

Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan



Hollow clay figurine
(national treasure)

Chobonaino Site, Hakodate City, Hokkaido Pref.



Goggle-eyed clay figurine
(important cultural property)

Kamegaoka Burial Site, Tsugaru City, Aomori Pref.



Large-size flat clay figurine
(important cultural property)

Sannai Maruyama Site, Aomori City, Aomori Pref.



Goggle-eyed clay figurine
(important cultural property)

Nimaibashi Site No. 2, Mutsu City, Aomori Pref.



Flat clay figurine
(cultural property designated by Akita Prefecture)

Isedotai Stone Circles, Kitaakita City, Akita Pref.



Clay figurine with clasped hands
(national treasure)

Kazahari Site No. 1, Hachinohe City, Aomori Pref.

The Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan consist of 17 archaeological sites located in the southern part of Hokkaido Island and the northern part of the Honshu Island of the Japanese archipelago. This property is a valuable cultural heritage demonstrating the pre-agricultural way of life and complex spiritual culture of prehistoric people who lived based on gathering, fishing, and hunting for a very long period of time, more than 10,000 years.

Value of Jomon prehistoric sites

Jomon prehistoric sites unique to the Japanese archipelago

The beginning of *Jomon* period dates back some 15,000 years before present, when the climate of the Japanese archipelago became warmer rapidly. Forests of deciduous broad-leaved trees expanded and produced a lot of acorns, chestnuts and walnuts. Landforms and environmental conditions became more suitable for fish and shellfish to grow. As a result, the Japanese archipelago saw rich biological diversity of an exceptional degree even in the global context.

Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan is a unique prehistoric culture that existed in the Japanese archipelago and lasted for over 10,000 years. People were able to lead a sustainable life in harmony with the bountiful nature and managed to adapt adeptly to changes in climate and the natural environment. It is characterized by the earliest pottery-making in the world and the establishment of villages where people were able to live a stable life.

Jomon prehistoric sites is distinctive as compared with contemporaneous Neolithic sites in other parts of the world in that it achieved sedentism based on gathering, fishing, and hunting as the basis of livelihood without opting for full-fledged agriculture or stockbreeding and that it enjoyed harmonious society. It is an extremely important culture in the history of humankind.



Jomon pochette (important cultural property)

A small, 16cm-tall basket woven with bark strips, unearthed with a walnut in it. The only example of an archaeological artifact of this kind found in its complete form. [Sannai Maruyama Site, Aomori City, Aomori Pref.]

Sedentism



Earliest potshards unearthed in Japan

Shards of pottery with no patterns on them, dating from approx. 15,000 years ago. Traces of cooking remain. [Odai Yamamoto Site, Sotogahama Town, Aomori Pref.]

Adapting to the natural environment at that time, *Jomon* people invented tools, such as pots, bows, arrows, and fishhooks. They gradually changed to sedentism, while continuing to make livelihood based on gathering, fishing, and hunting. They built pit dwellings and eventually villages. Within a village, dwellings and tombs were made. Some villages became large to function as regional centers. Monuments such as large pillared structures, ceremonial earth mounds, and stone circles were also constructed.

These villages did not have defensive moats or walls around them, indicating that *Jomon* people had peaceful, harmonious society. In addition, they conducted active long-distance exchanges and trades across the sea and beyond mountains, as is evidenced in the existence of jade, asphalt, and obsidian in places where they do not occur naturally. Lacquerware, accessories, and ceremonial clay figurines have been unearthed, showing the sophisticated spirituality of *Jomon* people.

Ecological Jomon

Jomon people made livelihood based on gathering, fishing, and hunting, making various tools for these purposes. These artifacts show how they tried to improve their hunting and fishing methods and cooking methods.



Fishhooks, harpoon heads, pendants, and other objects made of deer bone etc. [Irie Site, Toyako Town, Hokkaido Pref.]

Trade and exchange across the strait



Stone instruments made of obsidian of Hokkaido origin

[Sannai Maruyama Site, Aomori City, Aomori Pref.]



Bracelets made of the shell of *Glycymeris albolineata*

[Tagoyano Site, Tsugaru City, Aomori Pref.]

Jomon people conducted active trade and exchange, even across the Tsugaru Strait between Hokkaido and Aomori Prefecture, for goods such as obsidian and shellfish accessories.

Harmony with nature

During the *Jomon* period, Northern Japan was covered by beech forests and other deciduous broad-leaved trees. The ecosystems of rich biodiversity provided *Jomon* people with access to diverse natural resources, both forest products and marine resources, on a sustainable basis. As a result, their lives lasted for over 10,000 years.

