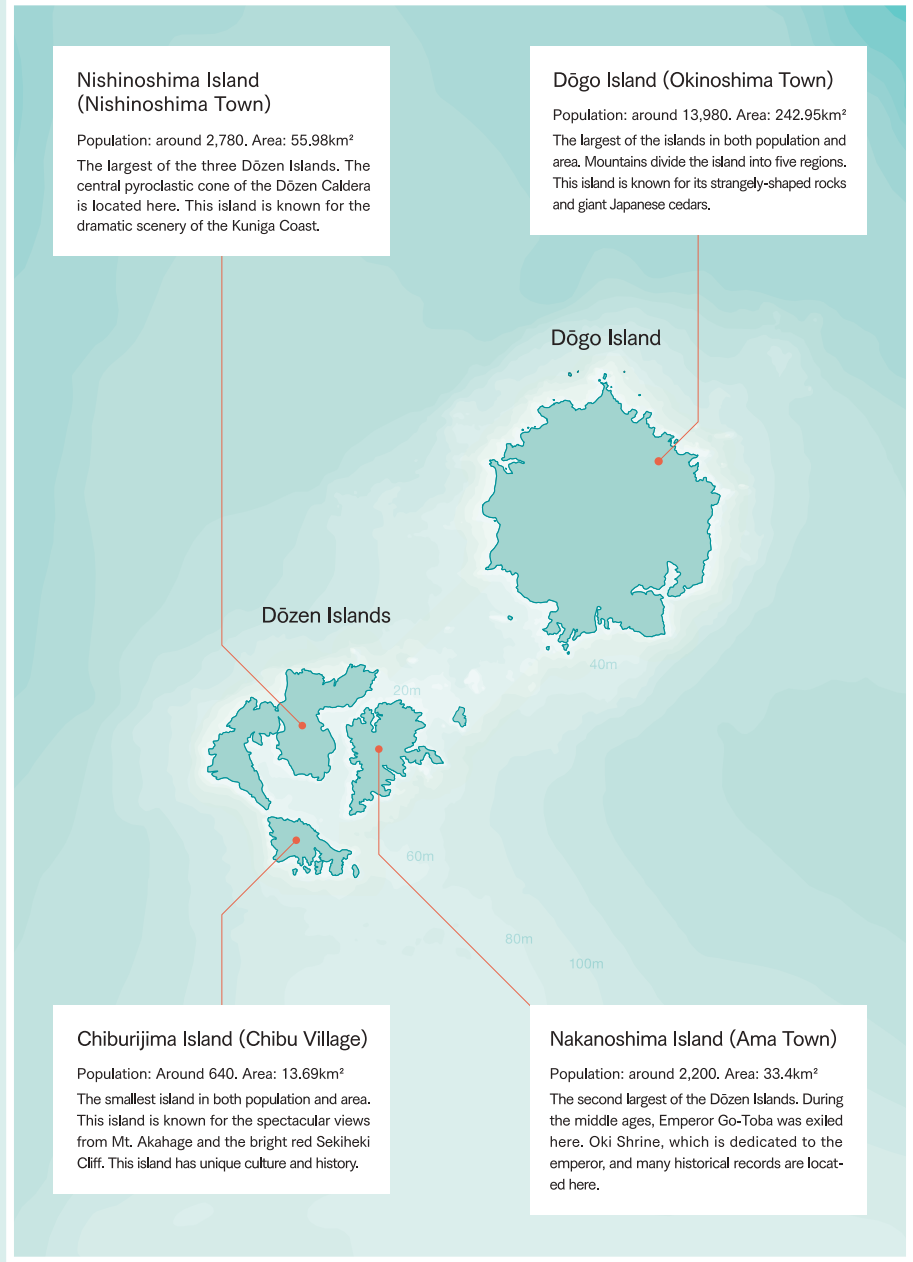


The Oki Islands

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

About the Oki Islands

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



Learn more...

