



# LET'S GO TO AMAKUSA KUMAMOTO, JAPAN







# Welcome to Japanese Treasure Island, AMAKUSA



Amakusa is located in the center of Kyushu, southwest of Kumamoto. It consists of approximately 120 islands of various sizes and designated as Unzen-Amakusa National Park centering on its coastlines. You are able to see wild dolphins throughout the year, fossil hunting on the dinosaur islands, the Christian culture which has existed for hundreds years, and variety of wonderful local foods... How about traveling to Amakusa to have wonderful views and experiences that shake your hearts?

## The Sunset at Mt.Takabuto

Amakusa Matsushima is one of the three major Matsushimas of Japan. The lookout on the top of Mt. Takabuto offers a magnificent panoramic view of surrounding islands as well as a whole view of the Amakusa Go-kyo (Amakusa's five bridges) which connects the islands. The sunset from here has been selected as one of the best 100 sunsets in Japan, and the scenery the sun sets behind archipelago is just fantastic.

01 add / Amura, Matsushima-machi, Kamiamakusa City  
☎ 372 668 278+57





**Sunset at Ogase**

Amakusa has a lot of sunset viewpoints which offer you fascinating sceneries such as you can see sinking beautiful sunsets over the horizon. The sunset over the ocean as far as the eye can see gives you a breathtaking moments.

02 add / Oe, Amakusa-machi, Amakusa City (Nishibira Tsubaki Park)  
☎ 474 342 322\*07

