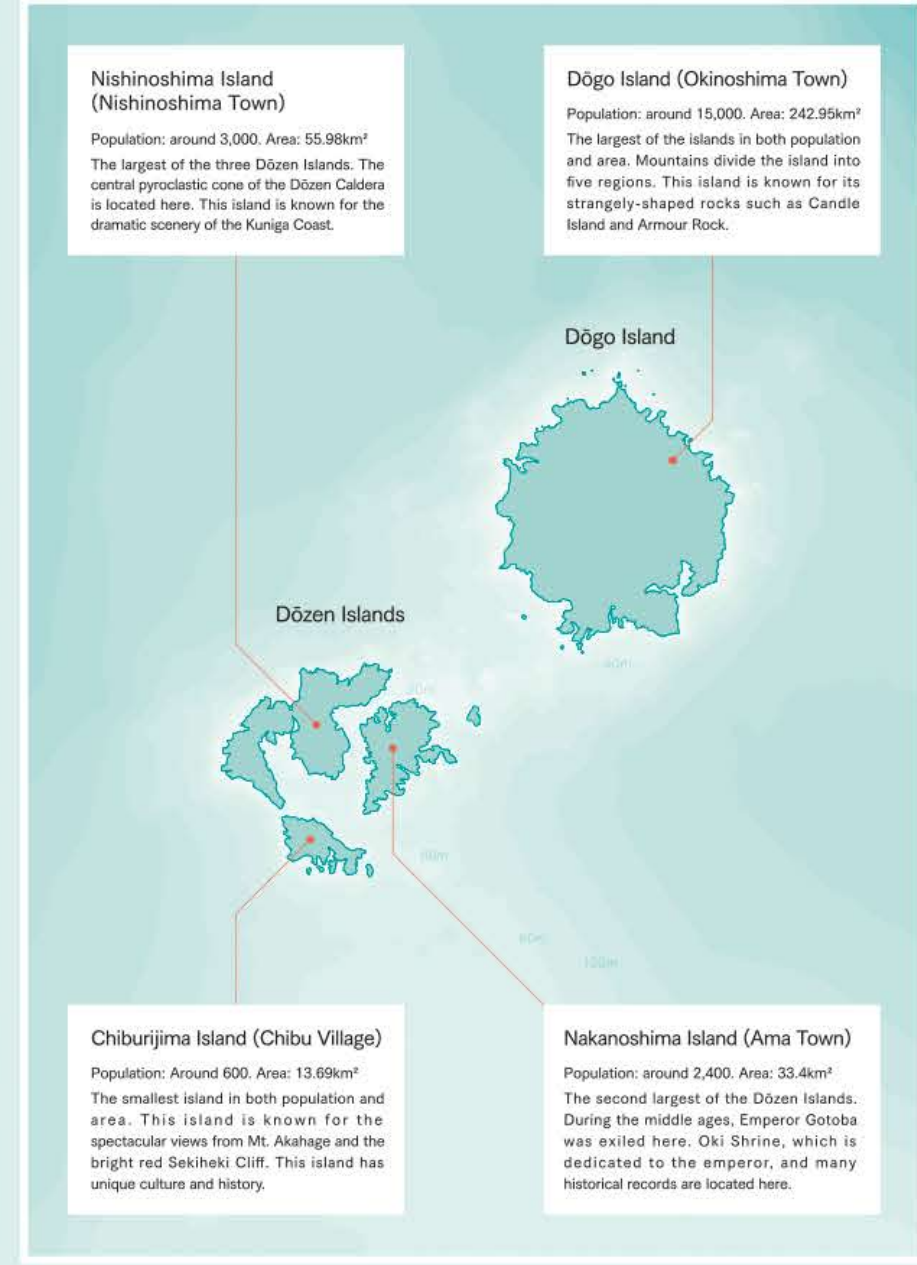


The Oki Islands

Though small and remote, the Oki Islands feature surprisingly diverse geology, nature, and culture.

