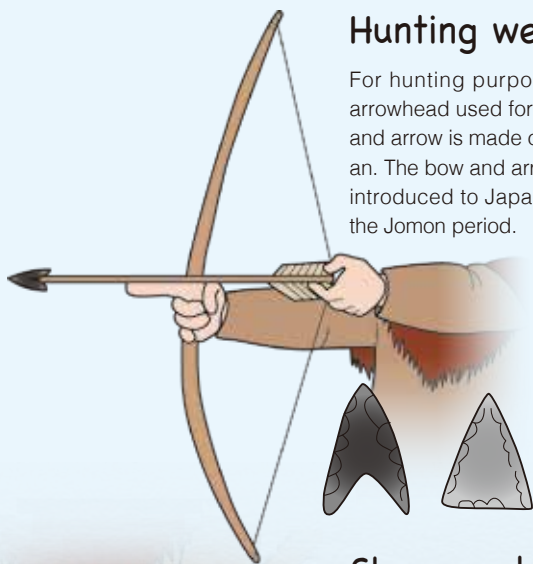


The relationship between obsidian and the Jomon people

During the Jomon period, obsidian was valuable as a material for tool-making. The obsidian was obtained from Hoshigato in Shimosuwa. Since that time, Hoshigato has been famous as a good source for obsidian.

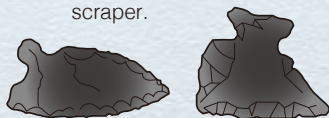
Hunting weapon

For hunting purposes, the arrowhead used for the bow and arrow is made of obsidian. The bow and arrow were introduced to Japan during the Jomon period.



Sharpened tools

These tanged stone scrapers were used similarly to present-day knives and could also be made from obsidian. It appears that many Jomon period people each had their own personal scraper.



Production

Deer antlers were also harvested to make tools suitable for various uses. To make effective tools required a lot of skill and it seems that the level of workmanship could greatly affect the quality of hunting and everyday life.



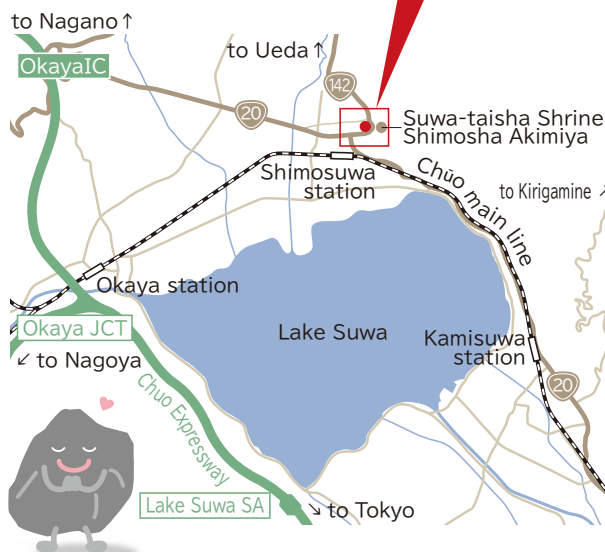
Traffic guidance

Car: Nagano Express way:
From Okaya I.C
.....About 5km 15min.
Chuo Express way:
From Suwa I.C
.....About 15km 25min.

JR (Japanese Railway)
from Shimosuwa station on foot
.....About 700m 10min.



Enlarged MAP



 **OIDEYA Museum Complex:**
Footbath and Tourist Information

Hoshigato Museum YANONEYA

3289 Shimosuwa Town, Suwa District,
Nagano Prefecture, 393-0015, Japan
TEL 0266-27-0001 FAX 0266-26-1177
<http://konjakukan-oideya.jp>

Opening hours March - November 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
December - February 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Admission


- 600 yen (Elementary/ junior high school students: 300 yen)
- Groups of 20 people or more 500 yen (Elementary/ junior high school students: 250 yen)
- Person with disabilities: 300 yen [with valid disability certificates] (Elementary/ junior high school students: 150 yen)

* Same price paid by attendant for each person with disabilities



The Jomon World
of the Shooting-Star
Central Highlands



 **OIDEYA Museum Complex:**
Footbath and Tourist Information

Hoshigato Museum YANONEYA

The charm of obsidian and the people connected between
the Jomon period and the present



Obsidian-kun!