# Seek Non-Ordinary Experiences



## A Small Island 'Yushima', Human and Cats Live in Harmony

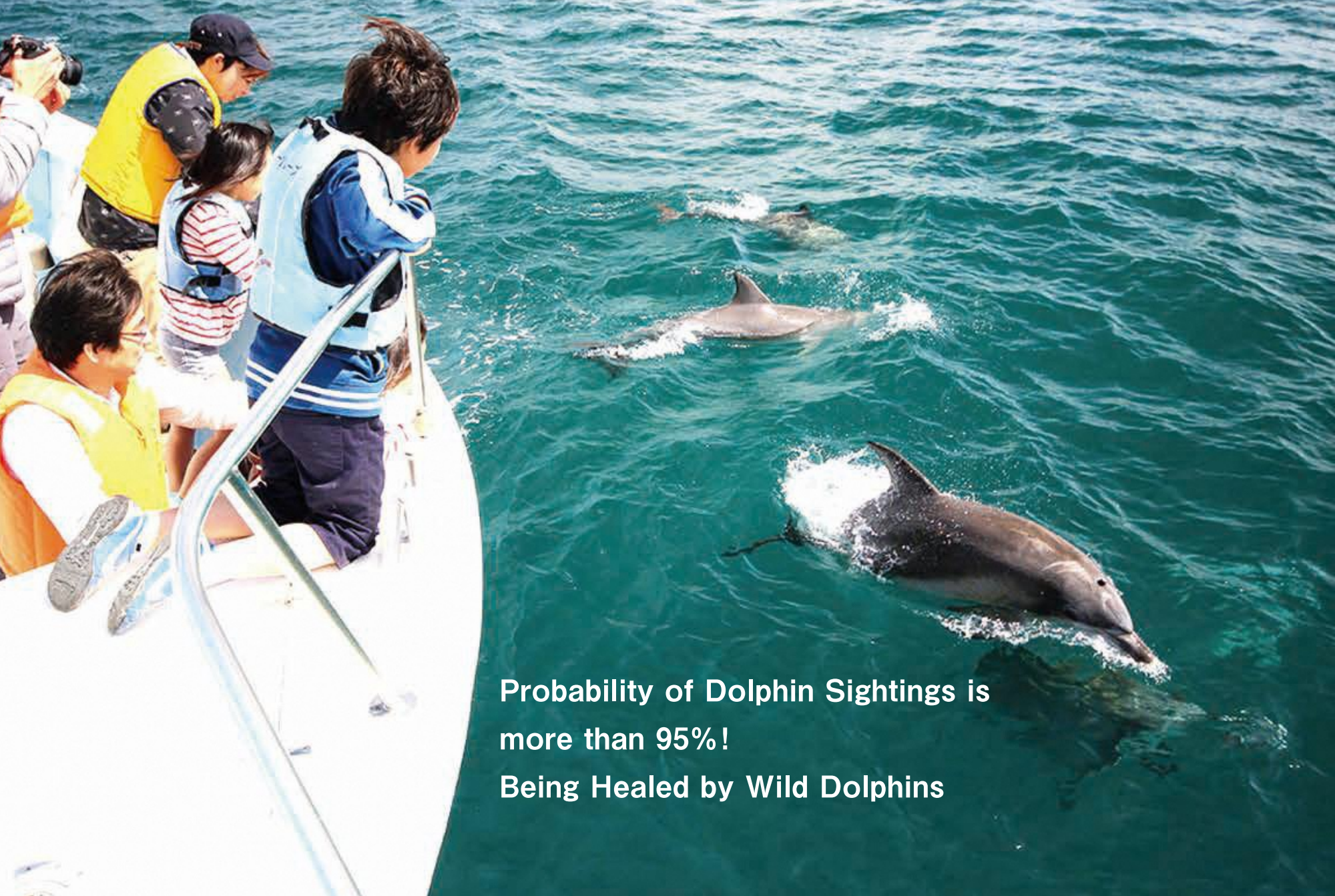


**Yushima**

Yushima is getting popular as 'a cat island' these days. It's a small island about 4 kilometers in circumference, and a lot of cats welcome you right after you arrive at the harbor. As walking around there, you will see a big heart shaped tree, Akou. It's a place we recommend you to visit with your beloved person. When you explore alleyways as if you are guided by cats, you will have a peaceful moment makes you forget time goes by.

03 add / Yushima, Oyano-machi, Kamiyamakusa City  
☎ 173 055 560\*55  
About 25 minutes by regular ship from Ebito Port to Yushima Port  
1 day round-trip 5 cruises  
Fare / Adult (junior high school age and over) ¥600, Child ¥300





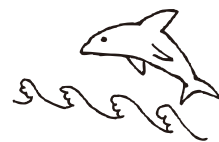
Probability of Dolphin Sightings is more than 95%!  
Being Healed by Wild Dolphins

### Dolphin Watching

In Amakusa, more than 200 Minami-Bando dolphins (Tursiops truncatus/Bottlenose dolphins) live and you can see them throughout the year. Dolphins coming close to the boats and swimming around amiably with curiosity have fascinated a lot of tourists.

**04 Amakusa Dolphin Information**  
Add / 4689-1 Futae, Itsuwa-machi, Amakusa City  
Price / Adult(junior high school age and over) ¥2500, Elementary school ¥1500,  
Child(age 2 years old to elementary school) ¥500  
Tel / 0969-26-4500 ☎ 254 751 030\*37

**05 Sea Cruise**  
Add / 6215-22 Aizu, Matsushima-machi, Kamiamakusa City  
Price / Adult ¥4500, Junior high school ¥3500, Elementary school ¥2250,  
Infant ¥1500 (You can get online discount)  
Tel / 0969-56-2450 ☎ 372 666 699\*18



## Make Unforgettable Happy Memories with Enjoyable Seas and Dinosaur Islands

Amakusa is blessed with its historical land from 100 million years ago, scenic beauty, fantastic seas and nature, which consists of rich ecosystems. It has been designated as one of Japanese Geo Parks. Feel wonderful Amakusa through activities in this nature.



Let's take a walk on the sea!

### SUP & Sea Kayaking

SUP (Stand Up Paddle Boarding), which you can enjoy paddling on the sea water standing on a board and Sea Kayaking, which you can fully relax feeling the sea breeze are popular activities in Amakusa.

Tel / 0969-22-2243  
(Amakusa Treasure Island Tourism Association)  
0964-56-5602  
(Amakusa Shiro Tourism Association)



### Fossil Hunting

Goshoura-machi in Amakusa consists of approximately 18 islands of various sizes and precious fossils such as remains of dinosaurs and ammonites from 100 million years ago, the Cretaceous period have been discovered here. As this islands town is called "Dinosaurs Islands", you can have fun with fossil hunting and cruising around islands.

**06 Goshoura Cretaceous Museum**  
Add / 4310-5 Goshoura, Goshoura-machi, Amakusa City  
Admission / Adult ¥200, High school ¥150, Elementary and Junior high school ¥100  
Fossil collection ground free  
Tel / 0969-67-2325 ☎ 254 025 085\*03

### Discover Ammonites?



### Scuba Diving

Seas in Amakusa fascinate a lot of divers because of its sea water clarity. You can see various colors of corals and subtropical fish closely.

