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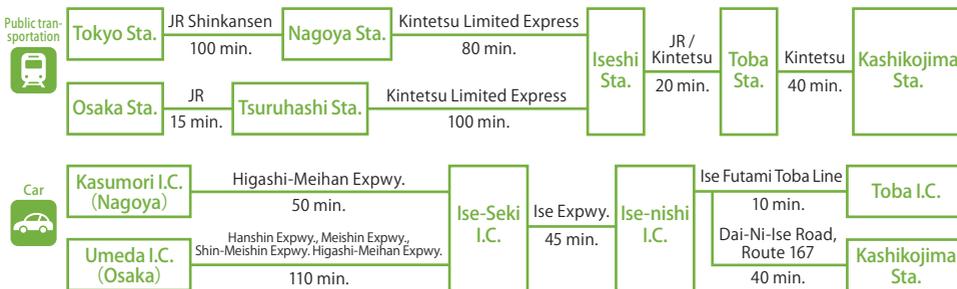
- In case you are using iPad or iPad mini, please turn on "iPad only" mode when search.
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How to use "Uni-Voice" 「Uni-Voice」 사용 방법 “Uni-Voice”의 使用方法

- 01 Tap the "Uni-Voice" icon to start.  
「Uni-Voice」의 아이콘을 터치하여 시작합니다.  
点击“Uni-Voice”的快捷键启动应用。
- 02 Tap the QR search button within the App.  
어플리케이션 내 QR 검색 버튼을 선택합니다.  
点击应用中的二维码扫描键。
- 03 Once you set focus on the voice code "Uni-Voice" displayed within the screen, it will be automatically recognized.  
화면 안에 표시된 음성 코드 「Uni-Voice」에 초점을 맞추면 자동적으로 인식됩니다.  
对准画面中的语音二维码后即可自动识别。
- 04 Tap the "Uni-Voice" icon to start.  
관독한 텍스트를 자동으로 표시하며, 음성 가이드가 만들어집니다.  
识别二维码后会自动生成文字, 并语音朗读。

- There are cases where the App does not correspond or has difficulty recognizing depending on the environment of usage or the model of your device.
- 스마트폰 기종, 이용 환경에 따라 지원하지 않거나 코드 인식이 어려울 수 있습니다.
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Access to Ise-Shima National Park



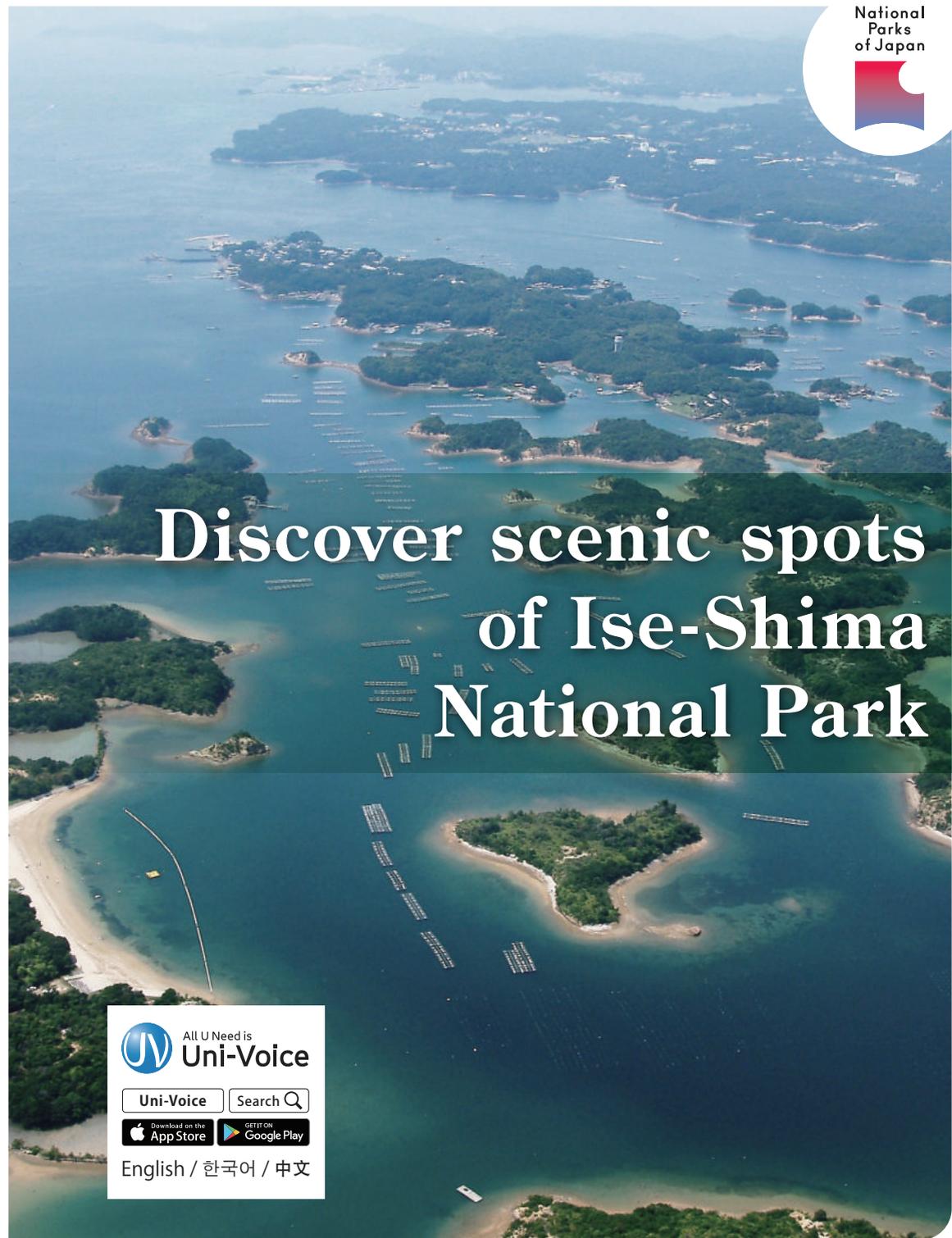
**Chubu Regional Environment Office**  
2-5-2, Sannomaru, Naka-ku, Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, 460-0001  
TEL.052-955-2130  
<http://www.chubu.env.go.jp>

National Parks of Japan  
ID: NationalParksOfJapan

National Parks of Japan  
ID: nationalpark\_japan

**Ise-Shima National Park Office**  
3098-26, Ugata, Ago Town, Shima City, Mie Prefecture, 517-0501  
TEL.0599-43-2210  
Yokoyama Visitor Center <http://chubu.env.go.jp/nature/yokoyama>

Ise-Shima National Park  
ID: nationalpark\_isheshima (managed by Mie Pref. Gov.)



