

Geopark Information Center



In 2009, Itoigawa Geopark was authorized as Japanese first Global Geopark. This corner of the museum introduces visitors to the many fascinating “geosites” located around the city and is a great place for information about the Itoigawa Global Geopark.

Itoigawa's Geology in Brief

■ Itoigawa Jadeitite

Oldest jadeitite-using culture in the world
Jadeitite use began 5000 BCE, stopped mysteriously 800 CE.
Rediscovered by Eizo Ito in 1938 following Gyofu Soma's advice.
Itoigawa Jadeitite is mainly white, but can also be green, lavender, blue or black.
Serpentinite transported jadeitite to the surface and gives it color.
Jadeitite formed deep underground in a hydrothermal solution.

■ Itoigawa Limestone

White “Omi limestone” formed 300 million years ago from a tropical coral reef.
Moved from the tropics via oceanic plate movement.
Rich with fossils such as corals, fusulinids and brachiopods.
Black “Tsuchikurazawa Limestone” formed from a coral reef near the land.
Same age as Akiyoshi Limestone found on the western edge of Honshu Island.

■ The Fossa Manga

The Fossa Manga and the Sea of Japan are massive cracks in the earth.
The Fossa Magna crosses the Japanese Islands from north to south.
Western border is the Itoigawa-Shizuoka Tectonic Line.
Discovered and named by Dr. Edmund Naumann.
Alternating strata formed by the turbidity current of a sea that filled the Fossa Magna.



Access Information

10 min. by Taxi or Bus from Itoigawa Sta. of Hokuriku Shinkansen, JR Oito Line and Nihonkai Hisui Line.
10 min. by car from Itoigawa IC of Hokuriku Highway.

General Information

■ Admission

General and University students ¥500
Group visitors (For groups of 20 or more visitors) ¥400
High-school students and younger Free
Disabled persons, plus one caregiver per disabled person, are admitted free.
Please present your Disabled Person's Notebook or similar identification.

■ **Hours of Operation** 9:00AM to 5:00PM (Visitors are admitted until 30 minutes before closing time.)

■ Days Closed

None (March 1 to November 30)
Every Monday, next day of a national holiday (December 1 to Feb 28) and December 28 to January 4.

■ **Fossil Valley** You can collect fossils of 300 million years ago.
¥300 per 2 hours. Elementary school students cannot use without a guardian. Closed for stormy weather or snow season.

■ Multi-ticket (Fossa Magna Museum and Chojagahara Archeological Museum)

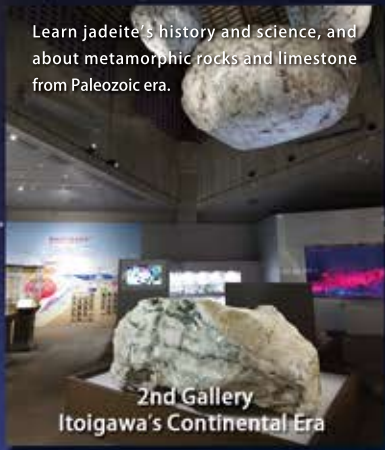
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Fossa Magna Museum

Ichinomiya 1313 (Miyama Park), Itoigawa, Niigata 9410056
Tel +81-25-553-1880 Fax +81-25-553-1881
URL <http://www.city.itoigawa.lg.jp/fmm/>
e-mail museum@city.itoigawa.lg.jp

Fossa Magna Museum

The Fossa Magna museum was first opened as a geological museum in Itoigawa in April 1994. In March 2015 it was completely renovated, reopening packed full of new exhibits completely redesigned in new and exciting ways. Become enveloped in a story spanning 500 million years of Itoigawa's natural history through exhibits on jade, limestone, the Fossa Magna, volcanoes and more. It's an old story told in a new way.



Learn jadeite's history and science, and about metamorphic rocks and limestone from Paleozoic era.

2nd Gallery
Itoigawa's Continental Era

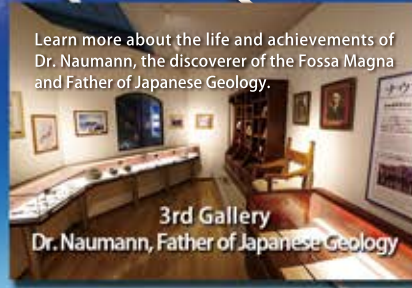


This gallery features beautiful jadeite specimens collected along Itoigawa's rivers and sea shore.

1st Gallery
Fascinating Jadeite



Prologue of Fossa Magna Museum
Jadeite Gorge



Learn more about the life and achievements of Dr. Naumann, the discoverer of the Fossa Magna and Father of Japanese Geology.

3rd Gallery
Dr. Naumann, Father of Japanese Geology



This gallery exhibits specimens dating from Itoigawa's Jurassic period, when dinosaurs roamed the planet. The massive Fossa Magna Theater is a must-see feature, where you can witness the birth of the Japanese Islands, the Fossa Magna, and the Sea of Japan.

3rd Gallery
Birth of Japanese Islands



Enjoy interesting and beautiful fossils collected from all over the world. Funny ammonites named *Nipponites* from Hokkaido are must-see specimens.

5th Gallery
Fascinating Fossils



Features exhibits on earthquakes, volcanoes, karst topography, and Itoigawa's bountiful mineral resources. Learn how our planet continues to change and how we live alongside our planet.

4th Gallery
Our Changing Earth



Fine crystals, beautiful gemstones, ore minerals and other minerals have been collected from all over the world for display here. Discover the wide variety of minerals found across Japan and

6th Gallery
Fascinating Minerals

The Museum about jadeite and Fossa Magna
in Itoigawa **UNESCO Global Geopark**