Tel / 0969-22-2243  
(Amakusa Treasure Island Tourism Association)

## One of the Greatest Scuba Diving Spots in Kyushu





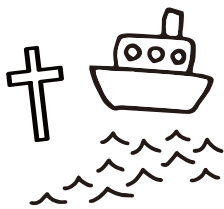
## A Fishing Village Preserves its Religious Faith



### Sakitsu Village

A quiet fishing village with a gothic style church nestled in the middle. The church uses tatami, Japanese traditional straw mats, for flooring. It is said that the altar is located at the place where E-bumi was held during the period of prohibition for Christianity by Edo government.

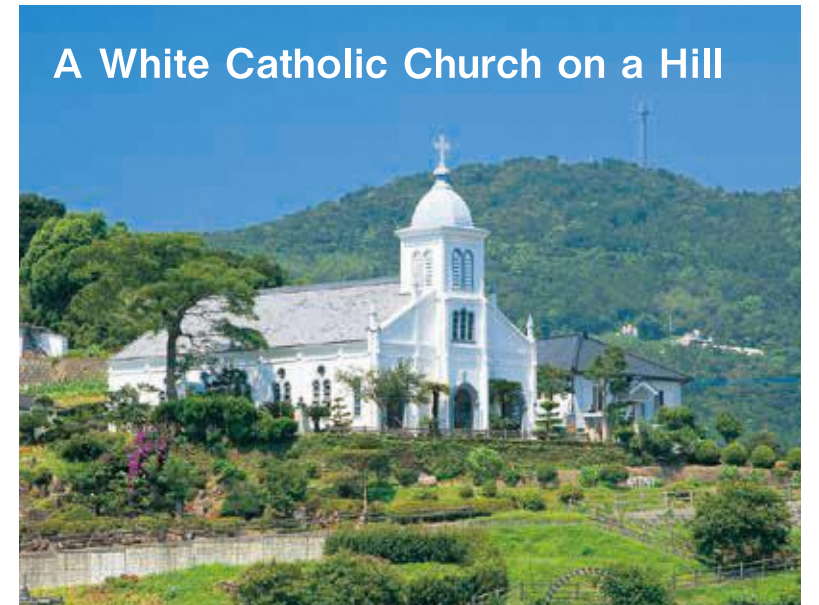
**07** add / 539 Sakitsu, Kawaura-machi, Amakusa City  
(Sakitsu Catholic Church)  
Tel / 0969-78-6000 (Sakitsu Village Guidance Center)  
474 228 070\*84



## Early Christian Culture still Exists in Amakusa

Christianity in Amakusa went through uncommon histories such as 'introduction', 'prosperity', 'persecution', 'hiding' and 'revival'. Sakitsu village still retains some traces of its former days and expected to be designated one of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2018 as one of the constitutional heritage of 'Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki and Amakusa Region'.

## A White Catholic Church on a Hill



### Oe Catholic Church

This is a Romanesque style church which was built in Amakusa for the first time after the period of persecution for Christianity was over. There is a statue of the Virgin Mary of Lourdes in the site and you can feel a long history of Christianity in Amakusa.

**08** add / 1782 Oe, Amakusa-machi, Amakusa City  
Tel / 0969-22-2243  
(Amakusa Treasure Island Tourism Association)  
474 314 012\*18



### The Sunset of the Virgin Mary

This statue was built in 1974 by local Christians and has been watching safe of fishermen. Its silhouette in the sunset is just fantastic and popular as a photo spot.

**09** add / Sakitsu, Kawaura-machi, Amakusa City  
Tel / 0969-22-2243  
(Amakusa Treasure Island Tourism Association)  
474 197 595\*07

## The Virgin Mary in the Sunset



Learn about Sakitsu Christian culture feeling atmosphere of traditional Japanese inn

### Sakitsu museum Minato-ya

This is a museum which introduces history and culture of Sakitsu. The building is a renovated old inn and its original structure remains.

**10** add / 463 Sakitsu, Kawaura-machi, Amakusa City  
Admission / Free Tel / 0969-75-9911  
474 228 041\*15



### Sakitsu Visitor Center

#### Sakitsu Village Guidance Center

Before walking around Sakitsu village, please stop by this center. It tells all information you need to know including manners for Sakitsu Catholic Church.

