

Cape Tamurazaki

The Tamurazaki section of the Michinoku Coastal Trail stretches along the cape between the fishing ports of Shirahama and Fukakubo. The stone statues that face out to sea near both harbors are of Funadama, a Shinto deity believed to safeguard the passage of fishing vessels. Objects and offerings representing Funadama have traditionally been mounted on the masts of sailing ships.

The boardwalk from Fukakubo harbor is built on the former bed of a railway that was used during the Meiji era (1868–1912) to transport rocks cut for construction. The cape is characterized by rugged pillow lava rock formations and volcanic boulders that have been weathered by the strong coastal winds and tides. Many of the formations are covered with grass and Japanese black pines (*Pinus thunbergii*). Some of the scenery here has been captured in the prints of modern woodblock artist Kawase Hasui (1883–1957).