About the Oki Islands

The Oki Islands were formed through volcanic activity which occurred around six million years ago. Human history on the islands dates back as far as 30 thousand years, beginning with the excavation of the volcanic glass, obsidian. Nature typical of isolated islands and a unique mixture of new and old culture have developed here over time.



Learn more...

For travel information please contact the Tourism Information Offices located on each island.

- ⇒ Dōzen | Nishinoshima Island (Nishinoshima Town)
Nishinoshima Tourism Association
4386-3 Oaza Mita, Nishinoshima-cho, Oki-gun, Shimane-ken 684-0303, JAPAN
TEL: +8108514-7-8888 FAX: +8108514-7-8890 http://nkk-oki.com

⇒ Dōzen | Nakanoshima Island (Ama Town)
Ama Town Tourism Association
1365-5 Oaza Fukui, Ama-cho, Oki-gun, Shimane-ken 684-0404, JAPAN
TEL: +8108514-2-0101 FAX: +810514-2-0102 http://oki-ama.org

⇒ Dōzen | Chiburijima Island (Chibu Village)
Chiburijima Tourism Association
1730-6 Chibu-mura, Oki-gun, Shimane-ken 684-0106, JAPAN
TEL: +8108514-8-2272 FAX: +8108514-8-2278 http://www.chibu.jp

⇒ Dōgo | Okinoshima Town
Okinoshima Tourism Association
54-3 Menukinoyon, Nakamachi, Okinoshima-cho, Oki-gun, Shimane-ken 685-0106, JAPAN
TEL: +8108512-2-0787 FAX: +8108512-2-3950 http://oki-dougo.info

For general tourism inquiries:
⇒ Oki Islands Tourism Association TEL: +8108512-2-1577 FAX: +8108512-2-1406
E-mail: okikan@e-oki.net http://www.e-oki.net

For inquiries about the Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark:

⇒ Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark Promotion Committee
24 Shioguchi Minatomachi, Okinoshima-cho, Oki-gun, Shimane-ken 685-8601, JAPAN
TEL: +8108512-3-1321 FAX: +8108512-3-1322
E-mail: info@oki-geopark.jp Hours (JST): Mon-Fri 8:30-17:15
http://www.oki-geopark.jp/en/

The Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark is a member of the following Geopark networks...

Global Geoparks Network (GGN)
The global network of Geoparks. A dynamic network where members are committed to work together, exchange ideas of best practice, and join in common projects to raise the quality standards of all products and practices of UNESCO Global Geoparks.
http://globalgeopark.org

Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN)
The network of Geoparks in the Asia Pacific Region. Provides a platform for networking among Geoparks at the regional level, fostering exchange, capacity building and common projects.
http://asiapacificgeoparks.org/

Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN)
The national network of Geoparks. Provides support and a networking platform for Japanese Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks.
http://geopark.jp/en/

Take only pictures, leave only footprints. Please help protect the Oki Islands for future generations.

Printed: Nov. 2017 by Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark Promotion Committee

OKI ISLANDS

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

English
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英語版

Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark Guide Map



Guide Map

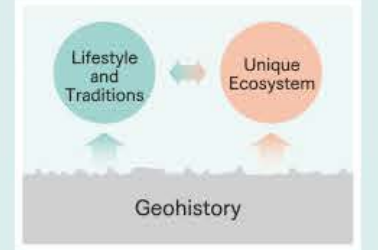


Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark

The Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark encompasses the small and remote Oki Islands which are located in the western part of the Sea of Japan.

