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Tōjinbō Cliffs

Sakai/Antō, Mikuni-cho, Sakai City

A walk along the Ariso Trail brings travelers to the Tōjinbō Cliffs; another 2 kilometers brings them to Oshima, the “Island of the Gods.” Inscriptions bearing the words of authors and poets Jun Takami and Tatsuji Miyoshi, and a gentle breeze from the Japan Sea washes over those who stop to read them.



Tōjinbō Cliffs (Nationally Designated Place of Scenic Beauty)



Sunset at Tōjinbō^①

The Tōjinbō Cliffs are a Nationally Designated Place of Scenic Beauty composed of rare, pillared pyroxene andesite joints resultant from magma that cooled and hardened along the Echizen coastline, then was further shaped by being buffeted by ocean waves over the course of millions of years.

The cliffs derive their name from a legendary Buddhist monk from nearby Heisenji Temple (Katsuyama City), Tōjinbō, who was thrown from the cliffs to his death for his immoral behavior and carousing.



Oshima, “Island of the Gods”, as viewed from the Japan Sea

Oshima, long revered locally as the “Island of the Gods,” is home to an evergreen forest of Japanese cedar and cinnamon trees. Ominato, the Shinto god enshrined there, is celebrated every year during Oshima Festival, which boasts a 1400-year history.

The 4km-long Ariso Trail allows strollers to admire a view of the ocean while pondering the writings of Jun Takami and Tatsuji Miyoshi, writers with ties to Mikuni. Within the bounds of Echizen Kaga Kaigan National Park lies Echizen Matsushima, so named after Miyagi Prefecture’s Matsushima and its pine trees.



Inscriptions dot the Ariso Trail



Oshima Festival enjoys a long history^②



Echizen Matsushima, floating at cape’s end

