

List of Cultural Assets Forming the Story			Japan Heritage “What on Earth?!” Flame Pots and Snow Country Culture in the Shinano River Basin		
Number	Cultural Asset	Location	Number	Cultural Asset	Location
1	Shinano River	Niigata city - Tsunan town	36	Shomengahara A Site	Tsunan town
2	Upper Shinano River basin Incipient Jomon Period sites	Tokamachi city	37	Yagihana Iwakage Site 1, Site 2, and artifacts	Sanjo city Nagaoka city
3	Upper Shinano River basin Incipient Jomon Period artifacts	Tokamachi city Tsunan town	38	Yoshinoya Site	Sanjo city
4	Kubodera Minami Site Artifacts	Tokamachi city	39	Nagano Site	Sanjo city
5	Unoki Site	Tsunan town	40	River Terraces	Tsunan town
6	Warino Site	Tsunan town	41	Tashirono Nanatsugama	Tokamachi city Tsunan town
7	Dojiri Site	Tsunan town	42	Kiyotsu Gorge	Tokamachi city
8	Sasahara Site	Tsunan town	43	Ryugakubo	Tsunan town
9	Kamihara E Site	Tsunan town	44	Yagigahana	Sanjo city
10	Donukihara Sites	Tsunan town	45	Sakata Lagoon	Niigata city
11	Sasayama Site Artifacts	Tokamachi city	46	Toyano Lagoon	Niigata city
12	Habagami Site Artifacts	Tokamachi city	47	Fukushima Lagoon	Niigata city
13	Umataka Site Artifacts	Nagaoka city	48	Mt Yahiko -Mt Kakuda	Nagaoka city Niigata city
14	Iwanohara Site Artifacts	Nagaoka city	49	Bijinbayashi	Tokamachi city
15	Tochikura Site Artifacts	Nagaoka city	50	Tools made in Akiyama village and surrounding mountain villages	Tsunan town
16	Tokushoji Sites Artifacts	Nagaoka city	51	Akiyama Village	Tsunan town
17	Monnosawa Site Artifacts	Nagaoka city	52	Kuwabara Preserved Folk House	Tsunan town
18	Dodaira Site Artifacts	Tsunan town	53	Matoba Site and artifacts	Niigata city
19	Dojitte Site Artifacts	Tsunan town	54	Ojin-sai Festival	Nagaoka city
20	Okinohara Site Artifacts	Tsunan town	55	Documents about river fishing	Tokamachi city
21	Yoshinoya Site Artifacts	Sanjo city	56	Niitsu Petroleum Heritage Sites (Nietsubo, etc)	Niigata city
22	Nagano Site Artifacts	Sanjo city	57	Osawayachi Site and artifacts	Niigata city
23	Osawa Site Artifacts	Niigata city	58	Fujihashi Site and artifacts	Nagaoka city
24	Akiha Site Artifacts	Niigata city	59	Uenohara Site and artifacts	Sanjo city
25	Umataka-Sanjuinaba Site	Nagaoka city	60	Akamatsu Site and artifacts	Sanjo city Nagaoka city
26	Tochikura Site	Nagaoka city	61	Kurohime Cave Site and artifacts	Uonuma city
27	Sasayama Site	Tokamachi city	62	Oyagara Uenohara Site and artifacts	Uonuma city
28	Okinohara Site	Tsunan town	63	Nunoba Uenohara Site and artifacts	Uonuma city
29	Dodaira Site	Tsunan town	64	Shoanji Site and artifacts	Uonuma city
30	Dojitte Site	Tsunan town	65	Haraidaira Site and artifacts	Uonuma city
31	Uwano Site and artifacts	Tsunan town	66	Uono River	Uonuma city
32	Uwano Susaki Site	Tsunan town	67	Mt. Gongendo (Kami-Gongendo and Shimo-Gongendo)	Uonuma city
33	Hattanda Site	Tsunan town	68	Mt. Asakusa	Uonuma city
34	Minanbara Site	Tsunan town	69	Mt. Sumon	Uonuma city Nagaoka city Sanjo city
35	Soriguchi Site	Tsunan town			

Our flame pot for the Olympic and Paralympic cauldron…

5,000 year-old flame pots indicate the origins of Japanese culture. We propose using the shape of our flame pot for the cauldron of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Shinano River Flame Pot Road Cooperative Council

Niigata City, Sanjo City, Nagaoka City, Uonuma City, Tokamachi City, Tsunan Town
http://www.kaen-heritage.com/

Secretariat: Board of Education, Tokamachi City Cultural Property Section in Culture and Sports Division Phone: 025-757-5531
1-448-9 Nishi-honcho, Tokamachi City, Niigata Prefecture 948-0072

- Historical and Cultural Assets Preservation Division, Niigata City Phone: 025-226-2572
- Lifelong Learning Section, Citizen’s Department, Sanjo City Phone: 0256-46-5205
- Nagaoka Municipal Science Museum Phone: 0258-32-0546
- Uonuma City Education Board Lifelong Learning Department Phone: 025-793-7480
- Board of Education Secretariat, Tokamachi City Cultural Property Section in Culture and Sports Division Phone: 025-757-5531
- Cultural Property Committee of the Tsunan Board of Education Phone: 025-765-2299



No.1 Shinano River
Niigata city — Tsunan town

Photo by T.Ogawa



No.31 Uwano Site and artifacts
Tsunan town



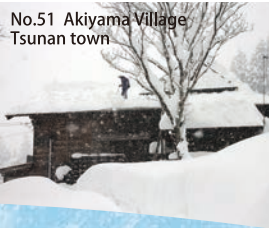
No.22 Nagano Site Artifacts Sanjo city



No.40 River Terraces Tsunan town



No.23 Osawa Site Artifacts
Niigata city



No.51 Akiyama Village
Tsunan town



No.42 Kiyotsu Gorge
Tokamachi city



No.18 Dodaira Site Artifacts Tsunan town



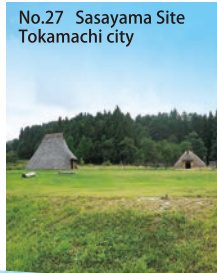
No.44 Yagigahana
Sanjo city



No.13 Umataka Site Artifacts
Nagaoka city



No.11 Sasayama Site Artifacts Tokamachi city



No.27 Sasayama Site
Tokamachi city



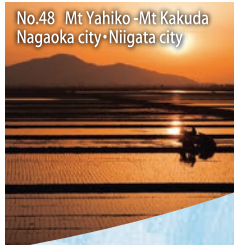
No.64 Shoanji Site and artifacts
Uonuma city



No.24 Akiha Site Artifacts Niigata city



No.25 Umataka-Sanjuinaba Site
Nagaoka city



No.48 Mt Yahiko -Mt Kakuda
Nagaoka city・Niigata city



Japan Heritage



“What on Earth?!”
Flame Pots and Snow Country Culture
in the Shinano River Basin

GUIDE BOOK

The Shinano River Flame Pot Road Cooperative Council
http://www.kaen-heritage.com/

August 31, 2020

Japan Heritage “What on Earth?!”
Flame Pots and Snow Country Culture in the Shinano River Basin
Official website

Japan Heritage What on Earth?!

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For iOS



Shinano River Flame Pot Road
Japan Heritage
Information
sending application

For Android

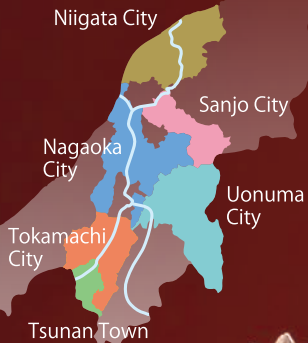


The pot that Taro Okamoto saw and exclaimed "What on Earth?!" is recognized as the first Japan Heritage in Niigata Prefecture!

The story "What on Earth?!" Flame Pots and Snow Country Culture in the Shinano River Basin' submitted by Niigata City, Sanjo City, Nagaoka City, Tokamachi City, and Tsunan Town was recognized as a Japan Heritage on April 25, 2016.

This was one of the 19 newly recognized stories from among 67 stories proposed by municipalities nationwide. Japan Heritage is recognized and awarded by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan to stories that tell Japanese culture and tradition through the historical charm and characteristics of the region.

On April 28, 2017, Uonuma City was newly added. Uono River, the main tributary to the middle basin of the Shinano River, flows through the heart of this city.



National Treasure
Sasayama Site Artifacts Flame Pot



Flame + Flame-type \subset Flame pot??

"Kaen doki", literally, flame pot, refers only to the pot discovered from Umataka site in Nagaoka city in 1936. Other group of pots that have the same characteristics are called flame type pots. Also there are crown type pots with another distinctive projections, Kaen B group, and C group pots that comprise the Flame pot style and share the common manner of pottery making.

Title: "What on Earth?!" Flame Pots and Snow Country Culture in the Shinano River Basin

Cultural assets that created the story: 69

Municipalities: Niigata City, Sanjo City, Nagaoka City, Uonuma City, Tokamachi City, Tsunan Town

1

Flame Pots Born of the Snow Country

Flowing 367km from the south to the north of Niigata prefecture, the Shinano River is the longest river in Japan. The people who chose the massive basin of this river for their home over 13,000 years ago were the first in the world to start making pottery. With this began the Jomon period. Particularly in the upper river basin, archeological sites from this period are more concentrated than anywhere else in Japan. Blessed with abundant forests and water sources, the Shinano River basin became a treasure trove of flora and fauna. We can see evidence of the Jomon people living here in harmony with nature for 10,000 years.

Jomon people of the Shinano River basin were subjected to a large environmental change around 8,000 years ago. As a result of the Tsushima Current flowing into the Sea of Japan, snowfall drastically increased. The heavy snows that made this area into a world renowned Snow Country began in the Jomon period and continue to the present day. While heavy snowfall hindered the daily lives of the Jomon people, living in the vibrant beauty of the seasons helped to develop their sensitivity and expression.

It was in this Snow Country, during the middle of the Jomon period 5,000 years ago, that "Flame Pots" came to be. Their overwhelming shapes evoke the image of blazing flames or flowing water and waves depending on the viewer. A characteristic feature of Jomon earthenware is "projections". With four exaggerated projections, flame pots are the epitome of Jomon pottery. These exaggerated projections would have gotten in the way of adding and removing ingredients while cooking. These vessels were not intended to be practical;

they were instead an idealized expression of the Jomon world view. The Jomon pottery, represented by the flame pots, is unique in the world in the use of the projections on the rims. If we consider Jomon culture to be the root of Japanese culture, flame pots are just as significant to Japanese cultural identity as ukiyo-e and kabuki.

