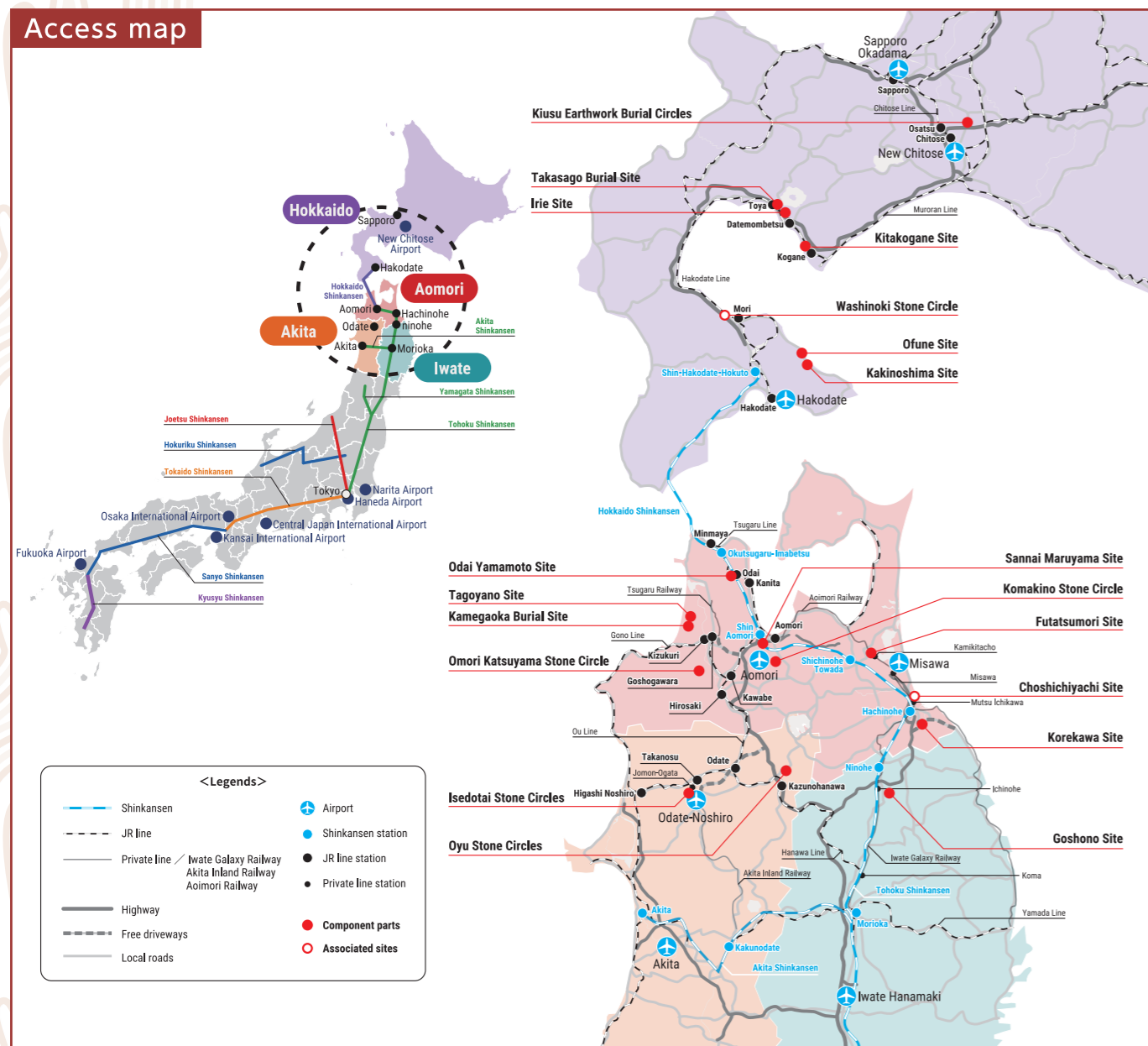
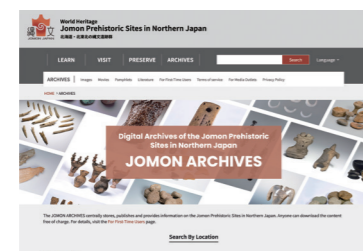


World Heritage Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan



Websites of Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan




Official Website
<https://jomon-japan.jp/en>



Official Website for kids
(only in Japanese)
<https://jomon-japan.jp/kids>

Headquarters for the World Heritage Jomon Prehistoric Sites

Hokkaido, Aomori Prefecture, Iwate Prefecture, Akita Prefecture, Hakodate City, Chitose City, Date City, Mori Town, Toyako Town, Aomori City, Hirosaki City, Hachinohe City, Tsugaru City, Sotogahama Town, Shichinohe Town, Ichinohe Town, Kazuno City, Kitaakita City (Secretariat in Aomori jomon@pref.aomori.lg.jp)



Logo for the Jomon Prehistoric Sites

The logo represents Jomon pottery and the shapes of Hokkaido and northern Tohoku, which are connected with a spiral pattern that symbolizes the dynamism of the Jomon period. The figure uses the red lacquer color that's found in lacquerware and pottery from the Jomon period, with the darker gradations representing areas with the component parts of the property. The Japanese characters 縄 and 文 (which together are read as "Jomon") are arranged on each side of the design, with the words "JOMON JAPAN" below. The word "JAPAN" also means "lacquer."



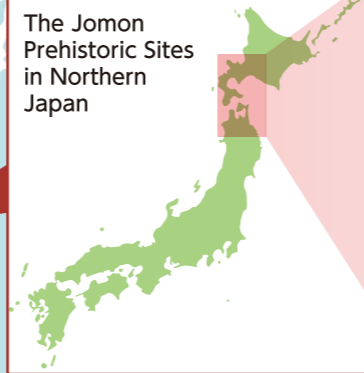
History of Efforts toward Inscription on the World Heritage List

Hokkaido and the northern Tohoku region boast natural splendor and verdure, including in the Shirakami-Sanchi and Shiretoko World Heritage areas.

