(Nishinoshima Town)

The Landscape of Collaboration with Dozen Caldera and Sea of Japan



1. Former Kurogi Palace Site



situated at the peak of a small hill called Mt. Tennou that commands view of Beppu Harbor. Emperor odaigo was exiled to the Oki Islands during the Genko Era in 1332 after failing to overthrow the Kamakura Shogunate (military regime). He allegedly resided here for more than a year

nere before he escaped. In the vicinity is the Senpuku-ji emple Throne, the Sanmi-no-tsubone Oyashiki-ato (Site of the Emperor's Companion's Residence) and Oki-hangan Yakata-ato (Site of the Provisional Secretary Residence) as well as other landmarks associated with the

2. Shuhaira Dance



The Shuhaira Dance is a type of Dengaku (traditional Shinto celebrations with music and dancing) that is part of the religious festival at the Mita Hachimangu Shrine and Hiyoshi Shrine. These dances were designated as a National Impo tant Intangible Folk Cultural Property in 1992. During the celebration that occurs biannually on the 15th of

September, there is a stage set up in front of the main hall of worship of the Hachimangu Shrine where the rituals of Shishi-mai, (Lion Dance) and Kami-no-Sumo (Deity Sumo Tournament) are carried out and followed by



The Mita Dam is located to the north of Mt. Takuhi. In the urrounding area vou can see llion_years ago, the_oldest strata n the Dozen Islands. For many years, the easily workable, een-colored rock mined from

this area, known as Mita Rock, was used as wall stones and other building materials. The Mita Dam area is also a well-known firefly viewing location.

4. Shara-bune (Spirit Boat)



The Shara-bune are boats that are sent out on the water to carry offerings to the spirits of the dead uring the Bon Festival (13th -15th August). The keel and frame of the boats are made from wood and bamboo and the hull from straw. Thousands of pieces of

colored paper with sutras written on them are attached o the rope sail creating a beautiful collage of color



During the Heian Period this shrine was enlisted as an Ichinomiya Shrine, meaning it has the highest rank of all shrines in the Dozen Islands. It is one of the four grand nrines on the Oki Islands. In front of the torii (shrine gate) there is a shallow bay in which large shoals

of squid gather. According to legend, they once nibbled on the fingers of the important deity Yurahime-nomikoto as she was returning to Oki in a small boat. To ask for her forgiveness, every year they swim into the inlet and launch themselves on the shore

6. Onimai Lookout



From here you can enjoy a anoramic view of the entire Dozen Caldera as well as the entral cone, Mt. Takuhi. You can lso compare the tranquil waters of the Inner Sea alongside the ough Sea of Japan. In this area

method known as Makihata. Makihata was developed on Dozen and carried out until the end of the 1960s. Local residents are working to preserve these walls even now.

7. Akekure-no-iwaya Cavern (Light and Dark Cavern)



Akekure-no-iwaya Cavern is a collection of sea caves inside of a 250m long cavern. It is one of the sights visited on the Kuniga Coast ightseeing Boat Tour. The sea poat, so entry is highly dependent on the weather and the height of the waves. If you are lucky enough to be able to enter the cavern, it is an amazing experience!

8. Akao Lookout



Akao Lookout is located on the south-side of the Kuniga Bay (an roded inlet), and is a vantage point for stunning panoramic views of the Matengai Cliff, njo-kai, Tsutenkyo Arch and Cuniga Beach. The uniquely haped rocks here were created by volcanic activity 6 million years ago, and subsequently

waves of the Sea of Japan. 9.Kuniga Coast



The Matengai Cliff (257m) mmands a breathtaking view of the Kuniga Coast, Visitors can bserve the interesting rock rmations that are the result of olcanic activity and subsequent rosion from the rough Sea of apan. The 2km walking track

along the Kuniga Coast is listed as one of Japan's Top 100 walking courses. It takes you from the top of Matengai Cliff down along the coast to a group of strangely shaped rocks known as Tenjo-kai (Heavenly World) and a natural rock arch called the Tsutenkyo Arch (Bridge to Heaven).

