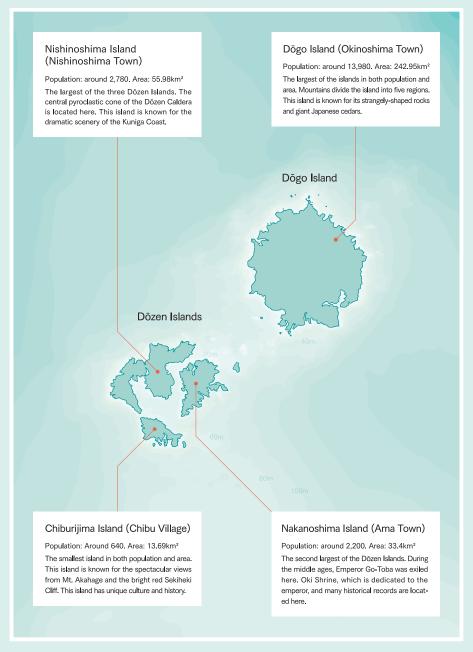
The Oki Islands

Though small and remote, the Oki Islands feature surprisingly diverse geology, nature, and culture.

About the Oki Islands

The Oki Islands were formed through volcanic activity which occurred around six million years ago. Human history on the islands dates back as far as 30 thousand years, beginning with the excavation of the volcanic glass, obsidian. Nature typical of isolated islands and a unique mixture of new and old culture have developed here over time.



Learn more...

For travel information please contact the Tourism Information Offices located on each island.

⇒Dōzen | Nakanoshima Island

(Ama Town)

Ama Town Tourism Association

1365-5 Oaza Fukui, Ama-cho, Oki-gun,

TEL: +81-8514-2-0101 FAX: +81-514-2-0102

TEL: +81-8512-2-0787 FAX: +81-8512-2-3950

Shimane-ken 684-0404, JAPAN

⇒Dōgo | Okinoshima Town

54-3 Menukinoyon, Nakamachi,

Shimane-ken 685-0106, JAPAN

Okinoshima-cho, Oki-gun,

http://oki-dougo.info

Okinoshima Tourism Association

http://oki-ama.org

⇒Dōzen | Nishinoshima Island

(Nishinoshima Town) Nishinoshima Tourism Association

4386-3 Oaza Mita, Nishinoshima-cho, Oki-gun, Shimane-ken 684-0303, JAPAN TEL: +81-8514-7-8888 FAX: +81-8514-7-8890 http://nkk-oki.com

⇒Dōzen | Chiburijima Island

Chiburijima Tourism Association 1730-6 Chibu-mura, Oki-gun,

Shimane-ken 684-0106, JAPAN TEL: +81-8514-8-2272 FAX: +81-8514-8-2278 http//www.chibu.jp

For general tourism inquiries:

 \Rightarrow Oki Islands Tourism Association TEL: +81-8512-2-1577 FAX: +81-8512-2-1406 E-mail: okikan@e-oki.net http://www.e-oki.net

For inquiries about the Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark:

⇒ Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark Promotion Committee

24 Shioguchi Minatomachi, Okinoshima-cho, Oki-gun, Shimane-ken 685-8601, JAPAN TEL: +81-8512-3-1321 FAX: +81-8512-3-1322

E-mail: info@oki-geopark.jp Hours (JST): Mon-Fri 8:30-17:15 http://www.oki-geopark.jp/en/

The Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark is a member of the following Geopark networks...

Global Geoparks Network (GGN)

The global network of Geoparks. A dynamic network where members are committed to work together. exchange ideas of best practice, and join in common projects to raise the quality standards of all products and practices of UNESCO Global Geoparks. https://www.visitgeoparks.org/



Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN)

The network of Geoparks in the Asia Pacific Region. Provides a platform for networking among Geoparks at the regional level, fostering exchange, capacity building and common projects http://asiapacificgeoparks.org/



Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN)

The national network of Geoparks. Provides support and a networking platform for Japanese Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks. http://geopark.jp/en/



