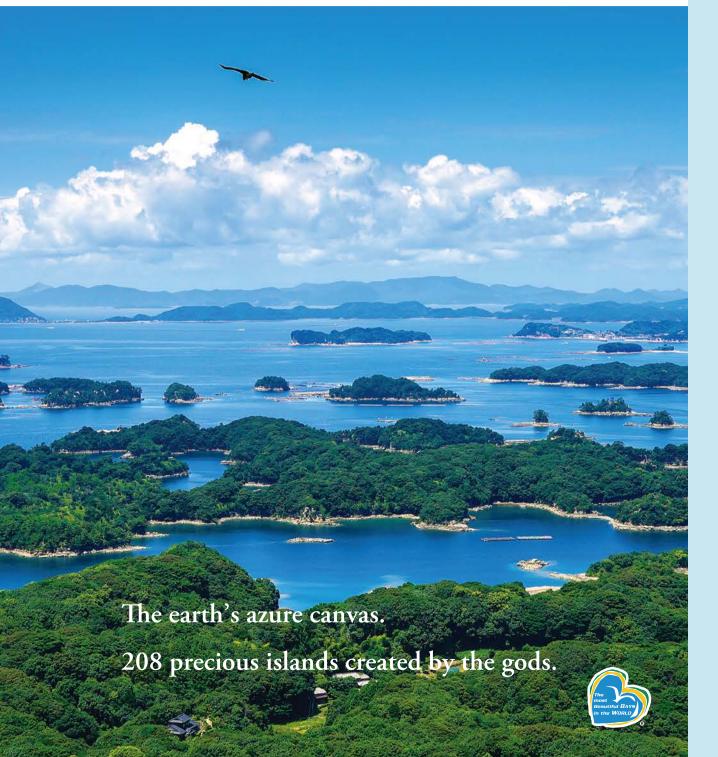


Saikai National Park

# Kujukushima



#### **Countless Inspirations**

# Saikai National Park Kujukushima



Photo credits: Makoto Sakai/KAZU/Sasebo Pearl Sea Co., Ltd. /Sasebo Tourism Digital Photo Contest Award Winner/Dive House Wonderla Sasebo-Kujukushima "The Most Beautiful Bays in the World Club" certified Instagram photo contest winner.

#### Inquiries about tourism in Kujukushima and Sasebo

Sasebo Tourism Information Center

21-1, Miura-cho, Sasebo City, Nagasaki Prefecture, 857-0863 (inside JR Sasebo Station)