10. Kuniga Coast Sightseeing Boat Tour

Oni-ga-jima (Demon Island), Kanabo-iwa (Metal Rod

Rock), Tsutenkyo Arch, Kannon-iwa (Buddhist Deity Rock)

eroded by the strong north-westerly winds and rough



On this cruise you can get up close to the impressive eroded cliffs and see the many strangely shaped rocks of the Kuniga Coast. On the eastern side you will see the subame-goten (Swallow Palace), a resting spot for large numbers of swallows, and the Byobu-gadake (Folding Screen Peak), rocks that look like three folding screens in a line. On the western side you will see

and many other interestingly shaped rocks, as well as the towering Matengai Cliff.

11. Funabiki Canal



330m long canal that cuts through central Nishinoshima. Before the anal was made the boats had to be laboriously transported overland in order to reach the Sea of Japan from the Inner Sea. This is said to be the inspiration for

naming the surrounding town "Funakoshi" (Boat rossing). The canal had an original width of 3.3m whe it was constructed in the Taisho Period in 1915, but it was later widened to its current width of 12m



This is the tallest mountain in the the central cone of the Dozen Caldera. Close to the summit of of the Takuhi Shrine, which is the oldest shrine in the Oki Islands, and has been designated as

National Important Cultural Property. This shrine is dedicated to the deity of safe sea voyages, and has been used as a calling point for boats at sea since ancient

13. Dozen Kagura (Sacred Shinto Dances)



Among the kagura dances the Dozen Islands, there are the well-known kagura performed iannually at Takuhi Shrine, as well as the kagura of the Yurahime Shrine that take place on board a boat. The kagura dances on the

Dozen Islands are guite different to those on Dogo (the largest island). While the latter are performed to the slow and leisurely pace of the Hayashi (Japanese festival music), Dozen Kagura are fast paced and energetic. The in the dances on Dozen. They are designated as an Intangible Folk Cultural Property of Shimane Prefecture.

are the remains of stone walls that were used to divide farmland in a unique crop rotation vanguishing of a giant serpent Yaegaki also only features

Nakanoshima Island (Ama Town)

The Historical Island Brought up to the Earth

1. Yakumo Square



In the Meiji Period in 1892, Yakumo Koizumi (Lafcadio Hearn). a famous international author who on vacation to the Oki Islands with his wife while on his search for Japan's most iconic scenery. During their vacation, the beautiful and

mirror-like Hishiura Bay attracted his attention and he named it Kagami-ga-ura (Mirror Inlet). It is said that Koizumi was especially taken by the scenes of young women working in the villages and the lullabies sung by the village mothers. The details of his trip to Oki are written in his book "Glimpes of Unfamiliar Japan – From





3. Mt. Kinkoji

Emperor Gotoba was exiled to the Oki Islands after the Jokyu-no-ran Rebellion in 1221. He resided at the Genpuku-ji Temple and passed away 19 years later on the 22nd February, 1239. The Oki Shrine was built in April 1939 to mark the 700th anniversary of his death.

named it Tengawa-no-mizu, water from the heavenly river. Springs like this can be found throughout Ama Town, where the land is bountiful because of abundant sources of underground water. It has been designated one of the Top 100 Exquisite and Well-Conserved Waters of Shimane by the Ministry of the Environment and is one of the blessings of a land created by volcanic activity. 8. Miho Shrine who exiled him to Toyoda, Ama Town in 838. While Ono-no-Takamura was on the island, he retired to the



7. Tengawa-no-mizu Spring

(Water of the Heavenly River Spring)

Emperor Gotoba was exiled to Oki in 1221 after losing the Jokyu-noran Rebellion. Due to the very stormy seas on his departure from the capital, they made an emerand the Emperor waited close by at what is now known as the Rock (Seat) of Emperor Gotoba as they searched for lodging Gotoba and his group ended up spending the night at