Uni-Voice Search



English / 한국어 / 中文



▲ Ria coast of Ago Bay, Shima City

# Ise-Shima National Park

Ise Jingu in Ise-Shima National Park is the spiritual heart of Japan, a place where people and nature live in harmony. The national park encompasses indented coastlines and lush forests.

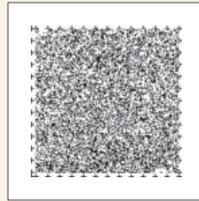
The most important *jinja* (Shinto shrine) complex in Japan, Ise Jingu is dedicated to the sun deity Amaterasu -Omikami. Ise Jingu symbolizes the ancient relationship between nature and people, one which has been nurtured in Ise-Shima for over 2,000 years.

Over ninety percent of the designated area in Ise-Shima National Park is privately owned land. This is testimony to the fact that there are many people here who have a long tradition of living with, and respecting, the environment that provides them with their sustenance and livelihoods. A combination of traditional conservation rules regulating the region's female divers known as *ama*, and modern fishing regulations, ensure that Ise-Shima delicacies like Japanese spiny lobster and abalone can continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

Given its size and the varied landscape, from the forested mountains of the inland area to the sheltered bays and jagged rock ledges along the Pacific coast, Ise-Shima National Park offers many opportunities to experience a unique culture where local people and nature happily coexist.



▲ Evergreen broadleaf forest of Ise Jingu



▲ Uni-Voice

## Information

A pictogram of this book is introducing a point of each place.

- Parking
- Outdoor Activity
- History and Culture
- Natural Place
- View Point
- Food
- Nature trail

- Tourist information office
- Boarding Point
- National Park area
- JR Line
- Kintetsu Line
- Road
- Toll road



# Futamiura

The Meoto Iwa (“Husband and Wife Rocks”) of Futamiura are a famous sight in Japan. The two rocks, a large one and a small one, are joined by a thick rice straw rope. In the past, these rocks were thought to be a gate separating the divine world from the human world. They are now considered a symbol of wedded couples. It is a popular place for newly-married couples to visit. Protection charms for happy marriages are sold at the shrine facing the Meoto Iwa. There are many statues of frogs at the shrine, symbols of a safe journey home.

Between May and July, the sun rises between the two rocks. A beautiful full moon also appears perfectly positioned between them from November to February. Historically, this spot was used to wash and purify the body before continuing to the most important *jinja* (Shinto shrine) complex in Japan, Ise Jingu.

Nearby is the Hinjitsukan, a former imperial vacation residence, completed in 1887. Its interior reveals an intriguing blend of traditional Japanese and Western-inspired decor, best seen in the large banquet room. The style of the walls and the floor is Japanese, yet there are impressive chandeliers hanging from the ceiling.



▲ A townscape of Futami



▲ Futami Okitama Jinja shrine



▲ Meoto Iwa and a statue of a frog  
(C) Isehima Tourism & Convention Organization



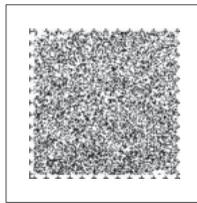
▲ Hinjitsukan  
(C) Isehima Tourism & Convention Organization

## [Access]

15 minutes walk from the JR Line Futamiura Station  
3 minutes from Futami JCT

Car ... Public transportation

▼ Sunrise between Meoto Iwa rocks (C) Isehima Tourism & Convention Organization



▲ Scenery from the view point

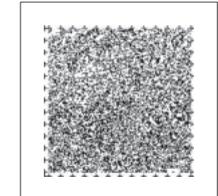
# Mt. Otonashi

Located just a ten-minute walk from Futamiura station, Mt. Otonashi is one of the best places to see cherry blossoms in Ise-Shima, making the walk a delightful experience. In spring, an amazing number of blossoming trees line the promenades. Both the viewpoint and the walkways paths offer pleasant views of Ise Bay. One can even see across the bay to neighboring Aichi Prefecture’s Atsumi and Chita Peninsulas.

Mt. Otonashi also boasts over thirty species of evergreen tree. Japanese silver leaf (*Farfugium japonicum*) plants here produce clusters of yellow flowers in the fall.

## [Access]

Futamiura Station 5 minutes walk  
Futami JCT 3 minutes  
Mt. Otonashi Park entrance  
20 minutes walk  
Mt. Otonashi crest



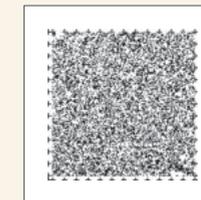
# History

Ise-Shima has a long history of people whose lives have been shaped by the sea. Excavations have unearthed 3,000-year-old tools for taking abalone. There are also records of seafood being traded by Ise-Shima’s Daio Town dating from 745 CE, evidence that seafood has sustained the population here for thousands of years.

Ise Jingu, the most sacred *jinja* (Shinto shrine) in Japan, was established about 2,000 years ago to worship the sun deity Amaterasu-Omikami. The excellent quality of Ise-Shima’s seafood and other local produce further enhanced the area’s reputation. Ise-Shima were declared a *miketsukuni*—a special area given the honor of providing food for both deities and the imperial court.

During the period of military upheaval in the sixteenth century, Kuki Yoshitaka (1542–1600)

rose to prominence as a naval commander leading a faction in the conflict. Roads were improved during the 250 years of peace that followed the end of this warring period. This meant that more people could make pilgrimages to Ise Jingu. During this period, about one-sixth of the Japanese population was able to visit this sacred place. At the same time, trade between Ise-Shima, Edo (now Tokyo) and Osaka, boomed, leading to increased wealth and exchanges of culture.



▲ A stone wall of Toba Castle Ruin  
(C) Toba City





▲ Footbath with a view from the mountain  
(C) Ise-shima Tourism & Convention Organization



▲ Scenery from the mountain top observation platform  
(C) Ise-shima Tourism & Convention Organization



▲ Japanese garden at Kongoshoji temple

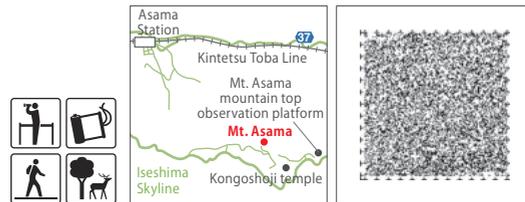
**[Access]**

- 🚶 100 minutes walk from the Kintetsu Line Asama Station to the crest/ 25 minutes bus ride from the Kintetsu Line Isuzugawa Station \*Holidays only
- 🚌 Around 20 minutes from either the entrance of the Ise-shima Skyliner "Ise" or "Toba"

## Mt. Asama

At 555 m, Mt. Asama's summit is the highest point in Ise-Shima National Park. The soil here contains serpentinite, stunting the growth of coastal species of plants and trees. The open landscape gives visitors an uninterrupted 360-degree view of Ise Bay, the islands of Toba Bay, and the Pacific. Enjoy these vistas while taking a hot footbath at the nearby viewpoint. Along a fifteen-minute walking route near the summit, one can view plants such as jingu-tsutsumi (*Rhododendron sanctum*), a variety of azalea. It is also possible to go to the viewpoint by car, or by hiking along a trail which is accessible from Asama Station.