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

⇒ **Dōzen | Nishinoshima Island** (Nishinoshima Town)
Nishinoshima Tourism Association
4386-3 Oaza Mita, Nishinoshima-cho, Oki-gun, Shimane-ken 684-0303, JAPAN
TEL: +81-8514-7-8888 FAX: +81-8514-7-8890
http://nkk-oki.com

⇒ **Dōzen | Nakanoshima Island** (Ama Town)
Ama Town Tourism Association
1365-5 Oaza Fukui, Ama-cho, Oki-gun, Shimane-ken 684-0404, JAPAN
TEL: +81-8514-2-0101 FAX: +81-514-2-0102
http://oki-ama.org

⇒ **Dōzen | Chiburijima Island** (Chibu Village)
Chiburijima Tourism Association
1730-6 Chibu-mura, Oki-gun, Shimane-ken 684-0106, JAPAN
TEL: +81-8514-8-2272 FAX: +81-8514-8-2278
http://www.chibu.jp

⇒ **Dōgo | Okinoshima Town**
Okinoshima Tourism Association
54-3 Menukinoyon, Nakamachi, Okinoshima-cho, Oki-gun, Shimane-ken 685-0106, JAPAN
TEL: +81-8512-2-0787 FAX: +81-8512-2-3950
http://oki-dougo.info

For general tourism inquiries:

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

For inquiries about the Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark:

⇒ **Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark Promotion Committee**

24 Shioguchi Minatomachi, Okinoshima-cho, Oki-gun, Shimane-ken 685-8601, JAPAN
TEL: +81-8512-3-1321 FAX: +81-8512-3-1322
E-mail: info@oki-geopark.jp Hours (JST): Mon-Fri 8:30-17:15
http://www.oki-geopark.jp/en/

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

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

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

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

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

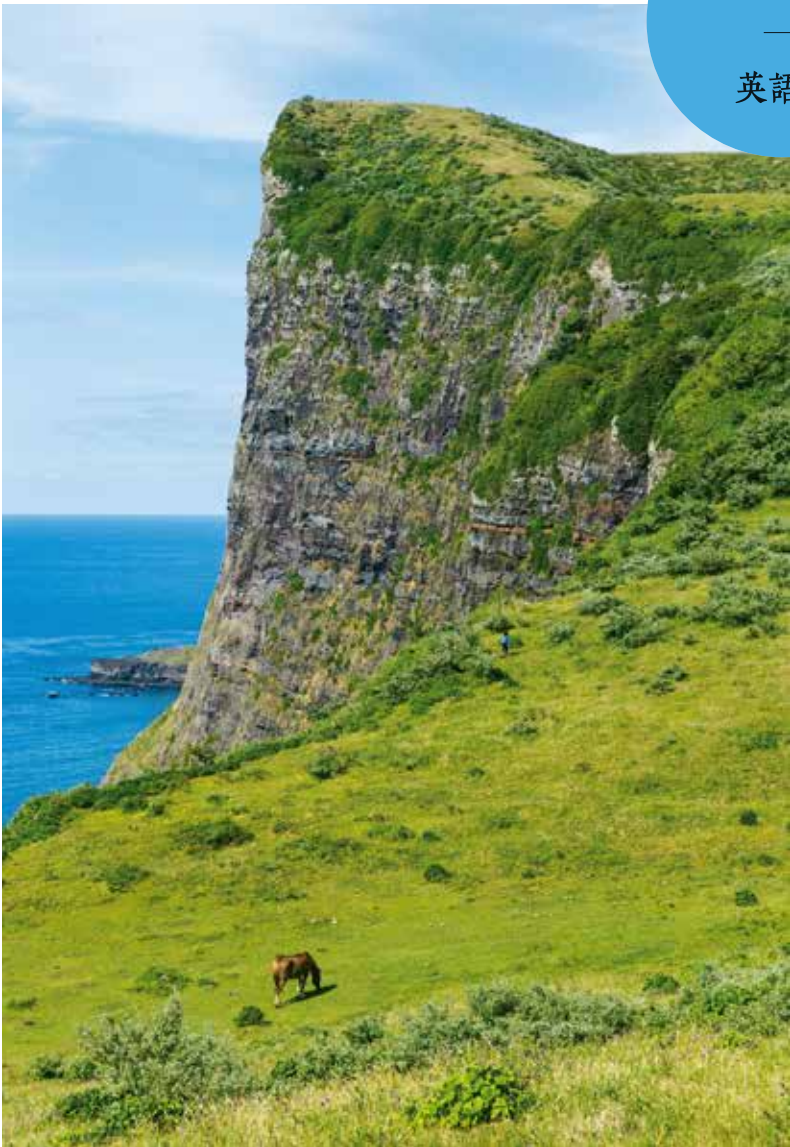
Printed: Mar. 2020 by Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark Promotion Committee

