

Chirimen 'Silk Road' and San'in Kaigan Coastal Geopark

Capacity: 40



Chirimen Weaving Machine

As part of Japan's "silk road," the Tango region prospered with the production of beautiful *chirimen* silk crepe from the Edo (1603- 1867) period to the early Showa(1926-1989) period. The region served as a trade center to and from Kyoto, and is designated as a National Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings. The tour will explore the history and nature of the Tango region by visiting the historic residence of a wealthy silk merchant and a traditional weaving factory, before enjoying the natural beauty of the geopark that stretches along the San'in Coast and Kotohiki Beach - famous for its singing sand.

Itinerary

*The itinerary is subject to change without notice.

8:30	Meet at chartered bus stop at Hachijo exit of JR Kyoto Station	=== Chartered bus ===
10:45 - 11:45	Chirimen Road and Former Residence of the Bito family	• • • Walk • • •
11:45 - 12:45	Lunch (Chirimen Road Dish at Izutsu-ya)	=== Chartered bus ===
13:00 - 14:00	Tango Chirimen History Museum	=== Chartered bus ===
14:40 - 15:40	San'in Kaigan Geopark (Tateiwa rock and Onaru burial mound cluster) and Kyotango Municipal Museum of the Ancient City of Tango	=== Chartered bus ===
16:00 - 16:30	Tango Local Industry Promotion Center (Amity Tango)	=== Chartered bus ===
19:00	Tour ends at JR Kyoto Station	

Former Residence of the Bito family: The Bito family were an influential family of local merchants that brought prosperity to the area and eventually amassed a fortune as successful chirimen raw silk traders by the end of the Edo period. They were descendants of a samurai family from the Middle Ages. The residence is a Japanese-style house dating back to the tail-end of the Edo period, and featuring a Western-style annex built in the early Showa period, and is designated as a Tangible Cultural Property by Kyoto Prefecture.

Tango Chirimen History Museum: This museum, which retains many early Showa period features, was built on the former site of a traditional textile company established in 1897. Visitors can see the process of producing silk fabrics, including Tango chirimen silk characterized by its fine waffle texture called *shiba*.

San'in Kaigan Geopark (Tateiwa rock and Onaru burial mound cluster): The Tateiwa rock is a gigantic monolith about 20m in height and 1 km in circumference, and is the setting of a famous local legend of driving out *oni* demons. The Onaru burial mound cluster consists of 18 burial mounds scattered over the Onaru coastal terrace, where corridor-style stone chambers made of local andesite with distinctive columnar joints remain.



The Former Residence of the Bito Family



Tango Chirimen History Museum



Onaru Burial Mound Cluster