Next, visit Kongoshoji, a Buddhist temple near the top of Mt. Asama founded in the ninth century. There are various points of cultural interest here, including an arched red bridge surrounded by a lily pond. People come to the temple's Okunoin (Inner Sanctuary) cemetery to pray for deceased ancestors. In accordance with tradition in the Ise-Shima area, people erect *sotoba* here, tall wooden grave tablets. These line the approach to Okunoin—some are as much as eight meters tall.



▲ Kongoshoji temple



▲ Okunoin of the Kongoshoji temple



▲ Shogu (main sanctuary), Naiku  
(C) Ise-shima Tourism & Convention Organization



▲ Uji-bashi Bridge  
(C) Ise-shima Tourism & Convention Organization



▲ Shogu (main sanctuary), Geku  
(C) Ise-shima Tourism & Convention Organization



▲ Selective logging in the Jingu Forest  
(C) Jingu-shicho

**[Access]**

- 🚶 5 minutes walk from the JR Line/ Kintetsu Line Ise-shi Station
- 🚶 5 minutes from the Ise-nishi IC (Naiku)
- 🚌 10 minutes bus ride from the Kintetsu Line Ujijamada Station/ 6 minutes bus ride from the Kintetsu Line Isuzugawa Station/ 10 minutes bus ride from "Geku"
- 🚌 5 minutes from Ise-nishi IC/ 10 minutes from the "Geku"

## Ise Jingu

Ise Jingu, officially known as "Jingu," is the most important *jinja* (Shinto shrine) complex in Japan. It was originally built over 2,000 years ago for the imperial court to honor the sun deity Amaterasu-Omikami. Over time, Ise Jingu gained wide recognition as Japan's spiritual heart. In the eighteenth century, there were years when over four million people made pilgrimages to Ise.

Ise Jingu is composed of 125 *jinja*, centered around the Naiku and Geku. These are dedicated to Amaterasu-Omikami and Toyouke-no-Omikami (the deities of food, clothing, and shelter) respectively. The deities symbolize nature's blessings. People acknowledge these blessings not only in ancient rituals giving thanks for harvests but also through conservation efforts. A 200-year cypress-planting project was introduced in Ise Jingu's own forests in 1923.

The nutrients from this forest are carried by the Isuzugawa River, enriching farmlands and eventually the sea. This nourishes Ise-Shima's rice paddies, vegetable plots, and plentiful marine life. Visitors to Ise Jingu also experience nature's blessings when ritually purifying themselves by washing their hands in the Isuzugawa River's clear waters.



▲ Naiku

▲ Geku



▲ Diving Ama (C)Toba City



▲ Serving abalones to the deity (C)Toba City



▲ Ama divers above the ocean

## Ama (Female Diver)

Strong, brave, and dedicated, *ama* are female divers who harvest abalone, seaweed, and shellfish from the ocean floor. *Ama* plunge into the ocean without any breathing apparatus, holding their breath for around a minute.

*Ama* are found only in Japan and Korea. There are records of *ama* in the Ise-Shima area dating from the eighth century. Since that time, they have also played an important role in harvesting pearl oysters. Today, Ise-Shima is home to the largest number of *ama* in Japan. Ise-Shima National Park is the best place to learn about their unique culture and lifestyle.

*Ama* communities have many rules about the amounts and sizes of marine life they can harvest. There are also many restrictions about where and when they can dive. These measures are taken to conserve marine resources and are one more example of the local people living in harmony with nature.

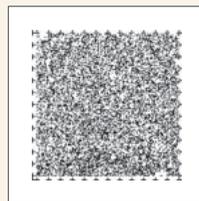
Being an *ama* is dangerous work. Since ancient times, *ama* have prayed to the sea deities for protection. They also paint special symbols on their equipment and white clothing. They believe these star shapes, called *seiman*, and lattice patterns called *doman*, protect them from the dangers of the sea.



◀ Ama divers under the ocean



▲ Protective charm with marks of *Seiman* and *Doman*  
(C) Ise-Shima Tourism & Convention Organization



▲ Karst topography



▲ Kamishima Lighthouse  
(C) Ise-Shima Tourism & Convention Organization



▲ Kantekisho ruin

## Kamishima Island

Kamishima Island is a uniquely-shaped island, located 14km to the northeast of Toba harbor, and renowned for its beautiful scenery. A stroll around the island takes about three hours. There many places to explore, from Kamishima town's picturesque alleyways to the nature trail that winds through Kamishima's forests and around the coast. Along the way, visitors will discover a white-tiled lighthouse and the Kantekisho ruins, the remains of a pre-World War II naval building used for observing shell firing tests.

At Niwanohama, towering karst limestone rock formations stretch to the south. These white rocks provide a dramatic contrast to the island greenery and blue ocean. Visitors may also catch a rare glimpse of two species that visit the island between September and October: the grey-faced buzzard (*Butastur indicus*) and the chestnut tiger butterfly (*Parantica sita nipponica*).

Mishima Yukio (1925–1970), one of the most important Japanese novelists of the twentieth century, used the island as the setting for his 1954 novel *The Sound of Waves*. The novel is a romance between a young fisherman and an *ama* (a female diver). Multiple film adaptations of this book have helped establish Kamishima's image as a romantic spot.

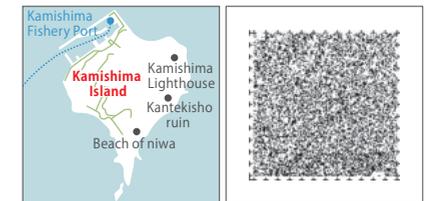


▲ The town of Kamishima Island



▲ Chestnut tiger butterfly

### [Access]





▲ Processing Wakame seaweed at the fishery port (C)Toba City



▲ "Maruhachi" mark (C)Toba City



▲ Alleys on Toshijima Island (C)Toba City

## Toshijima Island

Walking around Toshijima Island and exploring its maze of alleyways gives the visitor a glimpse into the everyday life of this fishing community, including the traditional process of making salted *wakame* seaweed.

