

Taishaku-kyo Gorge "Highlight"

On Bashi 雄橋

The highlight of Taishaku-kyo Valley is On-bashi. This naturally formed rock bridge is 40m tall, 90m long and 19m wide. The bridge was slowly created over time as the rock was eroded by the abrasion of the valley water. On-Bashi is regarded as one of the three largest natural bridges in the world. The bridge has also been designated as a national natural monument.

Rental cycles are available for use from spring to fall at the Taishaku Provincial Museum near On-Bashi. Please enjoy the fresh air while you go cycling.



Oni-no-Karamon 鬼の唐門

This limestone archway is called The Chinese Gate of the Ogre. The archway itself is 8m in height. From below you can see a hole that has been worn through the side of the arch at its crest. This hole is referred to as The Window of the Ogre. It is located 1km from Eimyoji Temple which is the entrance point of the Taishaku-kyo Valley.

Taishaku-ten Eimyoji Temple 帝釈天 永明寺

An old temple founded in 709, which enshrines the Buddhist priest, Gyoki Bosatsu (bodhisattva). Gyoki Bosatsu is considered a merciful bodhisattva who brings happiness to people.

Shimo-Taishaku Hanazura Park 下帝釈 花面公園

One of the least visited areas of Taishaku-kyo is the nature-rich Shimo-Taishaku Valley. Due to the low amount of people who travel there, it is the most preserved area of the park and is well worth a trip to see its splendid natural views.

Yosekura Iwakage Ruin 寄倉岩陰遺跡

It is the biggest antiquity among the Taishaku-kyo monuments and many other articles ranging from the Jomon period to the Kamakura period (Japan's Prehistoric period from about 14,000B.C. to 400B.C.). The Yosekura Iwakage Ruin is a Mecca for Archaeologist in Taishaku-kyo Valley.

Shinryu-ko Lake 神龍湖

This artificial lake is located in the south part of Taishaku-kyo and is surrounded by a steep-sided valley. It was completed in 1924 for the purpose of operating a hydraulic power station. The lake itself is 24km in circumference and 8km in length. Sight-seeing boat rides are offered from the beginning of spring to the end of autumn and operate every thirty minutes from 9:00 to 16:30.



Taishaku-kyo Gorge "Pick Up"

Shinryu-bashi Bridge 神龍橋

This simple truss-type bridge is located in the Inuze area, which has rich natural environment. It was constructed in 1985 using the the Floating-Bridge-Method which, in those days in Japan, was an engineering feat. The bridge attracts visitors during all seasons with its sightseeing promenade along the lake.



Jinseki Folk Village Museum 神石民俗資料館

Excavated items from Taishaku Kannon-do Cave are exhibited here. It features prominent pottery pieces from the Jomon and Yayoi periods.

Taishaku Dam 帝釈ダム

This dam was constructed in 1924 in order to operate a hydroelectric power station and is one of the earliest concrete dams to be constructed in Japan. It was rebuilt in 2006 to supply 11,000 kilowatts of power. It is possible to get a closer view of the dam via the sightseeing boats that regularly run on the lake.



Hakuundo Cave 白雲洞

This 200-meter-long limestone cave is one of the main sightseeing spots in Taishaku-kyo. It is a major lime stone cavern in Taishaku-kyo, that is famous for its strangely-shaped rocks. The surrounding area is called "Scola highland" and it contains many cave systems. There is a rock formation called "The Fountain of Youth", from which you can drink water and there is a stalactite that is said to bring you romance if you visit it with your lover and offer up a five yen coin for luck.

Admission fee: 250 yen for adult, 200 yen for high school student and 150 yen for junior high school student. Average yearly temperature within the cave is 11 degrees.



Mahoroba-no-sato – The caravan site (Camping site) – まほろばの里

Located 500m up in the mountains of Taishaku-kyo National Park, Mahoroba-no-sato provides a place for campers to camp comfortably during spring and summer. Here you can enjoy listening to the songs of wild birds and observe various kinds of insects, wildflowers, and so on. At "Jiyuukan", a nearby exhibition facility, you can see displays of artifacts that have been excavated from the ruins.

Taishaku-kyo Gorge "Leisure"

Scola Highland – Camping Site and Log Cottages – 帝釈峡スコラ高原

The Scola Highland area has a wide range of amenities such as restaurants, hotel/spa, and an all-weather dome for sports activities. The Taishaku-no-sato restaurant provides delicious local favorites such as Hiroshima-gyu and “konjac”. At Hotel Scora-Kogenso you can relax and take a dip in the herb spa. The spa is called “Taishaku-no-Yu”.

If you are looking for a more rugged experience you can make use of the many camping sites, log cottages, and hiking trails around this area.



Fishing Area Taishaku フィッシングエリア帝釈

There are two separate types of fishing ponds located in Taishaku. The water for the fishing ponds is pumped to the surface from underground. There are about 4,000 rainbow trout in the bigger fishing pond. You can enjoy fishing at a low cost of: ¥1,500 for 5 trout.



