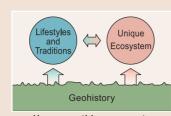
OKI ISLANDS UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK OFFICAL GUIDE MAP Find out how the land, ecosystems, and human activity are connected



Priceless nature and culture lives on in the western Sea of Japan on the remote Oki Islands. Learn about the Oki Islands, and you will learn about

Islands that Link Nature and Humans: Discover Connections!

Oki Islands Geopark is composed of many small islands. It has distinctive geology, with landscape characteristic of islands in the Sea of Japan. The scenery and natural environment shaped by the geology and topography, as well as the connections between geology, ecosystems, and lifestyles, can be observed.



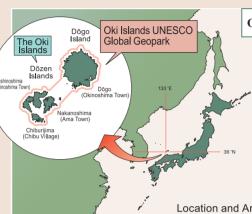
How everything connects Heritage of the Oki Islands' Land

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified areas with geoheritage and landscape of international importance that takes a holistic view on protecting and enriching the land, ecosystems, and lifestyles and traditions of their areas.

At Oki Islands Geopark, the geoheritage is organized into four themes:

- (I) Geological heritage that contains records from its continental period and the formation of the Sea of Japan,
- II) The beauty of the islands' naturally occurring scenery and erosion
- The island's unique plants cultivated through climate changes, and V) Traditional culture and industries of remote islands that exist alongside nature.

This guide map introduces the Oki Islands' unique and unusual qualities around these four themes. Put on your geopark glasses and prepare to see the islands from a new point of view!



Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark Area

The geopark consists of four inhabited islands (Nishinoshima, Nakanoshima, Chiburijima, Dōgo) and over 180 uninhabited islands located in the Sea of Japan 40-80 km north of Shimane Peninsula. Its island geography and ways of life, such as marine life and the fishing industry, are considered a part of the geopark. This is why its area, outlined on the map, extends out 1 km into the marine area for a total area of 673.5 km² Location and Area (346.0 km² land, 327.5 km² marine).

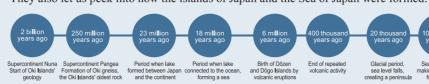
Together with Partners Around the World

Designated UNESCO Global Geopark areas exist in countries around the world. As of March 2024, there are 213 areas found in 48 countries, 10 of which are in Japan. Designated areas belong to geopark networks, where they share ideas and work on projects with other areas.

These are the networks that Oki Islands Geopark belongs to: Global Geoparks Network (https://www.visitgeoparks.org/) ·Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network (https://asiapacificgeoparks.org/) Japanese Geoparks Network (https://geopark.ip/)

Total Memory of the Contains Records from its Continental Period and the Formation of the Sea of Japan

The various rocks on the Oki Islands don't just tell us about how the islands were created. They also let us peek into how the islands of Japan and the Sea of Japan were formed.











Continental Period

The Oki Islands were once part of the continent, but separated due to changes in the earth's crust and became islands in the Sea of Japan. Continental gneiss on Dogo acts as proof that the Japanese islands were once connected to the Eurasian continent.



1 Oki Gneiss, Chōshi Dam (Dōgo)

The rock that proves there was a period when the Japanese islands were connected to the continent. 2 billion years ago, deposits of sand and mud made their way deep underground and experienced continents converging twice (Nuna and Pangea Supercontinents). Gneiss, a hard rock was an ideal site for building a dam to support everyday life.

2 Tamawakasu-mikoto Shrine (Dōgo)

In places around the Oki Islands, you can see crushed gneiss in use. Oki gneiss is used in the gravel at Tamawakasu-mikoto Shrine, the main general shrine of the Oki Islands, allowing people to tread on ancient gravel when they visit the shrine.



Lake Period

About 26 million years ago, the land that would become Japan and the Oki Islands was slowly pulled away, beginning its separation from the continent. This change in the earth's crust created a depression that formed a lake. Fossils of freshwater creatures have been found in strata from this period, proof of its lake period.