The sea has provided Toshijima locals with their livelihood for centuries. Since ancient times, the deity Hachiman has been worshipped by the fishing community. Many houses and boats bear the *maruhachi* symbol—a circle with the Japanese character 八 (eight). The character is pronounced “hachi,” as in Hachiman. The mark is believed to protect fisherfolk from dangers at sea, as well as representing a prayer for plentiful catches. During January’s Hachiman Festival, fishermen repaint each symbol using ink carried from the Hachiman Shrine.

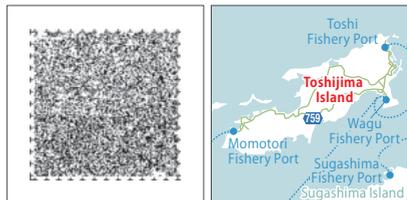
Local warlord Kuki Yoshitaka (1542–1600) launched his navy from here during the unification struggles in the sixteenth century, siding with the Toyotomi Clan. However, Kuki’s son Moritaka (1573–1632) joined the opposing side led by Tokugawa Ieyasu (1542–1616). When Tokugawa defeated Toyotomi, Kuki’s son obtained a pardon for his father from the victor. However, before this news could reach him, Kuki Yoshitaka committed suicide. Legend has it that the blade he used was washed in the pond next to his grave on Toshijima.



▲ Momotori Fishery Port at sunset (C)Toba City



▲ Burial mound for Yoshitaka Kuki's head (C)Toba City



## Sugashima Island

Toba Bay’s second-largest island offers many interesting spots to hike and explore. These include the Shirahige and Benten Shrines, abandoned World War II naval ruins, and the Sugashima Lighthouse. Built in 1873, Sugashima Lighthouse is the oldest surviving Western-style brick lighthouse in Japan. Its squat cylindrical shape and white-painted bricks give it an unusual appearance.

Adventurous hikers can try climbing Oyama, the island’s tallest mountain, in January or February to experience unique scenery. Bright red leaves from the Japanese boxwood (*Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica*) form a thick red carpet on the ground in winter, creating a contrast with the blue sea. This usually evergreen plant is known as *beni-tsuge* in Japanese and its transformation to such a vibrant red color is a rare sight.

Visitors can stay at a Japanese inn and experience local culture firsthand while enjoying the slower-paced island life here. There are also fishing tours, where visitors benefit from local fishermen guides. In addition, Shirongohama has beautiful beaches. During July, it hosts the Shirongo Matsuri - an important festival for the local female divers known as *ama*. Visitors can watch the female divers compete to catch a pair of abalone.



▲ A fishery port on Sugashima Island

▲ Sugashima Lighthouse (C)Ise-Shima Tourism & Convention Organization



▲ Japanese boxwood trees turned in red



▲ Serving abalones to the deity (C)Toba City at the Shirongo Matsuri festival



▼ Shirongo Matsuri festival (C)Toba City



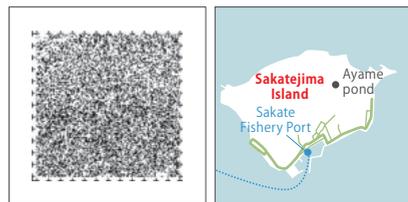


## Sakatejima Island

▲ Iris Pond  
(C) Toba City

Easily reachable via a ten-minute ferry ride from Toba, Sakatejima allows visitors to experience the relaxed pace and beautiful scenery of Ise-Shima's outlying islands in a half-day trip. Toba's closest island is known for its beautiful purple irises (*Iris laevigata*), which bloom from mid-May through to the beginning of summer. Legend has it that Princess Yamatohime-no-Mikoto brought the first iris here from Nara. The princess is said to have established Ise Jingu, the most important *jinja* (Shinto shrine) complex in Japan.

In summer, visitors can also enjoy swimming in the waters of Sakatejima's beaches.



## Food

In Ise-Shima, nutrient-rich waters flow from the mountains to the calm bays and seas. These waters are just one of the elements which enrich the local marine life. Thanks to its fertile waters, Ise-Shima has been famous for its excellent seafood since before the eighth century, a time when the area supplied the kitchens of the imperial household.

Various foods can be enjoyed at different times of year in different areas. In spring, seasonal specialties include red sea bream, *wakame*, and *hijiki* seaweed. Turban shells, abalone, horse mackerel, and conger eels are bountiful in the summer season. In the fall, Japanese spiny lobster, sea bream, and Japanese

Spanish mackerel are at their best. Lobsters, sea cucumbers, blowfish, and seaweeds such as nori are harvested in winter.

There are many local dishes that use these gifts from the sea, such as *tekonezushi* (sushi made from marinated bonito fillets served on rice). Seafood burgers, including Toba's "Toburgers," come in numerous varieties.

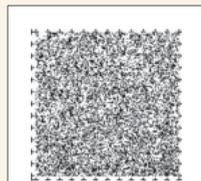
Sweet shops have operated along the pilgrimage route to Ise Jingu, Japan's most important *jinja* (Shinto shrine) complex, for a long time. There are many unique traditional sweets that can only be enjoyed here.



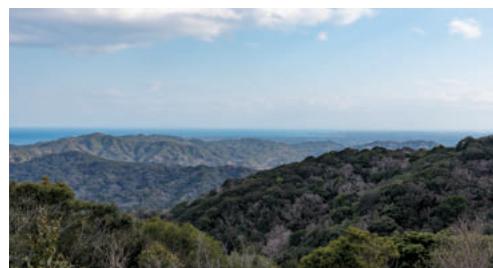
▲ Seafood of Ise-Shima  
(C) Shima-city Tourism Association



▲ Tekone Zushi  
(C) Shima-city Tourism Association



▲ Mt. Aonomine hiking trail



▲ Scenery near the mountain top



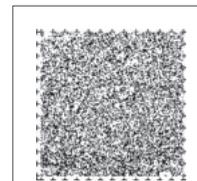
▲ Mifune Matsuri festival at Aonominesan Shofukuji temple  
(C) Toba City



▲ The eleven faced "Kannon" (A type of deity in bodhisattvas)



▼ Aonominesan Shofukuji temple





▲ View of Toba Bay from Shiroyama Park

(C) Toba City



▲ Restored San-no-maru and stone walls  
(C) Toba City



▲ Cherry blossoms at Shiroyama Park



▲ A stone wall of Toba Castle Ruin  
(C) Toba City

## Shiroyama Park

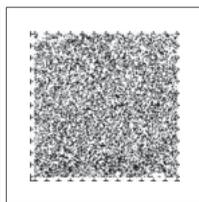
Overlooking Toba Bay, Shiroyama Park is famous for its cherry blossoms in the spring. A mere ten-minute walk from the station, it is an excellent spot to rest in the shade of the cherry trees and enjoy the relaxing view of Toba Harbor framed by the pink blossoms.

