

Formation of the Shimane Peninsula

The Japanese islands became separated from the Eurasian continent around 20 million years ago, forming the Sea of Japan. Geological strata dating from the time the islands were still part of the continent are found in the eastern part of the Shimane Peninsula, and younger strata formed as the Sea of Japan expanded are also visible in many places. This expansion stopped roughly 15 million years ago, after which sediments that had accumulated in the shallows washed down to the depths. About 10 million years ago, the Shimane Peninsula was uplifted and expanded in the east-west direction. About 7,000 years ago the Chugoku mountain range uplifted and seawater flooded into the Peninsula's basins to form Lake Nakaumi and Lake Shinji. Later, accumulated sediments carried by the Hii and Hino rivers created alluvial plains like the Izumo Plain and Matsue Plain, as well as the Yumigahama Peninsula.

The “Land-Pulling Myth,” recorded in the eighth-century *Izumo no Kuni Fudoki*, offers an alternative explanation of how the Shimane Peninsula was formed. According to the myth, the god Yatsukamizumitsuno felt his territory was too cramped, and decided to expand it by pulling land from the continent. According to myth, the ropes he used became Sono no Nagahama Beach and the Yumigahama Peninsula. Mt. Daisen and Mt. Sanbe served as stakes to secure the new land in place.

This area is part of the Shimane Peninsula and Shinjiko Nakaumi Estuary Geopark.