

Tajima Mihonoura Course

The village of "Mio" is situated in the cove on the Riasu Coast. Once you pass through the tunnel that runs through the town you will see a majestic landscape open up before you. The area that was once only accessible by sea has numerous enduring legends and beautiful natural scenery. Located in the center of the San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark it is a treasure trove of geological heritage.



- 1 Take the town bus to Komio bus stop, you'll find stone Buddha statues of Komio. The statues were washed into the sea in a landslide sometime in the Edo era (1603-1868), villagers found 48 of stone bodhisattva who look over children and travellers.
- 2 Walk up the road about 1km, there're two tunnels; the old Mio Tunnel built in 1962 and the new Mio Tunnel built in 1982. Looking back from the tunnels to the seaside you'll see magnificent landscape before you with Mio Oshima Island.
- 3 Go back about 700m, as the road curves left there'll be another narrow road leading to Komio town. On the left is Mihashira Shrine. Approaching the shrine you'll see odd patterns on the volcanic rock at the foot of the torii gate. There's also ema (votive pictures) of people, animals, and birds & flowers on the ceiling of the front shrine and ones of dragons in the shrine's passage.
- 4 Follow the stone steps down to the small fishing port, from the observatory park next to the intersection past the top of the hill you can look out over the scenery around Mio Oshima Island. From here you can also see the magma path "dikes" which was made when it opened up to the Sea of Japan.
- 5 Near the mountains of the observatory park, if you climb the steep slope you will be able to see the shrine "Kageiwa Inari" which is made of cypress and is set inside a cave.
- 6 Head down from the observatory park and enjoy the Japan Sea's scenery on your left as you continue towards the town, you can get to the town by turning left at the junction of the three roads.
- 7 When you see the port of Omio, pass in front of the Mihonoura assembly hall, and follow the coast along the promenade until you arrive at "Nagasakibana". Please watch your footing as the boardwalk is narrow and there is a steep drop off on the seaside. Nagasakibana is the closest to Mio Oshima island, from here you can see the beautiful rhyolite rocks with columnar joints. On the far side of the island is Itsukushima Shrine, it is believed to be a shrine for the god of safe sailing or sea voyage.
- 8 Return to the port, turn left along the waterway into town, climb the 100 plus stone steps up to Yahashira Shrine, a shrine to Omio's guardian god. If you're taking the short course this is the end, return to Mio bus stop from here. (About 3km)
- 9 Go up the road that goes through Mio town walking along the water, turn left at the three-way road. After walking for about 1.5 km on the right hand side, you will find the "spring of eternal life" springing from the cracks in the bedrock. You have arrived at the observation deck where you can see Nokogirimisaki Cape and Shitaaradoumon Sea Cave. Take a moment to enjoy this scenic spot with famous views of Tajima Mihonoura.
This marks the end of the long course; take the road back to Mio bus stop.



- **Difficulty** : ★★★ (short course★☆☆)
- **Restroom** : (during regular opening hours):Mihonoura Community Center, Mihonoura Assembly Hall
- **Access** : By Bus: Take the town bus to Komio bus stop.
*buses don't run on Sat / Sun / holidays. Also, few buses run during the week. Coming by car is considered more convenient.
By Car: Mio shop parking lot
- **Contact** : Shinonsen Town Office Commerce and Industry Tourism Division
TEL:0796-82-5625

Approx. Distance

11 km