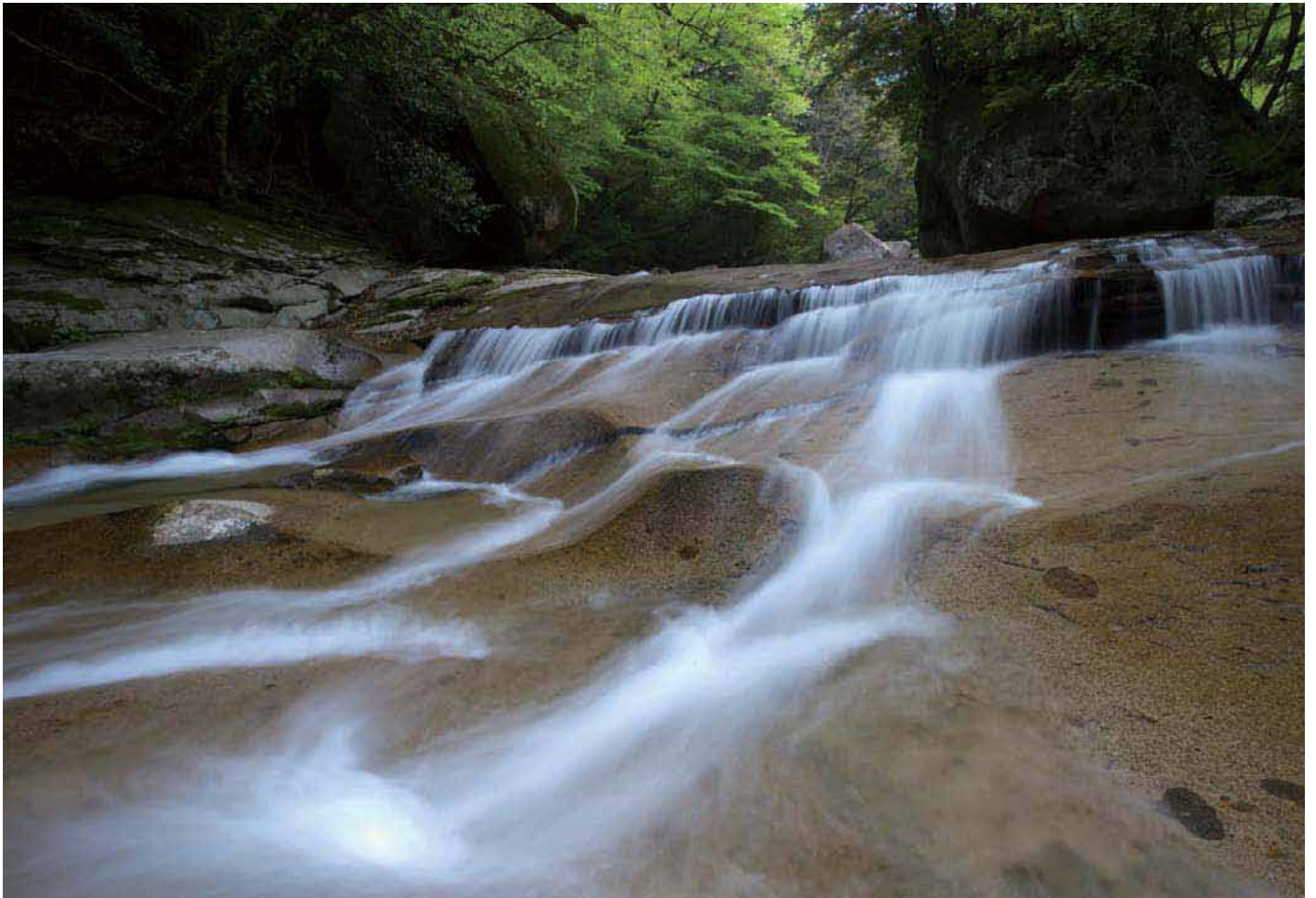




The Beauty of Clear Waters

The 196 kilometer-long Shimanto River is one of Japan's last remaining natural, clear rivers. Fed by numerous tributaries, the river winds its way through the island of Shikoku toward the Pacific Ocean. Renowned for the clarity of its waters, Shimanto River plays host to some 80 varieties of fish and shellfish, and traditional river fishing methods are still carried out to this day. The virgin forest in the Shimanto river-basin is also a rich ecosystem providing habitat for a diverse range of wildlife including foxes, wild boar and flying squirrel.



LEFT: The Shimanto River is home to both people and abundant wildlife • ABOVE: Nametoko Ravine, a Shimanto River tributary





TOP LEFT: The lower reaches of the Shimanto River. Nearing its estuary, the river flows sedately through rural parts of Shimanto City

FAR LEFT: Autumn leaves color the sides of the Nametoko Ravine

LEFT: Oiai Waterfall marks the start of the Shimanto River's 196-kilometer journey to the sea

TOP RIGHT: In summer, fireflies dance in the virgin forest along the sides of the river

RIGHT: A sea of clouds above the Shimanto River



PHOTOS: TAKASHI YAMASHITA / JIKUOBO