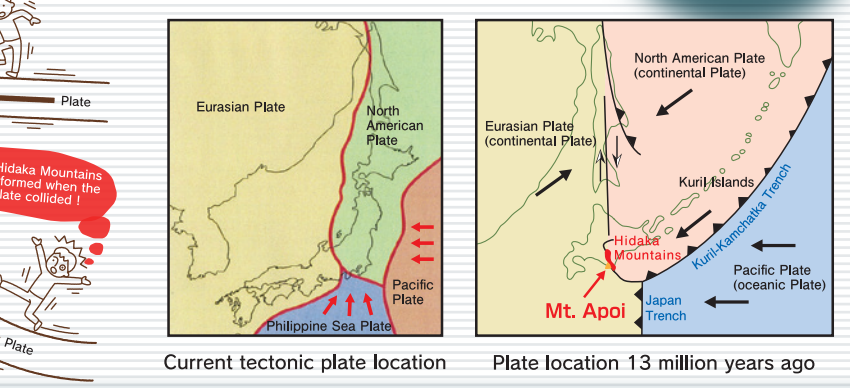
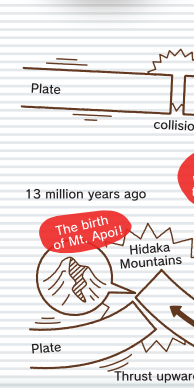
By car	Samani
By bus	Samani



Although mankind has technology to send a probe as far as Mars, nobody has ever bored through the earth's thin crust beneath our feet to reach the mantle far below. In this way, Mt. Apoi is part of the area's valuable geological heritage providing a window into an unknown world even more mysterious than Mars.



So, how was Mt. Apoi's peridotite - which is more distant from us than Mars - made? It is all related to the Earth's dynamic movement. The earth's surface is covered with a dozen or so huge slabs of rock called tectonic plates, each of which moves at a speed of several centimeters per year. These plates come into contact at their boundaries and slide past one another. Mt. Apoi was formed as a result of the collision of gigantic tectonic plates some 13 million years ago.



Mt. Apoi Geopark Visitor Center



The Mt. Apoi Geopark Visitor Center provides information to maximize enjoyment of the geopark through exhibits, videos, and commentary on Samani's geological and geomorphological characteristics, natural environment, history, culture, and industry. It also provides real-time information on alpine plants and brown bears among other things, to make climbing Mt. Apoi a safe and pleasant experience.

Open	April - November (Inquire for visits between December and March.)
Closed	Open every day during the season
Hours	9:00-17:00
Admission	Free
Inquiries	Tel.: 0146-36-3601 E-mail: apoi.gvc@iis.ocn.ne.jp

Mt. Apoi Peridotite Plaza



This plaza displays polished specimens of peridotite and other rocks from the Hidaka Mountains, which are used for practical training by university students, and other purposes.



Samani Folk Museum



This small folk museum at the base of Cape Enrumu showcases historical artifacts relating to Samani, which thrived from relatively early in Hokkaido's short history. Its old documents from Tojin Temple (collectively designated an Important Cultural Property of Japan) are particularly noteworthy.

Open	All year round
Closed	Mondays and year-end/New Year holidays
Hours	10:00-16:30
Admission	Free
Inquiries	Tel.: 0146-36-3335 E-mail: samanikyoudokan@future.ocn.ne.jp

Samani Library



A collection of approx. 9,000 books, as well as magazines, a multimedia space, and a seminar hall. Countless books on Samani and Mt. Apoi Geopark's natural history can be found here.

Open	All year round
Closed	Mondays, last weekday of every month and year-end/New Year holidays
Hours	10:00-18:00/Sundays 10:00-17:00
Inquiries	Tel.: 0146-36-4181 E-mail: library-302@air.ocn.ne.jp

