

Go one step beyond!

THE SEA, THE WIND, AND THE JOURNEY

A Guidebook to Sasebo & Ojika



As you pass through the Tenjinyama Tunnel on the Nishi-Kyushu Expressway, the city of Sasebo launches into view. A city is surrounded by mountains on three sides.

On the west side of the city is Sasebo Port, the only open side of town. The shipyard and naval base, with their array of cranes and escort ships that seemingly compete with each other in height and size, sit seamlessly next to the city center.

The history of Sasebo Port begins with the establishment of the imperial naval base in the Meiji era, and this port was the most modernized port in its time.

Following the Meiji era, the port and city continued to grow and develop, and after quickly coming into contact with American culture in the Showa era, the atmosphere of each era remain and continue to reside in every corner of the city.

With three stations for trains, buses, and boats all next to each other, you can leave your car behind and take a step forward and beyond.

Local railways and buses will connect you to the magnificent archipelago of Kujukushima, the mountainous countryside with its extensive forests and terraced rice paddies bless the sea with their riches, and post towns on a historical route that allows you to experience the beauty of old Japan.

High-speed boat and ferry services will connect you to an island where the descendants of Christians who overcame a long period of hardship now live and to islands where you'll find strong and tender-hearted fishermen who have been raised by the mild climate and bountiful seas.

Take pleasure in the ever-changing views and aromas of the wind as you reach your destinations on a journey like no other.

We await your visit to Sasebo and Ojika with open arm and hearts.

Welcome to Land of the Ocean Breeze.

Take pleasure in the ever-changing aroma of the wind.



Contents

SASEBO — 4

Sasebo Port — 6

Kujukushima — 8

Northern Kujukushima — 10

Kuroshima — 12

Emukae — 14

Yoshii and Shiratake — 16

Sechibaru and Yunoki — 18

Haiki — 20

Mikawachi — 22

Uku Island — 24

Ojika Island — 26

Nozaki Island — 28

Our Recommended Program for Enjoying
the Japan Heritage Site of Sasebo from the
Land and the Sea — 30

Sasebo Street Sketches — 32



The Sea, The Wind, and The Journey
Wide-area map

0 2 4km

Uku High-speed boat: Approx. 80-110 min. /Ferry: 150-205 min.
Ojika High-speed boat: Approx. 85-105 min. /Ferry: Approx. 160-200 min.



The Naval Port Town

SASEBO



Head down Kokusai-dori towards the Sasebo River and you'll come upon Sasebo Bridge. As you look in the direction of the river mouth, you'll find a large hospital on your right hand side. In the Edo era, this area was called the Sasebo Inlet. With a lineup of approximately 100 tenement houses for sailors, the town would have been a bustling area. "Kakos" were fishermen and would form a naval force when necessary as part of a unique system of the Hirado Domain, which had its foundation in the seas. Up until the middle of the Meiji era, the coastline reached close to the mountains and boats would come and go from various places in the area.

Sasebo Inlet had calm and deep waters, and measured approximately 33 km² in size, making it a natural harbor unlike any other—one that was perfect as a naval port. The Sasebo Naval District was opened in 1889, and since then, the city has greatly expanded from Motomachi, which lies at the foot of Sasebo Bridge. From the Meiji era and throughout the Taisho era, the shipyard, railways, highways, waterworks, electricity, the urban area of town, and other city infrastructure were developed, and Sasebo continued to grow as a navy town.

The culture and lifestyle of Sasebo remains in its food and buildings that leave you with a reminder of bygone eras, and the city was one of the first to adopt American culture after World War II, making it a unique city with a *mélange* of influences.



Tunnel Yokochi The shops here are packed into a war-era bunker. The shopping arcade is filled with shops that will wake you to take a peek inside its deep-set, inviting spaces with stocks of nostalgic products.



Tonooichiba This area has been beloved as the kitchen of Sasebo's citizens since the Taisho era. You'll experience a variety of sensations as you see storefronts filled with products, hear the lively sounds of laughter, and smell an assortment of nostalgic aromas. With cafes as well as burger shops in the area, you'll also want to enjoy a stroll through the neighborhood.



Sasebo Park This green-filled park facing the Sasebo River was originally a training ground for the navy. Today, it is a place of recreation for the citizens of Sasebo, and it is popular for its walking and jogging paths. Adjacent to Nimitz Park, which is managed by the US Navy, naval personnel are common.



Foreign Bar Street Numerous foreign bars can be found in the central shopping arcade that crosses Kokusai-dori. There are also citizens who say that they experienced Jazz or learned English conversation here. You can feel the history and charm that is unique to Sasebo as one of the earliest adopters of American culture.



Former Sasebo Naval District Triumph Memorial Hall (Sasebo Cultural Hall) The first thing you'll see as you cross to the other side of the Sasebo Bridge is this imposing, white building. A symbol of the city's connection to the navy, today, it is beloved by the citizens of Sasebo as a place for plays and concerts. Registered as a tangible cultural artifact.



9:30-17:00 (admission until 16:30) / Closed every 3rd Thursdays and 12/28-1/4
Free 6 large buses, 20 cars (free) 0956-22-3040

MSDF Sasebo History Museum (Sail Tower)

This museum is marked by its unique octagonal roof that has been partially preserved from the Sasebo Suikosha, a naval club where officers of the old Japanese Imperial Navy used to gather. The materials and exhibits allow you to cover Japanese naval history from the opening of the imperial naval base through today's MSDF. The observing floor is a nice viewing spot among locals who are in the know.



Former JOSCo Railway Line

These former navy-exclusive railway tracks were completed in 1903 and were later taken over by the Japan Oil Storage Co., after which they came to be known as the JOSCo Line.

Yorozu Town 6 In the vicinity of the Sasebo Morning Market, you'll find a collection of approximately 30 stores, including small, yet brightly characteristic shops and cafes. Among the shops are 9 stores that make up the BRICK MALL SASEBO, a remodeled, former warehouse. The arrangement of old bricks and beams within the stores makes the mall feel both "new" and "nostalgic" at the same time, and makes it a space that is enjoyable and comfortable.



