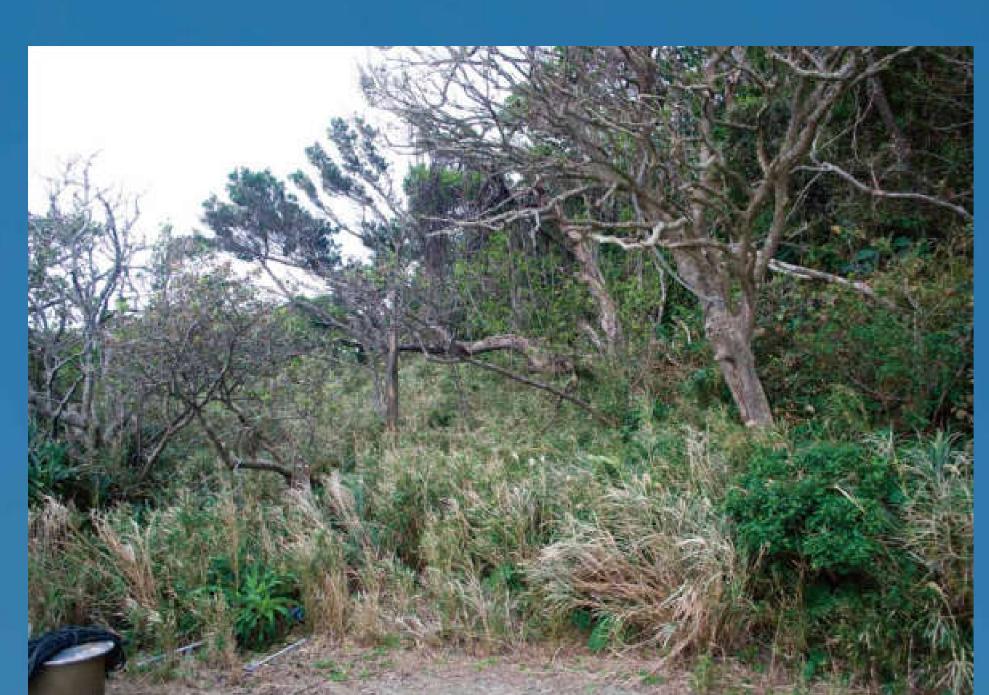


# Kasari Area (Amami City) Tourist Map

# TOURISM MAP





# 1 Noro Priestess Tomb (Kisé 1st ward)

At the bottom of a mountain on the west side of Itton sub-community, there lies a rectangular stone coffin surrounded by coral stone plates, covered by a bush. Behind the bush, visitors can find the coffin with its lid slightly slid off. The shape of the coffin indicates it was a *Noro* priestess tomb, but the legend in the community says it used to be a checkpoint with samurai warriors who often cut people's heads here. This is the scariest spot among the locals.



#### 2 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 of Amami)



## 3 Whale rock (Uttabaru)

Even among the oldest locals, few can say why the beach is called *Kujirabama* (whale beach). Among other communities, their *kujirabama* were places where whole whales, including dugongs and dolphins, were cut up. In the case of Uttabaru, the name comes from – so it is said - the narrow extended rocky stretch called Whale rock (*kujira ishi*) on the south side which looks like a whale blowing when hit by waves.



Takamori Saigo, a historic figure who lived in Tatsugo town across the bay, often visited Uttabaru Community for fishing. At the tip of Sakibaru area, there stands a human-shaped rock facing the ocean. People call it Saigo Rock or Doll Rock. During WWII, it was often a target of US aircraft attack. Later on, lightning struck it on the head to form the shape we see today. Until recently, some dugongs were observed swimming in the ocean in this area.



# 5 Negan Ishiushiki (Uttabaru)

When there were no accessible inter-community roads, people commuted along the coastline. There was a custom among the travelers to leave pieces of coral stones when they passed by the rocky stretch on the southern coastline in Sakibaru area. People today leave coral stones to make prayers and wishes to *Gunginsama* (Imai Gongen Shrine) at the tip of the cape across the bay. Another place with the same name, *Ishiushuki*, is found in Yoan Community as well. *Negan* (Neganhana) area also has pillow shaped lava.