Shiroyama Park is located on the old site of Toba Castle. The castle was sea-facing, with a gate opening out onto the bay, and was surrounded by a moat which could be used by boats. Built by local lord and naval commander Kuki Yoshitaka (1542–1600) around 1594, it was controlled by various lords until 1869. Following the 1868 Meiji Restoration (when Japan's feudal period ended), the castle was subsequently abandoned in line with new Meiji government policies in 1871.

Certain elements of the castle structure remain, such as the stone walls. These were designed with gaps for easy drainage. Visitors can still see how the structure would have dominated Toba Bay. Mikimoto Pearl Island, Sakatejima Island, and Toshijima Island can be seen from here.

Shiroyama Park, and nearby Mt. Hiyori and Mt. Hino are collectively called Toba's Three Mountains. Visitors can enjoy views of Toba Bay from each spot.

**[Access]**  
 10 minutes walk from the JR Line/ Kintetsu Line Toba Station  
 15 minutes from Ise IC

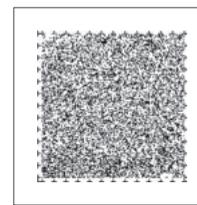


## Mt. Hiyori

A twenty-minute hike through tall, green forests brings you to the summit of Mt. Hiyori. This peak not only offers a panorama of Toba's surrounding islands but also gives visitors an insight into the importance of this outlook at different points in history.

Until the latter half of the 1800s, sailboats would often stop at Toba harbor. While waiting for a favorable wind, members of the ship's crew would climb Mt. Hiyori, where the far-reaching views would allow them to forecast the following day's weather. A stone compass dating from 1822 still remains. There is also a stone carved with a haiku, a seventeen-syllable poem. This text was written by the famous seventeenth-century poet Matsuo Basho (1644–1694). He is considered a master of this style of poetry.

The trail up Mt. Hiyori can be accessed through the Kata Shrine—a ten-minute walk from Toba Station. Local lord Kuki Yoshitaka (1542–1600) visited this shrine before departing on a naval expedition in 1592 as commander of the Toyotomi Clan's fleet. He used cedar trees from the surrounding forest to build his boats. After returning to Toba safely, he planted one thousand cedars in thanks to the deities. Today, only one remains, situated to the left of Kata Shrine's *torii* gate.



▼ Scenery from Mt. Hiyori



**[Access]**  
 15 minutes walk from the JR Line/ Kintetsu Line Toba Station  
 15 minutes from Ise IC



▲ Kata Shrine

(C) Toba City



▲ A stone direction marker on Mt. Hiyori



▲ The view point at the summit of Mt. Hiyori



▲ Stone monument with a "haiku" poem by Matsuo Basho

(C) Toba City





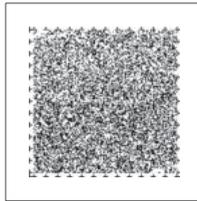
▲ Toba branch of the Sanuki Kotohiragu Shrine

## Mt. Hino

One of Toba's Three Mountains, Mt. Hino's viewpoint overlooks Toba Bay. Below the viewpoint is a branch of the Sanuki Kotohiragu Shrine. The main shrine is in Kagawa Prefecture. The Toba branch is one of six located around the country. These shrines are dedicated to deities associated with safety at sea and serve as important places of worship for those whose livelihoods are connected to the sea. This scenic spot is also very popular for the views of Toba Bay framed by cherry blossoms in spring, and for splashes of vivid red and gold leaves in the fall.

### [Access]

- 🚶 45 minutes walk from the JR Line/ Kintetsu Line Toba Station
- 🚗 20 minutes from Ise IC



▲ The view of Ago Bay from Yokoyama Tenkū Café Terrace

(C) Shima Mediterranean Village, INC.

## Yokoyama Picnic Site

Located in Ise-Shima National Park, Yokoyama's leisurely hiking course allows visitors to experience the area's nature firsthand, as well as admire spectacular views of Ago Bay from five different angles.

Opened in August 2018, the cafe is located at the routes' first scenic spot, Yokoyama Tenkū Café Terrace. The cafe offers drinks and light snacks made using local ingredients. The café building also has a covered rooftop viewpoint, allowing visitors to enjoy the scenery and providing a rest spot on rainy days.

From the café terrace, there is an uninterrupted view of Ago Bay's mosaic coastline and the lush greenery on 60 or so islands. Pearl cultivation rafts float on the waters. The Shima Kanko Hotel, site of the 2016 G7 Summit, is also visible.

Yokoyama Tenkū Café Terrace can be reached easily from the carpark via the wheelchair access ramp. Alternatively, visitors can stroll up the stone steps from the Yokoyama Visitor Center. After enjoying the cafe and terrace, visitors can take in further views of the bay and Shima City from various viewpoints along the trail.



◀ A walking trail in Yokoyama Picnic Site

(C) Shima Mediterranean Village, INC.



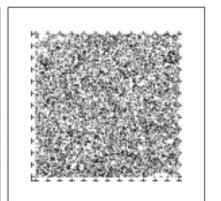
▲ Scenery from Miharashi View Point in Yokoyama Picnic Site



▲ Café in the resting area  
(C) Shima Mediterranean Village, INC.

### [Access]

- 🚶 50 minutes walk from the Kintetsu Line Ugata Station, or 10 minutes taxi ride (around 1,400 yen)
- 🚶 40 minutes walk from the Kintetsu Line Shima-Yokoyama Station
- 🚗 45 minutes from Ise-nishi IC



▲ Scenery from the Toba View Point

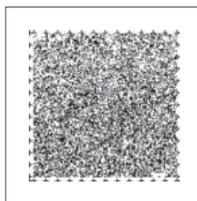
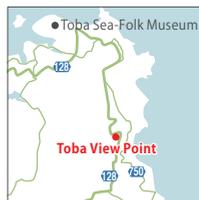
## Toba View Point

Located along the Pearl Road that stretches 23.8km between Shima and Toba, the Toba View Point is a scenic spot. One can view both the Pacific and forests of Ise Jingu, Japan's most important *jinja* (Shinto shrine) complex, from here. The panoramic ocean vista stretches from the Atsumi Peninsula to Daiozaki. There is also a souvenir shop and a restaurant serving local seafood.

As the stars are clearly visible, people also visit this area to view the night sky.