Experience the History of the Old Navy
and the Modern Town

Sasebo Port

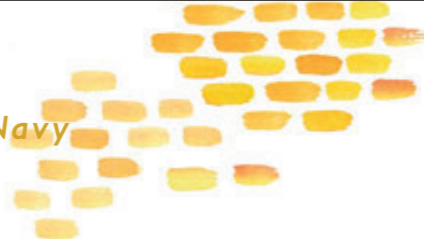
Sasebo Port can be found deep inside the pocket of the Tawaragaura Peninsula, a geographical feature with a coast line that extends south of the port. After being officially opened in 1889, the area was upgraded and developed as a modern naval port. This port was also where the combined Japanese naval fleet made its triumphal return after its victory in the Battle of Tsushima in 1905.

From 1900, the construction of a fortress to protect the naval port began. Due to its status as an important base, three cannon emplacements were installed for observation points along the Tawaragaura Peninsula, which is the entrance to Sasebo Port. The port in its state at the time nestled in the remote and deep mountains would make you



feel the passage of time.

After World War II, the port would see even greater change as a base for the U.S. navy. Today, it is one of Japan's leading ports, and every year it sees approximately 1.28 million people entering and leaving the port on approximately 23,000 boats, including warships of all shapes and sizes, remote-island ferries, and large cruise ships.



The construction that began in 1882 mobilized around 170,000 people in a month. It was big project that involved filling in the sea and leveling mountains.



1. Former Sasebo Port Defense Operations Constructed in 1916.



2. Former Daiichi Wharf
A wharf that was established by the Japanese Navy in the Meiji era.



3. Warships Many large warships are anchored here, including amphibious assault ships.



4. Tategami Basin and the Hammerhead Crane A structure consisting of a basin and crane that measures 576 meters wide by 363 meters deep in order to accommodate huge warships. They were completed in 1913.



5. Sasebo Heavy Industries (SSK) docks and cranes
A facility that once belonged to the Sasebo Naval Arsenal and continues to exist as a shipyard.



6. Akasaki Petroleum Storage Facility A site that contains Japan's first concrete-reinforced oil tanks.



7. Maehata Munitions Depot
A munitions depot that was built in 1889 and continued to be expanded until the end of World War II.



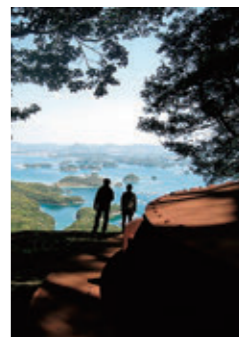
8. MSDF Kurashima Wharf
A site where it is possible to see Japanese naval ships at their closest distance to the land.



9. Hizukushi Warehouses
The site of what were originally nine warehouses that were erected from the Taisho era through the end of World War II. The highlight of this site is the stone-built warehouse No. 1, which is 180 meters wide.



Hario Wireless Towers [A National Important Cultural Property]
A group of three, soaring concrete towers that stand on Hario Island along the border between Sasebo Bay and Omura Bay. Erected by the Imperial Japanese Navy in 1922, they were among Japan's first concrete high-rise buildings. Approx. 30 min. by car from Sasebo Station.



Former gun emplacements and observation posts constructed by the old Japanese Imperial Army dot the Tawaragaura Peninsula and were built to protect the port in the Meiji era.



The Sun-drenched and Vibrant Cradle of Life

Saikai National Park Kujukushima



Kujukushima displays the various expressions of each of the four seasons. The intricate ria seacoast and 208 islands and islets create a coastline that stretches to 355 kilometers in length, and over 80% of this area consists of natural seacoasts, making it a rarity in modern day Japan.

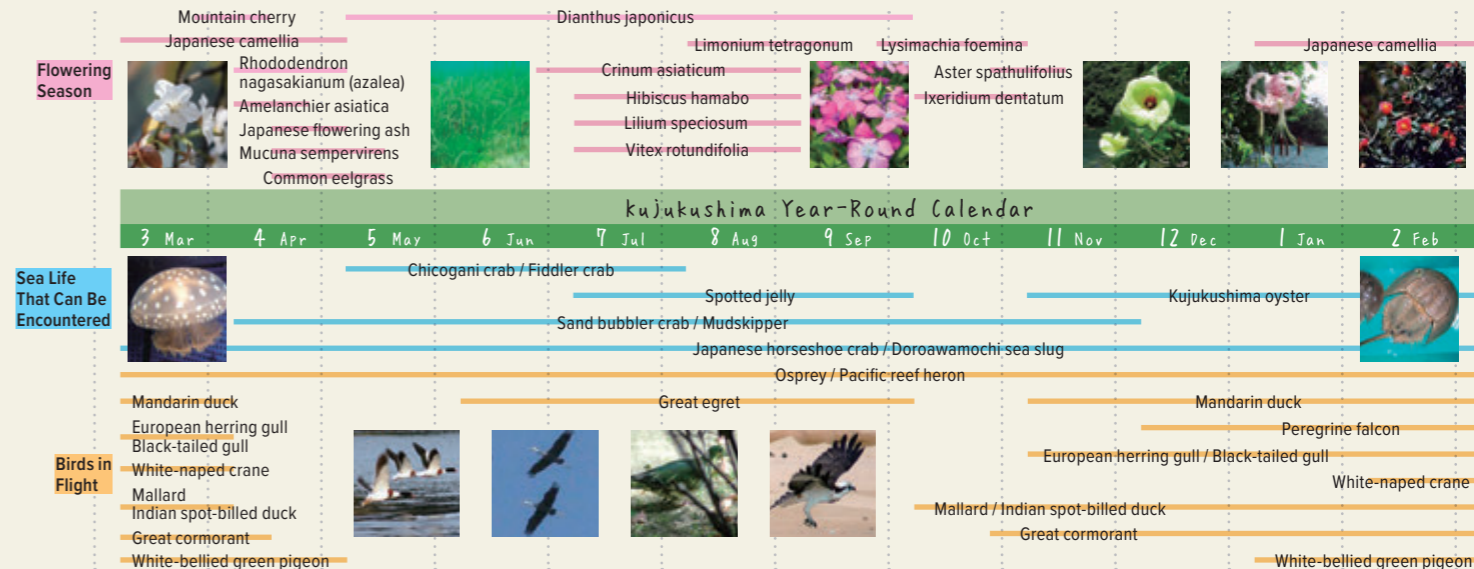
The land along the intricate coastline of Kujukushima also features a number of evergreen broadleaved forests, and the fact that these wonders still remain is nothing short of a miracle. When it rains, the nutrients from the forest flow into the ocean, where they nurture the development of bountiful plankton that sustain fish and other sea life. And though this creates water that is not clear, but the