When invited to Oki in the Nara eriod, the Buddhist Priest Gyoki

heard the sound of running water from a cave in the forest. He felt

the aura of the spring water and

9. Grave of the Famous War Horse 'Su-Go'

boats at night, and is also part of the geo-tourism course



when Japan seized control over Lushunkou in 1905 (Siege of Port Arthur), the Russian Army Genera Stessel surrendered to General Nogi Maresuke and presented him with his beloved horse. General Nogi named the horse 'Su-Go' after the Russian General. Su-Go was later taken to the Oki Islands where he died at the age of 23. His grave is

still maintained by the local people



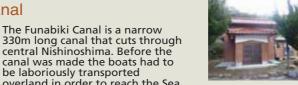
At the southern tip of Nakanoshima Island you can see Mt Takuhi (the central cone of the Dozen Caldera), the surrounding ountains, Chiburijima Island and the outer rim of Nakanoshima Island that form the inner sea of he Dozen Caldera. It is a popular spot for watching the sunset and the glow of fishing

with the blue of the sea along the

Chiburijima Island

The Connecting Island of Oki to Honshu

1.Ganjo-ji Temple



This temple was originally located at the base of Mt. Akahage, and when Emperor Godaigo was exiled o Oki he stayed here, and (Ganjo-ji Temple of the Spring Sunlight). In 1504 there was a

rebuilt in its current location in 1645. Parts of the Nio statues (large and threatening guardians of Buddha) that stood at the gates of the original temple are on display

2. Kawai-no-Jizo Spring



The Kawai-no-Jizo springs can be accessed from Port Kurii on Chibu in the direction of the Kori Settlement. This group of springs is called the 'spring water of life' and is designated as one of the Top 100 Exquisite and Well-

Conserved Waters of Shimane. Statues of the bodhisattva who look after children, travelers, and the underworld, called Jizo, line the springs. On Chibu Island, sources of water are abundant, with wells along the coastline and springs near the tops of mountains.

3. Tomb of Priest Mongaku



Heike), a famous classic military tale. The priest was accused of criticizing the government of Emperor Gotoba, and was consea friend of the priest, this is his burial site.

4.Shoyo-ji Temple



Exiled Emperor Godaigo stayed at this temple after arriving on Chiburiiima Island. It was originall located on Mt. Akahage and called ooden carving of the Bodhisattva

at the temple is said to have been gifted by the Emperor, and is designated as an Important Cultural Property of Shimane Prefecture. The tomb of the Emperor's descendant Prince Kyoson is also located at the temple grounds. 5. Ikku Shrine



but the local people have nicknamed it Ikku Shrine meaning the best shrine on the island. It is also the Ichinomiya (highest ranking shrine) on the Island. here is a legend about the deity of this shrine and Okuninushi (Oanamuchi). On the grounds are the Rock (Seat) of Emperor Godaigo and the Rock (Seat) of Kengyo, the temple administrator who was banished to Oki in 1674.

The official name of this shrine is

Amasashihiko-no-mikoto Shrine,

6.Sekiheki (Red Cliff)



On this appropriately named Red as vellow and brown decorate the cliff face over an expanse of about from the sea. The red color in the liff was created by splashes of hot that oxidized upon contacting the air. An intrusive dike of a different color also cuts across the center of the

7. Aigaki Stone Walls



The Aigaki Stone Walls are the remains of Makihata stone walls that can be seen half-way along the Mt. Akahage viewing platform. Makihata is a traditional and unique form of stock and crop rotation farming that was developed on the Dozen Islands in the

middle ages, and carried out until the late 1960s Engineered as a solution to a shortage of arable farming land, Makihata crops were rotated as part of a four-stage cycle in order to utilize the land in the most profitable

8.Mt. Akahage



Mt Akahage (325m) is the highest peak on Chiburijima Island. It offers a beautiful panoramic view of Nishinoshima Island, Nakaoshima Island, Mt Takuhi, the Dozen Caldera and the calm Inner Sea. In spring, the grazing cattle radish (Raphanus sativus var. longipinnatus) blooming or both sides of the mountain create a picturesque view.