OKI ISLANDS

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

English

英語版



Guide Map

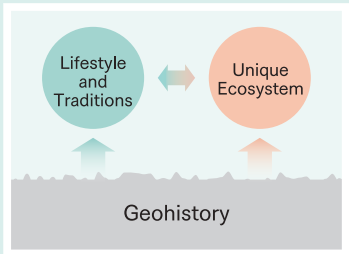


Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark

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

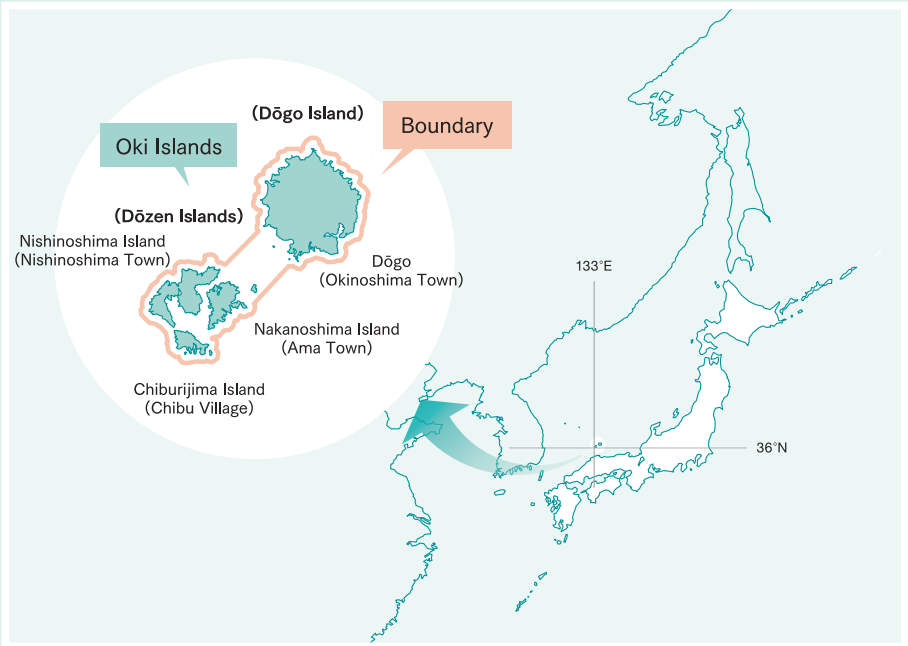
Features

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



Area

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



What is a UNESCO Global Geopark?

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



Geography and Culture

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



Mountain

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



Seaside

Sea Kayaking
Get even closer to the rugged coastline. Enjoy the crystal-clear water. Can spot some marine life in the crystal-clear water.



From the Land

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



From the Sea

Geopark Guides
With a qualified Geopark Guide, you can learn more about the unique landscape of the islands. Enjoy the crystal-clear water. Can spot some marine life in the crystal-clear water.