Blessed with this rich natural environment, our forerunners developed and matured sedentary ways of life based on hunting, fishing, and gathering over a period of more than 10,000 years while nurturing a complex spiritual culture.

Numerous archaeological sites of the Jomon period remain in Hokkaido and northern Tohoku, including the Sannai Maruyama Site (designated a Special National Historic Site) in Aomori City, one of Japan's largest Jomon Period settlement sites, and the Oyu Stone Circles (also a Special National Historic Site) in Kazuno City, which are large-scale monuments. These serve as important cultural heritage sites that attest to the history and culture of Japan from the Jomon period.

To ensure that these heritage sites will be passed on to the future as a common treasure of humanity, the governments of four prefectures (Hokkaido, Aomori, Iwate, and Akita) and 14 municipalities (Hakodate City, Chitose City, Date City, Mori Town, Toyako Town, Aomori City, Hirosaki City, Hachinohe City, Tsugaru City, Sotogahama Town, Shichinohe Town, Ichinohe Town, Kazuno City, and Kitaakita City) promoted activities toward the inscription of the sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List. On July 27, 2021, the Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan were inscribed on the list as an exceptional testimony to pre-agricultural lifeways and the spiritual culture of prehistoric people.



Steps toward Inscription on the World Heritage List

- 2007 August Agreement on a joint proposal by the four prefectures for the serial property is officially reached at the Hokkaido and Northern Tohoku Governors' Summit.
- 2009 January The property is included on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List.
- 2009 June The Headquarters for World Heritage Registration Promotion for Jomon Prehistoric Sites, headed by Shingo Mimura, governor of Aomori Prefecture, is established.
- 2018 July The Japanese government selects the property as a candidate for nomination to the World Cultural Heritage List.
- 2019 December The Japanese government decides to submit the nomination to UNESCO.
- 2020 January The Japanese government submits the nomination dossier to UNESCO.
- 2020 September Assessors of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) conduct a field inspection.
- 2021 May ICOMOS recommends inscription of the property on the World Heritage List.
- 2021 July 27 The property is inscribed on the World Heritage List at the Extended 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee.

Component Parts

The Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan consist of 17 archaeological sites: six in Hokkaido, eight in Aomori Prefecture, one in Iwate Prefecture, and two in Akita Prefecture. There are two associate sites, one in Hokkaido and the other in Aomori Prefecture, that help promote the public understanding of the Jomon prehistoric sites.



The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan

The Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan consist of 17 archaeological sites that represent the pre-agricultural lifeways and complex spirituality of prehistoric people. The serial property has Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) as an exceptional testimony to the emergence, development, and maturation of a sedentary hunter-fisher-gatherer society that thrived in Northeast Asia from around 13,000 BCE to 400 BCE.

Criteria under which Inscription was Proposed

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe the serial property on the World Heritage List under the proposed criteria (iii) and (v) below.

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Criterion (iii) | Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared; |
|------------------------|--|

This serial property bears exceptional testimony to a globally rare sedentary hunter-fisher-gatherer society that thrived over a period of more than 10,000 years, and to a complex spiritual culture that was nurtured there, as shown by such archaeological finds as clay tablets with footprints and famous goggle-eyed clay figurines, as well as by structural remains such as graves, dumping grounds, artificial earthen mounds, and stone circles.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Criterion (v) | Be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change; |
|----------------------|---|

This serial property is an outstanding example of the development of sedentism from emergence to subsequent development to maturity, as well as being an outstanding example of land use. The property illustrates how people in those days maintained sedentary lifestyles based on hunting, fishing, and gathering by adapting to climate change without altering the land significantly as agrarian societies would have done. The property specifically illustrates how people selected diverse locations for settlements to secure food stably, such as places near rivers where salmon migrating upstream could be caught, near tidelands where brackish shellfish could be gathered, and near colonies of beech and chestnut trees. Skills and tools for obtaining food were developed in accordance with the specific conditions of different locations.

Integrity and Authenticity

The 17 component parts of the property are of adequate size and carry all the attributes necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Most of the structural remains have been well preserved underground for thousands of years, and the authenticity of the component parts is highly maintained in terms of location, form and design, materials and substance, use and function, traditions and techniques, and spirit and feeling.

Thorough Protective Measures

All 17 component parts of the property are designated and protected under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties as Historic Sites or Special Historic Sites. In addition, a buffer zone of appropriate size has been delineated around each component part, in which legal regulatory measures are in place for the proper protection of the property. The Council for the Preservation and Utilization of World Heritage Jomon Prehistoric Sites promotes the preservation and utilization of the property based on the Comprehensive Preservation and Management Plan, which sets out the basic policies for conserving the OUV of the property in its entirety.

(Decisions 44COM 8B.37 of the World Heritage Committee)

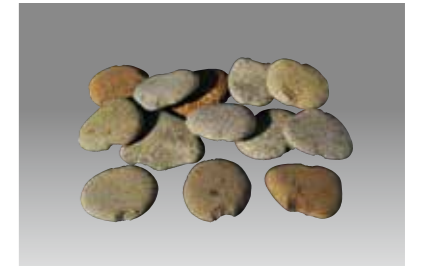
Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan

Attribute 1 Demonstrating a lifestyle characterized by managed use of natural resources

The property demonstrates how prehistoric people in the region led sedentary lives based on hunting, fishing, and gathering over the very long period of more than 10,000 years through the sustainably managed use of natural bounties, including forest and aquatic resources, while adapting to environmental changes such as climate warming and cooling without transitioning to an agrarian society.



