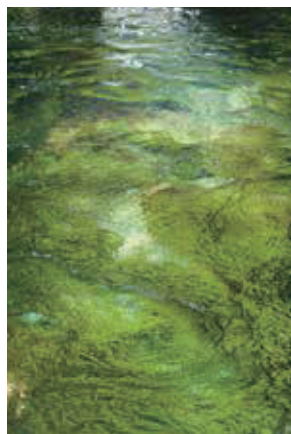


The   
Birthplace  
of the  
Mighty River



Tsuno Town, Kochi  
Mt. Irazu Scenic Forest  
The Guidebook  
for the Headwaters  
of the Shimanto River

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471-1 Nagano, Tsuno-cho, Takaoka-gun, Kochi 785-0201

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URL <https://town.kochi-tsuno.lg.jp/>

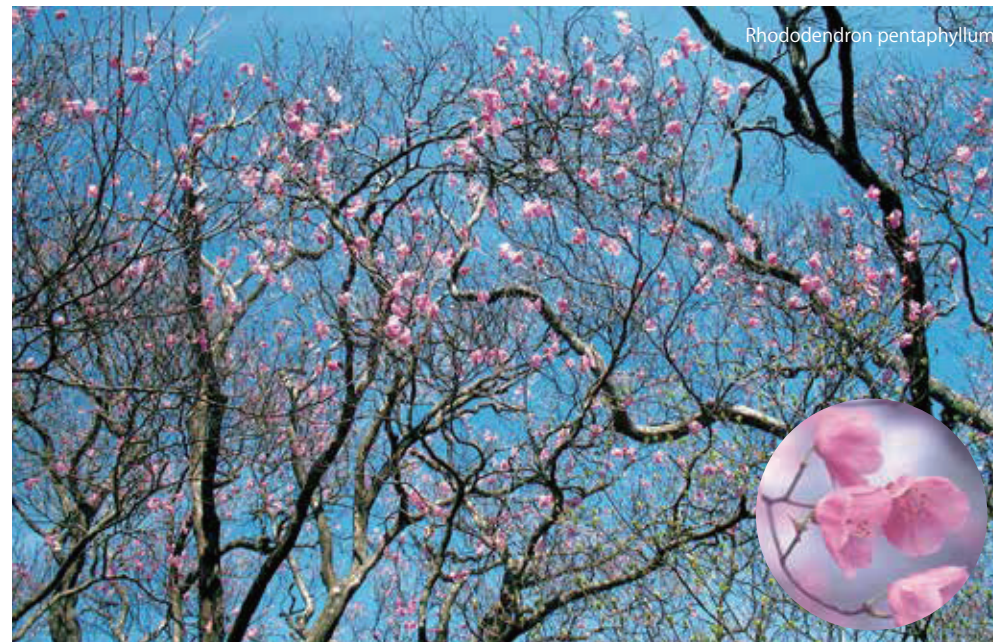
Tsuno Town, Kochi

The   
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The Forest of the  
Headwaters of the Shimanto River  
Mt. Irazu



Rhododendron pentaphyllum

The forest of the headwaters  
that gives a bountiful face  
for all four seasons



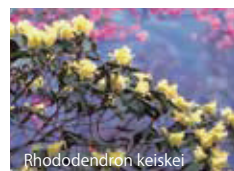
Mt. Irazu houses the headwaters of the Shimanto River at a point halfway to the summit, with the rather forbidding name literally meaning 'the mountain where nobody goes'. This name is thought to originate from a tradition whereby the mountain was specified as a forest reserve under the control of Tosa Domain, off limits to the public at the time. Accordingly, riches of nature still abound in the mountain, which is home to plants such as Japanese umbrella pines, clumps of rhododendron pentaphyllums, rhododendrons, as well as other plants for all four seasons growing wild. The forest near the summit is also a designated area of scenic beauty and protected by academic references. From April to May in particular, a time when rhododendron pentaphyllums grow wild in clumps, many plant-lovers climb up the mountain to catch a glimpse of the flowers.