In the surrounding areas of the villages, many useful trees such as chestnut trees, walnut trees, and lacquer trees were planted, forming "*Jomon Satoyama*", or productive ecosystems modified with human intervention. In particular, it is likely that chestnut trees were more or less cultivated for food and timber.

Although there were global climate change, environmental change, and natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and tsunamis, *Jomon* people managed to adapt and overcome these difficulties.



Unearthed nut pits:
chestnuts (top)
and walnuts (bottom)
[Sannai Maruyama Site,
Aomori City,
Aomori Pref.]



From *Jomon* to the present

Jomon period lasted over 10,000 years up to around 400 years BCE, when full-fledged rice cultivation started in the Japanese archipelago. It does not mean that it was a stagnant culture or a primitive culture. **Instead it was a mature society of its own complete with excellent craftsmanship and sophisticated spirituality.**

There are many things that people living today can learn from *Jomon* prehistoric sites, such as wisdom and practice of incorporating the bountiful blessings of nature into daily lives, life with nature, and care for family and friends. **It is important that we pass *Jomon* prehistoric sites on to future generations.**



Feathers-wearing *Jomon* person,
depicted on a potshard.
[Goshono Site, Ichinohe Town, Iwate Pref.]



Clay tablet (cultural property designated by Akita Prefecture)
Dots marked on the tablet are construed as representing
a human body and/or numerical concepts.
[Oyu Stone Circles, Kazuno City, Akita Pref.]

Craftsmanship of *Jomon* people



Lacquered bamboo basket
[Korekawa Site, Hachinohe City, Aomori Pref.]

Lacquerware of different types has been unearthed from *Jomon* prehistoric sites, including earthen pots, baskets, bows, combs, and earrings. An earthen pot with pigment in it and a piece of cloth that was used to filter lacquer have also been discovered. Because it is not easy to use lacquer, it is probable that there were craftsmen who had special skills. The earliest lacquerware unearthed so far in the world was found at the Kakinoshima Site in Hakodate City, Hokkaido.

Rich spirituality of *Jomon* people



A sword made of whale bone
[Kitakogane Site, Date City, Hokkaido Pref.]



Triangular rock plates
[Komakino Stone Circle, Aomori City, Aomori Pref.]



Clay blocks with footprints
[Kakinoshima Site, Hakodate City, Hokkaido Pref.]

Objects probably used for rituals such as clay figurines, stone bars, and rock plates have been unearthed. They are made of various materials, and in various shapes. It is thought that they were used to wish for good catch and safety, to pray for funeral purposes, or to show power.

The clay tablets imprinted with hands or feet of a child might be associated with parents caring for their children.

Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan

A treasury of Jomon prehistoric sites

Northern Japan has excellent natural environment still today, as is exemplified by World Natural Heritage properties, *Shirakami-Sanchi* (in Aomori and Akita Prefectures) and *Shiretoko* (in Hokkaido). This is also an area where Jomon prehistoric sites are concentrated as compared with other areas of the Japanese archipelago and that in a good state of conservation. There are many invaluable archaeological sites that bear testimony to the wisdom and ingenuity of our ancestors.

The national government of Japan designates archaeological sites of high academic and historical value as historic sites, out of which those of particularly high academic value that can be considered to be a symbol of Japanese culture are designated as special historic sites.

Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan consist of 17 component parts that are designated either as historic sites or as special historic sites such as Sannai Maruyama Site and Oyu Stone Circles.



Time capsules of Jomon period

Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan consist of archaeological sites (settlement sites, shell middens where bones are well preserved, and low wetland sites where organic materials are well preserved) and monuments (stone circles and earthwork burial circles). The former is associated with the beginning of sedentism, the maturation of society, and *Jomon* people's life and livelihood. The latter is associated with the development and sophistication of spirituality.

These prehistoric sites are located in various places ranging from coastal areas to hills, lake sides, and river basins, indicating sustainable land uses of *Jomon* people adapting to different environments without inflicting too much load on the natural environment.

The southern part of Hokkaido and the northern part of Tohoku, centering around the Tsugaru Strait, were culturally integral throughout the *Jomon* period.

This so-called Tsugaru Strait Cultural Area is characterized by the world's earliest pottery and lacquerware and large-scale stone circles. Also, clay figurines showing rich spirituality and artistic character have been found in high density. The influence of this area extended to other areas through active long-distance trade and exchange.

