Kasari Area (Amami City) Tourist Map

~ TOURISM MAP ~

※ The scale below is presented as an approximate guideline.

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

Legend

WC Toilet | Shower | P Parking area | Rest area | Barrier-free toilet

Major Sightseeing Spots and Facilities | Kasari Branch, Amami City

Come visit all 29 communities!

Each community has a
tourist information sign illustrating
its unique cultural & historical properties

1 Kasarizaki lighthouse and Otomizu waterfall (Yo)

Kasarizaki (Kasari cape) Lighthouse, located at the northern tip of Amami Oshima island, is also known as Yo Misaki (cape) Lighthouse. From atop the solid rock at the edge of Kasarizaki cape, the lighthouse has been in operation since March 31, 1962, providing a navigational beacon for ships traveling northbound and southbound from the height of 67 m above sea level. A stream running along the rocky stretch to the lighthouse is a sacred purification site for the local deities.

2 St. Michael Catholic church in Central Kasari (Angelus bell) (Kasari 3nd Ward)

Father Chohachi Nakamura started his missionary activity in 1903, and St. Michael Catholic Church in Central Kasari was established 1915. In 1951, the church was relocated to its current address, and the main building was built in 1972. Its "Angelus Bell," lost during WWII, was found and returned to the church on December 10, 1984.

3 Cape Ayamaru, One of the "10Great Views of Amami" (Sakibaru)

Ayamaru is named after its circular shape resembling a ball (*mari*) made of twill fabric (*aya*). It is said that local deities reside in the mountain at Cape Ayamaru, which is considered a sacred mountain, linked with the conception of Amami *Nirai* (paradise over the horizon) and the widely shared myth *Tenson Korin* (the descent on the earth by the creators). It is said that a holy temple stood at the top of Ayamaru mountain, where today's observation platform is situated. The entire hill at the cape was the ruin site of Ayamaru *Gusuku* (fortress) as is believed by the local people. The view from the cape is recognized as one of the "10 great views of Amami."

4 Holding Child Rock (Tomori Beach) (Tomori)

Tomori beach with a mother-holding-child rock (Kwadaki iwa) is a beautiful beach. The offshore current is a complex and dangerous place for swimming. The Holding Child Rock consists of a round sandstone on top of a limestone. The name comes from the shape resembling a mother piggybacking a child. The spot with white crested waves in the offshore is called *Zan-no-su* (a dugong nest).

5 Ushuku Kitchen Midden (nationally designated cultural property) (Usyuku)

Ushuku midden was discovered by Prof. Soetsu Miyake at Kyoto University in 1933. In 1955, *Kyugeikai* (United Nine Humanities Academic Societies) Amami investigation committee conducted research and excavation. In 1978, an investigation was held to determine the area of the midden. A series of archaeological findings were unearthed, including a rock arrangement housing structure from the *Jomon* period (approx. 1300 - 2300 years ago) as well as buried bones of a mother and a child from the *Yayoi* period (approx. BC 4 – AD 3 century). The site was designated as a national historic site on October 7, 1998.

6 Amami Park (Setta)

Built in September 2001, the facility consists of Amami-no Sato, an information plaza which introduces the nature, history, and culture in the Amami archipelago. It is also the site of the Tanaka Isson Memorial Art Museum, featuring the painter, Isson Tanaka, who was known for keeping himself and his paintings above all vulgarity.

7 Amami City Local Produce Market and Rest Area (Setta)

Openedin April 2013. Built to energize the local community through industrial development and communication between the local residents and visitors, the facility sells local produce and specialties and holds various events at its information plaza.

8 Yoan Beach(Yoan)

Yoan beach is one of the most renowned beaches in Amami Oshima island. With a leisure facility along the beach, it is a major tourist spot.

9 Sakibaru Beach, Uttabaru Beach, Kujirahama Beach (The "three great beaches") (Uttabaru)

All three areas have wide beaches right in front of residential houses. Along with their beautiful sceneries, sounds of birds and various insects can be heard among the sound of waves and the breeze, forming rich seasonal sonic environments. In Uttabaru and Sakibaru areas, textile screw pine, or *lauhala*, and beach hibiscus form natural revetments to protect the communities. These plants provide rich habitats for various creatures including concave land hermit crabs (*Coenobita cavipes*).

10 Gamo Shrine area (Yani)

Gamo Shrine has a number of interesting historical and cultural assets, including a big mirror (1806), a stone monument (1725), and a Benzaiten goddess statue (by Ryosuke Yamada). The Shrine deifies Gamo Zaemon, one of the defeated Heike refugee warriors who came to Amami after the battle of Dan-no-ura (1185), along with its *Wiyaterasama* deity and guardian gods. It is said that there is a sunken stone wall in the ocean near the shore, built by Gamo Zaemon.

Kasari Town, Amami City

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.

Administration: Amami City

Amami City HP