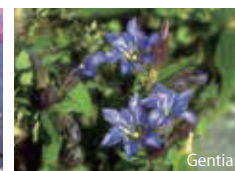
Rhododendron



Rhododendron dilatatum



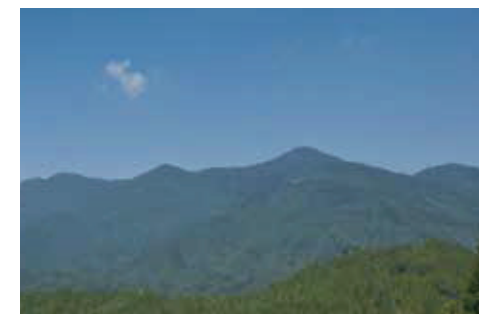
Rhododendron keiskei



Gentian

**【Mt. Irazu Data】**

Altitude: 1,336.1 m. The mountain belongs to the Shikoku Karst Natural Park, which ranks as one of the 100 great Shikoku mountains. As well as the main Shimanto River flowing from the headwaters, there is also Irazu Canyon, including a great waterfall called the seven-colored waterfall (long fall) as one of its tributaries located in an area to the northwest of the mountain.



# The 196-kilometer long journey of the Shimanto River

A small drop of water eventually becomes a mighty river.



The Shimanto River, originating in Mt. Irazu, flows towards its estuary along a serpentine course while absorbing numerous side streams en route a total of 196 kilometers away off in the distance. An untouched wilderness remains at the river valley, inhabited by a wealth of living nature, including dwarf rill trout and sweetfish. People living in the area have benefited from the Shimanto River since times of yore, where they have been making a living and fostering their own unique history and culture, while remaining in awe of nature, which can sometimes exercise overwhelming influence.

Recently, it has been dubbed “the last limpid stream of Japan” and attracted many visiting tourists, both local and from out of town. It is incumbent on us to conserve and pass on these pure waters for future generations; working together with all those associated with the Shimanto River.



**【Hayaseno Ipponbashi Bridge】**

Spanning the Kitagawa River, which flows into the Shimanto River and along Yoshiuno, in Tsuno town. The simple bridge design, featuring only a cedar plank across the bridge beam, is considered to replicate the original shape of a low-water crossing.



**【Oiai Falls】**

The falls lies near the headwaters of the Shimanto River, home to the Heike no Ochudo tragic legend.

**【Inabado Cave】**

A limestone cave formed as a gaping hole on the shore opposite the Shimanto Headwaters Center Seiran no Sato. This is also a spot where green alga called seiran, which only grow in the limpid stream, proliferates in the wild in the Shimanto River here.

## The longest mighty river of Shikoku Island

A class A river, the Shimanto River, which grazes the western side of Kochi prefecture, is the longest in Shikoku Island, stretching a total of 196 kilometers and with a basin area covering 2,270 square kilometers. Given the lack of any big dam at the river mainstream, it has been called “the last limpid stream of Japan” and was selected as one of the best 100 natural water sources in Japan by the Environment Agency (now Ministry of the Environment). Legally, the River Act formally referred to it officially as “the Watari River”, but since gaining a reputation as ‘the last limpid stream’ in Japan, the ‘Shimanto River’ became a more popular name, which led to the river being officially renamed as such and designated a class A river for the first time.



## Images of the mighty Shimanto River



**【Upstream area】** Here, the river remains narrow and the water lives up to the ‘limpid stream’ name. The photo is taken at Takahi Low-water Bridge at the portion of the main stream furthest upstream.



