

A journey tracing back our roots.



Changing earth. Unchanging and unspoiled landscape.

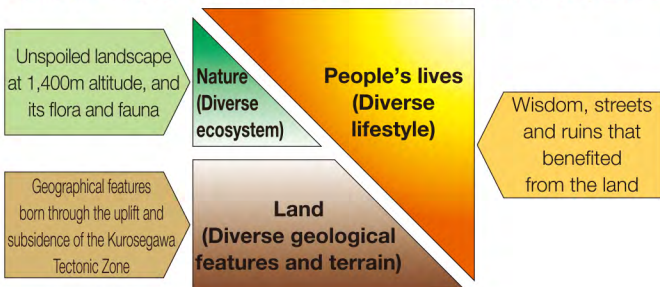
Geo means earth. Geopark is the “park of the earth”, where visitors can learn about how the earth has formed, and fully immerse in the nature, ecosystem, and lifestyle that was nurtured by this land.

In Seiy City, the memories of people’s lives from the past remain in the valuable geological features, sea, villages, and mountains from when the Japanese Archipelago was formed.

How was the Japanese Archipelago formed? How did the Japanese ancestors live? This park answers such questions.

Wondering through the geo sites in Seiy City will make you ever more conscious about the roots of Japan, of the earth, and of yourself.

Concept of the geopark: The connection between the land, nature, and people's lives



The mystery of Kurosegawa Tectonic Zone

The clue may be clarified the process of the formation Japanese Archipelago.

Most of the Japanese Archipelago's geological features are more recent than Mesozoic era that began about 250 million years ago. However, geological findings from the soil near Kurosegawa River that flows through the Shirokawa area has revealed fossils of coral and trilobites from over 400 million years ago. This was the first area where a full-scale survey of Kurosegawa Tectonic Zone took place, hence the name.

Gondwana, approx. 400 million years ago

There are different theories about its origin. In the southern hemisphere, there was once a continent called “Gondwana”, which was a continental mass that included the current Indian subcontinent and Australian continent. Kurosegawa Tectonic Zone is believed to be part of this, having moved to the eastern tip of the Asian continent some 150 million years ago.



Favosites found in Kurosegawa Tectonic Zone
The fossils are said to have been formed in the warm seas roughly 425 million years ago. As there are many varieties in common with Australia and southern China, this is used as proof of the Kurosegawa Tectonic Zone being part of Gondwana.

Kurosegawa Belt, extending for a total of 1,000km

Kurosegawa Tectonic Zone and relevant groups (Kurosegawa Belt) are narrow at several kilometers in width, stretching from Kyushu to the west and Kanto to the east, extending for a total of about 1,000km. It is believed that an ancient land, which was originally one mass, formed the current long, thin tectonic zone as it went through large-scale tectonic movements.



Check out these locations offering unique geological features in Shikoku Seiy Geopark



G1 Oriai Submarine Landslide <Kurosegawa River Area>

Oriai 1015-1, Shirokawa Town, Seiy City, 33°22'48.4"N 132°44'56.1"E

At the riverbed of Kurosegawa River, limestone blocks are absorbed into the mudstone that accumulated in the deep seafloor. The limestone contains fossils of coral and shells among others, and was formed in the shallow waters. Here you can see how the rocks moved significantly from the land toward the seabed, for reasons including earthquakes.

G5 Nakatsugawa Tufa <Kurosegawa River Area>

Furuchi 2558, Shirokawa Town, Seiy City, 33°22'52.7"N 132°46'58.1"E

“Tufa” derives from Latin, and means “a white stone with small holes”. The rock is formed when calcium carbonate rapidly precipitates into the water that is rich in lime content, and this deposition is thought to be related to the activities of microbes.



V4 The Pot Hole of Owada Bridge <Hijikawa River Upstream Area>

Onishi 3-3, Nomura Town, Seiy City, 33°23'48.9"N 132°40'17.4"E

Along Hijikawa River, you can observe rocks including the oldest igneous rocks and limestone in Shikoku, which make up Kurosegawa Tectonic Zone. Here you can also observe small land features called potholes, which are formed by pebbles and strong currents.

K3 Terayama Pillow Lava <Shikoku Karst/Funato River Area>

Onogahara 436-2, Nomura Town, Seiy City, 33°29'14.1"N 132°53'42.2"E

The basalt is the lower formation of Shikoku Karst's limestone. This basalt was formed when lava flowed into the water after an eruption of a submarine volcano, which cooled rapidly and solidified. The rock is called “pillow lava” from its shape, which looks like a layer of pillows.