3 Jōdogaura Coast (Dōgo)

23 million years ago, the Oki Islands were a shallow lake. At flowed into the lake from the surrounding area and debris flows occurred. The wave-flattened shore platforms seen from the observation deck are the layer of earth that was once the bottom of the lake where deposits collected



✓ Mita Dam (Nishinoshima)

Above a 19 million year-old stratum made largely of tuff stands Mita Dam, which is used for flood control and water supply. Plants and freshwater creatures are found in this stratum, telling us that it was a lake at the time. Although fossils cannot currently be observed, there is a local walking course near the dam.

Sea Period

As Japan separated from the continent, seawater poured into the lake, turning the freshwater environment into a salt water one. The Sea of Japan's expansion ended about 15 million years ago, leaving the islands of Japan in their current location. The Oki Islands were an elevated seabed left as a piece of the continent.

Volcanic Islands Period The Islands' Final Stage

The basic shape of Dōzen and Dōgo Islands were created by seafloor uplift and volcanic activity. Dozen Island became a lower-lying landscape due to its thin basaltic lava. After that, viscous rhyolitic lava flows on Dōgo Island birthed tall mountains. Many scenic locations in the Oki Islands were originally formed during this period, with later erosion resulting in their present shape.

Dozen Caldera (Chiburijima, Nakanoshima, Nishinoshima)



Dōzen Caldera Observation Location

5 Dōzen Caldera seen from Mt. Akahage 🙈 6 Dōzen Caldera seen from Minami

7 Dōzen Caldera seen from Shakunoe

Large-scale volcanic eruptions on Dözen Island caused a large amount of magma to flow out, leaving the magma chambers empty. The land collapsed as a result, forming a large depression (caldera). Seawater later rushed in, separating the three Dozen Islands that we see today. Together, this landform is called Dōzen Caldera.

B Ichnofossils, Shimazushima Island (Chiburijima)

There are many centimeters-long white cylindrical shapes to see along a walking trail on Shimazushima Island, an uninhabited island of Chiburijima. These are fossils of animal burrows at the bottom of a shallow sea, showing us that this sandstone was once a deposit in a shallow sea. What's more, it is thought that the sandstone here was deposited at the same time as volcanic activity.



How to Enjoy This Theme

Dive into the lives of islanders living on a caldera! Chiburijima Geo Tour



Watch the video "Geohistory of the Oki Islands"



The Island's Unique Plants Cultivated Through Climate Changes

Mysterious Plant Distribution: Insights into Oki Islands' Climate Change

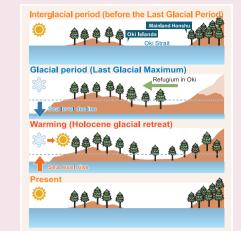
Oki Islands are home to plants that make you wonder, "Why are they growing here?" Behind this unique plant distribution are past climate changes and the islands' geographical features. A close look at nature on the Oki Islands reveals many plants that will make you wonder, "Why are they here?" Plants from cold climates inhabit the same locations as plants found in warm climates, and subalpine plants grow at a low altitude near the coast. The

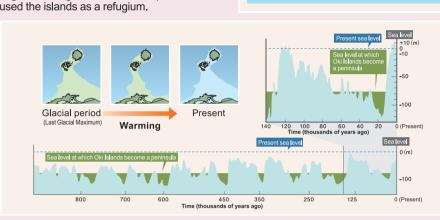
Plant Migration Confirmed by Japanese Cedar Research

mystery of this strange ecosystem is slowly being unravelled by current research.

The connection between Oki Islands' past as a peninsula due to sea level changes and plant refugium

Around 5 million years ago, significant sea level fluctuations occurred, and due to repeated glacial and interglacial periods. land beneath Oki Strait became exposed multiple times. During the last glacial period, the sea level dropped by about 120 meters. connecting the islands to mainland Honshu allowing many species of plants and animals to migrate. Research has revealed that Japanese cedars survived by using "Oki Peninsula" as a refugium and continued to inhabit the land after the islands became isolated by post-glacial warming. It is believed that the current vegetation might include other species that

