



Cupeled silver

Historic Site

生野銀山

Ikuno Silver Mine
IKUNO GINZAN



■ **Access** (times shown are approximate)

Ban-Tan Expressway
from Himeji/Fukusaki, exit by Ikuno Ramp and drive along access road (10 min).
from Toyooka/Wadayama, exit by Ikuno North Ramp 1 and drive along access road (10 min).

JR
from Ikuno station, take a bus (8 min) to the Ikunoginzanguchi stop and walk (10 min).

■ **Business Hours**

April through October: 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.
November: 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
December through February: 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
March: 9:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

** Visitors are requested to enter the tour tunnel at least 40 minutes before the closing time.*

■ **Days Closed**

Tuesdays (only for the three months of December through February; if a Tuesday coincides with a national holiday, closed on the next day)
Year-end and New Year holidays

Super idol of the underground
"GINZAN BOYZ" now DEBUT!

Who are the GINZAN BOYZ?

See the website now!
<http://www.ikuno-ginzan.co.jp/ginzan-boys/>
Look for your favorite BOYZ and explore the underground!

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With its discovery reportedly going as far back as the year 807, the Ikuno Silver Mine would see the start of full-scale mining activities by 1542 during the reign of Suketoyo Yamana. Its operations launched in the Muromachi era would remain active through the reigns of both Oda and Toyotomi families to reach their height in the Edo era. In 1868, the mine would be placed under the direct control of the government and rendered the services of a government-appointed French engineer in the person of Jean Francisque Coignet, who, upon arrival, would implement a series of forward-thinking programs to help modernize the mine dramatically. The title to the mine would be transferred to the Bureau of Imperial Estates of the Imperial Household Ministry in 1889, thus making it the property of the Imperial court. It would then be vouchsafed to Mitsubishi Goshi Kaisha (limited partnership) in 1896 to operate as one of Japan's leading mines until its closure in 1973. The tunnel bored in the course of its life measures, at least, an astounding 350 km in total length and 880 m in depth. The ore collected from the mine varies widely in type and can account for more than 70 categories.

The Tour Tunnel

The modern-era tunnel known as Kanagase-ko is made open to the public to serve as a lasting vestige of the golden days of the historical mine. The elevator-equipped shaft which the miners pinned their lives on as they delved into the depths of the earth as well as the massive winch drum is simply a sight to see and is definitely worth your while. Go along the properly maintained tunnel and view the veins and the still-vivid scars in the walls left by the chisels of those who crawled through the tunnel while cherry-picking likely areas to mine during the Edo era.



Ikuno Silver Mine Cultural Museum

(2F of the Ikuno Mineral Pavilion)

* A separate fee required for admission.

The exhibits are captivating in terms of both number and kind: those themed on the history and culture of the Ikuno Silver Mine and on the science of mining; valuable ore samples (more than 800 items), headed by Ikonolite and Sakuraiite (yields from the mine); and full-size models of the Edo-era tunnel.



Exhibits of Mineral Samples

Chronology of the Ikuno Silver Mine

Year	Event
807	A silver mine is found. (The mine's discovery has traditionally been dated to the year 807.)
1542	Silver stones are spotted on the south face of mount Kojozan (according to the Ginzan chronicles) to be followed by copious yields of silver.
1578	Nobunaga Oda appoints a magistrate to preside over Ikuno.
1582	The Honnoji incident occurs. Hideyoshi Toyotomi appoints a magistrate to preside over Ikuno.
1600	Ieyasu Tokugawa comes into power and installs a magistrate's office in Ikuno.
1868	The mine is placed under the supervision of the Meiji government. Modernization of its management starts under the direction of the French engineer Jean Francisque Coignet.
1889	The mine becomes the property of the Imperial court.
1896	The mine is vouchsafed to Mitsubishi Goshi Kaisha (limited partnership).
1973	Haulage from inside the tunnel is suspended primarily because of the depletion of the ore. The Mining department ceases its operations.
1974	The area is opened to the public as the historic site Ikuno Silver Mine.
2007	The mine is designated as Heritage of Industrial Modernization.
2014	The mine is selected as Important Cultural Landscape.
2016	The mine receives one star in Michelin Green Guide Hyogo WEB version.
2017	The mine is designated as Japan Heritage. (the Remains of Ikuno Mine)



Cultural Property
(designated by the City of Asago)

Gate Posts Bearing the Imperial Crest of the Chrysanthemum (Japan Heritage Configuration Assets)

The posts were installed in 1876 as part of the main entrance to the Ikuno works.

Gate to the Magistrate's Office



Cultural Property
(designated by the City of Asago)

Remains of the Former Kanagase Mine (cluster of outcrops)

Go up the steps found to the side of the tunnel entrance to view the remains of a strip mine. An outcrop is a part of a geological stratum exposed above the ground surface; in the days of old, people burrowed their way into the ground upon its discovery. Shown in the photo is what remains of an area of strip-mining known for its sweeping expanse of outcrops (Keijuhji).



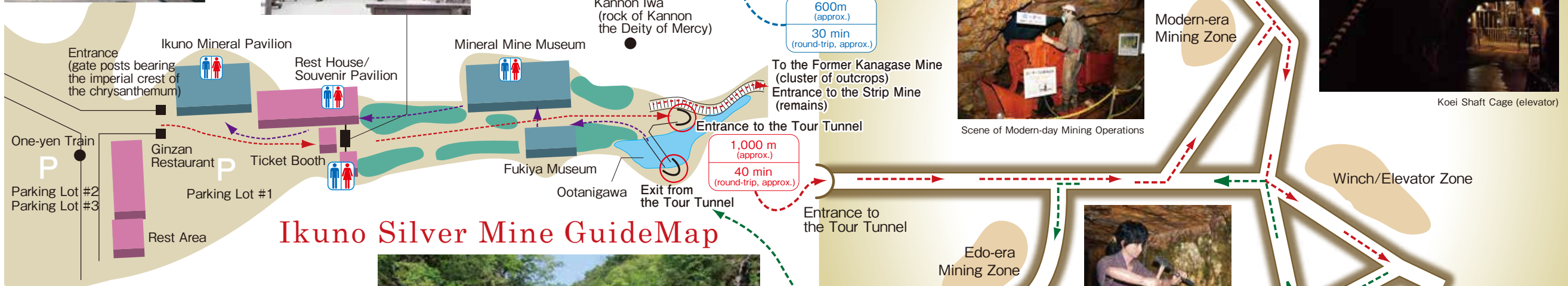
Vestige of Shrinkage Mining Operations



Koei Shaft Cage (elevator)

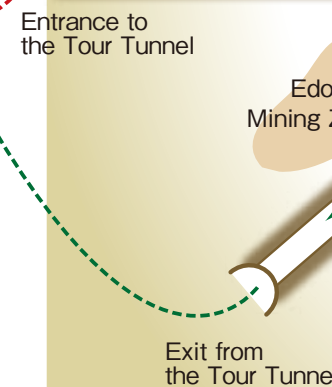


Scene of Modern-day Mining Operations



Entrance to the Kanagase Mine (Japan Heritage Configuration Assets)

The arched French-style stonework entrance of the tunnel designed by Jean-François Coignet is yet another enduring relic of the days when the tunnel was first being opened.



Edo-era Surveyor Taking Measurements Inside the Tunnel



Edo-era Mining (cherry-picking operation)



Transport Vehicle (for workmen)