Kasari Area, Amami City Tale of Tekebu Community

Kasarizaki
Sani 1st /2nd Wards
Yo
Yo Beach
Yani Wharf
Kusuno
Yani
Gamozaki Tourist Park
601
Kasari 1st Ward
Kawakami
Kasari 2nd Ward
Kasari 3rd Ward
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
Ōse Beach
• Bird watching spot
Cycling Road
Ushuku wharf
Kasari Bay
602
Sakibaru
Sakibaru Beach
Akakina wharf
Akakina (Sato/Nakaganeku/Sotoganeku) Kasari Branch, Amami City
Maehida
Akakina Beach
Uttabaru
Uttabaru Beach
Maehida wharf
Kujirahama
Taiyogaoka Athletic Park
Shiroma
Manya
601
58
Cape Itton
Kakurehama Beach
Tekebu
Kisé 3rd Ward
Amandee
Kisé Wharf
Kisé 2nd Ward
Taira
Wano
82
Amami Airport
Kisé 1st Ward
Amami Park
Wano wharf
←To Naze
Tsuchihama
Setta
Tatsugo Town
Amami City Local Produce Market and Rest Area
Kasari Town, Amami City
Kaminoko
Yoan
Yoan Beach
Myojinzaki

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

Legend

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

Amami City HP

Administration: Amami City

Tekebu

To Maehida
Tiger shrimp farm
Tsushiro wharf
1 Old Battle Field Site in Tsushiro and Old Road
2
602
Tekebu Elementary School
3 *Anabari Tofuru*
58
7 *Mashankiri*
To Sato
4 Tekebu graveyard
You are here
To Kisé
Itsukushima Shrine
5 Mangroves
6 Tekebu Catholic Church
8 *Gusuku* site
601
Tekebu Community Center
To Sato
To Taira

Tekebu (*Teebu* in local dialect)

Tekebu Community is characterized by its Sakashitagawa River and mangrove, a designated cultural property of Amami City. The road connecting Tsushiro wharf behind the community graveyard and Akakina Community is called "Tsushiro old road," which allegedly connected the trading port Tsushiro and Akakina *Gusuku* (fortress). An extended dry beach in front of the community keeps the bay calm even if the open sea is wild.

1 Old Battle Field Site in Tsushiro and Old Road

Tsushiro is said to have been the field of a heavy battle when the Satsuma clan from mainland *Kagoshima* held a military campaign against Amami in 1609. Until the prefectural road was established, people used this old road to commute between Tsushiro port and Akakina Community. This historical old road crossing a mountain pass allows visitors to enjoy a 30 minute walk trip, visiting old tombs, fortress sites, and paddy field remains. Attention to venomous *habu* snakes is required.

2 Tsushiro Wharf

On the way from *Here* (Hiral) to Tsushiro along Tekebu Bay, there is a place where the sand beach curves in northward. It is said old Tsushiro port was situated here. Tsushiro port is said to have been a busy port for shipping brown sugar to the mainland during the Satsuma reign. It is said that crews of various sailing ships and China-influenced Okinawan Marlan junk ships, heading to mainland Satsuma and Ryukyu Okinawa, waiting for the seasonal winds, often stayed in Tekebu Community.

Anabari Tofuru

Across Tsushiro wharf, there stands an *Anabaruru* information sign built by the local old people's club. Climbing up the mountain along the narrow path, visitors can find a horizontal hollow facing the west on the midslope. It is a grave called *Anabari Tofuru*. The opening is approx. 60cm high with a wide room inside.

4 Tekebu Graveyard

Tekebu graveyard features well-organized tombstones on the southwest terrace, including a tomb of a ruling family under Satsuma's influence and a five-layered tomb made of precious stone from mainland Kagoshima. Unlike other graveyards on the island, well-organized tombs on the slope imply a strong influence of Buddhism. Tekebu graveyard is a designated cultural property (history) of Amami City.

Northern Limit of Mangroves

Agare, the south side of *Herego* (Hirai River), is a dry beach that is the northern limit of maingrove trees in Amami Oshima island. The dry beach is a habitat of rare species, including crabs, goby fish, and birds. The mangrove tree filters water containing mud, soil, and rich minerals from the land.

6 Tekebu Catholic Church

At an elevated plot of land on the south of the mangrove dry beach, some sub communities are situated: Agare, Houjou, Kaneku, and Shogachi. This church is in Agare on the north side of the community. The first missionary came to the region in the late 1940's. This is one of the prettiest churches in Amami Oshima island.

Mashankiri

There is a bow-shaped ocean fence - 100m long, 60cm high, and 1.5m wide - situated approx. 100m offshore along National Road 58 in Tekebu Community. The fence is designed to capture fish at low tide, and the locals call it *Kaki*, *Manshankiri*, or *Ushugaki*. Similar fences in mainland Kyushu's west coast are called *Naagaki*. People in the Philippines employ a similar fishing method.

***Gusuku* site**

On the south side of Tekebu Community, a short hill stretches to the north. The tongue-shaped hill has a water resource, and the plateau is filled with farmland. From this spot, visitors can enjoy a panoramic view of the entire Tekebu Bay. From the farmland on the plateau, remains of pottery pieces, including *Kamuiyaki* from Tokunoshima island and celadon porcelain, were found on the ground. These artifacts are considered to be from the 14th century.