Chestnuts, walnuts and Japanese horse chestnuts



Stone sinkers

Attribute 2 Demonstrating complex spirituality, as evident in rituals and ceremonies

The property demonstrates how prehistoric people in the region developed a complex spiritual culture from the emergent stage of sedentism, as evident in graves, in shell mounds and artificial earthen mounds that were used as ritual and ceremonial sites, in stone circles (i.e., circular stone arrangements), and in excavated artifacts such as clay tablets with footprints and clay figurines.



A clay figurine



Clay tablets with footprints

Attribute 3 Demonstrating diverse relations between settlement locations and livelihoods

The property demonstrates that prehistoric people in the region selected diverse locations for settlements in order to secure food stably, such as places near rivers where salmon migrating upstream could be caught, hilly and other areas that abounded in nut-bearing trees, and inner bay areas and areas near lakes and marshes where fish and shellfish could be caught. Skills and tools for obtaining food were developed in accordance with the specific conditions of the different locations.



Kitakogane Site (Date City, Hokkaido)

Attribute 4 Demonstrating the transition of the form of settlements

The property demonstrates that prehistoric people in this region, who began living sedentarily ca. 13,000 BCE, changed their settlement patterns to adapt to environmental changes such as climate warming and cooling without altering the land significantly as agrarian societies would have done.

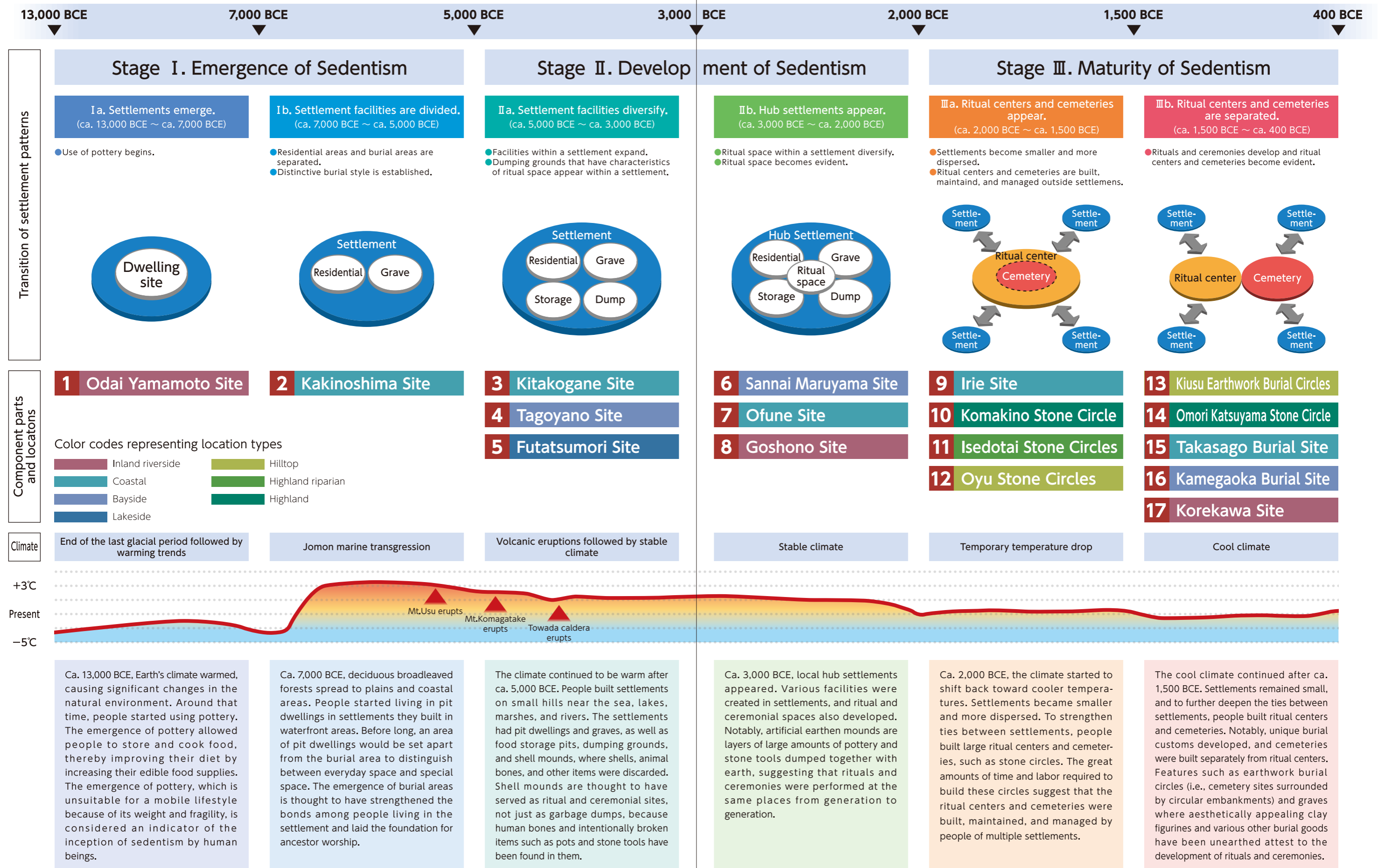


A pit dwelling



A storage pit

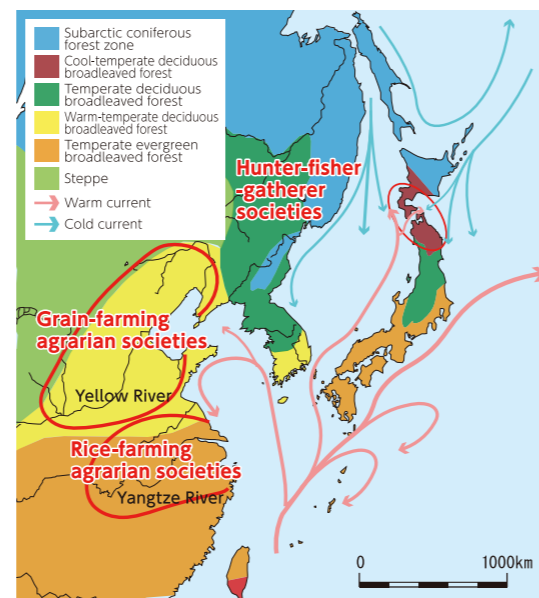
Schematic figure of the historical development of the nominated property demonstrated by each component part



