

Kasari Area (Amami City) Tourist Map





The Izumis' Residence (nationally designated cultural property)

The Izumis' residence inherits the traditional life rle from the late Edo period, represented by a storage shed, lean-to, *takakura* storage, coral stone wall, and shielded well that are still used today. The house was designated as an important cultural property on July 12, 1994 for its traditional architectural style called *Hikimon* structure.



2 Holding Child Rock (Tomori Beach)

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 off-shore is called *Zan-no-su* (a dugong nest).



3 Cape Ayamaru, One of the

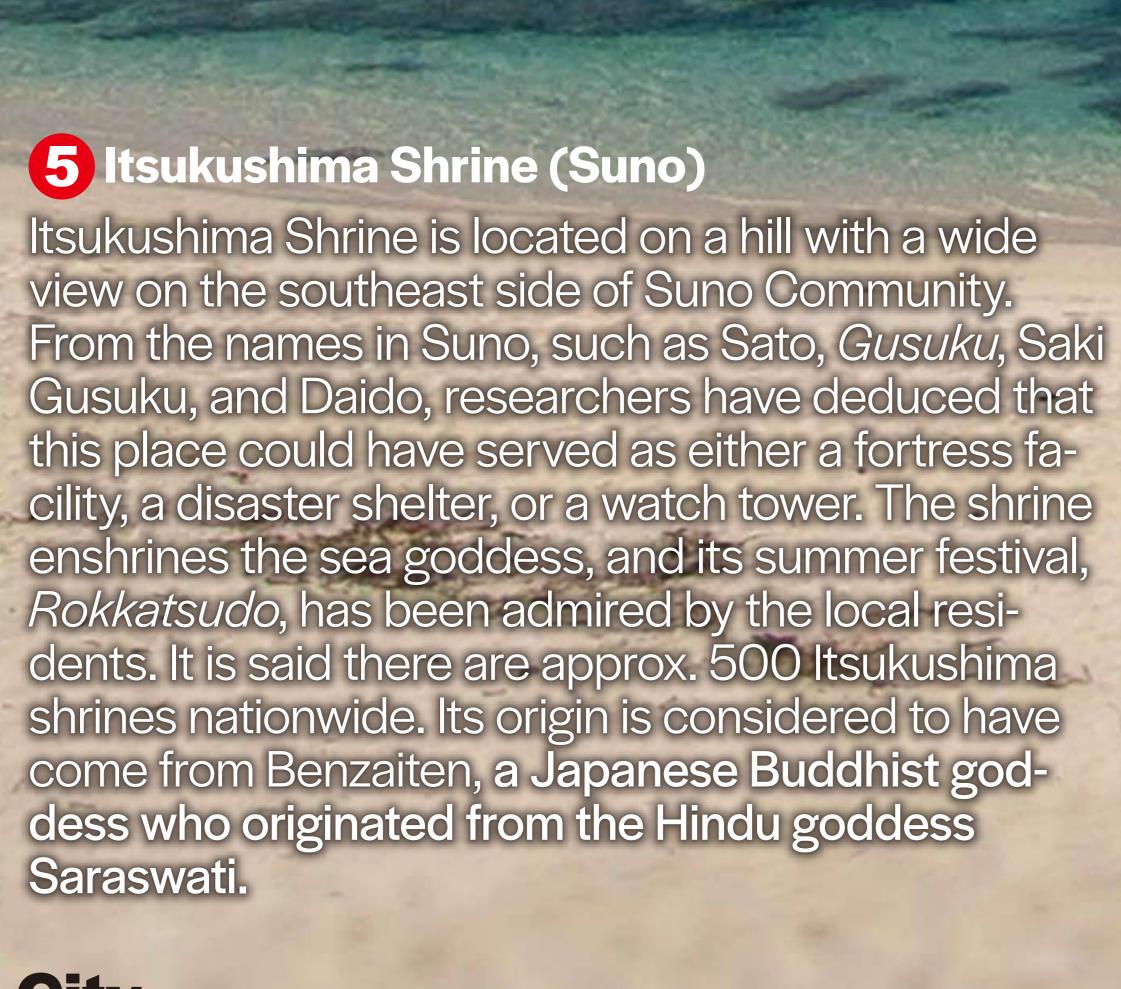
"10 Great Views of Amami" (Sakibaru) local deities reside in the mountain at Cape Ayamaru, which is considered a sacred mountain, linked with the conception of Amami *Nirai* (paradise over the horizon) and the widely shared myth *Tenson Korin* (the descent on the earth by the creators). It is said that 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 Priestess' Prayer Site (Sakibaru)

A hearing investigation in Sakibaru Community revealed that people considered the Cape Ayamaru area as a sacred place. The investigation also unveiled that it was a consecrated spot for *Noro* and Yuta priestesses to make prayers and purify themselves. Such sacred places are vanishing from Amami Oshima as traditional beliefs make way for modern life. Some people are working to preserve the tradition.





Administration: Amami City



5Km

Shower P Parking area Rest area Barrier-free toilet

Major Sightseeing Spots and Facilities (C) Kasari Branch, 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.



6 Foo Ishi (giant stone) (Suno)

TheSunozaki Plateau stretches to the northwest side of the community with its base reaching some residential houses. A large stone behind one of these residential houses is called "Muri-no Foo ishi" (giant stone in the forest). The stone is wrapped by trees growing on the beach. This sacred place prevents people from cutting these trees. Some trees fall when a typhoon hits the area, exposing the giant stone. This area has been a place people fear and



7 Beru shoreline (*Kobore* rock) (Beru)

At Beru shoreline, horse races and boat races used to be held. The reef contains *Kobore* rock and *Tsu*zungomori, a perfect deep marine playground for children. On the southern side, however, there lies a sanctuary the locals fear. The locals purify their community with incense and Shutsukesuna (shorefront sand) on January 15th of the Lunar calendar, praying for protection from venomous Habu snakes and household peace.



8 Harmisha rock (Beru)

Beru (*Buru*) Community consists of a few blocks: Buru Gusuku, Hyango, Kanengo, Makko, and Nyato (from north to south). The old *Buru* Community was located in Buru Gusuku, but the people moved to the Kasari and Beru communities after a big fire. Hamisha rock is situated along the shoreline forming the edge of Sunozaki cape at southern side of Beru Community. The place has a footstep of a mythical giant, Hojyoromui, from Suno Community. The local residents also fear this spot as the mythical monster *Kenmun* appears at this place.



9 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.



10 Kasarizaki lighthouse and Otomizu waterfal