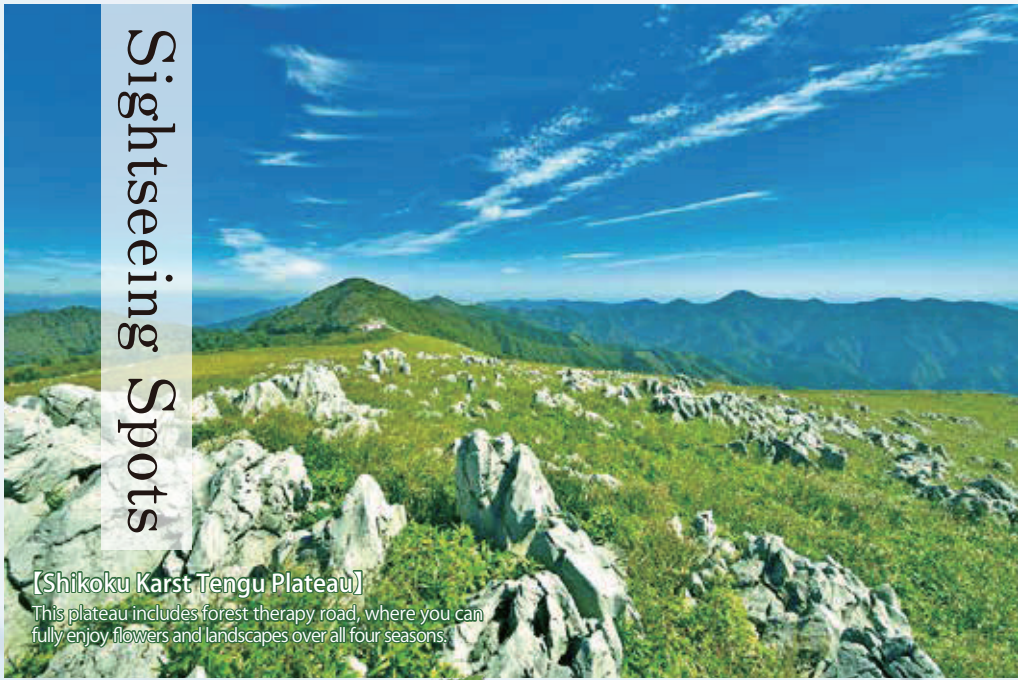
**【Midstream area】** The river widens and becomes increasingly winding and more impressive to behold. The photo shows Jogu Low-water Bridge.



**【Downstream area】** The river widens considerably and looks increasingly impressive, expanding and taking on a continental feel. The photo shows Sata Low-water Bridge, located closest to the river mouth.



# Sightseeing Spots



## 【Shikoku Karst Tengu Plateau】

This plateau includes forest therapy road, where you can fully enjoy flowers and landscapes over all four seasons.

## An area abounding in magnificent natural landscape



Shikoku Karst, one of Japan's three biggest karsts, boasts an elevation exceeding 1,400 meters, where you can gaze across a magnificent natural landscape, including unique scenic views such as karrenfeld made of limestone, resembling a flock of sheep and doline, which is a pan created by abrasive action. You can also enjoy the star-filled night sky and cloud sea, which explains why the lodging facility, "Kogen Fureainoie Tenguso", throngs with tourists.



## 【Kazenosato Park】

This massive park, featuring 20 wind power generating windmills standing 68 meters high, includes an observation deck and wind plaza.



## 【Fusegasaka Tea Garden】

A well-kept tea garden spreads out along the road of hairpin bends.



## 【Kawaso Natural Park】

Houses otters galore and features a big stone monument as its landmark.



## 【Mantennohoshi】

The store sells sweets using tea made in Tsuno town, including Mantennohoshi Daifuku. The premises also include a café where you can enjoy drinks and sweets.



## 【Karst Study Center】

Learn about the Shikoku Karst geography, as well as local plants and living creatures.



## 【The Shinjo River】

The river stretches from Kakushomori to Susaki city, the spot where a living Japanese river otter was last seen.



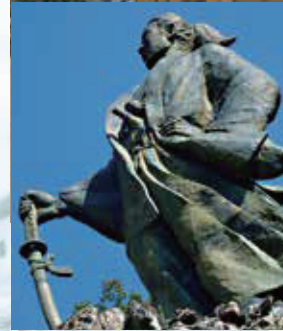
## 【Roadside Station Fusegasaka】

Located on Route 197 and selling fresh fruit and vegetables, tea and local home-made food.



## 【Yoshimura Torataro Residence】

This is a replica of the home of Yoshimura Torataro, who was active as a leader of Tenchugumi (armed group) in the final days of the Tokugawa shogunate. You can also enjoy Torataro-zen meals (by reservation) and udon noodles, etc. made by locals.



## 【The Tsuno Town heroes】

The town's heroes are the Buddhist saints Gido and Zekkai, who won the confidence of Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, the 3rd shogun of the Ashikaga shogunate during the Muromachi period (1336 - 1573) and Yoshimura Torataro, who was active as an Imperial loyalist as the Tokugawa shogunate saw out its final days.