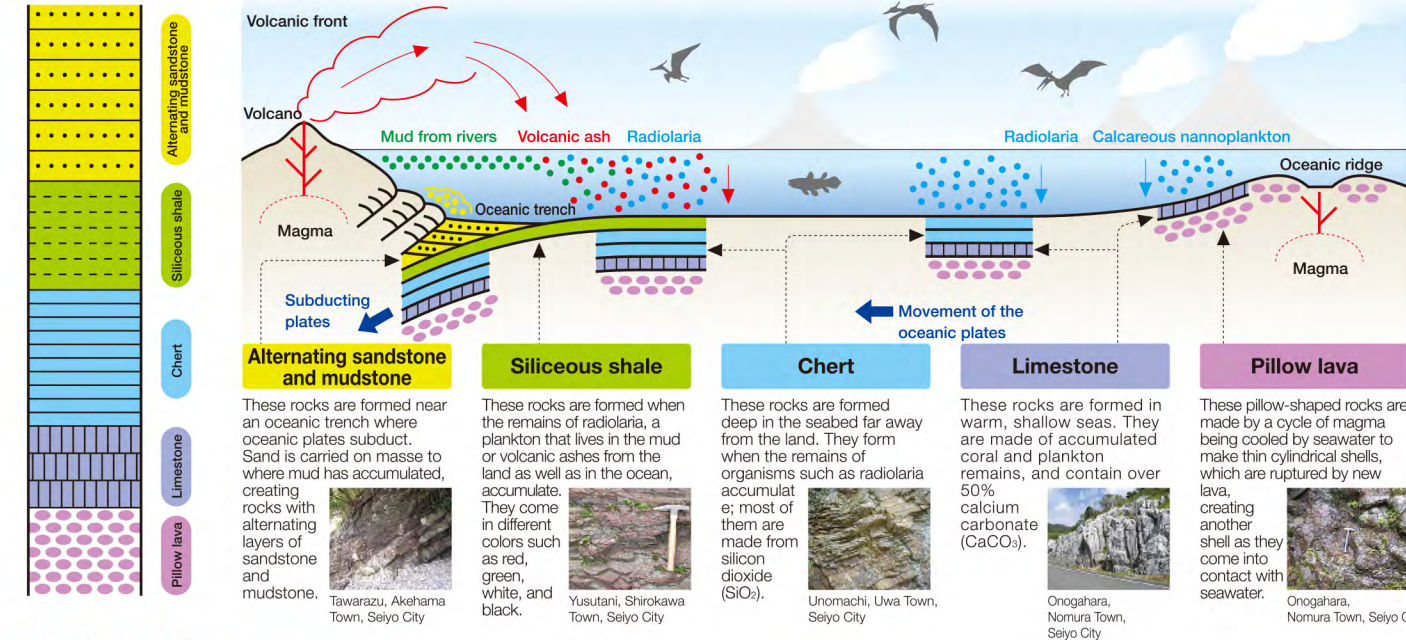
*Check the map on the back for their locations

Moving Oceanic Plates and the Geological Structure of Seiy

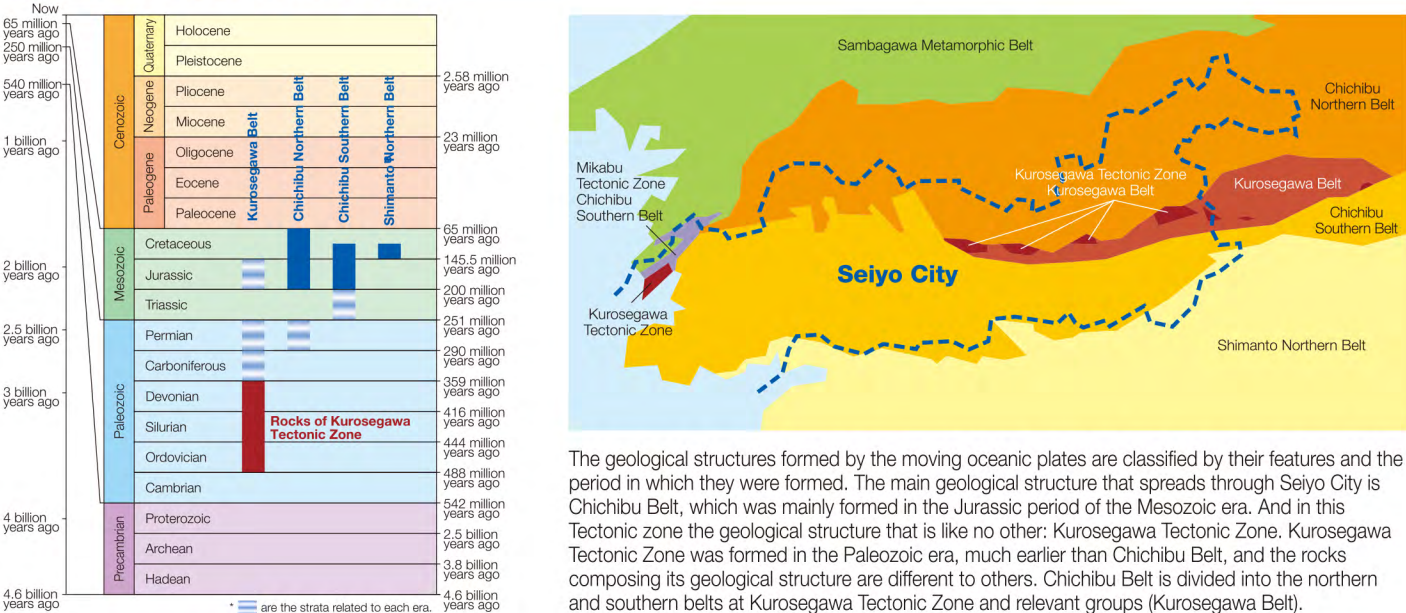
Seiy City was once at the bottom of the sea.