The beauty of these flame pots was first noticed by the famous avant-garde artist Taro Okamoto. His essay 'Thoughts on Jomon Earthenware' begins: "Whoever comes into contact unprepared for the wildness, the dissonant shapes, the patterns of Jomon pottery, feels their heart skip a beat. The intensity of mature pottery from the middle Jomon period is especially difficult to convey through words." Upon seeing a flame pot for the first time, he is said to have exclaimed "What on Earth!?" He has left the lasting statement, "Flame pots, fierceness, elegance". The flame pots that so stunned Okamoto are almost exclusively from the Shinano River basin in Niigata prefecture. That place is unquestionably "The land of flame pots", where mountain, river, and sea meet.



Artist: Taro Okamoto

2

Niigata, Birthplace of the Flame Pots

The people who made the flame pots lived in villages built on river terraces in the Shinano River basin. The majority of these settlements were near natural springs. The villages were built around a central clearing, forming a circular settlement of approximately 100m in diameter. About fifty pit dwellings were arranged in a horseshoe shape around the clearing, which was also used for ritualistic purposes. Burial pits have been found between the dwellings and clearing. In addition to this, there was a line of pits for storing nuts and other foodstuffs. On the outer edges of the settlement, there were waste pits for the disposal of old tools and other holes into which animals were driven for capture. Jomon village zoning was systematic and undoubtedly deliberate.

More than four hundred sites from the middle Jomon period have been discovered in the Shinano River basin. From this we know the scale and density of villages in this area were

greater than that of anywhere else in Japan. A variety of ritual items such as clay figures and jade beads, from the same period as the flame pots, have been excavated from these sites. Such items are rare in the rest of Japan, making them a distinctive feature of the Jomon culture in this area. The landscape in parts of the Shinano River basin, such as Kiyotsu Gorge, Yagigahana, Mt. Yahiko, Mt. Kakuda, and many river terraces and lagoons, remains unchanged since the Jomon period. If you visit the remains of villages where the Jomon people lived, you can experience for yourself the landscape much as it was 5,000 years ago.



Umataka Site Artifacts Clay Figure



Umataka-Sanjuinaba Site

3

Snow Country Culture, Heritage of the Jomon Period

Angin



We can catch glimpses of the lifestyle of the Jomon people who created the flame pots through the wisdom of the Snow Country. A good example of this would be everyday items from the area. The knitted clothing called "angin" that the Edo period author Bokushi Suzuki wrote about in his book 'A Journey to Akiyama' (1831), is fabric made from knitted plant fibers. Although impressions of angin knit have been found on the bases of Jomon pottery throughout Japan, the only places it remained in use until recently are villages like Akiyama in the Shinano River basin. A lifestyle in harmony with nature, using skill and wisdom to make the most of the Snow Country's natural resources, continues there to this day. The people of this region have passed the Snow Country knowledge down through many generations. They are living in the midst of Jomon culture even now. Since the Jomon period, the Shinano River and its tributaries have been rich fishing grounds. This is because the far reaching broadleaf forests feed nutrients into the Shinano River, helping to nurture the fish. Salmon born in the Shinano River system migrate to the sea, and then return to their river of birth to spawn. This has not changed since Jomon times. The salmon that

return before the heavy snowfall were an important food source for the Jomon people. There are charred traces of what is thought to include salmon in some of the flame pots. Artifacts excavated from the Matoba site in Niigata City also tell the story of a flourishing salmon fishing industry in the Shinano River estuary. Since the distant past, in the Echigo province (modern day Niigata prefecture) salmon has been subject to taxation. In addition, knowledge of fishing tools has been passed down in each region of the Shinano River basin. The Jomon people ingeniously took advantage of the natural resources available to them, and made use of natural asphalt as an adhesive when making arrows and other hunting tools. Asphalt is naturally formed in large quantities along the Sea of Japan coast, and still wells up on hills along the Shinano River in places like Nietsubo.

In the Shinano River basin, culture rooted in the Jomon period still lives on, both in products of the mountains, rivers, and sea that nourished people since Jomon times, and in knowledge of how to process and store, along with the local cuisine rich in regional flavor and techniques of fermentation used to produce things such as sake, miso, and soy sauce. The craftsmanship and customs that came to be as a result of the tremendous snowfall could perhaps be remnants of the skills used to knit angin and make flame pots. Flame pots live on as a symbol of the Snow Country, and monuments in their shape stand in many places in the Shinano River basin.



"What on earth?!" Exploring the Jomon period

Niigata City

Main Cultural Assets
Forming the Story

The waterside was hunting and gathering grounds for the Jomon people who lived in the lower Shinano River basin.

What was life like for the Jomon people who lived in the estuary of the Shinano River? Fish and shellfish both from the sea and rivers, animal and birds gathering in the wetlands and mysterious burning water gushing forth from the hills. How exciting it is to imagine the lives in the vast Echigo Plain!



Akiha Site Artifacts

Cultural Asset No. 24

Pit dwellings were discovered at the Akiha Site in excavation surveys in 1998 and 1999. A slope beside their village seems to have been a garbage dump for the Jomon people, as numerous pieces of earthen pots were excavated there. Many of them appear to have been made in the middle of the mid-Jomon period, when flame pots were widely produced. This reconstructed crown-type pot was found, and reconstructed-decorated with cord marks instead of clay relief, and reconstructed.

Matoba Site and Artifacts

Cultural Asset No. 53

The Matoba Site stands on a dune at the near mouth of the Shinano River and dates back to the Nara and Heian periods. Numerous earthenware pots and fishing tools were excavated in very good condition. It seems to have been a site for catching aquatic products. One of the wooden tablets used for official documents says that salmon caught and processed here was sent to the capital as tax.



Osawa Site Artifacts

Cultural Asset No. 23

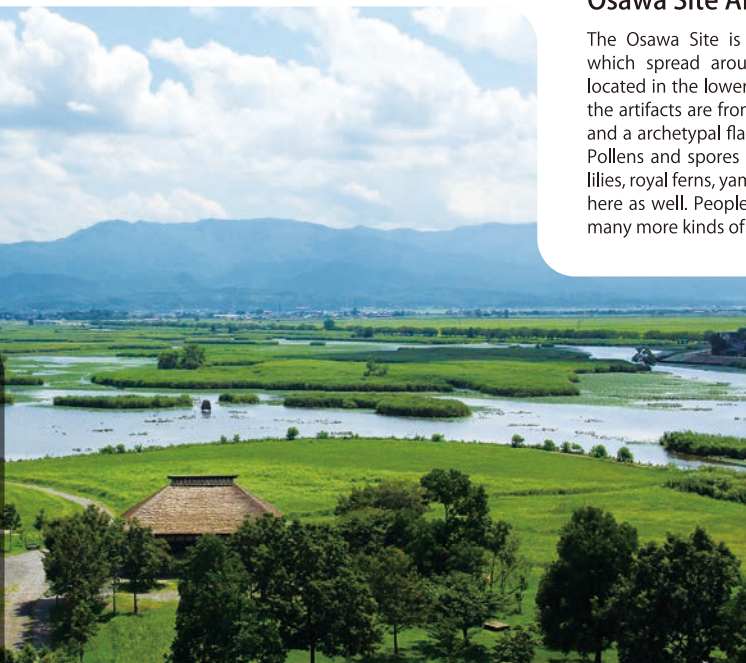
The Osawa Site is a Jomon period settlement, which spread around the base of Mt. Kakuda located in the lower Shinano River basin. Many of the artifacts are from the early mid-Jomon period and a archetypal flame pots were also unearthed. Pollens and spores of lilies or possibly red spider lilies, royal ferns, yams, and buckwheat were found here as well. People of that time may have eaten many more kinds of plants than we imagine.



Fukushimagata Wetland

Cultural Asset No. 47

Fukushimagata Wetland, with an area of about 262 ha, is the largest wetland in the Echigo Plain. Belts of reeds form islands that spread through out the shallow waters, reminiscent of the early landscape of Japan. It is an inland lake created after the development of the sand dunes, which have been cultivated and reclaimed since the Edo period. The natural environment of Fukushimagata Wetland is now preserved as a wintering spot for the Middendorff's Bean Goose, which is a natural treasure of Japan, and as the northernmost habitat for the giant prickly water lily.



Osawayachi Site Artifacts

Cultural Asset No. 57

The upper layer of the site is dated back to the Asuka period through to the Kamakura and Muromachi periods, and the lower layer dates to the late Jomon period. Lumps of asphalt and earthenware pots with asphalt were excavated from the lower layer, indicating that Jomon people used natural asphalt, which is created by removing volatile components from crude oil to use as glue to attach arrowheads to shafts and repair broken Jomon pots.

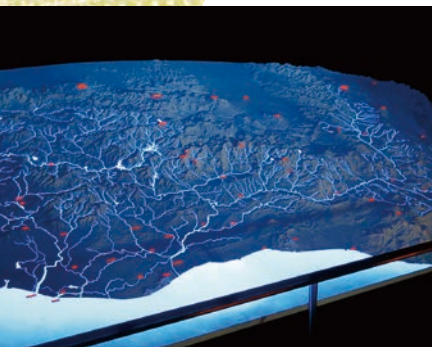


Sakata Wetland

Cultural Asset No. 45

Sakata Wetland is a freshwater lake formed by spring water from the sand dunes around it. Hunting tools, such as stone arrowheads, were discovered in Jomon sites scattered around the wetland, indicating that Jomon people hunted animals and big birds that flocked to the waterside. The area remains rich in biodiversity and it was designated as a Wetland of International Importance in 1996.

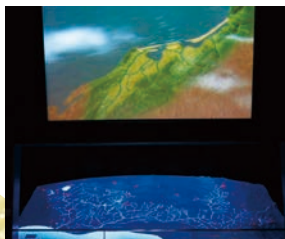




Niigata City History Museum (Minatopia)

The Niigata City History Museum stands at the mouth of the Shinano River and is rich with old port town atmosphere. The museum maintains and exhibits material related to the Shinano River and Matoba sites.

Address: 2-10 Yanagishima-cho, Chuo Ward, Niigata City
 Open: 9:30-18:00, 9:30-17:00 (October-March)
 Closed: Monday (Open if Monday falls on a public holiday, but closed the next day), the day after a public holiday (If Saturday or Sunday fall on a public holiday, Tuesday), Year-end and New Year (December 28-January 3)
 Admission: Permanent exhibition
 Adults: ¥300 University and High School Students: ¥200
 Elementary and Junior-high Students: ¥100
 The entrance fee may differ for special exhibitions.
 (Entrance is free for Elementary and Junior-high students on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays for both permanent and special exhibitions.)
 Phone: 025-225-6111



Museums with
cultural assets

Feel the history hidden beneath your feet!

