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to Take One

TOURIST PAMPHLET ENGLISH Ver.

# KIMOTSUKI TOWN

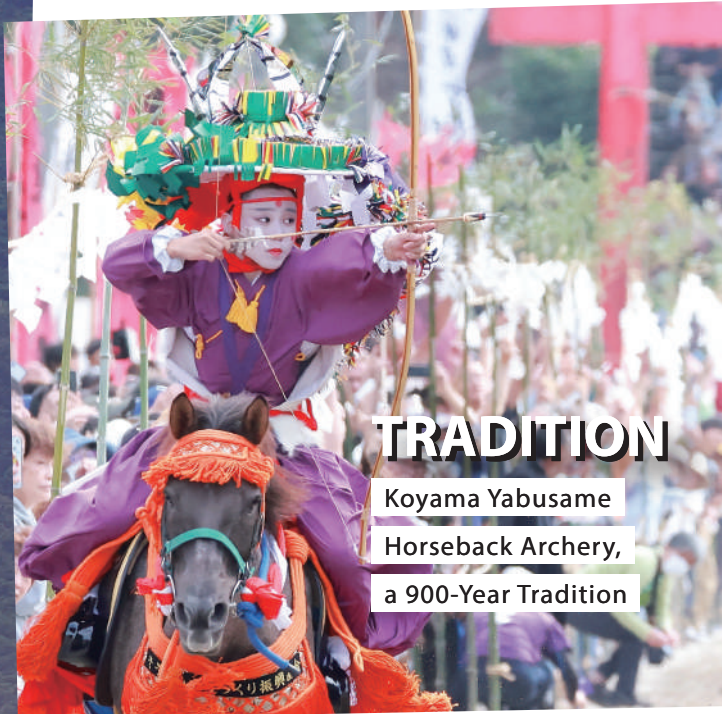
KAGOSHIMA Pref., KYUSHU JAPAN

観光パンフレット〈英語〉 鹿児島県 肝付町



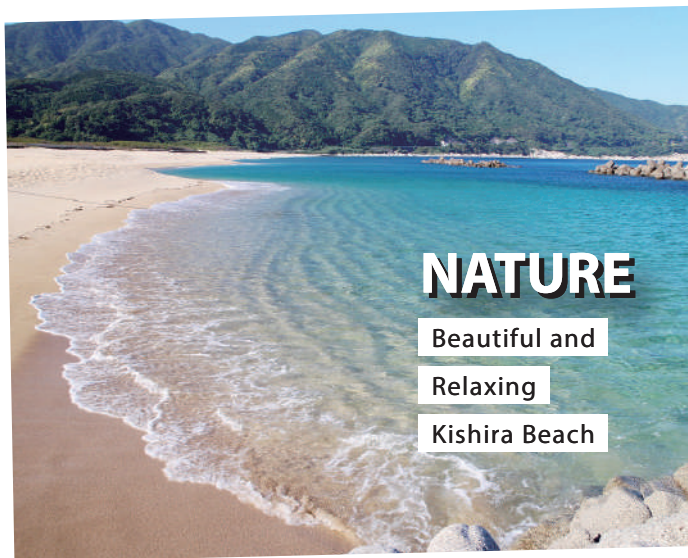
## ROCKET

Small Solid-Fuel Rocket  
Epsilon Rocket  
Launch Site



## TRADITION

Koyama Yabusame  
Horseback Archery,  
a 900-Year Tradition



## NATURE

Beautiful and  
Relaxing  
Kishira Beach

# The Historical Center of the Osumi Peninsula, Open to the Sea and Enclosed by Mountains

## A Cornerstone of Maritime Interaction

Starting halfway through the third century and spanning approximately 400 years, tombs were made in the form of burial mounds for the regional elite. These tombs, called kofun, consisted of a corpse laid to rest with offerings underneath an earthen mound.

There are many ancient kofun remaining in the Osumi Peninsula. Based on this, one can conjecture that the central political body in the Kinki region looked on Osumi as a significant place. They may have considered it the gateway to maritime exchange with southern powers.

Kimotsuki houses the oldest kofun in Osumi, burial mound number 16. This kofun lies within the Tsukazaki kofun cluster, a nationally designated historic site. Also notable is burial mound number 1, which has a giant camphor tree growing directly above it.

Many of the other kofun in Osumi are buried within mountains and fields. At times, farmers discover bones and metal arrowheads when they plow their fields.

