

Q-14 North Satsuma Scenic Tour

Izumi City, Akune, Satsuma-Sendai, Ichiki-Kushikino, Hioki, and Nagashima Town (Kagoshima Pref.) — **Untouched Nature, Unique Samurai Residence District, and Shirasu of Special Soil Layer** —

The landscape route of the North Satsuma Scenic Tour is located in the northern part of the Satsuma region of Kagoshima Prefecture, and consists of five cities and one town, the center of which is Satsumasendai City. Along with its fascinating natural treasure, a rich history has been built since ancient times.

(Access and Main Route). Access points to these scenic spots are Kagoshima Airport and the stations of Izumi, Sendai and Kagoshima on the Kyushu Shinkansen.

The main roads in the scenic Satsuma area are National Routes 3 and 389, and complemented by National Routes 504 and 328. In addition, Kyushu Expressway, South Kyushu Expressway, Orange Railway and Kagoshima Main Line are available. On the islands of "Koshiki-shima" in Satsuma-sendai City, the main roads are three prefecture roads.

Under these transport networks, the Satsuma scenery region is roughly divided into five blocks as shown on the map.

(Scenic Resources). From the Middle Ages to the early modern era, the Satsuma Domain adopted its own local administration system. The territory of the clan has been divided from several villages to about 10 villages. One branch castle (called "Tojo") was built in each area, and the samurai were dispatched in the village to settled down. Unlike the samurai who served directly the clan lord in the inner castle, they are samurai who usually engage in agriculture and fight as a soldier in an emergency, and were later called "Goshi". This system was devised because the family's financial condition was poor and it was necessary to protect vast borders.

However, in 1615, the Edo Shogunate issued "Law of one Castle per one clan's province". For this reason, the Satsuma domain abolished branch castles, but the local administrative system was maintained and the samurai system of Goshi remained. And the village where they lived was called "Fumoto", while the govern-



(1) Fumoto Town, and the Entrance Gate and Room of Samurai Residence House in Izumi City



(1) View of Yatsushiro Sea from Hario Park in Nagashima Town.



(1) Ikarajima Oohashi Bridge in Nagashima Town.

ment office that governs Fumoto was called "Jito-kariya". In other words, Jito-kariya is a mansion where the earth's tops live and work, around which a town of samurai residences for Goshi was formed.

From this point of view, some typical Fumoto in this scenic byway area are shown as below. **Fumoto Machi** and **NodaFumoto Machi** in the Izumi city are the places where the situation at that time is preserved well (see photo (1)). The **Iriki Fumoto** in the Satsuma-Sendai city is a typical mountainous village and the image of the village in the Edo period remains (photo (3)).

On the other hand, as shown in the photo (5), two of **Sato** and **Teuchi** on Koshiki Islands have a unique atmosphere made of island materials. The **Miyama-Fumoto** in Hioki City is a

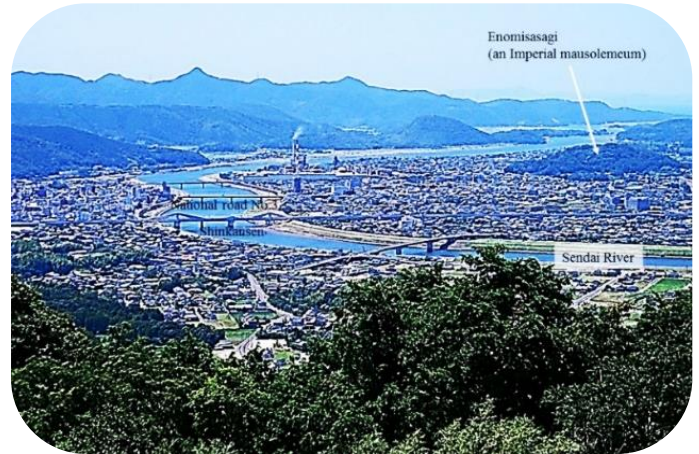


(1) Izumi plain where more than ten thousand cranes dance in the sky (Izumi City)

