

Geoparks on Shikoku

Shikoku is located in a so-called subduction zone, where a continental plate and an oceanic plate intersect. The movement of these tectonic plates over tens of millions of years has formed a wide variety of geological strata, which make up the literal bedrock of differing regions throughout the island. The various strata are represented by different colors on the map below.

- Tosashimizu (aspiring to become a geopark)

Sandstone

Mudstone

Granite

- Muroto (UNESCO Global Geopark)

Basalt

Sandstone

Gabbro

- Shikoku Seiyo (Geopark)

Limestone

Tuff

Chert

- Miyoshi (aspiring to become a geopark)

Sandstone

Psammitic schist

Greenschist

Pelitic schist

- Sanuki (may aim to become a geopark)

Andesite

Granodiorite

Granite

Highlights of the Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark

Once renowned for its deep-sea tuna fishing, the town of Murotsu remains an important source of food for the people of the Muroto region.

[Captions]

Learn: The difference in elevation between the town of Minatonoue and its port is a result

of earthquakes raising the land that the town was built on.

Eat: Try the local *kinmedai* (splendid alfonsino), a deep-sea fish considered a delicacy and widely available here thanks to the characteristics of the seafloor just off the coast.

Explore: The town's sea-dependent lifestyle is honored at Chudoji Temple, where a memorial dedicated to whales reminds visitors of the substantial role whaling has played in Murotsu's history.