Tourism information website www.travel.sasebo99.com/en/



Design & Publication

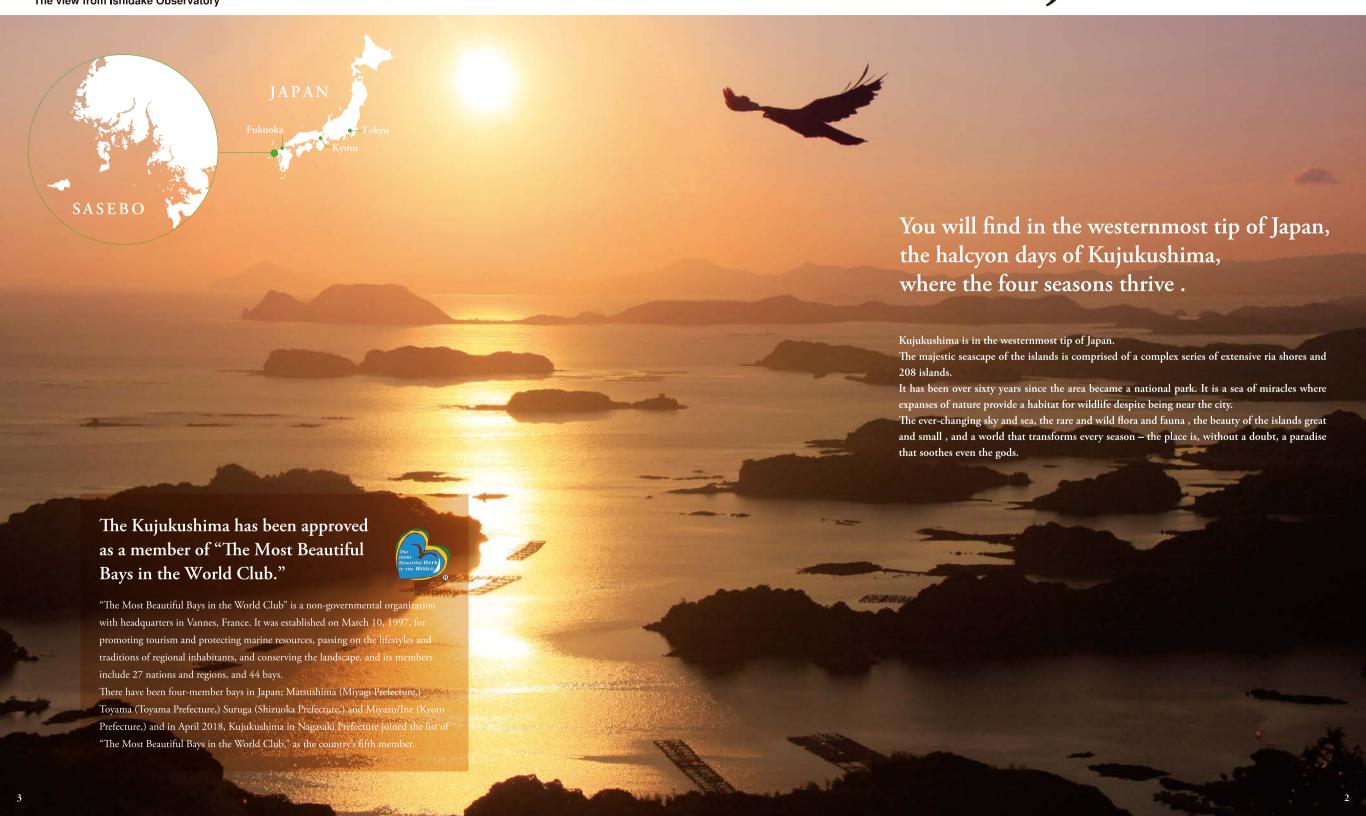
Sasebo City Tourism Section, Tourism and Trade Department Tel.: 0956-24-1111

Sasebo Convention & Visitors Association (public interest incorporated foundation) Tel.: 0956-23-3369



# Saikai National Park Kujukushima

The view from Ishidake Observatory



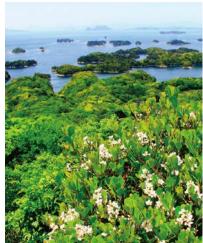


A panorama of verdant islands and azure sea spread out beyond a carpet of vibrant pink flowers.



#### 2 The view from Tawaragaura Peninsula "Marudeyama Observatory site" (Part of the "four dynamic coastal cities" of Japan)

There are gun batteries from the Meiji period in Tawaragaura Peninsula sandwiched between the seas of Sasebo Port and Kujukushima. The tranquil Kujukushima lays beyond the 100-year old sites.



#### People

#### Kujukushima x Nordic Walking

Mr. and Mrs. Shindo are enthusiastic practitioners and promoters of "Nordic Walking," a form of exercise that originates in Finland. The sport also has a reputation for its fashionable outfit, and the couple is spreading the Nornes boom from Sasebo, saying; "it's fantastic as you can walk at your own pace while feeling the changing of the season with your five senses." Popular courses include one that takes you along the sea and mountains in the Kujukushima Pearl Sea Resort and the city night walk, and the sport is so popular in the region that it has produced many people who take pride in their strong legs.

#### Mr. Kenichi Shindo and his wife Miwako.

They are the organizers of Nornes Sasebo, a group approved by the Japan Nordic Fitness Association (NPO). The energetic couple is spreading the fun of walking, using their strong legs and eloquence, and doing away with formalities.



# Spectacular views in the prismatic colors of nature. Have the world at your feet all to yourself.

A fantasy created by flowers, the islands, and the sea.