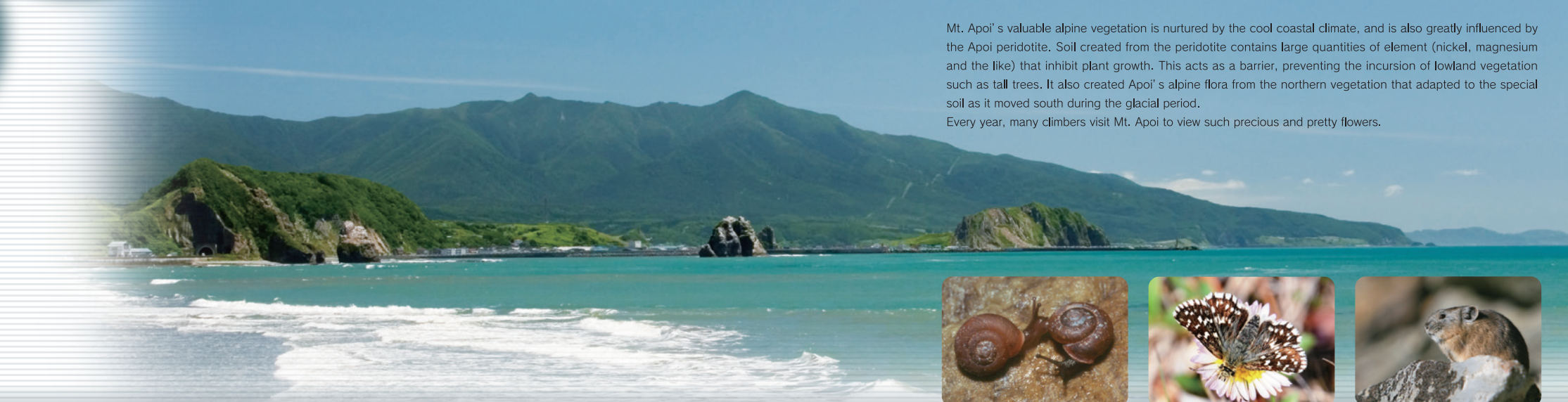
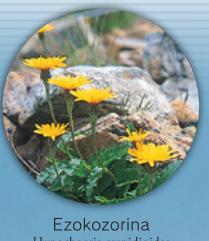


The waters off the Hidaka coast are known as fertile fishing grounds where the warm Tsugaru current, which branches off the Tsushima current flowing northward along the Sea of Japan coast, meets the cold Oyashio (or Kuro) current flowing southward from the eastern side of the Kuril Islands along the eastern coast of Hokkaido. As a result, salmon, Alaska pollock, squid and other fish are caught off the Samani coast (Mt. Apoi Geopark). The coastal waters are also thriving fishing grounds for octopuses, flounders, sea urchins, whelks and the like, as well as kombu kelp and other types of seaweed.

Human

Ecology

Although Mt. Apoi is only 810 m high, approximately 80 species of alpine plants grow on its slopes - including 20 or so endemic subspecies and varieties. Such a large concentration of endemic species in one region is rare throughout the world, and as a result, Mt. Apoi's colonies of alpine flora are one of only six special natural monuments of Japan found in Hokkaido.



GEO STORY



Lodging facilities

Apoi Sanso Hotel

Apoi Sanso Hotel is located near the Mt. Apoi trailhead. It is known for its views of Mt. Apoi and the Pacific Ocean, and for its warm hospitality.

Number of guestrooms	19
Capacity	59 guests
Inquiries	Tel.: 0146-36-5211 E-mail: samani@apoi-sanso.co.jp



Wateya (Japanese-style inn)	
Number of guestrooms	5
Capacity	5-6 guests
Tel.	0146-36-2105

Kanpaku (Japanese-style inn)	
Number of guestrooms	7
Capacity	25 guests
Tel.	0146-36-5533



Business Hotel Plaza Misuzu	
Number of guestrooms	6
Capacity	9 guests
Tel.	0146-36-2159 or 36-4450

Ajikatamura (Japanese-style inn)	
Number of guestrooms	10
Capacity	20 guests
Tel.	0146-36-2363

Mt. Apoi Survey & Research Support Center

An inexpensive accommodation facility for researchers and students involved in research related to Mt. Apoi Geopark (Samani Town). Meals are not provided but cooking facilities are available. Rock cutters and polishing machines are also available for use at all times.

Number of guestrooms	5 private rooms, 1 hall
Capacity	55 guests (including hall)
Tel.	0146-36-2120 (Samani Commerce, Industry and Tourism Dept.)

Restaurants

Benkei / Enraku
Genre: Sushi, Chinese cuisine, Izakaya
Tel.: 0146-36-2159
Closed: Monday

Avion
Genre: Restaurant
Tel.: 0146-36-3533
Closed: Monday

Ominaeashi
Genre: Japanese cuisine
Tel.: 0146-26-7678
Closed: Wednesday

Kuina Genre: Ramen restaurant Tel.: 0146-36-4755 Closed: Thursday	Hyakuryo Genre: Restaurant Tel.: 0146-36-2417 Closed: Irregular holidays	Senryu Genre: Ramen restaurant Tel.: 0146-36-3533 Closed: Irregular holidays	Sobadokoro Ajioshi Genre: Soba noodle Tel.: 0146-36-4514 Closed: Irregular holidays	Ajikatamura Genre: Restaurant Tel.: 0146-36-2363 Closed: Sunday
Kurumaya Drive-in Genre: Restaurant Tel.: 0146-36-4177 Closed: Irregular holidays	Shushin Genre: Restaurant Tel.: 0146-36-2511 Closed: Tuesday	Niku-doraku Genre: grilled meat restaurant Tel.: 0146-36-2051 Closed: Monday	Yakiniku Chib (Reservation is required) Genre: grilled meat restaurant Tel.: 090-2323-5846 Closed: Monday and Tuesday	Kiminoiya Genre: Restaurant, Izakaya Tel.: 0146-36-4262 Closed: Irregular holidays
Ikko Genre: Restaurant Tel.: 0146-36-5100 Closed: Irregular holidays	Inakaya Genre: Izakaya Tel.: 0146-36-3418 Closed: Monday	Ippuku Genre: Izakaya Tel.: 0146-36-5550 Closed: Sunday	Hoshi-no-Aya (Apoi Sanso Hotel) Genre: Restaurant Tel.: 0146-36-5211 Closed: Open every day	

