



The wonders of the earth woven by nature.
Feel a sense of romance for the history of the
Genpei War and have a bird's-eye view of the
Pacific Ocean.

In Sandanbeki, there is a legendary cave where the Kumano naval force, known for the Genpei War, hid ships as long ago as the Heian Era. One of Japan's largest bronze statue Murodaibenzaiten is dedicated in the cave and there is a watchtower hut of the Kumano naval force and other things that have been reproduced based on the materials on the cave passage which is about 200 meters long. You can enjoy the immersive cave where the waves come and go.

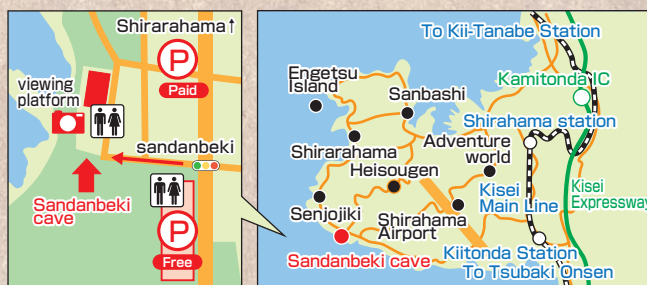
What is the Kumano naval force that was on the side of the Minamoto clan in the Genpei War?

The Genpei War is famous in historical fact. You can feel a piece of this historical romance in Sandanbeki. When the Minamoto and Taira clans were engaged in fierce battles, the Kumano naval force participated in the Genpei War led by Kumano betto Tanzo (father of Musashibo Benkei), and is said to have made a huge contribution to the great victory of the Minamoto clan.

Episode Introduction

Tanzo was originally on the Taira clan side, but at the request of his son Benkei, who was on the Minamoto clan side, Tanzo was unsure which side he should join. He therefore conducted the seventh round of a cockfight with the red chickens as the Taira clan and the white chicken as the Minamoto clan, and divined the will of god. The result was a win for the white chicken in all seventh round. Receiving that the divine will was 'for the Minamoto clan', Tanzo called on the Kumano naval force to join the Minamoto clan and set off for Yashima no Ura, where the Minamoto and Taira navies were facing each other.

At Dannoura, while both sides looked on to see if the fleet that had appeared either an enemy or an ally, Tanzo, standing proudly upright on board the ship, encouraged the Minamoto navy by saying 'Kumano betto Tanzo, who serves Kumano Shingu in Kii Province, I have come to the Minamoto clan's navy to serve the divine will. The Kumano naval force is led by more than 2,000 men and 200 ships. Let us see how strong the Kumano naval force is'. Hearing this, the Minamoto navy cheered loudly, and the Kumano naval force led the Minamoto clan to victory.