deep-blue color of the ocean serves as proof of its abundance.

The ocean in this region contains approximately 1,000 types of fish, and at low tide, it is possible to have a close look at the many sea creatures that call this ocean their home, including various sea vegetables, crustaceans such as horseshoe crabs, as well as coral. You will find birds that give notice of the seasons perched among the land. The flowers of the four seasons bloom as if they were passing batons in a relay race.

As you see such workings of nature, you'll also find the sea that blesses mankind with its richness.

In prehistoric times, the mild climate and nourishment provided



by the ocean made it possible for these coasts to be settled by mankind. At some time in history, every single one of the limitless inlets across this region provided the benefits of the ocean that would allow for the formation of settlements. Today, this region supports the lives of men as fishing grounds that are rich in both their variety and volume of fish as well as farming areas for the cultivation of oysters and pearls.

Throughout the year, Kujukushima will present you with the diversity of its fauna and its connection to life.

The welcoming seas will excite your curiosity and have you yearning for more—that is Kujukushima.



Kamenoko-jima is the site where pearls were first cultivated in Kujukushima, and a wooden bridge from ancient times still exists there today.



Permanent staff members that know all about Kujukushima are available at the Saikai National Park Kujukushima Visitor Center. You can experience the nature of Kujukushima, and events that everyone from children to the elderly can enjoy are also held here.



Scattered among the inlets that create the intricate coastline of the Northern Kujukushima region are what may be a great number of seamen's residences. The "Kakos" are men who were fishermen as well as a naval force, and the sea was their stage of action. For the fishermen who are the descendants of these "Kakos", the seas of Kujukushima are irreplaceable fishing grounds that their ancestors risked their lives for.

This region is one of the leading areas of Japan in terms of richness in the variety and volume of fish, and the ocean before your eyes boasts the highest volume of Japanese anchovy that can be harvested in Japan. The people here say, "We support Japanese miso soup!" And that's because of the region's iriko (dried sardines) that are essential in miso soup broth.

The fishermen of Kujukushima give you carefree smiles, and it's likely that the abundant hauls of Kujukushima's seas have been protecting the livelihoods and smiles of the people of its inlets and bays over hundreds of years until today.

To Fishing Villages Scattered Across Many Inlets

The Northern Kujukushima Region



In contrast to the wild nature of Southern Kujukushima, the northern region is marked by scenes featuring small fishing villages.



Younger people are also becoming fisherman. Having dinner with friends and colleagues is one thing that they enjoy themselves.



Nagushiyama Park [one of the Eight Views of Kujukushima] Nagushiyama Park is located in the town of Shikamachi, where 100,000 azaleas proudly bloom in spring. Beyond the pink gradation of the park, the silhouette of Kujukushima and its fresh green foliage unfold, captivating you with its illusion-like beauty. The Nagushiyama Azalea Festival is held during peak viewing season and sees a large number of visits from photo enthusiasts and families.
 ☎Nagushiyama Park 0956-77-4111



Hiyamizudake Park [one of the Eight Views of Kujukushima] The outlook from this park allows you to enjoy spectacular views of Northern Kujukushima from a variety of angles. To the north are magnificent views of the massive Mt. Nagushi and the peaks of Daikanzan.
 ☎1618-12, Yadake, Kosaza-cho, Sasebo



An Island of Prayers and Bountiful Flowers

Kuroshima

Kuroshima is located 50 min. by ferry from Sasebo-Ainoura Port, and the ferry to get there, whose small size can only accommodate a few cars, is the only connection between the island and the mainland. At 12 km in perimeter, Kuroshima holds the largest land of Kujukushima, but the current population of the island is approximately 500 people. Most of the residents make half of their living from farming and the other half from fishing. The ancestors of the islanders were hidden Christians who had escaped persecution 250 years ago. They endured poverty, opened up the withered land, and held out hopes for sustenance to live. "Come rain or wind, we go to church early every morning. The day won't start unless we do."

Kuroshima Church has stood for 110 years since its completion and even today, it is the heart and soul of the people who live on Kuroshima. The gentle smiles created by the strong hearts and richness of spirit of people who firmly maintained their beliefs continue to this very day.

*Registered World Cultural Heritage Site



Kuroshima Church is located nearly at the center of the island. Construction was started by Father Marmand after his arrival in 1897. Using 400,000 bricks along with donations from the congregation and labor contributions, the church was completed in 1902.

*Entrance into the premises is restricted due to preservation construction. [November 2018 – October 2020 (scheduled)]



Rebirth of Belief The site of the home of the Deguchi family who risked their lives to reach Kuroshima Church so that they could make the existence of faith known. The monument at this site was built to commemorate the first mass held by a missionary.



The Warabi District An old, Catholic settlement on land that was reclaimed by the hidden Christians. This settlement shows how the hidden Christians built their homes on the hills overlooking the sea, surrounded by trees for protection from the wind, and in the background you can see sloped fields that were created in the process of reclamation.