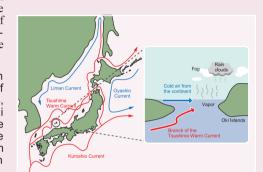


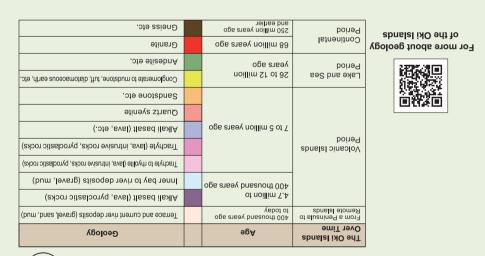


A Climate Affected by the Tsushima Warm Current

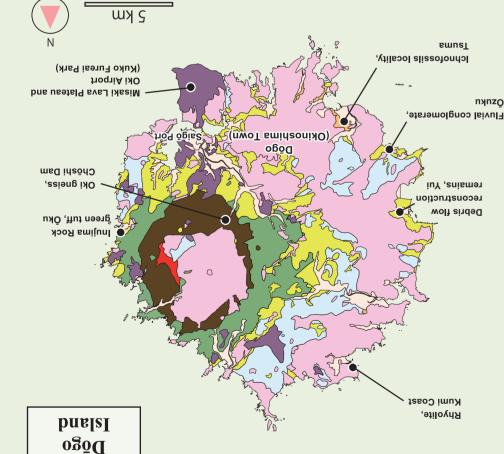
The unique climate—characterized by high rainfall, humidity, and mild temperature fluctuations—is created by the meeting of the Tsushima Warm Current and northwesterly winds. This climate supports the islands' rich ecosystems.

The vapor from the Tsushima Warm Current, which flows along the Sea of Japan, is carried by northwesterly winds, bringing rain, snow, and fog to the Oki Islands and the Sea of Japan coast. The islands' maritime climate—ideal for the growth of diverse plant species—is mild in both winter and summer, with high humidity and abundant rainfall year-round





Your portable guide to geological wonders!



created 550 thousand years ago by the eruption of low-viscosity basaltic lava, making it easy plateau. While some ground levelling was required to create the runways, this land was In the south of Dogo, you can see a purple area on the geological map. This is a 80 m tall flat

🕡 Lava Plateau and Oki Airport 🔔

locality, Shimazushima Island slissofonds and ichnotossils from Mt. Akahage Murii Port Dözen Caldera seen Amagata Plain seen

Islands Dozen

one we see today.



Various Uses for Plains Created by the Power of Earth

had many high-viscosity rhyolite volcanoes that form tall mountains. Islands had many low-viscosity basalt volcanoes that form low land, while Dōgo Island Dozen Islands are mostly light purple, while Dogo Island is mostly pink. The Dozen and landscape of the Dözen Islands and Dögo Island greatly differ. On this map, the Volcanic activity created the Oki Islands about 6 million years ago. However, the geology A Look at Dozen Islands and Dogo Island

time. Let's unravel the diversity in the geological map. can grow rice are just some of the things the workings of the earth have created over geology and landscapes. Natural disasters, mountains that affect climate, and plains that Geopark activities. Though it's often overlooked, our lives are strongly connected to Internationally prized geology and scenic heritage are the foundation of UNESCO Global

The Land's Story Told by the Geological Map



UNESCO Global Geopark" "Unique Ecosystem of the Oki Islands



to the Oki Islands Encountering Japanese cedars unique Washigamine Ridge Trail—

How to Enjoy This Theme





more common in colder regions, naturally grows on Dōgo Island but does not occur on the Dōzen Islands the other islands. Conversely, fringed galax (Schizocodon soldanelloides var. soldane between them. For example, giant crinum illy (Crinum asiaticum), which typically grows in warmer regions, reaches its northernmost natural habitat on Chiburijima Island in the Dozen islands and is not found on Though the Dozen and Dogo Islands are only about 11 km apart, there are differences in plant distribution

