Kasari Area, Amami City Tale of Kasari Community

Kasarizaki
Sani 1st /2nd Wards
Yani Wharf
Gamozaki Tourist Park
Kusuno
Yani
Yo
Yo Beach
Kasari 1st Ward
Kasari 2nd Ward
Kasari 3rd Ward
Kawakami
Nabeguru
Ōgasari port
Ōgasari Catholic Church
Ayamaru Misaki Tourist Park
• Seawater swimming pool
• Cycad tree cluster
• Ground golf course "cycling train," kid's playground
Amami City Folk Heritage Museum
Beru
Suno
Sakibaru
Suno Dam
Tomori
Tomori Beach
Ushuku Kitchen Midden Historic Park
Ushuku
Öse Beach
• Bird watching spot
Cycling Road
Ushuku wharf
Shiroma
Manya
Taiyogaoka Athletic Park
Kasari Bay
Sakibaru Beach
Sakibaru
Maehida
Akakina wharf
Akakina (Sato/Nakaganeku/Sotoganeku)
Kasari Branch, Amami City
Akakina Beach
Uttabaru
Uttabaru Beach
Maehida wharf
Kujirahama
Tekebu
Cape Itten
Kakurehama Beach
Kisé 3rd Ward
Kisé Wharf
Kisé 2nd Ward
Kisé 1st Ward
Amandee
Taira
Wano
Amami Airport
Amami Park
Wano wharf
Setta
Tsuchihama
Amami City Local Produce Market and Rest Area
Kasari Town, Amami City
←To Naze
Tatsugo Town
Kaminoko
Yoan
Yoan Beach
Myojinzaki
602
601
58
82

Kasari area is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and the East China Sea, and has small mountains with altitudes of 200m or less running north and south. On the east side, here lies a flatland where sugarcane and semi-tropical fruit fields are cultivated, and livestock is raised. Kasari Bay, one of " 500 Important Wetlands in Japan," designated by the Ministry of the Environment, covers the west side. Many communities in Kasari area inherit their traditional performing arts, passing their unique culture from generation to generation through their daily lives.

※ The scale below is presented as an approximate guideline.

0Km 1Km 2Km 3Km 4Km 5Km

Amami City HP

Administration: Amami City

Legend

- Toilet
- Shower
- Parking area
- Rest area
- Barrier-free toilet
- Kasari Branch, Amami City
- Major Sightseeing Spots and Facilities

To Yo
To Beru
To Akakina (Soto Ganeku)
601

★Beru *Gusuku* (fortress) old grave
★*Toyomine Ogora*
Catholic church grave
Tonton rock *Uteigo* and sky burial tombs
Sotetsu Bate
Ōgasari port
★Park
St. Michael Catholic church in Central Kasari
Site of the Oshima magistrate's office
Kohama beach & uniquely shaped stones
Gateposts
5
Kasari Seibo nursery school
Kasari police box
★*Amoremata*
Kasari 3rd ward community center
★Woobaru *Gusuku*
★*Sotetsu Bate*
Kasari post office
You are here
Kasari elementary school
4 *Ishigantou*
Kasari 1st ward community center
Kasari 2nd ward community center
8 Monument of Kasan Tsurumaru
2 *Amuigo*
3 Pathways in Satomae community
Akamine *Gusuku* (Han'nya *Gusuku*)
Kasari junior high school
★1 *Fuigo*
★Shirida *Tofuru* grave
7 Akiba shrine
6 Deity's *Amuigo*

Kasari 2nd ward Satomae (*Maee* in local dialect)

Facing the Pacific Ocean, Ōgasari (or greater Kasari) Community is located in the northeast part of Amami Oshima island. Ōgasari Community consists of three wards: Shiromaeda,Satomae, and Kaneku. The community events include the New Year ritual at Akiba Shrine and *Rokugatsu-to*, a summer festival held jointly by all three wards on June 17 of the Lunar calendar, dedicating dances to the community deity. The plateau where today's Kasari Junior High School stands is called *Akamine ga Oka* (*Han'nya* in the local dialect) used to have a community.

1 *Fuigo* (Ōigawa River)

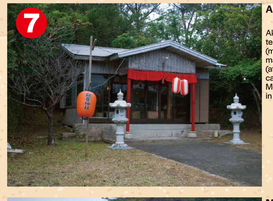
Fuigo runs east from Ōigawa Dam at the southwest side of Satomae ward, meanders at 90 degrees northward at the east side of Kasari Elementary School, and routes eastward at the north side of Shiromaeda ward to the sea. The river serves as the water resource of all three wards in Kasari Community. It was, in the old days, a water resource for daily life among three communities - the upstream provided drinking water, midstream water was used to wash vegetables and potatoes, and downstream for laundry and bathing.

3 Pathways in Satomae community

As for major pathways, including the one running in front of the community center, people used the footpaths among the paddy fields and farmlands. Later on, the land owners along these footpaths donated their land to widen the footpaths to build more accessible roads. Then, the paddy fields and farmlands were leveled for housebuilding, resulting in the complex borders between the wards.

5 Two gateposts on the shore

Kasari wharf, built on the coral reef, consists of a fishery wharf and a park. The old coastline has a sea wall which is partly cut off to form an entrance to the wharf. A stone pillar stands beside this entrance, which apparently seems to have been a gatepost. A hearing investigation revealed that it was a gatepost of an old elementary school, then used as a gatepost of the community center, and finally relocated to this location.



7 Akiba Shrine (Mt. Ogami)

Akiba Shrine originated, it is said, as a temporary residence for Kasari *Bugyosho* (magistrate's office) at Kohama in Shiromaeda, Kasari, in the early Edo period (after 1615). In 1609, the shrine was relocated to Mt. Ogami and enshrined as Meiji Shrine. In 1971, it enshrined the deity in Ogasari to protect the ward.

2 *Amuigo* behind Community Center

In the old days, there lay a wide paddy field in the area near the community center on the south and east sides, and people traveled along the footpaths between the paddy field. These footpaths form complex borders between the wards. At the lowland near the community center, under the cliff of Akamine *Gusuku*, there is a natural spring. This spring, *Amuigo*, is a sacred place that was used by *Noro* priestesses for purification until shortly after the end of the war.

4 *Ishigantou*

Built by widening the footpaths running across the paddy fields and farmland, roads in the ward are narrow, forming a maze-like structure. Meanwhile, the ward has pathways originally used as transportation routes. At a T-junction of these pathways, there rests a *Shigandang*. The *Shigandang* is a stone tablet placed at a three-way intersection or a dead end to prevent evil spirits from running towards and crashing into houses behind the intersection.

6 Deity's *Amuigo*

Behind Mt. Ogamiyama at the west of the ward, there is a spring in Sakoda. An *Amuigo*, a purification site for the deity (considered to be a *Yuta* priestess) remains there. While the *Noro* priestesses were in charge of various community rituals including prayers for rich harvest, *Yuta*, another type of priestess, handled personal matters including fortune telling, funerals and related services. They purified themselves at *Amuigo* and the sea before engaging in ritual events.

8 Monument of Kasan Tsurumatsu

Kasan Tsurumatsu, a female weaver of *Oshima Tsumugi* pongee textile, was famous for her outstanding skill in improvisational singing. Her legend includes an episode that she saved the local residents from sugar production inspector officials from mainland Satsuma (Kagoshima) with her witty songs and a song battle with another famous singer from Ushuku Community. People built a stone monument for her after she passed away in 1880.