The abundance of groundwater and the richness of the water on Kuroshima are said to be reasons why the hidden Christians settled here. For the island's only cafe, known as Cafe Misaki, the Kuroshima Blend, which uses natural water from the island, is a popular drink. ☎0956-56-2310 / Closed on Thursdays



Starting with Asago Church (the current building was completed in 1928), which was built in 1884 after Catholics from Kuroshima moved there, small churches dot the many inlets and bays of Saikai.



A Town with Water at its Heart

Emukae



In August, at the height of summer, people young and old head to Emukae to see the festivals held by the city, including the Mizukake Jizo Festival and Thousand Lantern Festival, which symbolize summer in Emukae. The festivals have been passed down from parent to child over the course of approximately 450 years. A wooden jizo statue from Jufukuji Temple is carried on a portable shrine to the Kareigawa River, where children energetically splash it with water. This scene will surely cause you to smile and make you feel something similar to the love that a parent has for their child. At night, a tower measuring 25 m in height is decorated with approximately 3,300 lanterns, giving the cityscape a magical appearance as night falls.

The following morning, you'll drive north on the Route 204 to Senryu Sake Brewery. On the left, you see the Emukae River, and on the right, you see rows of white stucco buildings.

In the center of this area, there will be a manor, with a large and imposing gate. This is the site of Emukae Honjin, where the feudal lord of the Hirado Domain would spend his nights. Stretching for approximately 60 km (15 ri) from Hiradoguchi to Sonogi, the Hirado Okan, which is also called the Lord's Highway, is the only one of its kind to remain fully intact. The hall used by feudal lords was called Chinsuisha, and it was named so by Lord Kanchu, the 35th lord of the Hirado Domain. Pond water extends under the manor's veranda, and this pond is the source of the name Chinsuisha (submergence house), as the lord spent his nights there listening to the sound of the waterfall plunging into the pond. There is also a suikinkutsu (water harp) in the corner of the garden that plays elegant sounds from the water that drips off in the process of washing one's hands. The thoughtful, water-based mechanism was created by a garden designer from the imperial capital, Kyoto.



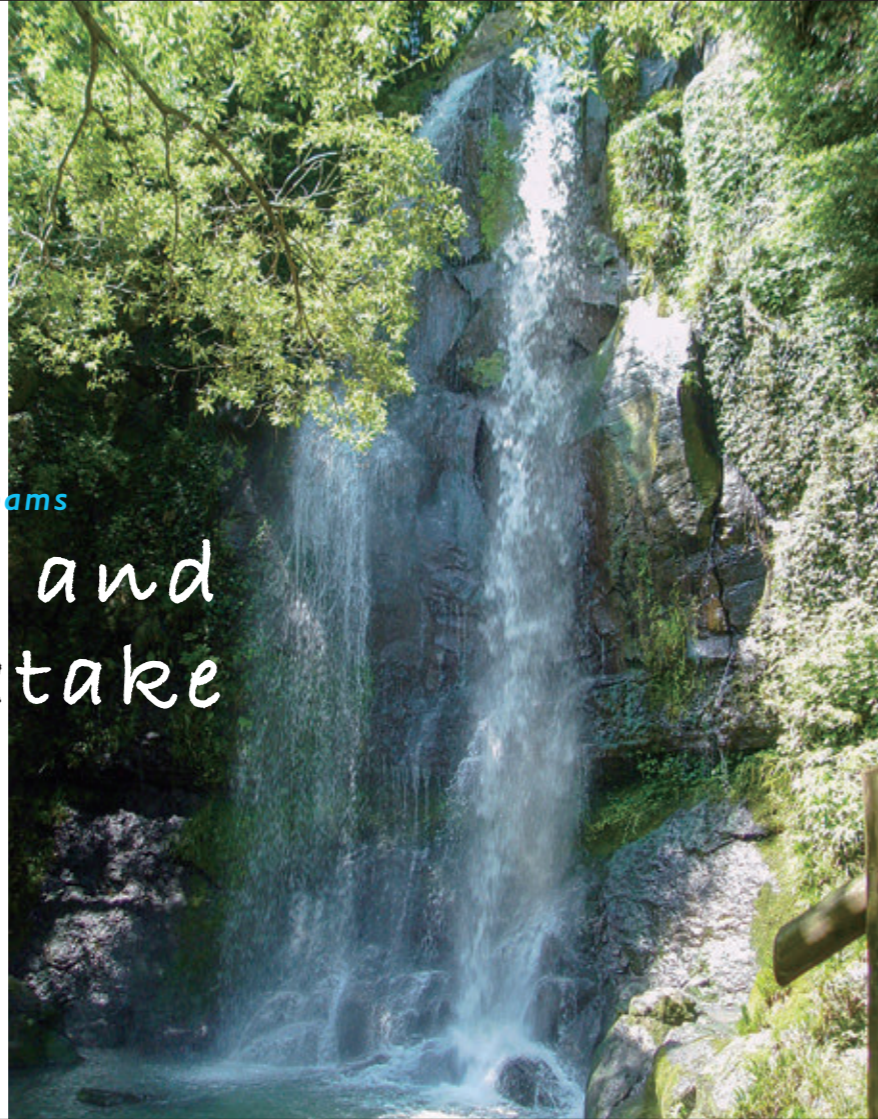
The Mizukake Jizo Festival and Emukae Thousand Lantern Festival are held every year from 8/23-24.



Emukae Honjin [Prefectural Tangible Cultural Property]
Reservations required for tours / Tours unavailable in December
☎0956-65-2209

Visit Forests with Clear Streams

To Yoshii and Mt. Shiratake



Senryu-ga-taki Falls



The Fukuigawa Bridge, which was completed in 1942. [National Tangible Cultural Property]

Photo provided by the Sasebo City Board of Education



The site of Naoya Castle [Prefectural Historical Site], which was said to be constructed in the 13th century.

