

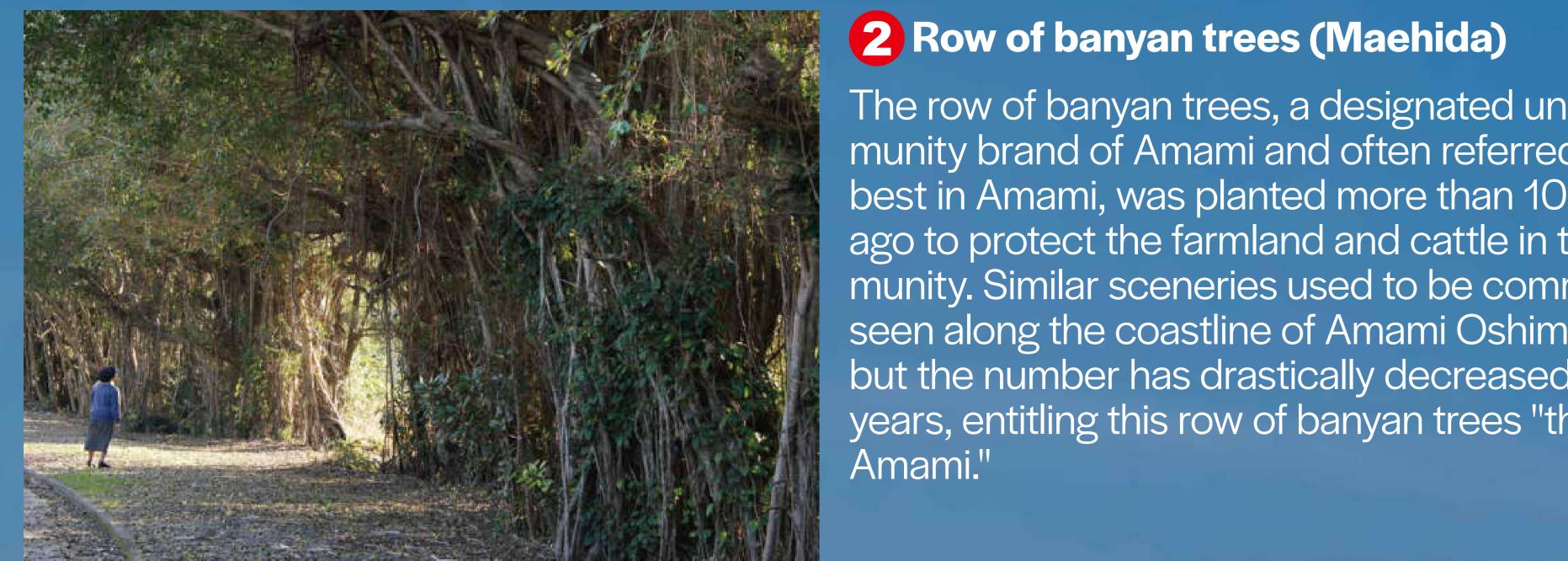
Kasari Area (Amami City) Tourist Map





1 Northern Limit of Mangroves (Tekebu)

Agare, the south side of Herego (Hirai River), is a dry beach that is the northern limit of mangrove 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.



The row of banyan trees, a designated unique community brand of Amami and often referred to as the best in Amami, was planted more than 100 years ago to protect the farmland and cattle in the community. Similar sceneries used to be commonly seen along the coastline of Amami Oshima island, but the number has drastically decreased in recent years, entitling this row of banyan trees "the best in



3 Salt making cabin (Uttabaru)

In addition to its close relationship with the ocean, Uttabaru Community has rich water resources in the mountain area on the east side with a number of *ijyungo* wells, paddy fields, and cycad fields. People used to make salt under the shade of textile screw pine (*lauhala*) trees. The salt was a valuable source for reciprocal exchange. Since 2008, Uttabaru Community, aiming for revitalization of the local economy, is actively

engaged in commercialization of old fashioned products, including salt and starch made by



4 Naabama (Kakurehama Beach) (Kisé 3st ward)

A few times a year, a sand beach appears from the ocean at low tide. People call this beach Naabama, and consider it a dangerous spot. At the edge of this beach, when it appears, one must beware of deep spots which may draw them deeper in the sand, similar to quicksand. Rare fish and seashell species can be found in the area.

