Geopark Footpath in Higashi-Izu Area

What is a Geopark?
The word Geopark consists of “Gneis” (the earth) and “park,” and it is one of the programs that UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) has been promoting worldwide along with World Heritage and Biosphere Reserves. The aim of Geopark is to achieve sustainable development by learning about geographically valuable sites as well as protecting and utilizing them.

Izu Peninsula Geopark - A Volcanic Gift from the South -
20 million years ago, the Izu Peninsula was a group of submarine volcanoes in the South Seas. As the Philippine Sea Plate moved northwards, the volcanic group also drifted and eventually collided with the main island. 600,000 years ago, it became what it is now. The volcanic activity and slow movement of the earth's crust have continued and formed hot springs, springs, and mountains, and people have lived by utilizing the rich natural environment. The Izu Peninsula is a "volcanic gift from the South.”

Places to See
In the Minami-Izu Area, Where the Long History of Izu Can Be Seen.

1. Kisami Ohama Beach 池上大浜
The beach has beautiful white sand, and there is a sea cave nearby. The cave was formed as waves eroded the sediment from a submarine volcano and made a hole in it. The strata with seashells at a high place of the cave are believed to have been at the water's edge and to have risen due to the crustal uplift.

2. Toji Sand Skiding Ground トジサンドスライド
This natural sand ski area is formed of sand deposited by strong winds. The slope of the sand hill is about 90 degrees, and you can go down on a sledge. There is also a large flat area of dunes called Toji-Kaibamato (A Natural Monument designated by Shizuoka Prefecture) near the area.

3. Ryugu Sea Cave 水龍洞
Ryugu Sea Cave was formed as waves eroded a soft part of the strata, and it is one of the largest of their kind in the Izu Peninsula. There is a light trail 50 meters in diameter, which is the result of partial collapse of the roof. The contrast between the blue sea and the yellowish brown strata formed of small pieces of volcanic rocks is impressive.

Cape Tarai カマメ湾
Cape Tarai commands a view of the Izu Islands on fine weather. In Cape Tarai, stone discs and pottery were discovered, so this place is believed to have been used to worship a god with a view of the islands. There is a small island called Orgbukima in the sea, and it has the traces of fire used to worship a god in the Nara period.

Onohama Beach (Radial Joints) 大浜
The beach has an impressive landscape developed by the products of volcanic eruptions including radial crevices formed by the blast of a submarine volcano. The uniquely shaped rocks are named Suzume-Iwa, Shindaiwa, and Ebi-island. In spring, hamsukai is in full bloom.

Yumigahama Beach ユミガハマ
Yumigahama Beach is an ever-1,000-meter-long white sand beach. In the shape of a beautiful arch, it is formed of the sand carried by the Ana River and an ocean current, and this kind of landform is called "sandbar". This kind of beach is also known as the spawning ground of the loggerhead turtle.

How to Walk on the Izu Peninsula Geopark Paths

What is a Geopark?
Fusajima is a group of hill and its bamboo forest "Bamboo Forest Path". People walk from the start of the path near the Izu Peninsula. Some high mountains, tunnels, and rocks, and sometimes bamboo forests and bamboo forests can be found along the path.

How to Use the Map
Before walking, it's important to get an image of the course in your head by checking where it starts, goes through, and ends with the map. While walking, check your current location and the way to the next destination. As signs may not be available in some places, please note the importance of landmarks that let you know where to take a fork.

Dressing and Equipment
Since you will walk in the wild, wear appropriate clothing, shoes, and equipment. Wear a hiking suit in winter since the sun is strong in many areas. Depending on the weather and season, bring gloves, non-slip, high-cut boots, or rubber boots, and be sure to bring enough water with you as there are not many places where you can get water.

Safety Precautions
You will walk in the wild, so you will need to take full responsibility for your activities. If you notice any unusual weather or wind conditions, consider canceling your trip, and don't force yourself. Depending on the weather, large rocks or even active landslides may be visible. If you notice any unusual weather or wind conditions, consider canceling your trip, and don't force yourself.

To Protect the Natural Environment
People must take care of natural surroundings such as roadsides, where they can enjoy walking and take in the current natural environment. The Izu Peninsula is characterized by its harsh nature and its natural beauty and the Okutama Forest Park Preservation Law. Do not leave any garbage, animals, or items on the way. In case of illness, use a First Aid kit and be sure to contact the authorities.

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