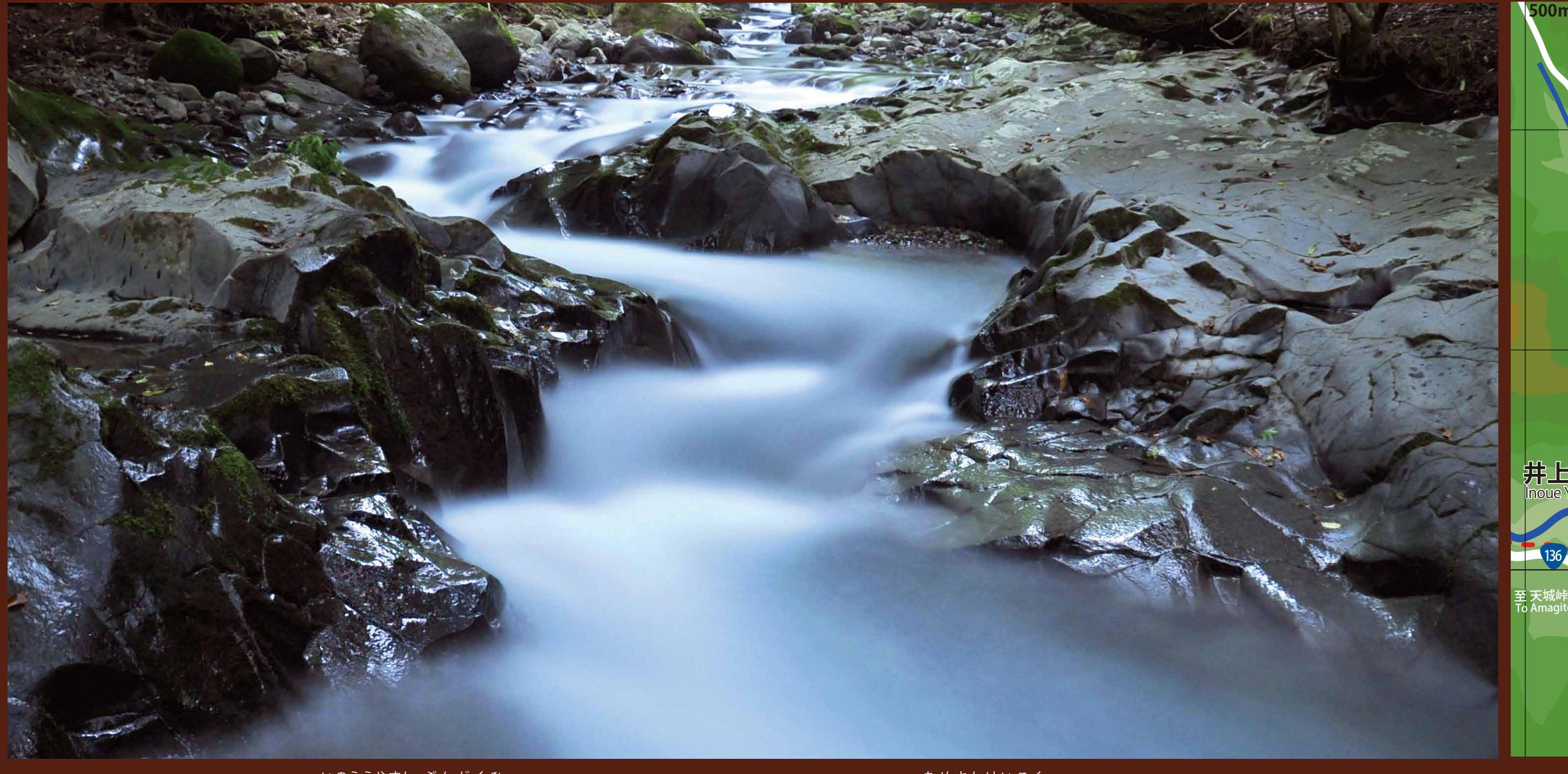
## 滑沢渓谷:水流が磨き上げた自然の芸術

Namesawa Gorge: Nature's Artwork, Sculpted by Water

中伊豆南エリア:滑沢ジオサイト滑沢渓谷

South Nakaizu Area : Namesawa Geosite Namesawa gorge





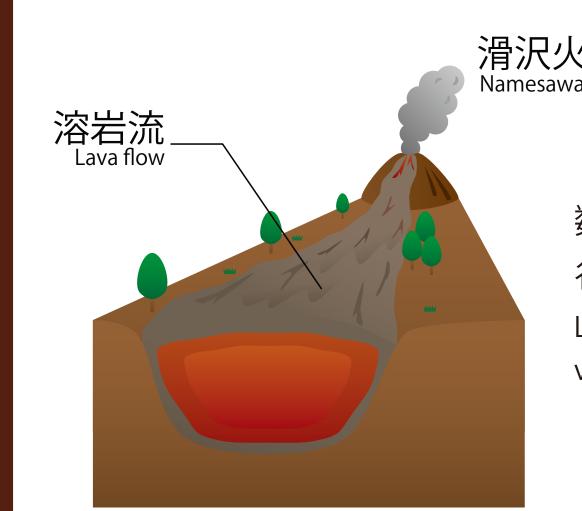
橋のむこうにある井上靖文学碑を右に曲がり、少し歩くと滑沢渓谷があります。谷を埋め立てた溶岩の上を流れるこの渓谷は、岩肌を美しく磨き上げ、夏には清らかな水の流れを、秋には岩肌に映える紅葉を楽しむことができます。冷ややかな岩肌は、見るものによっては、井上靖が著書「猟銃」の冒頭で孤独な男の心情と重ねあわせたその景色のように映るかもしれません。

滑沢渓谷と本谷川が合流する地点には「竜姿の滝」があり、そこから滑沢渓谷に沿って上流へと歩くと、静岡県の天然記念物にも指定されている古木「天城の太郎杉」や、滑沢火山の噴火にともなう土石流の地層などが見られます。

Namesawa Gorge is only a short walking distance away from the bridge in front of you. You have to take a right turn from the plaque with Inoue Yasushi's words and walk a little. The gorge is created by water that flows on the lava that filled up the deep valley. You can enjoy the crystal clear stream in the summer and the beauty of the red leaves in autumn. Inoue Yasushi compares the scene of the gorge with the personality of a lonely, unemotional young man. The cold rocky face of the ground was probably an inspiration behind this thought.

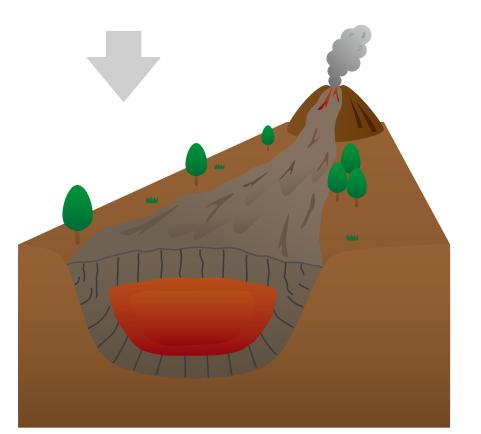