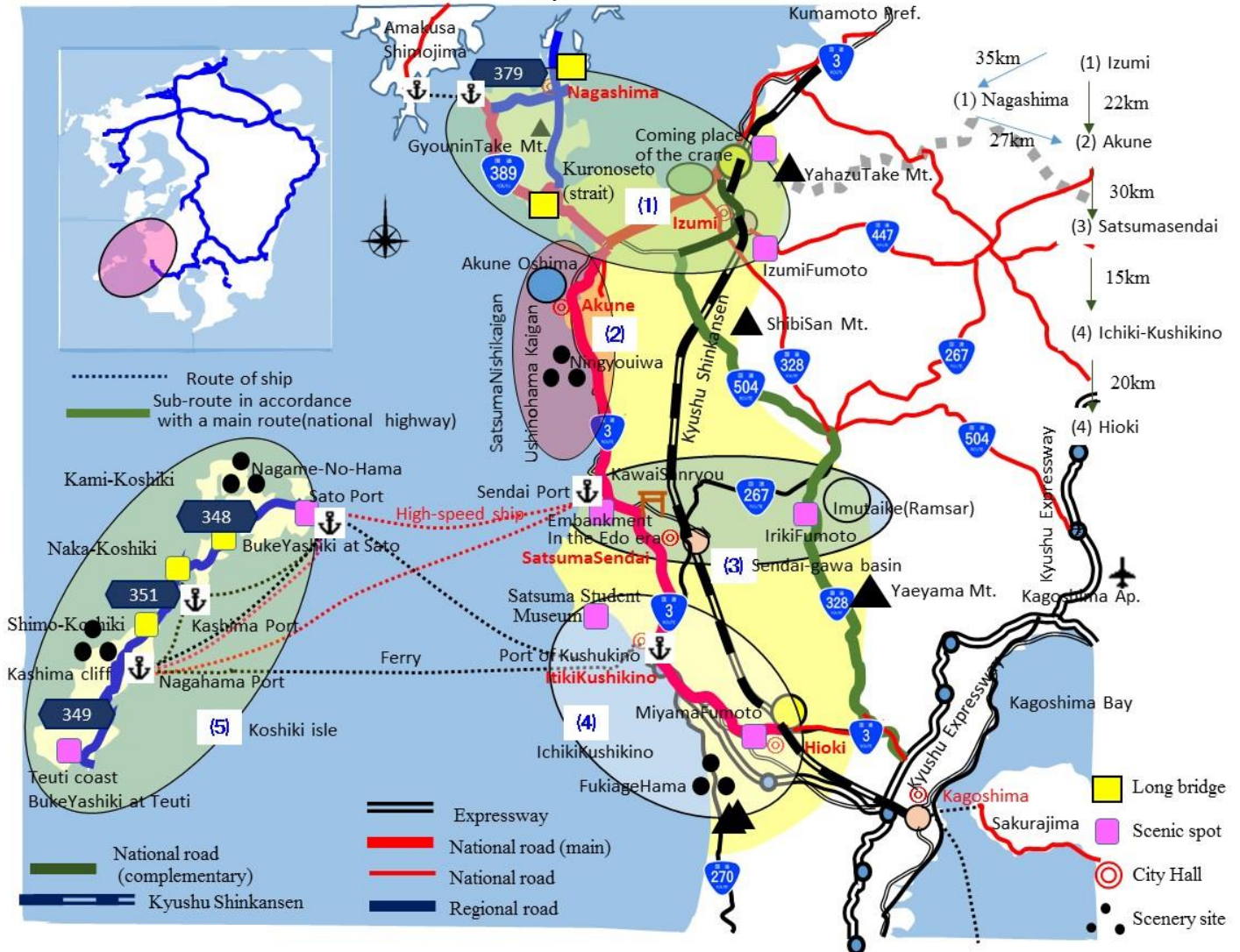




(2) Dole Rock of the west coast in Northern Satsuma (Akune City)



(3) A view of Satsuma Sendai City with Sendai River



special case where Korean potters moved in (photo (4)). If you visit these Fumotos, you can see various villages for Goshi-samurai from the Middle Ages to the Edo period.

The second is three important nature landscapes in northern Satsuma.

a. In the Izumi plain, more than 10,000 cranes are flying in the sky against the backdrop of the Yatsushiro Sea.

b. The landscape of the pyroclastic flow plateau develops along the long coastline from Akune City to Hioki City, and is characterized by the combination of the cliffs of Shirasu Plateau and the white sand of the Shirasu Beach.

c. In addition, the remote island "Koshiki-shima" is located in the South Sea, and nature from ancient times has been preserved.

The landscape is extremely impressive, and far surpassing other geoparks designated in Kyushu.

(1) Izumi City and Nagashima Town

In the Edo era, Izumi City was a town that protects the north of Satsuma Domain, and there is still left the trace of checkpoint at the entrance of "Satsuma-kaido" road.

By the way, there are three main spots in the main landscape of this area. One is the scenery of cranes that come to the Izumi Plain every winter and return to Siberia in March.

The second is the village of Fumoto, a local samurai community. The samurai's residence can be seen in various places, but the village of this town was large-scale, because it was a border town.

Some of samurai residences are open to travelers and you can see the interior (see photo (1) on page 1).

The third is the view from Nagashima Island between Amakusa City and Izumi City. From the top of various hills of Nagashima Island, you can see Kyushu Main Island, Amakusa islands and the Yatsushiro Sea. Flowers are planted along the roads of Nagashima every season, and special products such as Orange, Shochu (Japanese distilled liquor), Nori (seaweed laver), and Buri (yellowtail) are sold at a roadside station.

(2) West Coast in North Satsuma.

The main route between Akune and Satsuma-Sendai is a scenic drive course along the west coast in northern Satsuma. The sea is straight to the Asian continent through the East China Sea, and the sunset over the horizon is impressive. The view of the rocks formed by the storm waves is also amazing, but the white sandy beaches is shining brightly in the strong summer sun.