Rivers such as the Saza, Ainoura, Matsuura, and Emukae flow from sources in mountains of Mt. Kunimi, Mt. Hattendake, Mt. Kakuidake, and Mt. Shiratake, which are located on the border between the cities of Imari in Saga Prefecture and Matsuura. Among the valleys where these rivers flow are a number of woodland areas that are said to create scenes of unimagined spectacle. In search of these scenes created by the water of the valleys, we tried to take a stroll and walked over from the MR Yoshii station.

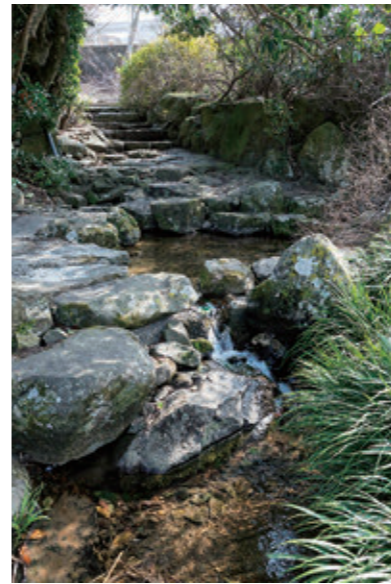
We walked for a while along the Saza River that flows through the town of Yoshii. As we went upstream from the Fukui River, which joins with the Saza River, we were able to see the Fukuigawa Bridge that was built in the Showa era, and the site of the medieval Naoya Castle. Progressing further, as we heard the intense sounds of crashing water, we came upon a waterfall—Senryu-ga-taki Falls. These falls were one of the “Eight Scenic Views of Hirado”, which Lord Kanchu of the Hirado Domain had painted by an artist from the imperial capital, Kyoto.



Ohashi Kannon, a famous spot to view the changing leaves of autumn [Eight Views of Hirado].

Where the Wind Blows Verdant Aromas

Sechibaru and Yunoki



Outdoor baths where you can view the fresh greenery at close distance. Sechibaru Hot Springs Kunimi Baths, Tenku-no-Yado, Yamanoren ☎0956-76-2900



Sechibaru Tea, tamaryokucha (green tea), which has been produced since the mid-Meiji era, is a rare article even in Japan.

The base of Mt. Kunimi is the perfect place for a drive to rejuvenate the mind and body among its deep green fields.

Here, you will find an abundance of spring water and a string of terraced rice paddies. It seems that the streams are so clear that you can actually find the rare red dragonfly known as "Miyama Akane" flying about. In the Meiji era, this area attracted attention as a valuable water source for the naval base as well as the city, and it became the first region in Japan to have a modern waterworks facility built.

The river flows from its source down through the valley woodlands towards its lowest basin. Here, the intricate coast forms a multitude of small mud flats and creeks, and beyond these are the calm waves of Kujukushima that create rich fishing grounds.



The isomorphic Okamoto water source, which was completed in 1900.

A small river flows through the heart of Haiki. The houses built along the bank of this river are lifted up on stone pillars that stand in the middle of the river. You might just see some people who have fishing lines hanging from their windows. In early spring, a large amount of young striped mullet gather at the surface of the river.

This small river, known as the Haiki River, is a manmade waterway that was created at the beginning of the Edo era, and the river took on the role of a moat to defend Haiki Honjin and its sub-honjin that stood along the riverbank. Now, all that remains is the honjin's old-fashioned gate and stone walls.

The streets in the town of Haiki form a key-like shape, and this was also done for reasons of defense, as this area was said to be an important inlet and post station for the military and the economy. Walking towards the Haiki Seto Strait, you'll find a ferry monument.

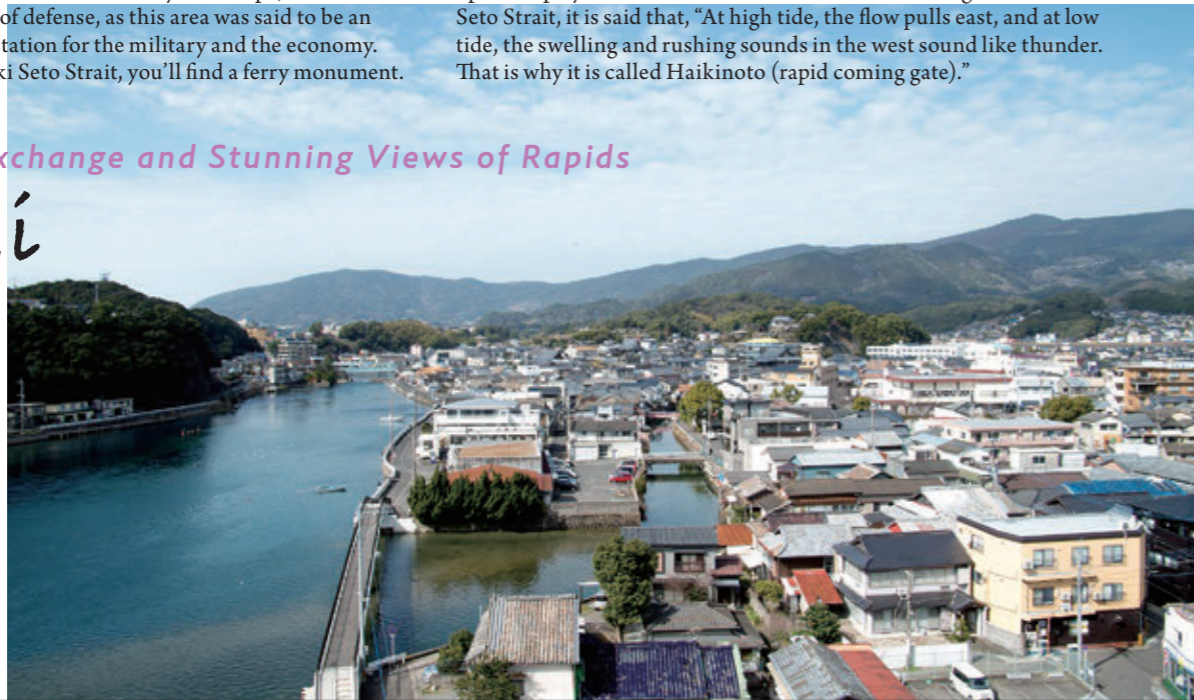
Until the beginning of the Showa era, this place was a wharf for steamships where you could cross over to Hario Island, as well as a stopping point for people from Hirado and Goto who were on their way to the coast of Omura Bay or Sasebo Bay. It was also a landing for daily commodities, making it an extremely busy location.