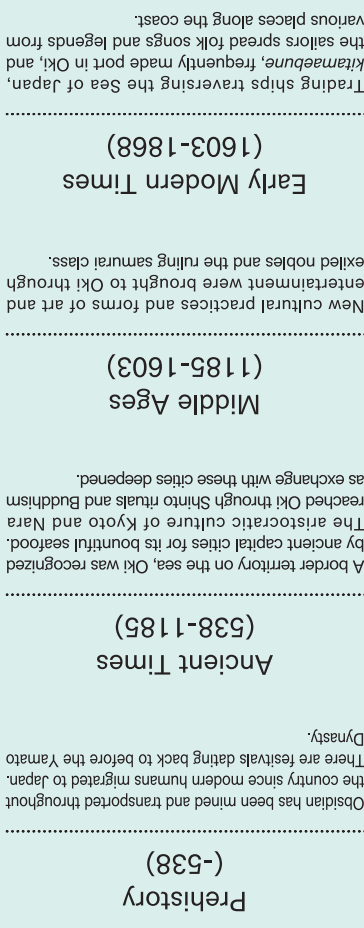
Geotourism
On a geotour around the Oki Islands, the unique ecosystem and the traditions of the land. islands reveal connections between the earth and our lives.



Festivals and Performing Arts from Various Periods
Since long ago, the people of the Oki Islands have lived self-sufficiently by skillfully utilizing the nature of the islands. Throughout history, many different people have come to the islands and introduced different cultures. Today, you can find ancient Shinto rituals, entertainment created for exiled emperors, performing arts introduced by samurai, and folk songs brought by sailors from all around Japan.



An Unusual Mix of Plants
A closer look at the plants of the Oki Islands reveals a mysterious mix of southern, northern, glacial periods, the islands became connected to mainland Japan. During this time, plants and animals from the mainland migrated to the islands, leading to the development of the unique ecosystem the Oki Islands have today.



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



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



Unique Plant Life

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



Fascinating Rocks

Geopark Guides
With a qualified Geopark Guide, you can learn more about the unique landscape of the islands. Enjoy the crystal-clear water. Can spot some marine life in the crystal-clear water.

Dōzen

Dozen Islands

- Sightseeing Spot
- Hiking Trail/
Sightseeing Boat Route
- Museum

Nishinoshima Island (Nishinoshima Town)



1 Kuniga Coast

This celebrated coastline is a textbook example of sea erosion, featuring tall cliffs, a sea arch and numerous stacks. A walking trail passes through grazing land for cattle and horses from the tallest cliff, Matagata, down to Tsutenkyō Arch. 25 min drive from Beppu Port.



2 Takuhi Shrine

Midway up Mt. Takuhi, the tallest mountain and pyroclastic cone of the Dōzen Caldera, is Takuhi Shrine, which is dedicated to a deity of marine safety. The main shrine building is built underneath the cliff face. 20 min drive from Beppu Port. 20 min hike to the shrine (one way).

3 Oki Shrine

This shrine was built in 1939 to enshrine Emperor Go-Toba. The emperor was exiled to Oki in 1221, and lived here until he died. Nearby are the crematorium, remains of his former residence and poetry written by the emperor during his time in Oki. 10 min drive from Hishiura Port.



4 Akiya Coast

Here you can enjoy the beautiful contrasting colours of the red rock of the coast, green vegetation, and the blue sea. The red colour of the rocks was created by high-temperature oxidation of lava. You can see a heart-shaped hole in the rock at the end of the trail. Visitors can enjoy camping and swimming here. 15 min drive from Hishiura Port.



5 Sekiheki (Red Cliff)

From the lookout you can admire this bright red sea-eroded cliff. It reveals the cross-section of a former volcano. The red section of the cliff is a scoria cone composed of layers of lava that splashed from the volcano and experienced high-temperature oxidation. 25 min drive from Kuri Port.



6 Mt. Akahage

The tallest mountain on the island commands panoramic views of the Dōzen Caldera and the mainland, as well as the surrounding grasslands. The stone walls near the peak are the remains of a traditional crop rotation farming method called makihata. Today, the area is used to graze cattle. 20 min drive from Kuri Port.