The mountains and the sea are joyously teeming with the activities of animals in the spring in Kujukushima. One hundred thousand azaleas bloom on the 234-meter Mount Nagushi, covering the whole area in shades of pink. The islands of Kujukushima viewed from the broad field of flowers look like clouds, and you can't help but try to capture the image with a camera.

Furthermore, just beyond the Marudeyama Observatory Site built by the army on Tawaragaura Peninsula about 100 years ago when Sasebo thrived as a naval port, you will find a calm sea that is in contrast to how things looked during the war. The best part of Kujukushima is that you get different views and impressions depending on where you stand.

# Spring

The best view in the spring





### Tour the Mecca of marine sports. What is it you're looking for?

Kujukushima is a marine sports paradise in the westernmost tip of mainland Japan. "Kujukushima Pearl Sea Resort" is the sacred ground where visitors can enjoy aquatic sports and the outdoors in the region's magnificent nature. The resort offers yacht sailing, sightseeing cruises, and an aquarium, and visitors can get an up-close view of flora and fauna of the islands. Some people enjoy fishing, children play on the beaches, and some take pictures of the setting sun. The calm sea teaches us that we can experience inner liberty by just placing ourselves in the unhurried natural surroundings of the islands.

#### People

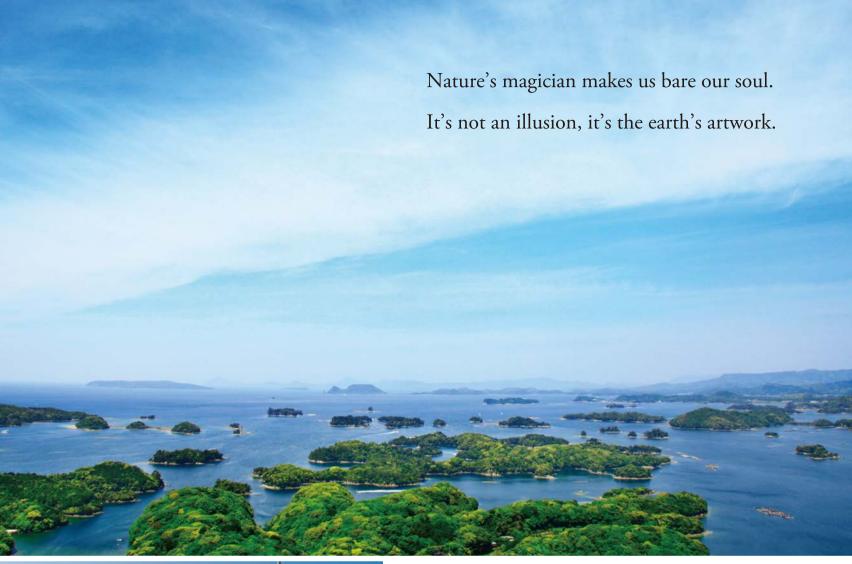
#### Kujukushima x Sea Kayaking

Kujukushima, where the calm sea is dotted with numerous small islands, is the perfect playground for kayakers, Mr. and Mrs. Tsutsumi organize tours which take kayaking beginners on a trip to a desert island where they can enjoy freshly ground coffee. The most popular of them all is the Sunset Tour that offers a view of the setting sun from a kayak, "When the weather is good, you can see the single road of the sun on the sea's surface. You experience a series of the extraordinary once you set



Mr. Masatoshi Tsutsumi and his wife Asami.

They represent Wave Peak Inc. which offers kayaking tours in Kujukushima. Asami participates in the tour as a weekend helper and guide.





3 At Tenkaiho Observatory at dusk in late summer. It is not possible to take images that look the same even when you

photograph at the same time of the year or the same hour of the day. It is all about the lucky encounter between the viewer and nature.



2 Yachting in Kujukushima

Tour the calm seas of Kujukushima on a cruiser-style yacht under the summer's sky.