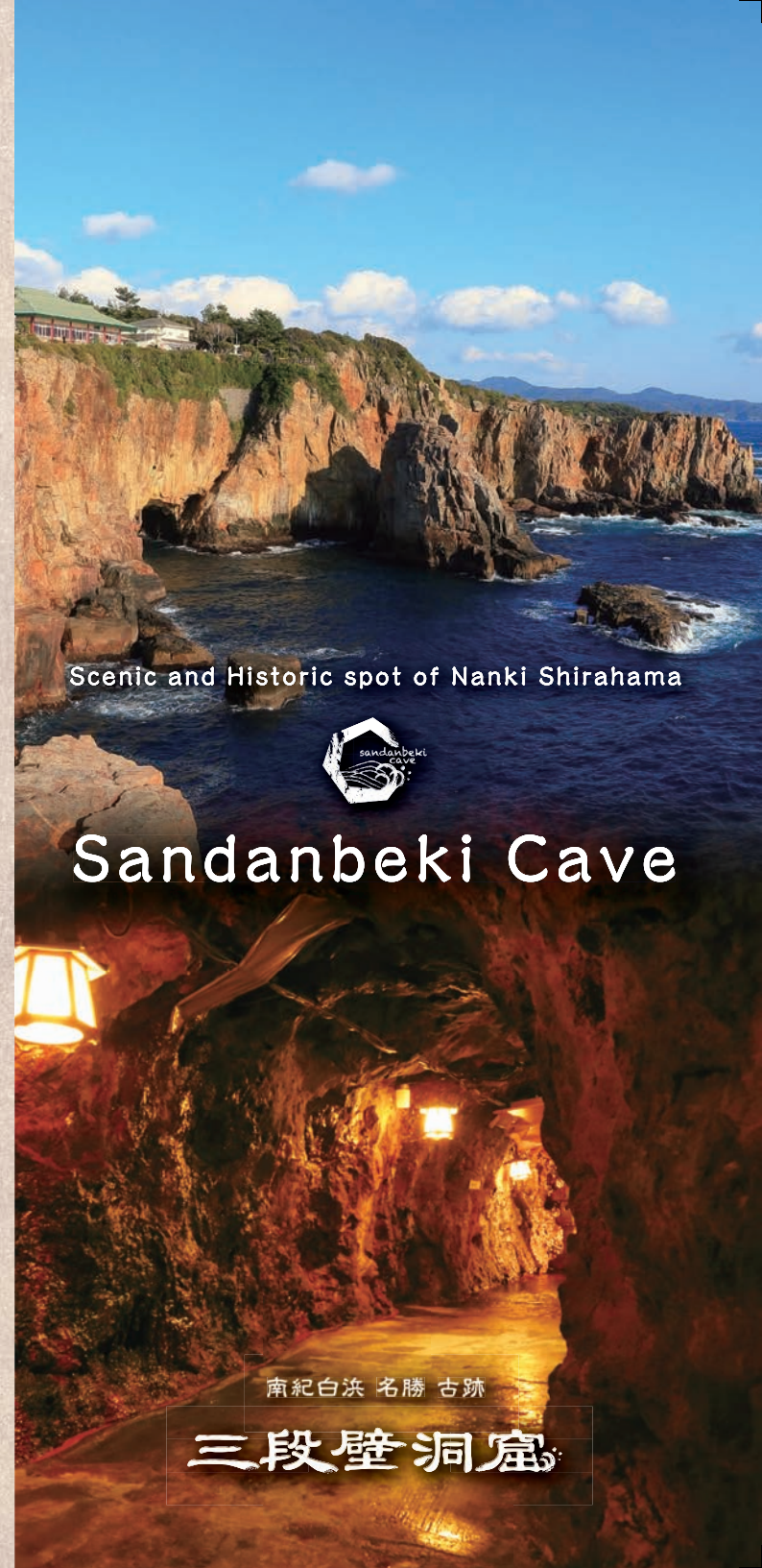
Car	Nanki-Shirahama interchange of Kisei expressway, approx. 10min.
Train	Shin-Osaka (Kyoto-Tennoji) → JR Kinokuni Line (limited express) → Shirahama station, approx. 2h 30min. From Shirahama station: Bus → approx. 25min. Taxi → approx. 15min.
Airplane	Tokyo (Haneda airport) → Shirahama (Nanki-Shirahama airport), approx. 1h 15min. From Nanki-Shirahama airport: Bus → approx. 6min. Taxi → approx. 6min.

	Adult (Junior high school and above)	Child (Elementary school student)	Toddler/Preschooler
Individual admission fee	1,500JPY	750JPY	Free
Group (20 visitors or more)	1,200JPY	600JPY	
Group (100 visitors or more)	1,100JPY	550JPY	
	Junior/Senior high school student	Elementary school student	
School (20 visitors or more)	1,100JPY	550JPY	
School (100 visitors or more)	1,000JPY	500JPY	

Opening hours 8:00 to 17:00 ※Last admission 16:50 ※Open all year round



Sandanbeki Cave,
Scenic and Historic spot of Nanki Shirahama
2927-52 Shirahama-cho
Nishimuro District,
Wakayama 649-2211, Japan
TEL +81 739 42 4495
FAX +81 739 43 3278
e-mail sandan@sandanbeki.com
<https://sandanbeki.com/>



Scenic and Historic spot of Nanki Shirahama



Sandanbeki Cave

南紀白浜 名勝 古跡

三段壁洞窟



Sacred site

Murodaibenzaiten

The shrine in the cave is a sacred site where Daikokuten, Bishamonten and Murodaibenzaiten with 16 Doji are dedicated. It is said that they grant any wish. They are also said to be the god of water and the guardians of shrines and temples, leading visitors to happiness.

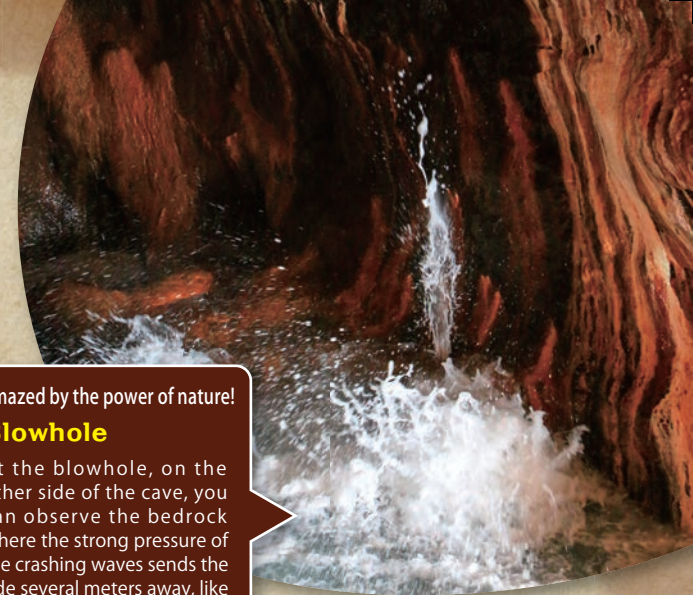


Rock engraved with the works of nature

Ripples

Ripple marks were created on the surface of the layers about 16 million years ago when waves and currents moved sand and mud from the seabed. The ceiling rock formations with their beautifully carved wave patterns are worth a visit, where the historical workings of magnificent nature can be felt up close.