5Km

Shower P Parking area Rest area Barrier-free toilet

Major Sightseeing Spots and Facilities (Spots and Facilities (Spot

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

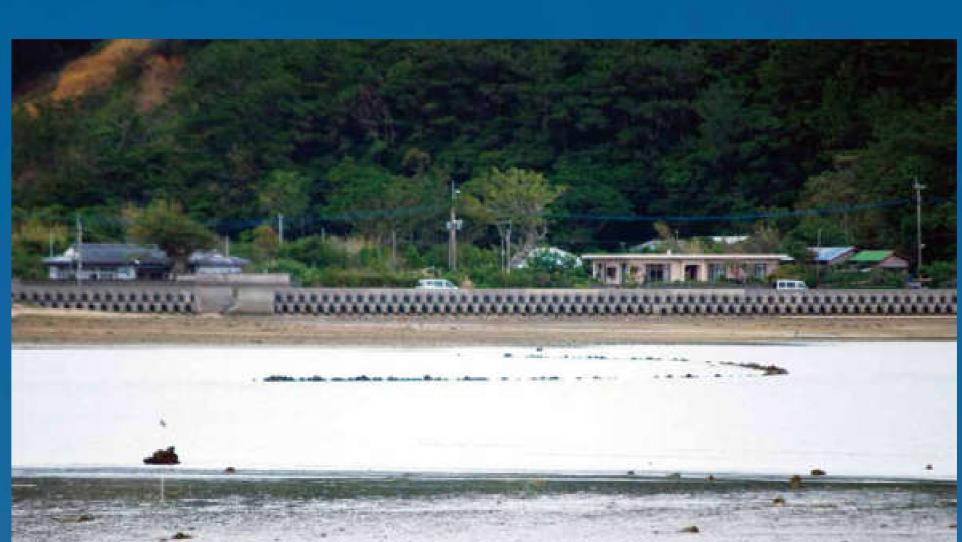
Wetlands in Japan," designated by the Ministry of the Environment, covers the west side. Many

generation to generation through their daily lives.

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

# 6 Row of banyan trees (Maehida)

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 Amami."



# 7 Mashankiri (Tekebu)

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.



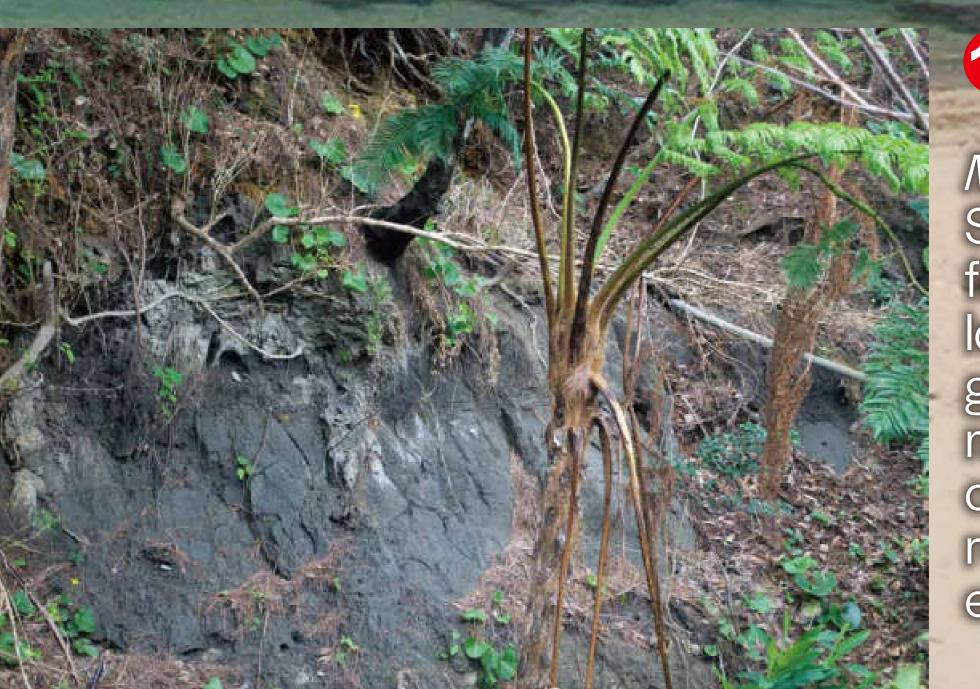
## 8 Tsushiro Wharf (Tekebu)

On the way from *Here* (Hirai) 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.



# 9 Akakina *Gusuku* Site (Sato)

The mountain fortress situated on 100m high Kannon-ga-Oka Hill at the big opening of Kasari Bay at the north of Amami Oshima island is Akakina *Gusuku*. The fortress is said to have been equipped with accommodation facilities in the 12th century, influenced by Ryukyu (Okinawa) culture in the 15th century, then by Satsuma in the 17th century. The fortress is now a representative historical site that illustrates Amami Oshima's critical role in regional trading and transportation.



# (Sotoganeku)

Sotoganeku, surrounded by paddy fields and farmlands in the mountains. The *Mijyora* clay belongs to the Paleozoic strata, distinguished by its grayish brown color and viscosity. Some fossil remains of small seashells are found in the clay, indicating the site was a tideland. The clay was used forcofing tile manufacturing in the late 1940's and early 1950's.