Cultural Landscape,* was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2007. It is the Ginzan Silver Mine Site, official name "Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and its Heritage List. This site is recognized as "a mine living with nature." The Iwami ethnicity or international boundaries. Such a property is inscribed on the World generations, somewhere that must be preserved at a global level, regardless of A World Heritage Site is a property which, if lost, is impossible to re-create once again, a place which has immense value which must be passed down to future
economic and cultural exchange of global importance. In the 16th century, the haifuki* (cupellation) method of East Asian traditional metal refining was introduced to Iwami Ginzan, leading to local silver production techniques being standardized and large amounts of quality silver being produced. The innovative technology and production methods used at Iwami Ginzan subsequently spread to many other mines throughout the country and brought prosperity to the silver industry in Japan, and even helped a unique place in Japanese history. Large amounts of silver produced in Japan circulated through East Asia via trade routes during the 19th century, the haifuki* method was used extensively to process raw silver, and the search of gold, silver and spices, and begins to take place with East Asia, resulting in important economic and cultural exchange between the East and the West.

**Landscape fostered through the coexistence of nature and human beings.** The remains of the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine are reflected on as one of the most prominent mines, Iwami Ginzan was active for almost four hundred years, from its discovery in 1526 by the merchant Kamiya Jutei of Hakata, Kyushu, until its eventual closing in 1927. Iwami Ginzan was the only silver mine in Japan known to the Europeans during the 16th century and 17th centuries. At the same time, Europeans sailed beyond their own sphere of civilization in the 16th century Great Age of Discovery. This provided a rare example, unparalleled in the world, of a cultural landscape. The Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and its environs are still surrounded by lush vegetation, and the community is protected and preserved for future generations. It is evident from the fact that maps of Japan and Asia produced in Europe during this time indicated the existence of Iwami Ginzan as the "Silver Mine Kingdom" or "Silver Mine." The silver mined at Iwami Ginzan was very high quality silver, and was to be known as "Iwami Silver," because the mine itself was in the village of Iwami (Iwami). This silver was given the highest trading credit in East Asia. From the 16th to the early 18th century, the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine flourished. It is estimated that at this time, Japan produced one third of the world's silver, with the majority of this being from Iwami Ginzan. There is no denying that Iwami Ginzan played a pivotal role in East Asian trade, where silver was the key currency. The remains from the mine's prominent status are well preserved to this day.

World Famous Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine

The entire mining process at Iwami Ginzan, from digging to refining, was carried out manually, and the concentration of silver mining activities near the mines made it possible to yield large quantities of quality silver. This is evidenced by over 600 remaining areas of outcroppings and mine shafts in the mountains, along with over 1000 small areas of land in the vicinity where mines and dwellings were built. Throughout the Edo Period (1603 -1867) traditional techniques were used to produce silver at Iwami Ginzan. Following the Meiji Restoration towards the end of the 19th century, new techniques were developed. The wealth and prosperity generated by silver mining were instrumental in the development of the country, and the influence of traditional techniques for mining development has been well preserved at Iwami Ginzan. The Innovative technology and production methods used at Iwami Ginzan subsequently spread to many other mines throughout the country and brought prosperity to the silver industry in Japan, and even helped a unique place in Japanese history.

Silver production methods based on traditional techniques are well preserved in many areas

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Complete industrial system, from silver production to shipment. It is displayed in its entirety

The Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine presents an overall picture of mine management from silver production to shipment. There are remains of mines where the processes of digging and refining took place, mines of mine workings, and coal pits used to supply coal to the mines. The existence of extensive mine workings, as well as extensive mine workings, is evident from the map of the mine. Old tunnels and pits that once produced silver mining are now inhabited by local residents. The Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and its environs are still surrounded by lush vegetation, and the community is protected and preserved for future generations. It is evident from the fact that maps of Japan and Asia produced in Europe during this time indicated the existence of Iwami Ginzan as the "Silver Mine Kingdom" or "Silver Mine." The silver mined at Iwami Ginzan was very high quality silver, and was to be known as "Iwami Silver," because the mine itself was in the village of Iwami (Iwami). This silver was given the highest trading credit in East Asia. From the 16th to the early 18th century, the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine flourished. It is estimated that at this time, Japan produced one third of the world's silver, with the majority of this being from Iwami Ginzan. There is no denying that Iwami Ginzan played a pivotal role in East Asian trade, where silver was the key currency. The remains from the mine's prominent status are well preserved to this day.

Outstanding Universal Value: Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine as a World Heritage Site

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World Heritage Registration

A World Heritage Site is a property which, if lost, is impossible to re-create once again, a place which has immense value which must be passed down to future generations, somewhere that must be preserved at a global level, regardless of ethnicity or international boundaries. Such a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List based on the World Heritage Convention concerning the protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage. As of July 2007, 851 properties have been inscribed on the World Heritage List. This site is recognized as "a mine living with nature." The Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine Site, official name "Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and its Cultural Landscape," was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2007. It is the 14th World Heritage Site in Japan and the first mining site to be inscribed in Asia.