A vast plain, a wetland filled with water; this is the scenery people may have seen long ago.
 Go and see something buried and something reawakened.



Photographer: HIROSAKI Setsuo

Niigata City Center for Cultural Heritage (Maibun Port)

This is a facility for excavation surveys involved with development projects and historic site maintenance, artifact research, storage, and exhibitions. The artifacts from the Akiha, Matoba and Osawayachi sites their are stored here.

Address: 2748-1 Kiba, Nishi Ward, Niigata City
 Open: 9:00-17:00
 Closed: Monday, the day after public holidays, Year-end and New Year holidays (December 28-January 3)
 Admission: free (some activities may require payment.)
 Phone: 025-378-0480



Petroleum Museum (in the Petroleum Park)

The Niitsu oil well was first discovered in the early Edo period. It boasted the largest oil production in Japan in the early 19th century and contributed greatly to the industrial and economic development of Japan. The Petroleum Museum, which exhibits and introduces the history of oil drilling, is located within the Petroleum Park which is teeming with nature and has several Jomon sites.

Address: 1172-1 Kanazu, Akiha Ward, Niigata City
 Open: 9:00-17:00 (Enter by 16:30)
 Closed: Wednesday except May and November (the day after public holidays); Year-end and New Year holidays (December 28-January 3)
 Admission: Free (Entrance fee may be required for a special exhibition on the second floor.)
 Phone: 0250-22-1400



Cultural heritages
and sightseeing spots
in the neighboring
area

Matoba Historical Park

The excavation of Matoba site revealed its importance as a settlement for fishery and distribution in the ancient Echigo province. The remains and waterfronts of the period are reconstructed and the finds such as pots with ink inscriptions and Japan's first circulated coin "Wadokaichin" (replica) are displayed.

Address: 1-2-1 Matoba Ryutsu, Nishi Ward, Niigata City
 Phone: 025-264-7661 (Construction Division, Nishi Ward Office, Niigata City)



Time travel to the Yayoi period!
 Hills from the Yayoi period dating back 2,000 years, have been revived.

Furutsu Hachimanyama Site and Historic Square

The Furutsu Hachimanyama Site consists of large uphill and moated settlements from the late Yayoi period and some of the largest ancient tombs in Niigata Prefecture. Visitors enjoy the atmosphere of a Yayoi period village with reconstructed pit dwellings, moats, and tombs typical of the period.



Let's play and study! Experience the Yayoi period at the square and enjoy studying in the pavilion.

Furutsu Hachimanyama Yayoi Culture Museum



Earthenware and stone tools from the Old Stone Age though the Heian period discovered here are on display. These displays include replicas, animations and archaeological illustrations so that elementary and junior high school students can understand. The Niigata Municipal Niitsu Art Museum stands next to this pavilion and the Niigata Prefectural Botanical Garden and the Archaeological Center are within walking distance of this site. There is a lot to see around here.

Address: 264 Kabagasawa, Akiha Ward, Niigata City
 Open: 10:00-17:00
 Closed: Monday, the day after public holidays, Year-end and New Year holidays (December 28-January 3)
 Admission: free (some activities may require payment.)
 Phone: 0250-21-4133

Sanjo City

Main Cultural Assets
Forming the Story

Located at a river junction.
The landmark is a giant rock wall.
This is a story of a large Jomon village.

Who brought jadeite that can be only found in Itoigawa in Japan?
What passed over the steep pass and was handed down?
Jomon travelers aimed for the landmark.
Exchange, bustle and thrill at Yagigahana!



Cultural Asset No. 37

Yagihana Iwakage Site 1, Site 2, and artifacts

People lived here in a shallow cave in the Yagigahana cliff around the time Jomon pots began to be made. Imagine the ancient people who lived in the shade of the giant rock wall.

Yagigahana

Cultural Asset No. 44

The dynamic cliff of 180m high rise over the bank of the Ikarashi river, a tributary of the Shinano river. It has been a landmark of the basin since 20,000 year ago. There are a rockshelter site at Yagigahana and a large settlement site of Nagano on the other side of the river. Numerous Paleolithic sites are known in the vicinity. Here is the landscape exactly the same as that in the Jomon period.



Nagano Site Artifacts

Cultural Asset No. 22

A vast number of Jomon pots and stone tools, including flame pots, crown-type pots and jadeite pendant were excavated. Among the excavated pottery, some share common features with neighboring Aizu in the Fukushima Prefecture. These artifacts tell of the prosperity in the hub village that was the center of trade and activity, connected by the Hachijurigo, a route running from Shitada to Tadami.



Nagano Site

Cultural Asset No. 39

The Ikarashi, Sumon and Komade rivers meet here. From this large settlement dating between the mid- and late Jomon periods, people looked up at Yagigahana Cliff across the Ikarashi River, overlooking Mt. Awagatake and Mt. Sumon far behind. A large number of features including 30 pit dwellings and 17 flask-like storage pit were found in the excavation survey in 1989.

Yoshinoya Site

Cultural Asset No. 38

This large settlement site of the mid- to late Jomon period have been known since the Meiji period. The excavation of the site on the hill facing a valley in 1969 yielded many artefacts. Many relics such as pillar holes were also found at an excavation afterwards. This area is now a field, but treasures of the Jomon people must be lying beneath.



Photo by T.Ogawa

Yoshinoya Site Artifacts

Cultural Asset No. 21

Flame pots, crown-type pots and more were excavated. The flame pots and over 100 clay figures have drawn attention. The overwhelming number of clay figures excavated is the largest in Niigata Prefecture. Many people from the surrounding villages must have gathered to this large settlement of Yoshinoya to perform rituals related to clay figures.



Photo by T.Ogawa

Museums with
cultural assets

Sanjo City Museum of Historical, Folkloric and Industrial Materials

Many of the clay figures included in artifacts from Yoshinoya, which boasts the largest number in Niigata Prefecture, have smiling faces and cheer us up. Jomon pots and magical relics from Uenohara Site, iron axe from the Yayoi period, burial goods from the Kofun period, iron pots that represent the craftsmanship in a town from the Muromachi period and modern smithing materials are displayed. The museum building is a registered tangible cultural property of Japan.

Address: 3-1-4 Honcho, Sanjo City Open: 9:00-17:00
Closed: Monday and the last day of each month (Open if Monday falls on a national holiday, and open if the last day of the month falls on Saturday, Sunday or a national holiday), Year-end and New Year
Admission: Free Phone: 0256-33-4446



Photo by T.Ogawa



Seeking the culture that activity brought about.

Trips and exchanges brought about development. Ideas, passion, adventure and geographical advantage.
Here is our history that leads from the Jomon period to present.



Sanjo City Museum of Shitada district

Visit this museum to see the artifacts from the Nagano Site that show the close relationship between Shitada district and Aizu bound by flame pots, crown-type pots, jadeite pendant and Hachijurigoe Pass. The artifacts from the Old Stone Age to the Muromachi period reveal the lives of the people of Shitada district, since 30,000 years ago.

Address: 1029-1 Iida, Sanjo City (c/o Wellness Shitada)
Open: 9:00-16:30
Closed: Year-end and New Year
Admission: Free
Phone: 0256-46-5110



Photo by T.Ogawa



Cultural heritages
and sightseeing spots
in the neighboring
area

Sanjo Blacksmith Dojo

Ironware from Sanjo, a city known as the town of ironware, was specialty product in the Edo period. The craft was designated for national traditional craftwork in 2009. Take a knife-making lesson from a craftsmen!

Address: 11-53 Moto-machi, Sanjo City
Open: 9:00-17:00 (Admission until 15:30)
Closed: Monday (Open if Monday falls on a public holiday, but closed the next day) Year-end and New Year
Phone: 0256-34-8080
Permanent exhibits and lessons
Knife sharpening, making Japanese nails, a paperknife and other handicrafts
Please contact us for further information.

Isurugi Shrine in Yoshinoya (Sculpture by Uncho Ishikawa)

Master craftsman Uncho Ishikawa worked from the end of the Edo period to the Meiji period. His dynamic and elaborate works from his later years are here.

Address: 3885 Yoshinoya Kou, Sanjo City
Admission: ¥300
Phone: 0256-34-5605 (Sales Strategy Section, Economic Division, Sanjo City)



Transom: Fighting with spider

Soak in salty water, taste mountain salt cuisine and experience the Jomon landscape

Echigo Nagano Onsen Rankeisou

(Registered Tangible Cultural Property of Japan)

Yagigahana Onsen Iiyuratei

The wall of Yagigahana Iwakage Site 1 contains rock salt ; Jomon people who lived there probably used the salt. You can enjoy this mountain salt at two hot springs in Shitada. Experience mountain salt at Rankeiso, Echigo Nagano Hot Spring. The sun setting on Yagigahana, a Japan Heritage site, seen from the open-air bath of Iiyuratei, Yagigahana Hot Spring is a magnificent view.

Address: 1450 Nagano, Sanjo City
Phone: 0256-47-2211 (Rankeiso, Echigo Nagano Hot Spring)
Address: 16-1 Minami-imogawa, Sanjo City
Phone: 0256-41-3011 (Iiyuratei, Yagigahana Hot Spring)



Snow Peak Headquarters Camp Field

Have fun on a camp field with natural topography. Beginners can feel at ease with our friendly staff and fully prepared rental items. You may become a modern Jomonese.

Address: 456 Nakanohara, Sanjo City
Phone: 0256-41-2500



The Roadside Station Kangakuno Sato Shitada

Situated along National Route 289 close to Yagigahana, a scenic spot. The birthplace and a memorial hall of Dr. Tetsuji Morohashi, who was an honorary citizen of Sanjo City and accomplished the great work of compiling the Great Chinese-Japanese Dictionary, are here. There are also a farmer's restaurant and a direct sales store of agricultural products. Take a break in Shitada and enjoy the culture and food.

Address: 451-1 Niwazuki, Sanjo City
Phone: 0256-47-2230

Craftsmanship from the Jomon period still lives on!
Experience craftsmanship handed down today!



Executive Committee of the Factory Festival in Tsubame-Sanjo

Factory Festival in Tsubame-Sanjo

Tsubame and Sanjo area feature western tableware and hardware. All the local factories are open during the festival period. You can experience world-level craftsmanship.