Prehistoric Cultures in Northeast Asia and the Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan

Ca. 13,000 BCE, rapid global warming caused significant changes in the natural environment. Deciduous broadleaved forests of beech, chestnut, and other trees spread through the eastern part of the Japanese archipelago, whereas broadleaved evergreen species of oak, chinquapin, and other trees prevailed in western Japan. Meanwhile, large animals became extinct, giving way to small and medium-sized animals such as deer and wild boar.

To adapt to these environmental changes, people's lifestyles changed from mobile ones, in which they moved from place to place to obtain food, to sedentary ones, in which they settled down and lived in one place all the time. In Northeast Asia, a rice-farming agrarian society was established at the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River in China, and an agrarian society in which foxtail millet, common millet and other grains were farmed was established from the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River to the Liao River basin.



A sedentary life based on hunting, fishing, and gathering was established from Northeast China to the Russian Far East, as well as on the Korean peninsula and in the Japanese archipelago.

The hunter-gatherer cultures in Northeast Asia thrived thanks to the bounties of nature, such as forest resources of walnuts and other edible nuts, as well as aquatic resources. Among them, the Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan bear exceptional testimony to the emergence, development, and maturation of a sedentary hunter-fisher-gatherer society that thrived for the more than 10,000 years from around 13,000 BCE to 400 BCE without transitioning to an agrarian society, as well as to a complex spiritual culture that was nurtured there.

Conservation and Utilization

To protect the irreplaceable cultural heritage and pass it on to the next generation, all relevant local governments are working for its adequate conservation, presentation, and utilization.

Efforts for the Conservation of the Jomon Prehistoric Sites

The relevant local governments—four prefectural governments and 14 municipal governments—have put in place a cooperative structure through which efforts are under way to conserve the serial property based on the Comprehensive Preservation and Management Plan. The local governments that have jurisdiction over the component parts of the property have been working for their adequate preservation and management in line with the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. Further, municipal governments with jurisdiction over individual component parts have controlled the landscapes and views in their neighborhoods based on landscape plans developed in line with the Landscape Act. Conservation efforts also include those to prevent negative impacts on the value of the property, such as monitoring and the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), a tool for assessing the potential impacts on the property of any development projects planned in the environs of any component part.



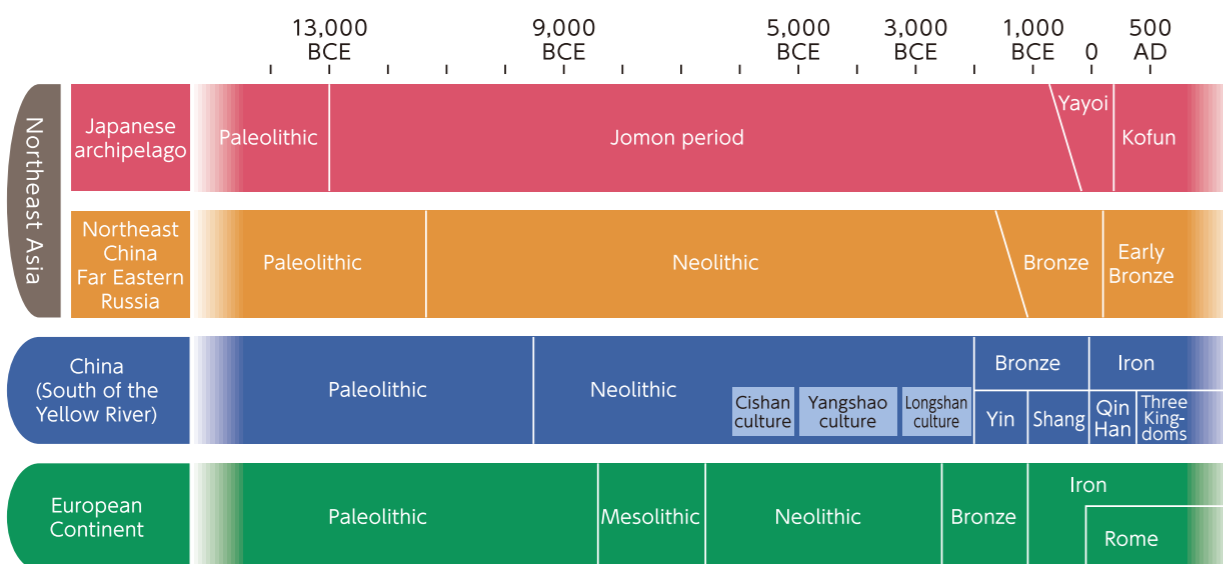
Efforts for the Utilization of the Jomon Prehistoric Sites

At each component part of the property, conservation work has been under way to enable visitors to view the scenery as it would have looked in ancient times so that they can understand the value of the property. In addition to information given on guided tours by volunteer and other guides, information is provided using smartphone audio guides and tablet device guide systems that allow visitors to take a look at excavations and the everyday life of the time. The sites promote awareness by holding events, such as the Jomon Festival and the Jomon Forum, and by offering participatory programs in making pots, clay figurines, accessories, and other items crafted by people in the Jomon period so that visitors can learn the wisdom and techniques of people of the time.




