

Kasari Area (Amami City) Tourist Map





1 Tofuru Graves (Shiroma)

Horizontal hollows of the clan graves built into a short hill are called *Tofuru* graves. *Tofuru* means "a pathway to the heavens". *Tofuru* graves are situated on the west side of the community. This 16m tall hill is formed of a layer of sandstone. The average dimension of the hollows is approx. 1.6m high and approx. 3.6m deep. Graves #1 - #9 are found within a 100m diameter, and their sizes are almost the



2 Ōse Beach (usyuku)

Amami Oshima island is a major relay point for migratory birds. Ōse beach, with rich communities of common reed (Phragmites australis) at the mouth of Maeda river and developed coral reefs, served as a valuable paradise for wild birds, providing them with ragworms and small fish. So far, approx. 120 kinds of resident and migratory bird species have been known to visit the beach.



3 Kishigo remains (Tomori)

Kishigo remains were discovered in 1982. Seven joint research and excavations were conducted by Kishigo remains Investigation Committee led by rof. Koichi Tamura at Aoyama Gakuin University and 1992. The investigation discovered, from the lower layer to the upper layer: chert chips, AT volcanic ash, relics, thick potsherds, Akahoya volcanic ash, and potsherds with nail-shaped patterns.



4 Matsunoto remains (Tomori)

Matsunoto remains were discovered in 1990, during construction work by the members of Kishigo Remains Investigation Committee whilst investigating Kishigo Remains right across the street. The scattered artifacts at the site sparked an academic investigation in the following year. Some cultured layers, representing the Yayoi period (approx. BC 4 - AD 3 century) and the post Yayoi Tumulus period, were found along with a large volume of burnt green turban shells, and other newly discovered imported artifacts.







P Parking area Rest area Barrier-free toilet

Major Sightseeing Spots and Facilities () 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

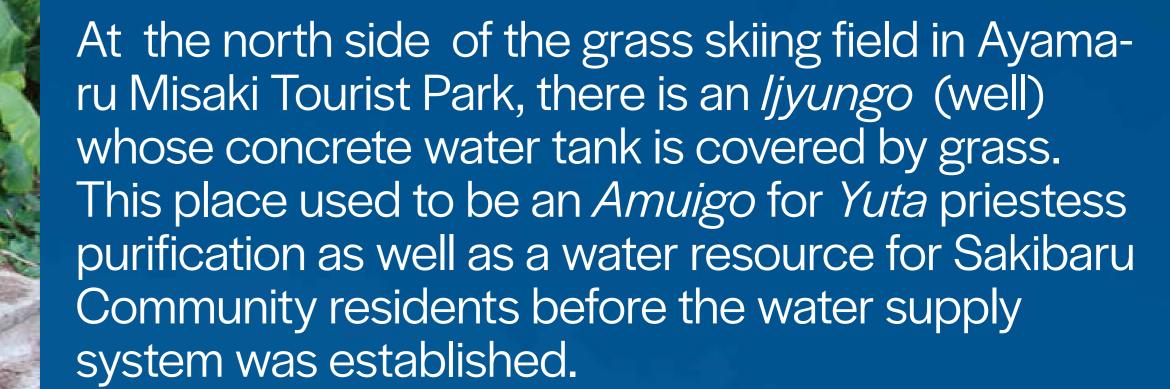
and semi-tropical fruit fields are cultivated, and livestock is raised. Kasari Bay, one of "500 Important