## The Kimotsuki Clan, Lords of an Invincible Mountain Castle

The Kimotsuki clan held immense power in Osumi during the Middle Ages. Founded at the end of the twelfth century, Kimotsuki's domain stretched even beyond the north end of the peninsula. Although the clan's strength surpassed that of the Shimazu, a clan which later controlled most of Kagoshima, Kimotsuki went into decline after the death of Kimotsuki Kanetsugu, the 16th head of the family. With his death, the times would turn to favor the Shimazu.

### ● Giant Camphor Tree in Tsukazaki

MAP  
01

塚崎の大楠

The giant camphor tree rooted in burial mound number 1 of the Tsukazaki kofun cluster. A sacred tree of the Tsukazaki Otsuka Shrine. Estimated to be over 1,300 years old, approximately 25 meters tall and 14 meters around. \*Free to visit.

### ● Kimotsuki Museum of History and Folklore

肝付町立歴史民俗資料館

MAP  
02

Displays archeological artifacts with a focus on ancient everyday objects and relics recovered from the Tsukazaki kofun cluster.

¥ None

🕒 Open: 9:00-16:30

📅 Closed: Mondays, national holidays,  
Dec. 28th - Jan. 4th



### ● Trace of Koyama Castle

MAP  
03

高山城跡

The castle of the Kimotsuki clan. Time of construction unknown. Surrounded by three rivers, this mountain castle was never captured in battle. Although the buildings have long vanished, one can walk the mountain paths and envision the former days. \*Free to visit but a tour guide is required.

### ● Kimotsuki Clan Graves at the Jokuji Ruins

盛光寺跡の肝付氏の墓

MAP  
04

Established as the Kimotsuki family temple in 1272 by Kaneishi, the 5th head of the clan. From the 8th head Kaneshige to the 17th head Yoshikane, 250 years of history and twelve lords of Koyama Castle lay to rest here. \*Free to visit.



📍 Giant Camphor Tree in Tsukazaki



01

## Demolished Temples, Lasting Shrines

As the Meiji Restoration ended the age of samurai, modernization accelerated. Nationalism grew at the same time, and the central government ordered the elimination of Buddhism, which originated in China. This caused the destruction of nearly all temples in Japan.

Shinto shrines, on the other hand, lost documents and rituals by burning down in fires or failing to find successors to carry on their customs. Despite this, shrines conducting rituals passed down hundreds of generations still exist today.



02

### Doryuji Ruins

MAP  
05

道隆寺跡

Established in 1246 and thought to be Japan's oldest Zen temple. Built by Zen master Doryu, who later opened Kenchoji, a famous Zen temple in Kamakura.

All the buildings were destroyed during the push to eliminate Buddhism. Today, only the restored stone graves remain standing, lined up under a grove of maple trees. \*Free to visit

📍01

### Shujukusho Shrine

MAP  
06

四十九所神社

It is said to have been founded by Ban Kaneyuki in 984, but detailed documents were burned. Every year on the third Sunday of October, the Yabusame, a prefectural designated intangible folk cultural asset, is held. 13-year-old boys act as archers and shoot nine arrows at a target, praying for peace and prosperity of the nation, bountiful harvests, and the elimination of epidemics. \*Free to visit.

📍02,03



03

YouTube "The Koyama Yabusame Festival"



## Architecture Preserving the Past

### Nikaido House

MAP  
07

二階堂家住宅

An Edo Period samurai residence. Thought to be built in 1810. Consists of two buildings, one for receiving guests (Omote) and one for daily living (Nakae). The buildings are directly connected at their corners, a feature characteristic of southern Kyushu architecture in that period.

¥ Adults 300 yen, children 150 yen

🕒 Open: 9:30-17:00

Closed: New year holiday season

📍04,05

### Kawakami Junior High's Wooden School Rooms

MAP  
08

川上中学校の木造校舎

School rooms built in 1949 and closed to regular attendance in 2011. Nationally registered as a tangible cultural property for preserving the architectural style of the period of construction and contributing to the historical scenery of the area. \*Free to visit but entering the buildings is prohibited.

