San’in Kaigan Coastal Geopark’s Mysterious Landscape and a Sanctuary for Oriental White Storks; a Special Natural Treasure

A must for any nature lovers. This journey will take you deep into the San’in Kaigan Geopark in the northern part of Hyogo Prefecture. The destinations include the 1,300-year-old Kinosaki Hot Spring Resort, which is popular for its traditional townscape. Genbudo Museum, reopened last year, showcases the history of Genbudo cave, the strange world of rocks, traditional Toyooka weaving. We will also meet a researcher of oriental white storks to learn about research and community activities for the protection and breeding of these symbolic birds.

*Note: This course does not include lunch. Please pay for your own lunch (Lunch typically cost 1,500 to 2,000 yen).

Hyogo Park of the Oriental White Stork: The park was opened in 1999 to conduct research to protect, breed and return to the wild oriental white storks, which are a government-designated natural treasure. You can observe storks that have bred in the park and enjoy walking through the marsh and the managed natural environment. You may also see oriental white storks living in the wild.

Genbudo Cave Park: consisting of five caves, four of which are named after the four gods of the four directions, the caves were formed 1.6 million years ago when the lava from a volcanic explosion cooled forming beautiful columnar joints that resemble a honeycomb pattern.

Genbudo Museum: The largest stone museum in Hyogo prefecture with 25,000 artifacts. Enjoy exhibitions on the history of the Genbudo cave, beautiful minerals and precious stones, glowing rocks, and more.

Kinosaki Hot Spring Resort: With a history spanning 1,300 years, this is one of the most famous hot spring resorts in Hyogo Prefecture. Willow trees line the riverside, an arched bridge, and river walls made of basalt work together to create a nostalgic landscape. There are seven public hot springs, each with distinctive characteristics, and participants will enjoy a foot bath.