9.Himemiya Shrine



Himemiya Shrine enshrines Yamatohime-no-miko (a goddess that appears in the ancient book of Japan written in the early 8th entury), along with the founding mperor Jimmu's Mother, amayorihime-no-mikoto, and Grandmother, Toyotama-hime-no

mikoto. All three deities are female, and according to temple legend, if a pregnant woman offers up some of her breast milk to the goddesses, the milk she produces for her child will be blessed.

10.Somin-Shorai Ritual



n the Chibu Village area, an old eligious rite is carried out that has its origins in the folk belief of Somin-Shorai, a charm to ward off evil spirits and prevent disasters. Every year on the 12th of January, willow branches featuring the words 'Somin-Shorai' are placed at seven locations around the island where people travel in and out of the area. These branches act as talismans to prevent contagious illnesses from entering the district

11.Shimazushima Island



of interesting features. Firstly, trace fossils from 5.5 million years ago of prehistoric creatures such as sea urchins and clam worms can be found along the shore. This shore is also a popular swimming location. Further inland, there is a stone monument to a pine tree that is sung about in the Oki Islands folk song Dossari-bushi. The Watatsu Shrine

> the east side of the island on Mt. Takahira (149m) and lights up the Oki Strait for naval safety. Previously, the lighthouse lodging



12.Chiburijima Lighthouse

were next to the lighthouse but they were closed to make a parkland area. Here you can enjoy the sunset and coastal scenery such as Shimazushima

Dogo Islands

Dogo Island

(Okinoshima Town)

The Connection of Three Stories Human, Life and Geology

viewing platform and walking track. Eco-tours and environmental workshops are held here.

1. Misaki-no-bakuretsu-kako (Misaki Explosion Crater)



On the west side entrance to Saigo Port is a 50 – 100m long cliff that nas a gently sloping plateau at the op. When seen from the sea the liff looks like a giant bowl cut in ion vears ago.

2. Kishihama Obsidian Outcrop



rmed on the volcanic vent of the Cishihama Ridge due to the rapid ling of rhyolitic magma flows s magma rises and cools, the low vater content core becomes sidian, the high water content

3. Oku-tsudo Coast Walking Track You can see the strange combination of plants peculiar to the Oki

tudy workshops.

Southern Plants: Tobera Japanese cheesewood (Pittosporum tobira) Northern Plants: Itaya-kaede mono maple (Acer mono)

Alpine Plants: Tsushima-nana-kamado Japanese rowan (Sorbus commixta var. wirfordii) Continental Plants: Mitsuba-iwagasa Spiraea (Spiraea olumei),Daruma-giku Aster (Aster spathulifo

4. Tsuma Traditional Boat Houses



Twenty boat houses in Tsuma are lined up neatly in the surrounding of a quiet fishing village, with a view of Mt. Takada, a place of

area has been designated one of the Top 100 White Sand and Green Pine Tree locations in Japan. A dazzling luminescent firefly display can be

5. Ozuku Conglomerate Rock



Along the slope to the right of the Ozuku Port, you can see many round green colored rocks rock layer is about 20 million years old and due to the number of the rocks it is assumed that a river

rocks it is assumed that a river carried them there. The color of the rocks changed to green as a result of contact with water of a high temperature after the rock layer formed.

In this area from March to April

7. Dangyou-no-taki Waterfall



Since long ago the water of the Dangyou-no-taki Waterfall has been revered as sacred. It is said that if you drink the water before a match or competition, you will win, and so even today before a traditional sumo match or

Islands, is said to have come here to pray for his repatria tion to the capital.

8. Nagu-misaki Cape Nagu-misaki Cape has been a

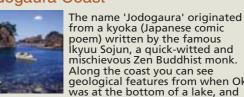




hese protruding basalt rocks are o named because they look just ke the armor of a samurai warrior. There is a legend that a

fallen warrior's helmet and armor turned into stone here. In 1938 this coast was designated as a Place of Scenic Beauty as well as a National Natural Monument.

