

Stargazing
Beautiful stars can be seen in the night's sky anywhere in Mishima Village. It is said that the clear air, dark skies, and wide-open spaces make stargazing particularly easy. You can find Stargazing spots on each of the three islands.

1 Mishima Shochu Muku no Kura
This publicly-owned shochu distillery uses sweet potatoes from Mishima Village. The raw ingredient Beni Otome is grown with great care by the island's seniors associations. Tours of the distillery are available, and those wishing to visit can book in advance. (☎09913-32345)

Waterfall
Kuroshima is said to have 99 rivers, so much so that waterfalls are visible from all corners of the island. The volume of water seen from Katadomari Port, especially on rainy days, is a sight to see.



2 Visit the shrines
As shrines are found in various locations across the island, from the more accessible Kuro Daimyo and Sugao shrines to harder-to-reach spots, we recommend a tour of the shrines as a way of exploring the island.

3 Katadomari Port
The seawater is so clear that swimming fish can be seen from the surface. Genji fireflies inhabit the area around Katadomari Port, and many firefly lights can be seen at night around May.

Tide pools
Kuroshima has an unusual natural coastline with an accumulation of rounded stones instead of sandy beaches. At low tide, fish and crabs are left behind in pools of water, resembling small aquariums. *The stones are very hard to walk on and extra caution is advised in wet areas!



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5 Nagon Falls
Locals call the waterfall Chimizugawa (chimu = bloody water) because of the bright-red stained rocks. Dozens of stones are stacked at the top of the waterfall, with large ones visible from the road. It is unclear why they are stacked, but they are perfectly balanced.



6 Mt. Iwo
Mt. Iwo, the symbol of the islands, is 703 meters high and the tallest mountain in Mishima Village. It is still active and spews smoke from the summit. *No entry (as of March 2022)

7 Mt. Inamuradake
The 236-meter mountain is a volcano, as is Mt. Iwodake, but is currently inactive. The mountain is neatly conical and can be climbed to the top. *Please be careful when entering the mountain as it is covered with bamboo.

8 Mt. Iwodake
The islands' central shrine is a short distance from Iwojima Port. It is where Hassaku Drum Dance (Mendon) is performed. The small shrine was built in the image of Kumano Gongen by Taira no Yasuyori and Fujiwara no Naritsune, who were exiled to Iwojima by Taira no Kiyomori. It is also believed to be the site of the imperial palace during the last years of Emperor Antoku.

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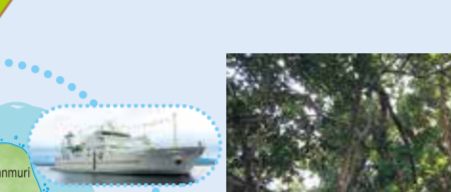
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10 Kuroshima Peace Park
Kuroshima is believed to be the last island that special attack corps saw during the Pacific War. A Kannon statue has been erected to pray for both the souls of the special attack corps who lost their lives and for peace. There is also a Peace Bell, alongside a memorial service held every May.



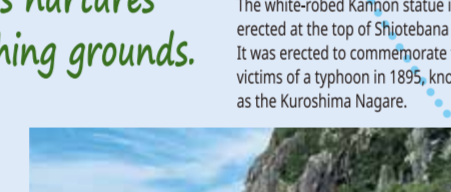
Trekking
Kuroshima has various trekking routes that are enjoyable even for beginners. The island has a series of mountains, including Yagura, Yokodake, Kamugo, and Kaburi. We recommend you traverse the mountains whilst observing the plants found on them. *Some trails are not maintained. Please ensure you prepare appropriate clothing and other necessities in advance.



Camellia Road
Camellia oil is Iwojima's specialty. The trail from Emperor Antoku's mausoleum northwards to Shunkando is dotted with beautiful areas of green moss and red camellia blossoms, hence the name.

Plant colonies
Kuroshima is an unusual island with a mixture of southern and northern plant species. An abundance of unspotted nature can be found in the forest plant colonies of Satsuma Kuroshima, listed as Japan's protected species. We recommend trekking while observing flora and other natural life forms. *Various activities, including collecting plants, are proscribed in areas designated as natural monuments.

