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01/The masses of blue net stored at the port are shellfish baskets, used for cultivating scallops. It's like riding through a maze. 02/Old fishing vessels of all shapes and sizes are dotted around the Natsudomari Peninsula. 03/Showing off the size of the scallops at "Hotate Hiroba," which has a giant scallop as its signboard. You can learn about scallop cultivation on the second floor. 04/At Yogoshiyama Forest Park you can see over 3,000 varieties of succulents. 05/Two men and a cat taking a break from cycling beside the tetrapod seawall. 06/Even at high tide it is possible to walk over the bridge to Oshima from the tip of Cape Natsudomari.

Course 1 NATSUDOMARI

Distance: 36 km Duration: 2.5 hours

Smooth as Scallops Ride

An exciting course of discovery with scallops, hot springs and views of gorgeous Mutsu Bay

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- A** **Yogoshiyama Forest Park**
Horikae36-1, Hamago, Hiranai-machi
TEL.017-755-2663
- B** **Hotate Hiroba**
Kagikake56, Tsuchiya, Hiranai-machi
TEL.017-752-3220
www.hotate-hiroba.com
- C** **Asamushi Onsen Station Foot Spa**
Hotarudani70, Asamushi, Aomori-shi



Natsudomari Peninsula juts out into Mutsu Bay, and here you can enjoy both a winding mountain road, and a coastal road with a view of the horizon over Mutsu Bay. You can also catch a diverse range of flowering plants in bloom, such as wild camellia growing on the northernmost tip of Tsubakiyama. After skirting around the peninsula along Prefectural Highway 9, a small fishing village suddenly appears. This is Hiranai-machi, a village which became famous for its scallop fishing after a long run of poor catches back in 1957. The blue basket nets that are stacked all around the port are

for breeding scallops. Apparently the locals always take scallops - still in their shells - whenever going to visit friends. It's up to you whether you choose to have these giant luscious scallops barbecued or as sashimi.

And you shouldn't ride past Asamushi Hot Springs, renowned for its healing properties, without stopping in. This foot-soaking hot spring is located in front of the station, and is the perfect tonic for those pedal-wary feet. This is a short course, so it is the perfect fit for the rider wanting to pull up whenever they find a nice spot.