Jomon collection

A large jade ring

[Sannai Maruyama Site, Aomori City, Aomori Pref.]
Jade had been brought from Niigata Prefecture, approx.. 700 km away from Aomori Prefecture.



A clay figure in the shape of a squid

[Washinoki Site (No. 4), Mori Town, Hokkaido Pref.]

A rice-stuffed squid is coincidentally a local specialty of Mori Town.

Lacquered earthenware

[Kamegaoka Burial Site, Tsugaru City, Aomori Pref.]
This earthen dish is beautifully colored with red and black lacquer.



A comb made of antler







[Futatsumori Site, Shichinohe Town, Aomori Pref.]
An 11cm-long comb made of antler exhibits sophisticated craftsmanship.



Story of 10,000 years

The *Jomon* period is divided into six periods, depending on the characteristics of pottery and other factors. Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan contain 17 archaeological sites dating from each of these periods, covering the distinctive characteristics of all these periods, so that the series can collectively tell a complete story of prehistoric sedentary, which lasted for more than 10,000 years, while experiencing the *Jomon* transgression, climate change, and changes in natural environment.

Chronological table of the *Jomon* period vis-a-vis world history

Years	Period	Major events in Japan	Events in the world	Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan	The characteristics of <i>Jomon</i> pottery in Northern Japan
13,000 BCE	Paleolithic Period	• Microlithic culture spreads in the Japanese archipelago.	• Peking Man. • Mural paintings of the Lascaux Cave are drawn.		
9,000 BCE	Incipient <i>Jomon</i>	• The use of pots and bows and arrows starts; sedentism advances; and villages appear.	• The earliest temple (Goheklitepe) is built in Turkey.	• Odai Yamamoto Site	 The earliest, undecorated pottery (ca. 15,000 years before present) [Odai Yamamoto Site]
5,000 BCE	Initial <i>Jomon</i>	• Climate warming progresses and the sea level rises (<i>Jomon</i> transgression). • Shell middens appear.	• Rice cultivation starts in the downstream area of the Yangzi River. • Agriculture (rye) starts in the Mesopotamia region.	• Kakinoshima Site	 Patterns appear on the pottery, ranging from rouletted impressions, to seashell-incised patterns and then code patterns. The number of pots with the pointed bottom increases. Akamido style [Choshichiyachi Site]
3,000 BCE	Early <i>Jomon</i>	• The number of settlements increases and some settlements become regional centers. • Technique of using lacquer develops.	• Chinese civilization starts. • Mesopotamian civilization starts.	• Kitakogane Site • Tagoyano Site • Futatsumori Site	 Flat-bottomed pots decorated with various code patterns (old <i>Ento</i> style) is made. Old Ento style [Sannai Maruyama Site]
2,000 BCE	Middle <i>Jomon</i>	• Large settlements develop into regional centers. • Trade of jade, obsidian, etc. flourishes.	• Indus civilization starts. • Pyramid of Khufu is built.	• Ofune Site • Sannai Maruyama Site • Goshono Site	 Pots decorated with clay strings (new <i>Ento</i> style) is made. New Ento style [Goshono Site]
1,000 BCE	Late <i>Jomon</i>	• Large settlements that appeared in the Middle <i>Jomon</i> period decline and settlements become scattered and decentralized. • Stone circles appear.	• The Code of Hammurabi • Yin Dynasty China • Tutankhamen	• Irie Site • Oyu Stone Circles • Isedotai Stone Circles • Komakino Stone Circle	 The pots become thinner and the linear patterns combined with code patterns appear. Irie style [Irie Site]
400 BCE	Final <i>Jomon</i>	• Many tools for rituals such as goggle-eyed clay figurines and clay masks are made, and accessories also become diverse. • Rice farming is introduced to northern Kyushu.	• The "Spring and Autumn" period and the Warring States period of China	• Takasago Burial Site • Kamegaoka Burial Site • Korekawa Site • Kiusu Earthwork Burial Circles • Omori Katsuyama Stone Circle	 Elaborately decorated <i>Kamegaoka</i> -style pottery is made. Kamegaoka style [Kamegaoka Burial Site]
	Yayoi Period	Yoshinogari Site flourishes.	• China is unified by Qin Dynasty. • Colosseum is built.		

