

Osuka Beach

Osuka Beach is 2.3 kilometers long, making it one of the largest stretches of beach in the Tohoku region that can be traversed entirely on foot. The beach is covered in white *naki suna*, or “singing sand,” so named because it makes an unusual squeaking noise when walked upon.

Offering sweeping views of the Tanesashi Coast, Osuka was designated one of Japan’s “Top 100 Scenic Beaches” in 1994. However, while the water may seem inviting, swimming at Osuka is prohibited due to the dangerous rip current.

Seaside plants can be found past the tide line. A careful search of the ground near these plants reveals small holes that are the burrows of the *iso komorigumo* (*Lycosa ishikariana*), or burrowing wolf spider. The spiders use their powerful legs to dig holes in the sand in which they hide, ready to spring upon prey passing by unawares. The burrows of females are typically larger than those of males.