The Jomon Period in World History

In Japanese history, the period when people led sedentary lives based on hunting, fishing, and gathering is categorized as the Jomon period. It follows the Paleolithic period, when people lived mobile lives, and precedes the Yayoi period, when rice cultivation started. The Jomon period is a time period unique to Japan and corresponds to a period from the Paleolithic period through the Neolithic period to part of the Bronze Age in world history.



Component Parts, Associated Sites, and Visitor Facilities



For the latest information on each component part/associated site and on guide reservations, please visit the relevant official website.



1 Odai Yamamoto Site (Historic Site)


Sotogahama Town, Aomori Prefecture

Ia: ca. 13,000 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 13,000 BCE)

Pot shards and stone arrowheads


The Odai Yamamoto Site has yielded pots and stone arrowheads along with stone tools showing the same characteristics as artifacts of the preceding Paleolithic period. Analyses of unearthed pot shards have revealed that they date back to around 13,000 BCE, making them some of the earliest known pottery in Northeast Asia. This site is important for gaining insights into the emergent stage of sedentism, as the emergence of pottery marks a major change from mobile to sedentary ways of life.




Sotogahama Oyama Furusato Shiryokan

〒030-1307
Kanita Odai-Sawabe 34-3, Sotogahama, Higashi Tsugaru-gun, Aomori Prefecture
☎ 0174-22-2577 ☎ 9:00 - 16:00
🗓 Mondays (or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), the year-end and New Year's holidays (Dec. 29 - Jan. 4)
¥ Free

Approx. 5 min. on foot







2 Kakinoshima Site (Historic Site)


Hakodate City, Hokkaido

Ib: ca. 5,000 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 7,000 BCE - ca. 1,000 BCE)

Footprint-imprinted clay tablets and stone tools used as burial goods


The Kakinoshima Site is a settlement site located on a terrace overlooking the Pacific Ocean. It has an area of pit dwellings separated from a burial area consisting of pit graves, indicating a distinction between everyday space and special space. The emergence of the burial area is thought to have helped strengthen the bonds among people living at the settlement and laid the foundation for ancestor worship.




Hakodate Jomon Culture Center

〒041-1613
Usujiri-cho 551-1, Hakodate, Hokkaido
☎ 0138-25-2030
☎ 9:00 - 17:00 (until 16:30 from Nov. to Mar.)
🗓 Mondays (or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), last Friday of each month, the year-end and New Year's holidays (Dec. 29 - Jan. 3)
¥ Adults: 300 yen Students: 150 yen
Facility guides: Reservations required

Adjacent







3 Kitakogane Site (Historic Site)


Date City, Hokkaido

Iia: ca. 5,000 BCE - ca. 3,500 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 5,000 BCE - ca. 2,000 BCE)

A whale-bone sword


The Kitakogane Site is a settlement site located on a hill overlooking Uchiura Bay. The shell mounds here have yielded large numbers of shells, fish bones, and bone and antler tools. These finds attest to the fishing-oriented livelihood pursued by people at that time while they adapted to environmental changes such as marine transgressions and regressions. From the remains of a watering place found in a lowland area, large numbers of stone tools, including grinding stones and milling basins, have been unearthed. Since many of these were deliberately broken, the place is thought to have been used as a ritual ground for the disposal of stone tools.




Kitakogane Site Information Center

〒059-0272
Kitakogane-cho 75, Date, Hokkaido
☎ 0142-24-2122
☎ 9:00 - 17:00
🗓 Winter (Dec. 1 - Mar. 31)
¥ Free

Adjacent





| Archaeological sites | Visitor facilities |
|--|--|
|  Tour guides  Hours |  Address  Tel.  Hours  Closing days  ¥ Fee  Facility guides  Audio guides  Participatory programs  Cafes / restaurants  Merchandise sales  Wi-Fi  Coin-operated lockers  Nursing Room  Wheel chairs |



4 Tagoyano Site (Historic Site)


Tsugaru City, Aomori Prefecture

Iia: ca. 4,000 BCE - ca. 3,000 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 4,000 BCE - ca. 2,000 BCE)

Bracelets made of dog cockle shells


The Tagoyano Site is a settlement site accompanied by shell mounds facing what used to be Paleo-Lake Jusanko, which appeared during a marine transgression. The settlement comprises pit dwellings, graves, shell mounds, storage pits, and various other features. The shell mounds have yielded large numbers of items, including shells from Japanese basket clams and other shellfishes, and implements made from the bones of whales and dolphins, as well as unfinished bracelets made of dog cockle shells. These finds attest to the livelihood around an inland bay at that time.




Tsugaru City Jomon Dwelling Museum Kamegaoka Archaeology Collections

〒038-3138
Kizukuri Wakamidori 59-1, Tsugaru, Aomori Prefecture
☎ 0173-42-6490 ☎ 9:00 - 16:00
🗓 Mondays (or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), the day following a national holiday, the year-end and New Year's holidays (Dec. 29 - Jan. 3)
¥ Adults: 200 yen
High school and university students: 100 yen
Elementary and junior high school students: 50 yen
Facility guides: Available only for groups, and reservations required

Approx. 20 min. by car







5 Futatsumori Site (Historic Site)


Shichinohe Town, Aomori Prefecture

Iia: ca. 3,500 BCE - ca. 3,000 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 3,500 BCE - ca. 2,000 BCE)

Bone and antler objects


The Futatsumori Site is a settlement site on a terrace located on the shore of Lake Ogawara on the Pacific Ocean. A residential area comprising pit dwellings and a storage area are located in a flatland area, with shell mounds and a burial area outside those areas. The lower layers of the shell mounds contain the shells of saltwater shellfishes, including common Orient clams and Japanese oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*), and the upper layers contain those of brackish shellfishes, including Japanese basket clams. These finds attest to people's adaptation to environmental changes caused by marine transgressions and regressions.