19. Jodogaura Coast



long the coast you can see was at the bottom of a lake, and observe southern, northern and continental plants that design for one of the National Park Special Issue stamps and is one of Oki's most scenic locations.

20. Kasuga Shrine

thunbergii) that have Nagoran orchid (Sedirea japonica)

a plant found in southern areas, growing on them, while

a northern flower Hamanasu Rugosa rose (Rosa rugosa)



During the spring and autumn eauinoxes, the sun will rise riaht in the middle of the gate in front of this shrine, creating a breathtakin sight. There was once a giant pine tree within the grounds that was around 60m tall. The tree's stump is now on display in a small hut. You can also find Japanese Black Pine trees (Pinus

The giant Japanese cedar tree here is so tall it seems to be touching

the sky. It is the where the deity of

ccurs here biannually, participants

ne Ovama Shrine resides and is

aid tó be 800 years old. During

the Yama-matsuri Festival that

From the lookout accessed via the

Fuse District car park, you have a clear view of the 26m long lizard

that looks as though it is scaling the cliff face. This is one of the top

rock type that can only be found in

three strangely-shaped rocks in

use District to the Kanbara

nori Forest area. There is a

latform. The many impressive

cedar trees over 300 years old,

The Oki Salamander is a mountain

dwelling salamander that is of the lotic (river ecosystem) type and has

close to the coast as well as in the mountains. In 2005, the Oki

an interesting evolutionary

On the west side of Byobu-iwa

high, It is considered a top

hat you cannot experience

rock is a splendid colúmnar joint

With a precipice that is about 80m

a breathtaking view of the sea

The solemn and majestic Chichi-

Shrine resides. It is about 800 years

old and has a very interesting appearance. The tree has one root

but separates into about 15 trunks

from 4-6 meters up, and it has also

The Ryugataki Cliff is located on

the way from Saigo to Fuse in front of the Ryugataki Tunnel. If

you look up at the cliff from the

though a dragon has slithered out

sea, the basaltic dike looks as

Kura-jima Island (Horse Saddle

an eruption of basaltic rock into

the eastern coastal area of Dogo

You can see the columnar joints

that formed when the volcanic

rock cooled. Inside these columna

joints are mantle xenoliths of the

sugi Japanese cedar tree is the where the deity of the Iwakura

untaineering location. It offers

ghts of the forest, such as ancient

walking track and viewing

Plateau forms the Shizenkaiki-no-

ws nearby on the coast



must tie a hardy vine around the tree seven and a half times. It is said to be the most tunnel was expended using heavy machinery. These tunnels show the ancient mountain festival in Japan Also in the area are two giant Japanese Zelkova trees (Zelkova serrata) that

three places in the world, in Mt. Kenya (Africa), Mt.

Oki-shakunage Rhododendron (Rhododendron japon

heptamerum var.okiense) and other precious plants,

make the forest an ideal place for exploring nature.

nated the Oki Salamander as a protected species.

25. Byobu-iwa (Folding Screen Rock)

26. Chichi sugi Japanese Cedar

sprouted new roots which you can see hanging down

from the trunks. The Chichi-sugi is worshipped as the

location of a deity, and every year on the 23rd of April

offerings are brought to the tree as part of a religious

Island) and Eboshi-iwa Rock (Black Ceremonial Hat Rock)

olive colored peridotité, and greenish black pyroxenite

that rose up from the Earth's mantle during the eruption

28. Kuroshima Island

24. The Oki Salamander

23. Shizenkaiki-no-mori Forest

Erebus (Antarctica) and Oki.