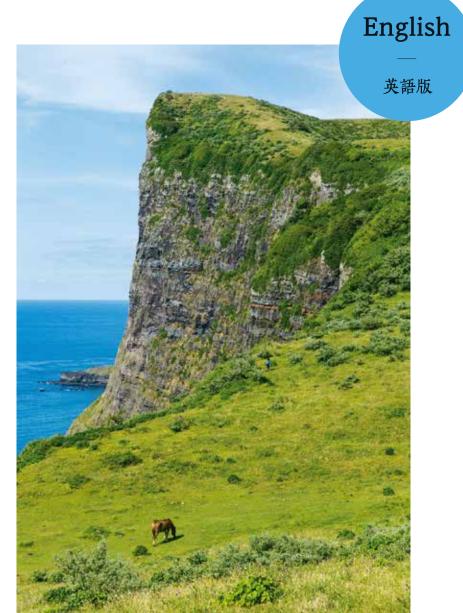


Take only pictures, leave only footprints. Please help protect the Oki Islands for future generations

Printed: Mar. 2020 by Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark Promotion Committee

OKI ISLANDS

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK



Guide Map

(Chiburijima, July, biennial)

Bull Sumo (Dogo, September)

Oki Dözen Kagura Shintö Theatrical Dance (Dözen)

for exiled emperors, performing arts introduced by samurai, and folk songs brought by sailors introduced different cultures. Today, you can find ancient Shinto rituals, entertainment created

nature of the islands. Throughout history, many different people have come to the islands and

Since long ago, the people of the Oki Islands have lived self-sufficiently by skillfully utilizing the

Festivals and Performing Arts from Various Periods

animals from the mainland migrated to the islands, leading to the development of the unique glacial periods, the islands became connected to mainland Japan. During this time, plants and

occurred over the last tens of thousands of years. As a result of a decline in sea level during

continental and endemic plant species. This plant life records the climate change that has

A closer look at the plants of the Oki Islands reveals a mysterious mix of southern, northern,

Jaruma-giku Aşter

Kabuki Traditional Dance-dram

varions places along the coast.

the sailors spread folk songs and legends from

kitamaebune, frequently made port in Oki, and

Trading ships traversing the Sea of Japan,

(8981-8091)

Early Modern Times

New cultural practices and forms of art and

(1185-1603)

sagA albbiM

reached Oki through Shinto rituals and Buddhism

The aristocratic culture of Kyoto and Nara by ancient capital cities for its bountiful seafood. A border territory on the sea, Oki was recognized

(238-1185)

Ancient Times

There are fesitvals dating back to before the Yamato he country since modern humans migrated to Japan. Obsidian has been mined and transported throughout

(888-)

Prehistory

scosystem the Oki Islands have today.

An Unusual Mix of Plants

ment were brought to Oki through

exiled nobles and the ruling samurai class.



and Dance (Dogo)

Emperor Go-Toba Portrait

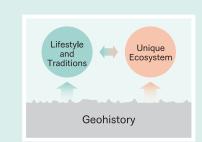
Renge-e-mai Ancient Court Dances (Dõgo, April)

The Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark encompasses the small and remote Oki Islands which are located in the western part of the Sea of Japan.

Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark

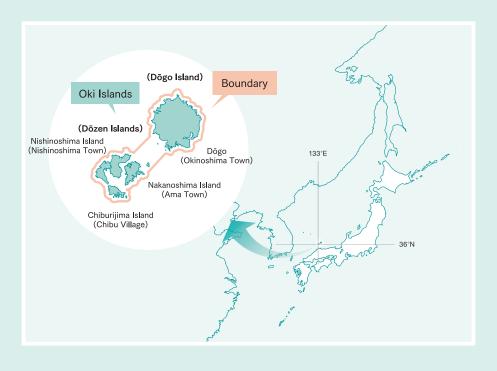
Features

The Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark is made up of small islands. These islands have unique geological features and landscapes which are typical of the Sea of Japan environment. The culture, ways of life, landscapes, and nature that have developed here are deeply connected to the land in ways that can be easily observed. Why not visit the Geopark and discover these connections for yourself!



