



The Five Lakes of Mikata

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From atop its mountain peaks, the view of the Five Lakes of Mikata captured the attentions of manyō poets much as it does that of visitors today. From its lakesides and mountains, one can see to the distant horizon and hear the gentle lapping of waves on the shore.



The Five Lakes of Mikata, as viewed from (Mt.) Baijōdake (Nationally Designated Place of Scenic Beauty)

The natural beauty of the Five Lakes of Mikata is representative of the Wakasa Bay National Park, and has enjoyed the highest of reputations from the days of the Manyōshū to the present. Every season brings its own charms to the lakes, and the waters of each have their own unique color.



Clay disk-tossing^①

Surrounded by mountains and close to sea level, the lakes enjoy a mild climate and astounding views. Riding the Rainbow Line to the peak of Baijōdake gives visitors the best view of all, a sweeping panorama that captures all five lakes as well as the horizon across the sea. From there, onlookers can clearly distinguish the unique colors of each lake. Hopefuls can ritually write their wish on a piece of pottery and throw it toward the lake.



Lake cruise^②



Tatuki omiryō, a local fishing tradition^③

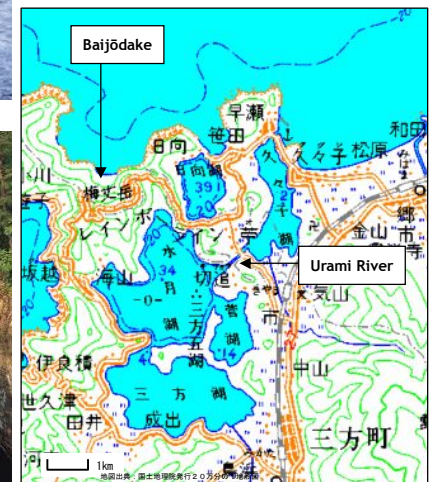
When the reds and yellows of fall foliage dye the forested mountains of Mikata, *tatuki omiryō*, a form of net fishing whose tradition extends as far back as the early Edo Period, fills the lakes with the sound of bamboo poles striking the water.



“Oath locks” atop Baijōdake^④



The Urami River, which connects Lake Suigekko and Lake Kuguji^⑤



Photos ①~⑤ courtesy of Wakasa-cho