

Kasari Area (Amami City) Tourist Map





1 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 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.



2 Akakina (*Hanaki*) *Tachigami* (Sotoganeku)

Referred to as *Tategami* in mainland Kyushu and Tachigan in Okinawa, Tachigami rocks are found among the Amami islands. They are characterized by their offshore location and upright postures. The name *Tachigami*, or "standing deity," represents the islanders' worship to nature.



War memorial (Kawakami Community Hall) (Course #1) (Kawakami)

A memorial monument is located in a park on a hill next to Kawakami Community Hall. The monument has names of fallen war soldiers on it, including those from the Satsuma Rebellion (1877), in which many youths from the Amami slandsjoined Takamori Saigo in Kagoshima, as well as the Japanese-Russo War, the Second Sino-Japanese War and the Greater East Asia War (World War II).



4 Yani *taaman* potatoes (Yani)

On the south side of the community, the Yani River meanders, forming a large curved *tabukuro*, or a paddy field. The west side of Yani Community is a deeply indented ria coastline, forming a large tabukuro field. Yani residents used to cultivate taaman potatoes at a small scale in these deep paddy fields called *yubita*. Today, its rich water resources allow the community to cultivate the potatoes at a larger scale.



5 Banyan tree (Yani Elementary School)





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

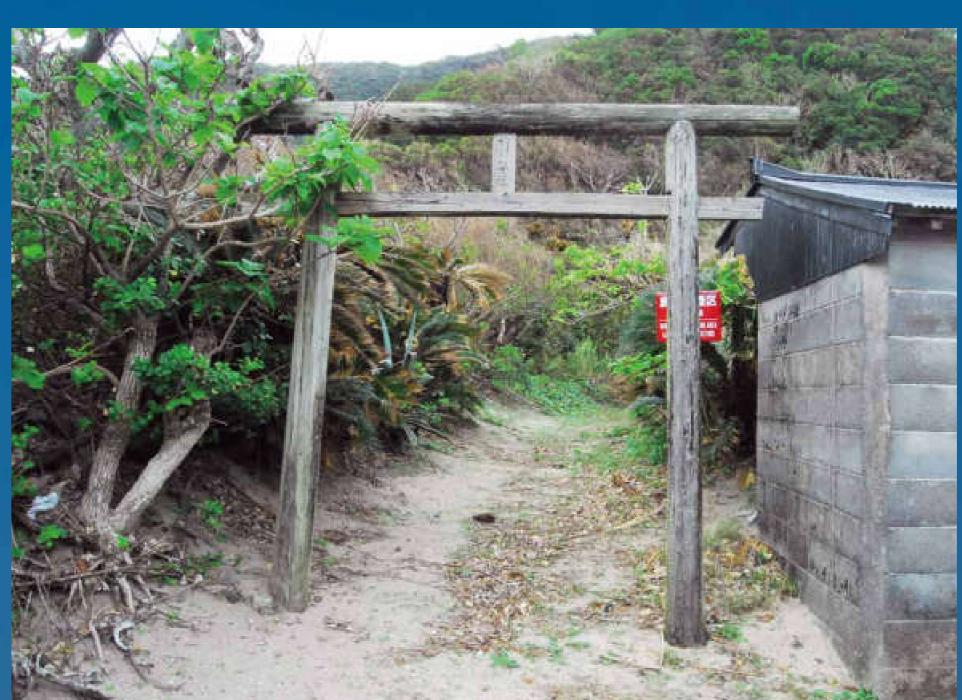
communities in Kasari area inherit their traditional performing arts, passing their unique culture from

generation to generation through their daily lives.



6 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 *Miyaterasama* deity and guardian gods. It is said that there is a sunken stone wall in the ocean near the shore, built by Gamo



7 Old road to Gamozaki (Yani)

In addition to the east side, the west side of the community houses big mountains, including Kamozaki, Hoobira, and Yanchiji, surrounding Yani Community.There is an old road at the bottom of these mountains. Some say it is a deity path, and others think it is a walkway to the shrine. These beliefs are based on the Heike legend of the observatory and Gamo Shrine. The mountains are considered a sacred area. Yani Community is, thus, protected by two holy mountain areas, one on the east and the other the west.



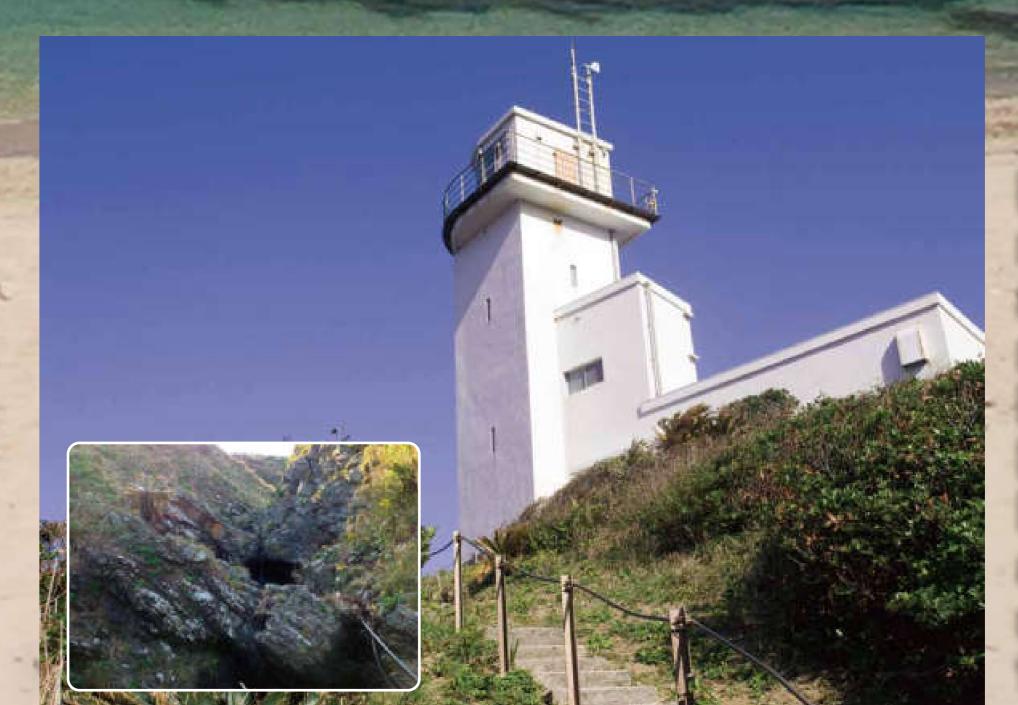
8 Sani August Dance (Sani)

Designated as an intangible cultural folk asset of Kagoshima Prefecture in 2011. In August of the Lunar calendar representing the beginning of a new season, the community residents visit each other's houses and dance on two occasions: *Arasetsu* (new beginning) and *Shibasashi* (purification). They dance to pray for safety, purification, and reposing the souls of ancestors. Today, the ritual is simplified and combines with a previously separate event, *Ta*neoroshi (harvest festival). The dance ritual/festival finishes with Amami's traditional up-beat Rokucho



9 Hachiman Shrine (Yo)

The mountains on the west side of Yo Community are collectively called "Murayama." Hachiman Shrine was built at the midslope of Murayama which has long been considered as an elevated sacred spot. The deity of this Hachiman Shrine was enshrined from Arata Hachiman Shrine, in Kagoshima, in 1890 to protect the community which experienced serious damage from fire and typhoons in the Meiji period. The current shrine was rebuilt in



10 Kasarizaki lighthouse and Otomizu waterfall