

It was created 14 million years ago

Taizako Canyon was formed by the Okudake River, a branch of the Ono River. Although massive pyroclastic flows from Mt. Aso about 90,000 years ago buried the canyon, the river eroded the rocks and reformed a deep canyon.

The Okudake River starts from natural forests in the Sobo mountain range, and the canyon is very beautiful in green. At the bottom of the canyon lie 90,000-year-old Aso ignimbrite and volcanic rocks from the Sobo mountain range, which is 14 million years old. You can feel the long history and beauty of nature.

1 Large rock walls of Taizako Canyon

Made of Aso ignimbrite, the precipitous cliff stands about 70 meters high along the downstream under Okudake Bridge. This cliff shows a columnar joints, which collapsed like pillars. This is why the cliff is vertically precipitous.

In addition to the Aso ignimbrite, this canyon also features round rock surfaces formed by volcanic rocks from eruptions along the Sobo mountain range about 14 million years ago. The columnar joints of the Aso ignimbrite and surface of Sobo mountain range rocks reveal a great contrast that creates the beautiful scenery of the canyon with its clear river.



2 Impression fossil of bark remains

The photo shown above is a fossilized imprint of bark embedded in the ignimbrite. Trees are crushed and burned by pyroclastic flow, and the pattern of the bark remains on the rocks that are formed. At Taizako Canyon, many fossilized bark imprints were found here and there.

Many carbonized trees (shown in below photos) were also found.



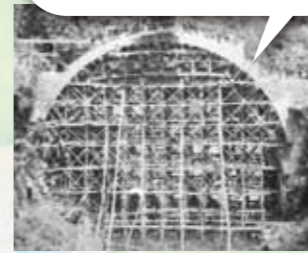
A pattern of bark remains on ignimbrite



Carbonized wood

4 Inukaeri Bridge

This arch-type stone bridge was built in 1925. It connects Oharu and Taizako areas in Ogatamachi. This bridge made people very happy because it allowed them to go over the steep Taizako Canyon. The opening of Ogata Station on the Hoho Line in 1922 prompted the construction of the bridge.



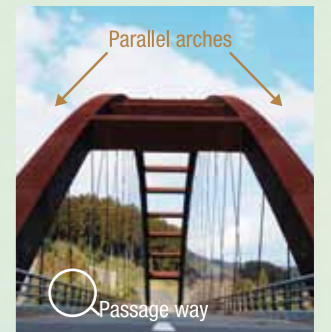
Todoro Bridge when under construction. This clearly shows how they made the arch.

3 Okudake Bridge

Okudake Bridge is 75 meters high, 7 meters wide, and 170 meters long with a 28-meter-high arches. It was built in 2001 to connect Ume and Oguni on the main forestry road.

Okudake Bridge is a Nielsen-Lohse bridge with the passage ways under the parallel arches.

The Nielsen-Lohse structure connects the arches and the deck with diagonally placed cables. At this bridge, passage ways were built under the parallel arches.



It looks like a curtain.



Geoguide



Photo spot
You can have a closer look at the columnar joints.



Photo spot
You can view the canyon along the downstream.

Ignimbrite

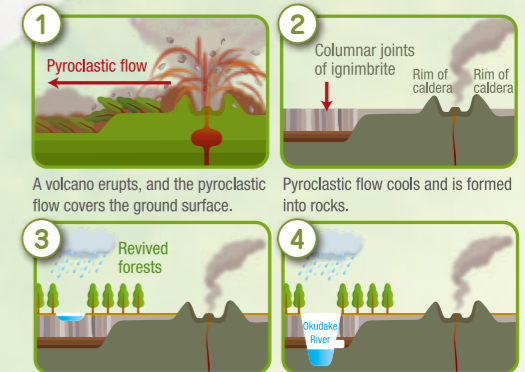
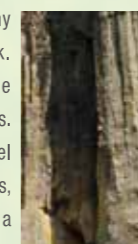
Ignimbrite was formed after hot ejecta from the pyroclastic flow cooled down. The 4th large-scale eruption of Mt. Aso occurred 90,000 years ago, and most of the Kyushu region was covered by the pyroclastic flows. The ignimbrite formed at that time is called the Aso-4 ignimbrite. Pyroclastic flow deposits of more than 100 degrees C accumulated in thick masses. The deposits gradually cooled and formed into rocks. This process formed the rock into ignimbrite.

Pyroclastic flow

When a volcano erupts, a massive amount of high-temperature substance including volcanic gas, pumice, lava, and clast gush out into the air. The high-temperature substance that flows down and covers the ground surface is called a pyroclastic flow.

Columnar joints

These occur in many types of volcanic rock. They are formed as the rock cools and contracts. The structure is parallel and has straight columns, which is why it is called a columnar joint.



Water flow erodes the ground and becomes a river. The river erodes the canyons further and makes them steep.



Image of the pyroclastic flow path from Mt. Aso