### [Access]

- 🚌 50 minutes bus ride from Toba Station \*Holidays only/ 25 minutes taxi ride from Toba Station
- 🚗 40 minutes from Ise IC



# Kashikojima Island

Accessible by limited express train from Kyoto, Osaka, and Nagoya, the town around Kashikojima Station has an old-world atmosphere. Kashikojima is the largest island in Ago Bay, a center of pearl cultivation. The numerous pearl shops are testimony to the close link between Kashikojima and this industry. Further evidence can be found at Maruyama Park, where there is a monument to Japan's three pioneers of pearl cultivation, as well as a memorial to the oysters that have been sacrificed for their pearls.

Various boat tours can be taken from the town's ferry terminal. The larger boats often stop at a pearl factory, where visitors can observe the delicate process of implanting irritants into the shells to stimulate the formation of cultivated pearls. The smaller boats allow visitors a different experience, offering a close examination of the pearl culturing rafts and indented coastlines of Ago Bay's smaller islands.

Kashikojima was also chosen as the location for the forty-second G7 Summit in 2016, which was held at the Shima Kanko Hotel. The Ise-Shima Summit Memorial Museum inside Kashikojima Station gives an insight into this historic event. Visitors can try sitting in Prime Minister Abe Shinzo's chair at the actual table used for the eight leaders' discussions.



▲ A bird's-eye view of the island  
(C) Shima-city Tourism Association



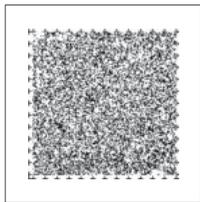
▲ From the cruising ship



▲ The site of G7 2016 Ise-Shima Summit and Kashikojima ohashi bridge  
(C) Shima-city Tourism Association



▲ G7 2016 Ise-Shima Summit  
(C) Shima-city Tourism Association



**[Access]**  
 Get off at the Kintetsu Line Kashikojima Station  
 45 minutes from Ise-nishi IC

▼ Kashikojima ohashi bridge at sunset

(C) Shima-city Tourism Association



# Pearls

Obtained from pearl oysters, natural pearls have been harvested in Ise-Shima for centuries. Natural pearls, once prized as "mermaid's tears", are rare. In the late 1800s, researchers attempted to cultivate pearls. Toba-born Mikimoto Kokichi (1858–1954) succeeded in making hemispherical pearls in 1893 for the first time in the world. The subsequent efforts of Mise Tatsuhei (1880–1924) and Nishikawa Tokichi (1874–1909) led to them also obtaining patents for pearl cultivation methods, leading to the development of spherical pearls. Even before World War II, Ise-Shima's pearls were highly sought after and sold not only in Japan but also in Europe and the United States. Ise-Shima is today home to hundreds of companies involved in the pearl industry.

Cultivated pearls are made by inserting irritants into the oyster shells. Nacre (pearl-forming liquid) is secreted around the irritants. In about one to two years, this develops into a pearl. To cultivate pearls successfully in the shell, great care and skills are necessary. Ise-Shima's sheltered bays and temperate climate offer the perfect conditions for pearl shells.

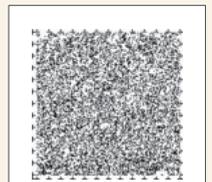
Visitors to Ise-Shima National Park can experience the area's pearl legacy firsthand, either by extracting pearls themselves or by joining a pearl necklace-making workshop.



▲ Inserting a pearl core  
(C) Shima-city Tourism Association



▲ Pearl Cultivation



# Activities

Ise-Shima National Park offers so many activities and unique experiences that there is sure to be something to interest and excite everyone.

Numerous hiking trails wind through the inland forests and mountains, leading visitors to views of the jagged coastline. There are all sorts of water sports on offer. Further out to sea, surfing is popular. Sea kayaking, water balling, and paddle boarding, suitable for a range of ages and abilities, can be enjoyed on the bays' calmer waters. Cycling tours allow visitors another way to experience the beautiful coastlines of Ise-Shima.

Various cruises depart from Kashikojima Island and Toba Bay. Ago Bay's ferries weave around the many small islands, giving travelers up-close views of the

intricate coastline and lush forests.

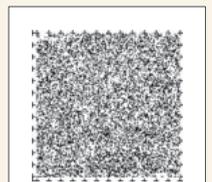
Travelers wishing to experience Ise-Shima's rich cultural history directly can opt to visit an *ama's* hut for lunch. These brave female divers who harvest shells and seaweed have played an important role in Ise-Shima for centuries. Listening to their stories as they cook fresh abalone and other seafood over an open fire is an unforgettable experience. Ise-Shima is also famous for being the birthplace of cultivated pearls. Visitors can try extracting them and making accessories from pearls cultivated here.



▲ Water ball  
(C) Shima-city Tourism Association



▲ Ama hut  
(C) Toba City





▲ Tomoyama at sunset

(C)Shima-city Tourism Association

## Tomoyama Park

Tomoyama Park in Shima is surrounded on three sides by Ago Bay. Unlike other viewpoints such as Yokoyama and Mt. Konpira, the Kirigaki View Point in Tomoyama Park allows visitors a closer view of the bay's jagged coastline and uninhabited forested islands. Visiting this spot on evenings around the spring and fall equinoxes to watch the sunset over the entrance to the bay is highly recommended.

The Kirigaki View Point is in a relatively dry area with only small shrubs, a strong contrast with the dense evergreen trees growing elsewhere on the islands of Ago Bay. It's one example of the variety of landscapes in Ise-Shima.

The park promotes ecotourism, and there are many recreational programs available, including cycling, sea kayaking, hiking, and nature tours. There are also activities for families, and areas for children to play. Additionally, Jiro Rokuro Swimming Beach is nearby, with its white sands. For those who want to try sleeping outside under the myriad stars visible from Ise-Shima, there are campsites and camping equipment rental services.

**【Access】**  
 60 minutes from Ise-nishi IC



▲ Kirigaki View Point

(C)Shima-city Tourism Association

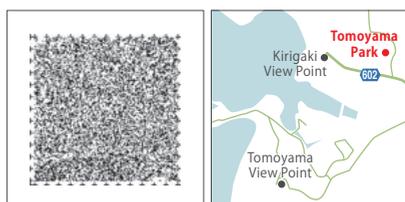


▲ Sea kayaking (Jiro-rokuro beach)



▲ Jiro-rokuro beach

(C)Shima-city Tourism Association



▲ Stone walls of the town



▲ Stone wall of Daijiji temple



▲ Cherry blossoms at Daijiji temple

(C)Ise-shima Tourism & Convention Organization



▲ Nakiri Fishery Port

## Daiozaki Lighthouse

Before the construction of Daiozaki Lighthouse in 1927, sailors feared this jagged, treacherous point on Shima Peninsula's southeast coast. Although extensively renovated in 1978, and equipped in 2004 with a radar to automatically monitor waves, the structure is original. Along with Anorisaki Lighthouse, it is one of only sixteen lighthouses in Japan where visitors can climb to the very top.