So Close, Yet So Far Away The Differences between Dozen and Dogo Islands

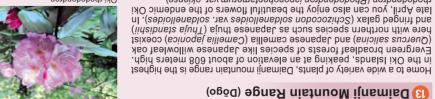


at higher elevations, here it unusually inhabits the lowland area, blooming alongside warm-region plants like Japanese camellia in late March. While this plant typically grows in colder regions o In Ōzuku area of Okinoshima Town, you can see mountain slopes covered in light purple Asian fawn lilles (Erythronium japonicum) 🖪 Katakuri-no-sato (Asian Fawn Lily Habitat), Ōzuku (Dōgo)



glacial period about 20,000 years ago, making this forest of lescendants of those that spread to the Oki Islands during the last scene of towering trees. These cedars are thought to be the Japanese cedars over 300 years old, creating a spectacular Japanese cedars. The forest is home to 811 naturally growing In Fuse area of Okinoshima Town, you'll find a natural forest of

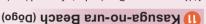
16 Shizen-kaiki-no-mori Forest (Dogo)



magata Plain, the only rice-growing area in the Dozen Islands. with pink flowers in spring. From the summit, you can enjoy a view of lododenáron iagopus var. nipnopnilum), a type ot azalea tnat blooms ubsp. mono) common in colder regions, and Yukiguni-mitsuba-tsutsu aponica), which is common in warm regions, mono maple (Acer pictun san see unique plant communities, such as Japanese camellia (Camellia Located in the northeast of Ama Town, Mt. Kinkō-ji is about 160 meters high and features a walking trail ideal for plant observation. Along the trail, you 🔃 Mt. Kinkō-ji (Nakanoshima) 💢

mirtanol M

habitat—growing on pine trees and blooming with beautiful flowers. linden (Tilla Japonica), which inhabit cold mountains. At the nearby Kasuga Shrine, you can find the Nagoran orchid—here in its northernmost coastal rocks next to Mongolian oak (Quercus crispula) and Japanese and Japanese cheesewood (Pittosporum tobira) and Italii evergreen (Castanopsis sieboldii), which are found in warm climates, growing in the juxtaposition of rugosa rose (Rosa rugosa), which is common in Hokkaido coexisting together. At the end of the beach, you can enjoy the mystifying At Kasuga-no-ura Beach, plants from cold and warm areas can be seen





whose northernmost habitat is Chiburijima Island, can be observed on the sandy beach. ornata), which only inhabits a limited area, blooms from August to September. Giant crinum lilles (Crinum asiaticum), suoeuobiasum var. orientale), common to mountain areas, blooms in June, and Japanese speedwell (veronica Enjoy the scene of montane and coastal plants coexisting at Nagao Beach, Chiburijima. Oriental chive (Allium



10 Nagao Beach (Chiburijima)

April, pink flowers of wild radish also bloom. plants like Oki dandelion and Oki thistle, In late sesame-like fragrance, as well as endem sieboldii var. obovatifolium) which has a as a variant of Siebold's viburnum, (Viburnum awaits on Mt. Akahage. Along the road leading and a panoramic view of the Dozen landscape The majestic scenery of sweeping grassy fields 5 Mt. Akahage (Chiburijima)

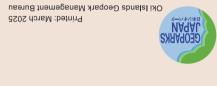
spatulate aster (Aster spathulifolius), a continental species, can also be enjoyed near Tsūtenkyō Arch. as oriental chive (Allium shoenoprasum var. orientale), which is common in mountain areas, and seashore can be observed while trekking from Matengai Cliff to Tsutenkyō Arch. Plants distinctive to the islands, such Impressive sweeping vistas interweaving grassy fields and sheer cliffs unfold on Kuniga Coast. Oki dandelions in April, Oki thistle in May, and the red fruit of autumn olive (Elaeagnus umbellata) in October



Kuniga Coast (Nishinoshima)

Grassland

■ The Island's Unique Plants Cultivated Through Climate Changes













nttps://visit-okiislands.e-oki.net/guide/

*Group discount available to groups of 10 or more

Child (ages 7-15): 250 JPY

Entry: Adult (ages 16 and up): 500 JPY,

=uglish tourism website

For more tourist

"Visit the Oki Islands"

information

be considerate of plants and animals as you safely enjoy the outdoors. Whether hiking or doing marine sports, please respect the environment around you and The Oki Islands are part of Daisen-Oki National Park and are designated as a UNESCO Clobal Geopark for their globally important geoheritage and unique ecosystems.