The tea market, which has existed for 400 years and is still in operation today, has been engaged in the trade of sea and mountain-based products, communicating that it is an important place for exchange and logistics even in this day and age.

We then walked to Kancho Bridge along the embankment that is opened up by the Haiki Tea Market. In ancient writings on the Haiki Seto Strait, it is said that, "At high tide, the flow pulls east, and at low tide, the swelling and rushing sounds in the west sound like thunder. That is why it is called Haikinoto (rapid coming gate)."

A History of Exchange and Stunning Views of Rapids

Haiki



1. Hirado Okan The Okan is a narrow road measuring 1 ken (1.8 m) in width. This old road still remains and was used by the feudal lords of Hirado and their processions when they would travel to Nagasaki.

2. Site of Haiki Honjin Established by the Tanimura family, who worked as shipping agents and sake brewers in the Haiki inlet. It is said that honjin was called "ochaya (teahouses)" in Haiki.

3. Haiki Tea Market An array of products ranging from the blessings of the seas and mountains to farming tools and daily commodities line the shops along the strait, and after the wind invites you to cross the strait, you'll find a market bustling with many people.

*First market: 5/7-9, Second market: 5/17-19, Third market: 5/27-29, Plum market: 6/7-9



From Mikawachi to Nagasaki's Dejima,
and then to Europe

Mikawachi

From the Haiki Seto Strait, which was the port from where Mikawachi pottery was shipped out, we head north on Route 57 of the National Highway to the Mikawachi-yaki Art Museum near the JR Mikawachi Station.

Here, you'll find everything from masterpieces from the age of patronized kilns that fascinated the world, to modern works of excellence, all on display. The museum allows you to admire pieces of Mikawachi pottery while also tracing its history. The greatest characteristic of this pottery is the shine of delicate blue pigment reflected in it, pure white ceramic surfaces. We were freshly moved by the craftsmanship of these ceramics, which also include openwork, hinerimono, and handicraft.

And while riding with this emotional high, we took the highway down to Sarayama, where we then made our way to a shrine on a plateau deep within the village of Sarayama—Kamayama Shrine.

The foremother of Mikawachi pottery, Nakazato Ei (Kourai Baba) is enshrined here. She brought techniques that had never been used in Mikawachi, such as the creation of pottery using straw ash.

Imamura Yajihe (Joen) is enshrined at Toso Shrine, which is nestled in a valley. Joen was the second-generation master of the Hirado Domain kiln, and by the mid-17th century, he had succeeded in blending Amakusa potters stone and Hario-Ajiro potters stone to complete a pure-white porcelain that was cutting edge for its time.

Blue-pigmented Bottle with Chrysanthemum
and Autumn-flower Pattern
late Edo era

Photo owned by the Sasebo City Board of Education



Hakutai (white porcelain) coffee cup
late Edo era

A pure-white, paper-thin style called Mikawachi "Rankakute (Eggshell)." Finding appeal with the royalty and nobility of Europe, the "Rankakute" technique was developed in Mikawachi-Sarayama in the late Edo era, and in the Meiji era, it was exported in considerable number through Nagasaki's Dejima.



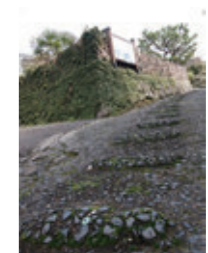
Figurine of the Seven Sages of
the Bamboo Grove
late Edo era



Dating back 400 years, this technique that is traditionally passed down from father to child is still being inherited by contemporary ceramicists.



Site of the Domain Kiln (East)



Basha-michi (carriage
drive)



Toso Shrine

The Island Where Gods
Reside in Every Corner

Uku
Island



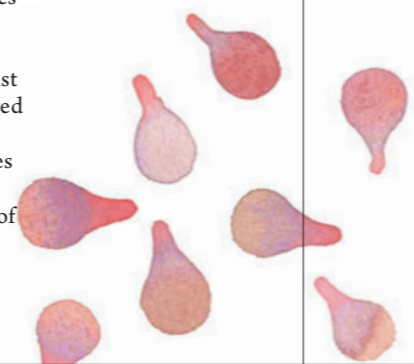
The sounds of men singing ring throughout the room,
“My wish has come true
At the end will come long life
Isn’t that a crane flying up above
Oh, how great it is that the inn is prosperous
From now and beyond that...”

This is the song “Oouta Yoiyasa”, a festive song from Uku Island that had been passed down since the Edo era. The song is connected to whale hunting, and has its origins as songs sung by whaling groups in the battle against a whale or to wish for a big catch. Even now, this song is indispensable at celebrations, and performing improvised lyrics that match the occasion is the highlight of this

traditional performing arts.

This small island that measures 38 km in circumference and has a population of 2,300 has a great number of shrines and temples. There is one shrine for each of the 28 villages on the island as well as halls of worship devoted to the Buddhist saints Kannon and Jizo. There are also several places in the island that were visited by the great Buddhist monk Kobo Daishi. There is even a pilgrimage of 88 sacred sites. These temples and shrines have been supported by the contributions of people who have made their fortunes through whaling and abalone fishing.

Whaling symbolizes Uku Island’s wealth, and a spirit of gratitude for this blessing remains all around the island.



Tiles on a mercantile house marked with its shop's name express its former popularity and prosperity.



A statue of Buddha and a memorial tower, which were created by a donation from the Yamada family of Edo-era Ukujima whalers, have been offered to Ukujima's oldest temple, Tokoiji (said to have been constructed in 1187).