The technical Japanese term
for "arrowhead" is "sekizōku"
which literally means
"stone iron".

The museum where you can learn about the Jomon* people's obsidian craft

The "Shooting-Star Central Highlands of the Jomon world" is a Japanese heritage site and a constituent cultural property. It is a museum that displays the excavated cultural properties of the town such as the national historical site "Hoshigato Obsidian Origin Ruins" You can imagine both the everyday life and the obsidian trade of the Jomon period from a diorama that faithfully reproduces the obsidian mining industry of the era. It also includes a panoramic illustration that visualizes ancient mining and the excavated relics of the town.

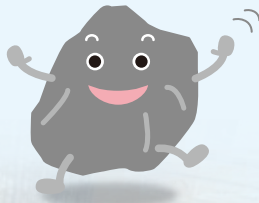
*Jomon period was about 12,000 years ago, from about 5,000 years ago. Also, the origin of the name Jomon the pottery used was patterned with a rope.



Constituent Cultural Property

1 Obsidian mine diorama

This diorama is a full-sized faithful reproduction of the actual mining pit of Hoshigato Obsidian Origin Ruins.



2

1F

Introducing the relationship between Shimosuwa town and obsidian as well as the various obsidian belts of Japan and the characteristics of obsidian from each source.



4

Free Activity Corner

You can feel some obsidian yourself and solve a "Jomon Pottery Puzzle".



Constituent Cultural Property

Proof of cultural exchange "Kamegaoka-style Earthenware"

In the Late Jomon period when obsidian mining was active in Hoshigato, cultural artifacts were transferred from the Tohoku region to Shimosuwa. The representative relic is the 'Kamegaoka-style Earthenware' excavated in the town. It is speculated that from this era, there was interaction between the people of Shimosuwa and the people of the Tohoku region through the trade of obsidian.



3

2F

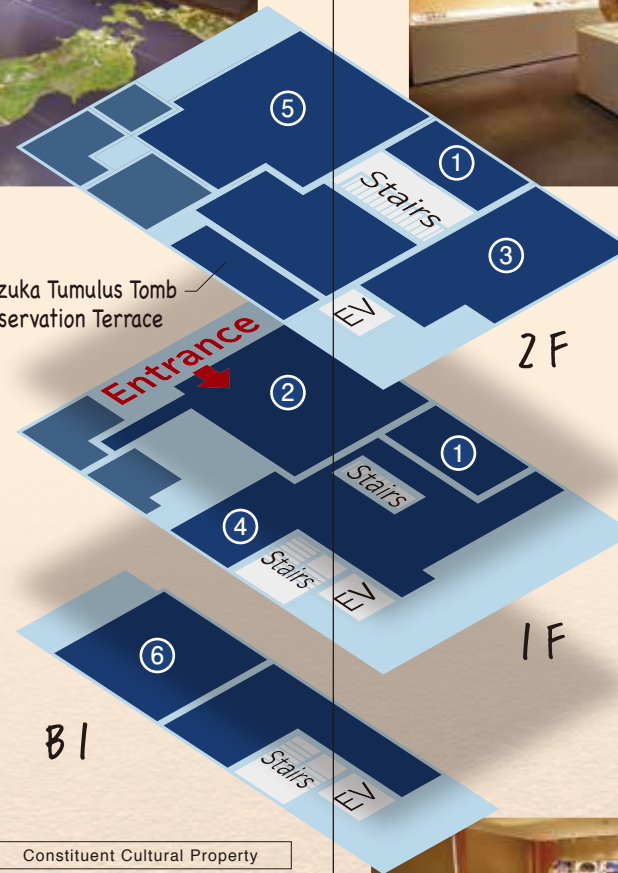
There are panoramic illustrations of Jomon period mining and relics which were excavated from the Hoshigato ruins.



Aozuka Tumulus Tomb

The only keyhole-shaped tomb in the Suwa area, it is an important ruin of ancient history. You can see the stone chamber from the second-floor terrace.

Aozuka Tumulus Tomb Observation Terrace



2F

1F

B1



5

Historic ruins of Shimosuwa town.

The town's relics that have been excavated from the old Stone Age to Medieval times are on exhibition.



6

Underground theater

In a 12 minute video, you can learn of how the obsidian cultivated in Shimosuwa were distributed through paths of trade all over the country.