**11** add / 1117-10 Sakitsu, Kawaura-machi, Amakusa City  
Admission / Free Tel / 0969-78-6000  
474 228 579\*50

## A History of Amakusa's Christianity

Christianity was introduced into Japan in 1566 by Portuguese missionaries, spread quickly over the country and flourished in Amakusa, too. However, Edo government announced the prohibition of Christianity in 1614 and persecution for Christians got severe in Amakusa too. Christians were also suffered from continuous severe collection of land tax, they raised a riot (Shimabara-Amakusa Ikki) against Edo government in 1637. After this incident,

Edo government made prohibition for Christianity stricter, however, Christians in Amakusa preserved their religious faith covertly.

In 1873, an official bulletin board of the prohibition for Christianity was removed and severe period for Japanese Christians was over. Oe Catholic Church and Sakitsu Catholic Church were built in 1933 and 1934, religious belief is still preserved by locals in various regions of Amakusa.

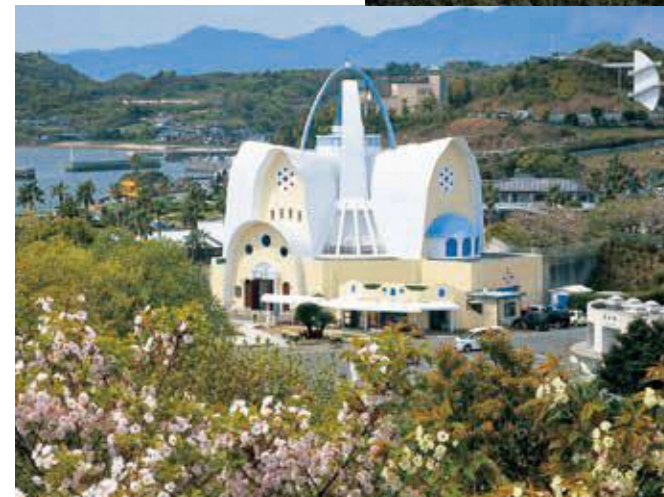


## Learn about History of Amakusa and Unzen-Amakusa National Park

### Tomioka Castle Kumamoto Prefecture Tomioka Visitor Center

You can learn about Unzen-Amakusa National Park, nature, history and culture of Amakusa.

**12** add / 2245-15 Tomioka, Reihoku-machi, Amakusa-gun  
Admission / Free  
Tel / 0969-35-0170  
☎ 713 093 059\*76



## Learn about History of Amakusa with Fun



### Amakusa Shiro Museum

This is a theme museum tells about Shimabara-Amakusa Ikki in 1637 and the Western European culture which was introduced into Amakusa hundreds of years ago. You can learn those with fun by exhibitions using full of media technologies such as a 3D theater and various historical exhibits.

**13** add / 977-1 Naka, Oyano-machi, Kamiamakusa City  
Admission / Adult ¥600, Junior high school and under ¥300  
Tel / 0964-56-5311  
☎ 372 845 654\*08



"Amakusa MUSO" Series. Their stylish design perfectly blends in our modern life.

## Pottery Island, Amakusa

Amakusa Pottery Stone has established incontrovertible status as one of the world finest stone by reasons of its beautiful whiteness, feeling of transparency with no muddiness, and hardness not deform under fire at a high temperature. Amakusa Pottery Stone accounts for about 80% of all stones produced in Japan now, and has been used as a major material for Japanese high quality potteries such as Arita-yaki of Saga and Kiyomizu-yaki of Kyoto.

There are more than 30 potteries in Amakusa and making tours of those potteries, as well as experiences of pottery paintings attract tourists. Also, a new brand "Amakusa MUSO" was established in 2018, and has been informing fine white porcelain of Amakusa to the world. Why not come and find your favorite pottery at pottery island Amakusa, which keeps not only preserving its traditions but also challenging to create new brands ?



### Amakusa Christian Museum

It is introducing the history of Christianity in Amakusa. Especially, Amakusa Shiro's holy Banner, designated as a National Important Cultural Property, is one of the must-see exhibits.

**14** add / 19-52 Funenoo-machi, Amakusa City  
Admission / Adult ¥300, High school ¥200, Elementary and Junior high school ¥150  
Tel / 0969-22-3845  
☎ 254 427 700\*12



### Amakusa Rosary Museum

It is exhibiting a lot of historical relics and materials telling the life of hidden Christians and their religious faith. You can also enjoy a 3D image.

**15** add / 1749 Oe, Amakusa-machi, Amakusa City  
Admission / Adult ¥300, High school ¥200, Elementary and Junior high school ¥150  
Tel / 0969-42-5259  
☎ 474 284 705\*85



### Amakusa Collegio Museum

This is a museum shows a lot of exhibits such as a replica of the Gutenberg Press and old Western musical instruments which are related to Amakusa's western culture.

