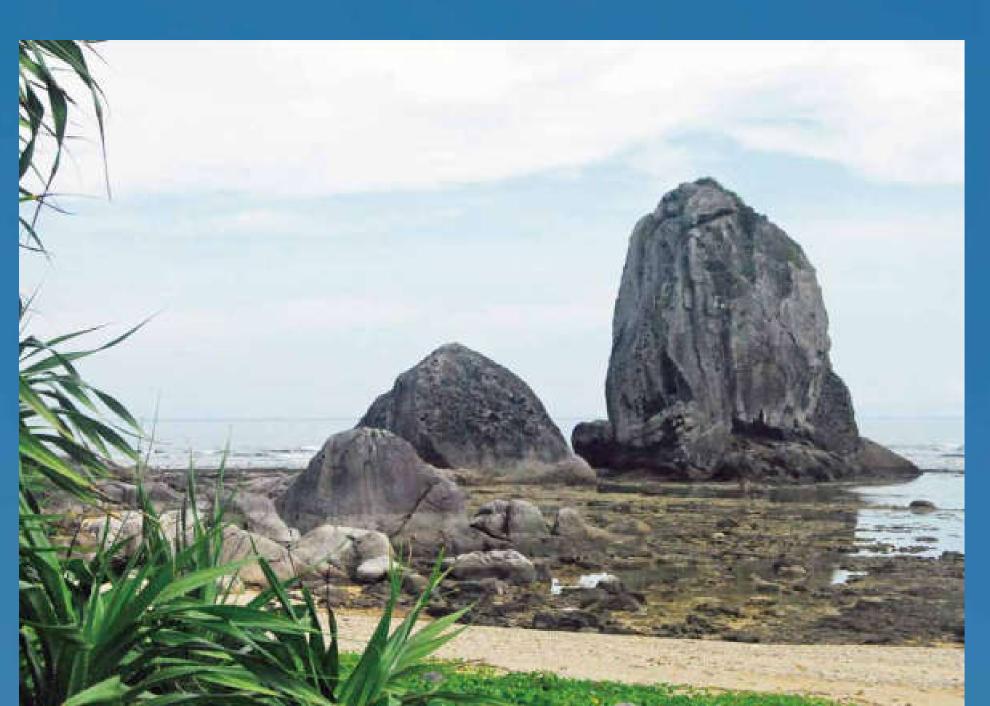


Kasari Area (Amami City) Tourist Map

TOURISM MAP





1 Setta Tachigami (Setta)

A giant rock approx. 20m tall situated in the ocean on the south side of Setta Community is called Setta *Tachigami* (or *Tachigan*). Setta *Tachigan* consists of three small *Tachigans*: The largest rock is known as *Uya Tachigan* (parent), the small rock is *Kwa Tachigan* (child), and the smallest is called *Maa Tachigan* (grandchild). It is said night fishers often see *Kenmun-macchi* (mysterious fires) in this area.



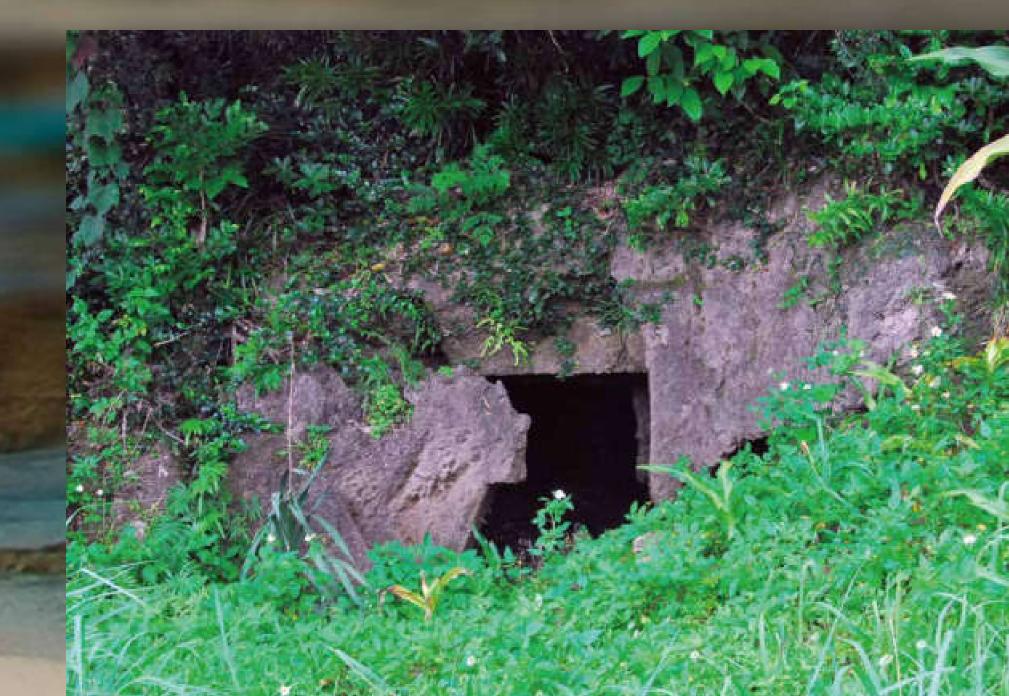
2 Nagahama Kaneku ruins (Wano)

