

Sea Wind Country
Sasebo  Ojika

Mikawachi Walking Tour Map

Mikawachi Ware, which was initiated by potters brought in from Korea at the end of the 16th century, is largely known for its exquisite blue-and-white *Sometsuke* in *Gosu* (cobalt blue pigment). Mikawachi Ware flourished under the patronage of the Hirado clan and was produced as gifts to Emperors and Shoguns. This tradition of refined porcelain production has been handed down to the present generation. Enjoy visiting porcelain studios and interacting with the local people.

Seasonal Events

Hamazen Festival — May 1 to 5 —

Started in 1968 to give thanks to *Hama*, a disposable holder when chinaware is fired. The term 'hamazen' originates from the fact that the *hama* resembles a four-legged tray for festive food called *zen*. During the festival, all the potteries open their studios and exhibit their chinaware for sale.

The Ceramics Fair — Early October —

More than 30 stalls are set up and more than 20,000 items from everyday-use chinaware to art objects are sold at reasonable prices.

Toso (Pottery Founder) Shrine

An old shrine dedicated to Joen, a great potter who is said to have begun porcelain production in this area.

Mikawachi Higashi Kiln Site

The largest multi-chambered climbing kiln. This 120-meter-long kiln was used from the late 17th century to 1937.

Former Heavy Oil Kiln

An old brick-made kiln with a unique ceiling used in the Taisho & Showa periods (1912 - 1989)

Hirado Domain Magistrate's Office Site

There used to be the Imamura family's house in which Imamura's family heads served as Hirado Domain's magistrate to control the area.

Tonbai Wall

A wall reusing the bricks of dismantled old kilns, which is unique to pottery areas.

Taihei-Ya Gallery

This former traditional Japanese inn is now being used as a gallery and a resting space for visitors. Hirado Sushi, a traditional local dish, can be served in Mikawachi Ware by advance reservation.
Hours: 12:00 pm -

Gallery Saru-No-Ashiato

Vessels of Mikawachi Ware produced in the Meiji, Taisho, and Showa periods (1868 - 1989) are on display. Some are for sale.
Days: Fri, Sat, Sun
Hours: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Mikawachi Ware Museum

9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Closed: Dec 29 - Jan 3
Admission: Free
<http://www.mikawachi-utsuwa.net/eng/>

Sasebo Museum of the History of the Vessel

9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Closed: New Year's Holidays
Admission: Free

Nakayoshi Karako

Mikawachi Hospital

JR Mikawachi Station

Gosen

Pottery

Gyokusho

Kakufusa

Kakusho

Kasen

Goko

Mikawachi-yama Park

Hirado Yusho

Koun

Chizan

Hirado Koshō Danemon

Hirado Kasho

Heibe

Hirado Shozan

Tenmangu Shrine

Kamayama Shrine

An old stone shrine dedicated to Korai Baba. She is said to have opened the first kiln in Mikawachi.

Mikawachi Nishi Kiln Site

A 100m climbing kiln which was used until 1941.

Site of coal kiln at Imayoshi Pottery

An old coal kiln and its chimney used in the Taisho & Showa periods (1912 - 1989) still remain.

Site of the Pottery Design Training School

A facility founded in 1899 to train the next generation by teaching them Mikawachi's traditional designs and techniques.

Mikawachi's Pottery Techniques

Karako Represents happiness & prosperity Karako or cute Chinese Children is the most popular design in Mikawachi Ware

Eggshell Porcelain The porcelain which has a thickness of less than one millimeter and allows light to pass through

Relief Work A traditional technique of creating images by piling up layers of diluted white clay

Openwork Carving A traditional technique of making holes precisely on the surface to create the pattern

Underglaze Blue Designs painted onto a white bisque ground using a brush soaked in cobalt blue pigment called *Gosu*

Hand-forming Ceramic realistic & lifelike animals, flowers and vegetables created with Mikawachi potters' exceptional skills

Hand-crafted Chrysanthemum A ceramic decorative chrysanthemum flower whose petals are carved out one by one with a sharp-tipped bamboo tool

Restroom

Post Office

Hospital

Convenience Store



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