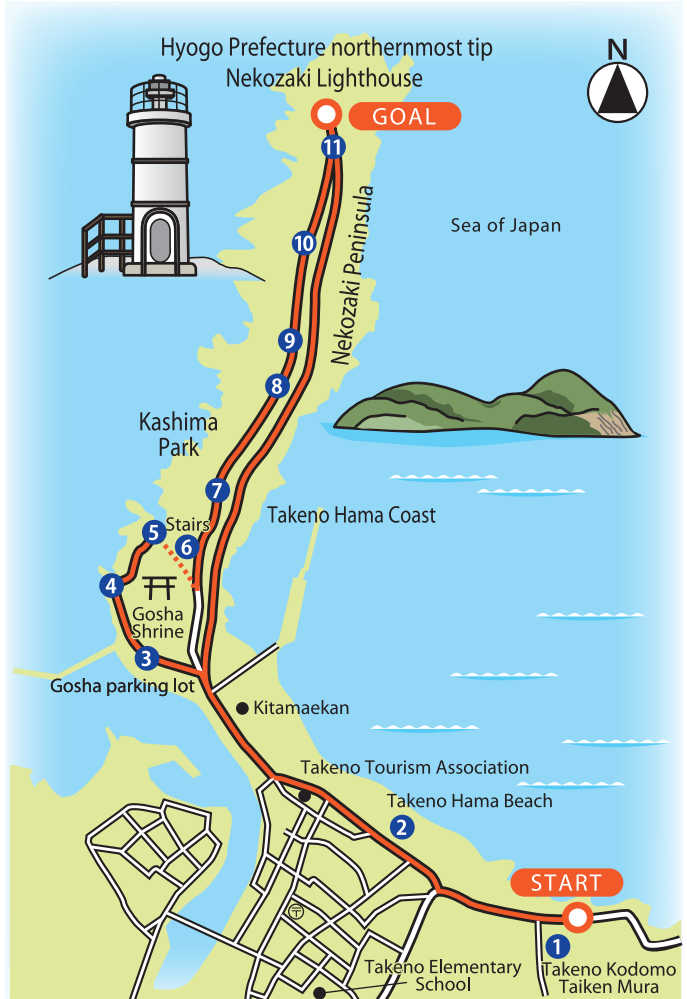


# Nekozaki Peninsula Hiking Course

Nekozaki Peninsula protrudes from Takeno Beach and is the northernmost tip of Hyogo Prefecture. Enjoy a hike out to Nekozaki Lighthouse at the end of the peninsula. At the tip you will have an expansive 270-degree view out over the Sea of Japan and the coast. You will come across many interesting scenes along the hike including potholes (giant's kettle) eroded by waves on the peninsula's west side and fossil footprints of shells and elephants.

- ① Walking west from Takeno Kodomo Taikenmura head for Nekozaki Peninsula. Nekozaki Peninsula is said to look like a crouching cat from off shore. The locals are also familiar with the peninsula's nickname "Kewpie Peninsula" because it looks like a kewpie doll from the coastal roads.
- ② Along the road "Takeno Hama Beach" extends out, the beach was chosen as one of Japan's top 100 swimming beaches and national site of scenic beauty. To get to Nekozaki Peninsula, walk to the Gosha parking lot along the coastline that stretches for 800m east to west. Currently, Takeno River nearby is a fishing port, but during the Edo period it was also the windward waiting port for cargo ships avoiding storms. The east side of the peninsula provided cover from northwest seasonal wind and is still used as a windward waiting port for ships today.
- ③ Go through the Gosha parking lot, after about 100m you will arrive at the west side entrance to the peninsula. From here you can walk along the seacoast on the west side on the rocky beach. Because the rocks can be slippery in places you should pay close attention to where you walk.
- ④ Continue along and you will see "giant's kettles (potholes)" that were carved into the coastal bench by raging waves from the Sea of Japan. These giant's kettles are designated as natural treasures in Hyogo prefecture. If you continue down further you will see fossilized footprints of elephants, deer and stegolophodon who inhabited the Asian continent about 20 million years ago on the coastal bench.
- ⑤ Further ahead along the coast there is a paved path, you may see debris washed up on shore that has drifted from Korea, China, Russia and other neighboring countries.
- ⑥ Walk along the west coast, you'll see the first set of stairs on the right. Climb these to the entrance of Nekozaki Peninsula. This'll be the last restroom stop. There's only one trail going to the goal at the lighthouse on the tip of the peninsula. The course you'll walk along is an intermediate mountain course.
- ⑦ The beginning of the path is paved with a gentle incline, after about 10 min. you'll arrive at "Kashima Park" with benches to rest on. In the summer you can enjoy sunrises and sunsets over the sea. The path past the park becomes a nature trail; here you'll find a number of "Ojizo-sama (bodhisattva statues who look over children & travellers)." The statues were donated by local boatmen in 1917 and are connected to the "88 hallowed grounds of Shikoku". There are 87 on the peninsula for those who can't make a pilgrimage to Shikoku. The 88th is at Rukaiji Temple grounds in the town of Takeno.
- ⑧ Continuing on you'll find "Oku no In" where the last Ojizo-sama is placed. The road from here to the summit will take about 20 min. From here the trail becomes extreme and there'll be stairs to climb so sturdy shoes, hat, towel & drink are needed.
- ⑨ After taking a break at the summit (elev. 141.4m), continue down the stone stairs. The steep slope on this side is also extreme so it is important that you take your time and climb down slowly and carefully.
- ⑩ When you go down the slope from the summit you will see a bridge. From this bridge that hangs about 80m above sea level, you can see spectacular views of the Japan Sea and rocks of cracked stratum "Ryumongan (rhyolite)" extending perpendicularly to the Nekozaki Peninsula cliff. These are thought to be from lava flowing on top of the raised stratum that accumulated in the water around 18 million years ago. It is also a great place to take photos.
- ⑪ Walk for about another 5 min. past the bridge, you'll arrive at the northern most point of Hyogo Prefecture and the course's goal point, "Nekozaki Lighthouse". Here is a fantastic panoramic view of the Sea of Japan, sweeping 270 degrees from the most northern part of the Kinki region "Tango Peninsula Kyogamisaki" in the east to Kami Town's "Isasa Misaki" in the west.



- **Difficulty** : ★★☆☆
- **Restroom** : Kitamaekan, Gosha, Nekozaki Peninsula entrance
- **Access** : Take the Zentan Bus on the Takeno Kaigan line from JR Takeno Station to "Takeno Hama" bus stop, it is a 5 minute walk from there.
- **Contact** : Takeno Tourism Association TEL: 0796-47-1080

Approx. Distance

ONE WAY **2.3km**  
 ROUND TRIP **4.6km**