Address: All over Sanjo City, Tsubame City and the surrounding areas
Phone: 0256-35-7811
“Factory Festival in Tsubame-Sanjo” Executive Committee Secretariat
Public Interest Incorporated Foundation Tsubame-Sanjo Regional Industries Promotion Center
Planning & Promotion Division, Tsubame-Sanjo Brand Promotion Department

*Please visit the official website for more details. <http://kouba-fes.jp>

"What on earth?!" Exploring the Jomon period

Nagaoka City

Main Cultural Assets
Forming the Story

The first flame pot was discovered in the middle of the Shinano River Basin.

Is it a flaming fire, a rippling river or a cloud gushing out?
The pot motif has unique decorativeness that you cannot find anywhere else.
The first flame pot was discovered at Umataka Site.
Such a thrill of the unprecedented pot.

Umataka Site Artifacts

Cultural Asset No. 13

In addition to the first flame pot discovered, other flame type pots, crown-type pots, stone tools, clay figures (Miss Umataka) and stone rods were excavated. The first flame pot was discovered at Umataka Site in 1936. The flame pots from Iwanohara Site are now exhibited as one of the permanent exhibition of The British Museum.



Tochikura Site Artifacts

Cultural Asset No. 15

The site is located on the right bank of the Kariyata River, one of the tributaries of the Shinano River. Many Jomon pots including flame pots, and stone tools such as arrowheads and stone axes were excavated. Three clay figures were also found that are thought to have been intentionally buried in the floor and post holes of a pit dwelling. This is thought to have been a religious activity.



Tokushoji Sites Artifacts

Cultural Asset No. 16

From the old Tokushoji Temple area on the left bank of the Shinano River, where the site is situated many Jomon pots including flame pots of the first half of the middle Jomon period were excavated. The pit dwelling of the period has also been found.



Fujihashi Site and Artifacts

Cultural Asset No. 58

The Fujihashi Site is a large settlement of the final Jomon period about 3,000 years ago. The investigation shows that the settlement had a role of communal center with many high-floored structures. In addition to Jomon pots, many arrowheads attached with natural asphalt were excavated, indicating the use of petroleum-related resources.

Ojin-sai Festival

Cultural Asset No. 54

An annual fish event is held on November 5 every year at Kinpu Jinja Shrine. The salmon caught in the Shinano River is cooked with iron chopsticks and kitchen knives without the priest's hand directly touching the salmon, which is formed into a torii gate shape and offered to the gods. This ceremony indicates that salmon was an important resource from the ancient times.



Umataka-Sanjuinaba Site

Cultural Asset No. 25

This large village site belonging to the middle and late Jomon periods is located on the terraces of the left bank of the Shinano River. It is a typical Jomon village in the middle of the Shinano River basin, where pit dwellings are located in a circle. A small stream called Endo sawa divides this area into two. The mid-Jomon period Umataka Site is on the east side and Sanjuinaba Site of the late Jomon period is on the west side. The Umataka-Sanjuinaba is known nationwide as a site where the first flame pot was discovered.



A town the layers of the Jomon, Edo and Heisei periods.

Sites of the Jomon period and before. The lifestyle in the turmoil at the end of the Edo period. Scenes to maintain tradition. Something deep is found at the end of fun. Endless thrills.



Umatoka Jomon Museum

Stands adjacent to the Umatoka-Sanjuinaba Site, where the first flame pot was discovered. In addition to the Umatoka Site artifacts including the first discovered flame pot, many artifacts excavated from the Jomon sites in Nagaoka City such as the Tochikura and Tokushoji Site artifacts are exhibited.



Address: 1-3060-1 Sekihara-machi, Nagaoka City
Open: 9:00-17:00 (Enter by 16:30)
Closed: Monday (Open if Monday falls on a public holiday, but closed the next day)
Year-end and New Year
Admission: ¥200 (High school students and younger: Free, a group of 20 or more: ¥150)
Phone: 0258-46-0601

Fujihashi Historic Plaza

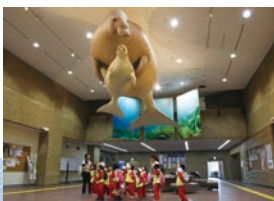
A site park where the Fujihashi Site and artifacts are exhibited. Fujihashi History Hall is an exhibition hall. Excavated pillars are preserved at another hall, and some typical Jomon houses are reconstructed for visitors.

Address: 4157-1 Nishizu-machi, Nagaoka City
Open: 9:00-17:00
Closed: Monday (Open if Monday falls on a public holiday, but closed the next day)
Winter period (December 1-March 31)
Admission: Free
Phone: 0258-46-8441



Nagaoka Municipal Science Museum

A comprehensive museum where you can learn about the nature and history of Nagaoka City. Archaeological materials include stone tools and pottery from the Paleolithic to the medieval age, and artifacts from Kosegasawa and Muroya caves that are important cultural properties.



Address: 2-1-1 Saiwai-cho, Nagaoka City (c/o Saiwai Plaza)
Open: 9:00-17:00
Closed: 1st and 3rd Monday each month (Open if falls on a public holiday, but closed the next day)
Admission: Free
Phone: 0258-32-0546

Museums with cultural assets



The Niigata Prefectural Museum of History

Located on Sekihara Hill, the home of flame pots. The permanent exhibition of flame pots from around Niigata Prefecture is remarkable.

Address: 2247-2, 1-chome, Aza Gongendo, Sekihara-machi, Nagaoka City
Open: 9:30-17:00 (Enter by 16:30)
Closed: Monday (Open if Monday falls on a public holiday, but closed the next day) Year-end and New Year
Admission: Adults ¥510, High school and college students ¥200, Junior high school and under Free
Phone: 0258-47-6130



Mishima Museum of Local History

A museum with the themes of trees, sawtooth and carpenter. Flame pot from the Monnosawa Site is displayed.

Address: 1260-1 Kami-iwai, Nagaoka City (c/o Nagaoka City Mishima Hall)
Open: 9:00-17:00
Closed: Monday, Year-end and New Year
Admission: Adults ¥300, Elementary and Junior high school students ¥150
Phone: 0258-42-2222

The Shinano River is the stage!
A grand scale



Nagaoka Festival Fireworks Display

Nagaoka fireworks full of variety, such as the famous Sho-Sanjakudama (3-foot-diameter shell), Phoenix and Ten Chi Jin fireworks, color the surface of the Shinano River. Held on August 2 and 3 each year.

Phone: 0258-39-0823
(Nagaoka Fireworks Foundation)



Settaya Brewery Town

The Settaya district, once flourishing with brewing culture long ago, still features clusters of well-established miso, soy sauce and Japanese sake warehouses today. The aroma of malted rice will surround you from all directions as you walk through the area. Some warehouses also offer guided tours. (Reservations must be booked in advance)

Phone: 0258-32-1187 (Nagaoka Tourism Convention Association)



Cultural heritages and sightseeing spots in the neighboring area



Tsuginosuke Kawai Memorial Museum

This museum provides an introduction to the life of Tsuginosuke Kawai, a chief retainer of the Nagaoka Domain at the end of the Edo period. A number of items related to Kawai - including "Chiritsubo" (replica), a travel diary detailing his journey to Western Japan, a replica of a Gatling gun, and an autographed manuscript (replica) of Ryotaro Shiba's novel "The Pass", which made Tsuginosuke a hero - are exhibited at the museum.

Address: 1675-1 Naga-cho Kou, Nagaoka City
Open: 10:00-17:00 (Enter by 16:30)
Closed: Year-end and New Year (Sometimes closed without notice)
Admission: Adults ¥200, High school students, college students, handicapped people, caregivers ¥150, Junior high school and elementary students ¥100 (under school age: Free) ※Discount for a group of 20 or more
Phone: 0258-30-1525

16 cellars, No.1 in Niigata Prefecture
Select your favorite.

Japanese sake

The Shinano River flows with abundant snow-melt water. The clear water nurtures sake rice. The Echigo master brewer's technique is the reason for the delicious sake.

Phone: 0258-32-1187 (Nagaoka Tourism Convention Association)



Jomon gem! Collaboration of Japanese sweet store and museum Yamatoya, "Harukanaru Jomon" (everlasting Jomon)

Sweets in the shape of flame pot fragments contain acorn powder that Jomon people ate. Sold at the Yamatoya main store, COCOLO, Nagaoka Echigo Noren Street and Niigata Prefectural Museum of History.

Address: 3-3 Yanagihara-machi, Nagaoka City
Phone: 0258-35-3533
Yamatoya, Koshino-yuki Honpo



Minami Fujioka

TV presenter familiar with panda behavior and history, along with the Jomon period
Lead singer of Minami Fujioka & The Morons
Official blog: panda hyakkaten <http://ameblo.jp/373panda/>

Minami Fujioka

T a l k

Tatsuo Kobayashi

Tatsuo Kobayashi

Archaeologist and advisor for the Shinano River Flame Pot Road Cooperative Council

Professor emeritus at Kokugakuin University
Honorary director of the Tsunan Agriculture and Jomon Experience Museum
Honorary director of Niigata Prefectural Museum of History

The Jomon period, which we know less about than we think we do. Let's explore the minds of the Jomon people!

Dr. Tatsuo Kobayashi is an expert on the Jomon period.
Ms. Minami Fujioka is a TV presenter. She calls herself a Jomon beginner and has been interested in the Jomon period for three years.
They talked about which parts of the Jomon period appeal to them.

What kind of age was the Jomon period?

Fujioka: There are many ways to interpret the Jomon period. In my case, I found the age lively at first and then it gradually appealed to me. I long for the Jomon period as it seems to have been an age when people were warmhearted. What do you think about the Jomon period, Professor Kobayashi?

Kobayashi: People who think of the Jomon period at a distance may find the Jomon period lively. I'm much closer to the Jomon period and am struggling with it. So, I don't feel it was lively. Why do you think it was lively? It's our responsibility to find the answer and examine it.

Fujioka: What was the primary feature of the Jomon period and how did people live then?

Kobayashi: Jomon pots represents the Jomon period. To make pottery, they found clay, refined it and kneaded it, adjusting the softness by adding water. It is similar to baking bread.

Fujioka: I've tried to make pottery modeled on a flame pot. I thought making pottery was sophisticated.

Kobayashi: Once clay is kneaded, it is left as is for a while. Then a bottom was made with a lump of clay,

and a wall was made around the bottom. After finishing the whole body, they decorated its surface, dried it and fired it.

Fujioka: Their starting to make pottery, which needed much time and work, lead to the dawn of the Jomon period and became its primary feature.

Kobayashi: That's right. If they hadn't had settled down, making pottery would have been impossible. It was more than 13,000 years ago, when the oldest pottery in the world was produced on the Japanese archipelago. It was the first and the biggest revolution for human beings. The emergence of pottery has the stabilized sedentism in the background.