# Summer

The best view in the summer



■ The view from Tenkaiho Observatory. In the early summer just before the rainy season, the contrast between the blues of the sea and sky, and the greens of the islands are beautiful









### A view from Ishidake Observatory just after sunset.

The afterimage of the azure sky is reflected on a world infused with blazing reds and yellows, and a crimson sky blankets the islands. The sky turns to this color several times a year.

### 2 A view from the mini sightseeing cruiser, "Rela Cruise."

The landscape in amber tones viewed from the sea. It is as picturesque as a shadow picture.

### 3 The view from Tenkaiho Observatory gives the sense of autumn.

Hear autumn approaching in Kujukushima where there are still vestiges of the summer.

### A view from Ishidake Observatory in the evening twilight.

Numerous islands are illuminated by the golden sunlight. The dragonflies fluttering as if they've lost track of time, add interest to the image.

#### People

#### Kujukushima x Photographer

NAGASAKI / SASEBO

KUJUKUSHIMA

"Music and photography have something in common, and they are the means I use to express myself. I achieve a state of nothingness when I see the beauty of the Kujukushima that shows different aspects every time I visit, and I feel the beauty of the earth's creations in the positioning of the islands, the colors of the setting sun, and the flock of great cormorants that fly in V-shaped formation against the madder sky," says KAZU. He presents Sasebo to the whole nation through his art that combines stillness and movement. Photographs 2 and 3 are by KAZU.



Mr. Kazuhisa Katsuragi (KAZU)

He composes and programs music for "Sandy Trip," a musical unit in Sasebo. He also works as a photographer. He showcases Sasebo's scenic beauty, including the Kujukushima, through videos and photographs using a drone equipped with a 4K camera. In 2015, he was appointed an "Honorary Ambassador for Sasebo Tourism."

#### Encounter the rainbow-colored miracles of nature.

To see the Kujukushima in the autumn when the archipelago is at its most abundant in all the four seasons, we recommend visiting Funakoshi, Ishidake, and Tenkaiho observatories. You will find unfolding before your eyes, Japan's symbolic scenery that graced the opening of the Hollywood movie, "The Last Samurai." The spectacle of luminous rays from the borderless blue world of sky and sea to sunset is so fantastical and alluring that you would not want to miss a single moment.

It's all a matter of luck if you will encounter the rainbow-colored transformation of Kujukushima, which captivates even the most discerning photographers. Kujukushima genuinely is a diverse nature's stage director as it's not possible to take the same picture twice even in the same hour of the day or place.



The best view in the autumn



#### A view from Ishidake Observatory at about 4 in the afternoon.

The sepia-toned Kujukushima seems somehow sentimental. A photo is given a narrative when the landscape involves people and nature.



#### 2 A view from Funakoshi Observatory at dusk.

A flock of great cormorants flying in beautiful formation is spotted high above the reddening sky of Kujukushima.

#### People

#### Kujukushima x Oyster farming

Kujukushima oysters have become a winter feature of Sasebo. The oyster huts built on rafts on the sea are busy with customers daily as they offer freshly caught oysters barbequed. Mr. Suetake who says, "I want people to experience the fun of eating oysters nurtured by the sea of islands and packed with umami on the water," is a master at enticing the appetites of visitors. The flavor you find in your travels will stay in your memories forever.

#### Mr. Kunihiko Suetake, representative of Marumo Suisan.

He is one of the people who propelled Kujukushima's oysters to becoming the nation's top brand by utilizing advanced farming technology that makes the oysters both safe and tasty. He has a charming and friendly smile.



#### A haven for migrating birds.

#### They turn the sky of the islands into art.

Every creature in nature stays still under the icy winter sky. However, the life-giving sea repeats the process of high and low tides without a break and nurtures life. The "Kujukushima oysters" that come into season in the winter are symbolic of the sea's bounty. Their rich flavor packed with the goodness of the sea give nourishment to the people.

The same goes for the migratory birds that come to the islands. The calm shores become havens and the abundant fishing grounds become the perfect feeding grounds. The Kujukushima that evokes a mother's warm embrace is fair and benevolent toward all living beings. From February to March each year, cranes can be seen flying north in V-shaped formation, passing above the Islands. The dots they create in the sky signal the arrival of spring.



