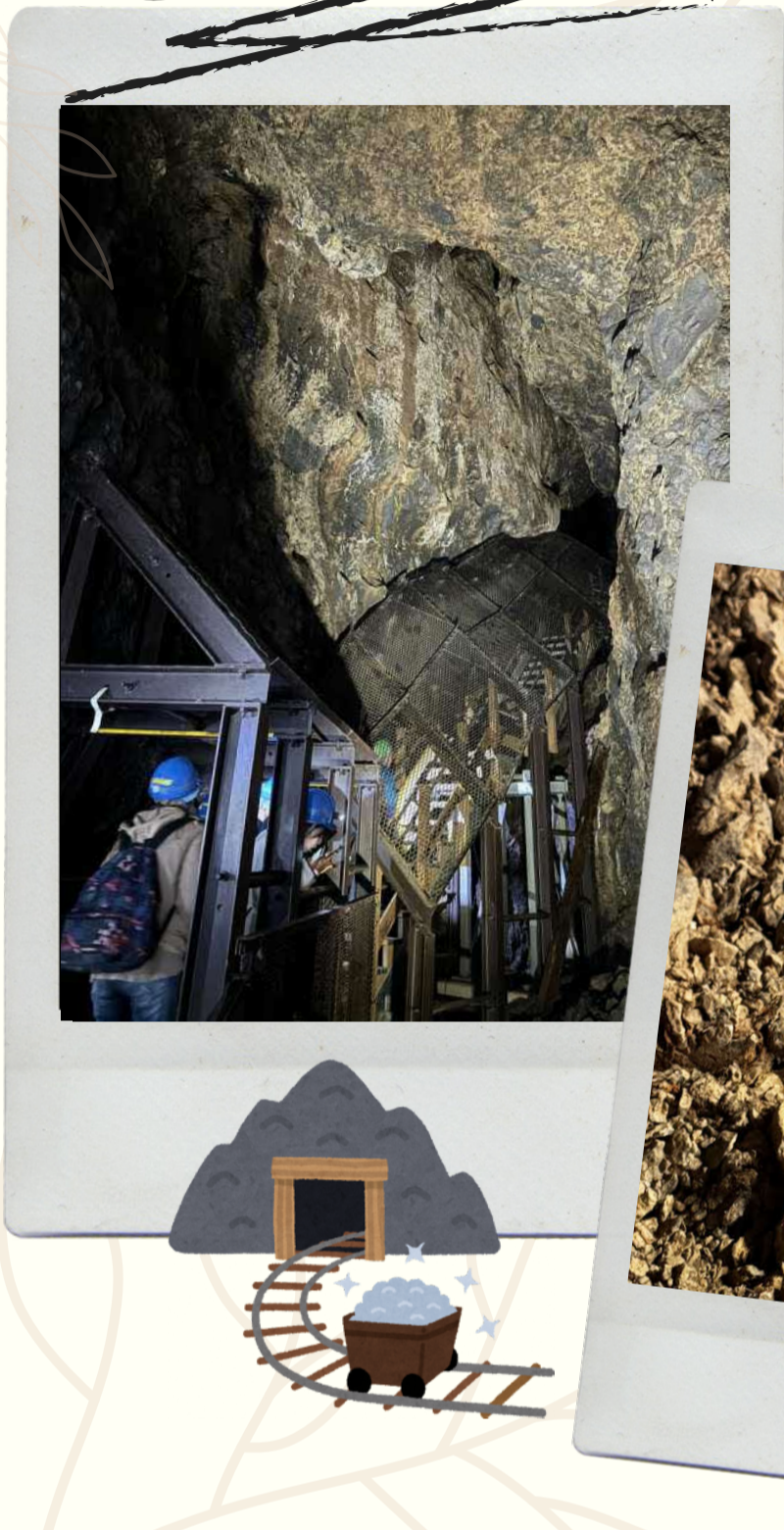


Historical Shimane!

Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine Omori Town Yunotsu Town



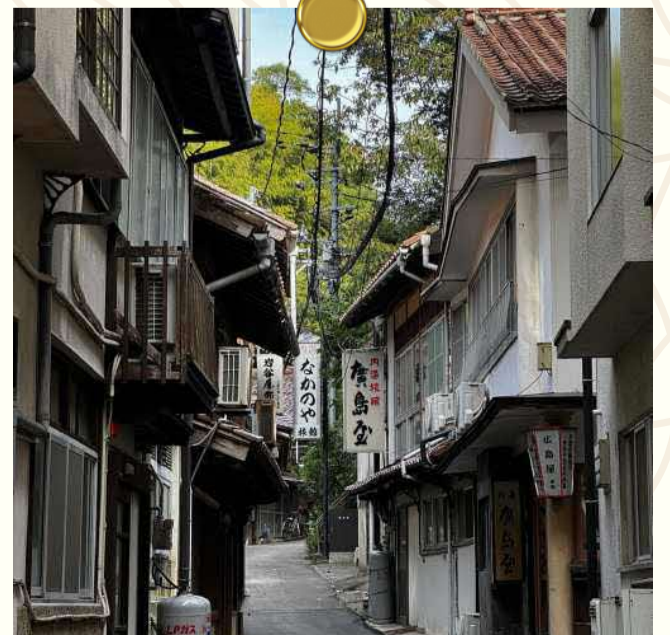
Discovered in 1527, the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine became one of the world's leading silver producers, flourishing for 400 years. At its peak, it supplied most of Japan's silver, making up nearly a third of global output. Recognised as Asia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007, Iwami Ginzan was honoured for its rich history and exceptional harmony with nature. Today, visitors can explore not only the mine itself but also its network of ports and nearby hot springs, which together offer a unique experience of Japan's silver heritage and the area's scenic environment.



Entering the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine is a journey back in time, offering an authentic glimpse into the daily life of miners centuries ago. As you step inside, the cool, damp air envelops you, and the darkness grows thicker with each step, broken only by soft lights guiding your path. The narrow, winding tunnels were once alive with the sounds of miners chiselling away at the stone, and it's easy to imagine the intense labour they endured. In winter, bats hibernate in the quiet corners of the tunnels, lending an even deeper sense of stillness to the mine. The experience is both haunting and humbling, a rare chance to see, hear, and feel the atmosphere that shaped this once-thriving silver mine.

Nestled near the historic Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine, the towns of Omori and Yunotsu in Shimane offer visitors a captivating blend of history, culture, and relaxation – perfect for those seeking an authentic Japanese experience. Omori Town, once a bustling hub for the silver trade, retains its Edo-period charm with beautifully preserved merchant houses, traditional architecture, shrines, and temples. Wandering through its streets feels like stepping back in time, with local cafés, craft shops, and museums showcasing the area's rich heritage. The community has also been working to revitalise the area by blending historical buildings with modern, sustainable innovations, which create a unique but harmonious blend of past traditions and modern living.

A short journey from Omori, Yunotsu Town offers a serene escape into traditional Japan. Renowned for its ancient hot springs, Yunotsu invites visitors to relax in mineral-rich waters at its traditional onsen inns, cherished for their rejuvenating properties. As part of the Iwami Ginzan UNESCO World Heritage Site and celebrating the 20th anniversary of being designated an Important Traditional Building Preservation District, the town's timeless charm shines through its narrow streets, lined with traditional ryokan and cosy tea houses. The red roof tiles produced in the area make it special, adding a unique character to the town's aesthetic. At dusk, lantern-lit pathways create a magical atmosphere, perfect for exploring artisan workshops or enjoying regional cuisine. Yunotsu cuisine highlights the region's natural bounty, crafted from fresh seafood from the Sea of Japan, locally grown vegetables, and rice. Nearby towns work together to revitalise the community, preserving traditions and creating a warm, authentic experience.



Together, Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine, Omori and Yunotsu offer a harmonious blend of history, culture, and relaxation, making them ideal destinations for those seeking an authentic and unforgettable Japanese experience.