Head 70 km west from Sasebo Port and you'll come to Ojika Island, which is located north of the Goto Islands. It was a 1.5 hour trip on a high-speed boat that feels like flying on the water.

Ojika Island has even-sloping geographical features that were created by lava from a submarine volcano, giving the island many flat plains that allow the island to be blessed with an abundance of rice and other crops.

Though small in size, the island was once an important base for whaling, and many people would gather here as a port of call for trade with foreign countries. At the height of its popularity when there were many people on the island, approximately 10,000 people lived there. Now, the population has been reduced to about a quarter of that size.

A Home-like Journey

Ojika Island

Peanuts have been cultivated on Ojika Island for the past 70 years. It's said that The island's red-clay soil and sunshine produce a rich sweetness in the peanuts. The peanuts are hand-selected and roasted, a process that is the same today as it was in the past.

In addition to these peanuts, there have also been hit items generated by young people who have used agricultural products from the island.



However, the people on the island have been able to preserve a lifestyle where they live one day at a time protecting the island's nature and traditions as well as gentle connections between people, without being excessively affected by the economy.

On Ojika Island, a public corporation called "Ninaite Kosha" started business in 2001 to protect the island's industry and the livelihoods and landscapes of the island by passing them down to future generations. Interested young people from the island and elsewhere are being accepted as trainees and supported until they can stand on their own. Small steps are being made in areas such as agriculture and agricultural products processing, but they seem to clearly be achieving results.



The former manor of the Fujimatsu family, who made their fortune in whaling and sake brewing. It's currently the Kominka (old house) Restaurant Fujimatsu.



Walking the roads in a fishing village near Ojika Port, you'll see scenes that seem like you've been transported back in time. Under the pleasant illusion that you've come back home after a long time away, without thinking, you'll quietly say "I'm back" to yourself. This sense of comfort may be the greatest gift that is given to travelers to this island.

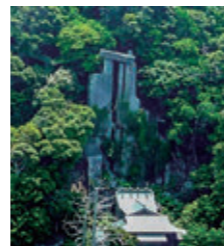


An Island Where Different Faiths Lived Together

Nozaki Island



Former Nokubi Church



The Oeishi rocks and Okinokojima Shrine

The sea around Nozaki Island was an important area for marine traffic where embassy ships and other vessels would come and go. At the northern edge of the island, there is Okinokojima Shrine, which was constructed in the 8th century. In the Edo era, the shrine also saw visits from retainers of the lord of the Hirado Domain who came in place of the lord. In this period, the entire Goto Islands region, including Ojika Island, experienced the spread of Shintoism and Nozaki Island became a sacred place for followers of Shintoism.

Coming into the 19th century, Christians moved to the islands to escape persecution from the sea region around Nagasaki. The settlements of Nokubi and Funamori are located at the center and southern part of the island, respectively.

Nokubi was reclaimed in the early 18th century by the Oda family, who made their fortune on Ojika Island in whaling and cargo shipping, but the settlement was later abandoned. Around 100 years later, it was settled by the hidden Christians.

In contrast, Funamori has an emotion-filled, secret story about the history of its birth and the exchanges that took place on the island. In the Edo era, the head of the Taguchi family, who made a living as a shipping agent on Ojika Island, took pity on three Christians who were going to be executed the next day, so he hid them in the bottom of a boat and brought them back to the island with him from Omura Port. He had them live in Funamori, which at the time was undeveloped land, but their interaction continued. They thought of the head of the Taguchi family as their father, and never forgot the debt that they owed his family.

They endured poverty and grueling work, surviving and keeping their hope alive with their faith, which was their only joy. And in 1873, the long ban on religion was finished and they gained freedom of worship. In January 1908, construction began on what is now the Former Nokubi Church. The church was built and designed by master-builder Yosuke Tetsukawa, and construction was completed in November. After gaining a sturdy brick church, the Nokubi settlement saw an increase in residents, and about 200 people lived there. The settlement

continued after this until the 1960s, but along with the rapid advance of the economy, the number of people leaving the island increased and the village was finally deserted in the 1970s.

Nozaki Island has an important history that inherits the faith of the Christians who lived in harmony with other beliefs that have existed on the island since ancient times. And sites on the island such as the hidden Christian settlement, the masonry field, the cemetery, and the Former Nokubi Church, which looks just as it did when it was constructed, all remain without having been destroyed, allowing you to review the island's historical and cultural value once more.

*National Important Cultural Scenery
*Registered World Cultural Heritage Site



Site of the Nokubi Settlement (Nozaki Island Nature-Learning Village)



left: Nozaki Port, right: Site of the Funamori Settlement



Our Recommended Program for Enjoying the Japan Heritage Site of Sasebo from the Land and the Sea

The comfortable cruise bus “Umikaze” and the powerful naval port cruise will guide you through the city of Sasebo and its bay, which have been certified as “Japan Heritage.” We have also prepared two walking tours, one in the daytime and the other in the evening, to enjoy the port town of Sasebo.

SASEBO Cruise Bus “Umikaze”

{Sasebo Station » Sasebo Heavy Industries (Former Naval Arsenal) » Funakoshi Outlook » Kujukushima Pearl Sea Resort » Sasebo Station} 2 additional courses available
 ▶3 departures per day / no service on Thursdays (as well as other holidays)
 ▶Duration: 100 min.
 ▶Adults (junior high school or older): ¥1,800, Children (Elementary school): ¥900
 *Multilingual Automatic Audio Guide Service available



SASEBO Naval Port Cruise

Every Saturday, Sunday, and on holidays (1 departure per day at 11:30 am)
 ▶Duration: About 1 hour (service may be unavailable due to regular ship inspection and weather)
 ▶Adults (junior high school or older): ¥2,000, Children (Elementary school): ¥1,000, Charter service available (30 or more people or a minimum guarantee of ¥60,000)
 *Guide in Japanese only