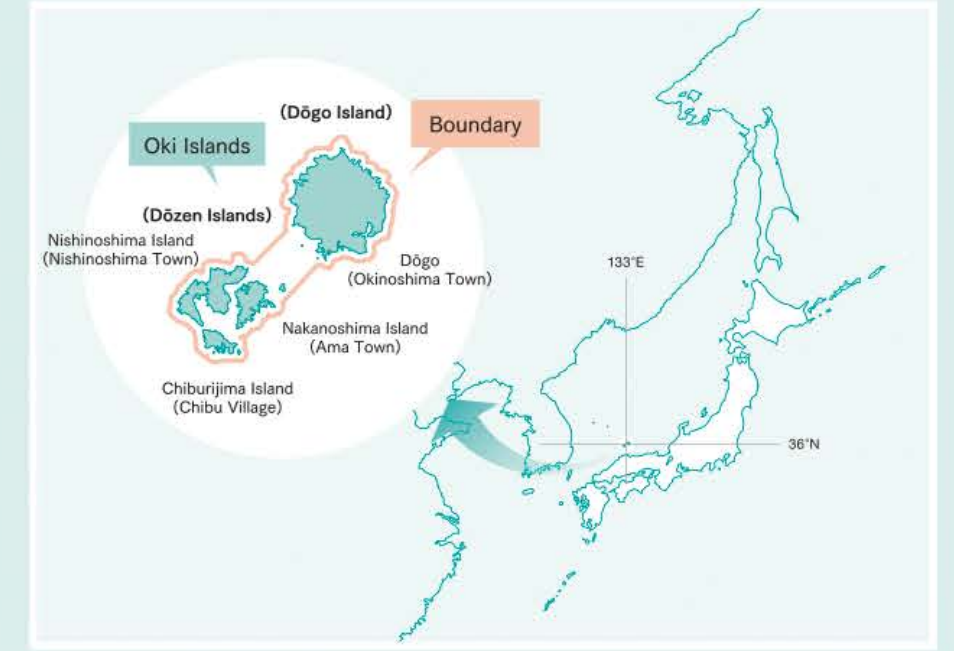
Features

The Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark is made up of small islands. These islands have unique geological features and landscapes which are typical of the Sea of Japan environment. The culture, ways of life, landscapes, and nature that have developed here are deeply connected to the land in ways that can be easily observed. Why not visit the Geopark and discover these connections for yourself!



Area

The Oki Islands are composed of four inhabited islands (Nishinoshima, Nakanoshima, Chiburijima & Dōgo), and around 180 uninhabited islets. The Geopark also includes a marine area of 1km from the coastlines in consideration of the vital importance of the sea to the local people. The Geopark area is 673.5km² (land area: 346km², sea area: 327.5km²).



What is a UNESCO Global Geopark?

A UNESCO Global Geopark is a place where you can discover the wonders of our planet. Geoparks are designated areas that contain precious geological heritage. They work to protect the land as well as the nature, culture and ways of life that have developed upon it, while also utilizing these assets for education and geotourism. Let's help protect our Earth for future generations!

Geography and Culture

Traditional Festivals: Due to the remote location of the islands, people were difficult to escape from, there was no shortage of food.
Islands of Exile: This island was once used as a location of exile for criminals. In the middle ages, noblemen were sent here. After the Meiji Restoration, the islands were used to exile political prisoners.
Dōzen Caldera: Enjoy sweeping views of the sea from the summit. The caldera landscape was created by volcanic activity long ago. The sea level of the caldera is a natural bay, the surrounding islands are a watershed and the central mountain used to act as a firehouse.
Makihatata Farming: The stone wall remains of a rotation farming method called makihatata can be found here. Makhatata allowed people to reflectively utilize the poor soil and mountainous terrain.
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Discover the Region

The history and culture of the region is intricately connected to the land. By looking at the history and culture, we can also make discoveries about the land.

Unique Plant Life: Takeshima-shishido. This flower is a perennial plant in the space family. It is an endemic species of Ullung-do Island of South Korea. It was discovered in Nakanoshima Island in 1970 and is not found elsewhere in Japan.
Fascinating Rocks: Yori-twa (Armour Rock). This rock is composed of columns created by cracks that formed in lava when it cooled. This rock is thought to resemble the armour of a 17th-century Japanese warrior.
Sea Kayaking: Sea Kayaking. Enjoy the crystal-clear water. The crystal-clear water can spot some marine life in or take.
Sightseeing Bus & Sightseeing Taxi: For those who want a great introduction to the main sights, we recommend a sightseeing bus or taxi.
Geopark Guides: With a qualified Geopark Guide, you can learn more about the Geopark on a walking tour. We recommend booking in advance.

Learn about the Earth!