Area

The Oki Islands are composed of four inhabited islands (Nishinoshima, Nakanoshima, Chiburijima & Dōgo), and around 180 uninhabited islets. The Geopark also includes a marine area of 1km from the coastlines in consideration of the vital importance of the sea to the local people. The Geopark area is 673.5km² (land area: 346km², sea area: 327.5km²).



What is a UNESCO Global Geopark?

A UNESCO Global Geopark is a place where you can discover the wonders of our planet. Geoparks are designated areas that contain precious geological heritage. They work to protect the land as well as the nature, culture and ways of life that have developed upon it, while also utilizing these assets for education and geotourism. Let's help protect our Earth for future generations!



trequent exchange are still practiced were introduced during periods o Culture and performing arts th communication with other regions. islands, people were not in constan Due to the remote location of the Traditional Festivals



escape from, there was no shortage here. Aside from being difficult to middle ages, noblemen were sen location of exile for criminals, in the The islands were once used as a Islands of Exile



Makihata Farming



used to act as a lighthouse. break and the central mou surrounding islands are a wind caldera is a natural bay, the long ago. The inner sea of th created by volcanic activity This caldera landscape was Dozen Caldera

poor soil and mountainous terrain.

people to effectively utilize the

uetpod called makipata can be

rop and stock rotation farming

The stone wall remains of a unique

found here. Makihata allor

Geography and Culture

and culture, we can also make discoveries about the land. The history and culture of the region is intricately connected to the land. By looking at the history Discover the Region



spread here via the Tsushima Archipelago. It is thought that it Japan side of the Japanese where else around the Sea of This seaweed is not found any-Kurokizuta Seaweed



and is not found elsewhere in Japan. is an endemic species of Ulleung-do Island of South This flower is a perennial plant in the apiaceae family. It

Unique Plant Life



the lava that erupted around the the cliff were made by layers of cliff was a crater. The red rocks in Around six million years ago, this Sekiheki (Red Cliff)



resulting in the inverted topography you can observe was less prone to erosion than its surroundings, during a volcanic eruption. The rock left when it cooled There was once a river here, but lava flowed into it Jodogaura Coast

Fascinating Rocks

islands reveal connections between the earth and our lives. In a Geopark, you can make new discoveries about the earth. The rocks and plants around the

Learn about the Earth!



shrine is partially built within the cliff. found in different climates. Th the shrine features plant life normally The easy hike up the mor Takuhi Shrine Mt. Takuhi &







see Rosoku-jima (Candle Island) and Ojirobana Trail

eroded away, creating a candle-like

its surroundings. Rosoku-Jima was

formed when parts of the lan



lava that spewed from the crater created the vast flat landscape of volcanic ejecta called scoria. The Once the mouth of a crater, the red Akiya Coast

Mountain

Seaside

Geopark signboards located around the Geopark that explain more about each location. With this map in hand, you can explore the Geopark at your own pace. There are over 100

Salf-guided Tours



hop aboard a sightseeing bu troduction to the main sights For those who want a great in-Sightseeing Taxi Sightseeing Bus &



can spot some marine life in have shaped them. See if you sea breeze and waves that landscapes while you enjoy the Get even closer to the eroded Sea Kayaking



From the Land

sea on a sightseeing boat. nniquely-shaped rocks from the of massive cliffs, sea caves and Enjoy the eroded coastal scenery Sightseeing Boats

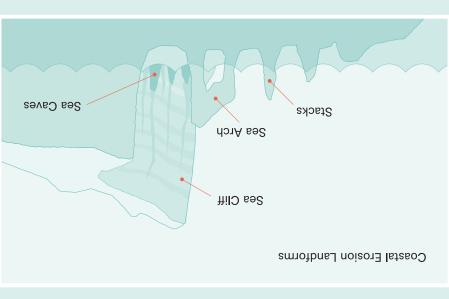
From the Sea

(Please note that some guided tours are not yet available in English.) about the geological heritage of the islands. or walking tour. You can also tour the geopark with a qualified 'Geopark Guide' and learn more Enjoy the landscape from the sea on a sightseeing boat or sea kayak, or from land on a trekking