Amami Airport is built on reclaimed land over a sand dune and coastline reefs. A series of research and excavation projects discovered old sand dunes from the *Jomon* period to *Kodai* era (3rd - 7th centuries) as well as small archaeological ruins that indicate prehistoric life. Visitors paying close attention may find a stone monument indicating Nagahama Kaneku Ruins in the vegetation at the right side of the airport exit.



3 Manya Coastline (Manya)

As Manya coastline has white sand and developed reefs full of fish and seashells, the community had many fishermen. There used to be a beautiful beach where community events were held and children played around. Although the area turned into a coastline with a park and airport, a part of the beach remains to remind people of the old days.



4 Manya *Tofuru* (Manya)

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 data



5 Tofuru Graves (Shirom

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 situate on the west side of the community. This 16m tall his 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 with a 100m diameter, and their sizes are almost the same





5Km

WC Toilet 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

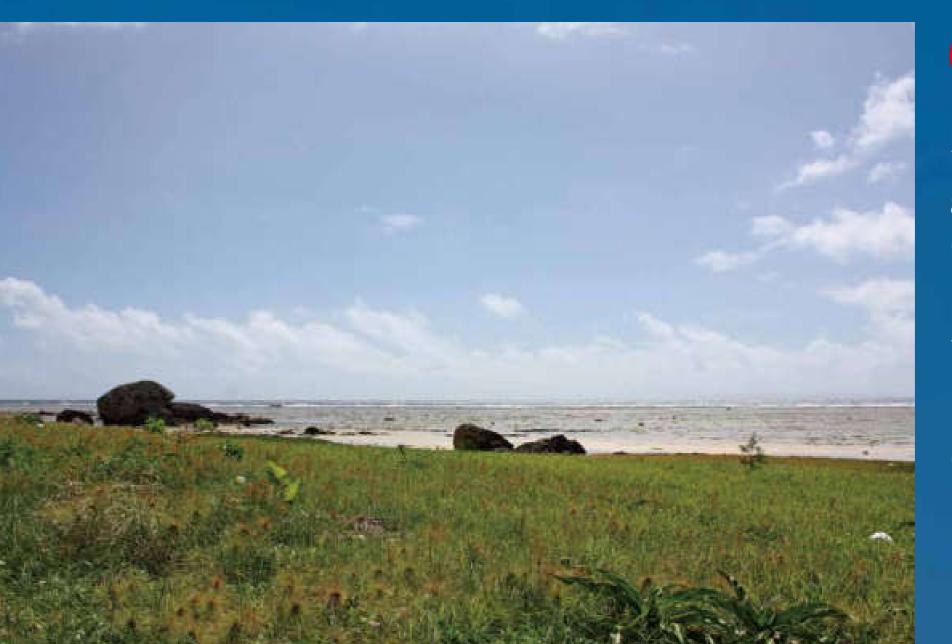
generation to generation through their daily lives.

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

6 The Izumis' Residence

The Izumis' residence inherits the traditional life style 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.

(nationally designated cultural property) (Ushuku)



7 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.



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 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 (fortress) as is believed by the local people. The view from the cape is recognized as one of the "10 great views of Amami"



O Ayamaru #2 Kitchen Midden (Sakibaru)

At Ayamaru #2Kitchen Midden site, a number of kitchen midden ruins from a period between *Jomon* period (approx. 13000-2300 years ago) and *Yayoi* period (approx BC4-AD3 century) were found in the dune in the cycad cluster. The discovered artifacts, including potsherds, stoneware, and shell rings, indicate the ancient islanders caught fish and shell among the developed coral reefs and resided at the back of the sand dune. In modern times, the dune was a place to obtain salt from seawater until the 1940s.