

Obsidian from Himeshima is grey rather than black. Stone tools made from this grey obsidian have been found all along the Seto Inland Sea. Some of these tools date back over ten thousand years ago, indicating that there was significant trade on the Japanese archipelago prior to any written history of the area. Tools made from Himeshima's milky grey obsidian have been found as far south as Tanegashima, in Kagoshima prefecture, and as far east as Osaka. In 2013, Himeshima was registered as a National Geopark because of its unique obsidian and high concentration of volcanoes (seven in an area of under seven square kilometers).