The best view in the winter





10

11

#### The noble scallop

[In-season from Oct. to May]

AKA "rainbow scallop" is a two-shelled mollusk characterized by its beautiful shades of yellow, red, orange, and purple. The plump, firm, and meaty flesh is more abundant in umami than scallops and becomes addictive once tried.

## Nagasaki Herb Mackerel

Nagasaki's branded mackerel is given a feed blended with four types of herbs and spices, including oregano and nutmeg. It is a local favorite as it is easy to eat for it lacks the smell particular to blue-skinned fish. When eaten as sashimi, the sweetness of the meat without the fishiness fills the mouth.



#### Megumi Horse Mackerel

[In-season from June to Aug.]

"Megumi Horse Mackerel" is a rare delicacy that is caught patiently by single-hook fishing and dispatched just before shipment.

#### Rich flavors nurtured by the wild fishing grounds

The sea of Kujukushima with complex coastlines has many fishing grounds thriving with pearl and fish farming. The seafood raised here are delicious for the sea is dotted with islands with their abundant nature. The nutrients released into the sea from the islands as the tides ebb and flow nurture phytoplankton, and the seawater rich in nutrients make the fish tasty. Enjoy the bounty of the sea produced by the abundant natural surroundings of Kujukushima.



Feast on the

Kujukushima.

bounty

Kujukushima

Kujukushima



#### Kujukushima Tiger Puffer

[In-season from Nov. to Mar.]

Sasebo boasts the highest output of farmed tiger puffer. The fish given a special feed that combines pre-season mandarin oranges and raised in the bountiful sea of the islands has a firm and delectable flesh. When in season, it can be enjoyed at restaurants in the city.



#### [In-season from Nov. to Mar.]

#### The luxury of feasting on just-caught oysters.

The oysters of Kujukushima are small yet packed with rich umami. The "Oyster Huts on Water" where customers enjoy super-fresh oysters harvested on the spot and barbequed are popular among the locals and are also appreciated by visitors.









#### Dried Anchovies of Kujukushima

Sasebo produces the highest volume of dried anchovies in Japan. They are packed with umami, eaten as they are or in dashi since Japanese anchovies caught fresh from the sea of the islands are processed. There are also many processed food products made with dried anchovies.







UV lights.



Oyster farming rafts and oyster huts

The ovsters are safe and secure as they are managed meticulously by checking the seawater and sterilizing with

In the winter

when they're in season, we have the Kujukushima **Oyster Festivals.** 

Kujukushima Oyster-Eating **Festivals** 

Celebrated on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays in November and February

The annual events are held at Kujukushima Pearl Sea Resort where customers dine on in-season oysters in a self-service style barbeque. 400 barbeque grills line the venue.



umami.



Rock oysters of Kujukushima

The rock oysters with more substantial flesh than the winter oysters are ready to eat between May and August when they are plump with eggs before they





The resort is active in the area of jellyfish studies and displays new breeds discovered in the

#### Jellyfish Symphony Dome

Kujukushima is a treasure-trove of jellyfish. Over 100 types of jellyfish found in the area are displayed in rotation.



### Kujukushima Pearl Sea Resort – the gateway to the islands.

The leisure complex showcases the charms of the islands from various angles, and includes the Kujukushima Aquarium Umi Kirara where visitors can see energetic dolphins, and the Kujukushima Visitor Center which exhibits the nature and ecosystems of the islands, and also offers island cruise tours and marine sports. It also holds seasonal events, including Sasebo's famous "Kujukushima Oyster Festivals."

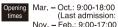


#### Kujukushima **Pearl Sea Resort**

Tel.: 0956-28-4187

H P http://www.pearlsea.jp/

Kujukushima Aquarium Umi Kirara



Nov. – Feb.: 9:00-17:00 (Last admission: 16:30)



Operating hours vary by seasons

Kujukushima Zoo and Botanical Garden Mori Kirara

Tel.: 0956-28-0011

H P http://www.morikirara.jp/

g 9:00-17:15



Oyster pearl harvesting Visitors can try pearl harvesting in the aquarium. The harvested pearl can be turned into a one-of-a-kind piece of jewelry.