Daiozaki is a popular spot to see the first sunrise of the new year. The town of Daio is known as "Artist's Town," as its winding alleyways, jagged coastline, chalk-colored lighthouse, and dramatic views of the sea have attracted artists from all over Japan since the Meiji period (1868–1912). Today, many art students and artists can be seen here during the summer holidays.

The waves and wind are very strong in Daio, and the area has a long history of constructing stone walls to protect the town from the elements. The oldest walls were constructed without the use of cement. Each of the stones was chosen and aligned so as to leave no gaps between them. A good example is the stone wall around Daijiji Temple, a temple known for its hydrangeas and cherry blossoms.



**【Access】**

 The Kintetsu Line Ugata Station

 Ise-nishi IC

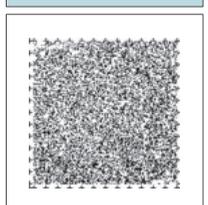
20 minutes bus ride

Daiozaki Lighthouse bus stop

50 minutes

5 minutes walk

Daiozaki Lighthouse





▲ Anorisaki Lighthouse and Mt. Fuji at sunrise



▲ Anori Shrine



▲ Anori blowfish

(C) Shima-city Tourism Association

## Anorisaki Lighthouse

A beacon was first lit at this spot in 1681 to guide the Tokugawa Shogunate's ships as they navigated their way along the coast of Japan carrying rice to Edo (now Tokyo). In 1873, it was replaced by a wooden lighthouse. Designed by British engineer Richard Henry Brunton (1841–1901), this was the first lighthouse in Japan to use the Fresnel lens—a lens that projects light long distances, and is vital for guiding ships. One of these lenses can be examined in detail at Anorisaki's Lighthouse History Museum.

The current concrete lighthouse dates from 1948. In 1998, it was selected as one of the best fifty lighthouses in Japan due to its unusual square shape. Climbing to the top of the lighthouse, one can see a dramatic view of the quiet seas of Matoya Bay on one side and the rough Pacific on the other. Visitors can sometimes view Mt. Fuji from here on a clear winter's day.

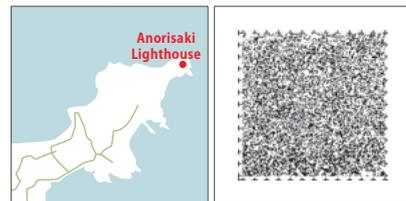
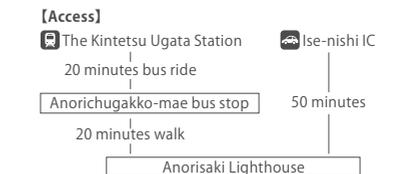
As the midway point between Edo and Osaka, Anori became an area where various cultural aspects merged. Bunraku, Japanese puppet theater, was one such cultural development. The tradition continues in Anori, with annual Bunraku performances at Anori Shrine in mid-September.



▲ Anori Fishery Port



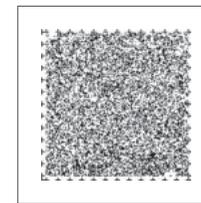
▲ Anori bunraku puppet (C) Shima-city Tourism Association



## Mt. Konpira

A thirty-minute hike along a peaceful, tree-lined trail from Goza Fishing Port leads to the Mt. Konpira View Point situated at about 110m above sea level. The viewpoint showcases a 360-degree panorama of Shima City, Ago Bay, and the Pacific. The Kii Mountains can be seen to the southwest. Mt. Konpira is a serene place to see the first sunrise of the New Year.

Hidden away in the woods, yet easily accessed from the foot of Mt. Konpira, is Tsumekiri Fuduson Temple. *Tsumekiri* are nail clippers in Japanese. Legend has it that the famous monk Kobo Daishi, also known as Kukai (774–835), the founder of the Shingon Sect (one of the major Japanese Buddhist sects) visited this area. Deeply moved, Kobo Daishi carved a stone figure of the Buddhist guardian deity Fudo Myo-o using only his nails. This statue is enshrined at Tsumekiri Fuduson, although hidden from public view. There is also a *nadeishi*, or stroking stone, behind one of the temple buildings, which you can touch and use to make a wish. Local female divers known as *ama* pray for safety at sea here at the beginning and end of the fishing season.



**【Access】**  
 60 minutes from Ise-nishi IC



▲ Scenery from the View Point



▲ Walking trail



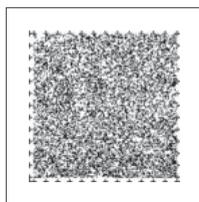
▲ Mt. Konpira View Point

▼ Tsumekiri Fuduson temple





▲ The heart-shaped cove from Mieshima View Point (Kasaragi Pond)



**[Access]**  
 60 minutes from Tamaki IC



## Ugura Picnic Site

Located in Minami-Ise, Ugura Picnic Site has four viewpoints offering different views of the rocky coastline facing the Kumano Sea. The park has gained popularity as a romantic place for couples to visit due to the beautiful heart-shaped inlet that can be seen from the Mieshima View Point. At night the stars are clearly visible, attracting astronomers to this spot.

A beautiful forest of evergreen broad-leaved trees, designated a special protection zone, can also be appreciated from the Mieshima View Point. It is possible to spot a species of house martin from this observation platform throughout the year. This is a rare sight as this house martin is a migratory bird that normally visits Japan only in spring and summer.

Visitors can enjoy a view of Nie Bay and its fishing villages from the park's next scenic spot, Kasaragi View Point. Sea bream farms are visible in the distance —these are rectangular cages on the surface of the bay. A pair of red bridges can be seen from the Akebono View Point. They are a Minami-Ise landmark, known locally as the Oyako Ohashi (parent and child bridges) because while they look similar they are different lengths.



▲ Starry sky at Mieshima View Point  
 (C) Minami Ise Tourist Association



▲ Scenery from Kasaragi View Point



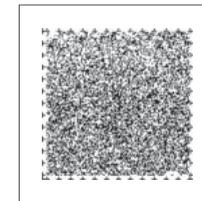
▲ Scenery of a lagoon from the View Point

## Nankai View Point

At 150m above sea level, the Nankai View Point offers panoramic views across Gokasho Bay's lagoon. A causeway crosses the bay, linking both sides. The view over the sea here is so far-reaching that the horizon appears curved.

The viewpoint is accessible from the car park via a ten-minute climb up steps, making it perfectly suited to novice hikers. Various plants, including gardenias (*Gardenia jasminoides*) and cherry trees, bloom along the path to this serene vista.