## 【Tsuno Town Local Museum】

The museum exhibits historical materials and excavated artifacts from old ruins. The first house of the Naoteru and Naoharu Kataoka brothers, who were active in political and business circles after the Meiji Restoration, still remains next to the museum.



## A countryside rich in the history and culture of Tsunoyama

This place has been called Tsunoyamago since times of yore, as a venue where elegant culture passed down from Kyoto has been preserved and bequeathed to the present by locals. Moreover, some sites associated with heroes shooting through the era, such as Buddhist saints Gido and Zekkai; active during the Muromachi period and Yoshimura Torataro, who followed through his sense of mission in the final days of the Tokugawa shogunate, remain around every corner in town.



## 【Tsunoyama Koshiki Kagura】

This is thought to have been introduced from Kyoto in 913 as one of the Tosa Kagura numbers; designated as a national important intangible folk cultural asset. (Kagura: Japanese traditional Shinto music and dance)



## 【Donokuchiaki】

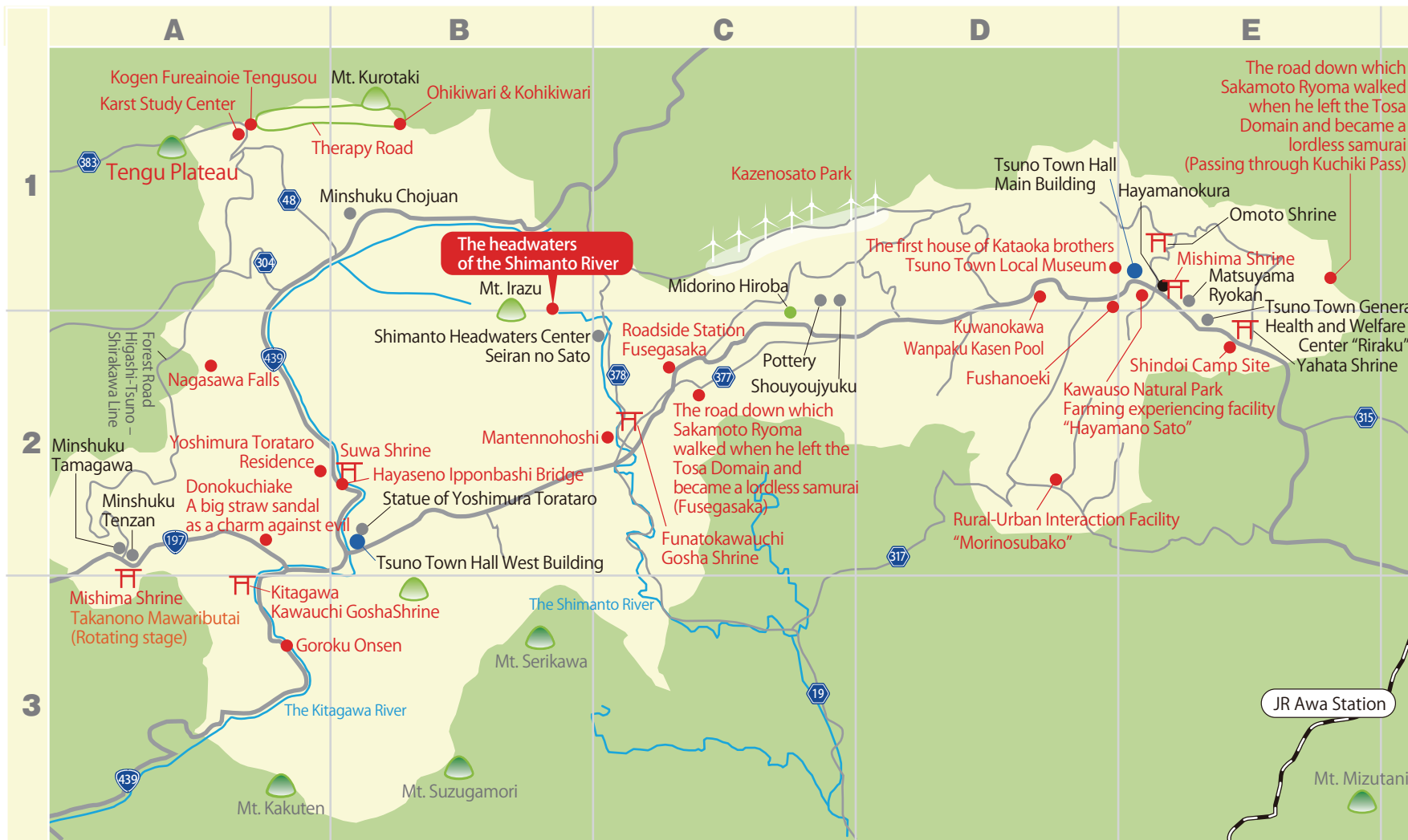
A three-meter long big straw sandal is enshrined as a charm against evil by the local Miyadani district residents.