#### The massive tank in Kujukushima Bay

The changing of the natural environment from offshore to the islands' coast and the creatures that inhabit it are recreated in the tank. It contains about 13,000 animals of 120 species.





#### Friendly zoo and botanical gardens are just five minutes' drive from the aquarium.

There are a zoo and botanical gardens on a hill overlooking Kujukushima. The penguin house with Japan's most enormous aquarium ceiling is a must-see besides cheetahs, lions, and the Tsushima wildcats, a protected species. The venue holds events for visitors to come in contact with animals such as feeding, and the Rose Festival in the spring and autumn sees about 200 breeds of roses adding color to the gardens.





The design of the elegant cruiser was inspired by the queen of the sea. The 50-minute cruise takes visitors on a meandering trip between the islands.



**Sunset Cruise** The exclusive, limited-period-only cruise, sets sail in time for sunset to see the islands glow in the light of the setting sun.

Set sail into the wilderness of the archipelago.

Have a picnic on the sea.



Sea Kayaking

The calm sea of Kujukushima with landing spots is perfect for kayaking.



Enjoy an underwater promenade )

Scuba Diving Meet the colorful tropical fish that Tsushima Current brings from spring to



Learn to steer and maneuver a sail. Feel the pleasant sea breeze with your whole body.



Go on land, too.





Small Cruiser; Rela Cruise See the islands in their full glory while listening to the commentaries given by the captain.



#### Kujukushima Pirate Ship Cruiser Mirai

The eye-catching cruiser modeled after a pirate's hat is Japan's first electric propulsion ship.

A cruise that includes a visit to a desert island and fish-feeding.

Land on a desert island and see aquatic creatures in pools of seawater, Also, feed red seabream on fish farm rafts.





Important Cultural Property of Japan

#### Kuroshima Catholic Church



The church was built in 1902 with donations from the Catholics in Kuroshima and their service under the instructions of a French priest, Father Marman, who also designed the church. It took two years to complete. Some of the 400,000 bricks used was baked on the island, and the stones used for the foundation, entrance, and plinths are granites mined on the island. The brick building has a high ceiling and is a three-story construction, and the wood grain found on the vaulted ceiling and clustered columns were hand-drawn, indicating much care and attention put into the church's building. The floor of the nave is laid with Arita-ware tiles, and the stained-glass windows and bell from France are original features. The structure was innovative for that time, and the building is of high cultural importance as it had a significant influence on later church architecture.

\* Quake-proofing and conservation works on the church are being carried out between February 2019 and late March 2021 (TBC). There is restricted access to the site in the interest of safety, and the building can be seen from a viewing platform outside the church.

An island of Catholics listed as a World Heritage Site

# Kuroshima\_





It takes about 50 minutes on the ferry from Ainoura Port in Sasebo City to reach the island. The island that is part of the archipelago of Kujukushima used to be called "the island of hidden-Christians", and many Christians came to the island in the Edo period to flee from persecution. Even today, about 80 percent of the islanders are Catholics and the island's symbolic "Kuroshima Catholic Church" is the islanders' heart and soul. The "Villages of Kuroshima" that include "Kuroshima Catholic Church" were listed as World Heritage Site in July 2018.



Warabe Observatory
The observatory offers a panorama of
the sheer cliffs of Cape Nagasakibana
and the open sea.



The site of the restoration of faith The site of the home of the Deguchi family, who risked their lives to reach Oura Catholic Church to declare the existence of Catholics on Kuroshima.

#### The great figures who cherished the landscape of Kujukushima

The beautiful landscape of the archipelago with azure sea dotted with verdant islands has captivated the hearts of many poets.



#### Tadataka Ino

(Born 1745, merchant/geographical surveyor)

Ino conducted a geographical survey of the Sasebo area for three months from December 1812 and recorded that he had surveyed the complex rias shoreline and the islands of Kujukushima in biting cold winds. He welcomed the New Year of 1813 in Ainoura in Sasebo, and wrote the following verse.

