

Gold Ore



Owned by Golden Sado Co., Ltd.

The mineral veins of Sado Gold and Silver Mine lie in solid bedrock. In the ore, you can see black stripes called *gin-guro* (silvery black) which contain a variety of minerals, including large amounts of electrum, a gold and silver alloy. Unique smelting techniques were developed on Sado in order to extract gold from these hard minerals.

Votive Picture of Miners



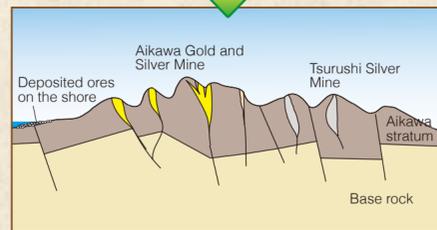
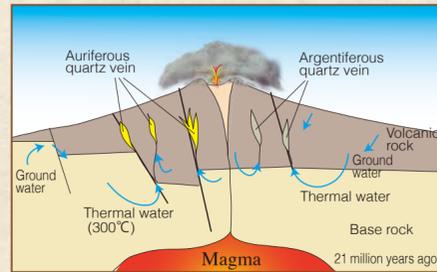
Owned by Aikawa Folk Museum

The miners believed centipedes to be special since they looked similar to mineral veins and the mine shafts. Many paintings and local performing arts on Sado still contain references to these centipedes.

One of Japan's Leading Mine Complexes

Though Sado has been known as an island of gold and silver for a very long time, the island has also produced large amounts of other metals such as copper and lead. The island holds more than 50 mines, mainly in the western area.

Evolution of Gold Veins



Heat from magma causes various minerals such as gold, silver, copper, and quartz to melt out of the rock and into the ground water. When this superheated water rises up through cracks of bedrock, gold and quartz are precipitated on the wall of the cracks, forming veins. At the Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine, you can still see outcrops of the Aobanmyaku vein, which is one of the largest veins in Japan.



World Heritage

World Heritage is the designation for places (cultural properties, historic sites, natural sites) which should be protected as a shared asset for all humanity and passed on to future generations. There are three types of heritages, "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 these sites based on the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.



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

Since 2006, Niigata Prefecture and Sado City have been collaborating in research in order to help the Sado Gold and Silver Mine to reach its goal 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.

*Tentative List is a group of nominations for the World Heritage, submitted by the state parties to UNESCO, and World Heritage status is inscribed from among those candidates on this list.

The Sado Complex of Heritage Mines, Primarily Gold Mines

Road to inscription as a World Heritage site



The Sado mines were listed on Japan's Tentative World Heritage List in 2010

Under instructions from experts, work on improving the site's value as a heritage site by receiving national heritage designation and improving the site, and create a nomination draft

The nation will make a final nomination dossier based on the one created by the city and prefecture and submit it to UNESCO

ICOMOS (International Council of Monuments and Sites) uses their expertise to make an on-site inspection

Decision on inscription as a world heritage site by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee



Sado, for World Heritage

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

For more information, please visit our website [Sado Gold and Silver Mine](#)

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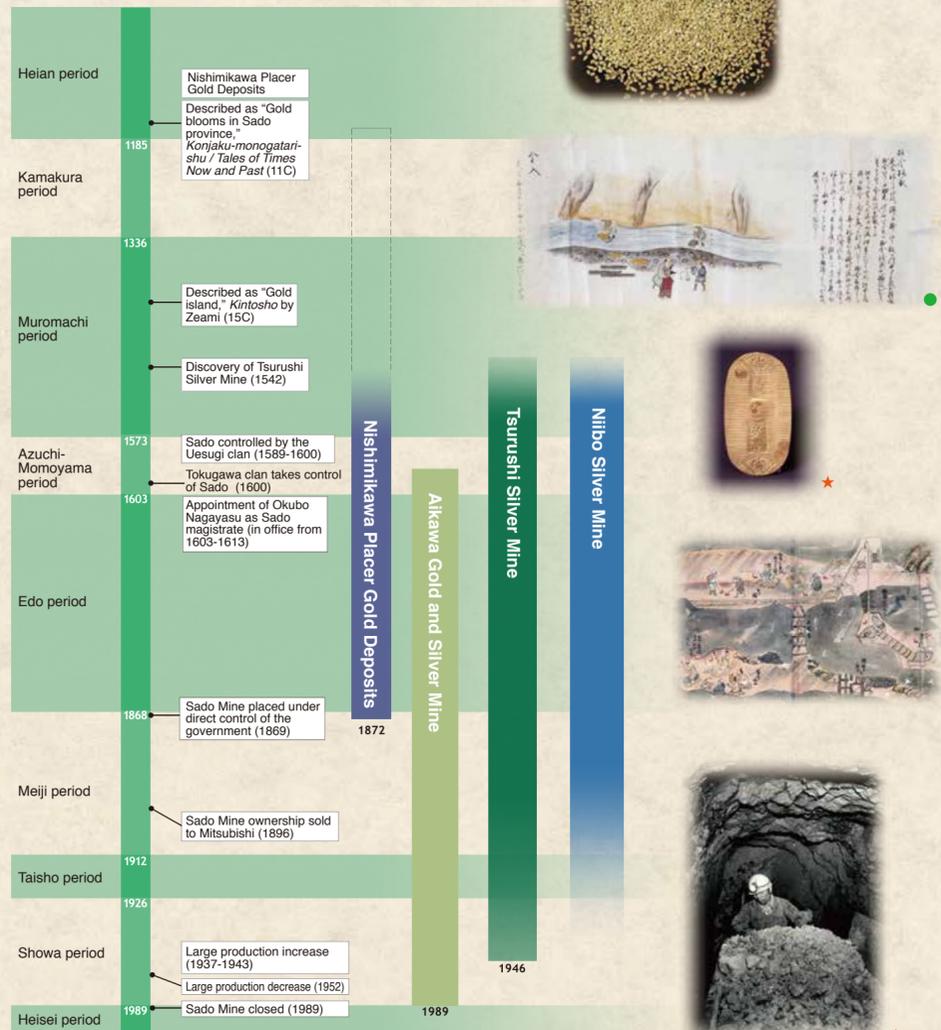
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The Sado Complex of Heritage Mines, Primarily Gold Mines

History of Gold and Silver Mines on Sado



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● Niigata Prefectural Museum of History

○ Sado Museum

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