**16** add / 175-13 Shirakawachi, Kawaura-machi Amakusa City  
Admission / Adult ¥200, High school ¥150, Elementary and Junior high school ¥100  
Tel / 0969-76-0388  
☎ 474 235 363\*02



### Adam Arakawa's Memorial Park

Adam Arakawa dedicated to Japanese Christians under the persecution and martyred. In 2008, his achievement was admitted and raised to Blessed by Curia Romana.

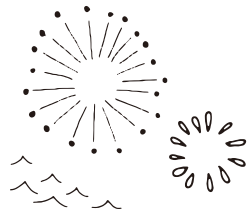
**17** add / 834 Tomioka, Reihoku-machi, Amakusa-gun  
Tel / 0969-35-1111  
(Commerce and Tourism Division Reihoku Town Office)  
☎ 713 093 176\*48





# Enjoy Festivals and Fabulous Sceneries of Amakusa

Would you like to feel Amakusa by watching, listening and touching?  
Then flourish festivals, trekking and cycling which offer magnificent views are waiting for you.



## Ushibuka Haiya Festival

Ushibuka Haiya Bushi is a song which has been handed down since Edo-era. Haiya so-odori, which is a big parade held downtown in Ushibuka and thousands of people energetically dance to Ushibuka Haiya Bushi, is truly exciting. You can jump in and join the dance parade if you want.

**18** add / Ushibuka-machi centers, Amakusa City  
Tel / 0969-73-2111  
(Ushibuka Haiya Festival Organization Committee)  
Time / The third Friday, Saturday, Sunday in April  
☎ 299 663 848+23

## Amakusa's Traditional Dance about 3,000 People are Enthusiastic about



## Amakusa's Summer Tradition, the Sky is Lit Up with Gorgeous Fireworks



## Amakusa Hondo Fireworks Festival

This is one of the biggest fireworks events about 12,000 display fireworks decorate the sky. A lot of people enjoy local foods market and stage performances, too.

**19** add / Hirose, Hondo-machi, Amakusa City (Oyasaki ryokuchi Park)  
Tel / 0969-23-2001  
(Amakusa Hondo Haiya Festival Organization Committee)  
Time / Late July  
☎ 254 459 164+81

## Have a Fantastic View of Blue Seas and Green Islands



### Trekking

Beginners can go trekking casually because there are a lot of mountains which are easy to get to. You can enjoy spectacular sceneries such as a fantastic view of archipelago. A lot of events are held in fall and winter.

Tel / 0964-56-5602  
(Amakusa Shiro Tourism Association)

## Go around Amakusa Feeling Sea Breeze

### Cycling

Cycling is one of common sports in Amakusa because cyclists can fully enjoy islands and sceneries. There are a lot of bicycle stations (Cycle stations) you can have a break.

Tel / 0964-56-5602  
(Amakusa Shiro Tourism Association)