Cherish This Rare Environment, Beware of Dangerous Plants and Animals



For those who want to explore with a tour guide ittps://visit-okiislands.e-oki.net/

Before You Embark on Your Adventure:



https://visit-okiislands.e-oki.net/ To book activities

Tel: +81-8514-2-2365

(Please check the Oki Islands Geopark website) Closed: when Entô is closed (expipit anide present every day except Fridays) 00:71-02:9 :n9qO (Fntô Nest 1F)

4 min on foot from Hishiura Port Location: Ama Town (Nakanoshima), the Oki Islands formed and the three Dozen Islands.

Closed: 2nd and 4th Friday Hours: 9:00-17:00 (Last entry 16:45) the four Oki Islands and Oki Islands Geopark. An exhibition facility where visitors can learn about A lounge where you can relax with a view of the earth's Entô Geo Lounge, Geo Room Discover Oki Islands Geopark Museum



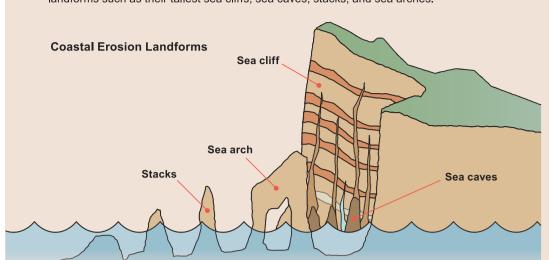
Web: https://www.oki-geopark.jp/en/ E-mail: info@oki-geopark.jp Tel: +81-8512-2-1577 61 Menukinoyon, Nakamachi, Okinoshima-cho, Oki-gun Shimane-ken 685-0013, JAPAN Oki Islands Geopark Management Bureau For more information on the geopark, visit:

Recommended Exhibits, Websites, and Contact Details

The Beauty of the Islands' Naturally Occurring Scenery and Erosion Landscapes

Embrace the "Now" of Ever-changing Scenery

Many sheer, strangely shaped rocks, huge cliffs, flat shore platforms, and islets can be found throughout the coasts of the Oki Islands. Erosion by winter winds from the northwest causes this scenery. Because of this, the north and northwest coasts of Dōgo and the Dōzen Islands have largely been eroded, and both areas contain many landforms such as their tallest sea cliffs, sea caves, stacks, and sea arches.



9 Kuniga Coast (Nishinoshima)

Many erosional landforms can be seen on Kuniga Coast, such as Matengai Cliff, which is among a handful of tall sea cliffs in Japan, sea caves, a sea arch, and stacks. Akao Lookout offers a panoramic view, while the trail from Matengai Cliff to Tsūtenkyō Arch is recommended for hiking. Sightseeing boat tours delight visitors with sea caves, oddly shaped rocks, and the scenery.





18 Shirashima Coast (Dōgo)

atengai Cliff (seen from the hiking trail)

The northernmost point of Dogo Island. Its contrast of tall islands chiseled by erosion and low-lying islets and reefs is rooted in the differences between the rocks that form them. Additionally, streaked shearwaters (Calonectris leucomelas), which are not good at taking flight, nest on islands with

developed cliffs like this.



Living with Gales: Geographically Remote Islands and Everyday Ingenuity

In the seabreeze- and wave-heavy north and northwest, houses are designed for the wind. Tree windbreaks are well-known, but wooden walls high enough to hide houses from view are also used as windbreaks on the islands. While these are presently only seen on Dōgo, bamboo fences were once used on Chiburijima, Dōzen Islands.

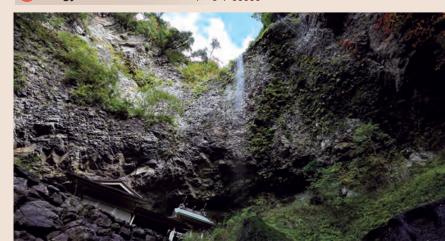




Not Just Waves Chip the Land Away

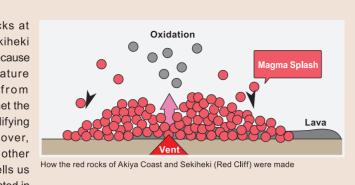
Dangyō-no-taki Waterfalls has cliffs formed by river erosion. The waterfalls' lower rocks are made of volcanic ash and other deposits; its upper rocks, lava. Since volcanic ash is softer and easier to chip away than lava, the wind and river have eaten away at it to create its characteristic overhang. There is a shrine next to the waterfalls. The rock face is the object of nature worship. Due to its connection to Ono-no-Takamura, its water has gained a reputation as "victory water" for winning competitions.

