

Giant Tanada Stones

These huge boulders located just above Moriyama Shrine are said to have been a landmark for the defeated Taira warriors who first landed on Yakushima on this very shore in the early thirteenth century and stayed, taking refuge in Yoshida's mountains. Residents today look on these stones not only as a source of power for their having withstood the tests of time, but also as a symbol of peace. Studded with potassium-feldspar crystals, split by erosion and weathering, and home to tiny seedlings of trees and plants that draw on the water in their crevices, the stones are a living record of the history of Yakushima itself.