Cycle station sign







**Fresh Every day!  
This is Amakusa Flavor!**

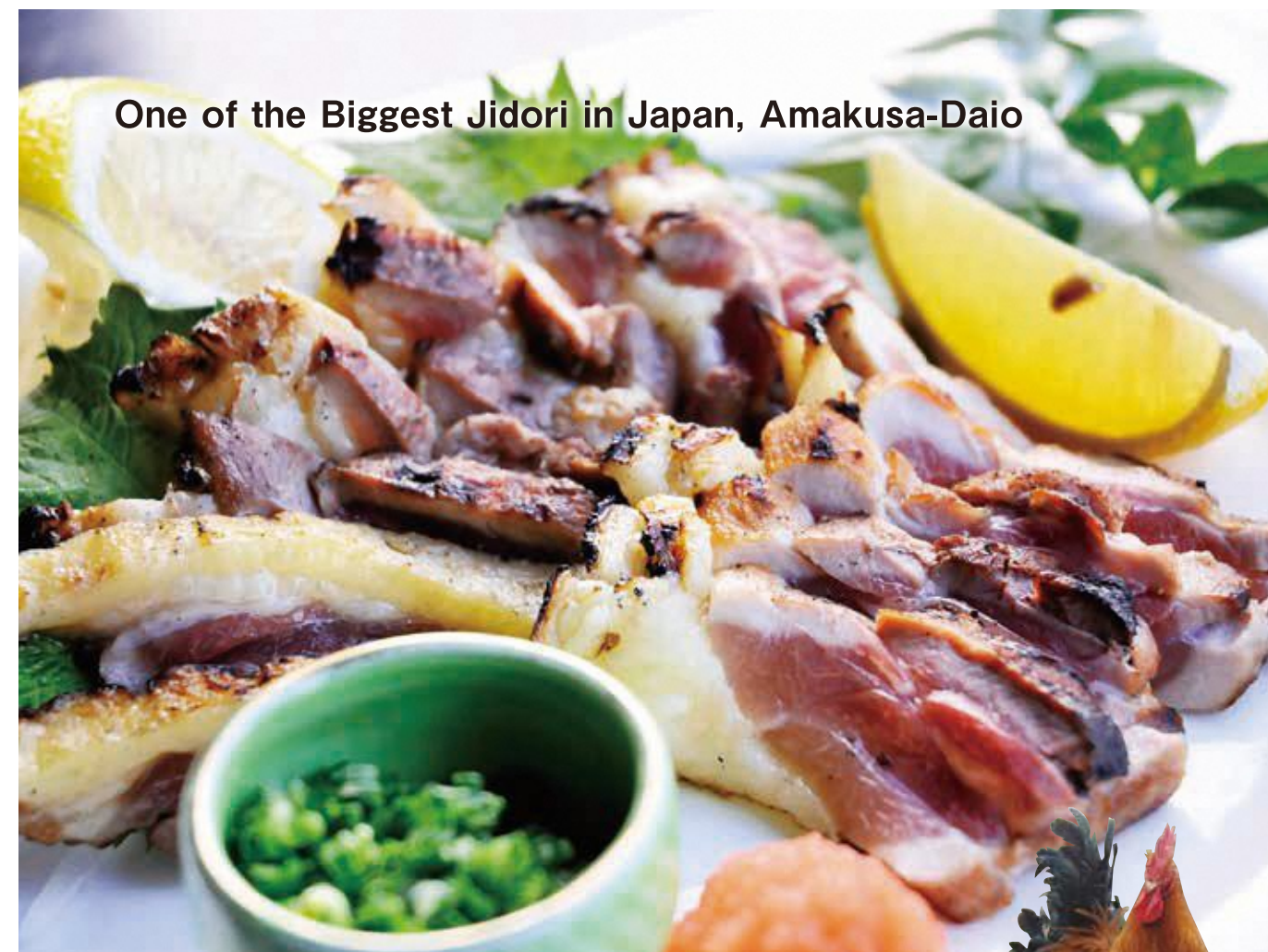
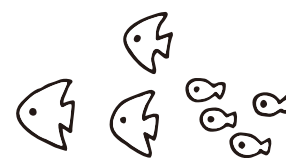
**Seafood**

Amakusa is blessed with fine seafood. You can enjoy various tastes such as Sushi, Sashimi, Tempura, and BBQ.

Tel / 0969-22-2243  
(Amakusa Treasure Island Tourism Association)  
0964-56-5602  
(Amakusa Shiro Tourism Association)

## Fostered by Rich Nature, Amakusa Gourmet is Appetizing and Gorgeous

Amakusa, surrounded by seas is blessed with fine local foods. Fresh seafood which comes to dining tables within a day after coming off the boats, Amakusa Daio which is precious jidori chicken, and Amakusa champon noodles which is full of umami of ingredients... If you seek local tastes on your trip, come to Amakusa.



**One of the Biggest Jidori in Japan, Amakusa-Daio**



**Amakusa-Daio**

Amakusa-Daio is one of the biggest jidori chicken species in Japan, known for its tasty meat which has robust flavor and rich umami. It is one of the must eat foods in Amakusa.

Tel / 0969-22-2243  
(Amakusa Treasure Island Tourism Association)  
0964-56-5602  
(Amakusa Shiro Tourism Association)



Amakusa-Daio



## Hot and Yummy Noodles, Loved by Amakusa Locals

**Amakusa Champon Noodles**

Amakusa champon is known as one of the three major champon in Japan, and is also very common casual local food of Amakusa. More than 100 restaurants offer champon in Amakusa.

Tel / 0969-22-2243  
(Amakusa Treasure Island Tourism Association)  
0964-56-5602  
(Amakusa Shiro Tourism Association)



**Uni (Sea Urchin)**

In Amakusa, you can enjoy different sorts of Uni depend of seasons. Especially, Aka-Uni which you can eat in summer is fantastic. Rich umami and sophisticated sweetness spread in your mouth.