22. Tokage-iwa (Lizard Rock)



This island is a work of art in the natural gallery of Oki. The sight of Candle Island when it is light up by the setting sun is unforgettable. It can only be seen on the Sightseeing Boat Cruise, so make sure to book in advance at the tourism

office. You can also see other interestingly shaped rocks here such as Teppo-iwa (Rifle Rock) and Uma-nose-jima (Horseback Island).

ages, as well as the development of civil engineering technology. They have been designated as public works

heritage by the Japan Society of Civil Engineers

created by a large landslide. Around the pond there is a

This intertidal shore platform

220m. It is composed of lacustring

eroded by wind and waves.

formed due to wave erosion and is

strata that was deposited about 20

million years ago and is still being

Hakojimá Island about 300m away

he smaller hand-excavated tunnel

s called "koma" (narrow), and the

rger one which was made by

and and by dynamite is called

the largest in Dogo at 170m x

13. Kumi Coast



Along the beautiful Kumi Coast you can observe white alkaline olite and the beautiful flow structure of igneous rocks. You can also observe the unusual plant stribution peculiar to the Oki slands. There are plants endemic to Oki, such as the Oki-no-azami

thistle (Corsium japonicum var. okiense) and Oki-noaburagiku chrysanthemum (*Dendranthema okiense*), as well as the continental plant Darumagiku Aster (*Aster* spathulifolius), the southern plant Sharin-bai Yeddo hawthorn (*Rhaphiolepis indica* var. *umbellata*), and remnant plants from the ice age, Shirouma-asatsuki hives (Allium shoenoprasum var. orientale) and Ezo-obako Chinese plantain (Plantago camtschatica) can

also be seen here.



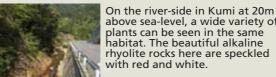
This shrine was listed in the Engi-shiki, an important set of n the Heian Period (794 – 1185), as "Alliance for Zero Extinction" (an initiative composed of one of the four main shrines on 52 conservation organizations) list of highly threatened species, and the Oki Islands was added as the last refuge annual festival where a warrior of an endangered species. Okinoshima Town has desig

above sea-level, a wide varietv of

olants can be seen in the same

wearing armor and holding a rare type of bow and arrow leads the festivities. Kagura (sacred dances) are performed on the evening biannually on the 25th of July, and on the 26th of July.

15. Vegetation of Funaoroshi, Kumi



Southern Plants: Tobera Japanese cheesewood Northern Plants: Yuki-guni-mitsuba-tsutsuji Rhododen dron (Rhododendron lagopus var. niphophilum) Subalpine Plants: Kurobe Japanese thuia (Thuia standishii), O-iwa-kagami Shizocodon (Schizocodon Continental Plants: Mitsuba-iwagasa Spiraea (Spiraea blumei var. obtusa), Yokogura-no-ki Berchemiella

Shirashima Coast Lookout



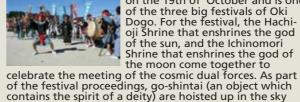
are collectively referred to as the Shirashima Coast. The contrasts of the blue of the sea, the stark white 27. Ryuugataki Waterfall f the rock face, and the bright green of the pine trees on the coast leave a lasting impression on visitors. Beautiful Ajisai (hydrangeas) along the walking trail bloom well into autumn. Here you can also observe the rare combination of southern and northern as well as continental

The Shirashima Cape, Shirashima

Island, Okinoshima Island along with other small islands in the area

17. Mura-Matsuri-Furyu Festival This festival takes place biannually on the 19th of October and is one

plants growing in the same place, a phenomenon peculiar



29. Inujima in Oku (Dog Island) At the tip of the Noritabana Coast

ossils of an alligator tooth and oond snails have been discovered n Green Tuff rock strata, which ells us that the land was once a arge lake. This rock is found in

Goka in Dogo which is why it is known as Goka-ishi (Goka Rock). It has been utilized for many years as a building

material for stone walls among other things



Cultural Property of Japan. The ouse was constructed in the tural style unique to Oki, with characteristics such as three separate entrances that were used

according to the social position and occasion of visitors. The main room of this single-floored house is made from cedar, while the roof is gabled and laid with stone



Mizuwakasu Shrine was desig-nated as the Ichinomiya (highest ranking shrine) of Oki Province uring the Nara Period (710 – 794) main hall was made in raditional Oki-style architectural esign during the Kansei Era

Tamawakasu-no-mikoto Shrine, it was designated as a National Important Cultural Property in 1992. On the 3rd of May on the even years of the Christian calendar, there is a large festival which is well known as one of the three most important festivals of Dogo.