11 Hakui Kannon statue
The white-robed Kannon statue is erected at the top of Shiotebana Cliff. It was erected to commemorate the victims of a typhoon in 1895, known as the Kuroshima Nagare.



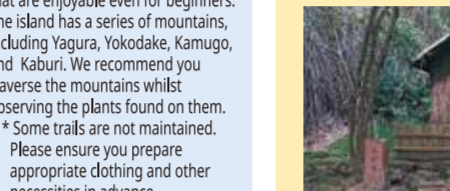
12 Shiotebana Cliff
At Shiotebana Cliff, one of Kuroshima's most scenic spots, the cliff has columnar joints, primarily andesite, and a peculiar landscape caused by salt weathering. *No entry due to a collapsed footpath (As of March 2022)



Sun rising over Osato Port from Yakushima's direction



13 An area associated with Emperor Antoku
It is believed that Emperor Antoku fled to Iwojima from the Battle of Danoura and spent the rest of his life on the island. Legend has it that Kuroki Goshu was the site of his first residence. The Heike clan ruins are now a lookout, offering excellent views. The island has many historic structures, including Emperor Antoku's mausoleum, where he is said to be memorialized. The Kuroki Goshu was also newly developed as a facility for showcasing Mishima Village's history and cultural materials.



14 Caldera wall
The caldera wall soaring high in the bay extends down to the seabed, and parts of the caldera's outer rim form Takeshima and Iwojima. An route to Cape Koibito, a vista offers spectacular views where you can appreciate the wall's grandeur.



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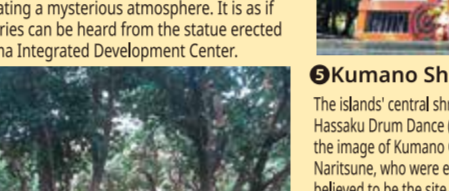
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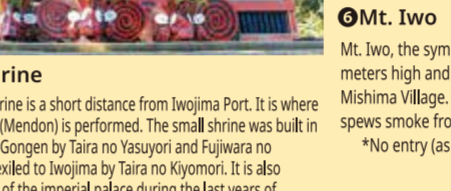
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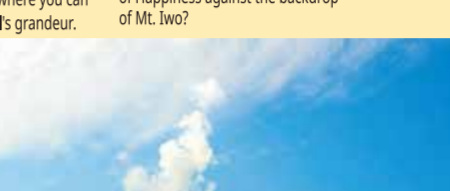
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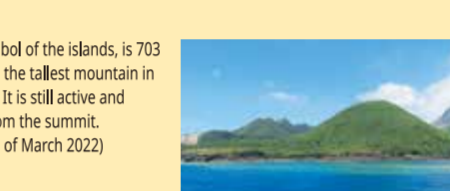
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1 Hijiri Daimyo Shrine
The unusual kudari-miya (descending shrine) is reached by passing through the torii gates and descending down the stairs. It has two torii gates, and the statues of Chinese cats are made of Takekama stone formed by a caldera eruption.



2 Oyama Shrine
The historic Oyama Shrine, mentioned in the Chronicles of Japan, is believed to be dedicated to Takata no Neparo, an ambassador on a Japanese envoy to Tang China.



3 Banyan gate
A gate formed by banyan trees serves as the entrance to the hamlet. It is also known as the "matchmaking banyans" because the two flanking trees stand intertwined overhead.



4 Kago Port
Takeshima's Kago Port is on the outer rim of Kikai Caldera. It has a beautiful sandy beach, and many fishes can be seen in the bay. *No entry due to a collapsed staircase. (As of March 2022)



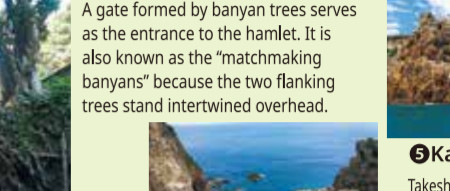
5 Takeshima Port
At Takeshima Port, visitors can see traces of the eruption 7,300 years ago, which formed the Kikai Caldera. The massive geological formations you visible as soon as you disembark from the boat testify to the magnitude of the eruption.



6 Rokujizo
The six jizos were dug up and reassembled in 1970 after they had collapsed and were buried in the bamboos at the site of Amida Temple.



