Isohama Kofun Group

Isohama **Kofun Group**

National Historic Site

The Isohama Kofun Group was designated a National Historic Site on March 10, 2020.

The Isohama Kofun Group features the burial mounds (known as "kofun") of powerful leaders constructed in the late 3rd to 4th century, which is considered the early to mid-Kofun period. The group, consisting of a total of six kofun, is located on an isolated 400-meter square plateau overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

The Himezuka Kofun (constructed in the first half of the early Kofun period; 29m long, rectangular mound) is an ancient kofun that dates back to when Yavoi society in northern Ibaraki Prefecture first began to construct kofun.

The tops of both the Gohonmatsu Kofun and Gohonmatsushita Kofun have been cut away, and little is known about them.

The Bochivanovama Kofun (constructed in the latter half of the early Kofun period; 60m long, keyhole-shaped mound) is the site with the oldest haniwa clay figurines in the area.

The Hisagezuka Kofun (constructed at the end of the early Kofun period; 101m long, keyhole-shaped) contains a burial chamber constructed of clay and wood in the center of the rear circular portion, from which 4,000 grave goods were discovered, including intricately crafted stone models, mirrors, etc.

The Kurumazuka Kofun (constructed at the beginning of the mid-Kofun period; 88m in diameter, circular) is one of the largest dome-shaped burial mounds in Japan. The entire surface is thatched in stones, and its three terraces are lined with broadrimmed, cylindrical haniwa clay figurines.

The fact that it was constructed in the newest shape for the time period as well as the burial facilities, grave goods, stone thatching, and haniwa clay figurines found here indicated a connection with the Yamato Kingdom. This kofun calls to mind images of the generations of leaders who governed water traffic at the mouth of the Naka River and controlled the distribution network of goods.

In the late Edo period, the entire Hisagezuka Kofun was used as a coastal defense encampment by the Mito Domain, which monitored foreign vessels,





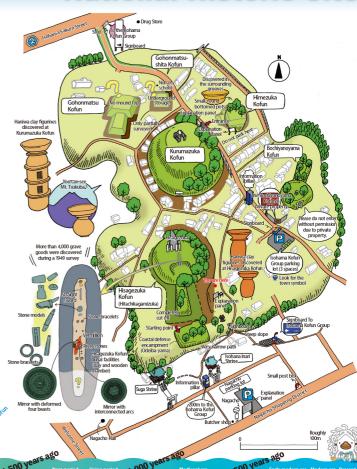




For inquiries relating to the Isohama Kofun Group

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Donated by the Oarai Rotary Club