Ono-no-Takamura (famous noble n Heian period) was exiled to the Oki Islands, but on his return to the capital, he left two carved Jizo statues (bodhisattva who are the guardians of children) to the maiden Akona. According to the

story of these statues, when she prayed to them her toothache healed which is how it got the name Agonashi Jizo (jawless guardian deity). The story of the two is told every year on 23rd day of the

33. Kabura-sugi (Turnip Cedar), Choshi





hat forms the entrance is a raditions. A festival involving archery where the targets are place on the grounds of the shrine

traditions like this, such as in the Iwakura Shrine in the

Fuse District, and the Oyama Shrine, where giant trees are



The Oki Kokubunji Temple was Emperor Shomu during the Nara Period in 741. The main hall was urnt down during the

remains from when the temple was first built

down once more. A restoration project is currently

underway as well as archeological work relating to



hrine was constructed in the nique Oki architectural style. The all of worship, the Zuishinmon guardians at the gates, and the front hall of worship have all been designated as National Important Cultural Property. Every year on the 5th of June during the Gorei-furyu Festival,

nany different gods. The main

37. Yao-sugi Cedar



ovince, so it has always beer called the Yao-sugi Cedar. The inside of the tree is hollow and it is said that on warm days with little wind you can hear the sound of a giant serpent snoring inside

38. Oki Family Residence



architectural style and thus has three entrances that were used noles in the door that record the turmoil of the Oki Rebellion that occurred at the end of the Edo Period

The bottom half of Inu-jima Island is composed of Green Tuff, which you can see from Oku Harbor.

After quarrelling with the envoy Fujiwara-no-Tsunetsugu, the vice-envoy to T'ang China, Ono-no-Takamura, feigned illness to avoid boarding the boat that was headed towards T'ang. This avoidance of duty incurred the anger of the retired Emperor Saga

Rokusha-gongen Shrine on Mt. Kinkoji where he made a statue of Buddha while praying for his reinstatement to

4. Uzuka-no-mikoto Shrine This is one of the four most important shrines in the Oki ands, and has been dedicated to Jzuka-no-mikoto, the deity of ood harvest, naval safety and safe nildbirth. This deity is unique to the Oki Islands and has been

vorshipped since ancient times.

According to the creation myth of the Akiya Coast, in

order to marry the deity of neighboring Nishinoshima, Hinamaji-hime-no-mikoto, Uzuka-no-mikoto had a test of strength against the deity of Oyama Shrine. The Akiya Coast and the surrounding geological features are named according to these events.



The three Saburo-iwa Rocks look like three brothers standing in a ow in the sea north-east of ishiura Port. On the top of these sea-eroded basaltic rocks are small groves of green trees that resemhle bonsai trees. You can enjoy watching the three rocks become two, and then one as you pass by on a sightseeing boat, the Oki Kisen Ferry or the AMANBOW Underwater

6.Akiya Coast

The splashes of bright red on the steep cliff face contrast beautifully Akiya Coast. The coast gets its name from a legend that Iishinoshima, gave birth here. On the trail running alongside the clif one can observe the results of volcanic eruption such as

pyroclastic material (scoria) and other volcanic matter

(Chibu Village)





Priest Mongaku was an important member of the Kamakura Shogu-nate (military regime) who appears in the Heike Monogatari, (Tales of quently exiled to the Oki Islands. Cursing the Emperor, he holed himself up in a cave on the South side of Mt. Takuhi where he later died. According to Ando Tatewaki

> Urumi-bo until the Emperor renamed it Shoyo-ji Temple after its impressive pine trees. The

> > located here enshrines the deity Itakeru-no-mikoto, who according to legend brought many plants from the Korean Peninsula to Japan.