📍06



04

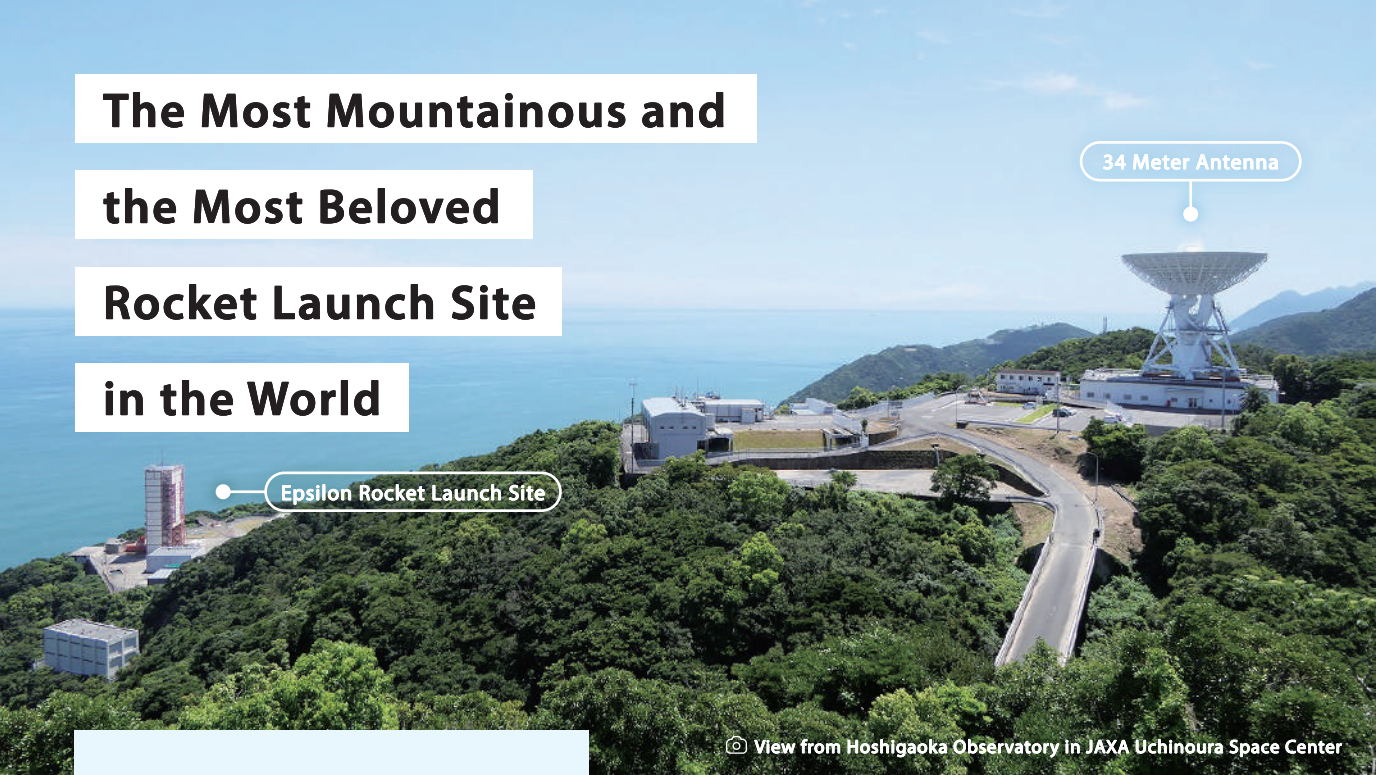


05



06

# The Most Mountainous and the Most Beloved Rocket Launch Site in the World



Epsilon Rocket Launch Site

34 Meter Antenna

View from Hoshigaoka Observatory in JAXA Uchinoura Space Center

## Dr. Itokawa's Dream of the Universe Received Support from Locals

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.

## The People of this Town have Lived Through Rocketry's Evolution

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.

## JAXA Uchinoura Space Center

MAP  
15

JAXA内之浦宇宙空間観測所

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.

¥ None (registration necessary upon entry)

⌚ Open: 8:30-16:30 (generally open all year round)

\*Restricted access during test launches and rocket installation periods. The museum closes once every other month.



JAXA USC Website



01



02



03

〔01〕Bronze statue of Dr. Hideo Itokawa. Inscribed on the base is his quote: "The most important things in life are adversity and good friends."〔02〕M plateau (Epsilon Rocket launch site)〔03〕Space Science Museum

YouTube "Launch of Epsilon-6"



# A Driving Guide to All the Rocket Spots in Kimotsuki !



## ● Epsilon Rocket Monument

MAP  
09

イブシロンロケットモニュメント

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. \*Free to visit

## ● Kaizo Park

MAP  
10

海蔵ふれあいパーク

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. \*Free to visit

## ● Mt. Kano Park

MAP  
11

叶岳ふれあいの森

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! \*Free to visit

## ● Epsilon Rocket Info Corner

MAP  
12

イブシロンロケット紹介コーナー

Take a short break while browsing the Epsilon exhibits and displays. Merchandise available for purchase at the Kimotsuki Tourist Information Center.