Senyogahara “Fureai-no Sato”(“Communication Village”)

仙養ヶ原ふれあいの里

Senyogahara “Fureai-no Sato” is a leisure facility center where you can experience not only outdoor but also indoor activities such as camping, dog-running, ground golf, ceramic-arts, glass-working, painting, and astronomy. Astronomy visits require a reservation and take place after an accompanying lecture. Here, within the log cottages you will have access to most modern amenities such as showers, toilets, kitchen areas, utensils, refrigerators, a TV, etc.

Taishaku-kyo Promenade – Cycling course – 帝釈峡遊歩道

We recommend you to walk or cycle along the Taishaku-kyo Promenade, which goes along Taishaku river under the fresh leaves in spring or colored leaves in autumn. Rental bicycles are available at Kami-Taishaku (northern part of Taishaku).

Tojo Onsen (Spa) (“Refresh House Tojo”) 東城温泉

This spa resort is complete with a swimming pool, gym and sauna bath, and is available for public use. Many skiers stop by this facility in winter on their way back home from the nearest ski-resort, which is only 30 km away.



Taishaku-kyo Gorge "Eat & Shopping"

National Park Resort Village of Japan Taishaku-kyo 休暇村帝釈峡

This hotel is located on a hill, surrounded by beautiful forest and close to Shinryu-ko Lake. It is perfectly suited for day hikes around the Taishaku Valley. Please enjoy your stay here and have a good time.

Accommodations and various sports facilities are available at the Resort Village. The location is surrounded by strangely shaped rocks. You can relax in the main building, which has a spectacular view, or in one of the log cabins surrounded by the trees. Other facilities are also available in the area, such as an open-air spa, camp-site, tennis court, etc.



Yuu-You Salon Tojo – Michino-eki – 遊youさろん東城 -道の駅-

Yuu-You Salon Tojo is a roadside rest station where you can purchase local specialty goods such as Japanese Sake (rice wine), Manju (Japanese styled buns stuffed with azuki-bean paste). For the beef lovers, Japanese Black Cattle Beef, or Hiba-gyu as it is called, is highly recommended. And in the “Tensaki” restaurant, you can taste traditional Japanese soba noodles which are made from local buckwheat flour.



Direct sales stand of hometown products

ふるさと産品直売所

The entrance of this shop looks like big wine cask and catch sight of everyone passing by. It is known as sales stand for specialty goods and souvenirs in Jinseki Kogen-cho town such as Konjak, apples, vegetables, and so on.



Restaurant Taishaku-no-Sato at Scora Highland

スコラ高原 レストラン帝釈の里

Jinseki-gyu steak, which is beef that is locally raised, is a very popular and recommended menu item in this restaurant. In addition, dishes featuring local raised chicken are also recommended.



Taishaku-kyo Gorge "Outdoors"

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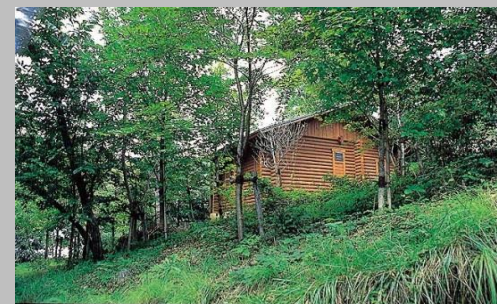
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Nature of the Taishaku-kyo Valley

Salamander オオサンショウウオ

A small Amphibian, which is similar to a lizard and designated as the quasi- endangered species, has lived in the Chugoku mountain region since the Paleozoic period. It has not changed its shape since then. It is said that each salamander can live more than 100 years.



Keyaki (Japanese Zelkova) ケヤキ

It is a large tree, 20 to 25m high, which typically grows in northern countries. It flowers before its leaves come out in April to May and the leaves turn a beautiful red or yellow color in autumn.

Sasayuri (Bamboo-Lily) ササユリ

Sasayuri grows wild in mountainous region from the central to western part of Honshu Island in Japan. You can see its beautiful pink-flowers in June.

Yamaboushi ヤマボウシ

Yamaboushi has white or red flowers in May and June. It grows wild in the hills and fields. Its red fruit is edible in autumn.



Katakuri カタクリ

Katakuri is a perennial plant which grows wild in mountainous regions and has deep roots into the ground. The length of the bulb is 4 to 5 cm. The starch called “Katakuri-ko” is made from the bulb and is used for cooking.



Kawasemi (Kingfisher) カワセミ

A small bird with a bright blue and orange color makes its habitat around this mountainous area. It takes its perch on a trees or bund, and jumps into the river to catch fish.

Fukujiyuso (Adonis) フクジュソウ

Fukujiyuso comes with the melting of the snow. It can be seen coming out of the ground in early spring. The Chinese character for this flower means “The celebration flower for the coming New Year”. It grows about 15 to 20 cm tall.