SASEBO Naval Town Walking Tour

▶Reservations required 7 days before
 ▶Departure times: 10:00 and 14:00
 ▶Duration: About 90 min.
 ▶Meeting place: Sasebo Tourist Information Center
 ▶¥1,200
 *Guide in Japanese only



SASEBO Night Tour

▶Held on the days before Fridays, Saturdays, and holidays, reservations required 7 days in advance
 ▶Departure time: 19:30
 ▶Duration: About 60 min.
 ▶Meeting place: In front of MR Sasebo Chuo Station
 ▶¥1,200
 *Guide in Japanese only



For questions or to apply for any of the programs listed above, contact the Sasebo Tourist Information Center
 ☎0956-22-6630 (9:00-18:00/open year round)

Telephone Guide

[Transportation]

▶Bus

Sasebo City Bus (route buses).....0956-25-5112
 Saihi Bus (route buses)0956-23-2121
 (highway buses).....[Reservations] 0956-25-8900
 Nishitetsu Bus (highway buses)[Reservations] 0120-489-939 / 092-734-2727

▶Train

JR Sasebo Station0956-22-7115
 MR Matsuura Railway Sasebo Station0956-25-2229

▶Ferry/High-Speed Boat

Kyushu Shosen (Ojika and Uku-bound)095-822-9153
 Kuroshima Ryokyakusen Ferry (Kuroshima)0956-56-2516

▶Taxi

Sasebo City Taxi Association.....0956-22-2714
 Nagasaki Airport Shared Jumbo Taxi[Reservations] <http://www.jumbotaxi.info>
 [Mobile reservations] <http://www.jumbotaxi.info/m>

[Facilities]

Kujukushima Pearl Sea Resort0956-28-4187
 Saikai National Park Kujukushima Visitor Center - 0956-28-7919
 Mikawachi-yaki Art Museum
 (Traditional Arts and Crafts Hall).....0956-30-8080
 MSDF Sasebo History Museum (Sail Tower).....0956-22-3040

[Questions/Concerns]

Sasebo Tourist Information Center
 (inside JR Sasebo Station)0956-22-6630 (9:00-18:00 / Open year round)

Homepage Information

Sasebo and Ojika Tourist Information <https://www.sasebo99.com/>



sasebo street sketches MAP

After the Meiji era, Sasebo thrived as a naval port, and after World War II, the city came to be developed as a base for the U.S. Navy and the MSDF, giving it a unique atmosphere. Walking through the city brings a series of discoveries, including scenes of sailors strutting about as well as those of historical buildings that preserve their past appearances and restaurants and shops that intermingle with American influences.

Go one step beyond towards a town with depth—Sasebo.



1. Sasebo Heavy Industries (SSK) Docks and Cranes

2. SASEBO Cruise Bus "Umikaze" (P.30)
An elegant, white bus with pure-white, leather seating. This sightseeing bus with an overwhelmingly premium air about it can be found parked in a location overlooking the shipyard.

3. Sasebo Heavy Industries (SSK) Hammerhead 250-ton Crane

A crane that was built in 1913. It's 62 meters tall and the cantilever (rotating section) extends to 81 meters in length.

4. Red Brick Warehouse

Sasebo is Japan's leading town for red brick warehouses. The warehouses were constructed from the end of Meiji era through the Taisho era, and many of them are currently being used as warehouses on the U.S. Naval base and as stores.

5. The reddish-brown iron bridge on the Former JOSCo Railway Line that remains

on the Sasebo River. This is also evidence of this town's turbulent period.

6. U.S. Fleet Activities Sasebo

Taking up over 10% of the city with a total area of 4 km², the residents of the city candidly call it "The Base". After World War II and following occupation, the base continued as a base for the U.S. Navy and it now contains a population of around 7,000 people.

7. Yorozu District

Take a step further along the road and you'll find stores where owners have specially renovated old warehouses and traditional homes into shops for handmade accessories, cafes, and restaurants.

8. Sasebo Port

One of Japan's leading ports, which sees approximately 1.28 million people entering and leaving the port on approximately 23,000 boats.

9. Saihi Bus Center

A place to watch buses coming and going?

10. Miura Catholic Church

An impressive church painted in soft white that soars above a cliff.

11. Sasebo is a town that has a lot of hills and steps. With the mountains and the sea nearby, there is little flat land available, so the places where people live rise higher and higher along the mountain slopes.

12. The Elevated Bridge across Route 35

Above the wide highway is a Matsuura Railway that diesel railcars pass along.



Originally opened in 1936, it was the first municipal elevated bridge in Kyushu. A must-see for railway enthusiasts?

13. A corner that reminds you of the old American town.

14. Citizens Cultural Hall (Former Imperial Navy Triumphal Return Memorial Hall)

15. MSDF Sasebo History Museum (Sail Tower)

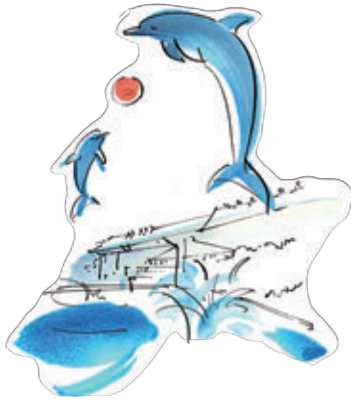
16. Hamburger Shop

Once you come to Kokusai-dori, head towards the Sasebo River. As the street gently curves, a shop for hamburgers full of American taste comes into view.

17. Sasebo Park

Cross Albuquerque Bridge to find the deeply forested Sasebo Park. The zone adjacent to this area is called Nimitz Park and it is a retreat for the citizens of Sasebo and foreigners from the base.





The Sea, The Wind, and The Journey. –A Guidebook to Sasebo and Ojika–

Published Spring, 2018

Planning and publication: Sasebo Convention and Visitors Association
21-1, Miura-cho, Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture 857-0863, Japan
(inside JR Sasebo Station)
TEL 0956-23-3369 FAX 0956-23-6750



Sea Wind Country Sasebo Ojika Tourism Zone