Take for example Shikoku Karst in Onogahara of Nomura area, the highest point in Seiy City at 1,400m altitude. The white limestone scattered in the sweeping expanse of green carpet are from the formation brought from the warm coral-rich waters. Not only Seiy City, but much of the Japanese Archipelago's land is believed to have formed when oceanic plates moved and subducted, pushing the land up. Seiy City in particular offers a diverse range of geological layers, through which we can observe and learn about the past of its oceanic plates.

Movement of the oceanic plates



How Seiy City's land was made



The geological structures formed by the moving oceanic plates are classified by their features and the period in which they were formed. The main geological structure that spreads through Seiy City is Chichibu Belt, which was mainly formed in the Jurassic period of the Mesozoic era. And in this Tectonic zone the geological structure that is like no other: Kurosegawa Tectonic Zone. Kurosegawa Tectonic Zone was formed in the Paleozoic era, much earlier than Chichibu Belt, and the rocks composing its geological structure are different to others. Chichibu Belt is divided into the northern and southern belts at Kurosegawa Tectonic Zone and relevant groups (Kurosegawa Belt).

Geo fun Recommended routes

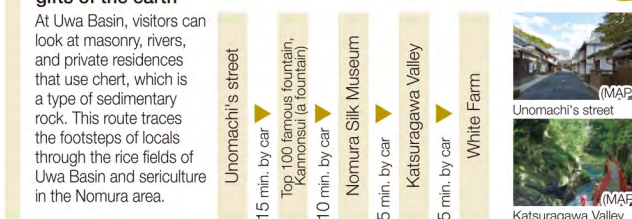
Route: Northern Uwakai Area

Admire stunning views of Uwakai while basking in gentle sunlight



Route: Hijikawa River Upstream Area

Trace back the history and lives of people that thrived with the gifts of the earth



Route: Kurosegawa River Area

Experience the unspoiled landscape of Okuiyo that exudes the mysteries of earth



Route: Shikoku Karst/Funato River Area

Take a full deep breath in the land that leads to the sky



Geographical features of Seiy

The temperate land blanketed in snow



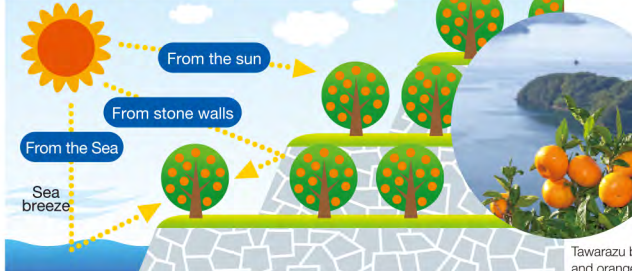
Despite being located in temperate Shikoku, the mountainous region of Seiy City is often covered in snow. Such climate is displayed by Shikoku Mountains, which includes Shikoku Karst. Siberian Highs form over land in winter. The northwestern seasonal wind that comes from this high pressure collides with Shikoku Mountains as it slips through the Kanmon Straits between Chugoku region and Kyushu region, often causing it to snow in the mountainous area of Nanyo region.

Mystical view of morning mist



In Nomura Basin and Uwa Basin, located in the upstream of Hijikawa River, a nice sunny morning between autumn and winter is often veiled by a mystical morning mist. The gap between warm and cold temperatures are great in basins, where the air near the ground's surface is cooled and saturated at night, forming mist. Surrounded by mountains, the wind blowing through those basins are gentle, often leaving the mist until morning. Hijikawa River flowing in the central area also provides plenty of rising water vapor, encouraging the formation of mist.

