

The most beloved rocket launch site in the world

Dreaming and working together

Dr. Itokawa Hideo came to Uchinoura in 1960, when people were still living by lamplight. Later considered the father of Japanese space exploration, Itokawa proposed to level mountains, build bridges, and create a one-of-a-kind test site for rocket launches. He said they were going to aim for space. The locals were shocked, then fascinated, by Dr. Itokawa's dream. They earnestly engaged in engineering and constructing the launch site, as well as in providing food and lodging to the team conducting experiments.

In 1970, Japan's first satellite was successfully launched from Uchinoura. It was named Osumi, after the region, to express gratitude to the local people and ensure their support would never be forgotten.

Changing alongside the rockets...

The Lambda rocket that launched Japan's first satellite, Osumi; the Mu rocket, praised as the best performance solid-propellant rocket in the world; the currently operational Epsilon rocket that strives for simplicity, high performance, and low cost. As rockets replace one another, so the environment around Uchinoura changes too.

Yet even in the change, Dr. Itokawa's dream continues to live on. It lives on in the adults who remember the construction of the space center, in the next generation of children, and in the ever-evolving rockets of Uchinoura.



A driving guide to all the rocket spots!

Epsilon Rocket Monument

A detailed 1:2.5 scale model built and gifted by rocket manufacturer IHI Aerospace. Stands as a landmark by Kasano intersection, the entrance to Kimotsuki. **MAP⑨**

Kaizo Park

A rest stop along National Highway 448 featuring the real automatic tracking antenna that first received signals from satellite Osumi, as well as a model of the satellite itself. **MAP⑩**

MAP⑪ Mt. Kano

Climb a 1,000-step staircase to the Mt. Kano Shrine and lookout point to enjoy an unobstructed view of Uchinoura Bay and the parabolic antenna. ※Also accessible by car!

Epsilon Rocket Info Corner

Take a short break while browsing the Epsilon exhibits and displays. Merchandise available for purchase at the Kimotsuki Tourism Association. **MAP⑫**

MAP⑬ Uchinoura Fishing Harbor

Where the Epsilon rocket is unloaded when shipped in. Also a viewing site for Epsilon launches.

Planet Road

The road from central Uchinoura to the observatory. Each bridge is named after a planet and features a model of a different satellite. **MAP⑭**

MAP⑮

JAXA Uchinoura Space Center

Rocket test site established in 1962. Rockets, satellites, and space probes are launched and tracked here for scientific observation and data gathering. Including sounding rockets, this institution has conducted over 400 launches.

🕒 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
 ¥ None (registration necessary upon entry)

Closed: Generally open all year round ※Restricted access during test launches and rocket installation periods. The museum closes once every other month.

IHI Spaceport Uchinoura

The only launch viewing site where the launch pad is visible. **MAP⑯**

Kishira Beach

A launch viewing site for Epsilon launches. Rocket launches from Tanegashima are also visible here from the Takada Falls observation deck. **MAP⑰**



left: JAXA USC
 center: Kaizo Park
 right: Mt. Kano

Q When is the next rocket launch and special opening of the Uchinoura Space Center to the public?

A Please check the information posted by JAXA!
 JAXA Homepage www.jaxa.jp