21 Dangyō-no-taki Waterfalls (Dōgo)



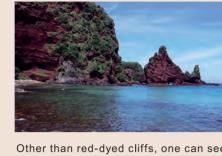
Why are the Oki Islands' Coasts Red? The Power of Earth Colors the Scenery

The reason that rocks at Akiya Coast and Sekiheki (Red Cliff) are red is because iron in high-temperature magma splashes from explosive eruptions met the air and oxidized, solidifying into red rock. Moreover, volcanic bombs and other features seen here tells us that volcanic vents existed in these areas.









23 Akiya Coast (Nakanoshima)

Other than red-dyed cliffs, one can see volcanic bombs along walking trails that hint at dynamic eruptions. Lava that flowed out here enabled rice cultivation by forming Amagata Plain, the largest plain in the Dōzen Islands. Also, the impressive red walls and surrounding landforms led to a legend that a goddess gave birth here.

(How to Enjoy This Theme)

Only visible from the sea: Scenery from a Sightseeing

SUP Tour on an Uninhabited Island

Dōzen

Islands

Tsūtenkvō Arcl

Akao Lookout

Akekure-no-iway

Stone walls for makihata 26

farming, Onimai

P P

••• P

Chiburijima

(Chibu Village)

500~600

400~500

300~400 m 200~3001

100 ~200 m

0~100 m

Walk along the sea:

(Chiburijima Island)







Nishinoshima

(Nishinoshima Town)

7 Dōzen Caldera

Dōzen Caldera

Amasashihiko-mikoto Shrine 🥸

Nagao Beach 10

seen from Mt. Akahage 5

Stone walls for makihata 25

farming, Mt. Akahage

seen from Shakuno

Beppu Port

31 Takuhi Shrine P

Sekiheki (Red Cliff)

Entô Geo Lounge

32 Watatsu Shrine

Saburō-iwa 34 Uzuka-mikoto Shrine

23 Akiya Coast 🙌 P

Ama Town Emperor

Walking Trail

Oki Shrine (m) (P)