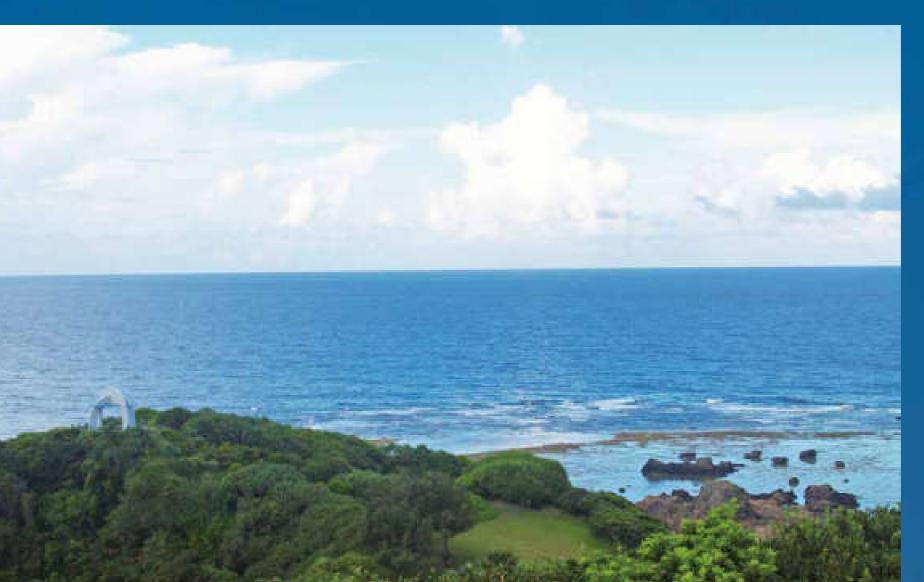
Wetlands in Japan," designated by the Ministry of the Environment, covers the west side. Many

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

generation to generation through their daily lives.

6 *ljyungo* at Ayamaru (Sakibaru)





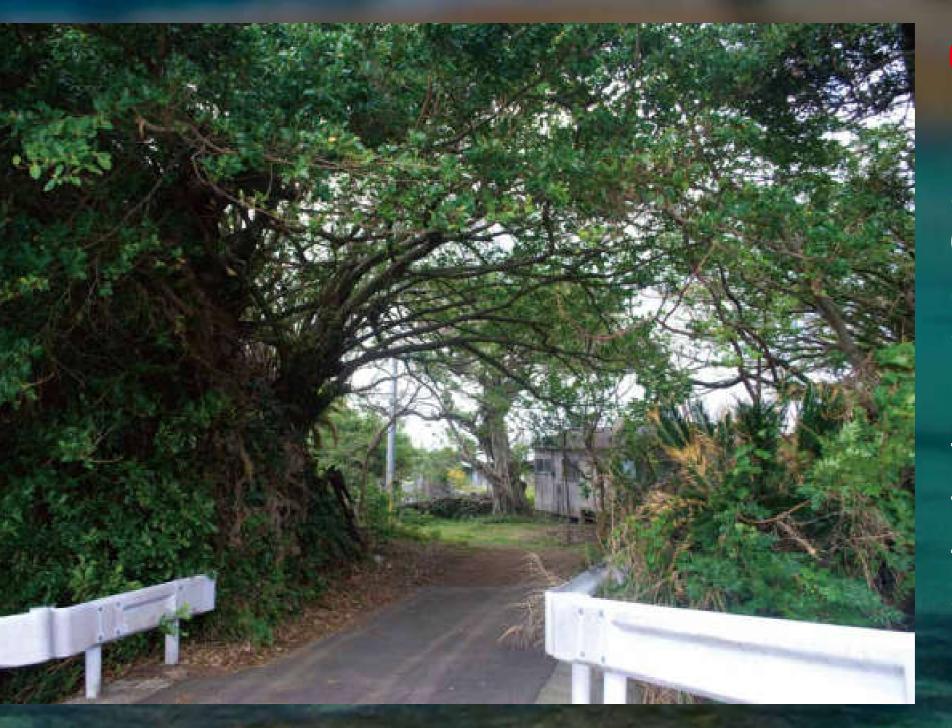
7 Priestess' Prayer Site (Sakibaru)

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.



8 Rankan Bridge (Nanasaku Bridge) (Suno)

A place called Ede once sank to the bottom of Suno Dam. It is said there was a Rankan Bridge (a bridge with rails) at that place. Suno Dam consists of two parts: one for agricultural water and another for drinking water. Visitors can find a bridge near the division between the two. The plate on the bridge reads "Nanasaku Bridge." It is thought there used to be old roads leading to Akakina Community and Yani Community from here. Visitors can enjoy beautiful cherry blossoms near the dam in early spring.



9 Site of the Oshima magistrate's office

Amami Oshima island was occupied by Satsuma (mainland Kagoshima) in 1609, and the magistrate's office was set in Kasari. In 1613, Hogen Nizaemon was appointed as the first magistrate in Amami. Surrounded by coral stone walls, the site of the magistrate's office is large. It was the regional headquarters from which the magistrates from Satsuma ruled the Amami region for 22 years. These coral stone walls inherit the history today.

