Kasari Area, Amami City Tale of Sani Community

Kasarizaki
Sani 1st/2nd Wards
Yo
Yo Beach
Yani Wharf
Kusuno
Gamozaki Tourist Park
Yani
601
Kasari 1st Ward
Kawakami
Kasari 2nd Ward
Nabeguru
Kasari 3rd Ward
Ōgasari port
Ōgasari Catholic Church
Ayamaru Misaki Tourist Park
- Seawater swimming pool
- Cycad tree cluster
- Ground golf course "cycling train," kid's playground

Amami City Folk Heritage Museum
Beru
Kasari Bay
602
Suno
Sakibaru
Suno Dam
Tomori
Tomori Beach
Sakibaru Beach
Akakina wharf
Akakina (Sato/Nakaganeku/Sotoganeku)
Kasari Branch, Amami City
Ushuku Kitchen Midden Historic Park
Maehida
Akakina Beach
Ushuku
Ōse Beach
- Bird watching spot

Uttabaru
Uttabaru Beach
Maehida wharf
Cycling Road
Taiyogaoka Athletic Park
Shiroma
Ushuku wharf
Kujirahama
601
Manya
58
Tekebu
Cape Itton
Kakurehama Beach
Kisé 3rd Ward
Amandee
Kisé Wharf
Kisé 2nd Ward
Wano
82
Amami Airport
Taira
Kisé 1st Ward
Amami Park
Wano wharf
←To Naze
Setta
Tsuchihama
Kasari Town, Amami City
Tatsugo Town
Amami City Local Produce Market and Rest Area
Kaminoko
Yoan
Yoan Beach
Myojinzaki

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.

※ The scale below is presented as an approximate guideline.

0Km 1Km 2Km 3Km 4Km 5Km

Legend

- Toilet
- Shower
- Parking area
- Rest area
- Barrier-free toilet
- Kasari Branch, Amami City
- Major Sightseeing Spots and Facilities

Amami City HP

Administration: Amami City

Sani

Sani beach - beautiful sunsets can be seen throughout the year here

You are here
Banzai Rock
4 Coral wall
3 Itsukushima Shrine
Sani Community Hall
Sani Nursery School
2 Sani Elementary School
7 Common well
5 Suzuno
Bouroudai tower
6
602
Kusuno
To Yani
To Yo
To Yo

Sani (*Sho* or *San* in local dialect)

Known for its optimistic and energetic characteristics, the community is situated at the northern tip of Amami Oshima island. The never-give-up spirit is commonly seen among the local residents. The locals are good cooks with plentiful knowledge about resources in both mountains and ocean. Their energetic August Dance is famous as well.

Sani August Dance

Designated as an intangible cultural folk asset of Kagoshima Prefecture in 2011. In August of the Lunar calendar representing the beginning of a new season, the community residents visit each other's houses and dance on two occasions: *Arasetsu* (new beginning) and *Shibasashi* (purification). They dance to pray for safety, purification, and reposing the souls of ancestors. Today, the ritual is simplified and combines with a previously separate event, *Taneoroshi* (harvest festival). The dance ritual/festival finishes with Amami's traditional up-beat *Rokucho* dance.

Sani Elementary School
(Rice paper butterfly rearing observation)

Established in 1879, and relocated to its current location in 1912. The school celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1980. With its long focus on education, cultural heritage, and environment protection, Sani Community has an educational policy passed down through generations, which merges children's school lives and their living environment. Since 2002, the school has been doing biological research and observation of rice paper butterflies (*Idea leuconoe*) as a part of its environmental education. The activity continues today under designation from Kagoshima Prefecture as a research collaboration school.

Itsukushima Shrine

Itsukushima Shrine, situated on a platform at Sani Aza Tobaru, is built on a ruin which is considered to have been a *gusuku* (fortress) equipped with a defense function. Its origin is unknown, however, the Heike legend in the northern part of Amami Oshima island implies its relationship with Heike clan's guardian deity "Itsukushima Jinja" shrine in Hiroshima. The shrine has been relocated a few times in the past, and has now relocated to the original location, enshrining a deity for safe voyage.

Coral wall

The coral wall represents Amami's unspoilt landscape. The structure of the coral wall demonstrates the high skills of craftsmanship in the old days. The coral walls were found everywhere in the community, serving as windbreakers and residential fences. Its number has decreased recently because the gaps between coral pieces are known to be pits for venomous Habu snakes and thus, modern concrete blocks are now commonly used.

Suzuno

Located in the north of Sani Community, the plateau on the east side provides a panoramic view to the visitors. The view includes faraway Tokara islands on a fine day. Farmland spreads on the hill, beyond which the white beach forms a coastline running north and south. The beach is an egg-laying site for turtles, and the community is actively engaged in its protection.

Bouroudai

The Imperial Japanese Navy had watch towers along Japan's major coastlines. From Cape Yo to Kasarizaki in Sani Community, the entire northern ocean can fit into one's field-of-view. The Imperial Japanese Navy soldiers watched ships traveling north and south from this point. A round piece of earthwork is left at the top of the mountain. Visitors can enjoy a great panoramic view, covering the ridge of Nagakumo Mountain in the south, the Pacific Ocean in the east, and the East China Sea in the west.

Common well

At the bottom of the mountain in Sani Community, there are a few common wells which were used in the past to hold spring water suitable for drinking. Another set of wells provided daily life water to the local residents. Water from the well regarded as the one providing the most delicious water was formerly used for the first offering of water in the New Year and prayers for rich harvest. A large broad leaf tree used to cover the well from above.