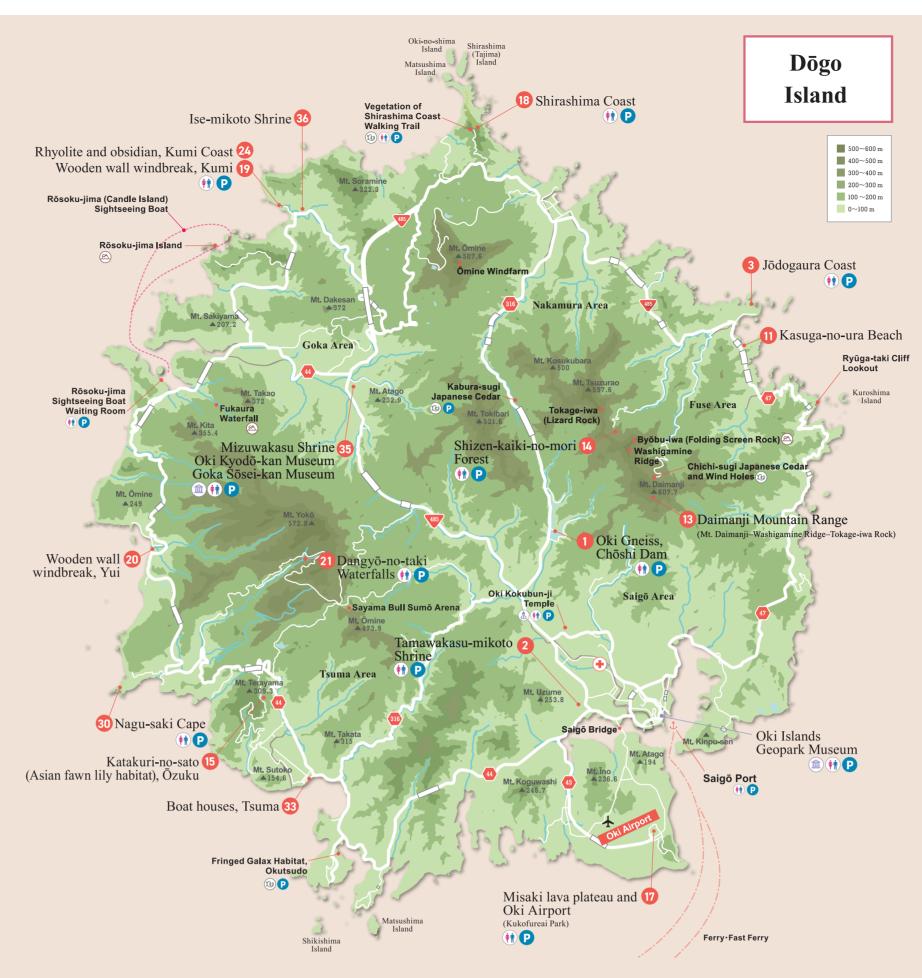
12 Mt. Kinkō-ji 🙌 🕑

Nakanoshima

(Ama Town)

Geological Site (îm) Museum, Info Center

Cultural Site



IV Traditional Island Culture and Industries that Live with Nature

According to the Kojiki, the Oki Islands were created third of all Japan. It has 4 Myōjin Taisha shrines and was the land of emperors Go-Toba and Go-Daigo's exile. Cultural exchange flourished with other areas, as the islands were a port of call on the kitamaebune shipping route from the mid-Edo period (1603–1867) into the Meiji period (1868–1912). Exploring this history reveals how the geography of the Oki Islands matters. Unravel the islands' culture from a geopark perspective.

Origins in Obsidian

It is said the Oki Islands have long been famous due to its obsidian. There are about 100 places around Japan where obsidian is found and was used for arrowheads and knives since the Old Stone Age. Among them, the Oki Islands produced obsidian of exceptional quality, and trade as far back as 30 thousand years ago with the Chūgoku region at its center suggests social and cultural exchange through the obsidian trade.



24 Rhyolite and obsidian, Kumi Coast (Dōgo)

Some of the best quality obsidian in the Oki Islands was produced in just three places, one of them Kumi, Dōgo. Obsidian is a kind of glass made when viscous rhyolitic magma rapidly cools, and is found here in layers of the earth that are about 5.5 million years old. The whole cliff is rhyolite, and you can see



Local Trick for Living on the Edge of Dōzen Caldera

The Oki Islands practiced makihata farming. Makihata is a farming method that cleverly uses the islands' many steep slopes and poor volcanic soil. Rock walls divided land to create pastures and cultivate crops like barley, grains, and beans in rotation. The people of the past's wisdom avoided depleting the soil through continuous cropping and allowed for efficient, continuous use of the land. While free ranging is the only part still practiced today, part of the stone walls still stand.







There are makihata info panels on the second floor of ① CHECK Kurii Port Terminal, Chiburijima.

How to Enjoy This Theme

Discover the mysteries of the land! **Ama Town Geotour** (Nakanoshima)



Check Them Out! Myōjin Taisha Shrines on Oki Islands,

There are over 150 shrines in the Oki Islands that currently have existing buildings,

among which are four prestigious Myōjin Taisha shrines, known for their high

spiritual power. Two of them are located on Dōzen Islands, while the other two are

located on the western side of Dogo Island. It is believed that these shrines were

strategically chosen to protect the islands from invaders from the continent.

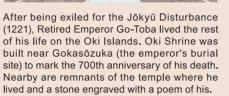
Where Rich Oki Culture Persists



The Oki Islands have long been a land of exile. Emperors and nobles from ancient and medieval times and various people from the early modern period on were sent to the islands. The culture that they passed on affected the islands' customs, which continue to this day as unique lifestyles and traditions.

27 Oki Shrine (Nakanoshima)







Emperor Go-Daigo was exiled to the Oki Islands for trying to overthrow the Kamakura shogunate in 1332. Kuroki-gosho Imperial Residence Site is one place he reportedly lived for the year before his escape. The site houses Hekifū-kan Museum, an archive concerning the emperor, and Kuroki Shrine.