## 【The road down which Sakamoto Ryoma walked when he left the Tosa Domain and became a lordless samurai】

This road, starting from Togano in Sagawa town and running down into Mimanokawa in the town of Tsuno is considered to be the one which Sakamoto Ryoma used when leaving Tosa Domain to become a lordless samurai. As of now, a gate replicating the checking station of the time has been installed.



# History and Culture



## Tsuno Town Accommodation Facilities

- Kogen Fureainoie Tengusou  
4921-22 Yoshiunotsu, Tsuno-cho  
Map A-1  
Tel: 0889-62-3188
- Shimanto Headwaters Center  
Seiran no Sato  
4727 Funato, Tsuno-cho Map C-2  
Tel: 0889-62-3623
- Minshuku Chojuan  
1621-1 Yoshiunohei, Tsuno-cho  
Map B-1  
Tel: 0889-62-3031
- Minshuku Tamagawa  
2304 Kitagawa, Tsuno-cho  
Map A-2  
Tel: 0889-62-2908
- Minshuku Tenzan  
2306-1 Kitagawa, Tsuno-cho  
Map A-2  
Tel: 0889-62-2537
- Goroku Onsen  
8308 Kitagawa, Tsuno-cho Map A-3  
Tel: 0889-62-2336
- Matsuyama Ryokan  
584 Himenono, Tsuno-cho Map E-1  
Tel: 0889-55-2511
- Tsunocho Nosontaiken Jisshuukan  
"Hayamanosato"  
251-1 Nagano, Tsuno-cho Map E-1  
Tel: 0889-55-2381
- Noson Koryushisetsu "Morino Subako"  
392-2 Tokonabe, Tsuno-cho  
Map D-2  
Tel: 0889-40-1703



## Access to the headwaters of the Shimanto River by car

### ◎From Kochi city

It takes about half an hour from Kochi IC to Susakihigashi IC on the Kochi Expressway. Funato in Tsuno town is then accessible in around another hour via Route 56, Prefectural Roads 284 and 315 and Route 197. Furthermore, keep driving along Prefectural Road 378 for around 15 minutes and turn left at the intersection. You can then reach the stone monument to the headwaters of the Shimanto River in around 15 minutes.

### ◎From Matsuyama city

You can get to Funato in Tsuno town in around 2

and a half hours via Routes 33, 440 and 197, etc. from Matsuyama city. Furthermore, keep driving along Prefectural Road 378 for around 15 minutes and turn left at the intersection. You can then reach the stone monument to the headwaters of the Shimanto River in around 15 minutes.

## Access by public transportation

### ①By air

It takes around 1 hour and 20 minutes from Tokyo (Haneda) to Kochi Ryoma Airport. It takes around 50 minutes from Osaka (Itami) to the same destination.

### ②Airport shuttle bus

It takes around 40 minutes from Kochi Ryoma Airport to JR Kochi Station.

### ③JR

It takes around 45 minutes from Kochi Station to Susaki Station on the JR Dosan Line via limited express.

### ④Bus

It takes around 1 hour from Susaki Station by Kochi Koryo Kotsu Bus. Get off at the Funato bus stop.

### ⑤Taxi or on Foot

It takes around 25 minutes to the stone monument to the headwaters of the Shimanto River from Funato by taxi. If you go there on foot, it takes around 2 hours.

Hayama Hire Tel: 0889-55-2613

Shinden Hire Tel: 0889-62-2145

※Few buses and trains cover this route. If you use public transport, please recheck the schedule beforehand.