**Kuruma-Ebi (Japanese Tiger Prawn)**

Amakusa is well-known as one of the top producing regions of Kuruma-Ebi, which has crunchy and juicy texture (puri-puri in Japanese). Wild ones are shipped from June to August, and farmed ones are shipped from October to February.



**Ise-Ebi (Japanese Lobster)**

Westcoast of Amakusa is known as one of the best commercial Ise-Ebi fishing areas in Japan. During the open season from the end of August to December, you can enjoy fresh Ise-Ebi dishes at hotels and inns in Amakusa.



**Taco (Octopus)**

Octopus is also a famous local seafood of Amakusa. They are not only freshly bouncy but also soft, juicy and sweet. You can enjoy various octopus dishes such as octopus steak, which is cooked whole octopus, and Taco-meshi, which is steamed rice with octopus.



## Luxurious Hot Spring Spa with Views of the Matsushima Amakusa Archipelago



### Kamiamakusa Onsen Kyou (Matsushima)

Located in Matsushima town Kamiamakusa, it's famous as a 'hot spring of beauty', which has views of the surrounding islands, you can relax watching a fantastic sunset over the sea while you bathe.

**20** add / Matsushima-machi, Kamiamakusa City  
Tel / 0964-56-5602  
(Amakusa Shiro Tourism Association)



## Fantastic Healing Time



### Kamiamakusa Onsen Kyou (Oyano)

There are five hot springs in the area. Every hot spring has its own characteristic and popular among all generations.

**21** add / Oyano-machi, Kamiamakusa City  
Tel / 0964-56-5602 (Amakusa Shiro Tourism Association)



## The Oldest Hot Spring in Amakusa



### Shimoda Onsen

Shimoda has a long history of 700 years and is famous for its thick and gentle hot spring water. There are more than 10 historical and elegant accommodations in the area.

**22** Shimoda Onsen Ryokan Association  
add / 1310-3 Shimodakita, Amakusa-machi, Amakusa City  
Tel / 0969-42-3239 ☎ 474 616 343\*38

## Marvelous Time to Heal Your Travel Fatigue

Hot Springs, which heal our bodies and hearts is essential for Japanese people and can also be regarded as Japanese culture.

Matsushima Onsen and Oyano Onsen are a rarity due to being on a cluster of islands and are collectively called 'Kamiamakusa Onsen Kyou'. These Hot Springs fascinate tourists who visit them.

Additionally, at Shimoda Onsen, you can enjoy a traditional Onsen-gai (hot spring town) with high quality Gensen Kakenagashi (fresh natural hot water continuously flows into the bath).



# Best Souvenirs to Bring Home from Amakusa



## Sea Salt Fostered by the Nature of Amakusa

### Amakusan Salt

Made by the Nature of Amakusa, which is surrounded by Ariake Sea, Yatsushiro Sea and the East China Sea. Some sea salt factories have been making salt with their own special techniques.



## Speaking of Amakusa, it's Pearl

### Pearl Accessories

Surrounded by gentle seas, Amakusa is one of the major cultured pearl producing regions in Japan. Amakusa pearls are characterized by a lustre like silk.



## Home Made Rice Shochu of Only Kuramoto (brewery) in Amakusa

### Shochu "Amakusa"

Made by only brewery in Amakusa, using delicately selected rice and pure water from Kumamoto. It is characterized by savory and velvety flavor.

## Five Kinds of Amakusa Oranges are Blended

### Marugoto Gyu-tto Jelly

Made from originally blended juice of Shiranui, Kiyomi, Ponkan, Amakusa Bankan and Unshu Mikan.



## Mixture of European and Japanese Cultures

### Akamaki

Anko (sweet bean paste) cake roll wrapped in mochi (rice cake). Cake roll is one of Nanban-gashi introduced from Europe, and Akamaki was developed as snack for fishermen who had to work energetically on boats.

## From Winter to Early Summer is a Season of Amakusa Oranges

### Oranges

Amakusa Bankan, which is full of delicious juice, Pearl Kan, which was named after Amakusa pearl because of its appearance like pearl, and Dekopon, which is characterized by amazingly sweet juice are grown.



## A Long Selling Nanban-gashi

### Amakusa Sable Cookie

Sable cookie is one of Nanban-gashi informed from Europe. Amakusa Sable Cookie is characterized by crumbly texture and milky flavor and long selling popular souvenir of Amakusa.