Futatsumori Shell Midden Museum

〒039-2752
Hachimorita 181-26, Shichinohe, Aomori Prefecture
☎ 0176-68-2612 ☎ 10:00 - 16:00
🗓 Mondays (or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), the day following a national holiday, the year-end and New Year's holidays (Dec. 27 - Jan. 4)
¥ Free

Approx. 3 min. by car







6 Sannai Maruyama Site (Special Historic Site)


Aomori City, Aomori Prefecture

Iib: ca. 3,000 BCE - ca. 2,200 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 3,900 BCE - ca. 2,200 BCE)

Clay figurines


The Sannai Maruyama Site is a large hub settlement site on a terrace overlooking Mutsu Bay. The settlement comprises features such as pit dwellings (including large ones), graves, storage pits, pillar-supported structures, dumping grounds, and artificial earthen mounds. Great amounts of pots and stone tools have been excavated, as have been more than 2,000 clay figurines (the largest number recorded at any site in Japan), ritual implements, the bones of various animals and fishes, nuts (chestnuts, walnuts, etc.), and other items. These finds attest to how people at the time ingeniously used natural resources throughout the year.



Sannai Maruyama Jomon Culture Center


〒038-0031
Maruyama 305, Sannai, Aomori City, Aomori Prefecture
☎ 017-766-8282
☎ 9:00 - 17:00 (until 18:00 from Jun. to Sep. and during the Golden Week holidays)
🗓 Fourth Monday of each month (or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), the year-end and New Year's holidays (Dec. 30 - Jan. 1)
¥ Adults: 410 yen
High school and university students: 200 yen

Adjacent



Component Parts, Associated Sites, and Visitor Facilities

For the latest information on each component part/associated site and on guide reservations, please visit the relevant official website.





7 Ofune Site (Historic Site)

Hakodate City, Hokkaido


IIb: ca. 2,500 BCE - ca. 2,000 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 3,500 BCE - ca. 2,000 BCE)

Guided tour available at fixed times (Apr. to Oct.)
9:00 - 17:00 (until 16:00 from Nov. to Mar., closed from Dec. 29 to Jan. 3)

A grinding stone and a milling basin


The Ofune Site is a hub settlement site on a terrace overlooking the Pacific Ocean. It includes pit dwellings (some deeper than two meters), storage pits, graves, and artificial earthen mounds. These mounds have yielded accumulations of huge numbers of pots and stone tools, as well as scorched earth. These finds illustrate the continual performance of rituals and ceremonies over a long period of time. The bones of marine mammals (whales, etc.) and the bones of fishes (tuna, etc.) have also been unearthed, as have nuts (chestnuts, walnuts, etc.). These finds attest to the livelihood and spiritual culture of a coastal area.




Hakodate Jomon Culture Center

〒041-1613
Usujiri-cho 551-1, Hakodate, Hokkaido
☎ 0138-25-2030
🕒 9:00 - 17:00 (until 16:30 from Nov. to Mar.)
📅 Mondays (or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), last Friday of each month, the year-end and New Year's holidays (Dec. 29 - Jan. 3)
¥ Adults: 300 yen Students: 150 yen
Facility guides: Reservations required

Approx.
10 min.
by car







8 Goshono Site (Historic Site)

Ichinohe Town, Iwate Prefecture


IIb: ca. 2,500 BCE - ca. 2,000 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 2,500 BCE - ca. 2,000 BCE)

For tour guides, no reservations are required on weekends and national holidays between May and Oct. Reservations are required on other days and for groups.

Pots


The Goshono Site is a hub settlement site on a terrace along the Mabechi River. At the center of the plateau here, which stretches east-west, are a burial area accompanied by stone arrangements and ritual earthen mounds. In the surrounding area are large, mid-sized, and small pit dwellings. From the earthen mounds, not only have large numbers of pots and stone tools been unearthed, but so have burned animal bones, carbonized nuts, and ritual artifacts such as clay figurines. These finds suggest that rituals and ceremonies involving fire were performed continually at this settlement.



Goshono Jomon Museum

〒028-5316
Goshono 2, Iwadate, Ichinohe, Ninohe-gun, Iwate Prefecture
☎ 0195-32-2652 🕒 9:00 - 17:00
📅 Mondays (or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), the day following a national holiday, the year-end and New Year's holidays
¥ Adults: 300 yen
University students: 200 yen
Students up to high school: Free

Adjacent






9 Irie Site (Historic Site)

Toyako Town, Hokkaido

IIIa: ca. 1,800 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 3,500 BCE - ca. 800 BCE)

The shell layer exhibition facility is open to the public from 9:00 to 17:00.




Harpoon heads


The Irie Site is a settlement site accompanied by shell mounds on a terrace overlooking Uchiura Bay. The shell mounds have yielded bone and antler objects, such as fishhooks and harpoons, along with shells, fish bones, and marine mammal bones. These finds attest to the fishing-oriented livelihood that was pursued in the region. A grave has yielded the bones of an adult affected by muscular atrophy during childhood, indicating that this person managed to live long with paralyzed limbs, probably with the help of others in the settlement.



Irie Takasago Museum

〒049-5605
Takasago-cho 44, Toyako, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido
☎ 0142-76-5802 🕒 9:00 - 17:00
📅 Mondays (or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), the day following a national holiday, winter (Dec. 1 - Mar. 31)
¥ Adults: 150 yen
Students up to high school: 100 yen

Approx.
5 min.
on foot




Archaeological sites

Tour guides 🕒 Hours

Visitor facilities

Address 📍 Tel. ☎ Hours 🕒 Facility guides 📖 Participatory programs 🤝 Cafés / restaurants ☕ Merchandise sales 🛍️ Wi-Fi 📶 Coin-operated lockers 🗳️ Nursing Room 🏠 Wheel chairs ♿

Closing days 🗓️ Fee 💰





10 Komakino Stone Circle (Historic Site)

Aomori City, Aomori Prefecture


IIIa: ca. 2,000 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 2,000 BCE)

Reservations required
Closed in winter (Nov. 16 to Apr. 30)

Triangular stone plates

The Komakino Stone Circle is a ritual site located on a plateau extending from the western foothills of the Hakkoda Mountains. The stone circle consists of three rings surrounded by stones that partly form a fourth ring. The whole area is 55 meters in diameter. The outer two rings of the stone circle were made by placing oval stones oriented alternately in the vertical and horizontal directions. In and around the stone circle, ritual implements have been unearthed, including clay figurines, miniature pots, and triangular stone plates.