Conservation and promotion

Many of the Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan are open to the public as archaeological parks for the purposes of conservation and promotion. Many NGOs provide guided tours introducing the charm and value of the archaeological sites to visitors, organize events for visitors to experience Jomon prehistoric sites, and disseminate information widely through various means. Local people, NGOs, and local governments are working together to interpret the value of Jomon prehistoric sites and pass it on to future generations.



Hands-on pottery-making program
[Omori Katsuyama Stone Circle, Hirosaki City, Aomori Pref.]



Self-guide tablet device (available in English)
[Sannai Maruyama Site, Aomori City, Aomori Pref.]

Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan

The interpretation facilities located at the individual Jomon prehistoric sites are introduced below. Check the official website of the Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan for further detail:

- 📍 Name and address of the interpretation facility
- 🕒 Opening hours
- 📅 Closing days
- 💰 Fee
- 🌐 Website
- 🗨️ Inquiries (when different from the interpretation facility)
- 📖 Tour guides (available in English)
- 👤 Available hands-on programs
- 🅐 Parking
- 📶 Wi-Fi

1 Ofune Site



- 📍 **Hakodate City Jomon Culture Center**
551-1 Usujiri-cho, Hakodate City, Hokkaido
+81 138 25 2030
- 🕒 9:00~17:00 from April to October
9:00~16:30 from November to March
- 📅 Closed on Mondays, on last Friday of each month, and the year-end holidays and New Year holidays
- 💰 Adults JPY 300
Students JPY 150
- 🌐 http://www.hjcc.jp/index_e.html
<https://www.city.hakodate.hokkaido.jp/docs/2017122200117/> (only in Japanese)
- 📞 Hakodate City Board of Education
+81 138 21 3563



2 Kakinoshima Site



- 📍 **Hakodate City Jomon Culture Center**
551-1 Usujiri-cho, Hakodate City, Hokkaido
+81 138 25 2030
- 🕒 9:00~17:00 from April to October
9:00~16:30 from November to March
- 📅 Closed on Mondays, on last Friday of each month, and the year-end holidays and New Year holidays
- 💰 Adults JPY 300
Students JPY 150
- 🌐 http://www.hjcc.jp/index_e.html
<https://www.city.hakodate.hokkaido.jp/docs/2017122200117/> (only in Japanese)
- 📞 Hakodate City Board of Education
+81 138 21 3563



3 Kiusu Earthwork Burial Circles



- 📍 **Chitose City Buried Cultural Properties Center**
42-1 Osatsu, Chitose City, Hokkaido
+81 123 24 4210
- 🕒 9:00~17:00
- 📅 Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and the year-end holidays and New Year holidays, except for the second Sunday of the month
- 💰 Free
- 🌐 <https://www.city.chitose.lg.jp/docs/95-43785-169-915.html> (only in Japanese)



4 Kitakogane Site



- 📍 **KitaKogane Site Information Center**
75 Kitakogane-cho, Date City, Hokkaido
+81 142 24 2122
- 🕒 9:00~17:00
- 📅 Closed from December to March
- 💰 Free
- 🌐 <https://www.city.date.hokkaido.jp/funkawan/detail/00003112.html> (only in Japanese)



5 Irie Site



- 📍 **Irie Takasago Museum**
44 Takasago-cho, Toyako Town, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido
+81 142 76 5802
- 🕒 9:00~17:00
- 📅 Closed on Mondays and from December to March
- 💰 Adults JPY 150
Students up to high school JPY 100
- 🌐 <http://www.town.toyako.hokkaido.jp/syakaikyoiuiku/page37/index.html> (only in Japanese)
- 📞 Toyako Town Board of Education
+81 142 74 3010



6 Takasago Burial Site



- 📍 **Irie Takasago Museum**
44 Takasago-cho, Toyako Town, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido
+81 142 76 5802
- 🕒 9:00~17:00
- 📅 Closed on Mondays and from December to March
- 💰 Adults JPY 150
Students up to high school JPY 100
- 🌐 <http://www.town.toyako.hokkaido.jp/syakaikyoiuiku/page37/index.html> (only in Japanese)
- 📞 Toyako Town Board of Education
+81 142 74 3010



7 Sannai Maruyama Site



- 📍 **Sannai Maruyama Jomon Culture Center**
305 Aza-Maruyama, Sannai, Aomori City, Aomori Pref. +81 17 766 8282
- 🕒 9:00~18:00 from June to September and the "Golden week" holidays from the end of April to the early May
9:00~17:00 from October to May (excluding the "Golden Week")
- 📅 Closed on the fourth Monday, and the year-end holidays and New Year holidays
- 💰 Adults JPY 410 High school and university students JPY 200
Children (incl. elementary and junior high school students): Free
- 🌐 <https://sannaimaruyama.pref.aomori.jp/english>