Fujioka: It's amazing that something so old still remains now. Jomon pots featuring the Jomon period also tells us how people lived in those days. How interesting!

Exciting Jomon Culture

Fujioka: Jomon pots is really great. Speaking of Jomon pots, many people picture flame pots. How is this pottery superior to others?

Kobayashi: As we have pottery like Bizen ware and

Hagi ware now, individual pots styles developed in each region in the Jomon period, like dialects. As the proverb says: so many countries, so many customs.

Fujioka: I guess Jomon pots was an object that people in the Jomon period showed their pride and character with, comparing themselves to people in other regions.

Kobayashi: In short, they were seeking their independent identity in Jomon pots. That's why Jomon pots characteristics differ depending on regions and ages. Some of the characteristics are breathtaking and also are universal.

Fujioka: What are they?

Kobayashi: They are projections on the rim. Jomon pots are containers. As containers, it's enough for them to have a certain capacity. But Jomon pots had projections to decorate the pottery rims.

Fujioka: Jomon pots with projections must've been difficult to handle.

Kobayashi: Projections are unnecessary for containers, but they made them, even complicated ones.

They brought in and used much clay, spending substantial time on the projections. However, Jomon pots with projections was difficult to handle, which appears to have been a contradiction. This contradiction is unique to Jomon pots and cannot be seen in any other pottery in any ages, areas or countries.

Fujioka: I thought projections weren't practical. I wondered if there was a reason for them or if they were mentally important for people in the Jomon period.

Kobayashi: The projections were useless objects, but they put them on top of their pots. A very strong will must have made them do that.

Fujioka: That sounds very touching. When I visited Niigata the other day, people there cooked miso-soup with pork and vegetables (tonjiru) with pottery modeled on a flame pot. When I ate the tonjiru, I felt it a very special food. I felt as if it were celebrated tonjiru, though the projections bothered me when I used a ladle. But I love pots with projections, which is a contradiction. I thought I may be able to recognize the feeling of speciality.

Kobayashi: It's very important because clay is flexible and easy to be shaped. That was a common understanding not only for Jomon people but also for the potters all over the world. If I dare to use the expression "got carried away," the Jomon people were the most to be carried away with the flexibility of clay.

Fujioka: It's like: Let's do it as far as we can! I was surprised to know that the number of projections were fixed. They would sometimes do figures beforehand.

Kobayashi: Just adding projections is insufficient. We need to think about balance. So, the number of



projections is basically an even number; normally there are four projections including the flame pots. In the same period, pottery was made in other places such as on the Korean Peninsula, the Chinese continent, Taiwan and Sakhalin, but they didn't make projections. Only Jomon pots had projections.

Fujioka: The projections must have been necessary for some reason.

Kobayashi: There should be a reason for it; they would not have made projections without a reason. Flame pots has four projections in principle, but pots made in Aizu has three. They had a similar style to make pots and expressed their independence with the projections.

Fujioka: I can feel their mental strength. Counterculture! Expressing with the number of projections!

Kobayashi: I heard that Taro Okamoto was so surprised at the ferociousness and magnificence of this figure that he almost fell. The Jomon formative art moved him as an artist. If we want to understand the flame pots more specifically though, we should change our perspective and think more deeply.

Fujioka: How?

Kobayashi: For example, projections are called cockscombs, combs of roosters, as a nickname, which were essential. On the horizontal rim, where cockscombs are put, saw teeth-shaped frills are added. Moreover, symbolic heart-shaped windows are made on the side of the cockscombs.

Fujioka: They already had a heart shape, didn't they?

Kobayashi: Yes. In addition, there were protrusions in the shape of big-framed glasses that look like the dragonfly eyes and of bag. Every flame pots had these patterns. That suggests that the patterns went beyond

decoration to what they wanted to tell, which was the hidden story that originates from their world view. Interestingly, all flame pots earthenware excavated from the region of Niigata to Tsunan, on the upper to lower Shinano River, followed this tradition.

Fujioka: Did they deform something and make a new pattern? What did they intend to tell? There are riddles for us to solve.

Kobayashi: One more thing interests us. Flame pot alone was insufficient for them. They also needed crown-type pot, which was a brother version.

Fujioka: I can understand it's a brother version because they indeed resemble each other. There must have been a reason a brother version appeared.

Kobayashi: There's a mutual concept between them. I mean, there should be a pair in their concept and style. For example, heads and tails, light and shadow, and day and night. This is the dichotomy between the two: the concept of distinguishing two things. They dared to make it and express it. I call this two but one Jomon thought.

Fujioka: When we look at Jomon pots, we can imagine something like the Jomon philosophy. Many of us connect the Jomon period with primitive life. I did at first, but now Jomon pots makes me think that they must've had philosophy. When I think they seem to have had strong will and been rich in emotions, I feel familiar with them and that I would have been able to make friends with them. I also feel empathy with them more strongly when I look at their clay figures as well as their pots. Speaking of clay figures, they remind us of Miss Umataka, a clay figure found in Niigata prefecture. Her cheeks look plump and she is adorable. She has facial expression, too. Clay figures were deformed, which I think made them adorable; they appeal to me.

Kobayashi: As for deformation, when they made a clay figure's face, they tried to make it as different from a human being's face as possible.

Fujioka: I thought so. Judging their technique from flame pots, we can assume that they would be able to make more realistic clay figures of human beings, which would be easier to understand. But they didn't.

Kobayashi: I think they were spirits. There may have been spirits around them. We have experience like feeling someone looking at you from behind and when you look back the figure disappears. They recognized the existence of spirits and made clay

figures. They didn't make faces because they would have become human if they had human faces. That's why clay figures were faceless in the beginning.

Fujioka: Is that so?

Kobayashi: Faceless clay figures had been produced for thousands of years. Clay figures were faceless until the age of flame pots. Someone may have daringly made a face on a clay figure. Some people were reluctant to make clay figures with faces, but more and more people began to make them.

Fujioka: I was surprised to hear that clay figures were not human beings in the beginning. They were not animals either, right? That means they intentionally made something that does not exist.

Kobayashi: There's no one whose face looks like a clay figure, but they made it. As clay figures with faces were produced, some clay figures began to be broken, which had a reason.

Fujioka: Many clay figures have had their legs removed. There must be a reason and that may be culture.

Kobayashi: There are practically no able-bodied clay figures. Clay figures are very different tools from Jomon bows, arrows and spears, which were used with hands. Clay figures were tools used with brains. I call them the second tool.

Fujioka: They made what they wanted to make, not what was easy to use. I like that.

Kobayashi: The flame pot style was at the time when the Jomon culture developed vigorously, and reached

its peak in the middle Jomon period.

Fujioka: It was the Jomon bubble, right?

Kobayashi: The area producing flame pots then was exactly in the present Niigata Prefecture, which is interesting. Niigata Prefecture used to be called the Echigo District in ancient days. The territory is based on the area that flame pots were made. A cultural area was formed centering in the Shinano river Basin.

Fujioka: Do rivers relate to the development of civilization?

Kobayashi: Japan has many rivers. The cultural sphere of flame pots, which clearly fits with the border of Niigata Prefecture, had rich cultural activities in the Shinano river Basin. We applied for the Japan Heritage project held by the Agency for Cultural Affairs in order to familiarize the culture of the Echigo District, centering on flame pots and the culture symbolizing the Jomon period and it was adopted.

Fujioka: When I visited Nagaoka City and looked at flame pots, I learned that areas were divided according to Jomon pots features. I can imagine Jomon people may have felt like boasting: this is our pots! I think flame pot was something that they were proud of.

Kobayashi: Projections were added to the Jomon pots which are not necessary for containers. We cannot find this kind of thing in any other area or on any other continent. That makes Jomon culture so emotional. So much so that everyone will understand why you had a lively and touching image with the Jomon.



Photographed at Kokugakuin University Museum



“What on earth?!” Exploring the Jomon period

Uonuma City

Main Cultural Assets
Forming the Story

Rivers crossing. Abundant blessings from the river.
The land of Uonuma was the place
of exchange of the Jomon people.

A large-scale Jomon village, built on the riverbanks of the Uono River, one of the tributaries of the middle course of the Shinano River. The Jomon people climbed mountains, walked along the rivers, and rowed in boats to arrive at this rich land. Their cultural community is an eternal wonder.

Mt. Asakusa

Cultural Asset No. 68

Designated as part of the Echigo Sanzan Quasi-National Park, Mt. Asakusa is a volcano from the Quaternary period with a height of 1586 meters above sea level. Jomon sites, caves, and rock shelters are distributed along its base on the southern side, including Cultural Heritage #61, Kurohime Cave site and artifacts. To the Jomon people, it may have been an important symbol that connects the villages in the surrounding landscape.



Shoanji Site and artifacts

Cultural Asset No. 64

The remains of a large settlement from the mid- to late Jomon period along the Uono River, one of the tributaries flowing into the middle reaches of the Shinano River. Several storage pits for preserving food, including circular-shaped residences, were discovered. Flame pots and crown-type pots have also been excavated in near-perfect condition.



Haraidaira Site and artifacts

Cultural Asset No. 65

The remains of a settlement from the mid- to late Jomon period along the Uono River, one of the tributaries flowing into the middle reaches of the Shinano River. The characteristics of a Jomon village are well-observed in the line of pit-dwelling houses that form a circle. Flame pots have been excavated in perfect condition here.



Mt. Gongendo

(Kami-Gongendo and Shimo-Gongendo)

Cultural Asset No. 67

Mountains made of Paleozoic igneous rock, standing at 997 meters and 896 meters above sea level. Many Jomon sites, including Cultural Heritage #63, Nunoba Uenohara Site and Artifacts, are spread out along the terraces at the southwestern base.

Uono River

Cultural Asset No. 66

With the Mikuni Mountains as its source, it is a distinctive river and tributary of the Shinano River. Several settlements of the Jomon period remain among the terraces formed in the rich supply of water. As salmon fishing has been active from a long time ago, the river should have been a bountiful Mother river from the Jomon period.

Kurohime Cave Site and artifacts

Cultural Asset No. 61

A cave site from the time of the world's oldest earthenware, traces of living people remain here, spanning a history of over ten thousand years from the early Jomon period to the Yayoi period. In particular, valuable materials have been uncovered here, including the oldest example of salmonid bone in the prefecture, the Yayoi period arrowheads with traces of asphalt, and other such relics.