Aomori City Komakino Site Preservation Museum

〒030-0152
Sawabe 108-3, Nozawa, Aomori City, Aomori Prefecture
☎ 017-757-8665
🕒 9:00 - 17:00
📅 Year-end and New Year's holidays (Dec. 29 - Jan. 3)
¥ Free

Approx.
5 min.
by car







11 Isedotai Stone Circles (Historic Site)

Kitaakita City, Akita Prefecture


IIIa: ca. 2,000 BCE - ca. 1,700 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 2,000 BCE - ca. 1,700 BCE)

Reservations required
9:00 - 17:00 (The property is closed on days when the Museum is closed and in winter (November to late April).)

A clay figurine


The Isedotai Stone Circles is a ritual site situated on a terrace near the Yoneshiro River. Four stone circles are found close together at the terrace's northwestern edge, which commands a sweeping view of distant mountains. Each of the stone circles measures more than 30 meters in diameter, the largest measuring about 45 meters in diameter. From the area adjacent to the stone circles, large numbers of ritual implements have been unearthed, including clay figurines, animal- and bell-shaped clay objects, stone plates, three-pronged stone tools, and stone swords.




Isedotai Jomon Museum

〒018-3454
Ogatanakata 100-1, Wakigami, Kitaakita, Akita Prefecture
☎ 0186-84-8710 🕒 9:00 - 17:00
📅 Mondays (or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), the year-end and New Year's holidays (Dec. 29 - Jan. 3)
¥ Free
Facility guides: Reservations required

Adjacent








12 Oyu Stone Circles (Special Historic Site)

Kazuno City, Akita Prefecture


IIIa: ca. 2,000 BCE - ca. 1,500 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 2,000 BCE - ca. 1,500 BCE)

Reservations required
9:00 - 17:30 (until 16:00 in Nov.; closed in winter (mid-Nov. to mid-Apr.))

A clay tablet (front) A clay tablet (back)


The Oyu Stone Circles is a ritual site that centers on stone circles on a terrace along the Oyu River. It comprises the Manza Stone Circle and the Nonakado Stone Circle, with each stone circle consisting of two rings made up of river stone arrangements. Each stone circle includes sundial-like stonework and is surrounded by the remains of pillar-supported structures arranged concentrically. Large numbers of ritual implements have been unearthed around the stone circles, including clay figurines, bell-shaped clay objects and stone swords.



Oyu Stone Circles Museum

〒018-5421
Manza 45, Oyu, Towada, Kazuno, Akita Prefecture
☎ 0186-37-3822
🕒 9:00 - 18:00 (until 16:00 from Nov. to Mar.)
📅 Mondays from Nov. to Mar. (or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), the year-end and New Year's holidays (Dec. 29 - Jan. 3)
¥ Adults: 320 yen
Students up to high school: 110 yen
Facility guides: Reservations required

Adjacent



Component Parts, Associated Sites, and Visitor Facilities

For the latest information on each component part/associated site and on guide reservations, please visit the relevant official website.



13 Kiusu Earthwork Burial Circles (Historic Site)

Chitose City, Hokkaido

IIIb: ca. 1,200 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 1,200 BCE)

Reservations required for groups
9:00 - 17:00 (closed in winter; Please inquire.)



A stone rod



The Kiusu Earthwork Burial Circles is a large cemetery site on a gentle slope overlooking the Ishikari Depression. Earthwork burial circles were created by digging a circular pit and piling the excavated earth around the pit in a ring, with several pit graves inside. The site has a concentration of nine earthwork burial circles, the largest measuring 83 meters in outer diameter and 4.7 meters in height. These circles attest to unique local burial customs, a high degree of spirituality, and the increasingly complex society of those days.



Chitose City Buried Cultural Properties Center

Approx. 10 min. by car

〒066-0001
Osatsu 42-1, Chitose, Hokkaido
0123-24-4210 ☎ 9:00 - 17:00
Weekends (except the second Sunday of each month), national holidays, the year-end and New Year's holidays (Dec. 29 - Jan. 3)
¥ Free
Facility guides: Available only for groups. Please inquire.



14 Omori Katsuyama Stone Circle (Historic Site)

Hirosaki City, Aomori Prefecture

IIIb: ca. 1,000 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 1,000 BCE)

Temporarily closed for conservation work



Disc-shaped stone objects



The Omori Katsuyama Stone Circle is a ritual site accompanied by a large stone circle on a hill at the foot of Mt. Iwaki. The stone circle was made by building a round mound on artificially leveled ground and surrounding it with 77 stone assemblages. In and around the stone circle, some 250 disc-shaped stone objects that are thought to have been used as ritual implements have been unearthed. The stone circle commands a view of Mt. Iwaki towering in the hinterland, with the sun setting behind its summit on the winter solstice.



