

How does the singing sand sing?

As for the singing sand of Kotohikihama beach, 75% consists of quartz. It is polished beautifully by waves. When we add enough pressure, it moves all at once. By repeating this movement, the sand vibrates and makes a sound. The sand sings not by friction, but by vibration. When we walk on the sand, it makes a pleasant squeaking sound.

We call this beach 'Kotohikihama', because the sand sounds like 'Koto', a Japanese musical instrument.

The singing sand is so delicate that it doesn't sing when oil and cigarette ash are attached to the quartz. Kotohikihama was the first beach in Japan to be designated as a 'non-smoking beach' in 2001.



Quartz

What is the singing sand?

You can experience it for yourself.
(You can experience not only the sound but the vibration on your hand.)

Let's learn about the marvel of the singing sand in this hall.



You can make a sound with a stick.



You can enjoy sol-fa.



This is the cradle of the frog.
It sounds like the cry of a frog.

There are about 30 singing beaches in Japan. But Kotohikihama is the only one recorded in old documents of the Edo era. A great Samurai in the 16th century Yusai Hosokawa and a famous poet Akiko Yosano visited here. They wrote poems praising its beauty.

Even now, it keeps its untouched nature without any artificial structures. So Kotohikihama beach was registered as a natural monument in 2007.



Residents work together to protect the singing sand beach. We must keep the beach clean so that the sand continues singing!



On a fine day, why don't you walk on Kotohikihama beach?

Micro shells and foraminifers.

They can inhabit only the clean sea.

It has gotten difficult for us to find them, because of the engineering works for shore protection, resort development, and ocean pollution. Shells which are only the size of 2-3mm are called "BISYOGAI (micro-shell)". We have the experience corner where visitors are able to pick up shells. It is very popular among visitors.



Can you find them?



Micro shells



Foraminifers

The vast amount of trash that washes ashore.

Kotohikihama beach faces the Sea of Japan. Various things from neighboring countries drift to this beach on Tsushima Current.



Floating balls



A palm



Dangerous items such as medical waste are found on the beach as well.



Countless lighters with labels printed in Korean, Chinese and Japanese.

This turtle is called a 'leatherback turtle' in English, because it doesn't have a bony shell on its back.

We rarely have opportunity to see it.

She was washed ashore on Kotohikihama beach in January, 2013. She is only 5 or so years old.

This is the only stuffed specimen of a 'leatherback turtle' in Japan.



Kotohikihama Singing Sand Museum

1250 Kakezu, Amino-cho,
Kyotango-city, Kyoto prefecture
629-3112 JAPAN

Open: From 9:00 to 17:00

Closed: Every Tuesday

(If a holiday, the next day)

New Year holiday from 12/28 to 1/3

Admission Fee: Adult 300yen

Child 100yen (Elementary school students,
junior high school students)

Group (more than 15 people) 200yen

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