Museums with
cultural assets

Sumon Folk Culture Museum

A facility established in Megurotei, flame pots from Cultural Heritage #64, Shonji Site and artifacts, are on exhibit here. Other items displayed include old writings from the early Edo period as well as everyday articles, supplies, farm tools, and other wares suitable for areas of heavy snowfall. Through the over ten thousand items and resources, visitors can get a glimpse at the traditional snow country culture and living.

Address: 892 Suhara, Uonuma City
Open: 9:00-16:00
Closed: Year-end and New Year Admission: Adults ¥500 (High school age or older), Children ¥100 (Elementary and middle school age)
*Fees include entrance to Megurotei, the Folk Culture Museum, and Megurotei Resource Center
Phone: 025-797-3220



Experience the romantic adventure in the snow, waters and forests.

The whispers of the river, the fragrance of the wind, warmth of the greenery.
Entrust yourself to the never-changing wonders of nature and enjoy the cultural activity with all five senses.
A wondrous and breathtaking trip through the ages awaits you.



Megurotei (Important Cultural Property)

The residence of the Meguro family, who served as a village official that unified the neighboring villages, built in 1797. The two-tiered transverse beam roof framework built to withstand heavy snowfall and the impressive structure of about 29m in length and about 10m in width are worth seeing.

Address: 892 Suhara, Uonuma City Open: 9:00-16:00
Closed: Year-end and New Year Admission: Adults ¥500 (High school age or older), Children ¥100 (Elementary and middle school age)
*Fees include entrance to Megurotei, the Folk Culture Museum, and Megurotei Resource Center Phone: 025-797-3220



Cultural heritages
and sightseeing spots
in the neighboring
area



Saifukuji Temple Kaisando

Uncho Ishikawa Sculpture

Uncho Ishikawa was a master wood-carver in the late Edo period whose sculptures captivate all those who see them. The works of Uncho, often called the Michelangelo of Japan, can be appreciated at Eirinji temple, where it took 13 years to complete the ranma, Japanese transom, and at Saifukuji Kaizando where the ceiling is decorated with astonishing sculpture.

Phone: 025-792-7300 (Uonuma City Tourism Association)



Lake Oku-Tadami

Japan's foremost giant man-made lake, with a volume of water exceeding 600 million tons in weight. It is also called Ginzan Lake meaning “silver mountain lake,” as silver used to be mined in the area in the Edo period. Cruise ferries are also in operation between the end of May up to early November, and the view of the autumn colors from the secluded lake is particularly magnificent. There is also a liner for Ozeguchi, so visitors can enjoy a day trip across the lake to Oze.

Phone: 025-792-7300 (Uonuma City Tourism Association)



Teshigoto Tehodoki Kan (Tangible Cultural Property)

A renovated private residence from the late Edo period. Visitors can experience the slow-paced rural lifestyle special to Uonuma in this farmer's residence. The local cuisine cooked in an irori, a traditional Japanese sunken hearth, using wild plants and farm-grown vegetables are exceptional.

Address: 183 Otochiyama, Uonuma City
Phone: 025-798-4701.

*For more details, kindly visit the official home page.
<http://www.kazekozou.org/>

The Jomon People Also Had Snowball Fights!?



Koide International Snowball Fight

An international event held in Koide, Uonuma City, from which the snowball fight is said to have originated. Aside from the actual competition of throwing snowballs at the opposing team, best costumes and performances are also judged. Both children and adults participate in this hot battle in the snow!

Address: 1848-1 Himizo, Uonuma City (Snow Coliseum, Hibikinomori Park, Koidego Culture Hall)
Phone: 025-792-9754 (Koide Snow Festival Executive Committee)

Symbol of Uonuma, Echigo Sanzan Mountains and 160 Thousand Moss Phlox Flowers

Uonuma Moss Phlox Festival

A festival held annually in early to mid-May, the best time to see the moss phlox flowers. The carpet of pink covering the land, and the view of the Echigo Sanzan (3 mountains) from the observation deck make a photogenic scenery.

Address: 5544-1 Negoya, Uonuma City (Negoya Flower, Green, and Snow Park, Oku-Tadami Recreation City Park)
Phone: 025-780-4560 (Mutsumi Group)



Japan's Number One Rice Town! **Uonuma koshihikari rice**



The rice made here is the product of ice-thawed water rich in minerals and fertile soil carried from upstream by the Uono River and Aburuma River. The temperature difference between day and night characteristic of the mountainous area also helps bring out the truly delicious flavor of this rice.

Phone: 025-792-7300 (Uonuma City Tourism Association)

"What on earth?!" Exploring the Jomon period

Tokamachi City

Main Cultural Assets
Forming the Story

Jomon Ginza! One of the Jomon main streets in the Shinano River basin.
The overwhelming presence of the national treasure, "Snow Flame".

Large settlements were already formed in the early Jomon period, and the Jomon sites are densely distributed. Especially in this deep-snow area, it is granted that the Jomon culture matured because of the snow. The thrills of exploration never stop in this snow country.

Sasayama Site Artifacts

Cultural Asset No. 11

Many flame pots, crown-type pots, stone tools and clay figures were excavated from this large village. The materials indicate the characteristics of the flame pot culture in the upstream part of the Shinano River basin. A group of excavated items including the flame pot named as "Jomon Snow Flame" were designated as both the first national treasure in Niigata Prefecture and also the first of the Jomon pots to be a national treasure.



Ma Yansong/MAD Architects "Tunnel of Light"
Sponsor: Tokamachi Tourist Association

Kiyotsu Gorge

Cultural Asset No. 42

The magnificent scenery at Kiyotsu Gorge was created by the Shinano River and its tributary, the Kiyotsu River. This large gorge, with steep cliff walls on either side of the river that tower in a V-shape, is an ancient landscape that has been around since the Jomon period. It is regarded as one of the three major canyons in Japan. The topography of the columnar joints is truly undisturbed nature, and the whole area is also a treasure trove for academic material. The Kiyotsu Gorge Tunnel was renewed in 2018 as an artwork for the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale.

Tashirono Nanatsugama

Cultural Asset No. 41

Seven waterfalls formed along the mountain stream sprung from the Naeba mountain system that feeds into the Shinano River. The scenic view unchanged from the Jomon period is a rare terrain with vertical columnar joints on the left bank and horizontal columnar joints on the right. Waterfalls and pools continue for about 1 km.



Sasayama Site

Cultural Asset No. 27

A large Jomon settlement site that existed for about 1,000 years from the mid-Jomon through the early phase of the late Jomon period. This was a typical settlement along the upper basin of the Shinano River with pit-dwellings placed in a ring or horseshoe shape around a ritual plaza. Some pit-dwellings of the same period as when flame pots were made were restored, recreating the Jomon appearance.

Upper Shinano River basin Incipient Jomon Period artifacts

Cultural Asset No. 3

The sites of the period when pottery production began are concentrated in the upstream area of the Shinano River. Bottom-pointed pots, a feature of the Incipient Jomon period, are found among the artifacts of Himizo and Unoki Minami sites. The pots that date back about 10,000 years before the period of flame pots are decorated with cord marks.



Sponsor: Tokamachi Tourist Association



Bijinbayashi

Cultural Asset No. 49

This beech forest remains on the upper part of the Shinano River. You can feel the Jomon atmosphere here. The beech trees were once cut down in the early 20th century, and started to grow again all at once. Because of the beautiful appearance of these trees, they were named Bijin (beauty). The woods show their beauty not only with fresh greenery and autumn leaves but also with snow.





Tokamachi City Museum

A museum based around the theme of “The Home of Flame Pot National Treasures - Snow, Textiles and the Shinano River”. Highlights include the presence of “Cultural Property No. 11 Sasayama Site Artifacts”, which includes the first flame pots to be designated as national treasure in Niigata prefecture and the first Jomon pots in Japan to be designated as national treasures in 1999. The “Cultural Property No. 4 Kubodera-minami Site Artifacts”, “Cultural Property No.12 Habagami Site Artifacts”, the Important Cultural Properties “Echigo Chijimi Weaving Implements and Other Related Materials” and “Items from Tokamachi for Use During Snowy Periods” are also must-sees.

Address: 1-448-9 Nishi-honcho, Tokamachi City
Open: 9:00 - 17:00 (Enter by 16:30)
Closed: Mondays (or the following weekday when Monday is a national holiday), Year-end and New Year
Admission: ¥500 (Group ¥400; Elementary, junior high school students and under are free)
Phone: 025-757-5531



Museums with
cultural assets

A visit to culture and art born out of snow.

In an area that experiences some of the heaviest snowfall in the world, there exists lifestyles, cultures, and arts that are cultivated by snow.

Proof that the area has long lived alongside snow can be found in its earthenware pots designated as national treasures and traditional events.

Matsudai History Museum

The building in which this museum is located utilizes the appearance of an old Japanese-style house, with thick beams made from Japanese zelkova and a large central pillar, devised in a way that conveys Matsudai's history and culture to visitors in a natural fashion. Other items such as documents related to Matsuo Shrine (one of the region's Important Cultural Properties) and videos of rice terraces that were selected for “Nihon-no-Sato 100 Sen” (Top 100 Countrysides in Japan) are also on display.

Address: 3718 Matsudai, Tokamachi City 9:00 - 17:00
Closed: Wednesdays (or the following day when Wednesday is a national holiday), Year-end and New Year
Admission: General Admission (high school student or above) ¥300, Elementary and Junior School Students ¥100
Phone: 025-597-2138



KUSAMA Yayoi “Tsumari in Bloom”
(Photo by NAKAMURA Osamu)



Christian Boltanski + Jean Kalman “The Last Class”
(Photo: KURATANI.T)

Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale

One of the world's largest international art festivals, held every 3 years in the Echigo-Tsumari region. The festival engages in various activities together in collaboration with a large number of people - such as local residents, artists, a range of supporters such as the Kohebi-tai, and groups and individuals operating within a wide range of genres - and continues to promote their appeal.

“Echigo-Tsumari Art Field”, Echigo-Tsumari - Spring/Summer/Autumn/Winter

Regional development of the Echigo-Tsumari area is conducted throughout the year, unlike the Art Triennale, which only happens once every 3 years. In addition to permanent artworks, exhibitions planned for every season, as well as performances, workshops, events, and festivals associated with regional events are held in the area.

Phone: 025-761-7767 (“Echigo-Tsumari Art Field” General Information Desk)



Leandro Erlich “Palimpsest: pond of sky”
(Photo by KIOKU Keizo)

Cultural heritages
and sightseeing spots
in the neighboring
area



The Roadside Station Cross 10 Tokamachi

Silk fabric crafts unique to textile town Tokamachi, local rice and sake, and fresh agricultural products are sold here. There is also a cafe restaurant where you can enjoy local vegetables and the local snow country cuisine as well as a Japanese craft shop. The huge panel (7 x 5 m) of a flame pot, a national treasure, by photographer Masato Shigesawa decorates the exterior wall giving a great impact.

