

Shimabara Peninsula Geopark Leaflet: Route 3 – *Onsen* and Springs

Although it occasionally poses extreme danger, the volcanic activity of the region provides as many boons as it does risks. The same forces that cause earthquakes and volcanoes have created countless hot springs and freshwater springs. Shimabara contains all kinds of evidence of geologic forces at work.

Chijiwa Fault

At 14 kilometers long and 450 meters above sea level at its highest point, the Chijiwa Fault is easily the largest and most obvious fault line on the whole peninsula. You won't see any spring water here, but you will begin to gain an appreciation for the tectonic power beneath your feet.

Obama Hot Spring Stroll

The hottest hot-spring water on the peninsula can be found in the town of Obama. Here you can visit “Hot Foot 105,” Japan's longest foot bath. The water emerges from the earth at 105°C, but it is cooled down before it reaches your feet.

Unzen *Jigoku* Stroll

It is easy to understand how the *jigoku* (“hells”) of Unzen earned their name—they fill the air with clouds of hot steam and the smell of sulfur. One of these hot springs even sounds like it is screaming! This is the perfect place to learn more about the region's natural beauty and history.

Shimabara Spring Water Stroll

Called the “City of Water,” Shimabara is a town built around springs. Water flows through small canals in the city's older neighborhoods, and various parks and gardens make use of the abundant water.