"I'm spending my 70th spring in Ainoura. Just as the ninety-nine islands of Kujukushima, I should like to live till I'm ninety-nine to continue surveying."



#### Hozumi Tanaka

(Born 1856, composer/Navy bandmaster)

A bronze statue at Tenkaiho Observatory.

"Utsukushiki Tennen" composed in 1902 and considered to be Japan's first waltz is said to have been written by Tanaka to teach music to the students of Sasebo Ladies' School when he was a Navy bandmaster in the growing naval base of Sasebo. The piece is still enjoyed by Sasebo residents as their favorite song.







Ojikase (top) was mistaken for a submarine during the war. Yokiotoshi and Jogashima islands (left). Yokoshima looks like a crouching lion (right).

# The city residents studied and revealed the number of islands!

The number 208 for the islands in the sea of Kujukushima was revealed by the "Kujukushima Survey Society" comprising of Sasebo city volunteers in 2001.

The effort to count the "number of Kujukushima," for which there was no consensus until then, began in the autumn of 1999. 43 city residents used boats and helicopters to conduct a survey. It was hard going as there were no standards as to what was deemed "an island" for some would appear to be one island at low tide but two separate ones at high tide.

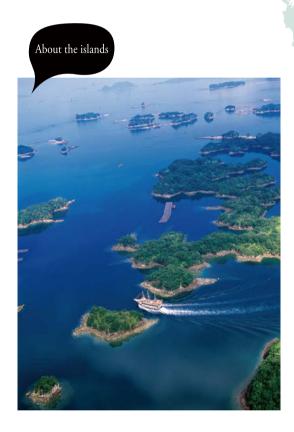
Therefore, they decided on the definitions of an island: 1. A naturally formed landmass that is above the surface of the water at high tide, and 2. It has vegetation. They counted the number of islands based on these definitions and presented 208 as the official number.

#### Each island has a name!

Legend has it that the islands were named Kujukushima (literally means 99 islands in Japanese) because of the countless number of islands. Did you know that many of them have

Some of the islands' names derive from folktales and legends associated with them. For instance, the name Yoki (meaning ax in Japanese)-otoshi is based on a folktale about a feudal lord from Hirado who dropped an ax in trying to cut down a tree that got in his way when fishing.

# 



# The islands were designated as Saikai National Park on March 16, 1955.

The section of the sea with 208 islands of all sizes dotted between the outer edge of Sasebo Bay and approximately 25km north of the bay is called Kujukushima. The archipelago has the highest density of islands in Japan and is part of the Saikai National Park.

The coastlines of the Kujukushima sea area are about 353km, of which approximately 288km are untamed, which is about 80 percent of the whole length. As such, it is evident that the region has mostly remained unspoiled.

7

### The Eight Views of Kujukushima

They are the best vistas of the islands recognized by the city of Sasebo.

Enjoy a sweeping panorama of Kujukushima



#### Tenkaiho Observatory)

The observatory offers a sweeping panorama of Kujukushima Visitors can enjoy rapeseed flowers in the spring and cosmos in the autumn

Address: 399. Shimofunakoshi-cho, Sasebo City. Parking: 120 Access: Approx. 20 mins' drive from Nishi Kyushu Expwy. Sasebo Chuo IC. Approx. 40 mins on a fixed route bus bound for Tenkaiho from Sasebo Sta.

Shot from this spot Cover, P6 1, P7 2, P8 3

#### Get a top-down view of Kujukushima up-close See the city and Kujukushima



#### Funakoshi Observatory

The observatory is on the lowest altitude among the Eight Views of Kujukushima and visitors can enjoy a mighty view of the islands before them.

Address: 147, Funakoshi-cho, Sasebo City.

Access: Approx. 15 mins' drive from Nishi Kyushu Expwy.

See the islands of Kujukushima and Hirato.



#### Hiyamizudake Park (Observatory)

The Observation Deck is in Kosaza-cho in northeast Sasebo City. abundance of blooming azaleas in the spring.

Address: 1618-12. Kosaza-cho Yadake, Sasebo City.