Address: 6-1-71-26 Honcho, Tokamachi City
Phone: 025-757-2323

“The Birthplace of Modern Snow Festivals”
- One of Winter's Big Events!



Tokamachi Snow Festival

“Befriend Snow, Enjoy Snow” - the Tokamachi Snow Festival was born from these sentiments by local residents. Everyone can enjoy the event - one of the largest and most colorful of Tokamachi City's winter attractions - in their own way, from the array of “Snow Sculpture Artworks” handmade by local citizens, or the hospitality on offer in one of the “Festival Square” areas set up in various parts of the city. The festival is held in mid-February every year.

Phone: 025-757-3100 (Tokamachi Snow Festival Executive Committee)

We love Jomon! Feel the breath of Jomon!



Sasayama Jomon Market

A Jomon event that began commemorating the designation of flame pots excavated from Sasayama Site as a national treasure. You never have to be a Jomon freak to enjoy the Jomon performance festival, singing and dancing entertainment, and making Jomon food and accessories.

Address: 3081-2 Nakajo Otsu, Tokamachi City (Sasayama Jomon Plaza, Sasayama Jomon Hall)
Phone: 025-752-2748 (NPO Sasayama Jomon-no-Sato, Nakajo District Community Center)

"What on earth?!" Exploring the Jomon period

Tsunan Town

Main Cultural Assets
Forming the Story

The rich natural environment Jomon people chose was on the river terrace of the Shinano River.

Magnificent terrain created by the Naeba foothills and Shinano River erosion. Clear snow-melt water flows on Japan's largest river terraces, the forests are in full leaf and creatures abound. You will be thrilled to encounter nature unchanged from the Jomon period.

Cultural Asset No. 40

River Terraces

These multiple-stair terraces were formed by the Shinano River and the earth through a stunningly long period of 400,000 years. The Jomon culture developed on this river terrace topography with scattered springs. People selected this terrace in Tsunan which is the largest in Japan to gather and settlements grew to a large scale where they made flame pots in their daily lives.

Cultural Asset No. 18

Dodaira Site Artifacts

Many pit dwellings in good condition were found in Dodaira Site from the mid-Jomon period. Flame pots and crown-type pots were excavated in nearly perfect condition. They are excellent materials that represent the upstream basin of the Shinano River. The finds also include pot groups from Gunma to Nagano prefectures, and even the Tohoku district, suggesting a wide range of communications.



Okinohara Site Artifacts

The Okinohara Site from the mid-Jomon period is a circular settlement with a plaza in the center. In addition to flame pots, ceramic and stone tools, clay figures and cookie-shaped carbonized material were excavated. More than 1,500 valuable artifacts tell of the diet and spiritual culture of the Jomon people.

Cultural Asset No. 20

Akiyama Village

This unexplored area is at the tributary of the Shinano River with mountain villages scattered in the Nakatsu River basin. A Jomon village was located on the same spot as the present village in Akiyama between Tsunan Town in Niigata Prefecture and Sakae Village in Nagano Prefecture. The beautiful natural landscape that would have been reflected in the eyes of the Jomon people is still unchanged. Also, the culture and customs of a heavy snowy area described in "Akiyama Journey" by Bokushi Suzuki in the Edo period are kept on today.

Cultural Asset No. 51



Uwano Site and artifacts

Uwano site from the mid-Jomon period is known for pit dwellings and a large clay figure. Normally in the mid-Jomon period, solid figures are made from a mass of clay. The clay figure with swollen stomach found here is hollow instead. It might be that a figure of a pregnant woman was made and deliberately broken to pray for safe delivery. We can catch a glimpse of the Jomon people's spirit.

Cultural Asset No. 31



Ryugakubo

Cultural Asset No. 43

Ryugakubo is a pond where water springs out. Located at an altitude of 450m on the river terrace, beech, Japanese cypress and magnolias grow densely in the surroundings. With Jomon sites nearby, the landscape looks as if unchanged from the Jomon period. Water originating from heavy snow fall springs out at 30 tons per minute. The water in this pond is always clear and transparent because the cold water, 7 degrees Celsius even in summer, is all replaced daily.



Tsuan Agriculture and Jomon Experience Museum "Najomon"

Jomon people lived in harmony with nature. Here you can learn their philosophy and wisdom. We provide programs on Jomon life, folk customs and nature throughout the four seasons. Since it became apparent that agriculture started in the Jomon period, before the Yayoi period, we also provide agriculture experience programs.

Address: 835 O-aza Shimo-funato Otsu, Tsunan Town, Naka-uonuma-gun
Open: 9:00-17:00
Closed: Monday (Open if Monday falls on a public holiday, but closed the next day)
Year-end and New Year (December 28 - January 4)
Admission: Free (Experience program has a fee)
Phone: 025-765-5511

Museums with
cultural assets



Life breathes in the deep snow.

Enjoy real natural wealth in the heart of nature that nurtured Jomon lives.
Encounter severe, gentle and deep snow country culture.



Tsuan Town Historical Folk Museum

The natural environment of the heavy-snow area is the background of Tsunan's history and cultures, represented by Jomon culture and the mountain folk culture based on Jomon tradition. Archaeological materials such as a flame pot from Dodaira Site, Jomon pots from Okinohara Site and ethnological materials such as tools from Akiyama and surrounding mountain villages are exhibited.

Address: 827 O-aza Naka-fukami Otsu, Tsunan Town, Naka-uonuma-gun (Funayama)
Open: 9:00-16:30
Closed: Monday (Open if Monday falls on a public holiday, but closed the next day)
Winter period (December 28-March 10)
Admission: Adults ¥210, Minors and students ¥100
Phone: 025-765-2882



Mikura Bridge

This suspension bridge is one of the 50 selected bridges of Niigata Prefecture, connecting Mikura Village inside Naeba-Sanroku Geopark and Ketto Village on the other side of the river. The emerald green Nakatsu River and the forest's fresh green and autumn leaves seen from the bridge are a masterpiece. This scenic spot is used for movie and TV drama locations.

Phone: 025-765-5585 (Tsunan Town Tourism Association)



Cultural heritages
and sightseeing spots
in the neighboring
area

Great horse chestnuts of Mikura

The virgin forest of horse chestnuts in Naeba-Sanroku Geopark is a spot where you feel the surroundings through your five senses. You will wonder if the scenery is as much the same as that Jomon people saw when they lived in the forest. The great horse chestnut tree that symbolize the richness of the forest especially bears a divine atmosphere. The tree was selected as one of the 100 forest giants by the Japan forestry agency.

Phone: 025-765-5585 (Tsunan Town Tourism Association)

Ryugakubo Hot Spring, Dragon Deity House: Jomon Hot Spring



This hot spring for day trips is located close to Ryugakubo and is one of the best hundred natural water sources by the ministry of the environment. The salty spring quality is reputed to prevent chill after bathing. The spa "Jomon Hot Spring" has an open air wooden bath in the image of a sacred forest, and the hot water gushes through a flame pot shaped spout.

Address: 7031 O-aza Yachi, Tsunan Town, Naka-uonuma-gun
Phone: 025-765-5888
Please visit our official website for more information.
<http://www.ryugakubo.com/>

What to see!
Turn around and find the Jomon!



Tsuan Sunflower Field

The sunflowers bloom under the summer sun in a vast field just like an ocean! Next to this moving scenery is Okinohara Site, which represents the Jomon circular settlement in the upstream of the Shinano River. Stand in the sunflower field and turn around; you are in a scene of Jomon people's lives.

Phone: 025-765-5585 (Tsunan Town Tourism Association)

Jomon design!
Need a bit of Jomon taste

Sweets



Branded with flame pot design.
Western-style rice crackers
with gentle and sweet flavor
Ideal for a souvenir.

Phone: 025-765-4703 (Sumire Kobo, Support for continuous employment Type B)



The cherry d'amande is named after Okinohara Site, and is in the shape of the pit dwelling plan. A fireplace in the center surrounded by post holes.

Phone: 025-765-2053 (Matsuya)

Experience a world over 10,000 years ago

A pot of experience

Feel the touch of earth and stone; fragrance of forests; heat of burning fire; deep snow and coldness. Experience the Jomon period at the Shinano River Flame Pot Road where the Jomon people built villages here and there! Fully use your five senses and feel the Jomon period.



Pot making

Programs best suited for children's summer homework and advanced classes for adults are given. Other programs include making clay figures and musical instruments (clay bells and whistles).

Places lessons are given

- Tsunan Agriculture and Jomon Experience Museum "Najomon" Phone: 025-765-5511
- Umataka Jomon Museum Phone: 0258-46-0601
- Niigata City Center for Cultural Assets (Maibun Port) Phone: 025-378-0480
- Shiseki-Furutsuhachimanyama Site and the Yayoi-Hills Pavilion Phone: 0250-21-4133



Become a perfect Jomonese

Angin

Angin is a cloth made of plant fiber such as ramies that grow wild in fields and on hills and mountains. Modern clothing originated from angin. You can experience the knitting technique that continues from the Jomon period on the Shinano River Flame Pot Road where angin was first discovered.

Places lessons are given

- Tsunan Agriculture and Jomon Experience Museum "Najomon" Phone: 025-765-5511
- Shiseki-Furutsuhachimanyama Site and the Yayoi-Hills Pavilion Phone: 0250-21-4133



Comma-shaped bead making

This comma-shaped bead, "Magatama" was believed to have spiritual power in the Kofun period (3rd-6th C), and can be traced back to the Jomon period. Grind and polish stones as you pray, and make your own charm. A very popular program to all.

Places lessons are given

- Tsunan Agriculture and Jomon Experience Museum "Najomon" Phone: 025-765-5511
- Niigata City Center for Cultural Assets (Maibun Port) Phone: 025-378-0480
- Shiseki-Furutsuhachimanyama Site and the Yayoi-Hills Pavilion Phone: 0250-21-4133

Jomon life



Experience the everyday life of the Jomon period, making fire, crafting bow and arrows, potting etc., in a field rich in nature. As you cook with a Jomon pot and sit by the fire in a pit dwelling, memories of the ancient past might revive.

Places lessons are given

- Tsunan Agriculture and Jomon Experience Museum "Najomon" Phone: 025-765-5511

Nature observation in winter



Walk through fields covered with pure white snow. Find in the snow, the winter buds on trees and animal footprints. Wear snow shoes and go for walks to hunt the nature that Jomon people exploited in their daily lives.

