

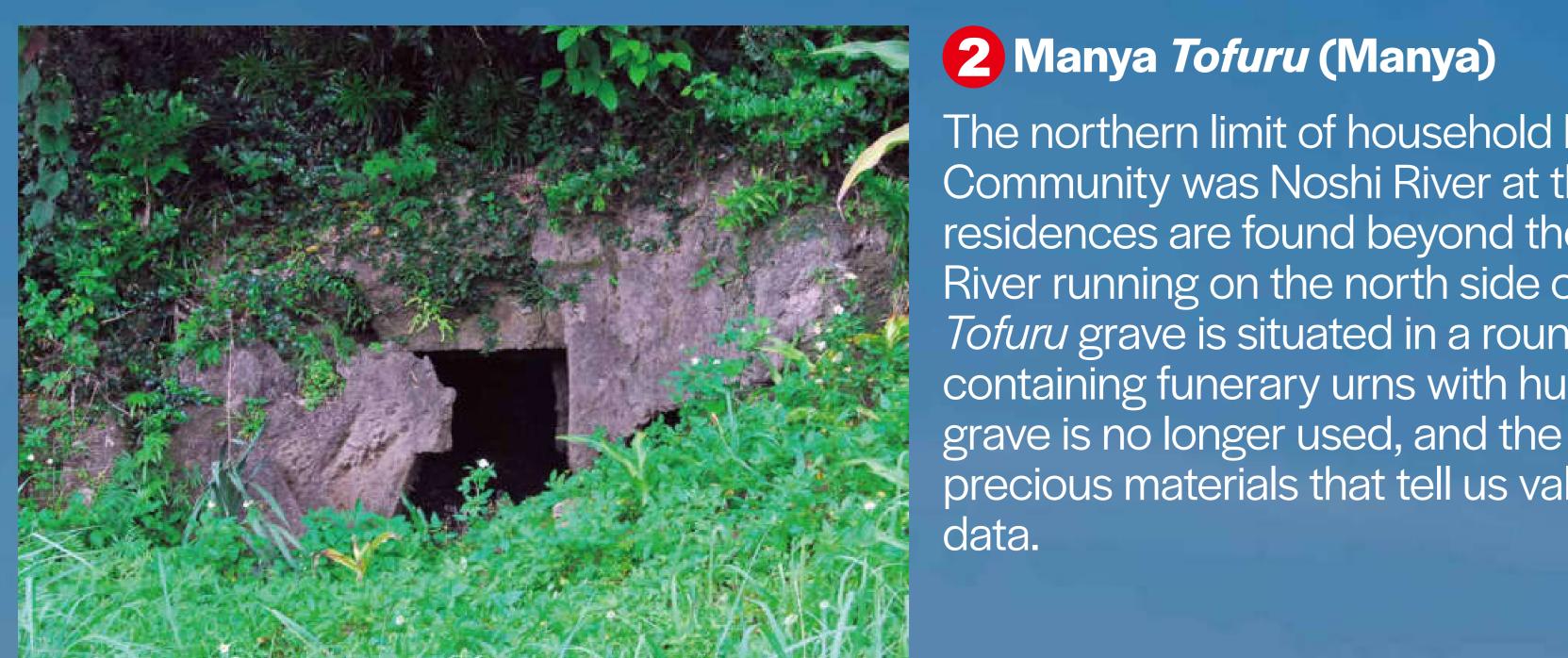
Kasari Area (Amami City) Tourist Map





1 Yoan Beach (Yoan)

Yoan beach is one of the most renowned eaches in Amami Oshima island. With a leisure facility along the beach, it is a major tour-



The northern limit of household locations in Manya Community was Noshi River at the south. Today, residences are found beyond the river, up to Izumi River running on the north side of Amami Airport. Tofuru grave is situated in a round shaped forest, containing funerary urns with human bones. The grave is no longer used, and the human bones are precious materials that tell us valuable historical



3 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



4 Ushuku Kitchen Midden (nationally desig-

nated cultural property) (Usyuku) Ushuku midden was discovered by Prof. Soetsu Miyake at Kyoto University in 1933. In 1955, Kyugakkai (United Nine Humanities Academic Societies) Amami investigation committee conducted research and excavation. In 1978, an investigation was held to determine the area of the midden. A series of archaeological findings were unearthed, including a rock-arrangement housing structure from the *Jomon* period (approx. 13000 - 2300 years ago) as well as buried bones of a mother and a child from the Yayoi period (approx. BC 4 - AD 3 century). The site was designated as a national historic site on



5 Fooswee Rock (Usyuku)





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.



(Designated Cultural Property of Amami City) (Usyuku) The dance, which used to be a part of the community's harvest festival in August, is inherited today as a part of the athletic meeting at Ushuku Elementary as one of the main attractions. The dance, designed to thank rich harvest, consists of a series of movements representing rice threshing, hulling, and mill-



7 Holding Child Rock (Tomori Beach) (Tomori)

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).



8 Cape Ayamaru, One of the

"10 Great Views of Amami" (Sakibaru) Ayamaru is named after its circular shape resembling a ball (mari) made of twill fabric (aya). It is said that 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 (for tress) as is believed by the local people. The view from the cape is recognized as one of the "10 great views of



9 Yo Beach and Nagahama (Yo)

Yo Community stretches to the north and the south, consisting of Úshiro, Naka Gusuku, Mae, and Araho blocks divided by the paths running to the east and the north. The shoreline is formed by a sandy beach and reef. Strangely shaped *Chinji* rock at the north is a landmark of this community. From Yo Community to the cape, beautiful scenery can be seen, with textile screw pine trees (lauhala) and a white beach, serving as a good egg-laying spot for turtles.