8 Komakino Stone Circle



- 📍 **Aomori City Komakino Site Preservation Museum**
108-3 Aza-Sawabe, Oaza-Nozawa, Aomori City, Aomori Pref.
+81 17 757 8665
- 🕒 9:00~17:00
- 📅 Closed on the year-end holidays and New Year holidays (Komakino Site closed from 16 November to 30 April)
- 💰 Free
- 🌐 <http://komakinosite.jp> (only in Japanese)



9 Omori Katsuyama Stone Circle



- 📍 **Susono District Physical Culture Exchange Center**
8-9 Aza-Kutsuwa, Totsurazawa, Hirosaki City, Aomori Pref.
+81 17 299 7072
- 🕒 9:00~21:00
- 📅 Closed on Mondays, and the year-end holidays and New Year holidays
- 💰 Free
- 📞 Hirosaki City Board of Education
+81 172 82 1642



10 Korekawa Site



- Korekawa Archaeological Institution**
1 Aza-Yokoyama, Korekawa,
Hachinohe City, Aomori Pref.
+81 178 38 9511
- 9:00~17:00
- Closed on Monday (except for the first
Monday of the month and holidays)
Closed on the day following a holiday (except
when it falls on a Saturday or Sunday)
Closed on the year-end holidays and New
Year holidays
- Adults JPY 250
High school and university students JPY 150
Elementary and junior high school students JPY 50
- [https://www.korekawa-jomon.jp/
english-toppage/](https://www.korekawa-jomon.jp/english-toppage/)

15 Goshono Site



- Goshono Jomon Museum**
2 Aza-Goshono, Iwadate, Ichinohe
Town, Ninohe-gun, Iwate Pref.
+81 195 32 2652
- 9:00~17:00
- Closed on Monday (except for
holidays), the day following a holiday
(except when it falls on a Saturday or
Sunday), the year-end holidays and
New Year holidays
- Adults JPY 300
University students JPY 200
Children (incl. elementary and high
school students): Free
- <http://goshono-iseki.com/en>

11 Tagoyano Site



- Tsugaru City Jomon Dwelling
Museum**
59-1 Kizukuri Wakamidori, Tsugaru
City, Aomori Pref. +81 173 42 6490
- 9:00~16:00
- Closed on Mondays, following day of
national holidays, and the year-end
holidays and New Year holidays
- Adults JPY 200
High school and university students JPY 100
Elementary and junior high school students JPY 50
- [https://www.city.tsugaru.aomori.jp/
soshiki/kyoiku/syakaikyoku/
sihakukan/1788.html](https://www.city.tsugaru.aomori.jp/soshiki/kyoiku/syakaikyoku/sihakukan/1788.html) (only in Japanese)
- Tsugaru City Board of Education
+81 173 49 1194

16 Oyu Stone Circles



- Oyu Stone Circles Museum**
45 Aza-Manza, Oyu, Towada, Kazuno
City, Akita Pref.
+81 186 37 3822
- 9:00~18:00 from April to October
9:00~16:00 from November to March
- Closed on Mondays from November to
March, and the year-end holidays and
New Year holidays
- Adults JPY 320
Students up to high school JPY 110
- [https://www.city.kazuno.akita.jp/
kanko_bunka_sports/bunkazai/](https://www.city.kazuno.akita.jp/kanko_bunka_sports/bunkazai/)
(only in Japanese)

12 Kamegaoka Burial Site



- Tsugaru City Kizukuri Kamegaoka
Archaeological Museum**
195 Byobuzan, Kizukuri Tateoka,
Tsugaru City, Aomori Pref.
+81 173 45 3450
- 9:00~16:00
- Closed on Mondays, following day of
national holidays, and the year-end
holidays and New Year holidays
- Adults JPY 200
High school and university students JPY 100
Elementary and junior high school students JPY 50
- [https://www.city.tsugaru.aomori.jp/
soshiki/kyoiku/syakaikyoku/
sihakukan/1789.html](https://www.city.tsugaru.aomori.jp/soshiki/kyoiku/syakaikyoku/sihakukan/1789.html) (only in Japanese)
- Tsugaru City Board of Education
+81 173 49 1194