It is well worth seeing the beautiful wavy bedrock on the ceiling, where you can feel the magnificent historical activities of nature up close.



Amazed by the power of nature!

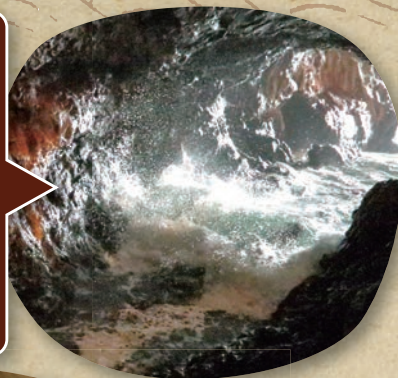
Blowhole

At the blowhole, on the other side of the cave, you can observe the bedrock where the strong pressure of the crashing waves sends the tide several meters away, like a whale. You will be amazed at the scale of nature.

Dynamic sea spray

Waves crash in the cave.

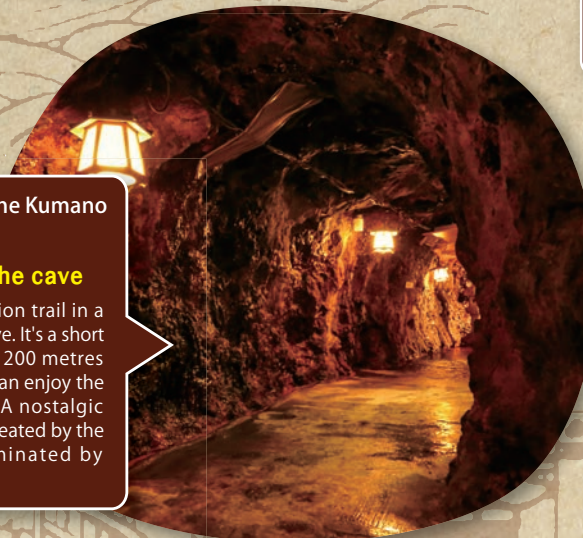
In the cave, there is also a spot where you can see a dynamic sight in which waves crashing from the Kumano-nada Sea hit the rock face violently, and white waves burst. It is a rare spot where you can experience the breath of the Pacific Ocean and the wonders of nature with all five senses.



The mood of the Kumano naval force

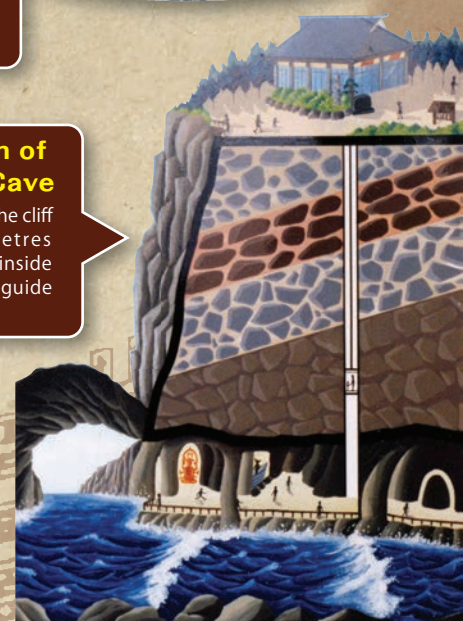
Walkway in the cave

A cave exploration trail in a brick-colored cave. It's a short distance, about 200 metres around, so you can enjoy the walk with ease. A nostalgic atmosphere is created by the rock face illuminated by indirect lighting.



Cross-section of Sandanbeki Cave

Take the elevator on the cliff and go down 36 metres underground to the inside of the cave. Our staff guide you to the cave.



Travel back in time to the Heian Era

Watchtower hut of Kumano naval force

Sandanbeki Cave is said to have been the boat-hiding place of the Kumano naval force, who were renowned for their bravery and resolutely. In this watchtower hut, recreated by historical documents, you can fully immerse yourself in the afterglow of the historic war.



How many statues did you see?

Juzo rocks

There is a rare natural rock face with 10 stone statues is said to be visible on it. Can you find human faces, including Benzaiten, wolves, a lion, a rat, a sphinx and so on? The site has a sign that shows the correct answer.



Sandanbeki foot bath

Opening hours 9:00 to 16:30

The deep blue sea spreads out below the spacious footbath, and on a nice day you can have the magnificent Pacific Ocean all to yourself. Spend a relaxing time in the foot bath with views of the Pacific Ocean.