¥ Free

🕒 Open: 8:30-17:00

🕒 Closed: Dec. 28th - Jan. 3rd

## ● Uchinoura Fishing Harbor

MAP  
13

内之浦漁港

Where the Epsilon rocket is unloaded when shipped in. Also a viewing site for Epsilon launches. \*Free to visit

## ● Planet Road

MAP  
14

惑星ロード

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

## ● IHI Spaceport Uchinoura

MAP  
16

IHIスペースポート内之浦

The only launch viewing site where the launch pad is visible. \*Usually not open to public.

## ● Kishira Beach

MAP  
17

岸良海岸

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



When is the next rocket launch and special opening of the USC to the public?



A

Please check the information posted by JAXA.

JAXA Website





## Seasonal Topics

### ◆ Doya Doya Sa

📍01

A traditional event in Uchinoura. Locals set up a tall pillar of bamboo and burn it, praying for the health and safety of their children. The popping sound of burning bamboo is believed to ward off bad luck.

### ◆ Cherry Blossoms (Sakura)

**February:** Rocket Sakura (📍02), as they are lovingly called by the locals, bloom at the JAXA Uchinoura Space Center (📍p.4). They are bright pink flowers.

**End of March:** A single cherry tree, named the Tekoten Sakura (📍03), blooms bright white on the mountainside.

**April:** A row of pale pink sakura trees spanning 280 meters bloom along the river near the Nikaido House (📍04, p.3).

### ◆ Spring/Fall Eggane Festival (Spiny Lobster Festival)

📍06

Eggane refers to Japanese spiny lobster in local dialect. Enjoy this seasonal delicacy with sashimi or miso soup in Uchinoura, where eggane is locally fished. To avoid the summer hatching season and the winter off season, the event will be held separately in spring and autumn.

### ◆ Nagoshidon

📍05

An event with over 600 years of history, featuring a traditional dance at Kishira Beach (📍Cover, p.5). Held from afternoon until evening on August 14th every year.

### ◆ Koyama Yabusame Festival

📍Cover, p.3

An event featuring yabusame, traditional horseback archery. It is held at Shijukusho Shrine (📍p.3), while other festivities, including a fireworks show the night before, occur in the surrounding area.

### ◆ Autumn Leaves

The maples at the **Doryuji Ruins** (📍p.3) turn red while the ginkgo at the entrance to the **Trace of Koyama Castle** (📍07, p.2) turns yellow. Both keep their bright foliage for about two weeks. Because Kimotsuki has a warm climate, these autumnal spots are a special sight.

### ◆ Beaches

Kimotsuki Town has three sandy beaches: **Uchinoura Beach**, **Kishira Beach** (📍Cover, p.5), and **Hetsuka Beach** (📍08). All of the sandy beaches are pure white. **Uchinoura Beach** is located in the center of the Uchinoura district. **Kishira Beach** is located in the center of the Kishira district and has a parking lot, toilets, and showers (summer only). **Hetsuka Beach** is a secluded sandy beach in a depopulated area. It is located at the end of a narrow unpaved road, so please be careful when passing through.

\*Caution: All beaches have rough waves and sudden deep spots. Swimming is not recommended.

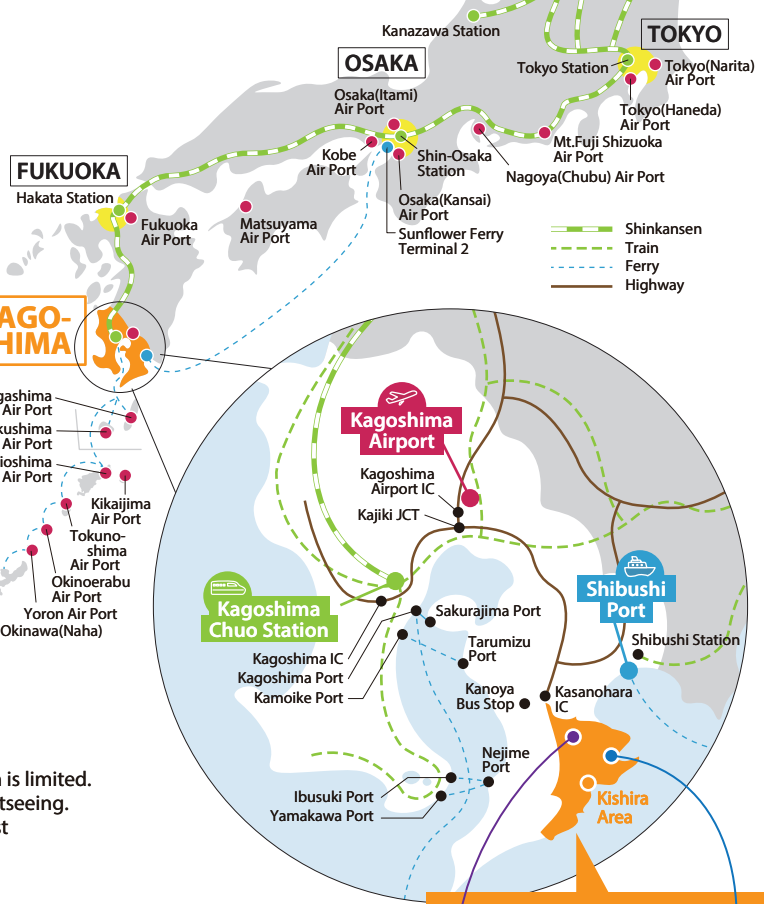
YouTube   
"Coastline of Kimotsuki Town"