7 Ikawa River
The river has long been used as a source of water by the islanders. There are still pumps from the now-defunct power station. Also, a jizo is enshrined at the bottom of the stairs.



8 Kochidomari
The scenic spot offers views of the cliffs leading to Cape Ombo and Mt. Iwodake. Why not enjoy the island's scenery at leisure?



9 Sataura Ranch
Although it is named "ranch," it is currently an expansive grassland without grazing cattle. Takeshima's highest peak, Mt. Magome, can be seen.



10 Cape Ombo
This scenic spot is recommended by islanders. The blue sky and sea together with the expanse of the bamboo forests give a sense of the island's grandeur. It offers views of Iwojima, and Okushima on a clear day and is also a spot for seeing the sunset.



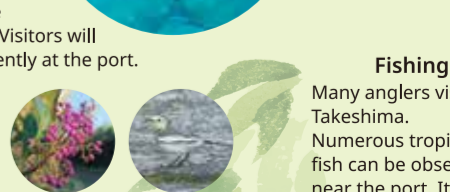
Sea turtles
Takeshima's clear seawater allows sea turtles to be observed everywhere. Visitors will encounter them frequently at the port.



Fishing spots
Many anglers visit Takeshima. Numerous tropical fish can be observed near the port. It would be interesting to ask the islanders' their recommended fishing spots.



Island walks
The smallest of the three islands, Takeshima is perfect for a leisurely walk. There are separate paths from the hamlet to the east and west, so why not spend a night to explore each in two days?



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硫黄島 Iwojima

An island steeped in history associated with the Heike clan, full of an active volcano's energy.

- Hot spring
- Scenic spot
- Sunrise spot (from standing position)
- Sunset spot (from standing position)
- Shrine
- Restroom

1 Emperor Antoku's mausoleum
2 Mishima Iwojima Gakuen
3 Kuroki Goshu
4 Caldera House (tourist info center)
5 Iwojima Port waiting area
6 Mt. Iwo
7 Mt. Inamuradake
8 Mt. Iwodake
9 Higashi Onsen
10 Otani Onsen (Ootan)
11 Ketsunohama Onsen
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竹島 Takeshima

Enjoy a tranquil escape on Takeshima, an island surrounded by green bamboo forests.

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Mishima Prefectural Nature Park Excursion MAP

mishima-mura

Enjoy exploring the three Mishima islands and the nature, culture and hot springs unique to them.

Mishima's masked deities

Mishima Village has so many festivals of various scales that it is said, "there aren't any months without festivals." The masked deity Mendon in Hassaku Drum Dance at Iwojima has been designated by UNESCO as a significant intangible folk cultural asset of Japan. There are masked deities with the characteristics of the three islands, and all of them represent the villager's wishes for fertility, good harvest, and so on. *Please inquire as the content, etc., may vary from year to year.

Takeshima: Takamen
Iwojima: Mendon
Kuroshima: Mask dance

Why not take your time to feel at one with nature and experience these islands at leisure?

Learn how to play Djembe at an authentic school

Iwojima has Asia's first djembe school, and you will hear the lilting rhythm of djembe as you enter the port of Iwojima. Visitors can try their hands at playing the djembe, a rare experience on the island. Those wishing to try should contact the Mishima Village Tourism Association number below.

- Takeshima**
 - Around-the-Island Walk
 - Takeshima's Historical Stone Tour
- Iwojima**
 - Cycling
 - Trekking
 - Historical walk
 - Djembe experience (booking required)
- Kuroshima**
 - Nature walk (plant colonies)
 - Wildlife watching (insects/birds)
 - Giant mottled eel watching
 - Shrine tour
 - Stargazing

©Please contact the Mishima Village Tourism Association (☎099-222-3141) for details about each experience.

Mishima's hot springs are soothing in unique and spectacular settings.

Island Trip & Hot Springs

Iwojima is the only island in Mishima Village with hot springs.

Hot springs with unique properties well up, thanks to the active volcano Iwodake. We recommend touring the hot spring spas as each have different spring water qualities. The opening hours for bathing vary, so please ask the Mishima Village Tourism Association for details.

- Higashi Onsen
- Ketsunohama Onsen
- Otani Onsen (Ootan)
- Sakamoto Onsen *Only at low tide
- Mishima Integrated Development Center's bathing facilities *Currently closed (As of March 2022)