The Yui Pond is an area with a precious ecosystem. Looking at the 0m long circular shape of the ond and the surrounding pography, you might assume tivity: however a recent study

10. Yui Maenosu

11. Fukuura Tunnel

Intertidal Shore Platform

is also an eroded intertidal shore platform.



half. This is the site of a volcanic ruption of steam about 5.5 Obsidian, perlite, pitchstone and ther types of volcanic glass were

middle layers become perilite and pitchstone, and the outermost layer becomes crushed pyroclastic rock.

slands growing alongside the walking track. In recent years this area has been frequently used as or geo-tours and environmental

Subalpine Plants: O-iwa-kagami Schizoconon (Schizocodon soldanelloides) and Mizunara oak (Quercus crispula)



vorship. Nearby is a pine grove said to have been planted by Yao-bikuni Buddhist nuns. The enjoyed along the coast from early summer to autumn.

6. Katakuri Flower Park

any Katakuri Dogtooth violet ith pinkish purple to white wers. Though the flower is a subalpine plant, in Oki it is found. (Berchemiella berchemiaefolia) lose to the coast. These flowers were previously endangered due to over-picking, but now volunteers from the region are protecting them in the Katakuri Flower Park.

traditional bull fight those involved in the competition will go to drink the water. Ono-no-Takamura, the envoy who was exiled to the Oki

historically important place for

marine trading, and is also associated with the legend of the Empress Jingu. On the side of the observation platform is an old arden lantern that was used by e lighthouse keeper in the past This area is known for its beautiful sunsets as well as its view of the Dozen Islands right in front the cape.

and carried three and a half times around the festival area. The sun takes the form of a three legged crow, and the moon takes the form of a white hare.

you can find strangely shaped rocks such as Kabuto-iwa (Helmet ock) and Yoroi-iwa (Armor Rock).



30. Sasaki-ke Traditional Residence Sasaki-ke Traditional Residence has





seventh month (lunar calendar) during the Bon Festival, a festival to pay tribute to the spirits of the dead.

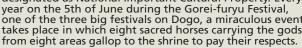
six different trunks at a height of about 1.5 meters. The name 'Kabura' (turnip) comes from the tree's peculiar shape that resem-





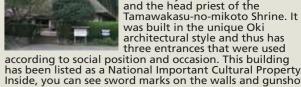


end of the Meiji Restoration however it was restored in the Showa Period in 1950. Unfortunately in 2007 it burnt



This giant tree is found on the grounds of Tamawakasu-no-mikoto Shrine, and is believed to be around 2000 years of age. It was planted by Yao-hikun: uddhist nuns from Wakasa

The Oki Family Residence is the house of the Oki Clan, an important family in the history of Oki



Kuroshima Island was created around 3.3 million years ago from







Message from the Oki Islands Geopark

"Discover Connections"

The small world of the Oki Islands is isolated from mainland Japan by the Sea of Japan. Despite being small, on Oki you can experience first-hand some of the strong connections between the earth, living things and humankind.

Special Features

The Oki Islands have developed through a series of changes: from being a part of the Eurasian Continent, to the bottom of a lake, to the bottom of a deep sea, to being connected to the mainland Shimane Peninsula, to finally becoming a group of remote islands. Through this transformation from continent to small islands, a diverse ecosystem and unique cultural traditions have developed in this region.



Origin of Oki Islands



Area The Oki Islands Geopark encompasses the Oki Islands Archi-pelago, which consists of four inhabited islands and 180 uninhabited Islands located 40 – 80 km north of Shimane Prefecture (south-west of mainland Honshu). The total area of the geopark is 628km2 (land area 346km2, marine area 282km2). The fishing industry and marine organisms that inhabit the sea area around Oki are vital to the way of life of its people, so coastal areas up to 1km from the shoreline have been included in the geopark area. The geographical environment of these remote islands and the lifestyle of the people are important aspects of this

What is a Geopark? The geoparks program is supported by UNESCO. It recognizes unique areas for their special geological significance and outstanding natural and cultural landscapes. The Oki Islands Geopark became a member of the Japan Geoparks Network (JGN) in 2009.



Information

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