(One of the designated unique community brands



At the midpoint of northern bottom Munta Moun-





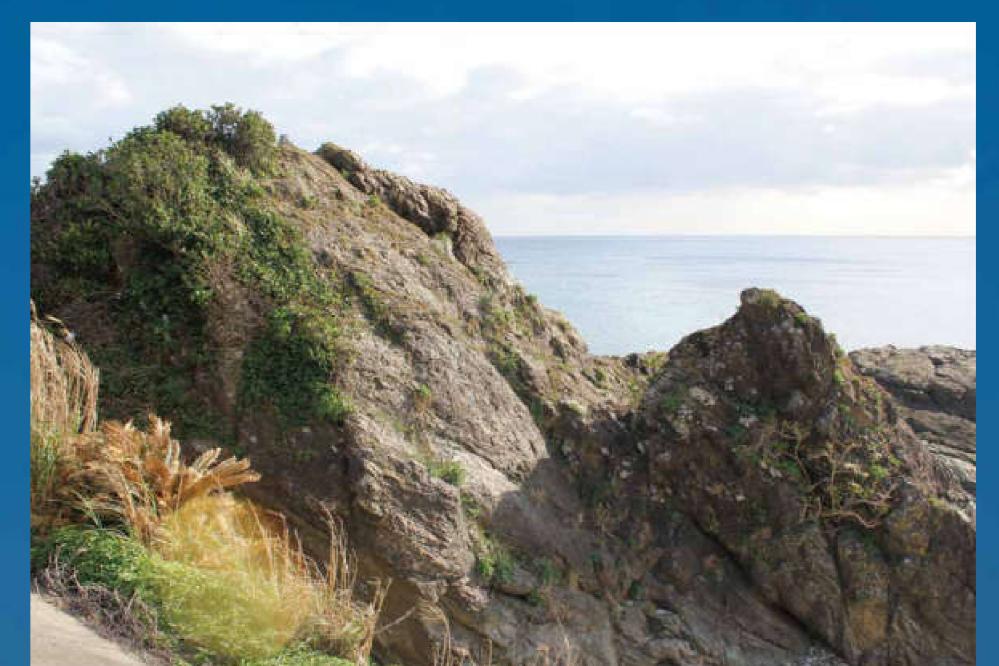
Shower P Parking area Rest area Barrier-free toilet

Major Sightseeing Spots and Facilities () Kasari Branch, Amami City



6 Katabaru (Kisé 1st ward)

Katabaru refers to a floating island existing in the east side of the mouth of Miyakuta River. The place used to be a sandbank where young males and females had Shimauta island folk song singing sessions. Kisé singers had a distinguished singing style, called Kishi-uta, which implies the community residents were actively engaged in singing sessions.



7 Ishiushuki (Yoan)

Running southward on the prefectural road, visitors would find an isolated *Ishiushuki* rock along the coastline near Akaogi Community. The rock is said to have been a fortress of the Yoan *Fooya* office to guard the coastline. Legends tell a variety of episodes: people collected stones to throw against enemies, and people threw stones at this rock for purification when they passed through this place as they feared this coastline.



8 Old Yasuda residence (Yoan)

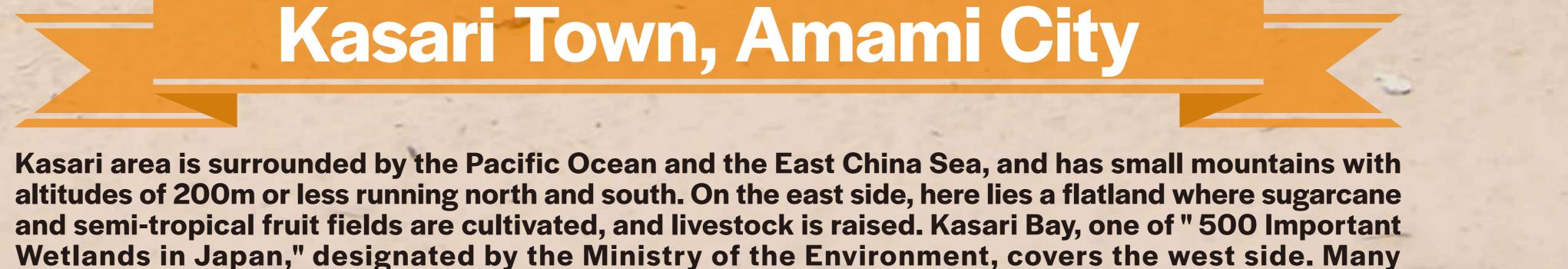
The old Yasuda residence features a unique architectural complex structure from the late Edo period (1840's - 1960's). The main building has two rooms with iron plate roofing. Behind the entrance, there are two small rooms (4.5-tatami mats large) and one large room (10-tatami mats large) on the right. The old Yasuda residence was relocated to the current location from Yo Community in 2003. The property was designated as a tangible cultural property of Japan in 2007.



9 Tsuchihama Beach (*Chichihama*)

Chichihama Beach, with a rich developed reef as well as Setta *Tachigami* on the east and *Terya Tach*igami on the southwest, is known for its rich fish and seashells. The beach is also a good egg laying spot for turtles. People come down to this beach of prayer upon the 33rd death anniversary of their deceased to wash the bones. Although the community has no symbolic rock of its own, which might have been named Chichihama Tachigami if it existed, the locals fear Setta and Terya tachigamis.





ommunities in Kasari area inherit their traditional performing arts, passing their unique culture from

generation to generation through their daily lives.