In a Geopark, you can make new discoveries about the earth. The rocks and plants around the islands reveal connections between the earth and our lives.

Mountain

Mt. Takuhi & Takuhii Shrine: The easy hike up the mountain normally found in different directions. The shrine is partially built within the cliff.
Mt. Akahage: Enjoy sweeping views of the sea from the summit. The caldera landscape was created by volcanic activity long ago. The sea level of the caldera is a natural bay, the surrounding islands are a watershed and the central mountain used to act as a firehouse.
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Self-guided Tours

With this map in hand, you can explore the Geopark at your own pace. There are over 100 Geopark signposts located around the Geopark that explain more about each location.

From the Land: Sightseeing Bus & Sightseeing Taxi. For those who want a great introduction to the main sights, we recommend a sightseeing bus or taxi.
From the Sea: Sea Kayaking. Enjoy the crystal-clear water. The crystal-clear water can spot some marine life in or take.
Sightseeing Boats: Enjoy the sea on a sightseeing boat. The crystal-clear water can spot some marine life in or take.

Geotourism

On a geotour around the Oki Islands, you can discover connections between the geohistory, the unique ecosystem and the traditions of the land.

Explore the Geopark with a Guide!

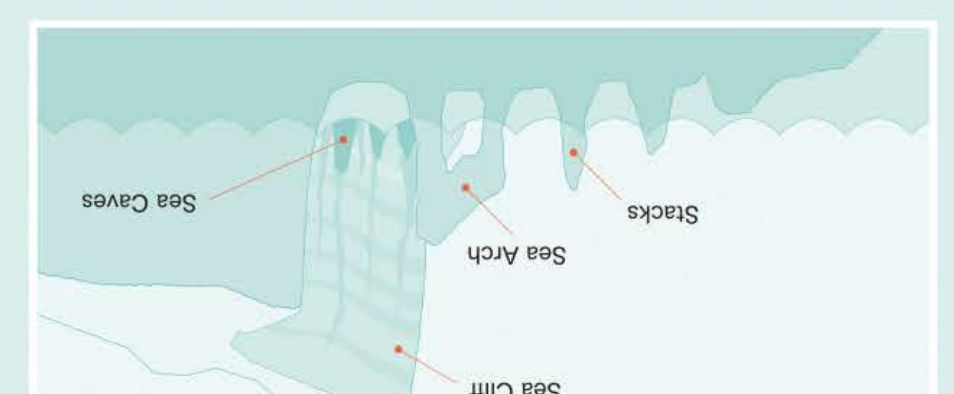
Enjoy the landscape from the sea on a sightseeing boat or sea kayak, or from land on a trekking or walking tour. You can also tour the Geopark with a qualified 'Geopark Guide' and learn more about the geological heritage of the islands.
(Please note that some guided tours are not yet available in English.)

Timeline of Oki Islands history and culture from Prehistory to Early Modern Times, including festivals and performing arts.

An Unusual Mix of Plants

A closer look at the plants of the Oki Islands reveals a mysterious mix of southern, northern, and endemic species. This plant life records the climate change that has occurred over the last tens of thousands of years. As a result of a decline in sea level during glacial periods, the islands became connected to mainland Japan. During this time, plants and animals from the mainland migrated to the islands, leading to the development of the unique ecosystem the Oki Islands have today.

Coastal Erosion Landforms



Dynamic Landscapes

The coasts of the Oki Islands feature towering vertical stacks, massive sea cliffs, wave-cut beaches and inlets dotted with tiny islands. These coastlines have been shaped by rough waves propelled by strong northwesterly winds. The landscapes tell us about the ceaseless changes of the earth.



Rocks That Tell a Story

The Oki Islands have many different rocks and minerals that are unusual in Japan. They are a result of the unique formation history of the land. By uncovering the history of these small islands, we can also find out more about the breakup of the Eurasian continent and the formation of the Japanese Archipelago and the Sea of Japan, as well as about the volcanic activity that took place here. These events have given us scenic views and resources that support the local people.

Heritage of the Land

Discover the story of the land in the Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark.