

At Only 1,200 Meters Long, the Kakita River is a Nurturer of Nature

Shimizu Town is located between Numazu City and Mishima City. It literally means "a town where clean water springs." Its symbolic center is the Kakita River.

In the middle of this urban area, water surprisingly springs from the ground and creates a river which is 1,200 meters long and 30 to 50 meters wide. It then flows on to meet the Kano River, which originates from the Izu Amagi Mountain range.

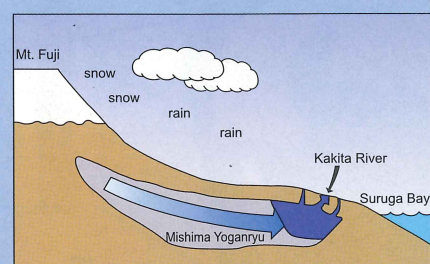
The water of the Kakita River is abundant and its temperature is approximately 15 degrees Celsius almost all the year. The quality of the water is extremely high and about 300 thousand tons of water a day is supplied to meet the needs of roughly 350 thousand people as well as factories in the eastern area of Shizuoka Prefecture.

The river produces a rich natural environment along both its sides, preserving the precious ecosystem. The thriving animal and plant populations are a barometer of the cleanliness of the Kakita River. The beauty woven by its rich water is admired nationwide and was designated as one of "The Best 100 Scenes of Japan to be Preserved in the 21st Century" in 1983 and "The Best 100 Waters of Japan" in 1985. It continues inviting many people to visit it.

Melt Water Gushing Out with a Rush

Incomparable in its cleanliness although it is an urban river, the Kakita River is an undercurrent of the Mt. Fuji range. About 8,500 years ago, a great eruption of Mt. Fuji brought a large amount of lava to the upper part of the Kakita River. The lava, named "Mishima Yoganryu—the Mishima Lava Flow", is characterized by its many holes, which makes it easy for water to go through it.

Underneath the lava is a layer of "Ko Fuji Kazan—Old Fuji Volcano", which is not permeable to water. This makes the rain and snow fallen on Mt. Fuji go down to the Mishima Lava Flow under the ground. The amount of water which gushes out with a rush from under Route 1 in Shimizu Town, 40 km away from Mt. Fuji, is estimated to be approximately 1 million tons a day. It is said to be the largest amount of all springs in Asia.



Our Wish to Preserve the History This River Knows and Pass it on to the Next Generation

The Kakita river shows us again the fact that a river is a source of life for fauna and flora. We, human beings also have our daily lives nourished by this river. To protect and preserve the Kakita River is to protect ourselves and to take responsibility for our descendents at the same time.

Transportation

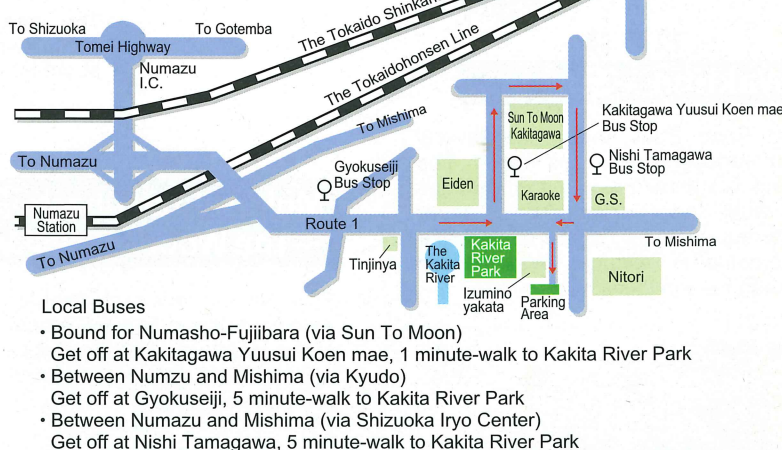
Shinjuku	Asagiri Express	118 minutes	Numazu	bus 15 minutes
		Total 113 minutes		
Tokyo	Kodama Shinkansen	60 minutes	Mishima	bus 15 minutes
		Total 75 minutes		
Nagoya	Kodama Shinkansen	120 minutes	Mishima	bus 15 minutes
		Total 135 minutes		
Tokyo	Tomei Highway	103 km	Tomei Numazu I.C.	car 6 km
		Total 109 km		
Nagoya	Tomei Highway	222 km	Tomei Numazu I.C.	car 6 km
		Total 228 km		

Kakita River Park

Access from Fujisan Shizuoka Airport

Airport	bus 56 minutes	Shizuoka	Kodama Shinkansen 28 minutes	Mishima	bus 15 minutes	Kakita River Park
					Total 99 minutes	

Guide Map

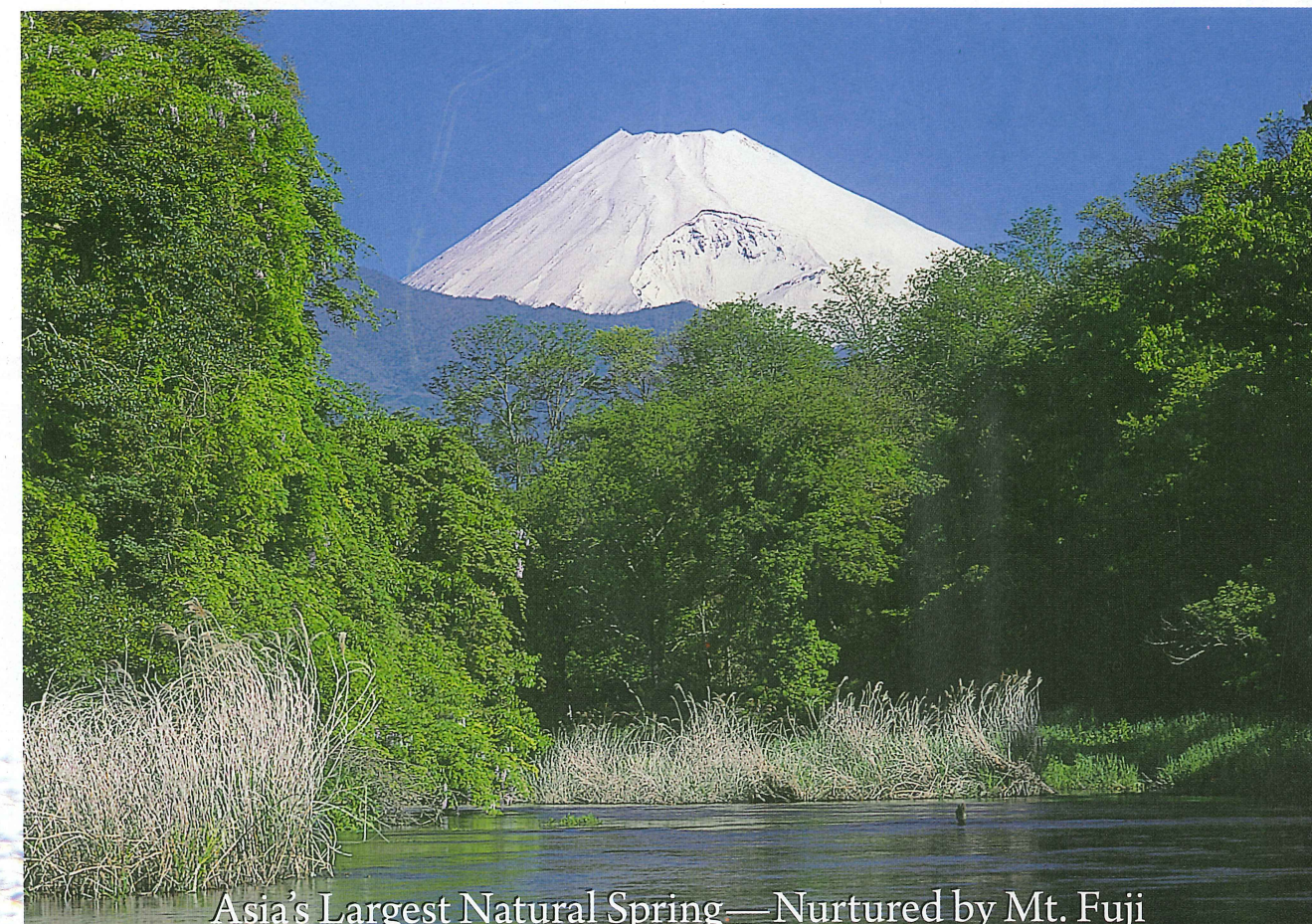


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再生紙を使用しています



Asia's Largest Natural Spring—Nurtured by Mt. Fuji

The Kakita River

柿田川

Shimizu Town, Shizuoka Prefecture

静岡県/清水町

Preserving Nature and Making an Oasis for all Citizens

柿田川公園

Kakita River Park



First Observation Deck 第一展望台

Here we find the origin of the Kakita River. Several "Wakima" springs of various sizes can be seen from the deck. "Wakima" is a spring of melt water and rain from Mt. Fuji which rises up from under nearby Route 1. Kingfisher birds can be seen to hover and catch sweet fish. From late October to December, sweet fish are spotted coming up toward the upper part of the river to spawn.

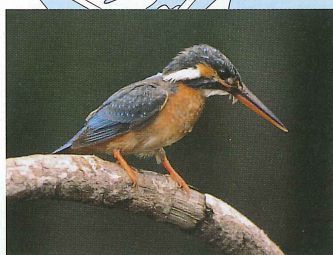


Living Things Visible in the Kakita River 1

Kingfisher (the broad-billed roller order / the kingfisher family)

The kingfisher has a dark green head with small blue spots on it. Its body is blue-green and orange. It is a beautiful bird called "a jade in a mountain stream." It glides from trees on the bank or hovers to dive and catch fish.

The kingfisher is the designated official bird of Shimizu Town.



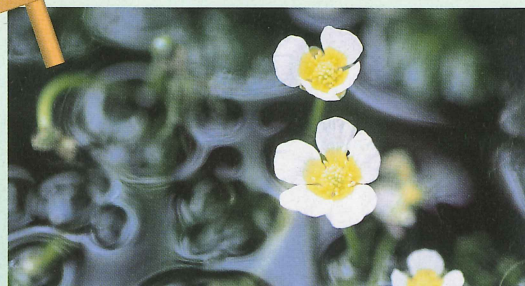
Sweet Fish (the sweet fish family)

The sweet fish is a freshwater fish of the sweet fish family living in clean streams. It is approximately 30 centimeters long. Its body is streamlined and it has an oil fin. Adult fish which come up the river make a territory of about one square meter and eat the moss covering the stones on the riverbed. Sweet fish live only one year and come down the river in late fall to spawn. The sweet fish come down the Kano River and many of them enter the Kakita River, which is warmer than the Kano River. A school of them can be seen spawning in the sandy parts of the riverbed. (The fish with spots in the picture are *kasago* of the salmon family.)



Living Things Visible in the Kakita River 2

Mishima Baikamo (the buttercup family)



This is named Mishima Baikamo because the yellow flower looks like a plum blossom. It is sensitive to water pollution so it is found only in the middle or upper parts of the Kakita River. This is one of the symbolic plants of the Kakita River, which takes root in the sand in the clean spring water. Mishima Baikamo generally blooms from May to September, but in the Kakita River it keeps blooming all year round. It originally was found in the Kohamaike Pond of Rakujuen Park in Mishima City, and it used to be seen in rivers in Mishima City, but it has disappeared. The Kakita River is the only level place where Mishima Baikamo is found in a colony.

Living Things Visible in the Kakita River 3

Aohadatombo (the kawatombo family)



The Aohadatombo is found in clean waters which have many water plants. It is a very rare dragonfly which only lives along the Kakita River. Both male and female Aohadatombo have very beautiful shiny metallic-green bodies. The female has white dots on the edge of its wings, which make it easy to distinguish the female from the male. Aohadatombo can usually be seen from later May to early July. However, in the Kakita River, they are observed until early November.

The Kakita River is the source of water for many people in eastern Shizuoka Prefecture and provides a unique chance in an urban spot to see rare fauna and flora. Its magnificent scenery has been our blessing. However, when many houses were built in the surrounding area along the river, there were concerns that it would be very difficult to protect and maintain the river if it were left without any care. Therefore, the town created Kakita River Park in order to protect and maintain the area's nature for the community. In April 1986, Kakita River Park opened as a peaceful communal area for its citizens. Favorite places include the first and second observation decks, from where *wakima*, the springs, can constantly be seen. There is also a popular wading place where people can step into the water and cool off. The Kakita River will be preserved by Shimizu Town for years to come as a place to learn the beauty of nature and nurture a love for protecting it.

Kakita River Park Guide Map 柿田川公園案内図



Second Observation Deck 第二展望台

This spring water was once used for drinking by a spinning factory. Sunshine and sand produce intriguing colors in the water. The temperature of the water is stable and the water level hardly changes. This keeps the river the same as it was many years ago.



せせらぎ／芝生広場

Seseragi, Shibafu Hiroba—The Stream, The Lawn

Citizens as well as tourists enjoy their time here.

湧水広場

Yuusui Hiroba—The Wading Place

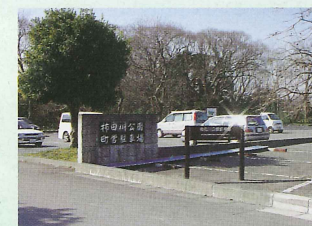
In summer many families enjoy playing with the water here.



駐車場

Parking Area

The park has a town-run parking area, which can accommodate about 80 cars.



木製八つ橋

Mokusei Yatsubashi—The Wooden Walkway

This is a walkway people enjoy walking along to see the graceful flow of the middle part of the Kakita River. An abundant volume of spring water can be seen here.



Reminders

- Do not go out of the fences or the wooden walkways.
- Do not leave garbage behind.
- Do not litter the ground with cigarette butts.
- Park motorbikes and bicycles in the place provided.
- No camping or cooking.
- Do not take plants or other living things away.
- Do not throw coins or other things into the springs.