7 Yurahime Shrine

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

12 Kirogasaki Cape

The southernmost point of Nakanoshima Island faces the largest strait that connects the inner and outer sea. It is a popular sunset-viewing spot. 30 min drive from Hishiura Port.

17 Kuroki-gosho Imperial Residence Site

A short staircase through the forest path leads to the top of the hill that is said to be the site of the residence of Emperor Go-Daigo. The emperor was exiled to the Oki Islands in 1332. 100m one way. 10 min drive from Beppu Port. 10 min walk one way.

22 Hekifū-kan Museum

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

8 Akao Lookout

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

13 Shimazushima Island

A popular swimming and camping area. There are trace fossils of marine species in the area. 15 min drive from Kuri Port.

18 Kuniga Coast Trail

This trail from Matagata Cliff to Tsutenkyō Arch travels across hilly green grazing land for cows and horses and looks over the spectacular Kuniga Coast. 2km one way. Caution: steep areas. Do not approach cows or horses. 25 min drive from Beppu Port. 1 hr walk one way.

23 Nishinoshima Furusato-kan Museum

This museum contains exhibits about the nature and culture of the island. Open: April to October (9:00 to 17:00). Entry Fee. 5 min walk from Beppu Port.

9 Onimai Lookout

This lookout offers sweeping views of the Dōzen Caldera. You can find stone wall remains of makihata farming. 35 min drive from Beppu Port.

14 Kawai Guardian Deity Water Spring

This spring by the roadside is still used by local people today. 5 min drive from Kuri Port.

19 Kuniga Coast Sightseeing Boat

See the sea-eroded scenery of the coast up close, including sheer cliffs, sea caves, arches and stacks. Season: April to October, from Uragō or Beppu Port. Bookings essential. 1.5 hr cruise.

24 Ama Town Emperor Go-Toba Museum

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

10 Yakumo Square

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

15 Ikkū Shrine

The rock seat of Emperor Go-Daigo is enshrined in the grounds. 10 min drive from Kuri Port.

20 Underwater Viewing Boat AMANBOW

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

25 Murakami-ke Residence Museum

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

11 Mt. Kinkō-ji Temple

The lookout offers picturesque views of the northern coast. There are remains relating to Ono-no-Takamura, a Heian Period noble. 15 min drive from Hishiura Port.

16 Chiburijima Lighthouse

Enjoy the scenery of Shimazushima Island from here. 20 min drive from Kuri Port.

21 Sekiheki (Red Cliff) Sightseeing Boat

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

J. Access by boat
Ferry/Fast Ferry (OKI KISEN Co., Ltd.)
TEL: +81-8512-2-1122 <http://www.oki-kisen.co.jp>
Dōzen Islands Inter-island Ferry (Oki Kanko Co., Ltd.)
TEL: +81-8514-7-8412 <http://www.okikankou.com>

Dōgo

Dōgo Island

- Sightseeing Spot
- Hiking Trail/
Sightseeing Boat Route
- Museum



1 Jōdogaura Coast

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



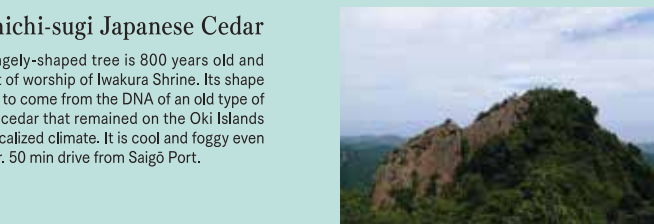
2 Dangyō-no-taki Waterfalls

Surrounded by lush forest and rocky cliffs are the two Dangyō waterfalls and the Dangyō Shrine. The water of one of the falls is known as 'winning water'. The day before traditional tournaments such as Bull Sumō and Sumō, participants come to pray for victory. 50 min drive from Saigō Port.