Recommended food

Samani Tourist Information Center
(Former Samani Sta.)
The Information Center is also where you can buy Hidaka Kombu and other kelp products as well as various geopark souvenirs.



Seaside marine product market
Whelks of the highest quality and other Samani seafood delicacies are sold at reasonable prices.



Kashibe Suisan Ltd.	
Open	8:30-17:00 Sunday 9:00-15:00
Closed	Irregular holidays
Tel.	0146-36-4823

Takomanma boiled octopus paste/ Tsubumeshi (rice cooked with whelks)
Paste made from the eggs of locally caught octopuses, and rice cooked with whelks are popular with tourists.



Marusan Kudo Store (Convenience Store)	
Open	8:30-20:00
Closed	Open daily
Tel.	0146-36-2355

Specially-made Oyaki (Japanese-style waffles)
Sweet bean-paste sandwiched between flour waffles and cooked to perfection



Nakamura Oyaki (confectioner)	
Open	10:00-17:00
Closed	Sundays
Tel.	0146-36-4948

ACCESS

LEARN

STAY

FOOD

A total of 35 sites in 5 areas

Area A Horomankyo Area	A1 Geological Power Station No. 2 A2 Geological River Beach near the Old Quarry A3 Geological Japanese White Pine Monument A4 Geological Fudo-no-sawa A5 Geological Dam of Power Station No. 2 A6 Geological Horoman-gawa Inari Shrine A7 Geological Horoman Dam (dam of Power Station No. 3)
Area B Mt. Apoi Area	B1 Ecological Rest Spot No. 4 B2 Ecological Alpine Plant Restoration Test Site B3 Geological Fifth-stage mountain lodge B4 Geological Sixth to seventh stages B5 Geological Umanose flower fields B6 Ecological Mt. Apoi B7 Ecological The former Horoman flower fields B8 Geological Mt. Apoi to Mt. Yoshida B9 Geological Mt. Yoshida B10 Geological Mt. Pinneshiri
Area C Samani Coast Area	C1 Geological Shiogama Tunnel and Rosoku-iwa C2 Geological Oyako-iwa and Sobira-iwa C3 Geological Cape Enrumu C4 Geological Mt. Kannon C5 Historical Tojuin Temple C6 Geological Byobu Cliff in Hirau C7 Geological Old quarry behind Samani Elementary School C8 Historical Okada District cise (traditional Ainu dwelling)
Area D Hidaka Yabakei Area	D1 Geological Ana-iwa in Fuyushima D2 Geological Fault at the Higashi Fuyushima Tunnel D3 Geological Metagabbro at the Kotonii Tunnel D4 Geological Taisho Tunnel D5 Geological Geological fold at the Ruranbetsu Tunnel D6 Historical Samani Mountain Path and Wasuke Jizo D7 Geological Former Plate Boundary at the Fuyushima Ooma
Area E Shintomi Area	E2 Geological Lenticular sandstone at the Samani Dam E3 Geological Chert in Shintomi E4 Geological Limestone blocks in Matsuokazawa

Sites refer to the Geopark's highlights, which include Geological, Ecological and Historical sites.

Check out the sites using a smart phone or tablet PC. Free app “Geopark”



This free app shows pictorial map information and present location using the GPS function of the mobile device. The app displays an overview and photograph of each site, tourist spot, restaurant, accommodation facility and the like in Mt. Apoi Geopark.

The Geopark app can be downloaded free of charge from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or via the QR code below.




App Store [iPhone]




Google Play [Android]



A gorge of peridotites Horomankyo Area



The Horomankyo Gorge, which is made up of peridotites, stretches approximately 8 km to the east of Mt. Apoi where unspoiled mixed coniferous and broad-leaved forests extend along the mountainside. In particular, the predominant spread of Kitagoyo (P. parviflora var. pentaphylla) trees here at the northern limit of their habitat creates unique scenery that led to the area's designation as a Natural Monument of Japan in 1943. Locally known as a favorable late-October autumn foliage spot. The area is also home to hydroelectric power facilities that paved the way for the development of electricity sources in the Hidaka region in the early years of the Showa period (1926-1989), thus creating an air of industrial heritage. Although the forest road here is narrow and unpaved, the presence of evacuation spaces at key points allows vehicular passage. The Horomankyo Gorge, which is located within the 10km² Horoman peridotite complex, provides insights into the world of the earth's deep mantle. The area is dotted with sites that allow researchers to observe various types of peridotite.