# Access to Kimotsuki Town

To get to Kimotsuki town, you must first go to Kagoshima prefecture. There are three main entrances to Kagoshima: the air entrance, the land entrance, and the sea entrance.



**Air gateway**  
**Kagoshima Airport**  
 Domestic flights: 17 routes  
 International flights: Seoul, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taipei



**Land gateway**  
**Kagoshima Chuo Station**  
 Kyushu Shinkansen and other JR lines

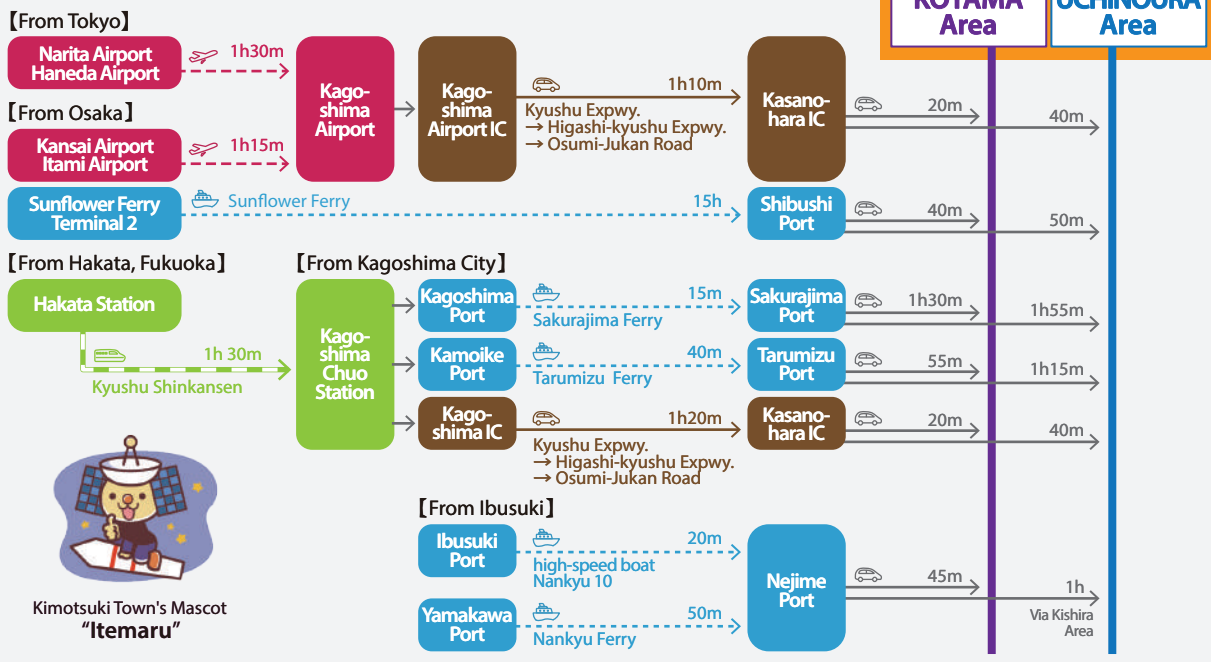


**Ocean gateway**  
**Shibushi Port**  
 Sunflower Ferry (direct from Osaka)

The number of public transportation to Kimotsuki town is limited. Traveling by car or motorcycle is convenient when sightseeing. For more details, please visit the Kimotsuki Town Tourist Information Center website.

## Access methods and travel times from major cities in Japan

\*Times are estimated



Kimotsuki Town's Mascot "Itamaru"

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⌚ Open: 9:00-17:00, Closed: Dec. 28th - Jan. 3rd  
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