Mt. Kinkō-ji (Nakanoshima

At the top of the mountain is

Kinkō-ji Temple and a historical

site where court official

Ono-no-Takamura allegedly lived

after exile to the Oki Islands. It is

said that he prayed at the temple

for 100 days to return to the

capital. Near the temple is a

spring and lookout from which

magata Plain can be seen.





the affectionate local name of "lkkū-san," it is worshipped as the general shrine deity of Chiburijima. Around 1765, a plague and large fires continued on the island, and in order to appease the deities, a dance was dedicated at the shrine. A monk who was exiled to the islands from Kyoto developed it later into a play. Today, it is dedicated at the shrine as a children's kabuki performance.

30 Nagu-saki Cape (Dōgo)

Dōzen Islands can be seen

from up high at the lookout. A

walking trail leads from there

to the lighthouse at the tip of

the cape. Next to the lookout

is an old lighthouse used at

the end of the Meiji period

1868-1912). It is said that one

ob the exiled had was to keep

the fire in it from going out.



Though Uzuka-mikoto Shrine currently sits in a plain in Uzuka District, Ama Town, it was once on top of a cliff. Together with Hinamachihime, enshrined on the neighboring island of Nishinoshima, the two deities guarded the northern Dozen waterways. The two combining forces to protect the Oki Islands eventually led to the shrine becoming a place for marriage blessings, and it can be inferred that this played a strong role in the legend of a deity giving birth on Akiya Coast.

35 Mizuwakasu Shrine (Dōgo) 🙏



An ichinomiya* whose main shrine was built in Oki-zukuri architectural style, a style that incorporates the best parts of famous shrines. Its sumo ring is one of the shrine's distinctive features, used for Oki Traditional Sumo rituals when the shrine's roof is replaced.



A shrine in Kumi District, an obsidian localit The main shrine is in the Oki Islands' unique architectural style (Oki-zukuri). Every August, the prefecturally designated Intangible Folk Cultural Property of Dogo Kumi Kagura is performed overnight here.

37 Yurahime Shrine (Nishinoshima)



An ichinomiya* shrine built in front of Ikayose-no-hama (Squid Bay), where squid beaching occurs fall-winter. It is said that large groups of them do this every year as penance for biting this shrine goddess's hand. Squid riding the ocean currents and the shape of the bay is believed to play a part, showing that natural phenomena can have an effect on belief.

Ichinomiya is the highest rank given to shrines within a designated region.

CHECK

Explore the shrines of the Oki Islands with the Oki Dōzen-Dōgo Shrine Map!



Culture Brought by Sailors

From the mid-Edo period until 1897-1906, the Oki Islands were a port of call for kitamaebune (trading ships that sailed between Osaka and Hokkaido) that brought culture and regional customs to the islands. Present Oki traditional folk songs and dances can be traced back to other areas of Japan.

32 Watatsu Shrine (Chiburijima)

Mt. Takuhi and Takuhi Shrine 🛓



Mt. Takuhi is the tallest mountain in the Dōzen Islands, standing at its center since the volcanic eruption that made Dōzen. On its mountainside lies Takuhi Shrine, whose main shrine building is built in a cave. It shows that belief is tied to the land. Sailors have revered its deity as a deity of sea travel since the shrine's inception.

A shrine on Shimazushima Island, Fishermen worship its deity as a deity of fishing and safety at sea. The bridge to Shimazushima is O-matsu Bridge, and O-matsu Monument is near the shrine. A woman named O-matsu fell in love with a kitamaebune sailor, who taught her a traditional folk song from northern Japan. This song is now passed down locally as "Dossari-bushi."

33 Boat houses, Tsuma (Dōgo)

Boats of the past were wooden, so boat houses were built to shelter them on land from shipworm. wind, and snow damage. These boat houses are only seen in Japan on Sea of Japan coasts, where tidal differences are small and minimal tides only occur once per day, and not Pacific Ocean coasts where tides occur twice per day. These qualities of the Sea of Japan are due to its size and shape.