Explore the Geopark with a Guide!

the geohistory, the unique ecosystem and the traditions of the land. On a geotour around the Oki Islands, you can discover connections between

Geotourism



of the Sea of Japan. The landscapes tell us about the ceaseless changes of the earth. propelled by strong northwesterly winds from the continent and the small annual tidal fluctuation beaches and inlets dotted with tiny islands. These coastlines have been shaped by rough waves The coasts of the Oki Islands feature towering vertical stacks, massive sea cliffs, wave-cut

Dynamic Landscapes

Mantle Xenolith

ancient times. It was mined as long as interior of the earth. Volcanic glass that was used as a tool in Rock that provides a glimpse into the



is evidence that the Japanese Archipelago The oldest rock in the Oki Islands. This rock





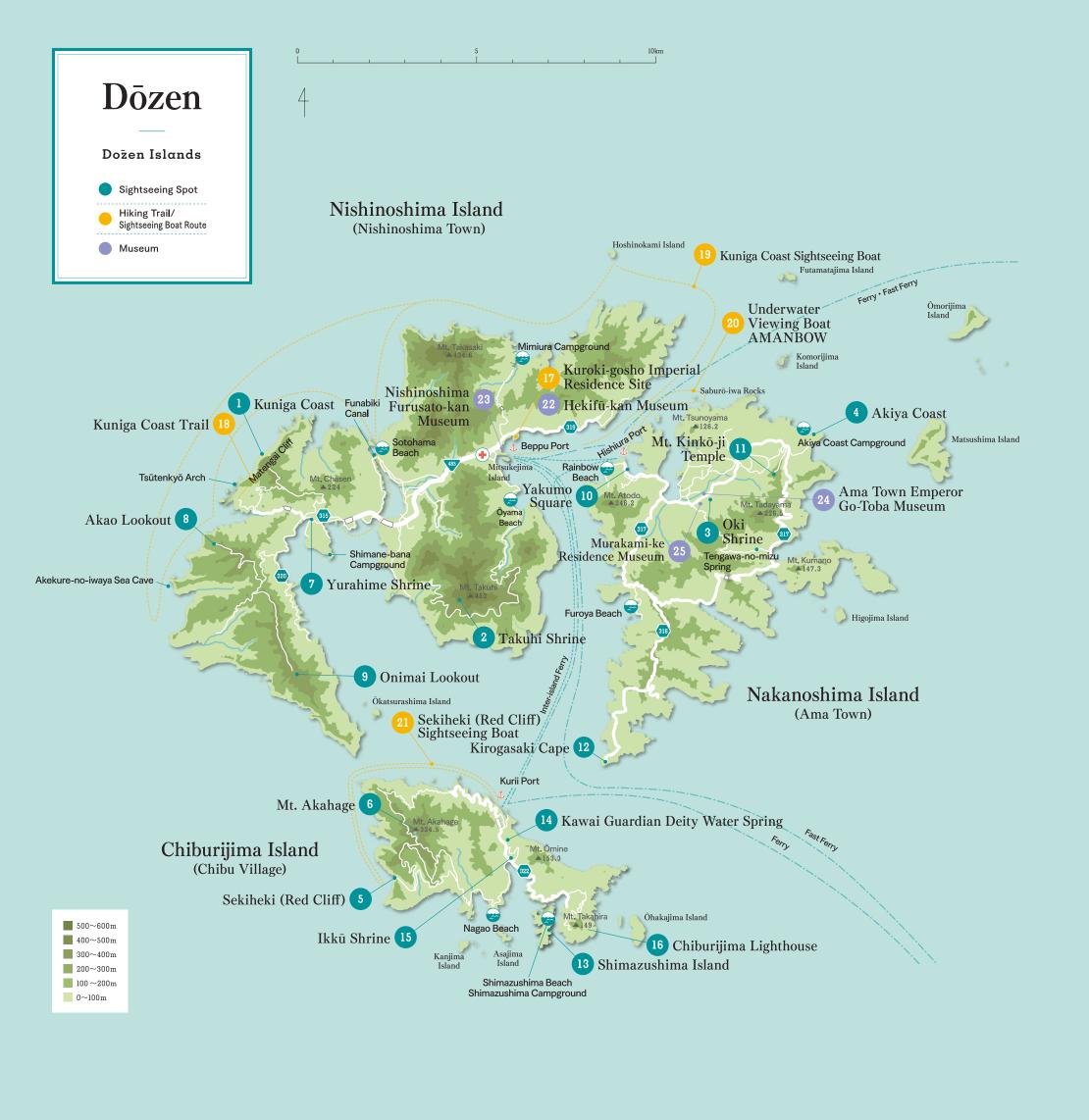


place here. These events have given us scenic views and resources that support the local people. of the Japanese Archipelago and the Sea of Japan, as well as about the volcanic activity that took islands, we can also find out more about the breakup of the Eurasian continent and the formation result of the unique formation history of the land. By uncovering the history of these small The Oki Islands have many different rocks and minerals that are unusual in Japan. They are a

Rocks That Tell a Story

Discover the story of the land in the Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark.

Heritage of the Land







1 Kuniga Coast This celebrated coastline is a featuring tall cliffs, a sea arch and numerous stacks. A walking trail passes through grazing land for cattle and horses from the tallest cliff, Matengai, down to Tsūtenkyō Arch. 25 min drive



9 Onimai Lookout This lookout offers sweeping views of the Dōzen Caldera.

3 Oki Shrine

Nakanoshima Island

This shrine was built in 1939 to enshrine

Emperor Go-Toba. The emperor was

exiled to Oki in 1221, and lived here until

of his former residence and poetry

in Oki. 10 min drive from Hishiura Port.

written by the emperor during his time

Kawai Guardian Deity Water Spring This spring by the roadside is still used by local people