(3) Basin of Sendai River

The Sendai River basin can be divided into upstream and downstream basins due to its unique characteristics.

The Hiwaki River is a tributary of the Sendai River. Lake Imuta, the caldera lake formed by a volcanic lava dome, is at the uppermost stream and is registered under the Ramsar Convention. A small peat islands floating in the pond is a natural heritage and you can see the endangered tortoiseshell dragonflies in the fall.

When going downstream of the Hiwaki River, you will find the village, Iriki Fumoto, with a medieval atmosphere. The old house with a thatched roof of the Masuda family is an important cultural asset of the country.



(3) The tomb of Enomisasagi enshrine the legendary god of Japan creation. (Satsuma Sendai City).



(3) Imuta Lake surrounded by small volcanos (Ramsar's Convention for wetland. Satsuma Sendai City)



(1) Gate of Okariya in the Edo period, which is still used for Gate of Izumi Elementary School



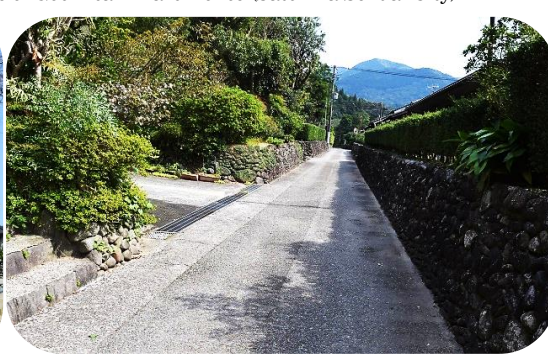
(1) Kurono-Seto Ohashi Bridge between Akune City and Nagashima town.



(3) Quiet Iriki-Fumoto Town and the Hedge Gate of Goshi-samurai's House (Satsuma Sendai City)



(3) Old Masuda Family House in 1873, and Street of Samurai Residential District in Iriki-Fumoto Town



(4) Miyama Fumoto (Village of Satsum-Yaki porcelain). (Hioki City).



(4) Shirasu Plateau in Fukiage-Hama Beach (Hioki City).

The Sendai River basin is the section from the center of Satsuma-Sendai City to the estuary. The main scenic spot in this area is the mausoleum of God called "Enomisasagi". In myth, it is



(5) Samurai Residence Area in "Sato" of Kami-Koshiki-Shima. (Satsumasendai City.)



(5) Nagameno-Hama (beach) in Kami-Koshiki-Shima



(5) Sand beach at Teuchi Bay (Shimo-Koshiki-Shima, Satsumasendai City)



(5) Long span bridge in Koshiki-Islands (Satsumasendai City)



(5) Kashima Cliff formed by all the accumulations of the strata from 80 million years ago



(5) Kanoko Ohashi (Big Bridge) in Naka-Koshiki Shima. (Satsumasendai City)

said to be the grave of the god of "Niniginomikoto" who descended from heaven and created our country.

(4) Areas of Ichiki-Kushikino City and Hioki City

Ichikikushikino City is located in the south of Satsuma Sendai City, and the inland mountains is said to be the birthplace of ancient mountain Buddhism. In addition, the observation park is located on the hillside of Kanmuri Dake (Mount).

On the other hand, Hajima Port, where youths of the Satsuma Domain secretly left for the United Kingdom, is located on the coast. Satsuma British Students Memorial Hall has opened. The materials of youths who have studied across the sea before the Meiji Restoration and contributed to the modernization of Japan are on display.

On the south side of National Route 270, there are scenic spots such as Fukiage-hama Beach (total length 47km), steep slopes, and cliffs due to the accumulation of volcanic ash from volcanic eruptions.

(5) Koshiki Shima Islands with un-touched Nature

Three Koshiki-shima islands are lined up in the East China Sea, and access to the island is approximately 50 minutes from Sendai Port (high-speed ship) or Kushikino New Port (ferry).

The three islands were once separated from each other, but are now all connected by long bridges. The total length of the road that runs through the three islands is about 38 km and its population is approximately 5000.

The Kashima cliffs have been gradually built up over 80 million years ago, and all of them have been raised and exposed. As shown in photo (5), the horizontal stripes look like annual rings, which is a very rare sight.

Meanwhile, there are beautiful sandy beaches. For example, one is "Nagame no Hama", a sandy beach with a length of about 4km and a width of about 50m. Another is the sandy beach of Teuchi Bay, which draws a beautiful arc.

The Sato area of Kamikoshiki Shima Island is a port town on Tonboro Island, where most of the island's population lives. Since the Edo period, the samurai residence is surrounded by a unique fence made of natural

cobblestones and a plantation of tropical plants.

There is also a village of samurai residences in the Teuchi area of Shimo-koshiki shima, and it can be seen that the regional policy of Shimazu domain were steadily spreading to each island.



(5) Rocks in Shimo-Koshiki Shima Island

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