Kitagoyo evergreens
(a Natural Monument of Japan)
and autumn leaves

Man-made Lake Horoman

Hydroelectric power plant with a history
of over 70 years

Endemic alpine plants supported by peridotite Mt. Apoi Area



Mt. Apoi is relatively easy to climb because no heavy gear is required. However, climbers need a certain level of fitness to negotiate the 700 m-long medium-gradient approach to the trailhead, which is at an elevation of 80 meters about a kilometer inland. After the trailhead is a stretch of mixed coniferous and broad-leaved forests that are home to a variety of herbaceous plants. Near the fifth-stage mountain lodge is the forest limit, where a dwarf stone pine zone extends over rugged peridotite ground. Colorful alpine plants also begin to stand out in this area. The trail here provides panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean on clear days, and the Umanose area also affords spectacular views of the Hidaka Mountains and other sights. It takes between 2.5 and 3.5 hours to reach the summit, and 4.5 to 6 hours for the round trip. Mt. Apoi — a rich habitat for flowers — is made up of peridotites from deep in the earth's mantle. Climbers flock there year after year to enjoy its precious natural environment.



Mixed coniferous and broad-leaved
forests extend to the fifth stage
of the mountain

A natural rock garden on the ridge

Exposed peridotite along the ridge

A trading center known for its unusually shaped coastal rocks Samani Coast Area



In contrast to the geology of the towering Apoi Mountains, the area to their west is characterized by gently sloping terrain, with Samani Town center located on the coastline. Along with the Apoi Mountains, rocky peaks of varying sizes flanking the sea characterize the region's landscape. The unique scenery here is associated with numerous legends of the Ainu, who have lived in harmony with the natural environment for hundreds of years. One of these rocky mountains is Mt. Kannon, thought to have previously been the site of a chashi (fort). At a height of only 100 meters or so, this peak overlooks Samani Fishing Port and has an observatory that affords sweeping views of rock formations in the sea as well as Mt. Apoi and other local icons. Cape Enrumu on the coast east of Samani Fishing Port is an island connected to the mainland by a sandbar. The 1799 establishment of the Samani Kaisho outpost office by the Edo shogunate at the base of Cape Enrumu provided significant support for Samani's development. The observation platform here is an ideal spot from which to view Mt. Apoi Geopark.



Oyako-iwa — the subject of a sad
Ainu legend

Tojuin Temple — one of the Three
Government Temples of Ezo and
a structure that has witnessed the
history of Hokkaido's development

Platy joints at Cape Enrumu,
a land-tied island

Geosite of colliding plates, and an ancient route Hidaka Yabakei Area



Hidaka Yabakei is a 7 km stretch of precipitous cliffs along the coast of the Pacific Ocean, into which the foot of Mt. Apoi plunges. It is believed to mark the place where the Eurasian Plate and the North American Plate once collided. Part of the boundary (the Hidaka Main Thrust) between the plates remains in this area. Located at the southern end of the Hidaka Mountains along with National Route 336 (also known as the Golden Road) in Erimo Town, this area used to be notoriously difficult to pass. The Samani Mountain Path was built on the cliffs around 200 years ago to facilitate passage, and is now used as a footpath. At the bottom of the cliffs, high-quality Hidaka Kombu kelp (also known as Mitsuishi Kombu or Laminaria angustata Kjellman) thrives on nutrients from the region's peridotite. Surf boats harvesting kelp, and locals sun-drying the crops are typical summer scenes in this area.




Ana-iwa sea cave in Fuyushima

Frozen Ononai Waterfall in winter

Wasuke Jizo statue at the Samani
Mountain Path east trailhead

Rocks from far-off southern seas Shintomi Area



The Japanese archipelago is an aggregation of accretionary prisms. These are formed from the surface layer of an oceanic plate that is scraped off and accreted onto a continental plate when the two collide, and the former subducts beneath the latter in a trench on the ocean floor. Sandstone and mudstone or sediment from the overriding plate as well as limestone, chert and basalt from southern seas thousands of kilometers away are mixed and undergo deformation, forming a rough aggregate of different rocks known as a mélange. Limestone is distributed extensively in and around the Shintomi Area, and has long been mined there. This rock is also known to derive from accretionary prisms because outcrops in the area have a typical mélange structure without continuous bedding.