You can find stone wall remains of *makihata* farming. 35 min drive from Beppu Port.

19 Kuniga Coast Sightseeing Boat This trail from Matengai Cliff to Tsūtenkyō Arch travels across hilly green See the sea-eroded scenery of the coast up close, including sheer cliffs, sea caves, arches and stacks. Season: April to October, from Urago or Beppu Port. Bookings essential. 1.5 hr cruise.

5 min drive from Kurii Port.

This museum contains exhibits about the nature and

Open: April to October (9:00 to 17:00). Entry Fee.



6 Mt. Akahage Chiburijima Island The tallest mountain on the island commands Here you can enjoy the beautiful contrasting colours panoramic views of the Dōzen Caldera and the mainland, as well as the surrounding of the red rock of the coast, green vegetation, and the blue sea. The red colour of the rocks was grasslands. The stone walls near the peak are the remains of a traditional crop rotation farming method called *makihata*. Today, the can see a heart-shaped hole in the rock at the end of area is used to graze cattle. 20 min drive from

> 11 Mt. Kinkō-ji Temple The lookout offers picturesque views of the northern coast. There are remains relating to Ono-no-Takamura, a

16 Chiburijima Lighthouse Enjoy the scenery of Shimazushima Island from here.

15 min drive from Hishiura Port.

Sekiheki (Red Cliff) Sightseeing Boat Get a full view of Sekiheki Cliff and a closer look at the scoria cone on this sightseeing boat. Season: April to October Bookings essential. Runs with 4 passengers. 1 hr cruise.

TEL: +81-8514-7-8412 http://www.okikanko



2 Dangyō-no-taki Waterfalls

Surrounded by lush forest and

rocky cliffs are the two Dangyo

Shrine. The water of one of the

The day before traditional tou

Sumō, participants come to pra

for victory. 50 min drive from

naments such as Bu**ll** Sumō and

U Jōdogaura Coast after the Buddhist Pure Land branch. Jōdo, meaning heaven. The inlets are dotted with small islands topped with pine trees. You can see layered sediment that formed at the bottom of a lake on the Eurasian Continent before the birth of the Sea of Japan. 40 min drive from Saigō Port.