4 Oki Gneiss

This metamorphic rock is the oldest in the Oki Islands. It formed underground in a collision zone on the Eurasian Continent around 250 million years ago. It is evidence that Japan was once connected to the continent. The rock is exposed in the cliff surrounding Chōshi Dam. A section of the rock has been polished to allow for easy observation. 20 min drive from Saigō Port.



3 Chichi-sugi Japanese Cedar

This strangely-shaped tree is 800 years old and the object of worship of Iwakura Shrine. Its shape is thought to come from the DNA of an old type of Japanese cedar that remained on the Oki Islands and the localized climate. It is cool and foggy even in summer. 50 min drive from Saigō Port.



6 Shizen-kaiki-no-mori Forest

This forest contains Japanese cedars that are hundreds of years old. It is also the trail entrance for Washigamine Ridge, which leads to Byōbu-iwa (Folding Screen Rock). Near the trail entrance is the Tokage-iwa (Lizard Rock) Lookout and a pond where Oki salamander larvae can be found. 50 min drive from Saigō Port.



5 Shirashima Coast Lookout

From this lofty cape you can look down on the entire Shirashima (white islands) Coast. Northern, southern, and continental plants can all be seen in the area. 35 min drive from Saigō Port.

9 Saigō-misaki Cape Lookout

This cape offers a view of the Dōzen Islands. There is a trail down to the lighthouse. 40 min drive from Saigō Port.

10 Funagoya Boat Houses

Traditional scenery of a local fishing village. You can see elements devised to suit the regional environment. 25 min drive from Saigō Port.

11 Nagu-saki Cape

This cape offers a view of the Dōzen Islands. There is a trail down to the lighthouse. 40 min drive from Saigō Port.

12 Rōsoku-jima (Candle Island) Sightseeing Boat

Catch a glimpse of this candle-shaped rock lit up by the sunset. Season: April to October. 40 min drive from Saigō Port. 50 min cruise.

13 Mizuwakasu Shrine

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

14 Yui Pond Nature Trail

Formed by a landslide, Yui Pond is a round pond surrounded by cliffs with a floating island in its center. The precious wetland biota here is well suited for nature observation. 45 min drive from Saigō Port.

15 Tamawakasu-mikoto Shrine & Oki-ke Traditional Residence

Enshrines the deities of the Oki Region and Yao-sugi Japanese cedar. Nearby are Oki-ke Traditional Residence and the Hōmotsu-den Museum. 5 min drive from Saigō Port.

16 Kumi Coast

The white rock cliffs here are composed of rhyolite lava. You can find obsidian pebbles on the coast. 35 min drive from Saigō Port.

17 Washigamine Ridge Hiking Trail

From the mountain trail you can see the strangely-shaped Byōbu-iwa (Folding Screen Rock) as well as some alpine plants. 1.6km one way. Closed in winter. 1 hr drive from Saigō Port to the trail entrance.

18 Oki Kokubun-ji Temple

This temple is a historic site relating to the exiled Emperor Go-Daigo. Renge-e-mai ancient court dances are performed here. Open: March to November (8:30 to 17:30). Entry Fee. 10 min drive from Saigō Port.

19 Oki Kyōdo-kan Museum

This museum contains historical, folk and cultural artifacts. The building is the oldest western-style building in the prefecture. Open: April to November (9:00 to 17:00). Entry Fee. 25 min drive from Saigō Port.

20 Goka Sōsei-kan Museum

This museum introduces traditional culture of Dōgo Island such as Bull Sumō and Traditional Sumō through displays and short films. Open: March to November (9:00 to 17:00). Entry Fee. 25 min drive from Saigō Port.

21 Sasaki-ke Traditional Residence

Constructed nearly 200 years ago, this traditional residence contains numerous household and agricultural artifacts. Open: March to November (9:00 to 17:00). Entry Fee. 10 min drive from Saigō Port.