Places lessons are given

- Tsunan Agriculture and Jomon Experience Museum "Najomon" Phone: 025-765-5511

Experience winter in the Jomon period



Experience Jomon life in winter

How did Jomon people spend the snowy winter? Experience the life of the Jomon period in snowy Tsunan Town through hunting on snow, making fire in a pit dwelling and cooking Jomon food.

Places lessons are given

- Tsunan Agriculture and Jomon Experience Museum "Najomon" Phone: 025-765-5511

Feel Jomon

Cultural Asset Card (Total of 12 kinds)

Visit museums along Shinano River Flame Pot Road (Niigata City, Sanjo City, Nagaoka City, Tokamachi City and Tsunan Town) and take pictures. Present the picture you too, to receive a rare Cultural Asset Card.

Facilities that distribute Cultural Asset Card

- The Niigata Prefectural Museum of History
- Shiseki-Furutsuhachimanyama Site and the Yayoi-Hills Pavilion
- Sanjo City Museum of Historical, Folkloric and Industrial Materials
- Sanjo City Museum of Shitada district
- Umataka Jomon Museum
- Tokamachi City Museum
- Tsunan Agriculture and Jomon Experience Museum "Najomon"
- Tsunan Town Historical Folk Museum

Cards may run out of stock. Tokamachi City and Tsunan Town have their own Cultural Asset Cards in addition to the 12 kinds. Visit the official website of Shinano River Flame Pot Road to learn how to get a card and which cultural assets to photograph.



Digging experience

Dig out a pot of thrills

Experience actual digging in real archaeological sites or at a simulated dig site. Discover the ancient story that lies in the ground.

Places lessons are given

- Umataka Jomon Museum Phone: 0258-46-0601
- Shiseki-Furutsuhachimanyama Site and the Yayoi-Hills Pavilion Phone: 0250-21-4133

The programs and fees vary both by seasons and facilities, and may be cancelled due to the lack of participants. Each season. Please note that experiences may be cancelled if there are not enough people. Experience content and fees vary according to each facility. Please ask for more information.

The photos posted are from the programs at Tsunan Agriculture and Jomon Experience Museum "Najomon".



Thrilling flame pots

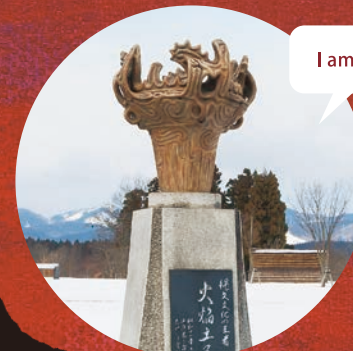
Numerous monuments in the shape of the flame pots dot the Shinano River Flame Pot Road between Niigata City, the Shinano river estuary and Tsunan Town on the Nagano Prefecture border. Surprising encounters follow one after another. Your zeal for the Jomon period is sure to flame! Niigata is a hot prefecture for the Jomon period. Visit here for the thrill of flame pots!



Cauldron for the 1964 Niigata National Sports Festival!

A work modeled on a flame pot, made by sculptor Ami Hayakawa. Originally sculpted with clay, now it is made of copper.

■ Niigata City Athletic Stadium (Chuo Ward, Niigata City)



I am the flame pot!

The monument at the entrance of Umataka Jomon museum was formerly located close to the spot where the first flame pot was found. The figure appears as if saying with dignity, "I am the flame pot".

■ Umataka Jomon Museum (Sekihara-machi, Nagaoka City)



A thrilling pot at your feet!

The first flame pot and fireworks, a castle and cherry blossoms in Yuku-zan Park and the city flower, azalea- these charming Nagaoka sites and views are engraved on manhole lids.

※ The lids buried in ground are not colored
■ Aore Nagaoka (1-Chome Otedori, Nagaoka City)



Pot art in the Shinano River estuary!

A stone carved version of the same type as the cauldron of Niigata City Athletic Stadium. The pots decorate the railings of Showa Ohashi Bridge.

■ Showa Big Bridge (Chuo Ward, Niigata City)



Here goes a dignified looking pot

At first glance, March No. 1, Pomp and Circumstance, goes around in your head?! With a huge height of 3 meters, this is a Jomon symbol of the Yoita Region.

■ Yoita River Ryokuchi Tachibana Park (Yoita Town, Nagaoka City)



This is a rare crown-type!

Among many flame pots, this is the only crown-type monument. Two other flame types stand near the parking lot of the Niigata Prefectural Museum of History.

■ The Niigata Prefectural Museum of History (Sekihara-machi, Nagaoka City)

You can find ten other monuments in Nagaoka City in addition to those introduced here. Detailed maps are available at Umataka Jomon Museum in Nagaoka City. Permission is required to enter the premises of elementary schools to see monuments.



Get a Close-Up Look at Flame Pot National Treasures!

National Treasure Flame Pot No. 1, excavated from the Sasayama Site, serves as the model. The monument is installed in Car Park 2 of the new Tokamachi City Museum.

■ Tokamachi City Museum (Nishi-honcho, Tokamachi City)



Jomon pot that shocked Taro Okamoto!

Jomon pot made artist Taro Okamoto shout "What on earth?!" Taro Okamoto attended the unveiling ceremony for this monument.

■ Bullet train concourse of JR Nagaoka Station (Jonai-cho, Nagaoka City)



Is this the very first pot monument?

A monument set up in Nagaoka City in 1959, where the first flame pot was discovered. The monument stands quietly today at the junction of three roads, surrounded by trees.

■ At the three road junction, Senju 2, Nagaoka City



A monument that indicates the southern end of the upstream area of the Shinano River!

Modeled after a flame pot (a prefecture-designated cultural property) excavated from Okinohara Site. This is in the parking lot of the Tsunan Souvenir Store.

■ Tsunan Souvenir Store (O-aza Ashigasaki, Tsunan Town)



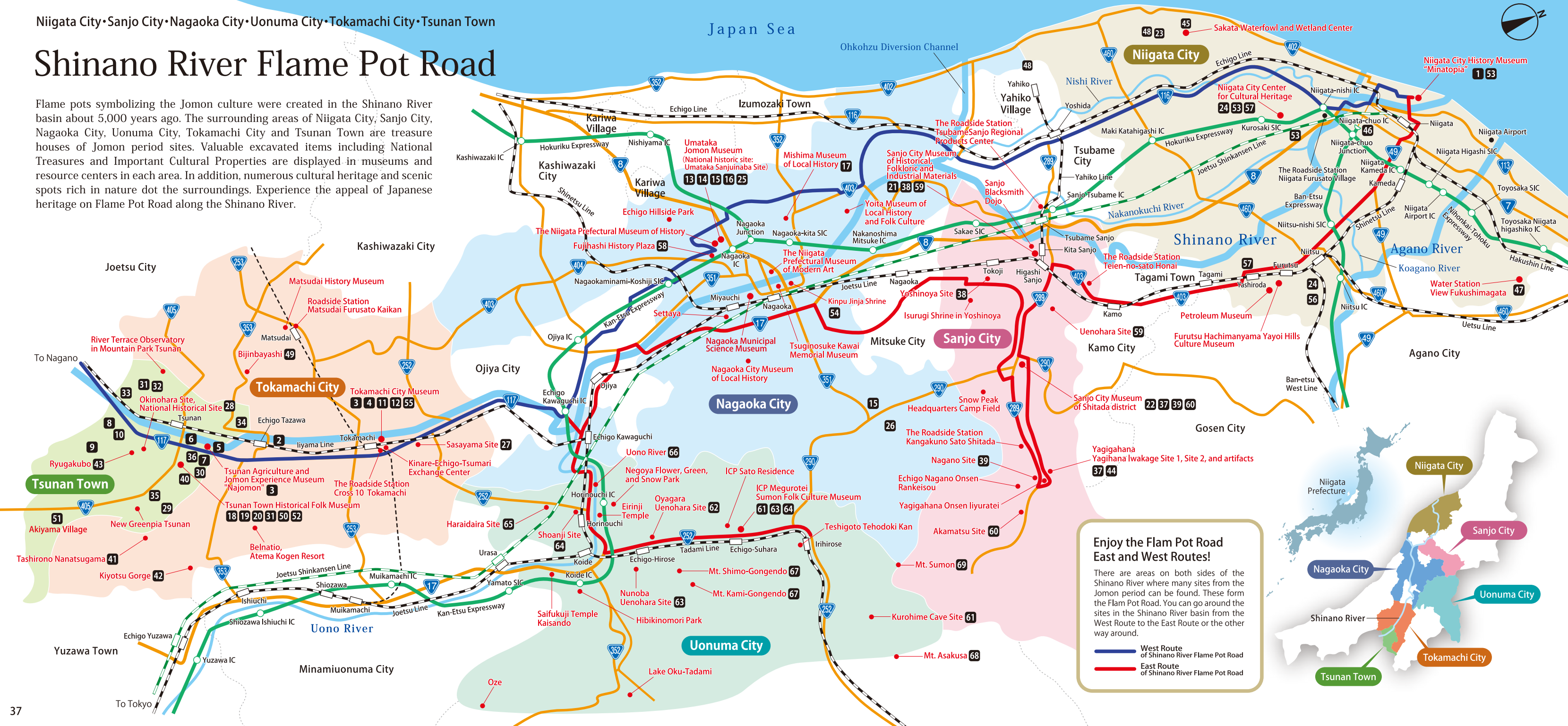
A welcome pot at the entrance of Tsunan Town!

Modeled after a flame pot, an important cultural property, excavated from Dodaira Site. The monument stands by the route 117 at the boundary of Tokamachi City and Tsunan Town facing the Kiyotsu river with a signboard of Japan Heritage.

■ Pocket Park along National Route 117 (O-aza Shimo-funato, Tsunan Town)

Shinano River Flame Pot Road

Flame pots symbolizing the Jomon culture were created in the Shinano River basin about 5,000 years ago. The surrounding areas of Niigata City, Sanjo City, Nagaoka City, Uonuma City, Tokamachi City and Tsunan Town are treasure houses of Jomon period sites. Valuable excavated items including National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties are displayed in museums and resource centers in each area. In addition, numerous cultural heritage and scenic spots rich in nature dot the surroundings. Experience the appeal of Japanese heritage on Flame Pot Road along the Shinano River.



Enjoy the Flam Pot Road East and West Routes!

There are areas on both sides of the Shinano River where many sites from the Jomon period can be found. These form the Flam Pot Road. You can go around the sites in the Shinano River basin from the West Route to the East Route or the other way around.

- West Route
of Shinano River Flame Pot Road
- East Route
of Shinano River Flame Pot Road