Chichi-sugi Japanese Cedar This strangely-shaped tree is 800 years old and

4 Oki Gneiss

This metamorphic rock is the oldest in the Oki

Islands. It formed underground in a collision zone on the Eurasian Continent around 250 million

years ago. It is evidence that Japan was once

in the cliff surrounding Choshi Dam, A section o

observation, 20 min drive from Saigō Port

he object of worship of Iwakura Shrine. Its shape is thought to come from the DNA of an old type of and the localized climate. It is cool and foggy even n summer, 50 min drive from Saigō Port



Shizen-kaiki-no-mori Forest hundreds of years old. It is also the trail entrance for Washigamine Ridge, which leads to Byōbu-iwa (Folding Screen Rock). Near the trail

5 Shirashima Coast Lookout From this lofty cape you can look down on the entire Shirashima (white islands) Coast, Northern, southern nd continental plants can all be seen in the area.

Nagu-saki Cape

trail down to the lighthouse.

25 min drive from Saigō Port.

entrance is the Tokage-iwa (Lizard Rock) Look-out and a pond where Oki salamander larvae

can be found. 50 min drive from Saigō Port.

This cape offers a view of the Dōzen Islands. There is a

16 Kabura-sugi Japanese Cedar

This peculiar Japanese cedar has numerous trunks and

Rōsoku-jima (Candle Island)

Catch a glimpse of this candle-shaped rock lit up by the

Oki Nature Museum & Geopark Visitor Center The museum displays exhibits about the environment of the Oki Islands. We recommend you visit before sightseeing. Geopark

nformation can be found in the visitor center next to the museum.

which were created by lava. 1.7km one way. Steep in some areas.

35 min drive from Saigō Port. 45 min walk one way.

This small museum contains objects of cultural and historical significance

Oki-ke Hōmotsu-den Museum

such as the *eki-rei* station bells and *Oki-sōin* property seal.

Open: Year-round (9:00 to 17:00). Entry Fee.

5 min drive from Saigō Port.

1 min walk from Saigō Port. 5 min drive from Saigō Port. 12 Rōsoku-jima (Candle Island) 13 Kumi Coast The white rock cliffs here are composed of rhyolite lava. This 20-metre-high stack looks just like a giant candle. It was shaped by the force of the waves and cracks in the rock. It can be seen from

a distance from the Öjirobana Lookout or from a sightseeing boat. 35 min drive from Saigō Port. Washigamine Ridge 17 Shirashima-zaki Cape 18 Hiking Trail This trail leads right down to the northernmost point of Dōgo Island.

From the mountain trail you can see the strangely-shaped At the tip of the peninsula you can get up close to the white islands, Byōbu-iwa (Folding Screen Rock) as well as some alpine plants. 1.6km one way. Closed in winter.

1 hr drive from Saigō Port to the trail entrance.

> ²³ Oki Kokubun-ji Temple This temple is a historic site relating to the exiled Emper Go-Daigo. Renge-e-mai ancient court dances are performe Open: March to November (8:30 to 17:30). Entry Fee. 10 min drive from Saigō Port.

Tamawakasu-mikoto Shrine & Tamawakasu-inikete Sidence Oki-ke Traditional Residence

Enshrines the deities of the Oki Region and Yao-sugi

Japanese cedar, Nearby are Oki-ke Traditional Residence

Saigō-misaki Cape Lookout Funagoya Boat Houses From the lookout you can view the remains of the mouth of a volcano active around 500 thousand years ago.

14 Yui Pond Nature Trail Formed by a landslide. Yui Pond is a round pond surrounded by cliffs with a floating island in its center. The precious wetland biota here is well suited for nature observation.

19 Okutsudo Coast Trail On this coastal trail you can observe sub-alpine plants and rocks with a striped pattern composed of rhyolite

lava. 1km one way. 35 min drive from Saigō Port. 40 min walk one way. ²⁴ Oki Kyōdo-kan Museum This museum contains historical, folk and cultural artifacts. The

building is the oldest western-style building in the prefecture.

Open: April to November (9:00 to 17:00). Entry Fee.

25 min drive from Saigō Port.

Traditional scenery of a local fishing village. You can see elements devised to suit the regional environment.

