

IZU PENINSULA

JAPAN

GEOLOGY

At Izu Peninsula, a large mountainous region with a craggy coastline shaped like a crocodile's head, nature gathered all her forces. Here the Philippine Sea Plate, where the peninsula sits, is moving towards the northwest and colliding with the Okhotsk Plate and the Amurian Plate, both moving roughly south. To the east, the larger and faster Pacific Plate is moving to the northwest. This incredible junction of tectonic plates, called the Izu Collision Zone, is the only place in the world where two volcanic arcs meet and display the results. Geosites such as the *Tanna Fault*, responsible for the magnitude 7.0 of the 1930 North Izu earthquake, and the *Omuro Volcano*, a perfectly conically shaped dormant volcano, are examples of the region's geodiversity.

HIGHLIGHTS

1) Charming coastal towns, such as *Shimoda* and *Atami*, offer glimpses into the region's maritime heritage with historic buildings, museums and scenic waterfronts. 2) The geopark is also home to ancient shrines and temples, such as the *Jogasaki Coast* and the *Shuzenji Temple*, providing spiritual and cultural experiences for visitors.

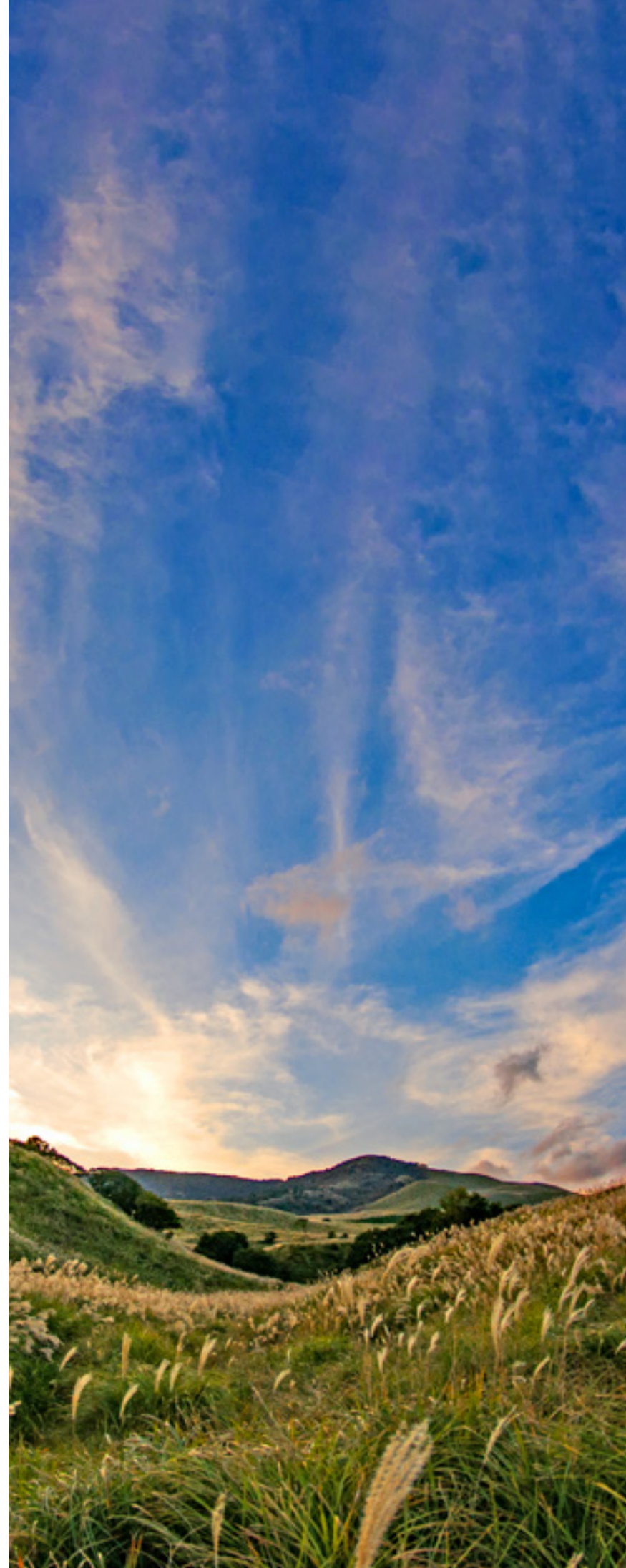
ABOUT THE PARK

Area: 2,027 km²

When to visit: May; Oct.–Nov.

Geopark since: 2018

(RIGHT) THE GRASSLAND AND WETLANDS OF HOSONO PLATEAU WAS FORMED BY AN ANCIENT VOLCANO AND NURTURES BIODIVERSITY.



(ABOVE) KAWAZU-ZAKURA CHERRY BLOSSOM, AN ENDEMIC SPECIES IN IZU, BLOOMS IN LATE WINTER.
(BELOW) MOUNT OMURO IS A CINDER CONE VOLCANO, CREATED DURING AN ERUPTION 4,000 YEARS AGO.

