The Sado Complex of Heritage Mines, Primarily Gold Mines

World Heritage

World heritage is the designation for places (such as cultural sites, natural sites, or mixed sites) which should be protected as a shared asset for all humanity and passed on to future generations. There are three types of heritage: “cultural heritage,” “natural heritage,” and “mixed heritage” that combine elements of both natural and cultural heritages. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) inscribes “cultural heritage,” “natural heritage,” and “mixed heritage” to protect as a shared asset for all humanity and passed on to future generations. UNESCO categorizes world heritage into three types: cultural heritage, natural heritage, and mixed heritage. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) inscribes “cultural heritage,” “natural heritage,” and “mixed heritage” to protect as a shared asset for all humanity and passed on to future generations. UNESCO categorizes world heritage into three types: cultural heritage, natural heritage, and mixed heritage.

Our goal is to have Sado Gold and Silver Mines be inscribed as world cultural heritage.

Since 1998, Niigata Prefecture and Sado City have been collaborating in research to develop the Sado Gold and Silver Mine for World Cultural Heritage inscription. In 2010 the Sado mine complex was listed on the World Heritage Tentative List of Japan under the name of “The Sado Complex of Heritage Mines, Primarily Gold Mines” and officially became a candidate for World Cultural Heritage status. In addition to investigating ways to protect and maintain the site, Niigata and Sado are working together on creating a nomination proposal to be sent to UNESCO.

We ask for your support in making Sado a world heritage site.

Road to inscription as a World Heritage site

1. Creation of a Nomination Draft
2. On-site inspection by UNESCO experts, work on final nomination dossier
3. Submission to UNESCO
4. Decision on inscription by the World Heritage Committee

For more information, please visit our website: Golden Sado Co., Ltd.

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Evolution of Gold Veins

Magma

Ground water

Base rock

Volcanic stratum

Ground

Quartz vein

Argentiferous

Auriferous

Deposited ores

Mining site

Votive Picture of Miners

Silvery black

Gin-guro

Owned by Golden Sado Co., Ltd.

Sado mines were famous for gold and silver, cooper was squeezed out of the rock and into the ground water where water is saturated with mineral oxides through cracks of bedrock. Gold and quartz are precipitated on the rock of the cracks, forming gold deposits. The experts can also see outcomes of the Asamayama vein, which is one of the largest veins in Japan.

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