The Ryushi Waterfall is situated at the point where the Namesawa stream merges with the Hontani River. The Amagi Tarosugi, a giant old cypress registered as a natural monument of Shizuoka Prefecture is located a little upstream from this point. You can also see the soil strata created by the lahar flow from the Namesawa Volcano.

## 滑沢渓谷のでき方 Formation of the Namesawa Gorge



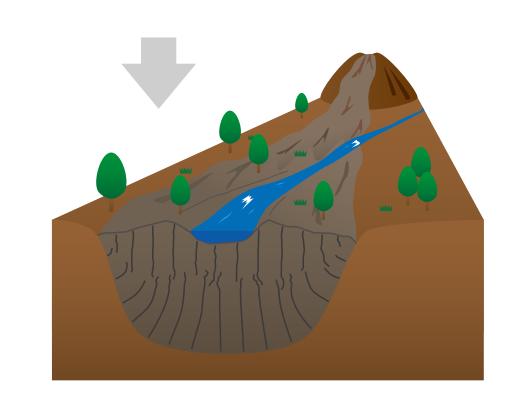
数万年前、滑沢火山から流れだした溶岩が 谷の中に流れ込みました。

Lava flow from the Namesawa Volcano blocked a deep valley about a few tens of thousands of years ago.



溶岩の表面と底は冷えて固まっていきました。 その時に溶岩の体積が縮まって割れ目ができました。渓谷の岩の表面にある割れ目のほとんどはこの時にできたものです。

The upper and bottom layers of the lava cooled quickly by air and ground contact, and created a crust. The mass contracts upon cooling, and cracks form on the cooled surface of the lava.



その後、溶岩が流れ込んだ谷に再び川が流れはじめました。川の流れは長い時間をかけてかたい溶岩を削り取り、溶岩の上を流れる美しい渓谷ができました。

After this incident, the river reclaimed the gorge by flowing on top of the lava. The water eroded sections of lava in a process spanning thousands of years and created the gorgeously beautiful gorge that awaits you around the corner.