**[Access]**  
 60 minutes from Tamaki IC



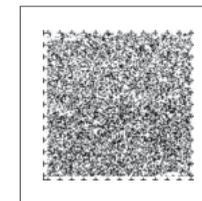
▲ Sunset view from Nakanoiso View Point

## Nakanoiso View Point

Sunsets seen from the viewpoint on the small island of Nakanoiso are spectacular as the sun sinks over the mountains, coloring the inlet orange and turning the sky purple. Nie Bay, with its thick forests, golden beaches, and blue sea, is also visible. Rafts for yellowtail and sea bream farming, and pearl cultivation, float in the calm waters nearby.

Nakanoiso is accessible by crossing the Oyako Ohashi bridges. This pair of red bridges is a landmark in Minami-Ise. In spring, the scenery is a tapestry of verdant greens as the evergreen trees shed their old leaves for new.

**[Access]**  
 50 minutes from Tamaki IC



## Landscape

A wide variety of natural landscapes lie both inland and along the coasts of Ise-Shima National Park.

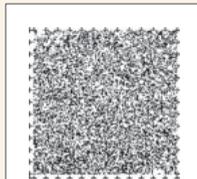
The coastal area of Ise-Shima National Park is notable for its indented ria coasts. These were thought to be formed over a long period of time by various factors, including river valleys that were drowned when sea levels rose after the last glacial period. The calm seas and puzzle-piece shapes of Ago Bay's islands create an aesthetically pleasing, peaceful landscape. On the Pacific side of the Shima Peninsula, erosion from rough waves has created jagged cliffs and terraces. This dramatic scenery can be seen along the coast from Daiozaki Headland to Minami-Ise.



▲ Coast of Minamiise Town



▲ Ago Bay  
(C) Shima-city Tourism Association



Park's inland area is characterized by lush forests and low mountains. These offer many hiking trails to explore, as well as numerous vantage points from which to view the patchwork coastline and seas.

In Ise-Shima, rich nutrients flow from the inland forests to the coastlands and surrounding seas. The warm ocean current also enriches marine life, supporting the local fishing villages. Local aquafarming practices, such as pearl cultivation and tending the rafts floating on Ago Bay, compliment the natural scenery.

## Animals

Ise-Shima National Park's diverse environment of forests, mountains, rocky cliffs, beaches, and bays provide habitats for a wide range of wildlife.

The intertidal zones (shore areas covered by water during high tide) are a habitat for many species that can be seen only at low tide. These include sea anemones, crabs, starfish, sea urchins, various types of shellfish, and sea slugs. Ise-Shima's famous Japanese spiny lobster and abalone hide between the rocks on the foreshore and among the reefs on the ocean floor.

Ise Bay and the beaches along the Pacific coast attract loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) and provide valuable nesting areas for them.

Numerous fish and crustacean-eating seabirds live near the coast. These include the

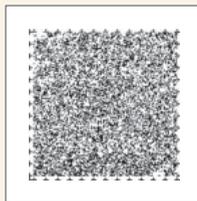
great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), which can be seen all year round, especially around Ise Bay and near large river mouths. They gather in great numbers at these sites. Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) patrol the coast as they hunt for fish, diving when they spot prey.

Rare insects including the four-spot midget (*Mortonagrion hirosei*), a species of damselfly, inhabit the estuaries and tidal flats.

The mountains here are habitats for many animals including deer, wild boar, and Japanese macaque monkeys.



▲ Loggerhead turtle



## Plants

From luscious forests to rugged coastlines, mountains to shallow bays, Ise-Shima National Park is home to a wide range of plant life.

Trees in Ise-Shima's forests and mountains are mostly evergreen. Old-growth vegetation remains in the conserved area of the forest of Ise Jingu, the most important *jinja* (Shinto shrine) in Japan. Here, coniferous trees and evergreen broad-leaved (laurel) trees mingle. The ubame-gashi oak (*Quercus phillyraeoides*) grows in the second-growth forest of Ise-Shima National Park. The timber is used as a raw material for charcoal.

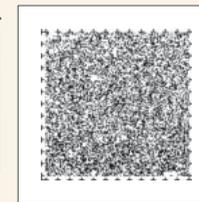
In the early spring, kobanomitsuba tsutsuji (*Rhododendron reticulatum*), a species of azalea, blooms pale purple in a number of areas, including the Yokoyama Picnic Site and Tomoyama Park. In winter, yabutsubaki (*Camellia*



▲ Hamabo  
(*Hibiscus hamabo*)



▲ Seaweed bed formed with Arame  
(*Eisenia arborea*)



*japonia*), one of the commonly seen indigenous plants of Ise-Shima, blooms red on Mt. Konpira.

Unique coastal plants grow in the open sand dunes on beaches such as Shima's Koshirahama and Hironohama. Poison bulb (*Crinum asiaticum*) display thin white flower petals in July and August. In early August, visitors can enjoy hamabo's (*Hibiscus hamabo*) yellow flowers on the shores of Gokasho Bay, Ago Bay, and Matoya Bay.

The seas around Ise-Shima are relatively shallow, providing the perfect environment for various species of seaweed such as *hijiki* (*Sargassum fusiforme*) and agar weed (*Gelidiaceae*).

## Culture

Ise-Shima National Park allows visitors to experience local traditions, customs, and festivals which have a deep connection with nature.

For thousands of years, the sun deity Amaterasu-Omikami has been worshipped in Japan as a symbol of the sun. Sunlight, of course, is essential for life. Ise Jingu, the most important *jinja* (Shinto shrine) complex in the country, lies at the center of this belief.

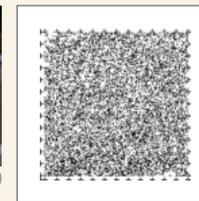
Today, local culture is still characterized by ancient rituals and festivals giving thanks for harvests and catches. These festivals are held in and around Ise Jingu. One of them is Ise Jingu's Kanname-sai festival—the offering of the first rice grown every October. Fishermen and female divers known as *ama* visit shrines and temples



▲ Otaweshiki Festival (Izawa-no-miya)  
(C) Shima-city Tourism Association



▲ Waraji Matsuri festival (Nakiri Shrine, Daio)  
(C) Shima-city Tourism Association



to pray for safety at sea. Ise Jingu's associated *jinja*, Izawa-no-miya, is just one of the places of worship where fishing and agricultural communities can receive this blessing. Lively festivals celebrate people's health and the plentiful harvests.

Around Ise-Shima, visitors may also find many ancient symbols connected to warding off evil spirits and praying for safety at sea. These include *shimenawa* rice straw ropes above the entrances to buildings and the star-and-lattice designs on *ama* divers' clothing and equipment.