Susono District Physical Culture Exchange Center

Approx. 10 min. by car

〒036-1202
Kutsuwa 8-9, Totsurazawa, Hirosaki, Aomori Prefecture
0172-99-7072 ☎ 9:00 - 21:00
Mondays (or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), the year-end and New Year's holidays (Dec. 29 - Jan. 3)
¥ Free
Contact for inquiries regarding cultural properties, the World Heritage site, and exhibits: Hirosaki City Board of Education 0172-82-1642



15 Takasago Burial Site (Historic Site)

Toyako Town, Hokkaido

IIIb: ca. 1,000 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 3,500 BCE - ca. 800 BCE)



Clay figurines



Irie Takasago Museum

Approx. 5 min. on foot

〒049-5605
Takasago-cho 44, Toyako, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido
0142-76-5802
9:00 - 17:00
Mondays (or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), the day following a national holiday, winter (Dec. 1 - Mar. 31)
¥ Adults: 150 yen
Students up to high school: 100 yen




The Takasago Burial Site is a cemetery site on lowlands facing Uchiura Bay. The site includes shell mounds and a burial area that consists of pit graves and stone arrangements. The pit graves have yielded burial goods such as pots, stone tools, and other stone objects, and a powdered red pigment (an iron oxide known as Bengala) was sprinkled in the pit graves. Human bones have also been unearthed, including those showing traces of tooth extraction and those of a woman with an unborn baby. These finds demonstrate the funeral practices of those days.

Archaeological sites

Tour guides Hours

Visitor facilities

Address Tel. Hours Facility guides Participatory Cafés / Merchandise Wi-Fi Coin-operated Nursing Wheel Closing days ¥ Fee Audio guides programs restaurants sales lockers Room chairs




16 Kamegaoka Burial Site (Historic Site)


Tsugaru City, Aomori Prefecture

IIIb: ca. 1,000 BCE - ca. 400 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 1,000 BCE - ca. 400 BCE)


Reservations required for groups
Tour guides are on standby at the information counter located in the southern area of the Kamegaoka Burial Site (only on weekends and national holidays between Apr. and Nov.).



Beads




The Kamegaoka Burial Site is a large cemetery site on what used to be an inland bay called Paleo-Lake Jusanko, which appeared during a marine transgression. On the plateau here are many graves. On the boggy lowlands of the area that surrounds the plateau, dumping grounds were established, from which large numbers of artifacts have been unearthed, including lacquered pots, lacquered bamboo baskets, and gems. Among them, a large clay figurine (designated by the national government as an Important Cultural Property) is well known for the distinctive eyes that have earned it the description of "goggle-eyed clay figurine."



Tsugaru City Kizukuri Kamegaoka Archaeological Museum

Approx. 5 min. by car

〒038-3283
Kizukuri Tateoka Byobuzan 195, Tsugaru, Aomori Prefecture
0173-45-3450 ☎ 9:00 - 16:00
Mondays (or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), the day following a national holiday, the year-end and New Year's holidays (Dec. 29 - Jan. 3)
¥ Adults: 200 yen
High school and university students: 100 yen
Elementary and junior high school students: 50 yen
Facility guides: Available only for groups, and reservations required




17 Korekawa Site (Historic Site)


Hachinohe City, Aomori Prefecture

IIIb: ca. 1,000 BCE - ca. 400 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 4,000 BCE - ca. 400 BCE)


Temporarily closed for conservation work



Pottery



The Korekawa Site consists of the Nakai, Ichioji and Hotta sites. The Nakai Site has yielded large numbers of pots of sophisticated design, clay figurines, and lacquerware items, including lacquered bows, combs, and bracelets. These finds illustrate the high degree of spirituality and artisanship of the time. Also excavated have been hunting tools, fishing gear, nuts, fish bones, and the remains of a watering place where people are thought to have stored wood and processed nuts. These finds attest to the livelihood of that time.



Korekawa Archaeological Institution (Korekawa Jomon Kan)

Approx. 5 min. on foot

〒031-0023
Yokoyama 1, Korekawa, Hachinohe, Aomori Prefecture
0178-38-9511 ☎ 9:00 - 17:00
Mondays (or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), the day following a national holiday (except if that day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or national holiday), the year-end and New Year's holidays (Dec. 27 - Jan. 4)
¥ Adults: 250 yen
High school and university students: 150 yen
Elementary and junior high school students: 50 yen
Facility guides: Reservations required



A Associated Site Choshichiyachi Site (Historic Site)

Hachinohe City, Aomori Prefecture

Ib: ca. 6,000 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 6,000 BCE)



Fishing gear made from bones and antlers



Hachinohe City Museum

Approx. 25 min. by car

〒039-1166
Higashigamae 35-1, Nejo, Hachinohe, Aomori Prefecture
0178-44-8111 ☎ 9:00 - 17:00
Mondays (or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), the day following a national holiday (except if that day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or national holiday), the year-end and New Year's holidays (Dec. 27 - Jan. 4)
¥ Adults: 250 yen
High school and university students: 150 yen
Elementary and junior high school students: 50 yen



The Choshichiyachi Site is a settlement site located on what was once the ancient Oirase Bay, which appeared during a marine transgression. From the shell mound, large numbers of shells (including those from common Orient clams and other warm water shellfishes), fish bones, and bone and antler objects (fishhooks, harpoon heads, etc.) have been unearthed, illustrating that fishing was actively practiced.



B Associated Site Washinoki Stone Circle (Historic Site)

Mori Town, Hokkaido

IIIa: ca. 2,000 BCE (Historic Site: ca. 2,000 BCE)



Tools for worship and ceremony



Mori Town Office for Archaeological Excavation and Research

Approx. 15 min. by car

〒049-2313
Morikawa-cho 292-24, Mori, Kayabe-gun, Hokkaido
01374-3-2240 ☎ 9:00 - 16:00
Weekends, national holidays, the year-end and New Year's holidays (Dec. 30 - Jan. 5)
¥ Free



The Washinoki Stone Circle is a ritual site accompanied by one of the largest stone circles in Hokkaido. The circle consists of double outer rings with an oval stone arrangement at the center. It is approximately 37 meters in diameter. Near the stone circle are a pit burial area and the remains of stone arrangements, which illustrate the spiritual culture of that time.