Three types of light that nourish tasty citruses



Citruses are cultivated in the terraced fields of Akehana and Mikame areas, which face the Uwakai sea. What nourishes their good taste are the three types of light. One is the bright rays of sunlight. Then there is the light that reflects from the stone walls of the terraced fields. And finally, the light reflecting from the ocean expanding ahead. The sunlight coming from various directions, and the sea breeze from the ocean creates delicious citruses with well-balanced body and acidity.

Unspoiled landscape at 1,400m altitude, and the gifts of this environment

Seiy City is blessed with diverse nature, from sea level to 1,400m in altitude. There, you see the same wild landscape as in ancient times, and enriched people living with gratitude for their gifts of nature.

The gift of nature (geo)



Onogahara Daikon (radish)
This is one of the prominent pastures in Shikoku, where roughly 800 cattle are reared, which amounts to 3 times the population of Onogahara.



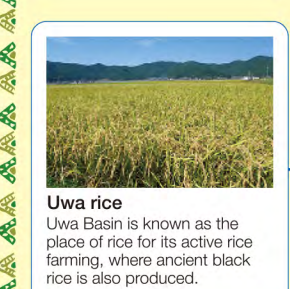
Shiitake mushrooms
Shiitake, grown in the rich natural environment and on virgin wood of sawtooth oak, have exceptional flavor, texture, and taste.



Okuiyo chestnuts
Japanese chestnuts are cultivated in the Okuiyo region. The region is ideal for harvesting chestnuts and gives superior color, taste, and flavor to them.



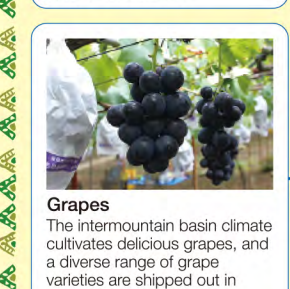
Dairy and sweets
Ice cream and cheese using local milk are both fresh and heavenly.



Uwa rice
Uwa Basin is known as the place of rice for its active rice farming, where ancient black rice is, and is teeming throughout the year with white-robed pilgrims.



Wild boar meat
Captured wild boars are trademarked as “Sato no Abarenbo” (the village troublemaker), and sold as meat or processed.



Grapes
The intermountain basin climate cultivates delicious grapes, and a diverse range of grape varieties are shipped out in early summer.

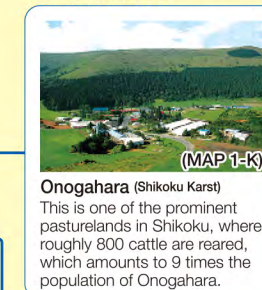


Orange
Oranges grown using the south-facing steep slopes have a high sugar content and juicy flavor.

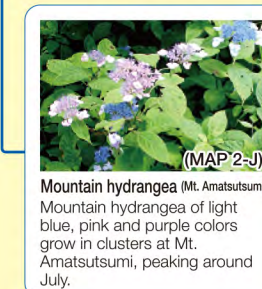


Seafood
In this basin, a famous site for wild horse mackerel, as well as a cultivating site of young yellowtail, flounder, and sea bream, and a producer of dried baby sardines.

Unspoiled landscape and culture



Onogahara (Shikoku Karst)
This is one of the prominent pastures in Shikoku, where roughly 800 cattle are reared, which amounts to 3 times the population of Onogahara.



Mountain hydrangea (Mt. Amatsutsumi)
Mountain hydrangea of light blue, pink and purple colors grow in clusters at Mt. Amatsutsumi, peaking around July.



Kawazumitani no Gakuenbutsu
The Buddhist invocation dance (gakuenbutsu) is performed along with the memorial service held for those who passed away during the year. Performers dance to the sutra chanting and incense burning.



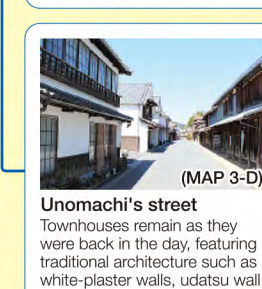
Tea Pavilion and Reception
The tea pavilion is where monks serve food and drinks to travelers, by which they accumulate merit. In here lives the culture of hosting guests.



Meiseki Temple and Pilgrimage
Meiseki Temple is the 43rd stop (tadashi) of Shikoku's 88 Pilgrimage, and is teeming throughout the year with white-robed pilgrims.



Stork
These birds fly over to the Uwa Basin between autumn and winter. Seiy City is committed to the bird's conservation through efforts such as securing their food.



Unomachi's street
Townhouses remain as they were back in the day, featuring traditional architecture such as white-plaster walls, udatsu wall extensions, and corbels.



Nomura Otoi Ozumo
The origin is a stone wrestling that took place when a great fire happened in the Edo period. To pray for the fire to subside. It has a history of over 160 years.



Yomiya no Shogori
In this basin, naked youths cleanse their bodies in the cold sea, as wood is piled high and bonfires are lit.

