

## Living art of "Bonsai" grove

### Legend on beach

The legend of Kotohiki-yama hill tells us that pine grove was created by the Japanese deity appeared at the beach.

### Magical tune

There was a trainee monk under asceticism on atop of Kotohiki-yama hill. One night, he heard a beautiful tune of Koto. Looking toward the sea with some curiosity, he saw a Japanese deity playing the Koto on a small boat. It was Hachiman-shin. When he prayed the deity for a miracle, green pine grove appeared on the beach in a night, and bamboos formed bush on the waterside. Deeply impressed, he raised the boat and the Koto up to the hilltop, and enshrined them. The tune of the Koto is currently believed to be the sound of wind blowing through pine trees.



This picture painted ab. 600 years ago shows what happened when the deity, Hachiman-shin was enshrined here (see text).

### Sand art "Zenigata"

Ariake-hama beach is famous for the huge sand art called Zenigata. It is shaped like an old coin known by the name "Kan'ei-tsu-ho". During Tokugawa shogunate period, the village folks allegedly made this sand sculpting to amaze their lord Kyogoku. This has been maintained by the locals repairing it twice a year.

### Ariake-hama beach

Kotohiki-yama hill is facing the open sea in which winds blow hard. Huge tidal flat appears on Ariake-hama when the tide is on the ebb.



Outer view of sand coin from Kotohiki-yama

## Gigantic "Bonsai" grove

As like Mt. Fuji, evergreen pine trees on white beach (B & C in cover) have long been the main theme of Japanese paintings. The pines were usually planted as windbreak to protect crops and houses from the sands. The pines at the foot of Kotohiki-yama hill have grown for several hundreds years, having become gigantic Bonsai (A in cover). Branches of the pine trees that could stand strong winds and sands have grown irregularly, forming gigantic "Bonsai". They show us natural and unintended artistic beauty.



Enjoy Setouchi Outing No.11

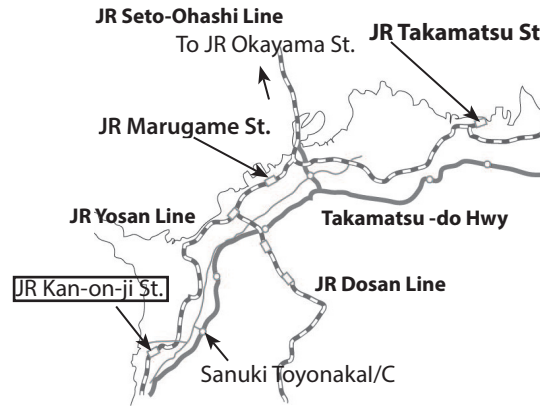
# 琴弾山

## Kotohiki-yama Day Out



### 11. Explore "Bonsai" grove

### Access map



From JR Takamatsu to JR Kan-on-ji St. - 50 min. by train  
From JR Kan-on-ji Station- 35 min. by a walk  
From Sanuki Toyonaka Highway I/C - 20 min. by car



Pine trees at the foot of Kotohiki-yama



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Pine grove facing the open sea called Hi-uchi-nada

## Discover Traces of Legend

### Evergreen pine grove on beach



#### 1 Green pines on beach

The deity is said to have created pine grove on the beach in a night. The pine grove, which practically functions as a windbreak, is quite lush and nice to walk.



#### 1-2 Natural "Bonsai"

Some of the pine trees are more than several hundred years old. The aged pine trees exhibit exquisite form, as seen with Bonsai.

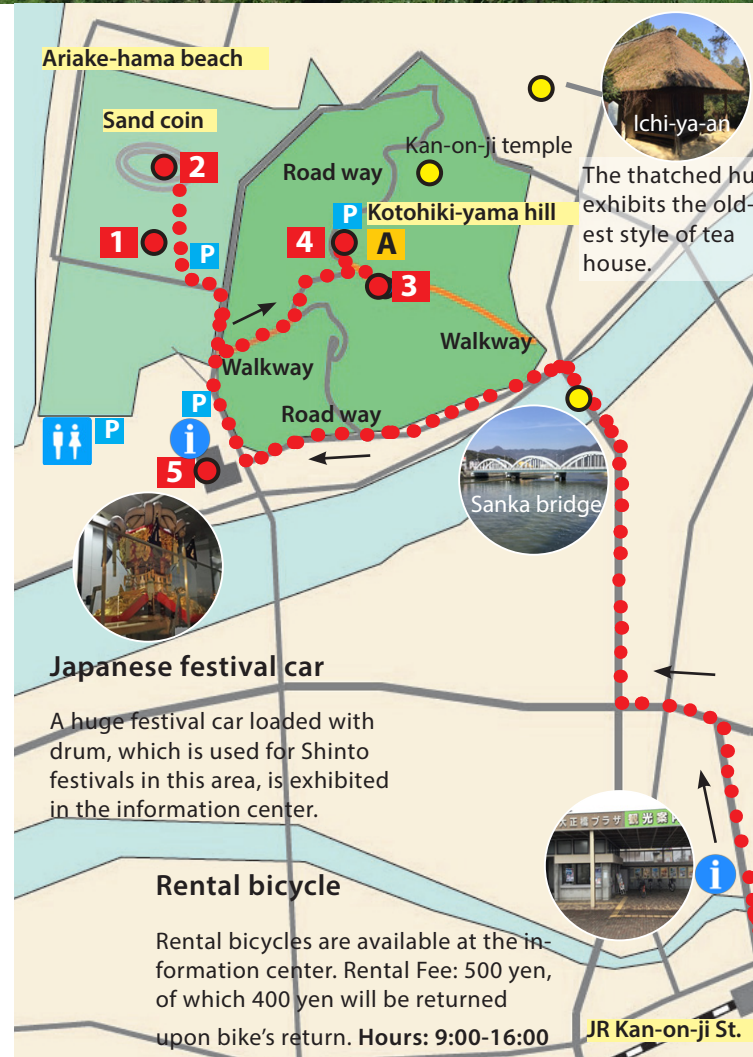
#### 3 Kotohiki-hachiman shrine

The deity's boat and his Koto were actually found. The shrine was built in order to enshrine the sacred objects.



#### A Kotohiki-yama hill

Kotohiki-yama facing the sea is a landmark for sailors. In a legend, the deity was pleased with this scenic spot and appeared here.



#### 4 Lookout point

From this viewpoint, you can get a panoramic view of Zenigata, or the sand art. Find the rock shaped like the nose of an elephant!



Ariake-hama sand beach was formed probably by strong wind from the open sea called *Hi-uchi-nada*. Village folks planted pine trees to protect their crops from sands. The old pine grove has formed the scenic beauty of Japan.

### Cultures concerning pine grove



#### Koto (Japanese zither)

Koto is a stringed instrument which looks like zithers. There are two types of Koto; 箏 (Koto or So) came from the Chinese zheng and spread in Japan. 琴 (Koto or Kin) is believed to be native to Japan. The latter one has been used for Shinto ceremonial music, Gagaku.



#### Kan'ei-tsu-ho coin

This coin was introduced as a mean to standardise copper coins in Tokugawa era. This was the daily currency, and was used for small payments for 230 years. A variety of designs were curved showing the value, year and location in which they were minted.

### Coin museum & information



#### 5 Coin museum

World coins from 125 countries and ancient coins are exhibited. Hours: 7:00-17:00. Admission: 300 yen for adult, 100 yen for kid.

#### 5-2 Western structure

A house built in 1914 is used for local museum. This was advanced architecture among traditional Japanese houses.



2 Inner view of sand coin on Ariake-hama