## Sweet and Hot Senbei with Iriko

### Amakusa Tairyo Yaki

Amakusa Tairyo Yaki (rice cracker) is one of very popular souvenirs of Amakusa, which you can enjoy sweet and hot flavor with a lot of iriko (dried infant sardines).



## Sweet Mochi of Figs

### Shiro no Hatsukoi

It's said to be that figs were informed into Amakusa by Portuguese missionaries in 1591. This mochi snack brings luscious sweetness of figs into your mouth.





## Recommended Sightseeing Course to Enjoy Amakusa

### 2 days course from Fukuoka, by airplane and rental car



### 2 days course from Kumamoto, by train, bus, boat and rental car





# ACCESS

-  Airplane
-  JR
-  Kyushu Shinkansen
-  Highway



# MAP



## --- Tourism Associations ---

When you visit Amakusa, stop by the tourism associations (the information centers) first for the latest and detailed information.

- Amakusa Shiro Tourism Association**  
 add / 11582-24 Naka, Oyano-machi, Kamiamakusa City  
 Tel. / 0964-56-5602
- Amakusa Treasure Island Tourism Association**  
 add / 1F, Amakusa Takarajima Cultural Exchange Hall Porto, 15-7 Chuoshin-machi, Amakusa City  
 Tel. / 0969-22-2243

## ----- Free Wi-Fi -----

You can get free public Wi-Fi in Amakusa. Find Wi-Fi signs "kumamoto-free-wifi", "Amakusa\_Free-Wi-Fi" or labels below and connect the internet.

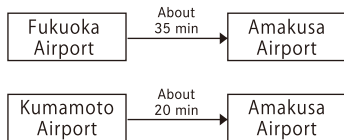


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 ※Information of time and price in this magazine is as for March 31st, 2018.

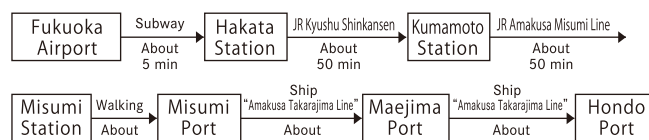


## Access to Amakusa

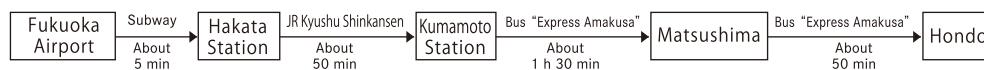
### ■ By Airline



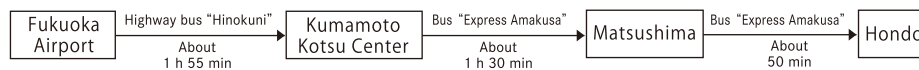
### ■ By Train and Ferry (from Fukuoka)



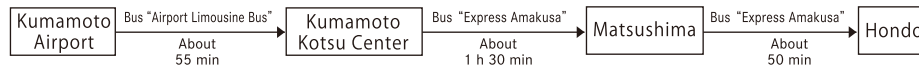
### ■ By Train and Bus (from Fukuoka)



### ■ By Bus (from Fukuoka)



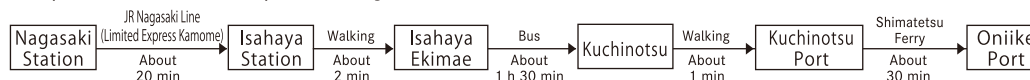
### ■ By Bus (from Kumamoto)



### ■ By Car (from Fukuoka)



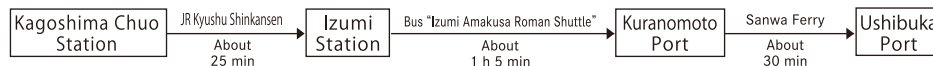
### ■ By Train, Bus and Ferry (from Nagasaki)



### ■ By Bus and Ferry (from Nagasaki)



### ■ By Train, Bus and Ferry (from Kagoshima)



### ■ By Train, Bus, Taxi and Ferry (from Kagoshima)



## VISIT Amakusa Project Executive Committee

Secretariat / Amakusa Area Administrative Headquarters,  
 General Affairs Promotion Section,  
 Kumamoto Prefectural Government  
 ADD / 3530, Imagamashin-machi, Amakusa City, Kumamoto Prefecture  
 TEL / 0969-22-4214