Access: Approx, 30 mins' drive from Nishi Kyushu Expwy, Saza IC.

#### See the islands from within Kujukushima.



#### Takashima Bandake 8 (Observatory)

The observatory is on Takashima, one of the slands of Kujukushima. Visitors can see the islands in the glow of

Access: Approx. 5 mins from Nishi Kyushu Expwy. Ainoura Nakasato IC to Ainoura Port, approx, 25 mins on the ferry from

#### A spectacular 360-degree view, including the city.



#### Ishidake Observatory

It is one of the best spots for taking pictures of the sunset in Kujukushima and is a photographers' favorite. The opening scene of the Hollywood film "The Last Samurai" was shot from the spot

Access: Approx. 15 mins' drive from Nishi Kyushu Expwy. Sasebo

Shot from this spot P2, P8 1, P9 4, P10 1



#### Yumiharidake Observatory

The observatory is on the summit of Mt Yumiharidake and offers a panoramic view of the city and Kujukushima. It has a reputation for the sunset as well as the sparkling lights of the city at night.

Address: Ono-cho, Sasebo City,

Access: Approx. 30 mins' on a fixed route bus bound for Yumiharidake Tenbodai from Sasebo Sta.

#### A famous scenic spot since the Taisho era.



#### Udogoe Observatory

Located midway up Mt Yumiharidake, the historic observatory dates back to the Taisho era.

Address: 490-3, Nagasaka-cho, Sasebo City, Parking: Available

Access: Approx. 15 mins' drive from Nishi Kyushu Expwy.

#### View Kujukushima blanketed in flowers.



#### Nagushiyama Park (Observatory)

The park is famous for its azaleas. It also has many leisure facilities, including camping sites and

Approx. 65 mins. 7 round-trips a day

Access: Approx. 30 mins' drive from Nishi Kyushu Expwy. Saza IC.

Shot from this spot P4 1

### Take the useful excursion bus when visiting Kujukushima. SASEBO CRUISE BUS "UMIKAZE" "3 services per day/Every Thur. (other temporary services are also available) Outurney time: 100 mins. Adults (junior high school +) 1,800 yen, children (primary school) 900 yen.

The bus takes visitors on a guided tour of part of Japan Heritage.

Inquiry: Sasebo Tourism Information Cente Kujukushima and cultural properties that are (9:00-18:00, open all year)

#### How to Get There

#### Tokyo (Haneda) — Nagasaki Airport ..... Approx. 95 mins. 18 round-trips a day Tokyo (Narita) ----- Nagasaki Airport --Nagoya (Chubu) - Nagasaki Airport

Ainoura Port (Kuroshima Passenger Ferry) — Takashima (Kuroshima Passenger Ferry) — Kuroshima

Nagasaki Airnort ··· Approx, 110 mins, 1 round-trip a day Nagasaki Airport · Approx. 70 mins. 3 round-trips a day Approx. 95 mins. 1 round-trip a day Approx. 80 mins. 2 round-trips a day Nagasaki Airpor

· Approx. 50 mins. 3 round-trips a day

r – (expwy.) – Sasebo Minato IC s – (expwy.) – Sasebo Eki-mae (Saihi Bus Center) Approx. 60 mins.

(Rapid Seaside Liner) —— Sasebo Station

Approx. 100 mins. 26 round-trips a day

Approx. 100 mins. 8 services bound for Sasebo/7 services bound for Nagasaki

s-Sasebo Eki-mae (Saihi Bus Center) · · · · Approx. 90 mins. 12 round-trips a day ared Mini Bus Service — Sasebo Sta. Minato Gate · · · · Approx. 55 mins. Approx. 13 round-trips a day

- Take a right at the traffic lights of Sasebo Chuo IC
Exit, turn right at the T-junction, and follow the road.
It is approx. 7 minutes from the interchange.

Take a fixed route bus from Sasebo Station bound for "Pearl Sea Resort/Kujukushima Aquarium" for about 25 minutes. (The service runs at 30 to 40-minute intervals.) It takes about 18 minutes on the rapid bus service (5 services per day.)