17 Isedotai Stone Circles



- Isedotai Jomon Museum**
100-1 Ogatanakata, Wakigami,
Kitaakita City, Akita Pref.
+81 186 84 8710
- 9:00~17:00
- Closed on Mondays and the year-end
holidays and New Year holidays
- Free
- [https://www.city.kitaakita.akita.jp/
isedotai/index.html](https://www.city.kitaakita.akita.jp/isedotai/index.html)

13 Odai Yamamoto Site



- Sotogahama Oyama Furusato Shiryokan**
34-3 Kanita-Odaisawabe,
Sotogahama Town, Higashi
Tsugaru-gun, Aomori Pref.
+81 174 22 2577
- 9:00~16:00
- Closed on Mondays and the year-end
holidays and New Year holidays
- Free
- Sotogahama Town Board of
Education
+81 174 31 1233

Associated Sites Washinoki Stone Circle



- Mori Town Office for Archaeological
Excavation and Research**
292-24 Morikawa-cho, Mori Town,
Kayabe-gun, Hokkaido
+81 1374 3 2240
- 9:00~16:00
- Closed on Saturdays, Sundays,
holidays, and the year-end holidays
and New Year holidays
- Free
- [http://www.town.hokkaido-mori.lg.jp/
bunya/stone/](http://www.town.hokkaido-mori.lg.jp/bunya/stone/) (only in Japanese)

14 Futatsumori Site



- Futatsumori Historic Site Park**
43 Kaizukaenomae, Shichinohe Town,
Kamikita-gun, Aomori Pref.
- Closed in winter
- Free
- [https://www.shichinohe-kankou.jp/
futatsumorikaizuka/](https://www.shichinohe-kankou.jp/futatsumorikaizuka/)
(only in Japanese)
- Shichinohe Town Board of Education
+81 176 58 5530

Associated Sites Choshichiyachi Site



- Hachinohe City Museum**
35-1 Aza-Higashi-gamae, Nejo,
Hachinohe City, Aomori Pref.
+81 178 44 8111
- 9:00~17:00
- Closed on Monday (except for the first
Monday of the month and holidays)
Closed on the day following a holiday
(except when it falls on a Saturday or Sunday)
Closed on the year-end holidays and
New Year holidays
- Adults JPY 250
High school and university students JPY 150
Elementary and junior high school students JPY 50
- [http://www.hachinohe.ed.jp/
haku/index.html](http://www.hachinohe.ed.jp/haku/index.html) (only in Japanese)

Information on 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>]



Logo of Jomon prehistoric sites

The central figure in the logo represents *Jomon* pottery as well as the map of Northern Japan (Hokkaido and northern Tohoku): the vortex representing the *Tsugaru* Strait symbolizes the powerfulness of *Jomon* culture. The color is that of pottery and lacquerware characteristic of this culture. Darker areas mark the locations of the 17 Jomon sites. The two Chinese characters signify *Jomon* (literally, "cord pattern"): "JOMON JAPAN", short for the *Jomon* culture of Japan, is also a reminder that natural lacquer known today as Japan dates back to this period.



Access



Site tour rules

Thank you for your kind cooperation to pass on our common invaluable treasure to future generations.

- No unauthorized vehicles, motorbikes, or bicycles are permitted to enter the archaeological site.
- Visitors are not permitted to enter restricted areas.
- Eating and drinking are not permitted within the archaeological site.
- No pets are allowed within the archaeological site (except for guide dogs, service dogs, and hearing dogs).
- Take back your trash.
- Smoking is prohibited at all places except for designated smoking areas.
- Pay attention to and follow the specific rules and instructions at individual archaeological sites and facilities.

Proposing local governments of the Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan

Hokkaido, Hakodate City, Chitose City, Date City, Toyako Town, Mori Town

Aomori Prefecture, Aomori City, Hirosaki City, Hachinohe City, Tsugaru City, Sotogahama Town, Shichinohe Town

Iwate Prefecture, Ichinohe Town

Akita Prefecture, Kazuno city, Kitaakita City

Contact Information

Jomon World Heritage Promotion Office, Culture Promotion Division, Bureau of Culture, Department of Environment and Lifestyle, Hokkaido Government +81 11 204 5168

World Cultural Heritage Registration Promotion Office, Department of Policy and Planning, Aomori Prefectural Government +81 17 734 9183

Culture Promotion Division, Department of Culture and Sports, Iwate Prefectural Government +81 19 629 6488

Cultural Assets Preservation Office, Lifelong Learning Division, Akita Prefectural Bureau of Education +81 18 860 5193



Official Website



Official Website for kids