

# Kasari Area (Amami City) Tourist Map

# TOURISM MAP





#### 1 Akakina Beach (Soto Ganeku)

Located in Soto Ganeku in Akakina, Akakina beach provides a great view of Akakina *Tachigami* (deity rock). The beautiful beach stretches to the shallow seashore. At this perfect spot for swimming and marine sports, visitors can enjoy the beautiful sunset over the horizon.



2 Sakibaru Beach, Uttabaru Beach, Kujirahama Beach (The "three great beaches") (Uttabaru)

All three areas have wide beaches right in front of residential houses. Along with their beautiful sceneries, sounds of birds and various insects can be heard among the sound of waves and the breeze, forming rich seasonal sonic environments. In Uttabaru and Sakibaru areas, textile screw pine, or lauhala, and beach hibiscus form natural revetments to protect the communities. These plants provide rich habitats for various creatures including concave land hermit crabs (Coenobita



#### **3** Northern Limit of Mangroves (Tekebu)

Agare, the south side of Herego (Hirai River), is a dry beach that is the northern limit of mangrove trees in Amami Oshima island. The dry beach is a habitat of rare species, including crabs, goby fish, and birds. The mangrove tree filters water containing mud, soil, and rich minerals from the land.



# 4 Ex-Nakaganeku Community Center Site (Nakaganeku)

Saigo visited Amami Oshima in 1859 as a Satsuma officer. He communicated with the youth on the island. The previous Nakaganeku Community Center, one of the representative architectural designs in the late Edo period, was the site where the locals welcomed officer Saigo. The community center was relocated to and reconstructed at the current place. Its ridge beam has a traditional prayer text, *Shibiranka*, for safety and welfare.



# 5 Site of the Oshima Magistrate's Temporary Office (Sato)

The Amami islands were under reign of the Satsuma clan in mainland Kagoshima after its military strike in 1609. The Magistrate's temporary office was the political center of Amami Oshima governance from 1649 to 1662 and from 1672 to 1801. The stone wa reminds people of this history. The combination of the coral stone wall and the orderly hedges represent a merging of the architectural culture of Satsuma and Amami





Shower 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

generation to generation through their daily lives.

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



#### 6 Fukoku Sugar Factory (Sato)

Modern production of brown sugar in Amami started in 1698 when the ruling Satsuma clan appointed officers in charge of sugar cane growing (*Kibi Yokome*), sugar cane and paddy fields (*Denchi Yokome*), admission of ships (*Tsuguchi Yokome*), and sugar barrel manufacturing (*Chikumoku Yokome*). Fukoku Sugar Factory started its operation in 1962, and its steam turbine used for in-house power generation is still in operation today.



#### **7** Akakina (*Hanaki*) *Tachigami* (Soto Ganeku)

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.



### 8 Holding Child Rock (Tomori Beach) (Tomori)

Tomori beach with a mother-holding-child rock (K-wadaki 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 offshore is called Zan-no-su (a dugong nest).



# 9 Banyan tree (Yani Elementary School) (Yani)

Yani Community has some giant banyan trees. Among them, a large banyan tree-a graduation memorial tree-stands at the elementary school, a perfect place for children to climb and play in the tree house.



#### 10 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 Zaemon.