

Phoenix Fold

The Phoenix Fold is an excellent example of a tectonic fold. It was formed underground about 30 million years ago when one tectonic plate moved under another in a process called subduction, which eventually forced the fold to the surface. The distinctive shape of the fold and sandstone veins around its core are the result of sustained geological forces. Reaching this geological wonder on the coast of Susami Town is quite an adventure, requiring the expertise of a guide from Nanki Kumano Geopark Center. From Susami Station (or other nearby meeting point), the guide will lead you to the trailhead, and down the short but challenging path to the fold, which includes steep declines and some light rock-climbing.

The guided tour takes around 1.5 hours. Bookings must be made in advance at the Geopark Center. A helmet is strongly recommended for the tour and can be arranged in advance through the center.