

# Striking landscape and Kumano Kodo

## Hinoki forest facing the Kumano Sea

The Owase-Kihoku site stretches from Mie Prefecture's famous, craggy Odai Mountain Range—with an elevation of 1,000 to 1,400 meters—and descends rapidly to the coast of the Kumano Sea, in the Pacific Ocean.

The distance of 10 to 15 kilometers between the mountains and the coast comprises a very steep slope immaculately covered with hinoki trees and creating a striking landscape found in few other places in Japan.



Hinoki forest facing the Kumano Sea



Stone-paved Magose Pass in the hinoki forest

## Connection with pilgrimage route forming a UNESCO World Heritage Site

The forest landscape that unfolds along the Kumano Kodo pilgrimage route is acclaimed as a cultural landscape that evolved and developed over time through forestry and wood production activities.

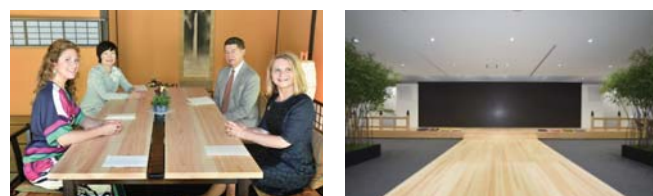
For some 390 years, generations of residents interacted with the forest to form the sublime hinoki forest surrounding the stone-paved path of the Kumano Kodo, creating not only an aesthetically pleasing landscape but also a historically important local resource.

## New uses for the Owase Hinoki wood

### G7 2016 Ise-Shima Summit

Wood production in the Owase-Kihoku site focused primarily on architectural columns in the past. New needs are being cultivated, however, considering the recent drop in new residential construction and Japan's aging population coupled with declining birth rate. As part of these efforts, the G7 2016 Ise-Shima Summit in Shima City, Mie, featured Owase Hinoki wood in the round table used in the meeting, and throughout the international media center. The wood grown with meticulously controlled human intervention displayed a beautiful grain that won the praise of the foreign guests.

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Owase Hinoki Forestry System  
Born of Steep Landforms  
and Heavy Rainfall

# Japanese Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

Japanese Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

Owase City & Kihoku Town  
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