15 Mizuwakasu Shrine An ichinomiya (highest ranking shrine) of the Oki Islands. There is a ring for dedicatory sumō in the grounds. 25 min drive from Saigō Port.

Yabi River Kappa Sightseeing Boat This cruise travels the bay and along the river through Saigō Town, which was once a port of call for kitamaebune trading

25 min drive from Saigō Port.

sunset. Season: April to October ships. Season: April to October
5 min walk to dock from Saigō Port. 45 min cruise. 40 min drive from Saigō Port. 50 min cruise. Sasaki-ke Traditional 25 Goka Sōsei-kan Museum This museum introduces traditional culture of Dogo Island such as

Residence Constructed nearly 200 years ago, this traditional residence Bull Sumö and Traditional Sumö through displays and short films.

Open: April to November (9:00 to 17:00). Entry Fee. contains numerous household and agricultural artifacts.

Open: March to November (9:00 to 17:00). Entry Fee. 10 min drive from Saigō Port.

Sightseeing Boat

7 Yurahime Shrine One of the most prominent shrines of the islands. There is a legend about the shrine deity and squid. 15 min drive from Beppu Port.

the shrine (one way).

2 Takuhi Shrine

Midway up Mt. Takuhi, the tallest mounta

and pyroclastic cone of the Dozen Caldera

is Takuhi Shrine, which is dedicated to deity of marine safety. The main shrin

building is built underneath the cliff face. 20 min drive from Beppu Port, 20 min hike to

12 Kirogasaki Cape The southernmost point of Nakanoshima Island faces the largest strait that connects the inner and outer sea. It is a popular sunset-viewing spot.

Kuroki-gosho Imperial Residence Site A short staircase through the forest path leads to the top of the hill that is said to be the site of the residence of Emperor Go-Daigo The emperor was exiled to the Oki Islands in 1332, 100m one way.

10 min drive from Beppu Port. 10 min walk one way.

22 Hekifū-kan Museum Located at the foot of the Kuroki Imperial Residence Site, this museum contains exhibits relating to Emperor Open: April to October (9:00 to 17:00). Entry Fee. 10 min walk from Beppu Port.

8 Akao Lookout

5 min walk from Beppu Port.

This lookout offers a view of Kuniga Coast in the distance. 30 min drive from Beppu Port.

13 Shimazushima Island A popular swimming and camping area. There are trace 15 min drive from Kurii Port.

18 Kuniga Coast Trail

grazing land for cows and horses and looks over the spectacular Kuniga Coast. 2km one way. Caution: steep areas. Do not approach cows or horses. 25 min drive from Beppu Port. 1 hr walk one way. Nishinoshima Furusato-kan 23 Museum

Ama Town Emperor Go-Toba Museum This museum contains exhibits relating to Emperor Go-Toba and objects dedicated to Oki Shrine. Open: March to October (9:00 to 17:00). Entry Fee.

10 Yakumo Square

4 Akiya Coast

the trail. Visitors can enjoy camping and sw here. 15 min drive from Hishiura Port.

This square features a statue of author Yakumo Koizum (Lafcadio Hearn), who is known for introducing Japanes culture abroad. He visited here with his wife in 1892. 5 min walk from Hishiura Port.

15 Ikkū Shrine The rock seat of Emperor Go-Daigo is enshrined in the 10 min drive from Kurii Port.

Underwater Viewing Boat AMANBOW This sightseeing boat has clear sides, allowing you to see under the sea. On the night tour you can enjoy bioluminescent marine life. Season: April to October Bookings essential. Runs with 5 passengers. 50 min cruise.

Murakami-ke Residence Museum This household has been responsible for maintaining the crematorium of Emperor Go-Toba for generations. The residence has been reformed and opened as a museum containing cultural artifacts and historical texts. Open: March to October (9:00 to 17:00). Entry Fee. 10 min drive from Hishiura Port.

Ferry/Fast Ferry (OKI KISEN Co., Ltd) TEL: +81-8512-2-1122 http://www.oki-kisen.co.jp Dozen Islands Inter-island Ferry (Oki Kanko Co., Ltd)