

# Sado Island Aikawa Sightseeing Map

Home to the Gold Mines and Sado Okesa.



## Sado Island Gold Mine Area Aikawa Walking Map

### Restaurants in Aikawa

#### Gold Mine+Kiomachi area

- A Kinzanjaya** (Japanese cuisine) ☎ 0259-74-2389  
Hours 10:00 - 15:00. Reservations required for groups of 10+  
Open daily April - October / Closed November - March
- B Soba Yozaemon** (Japanese and Western Cuisine) ☎ 090-7832-5806  
Hours 11:00 - 14:30. Closed Mon. - Fri. (unless a holiday).
- C Gashima Cinema Café** (Movie Theater) ☎ 0259-67-7644  
Hours 9:30 - 17:00. Closed Mon., Tues. & New Year holidays.
- D Kiyomachitei** (Japanese and Western Cuisine) ☎ 0259-67-7538  
Hours 11:30 - 16:00 \*Lunch served until 14:00 Dinner by  
Reservation Only, 18:00 - 22:00. Closed Tue, Wed.
- E Kitazawa Terrace** (Western Cuisine) ☎ 0259-58-7085  
Hours 11:00 - 17:00. \*Closed Wed.  
\*Open from 18:00 for groups of 5 or more with reservation.

#### Haneda+Tenryo Shopping Street area

- F Isonoya** (Japanese cuisine) ☎ 0259-74-2213  
Hours 11:00 - 19:00, Closes at 13:00 on Thurs. Open daily.
- G Gin Sushi** ☎ 0259-74-3911  
Hours 12:00 - 14:00 / 17:00 - 22:00, Closed Mon.
- H Café de Cattleya** ☎ 0259-74-3348  
Hours 8:30 - 21:30, Closes at 18:00 on Sun. Open daily.
- I Itamae no Mise Takeya** (Japanese Cuisine) ☎ 0259-74-3328  
Hours 11:00 - 14:00 / 18:00 - 22:00, Closed for dinner on Sun.
- J Mochidaya** (Japanese and Western Cuisine) ☎ 0259-67-7268  
Hours 11:00 - 14:00 / 18:00 - 21:00, Closed Mon. & Sun. evening.
- K Kappo Nakasho** (Japanese Cuisine) ☎ 0259-74-3901  
Hours 11:00 - 14:00 / 17:30 - 21:00, Closed Sun.
- L Parlor Tsuruya** (Japanese and Western Cuisine) ☎ 0259-74-2495  
Hours 11:30 - 20:00, Closed Mon. (Tue. if Mon. is a holiday)
- M Soba Tomi** (Japanese Cuisine) ☎ 0259-74-2747  
Hours 11:00 - 13:30, 17:00 - 19:00, Closed Sun.

#### Orito-machi area

- N Sushi Hatsu** ☎ 0259-74-0124  
Hours 12:00 - 14:00, 17:00 - 23:00 Closed Sun. \*Open with  
reservation
- O Columbia** (Japanese and Western Cuisine) ☎ 0259-74-4151  
Hours 11:30 - 14:00, 18:00 - 23:00, Closed Wed.

Publisher

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We are committed to sustainability. Sado Island was selected as one of the 100 most sustainable tourist destinations in the world in 2021.

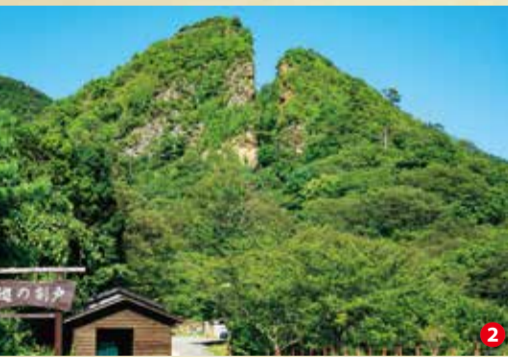
Published March 2024

### 1 Sodayu Tunnel Designated Historic Site

The Sado Gold Mine Sodayu Tunnel, mined by hand in the early Edo period, now showcases animatronics depicting historical mining activities. Explore the 3-meter-high, 2-meter-wide passages where you can see original chisel markings and tanuki-ana (lit. "raccoon dog tunnels"), named as such for their narrow size that would require miners to crawl like a raccoon dog to fit inside.

### 2 Doyu no Warito Designated Historic Site

It is said that in 1601, Watanabe Gihai and two other prospectors discovered a significant gold and silver vein, initiating mining at the Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine. Excavation eventually split the mountain in two, exposing a massive rock face. The site of this open cut, called Doyu no Warito (also known as Aoyagi no Warito), is now an iconic symbol of the Sado Island Gold Mines.



### 3 Graves of the Mushukunin (Unregistered People)

Constructed in 1853, these graves memorialize 28 *mushukunin* (unregistered people) who perished as groundwater drainage laborers in the mines. These men were originally dispatched to Aikawa from Edo, Osaka, Nagasaki and other locations. Each grave bears inscriptions of their names, birthplaces, ages and *kaimyo* (posthumous names given by a Buddhist priest).

### 4 Manshoji Temple Jodo Shinshu School of Buddhism

Manshoji is the most remote temple in Aikawa, situated deep in the forest. The temple's main gate is said to have been used as the back gate of the Magistrate's Office and is built in a simple Edo-style structure. The temple grounds house the tombs of exiles Ooka Gen'emon and his son Genzaburo, and are rare cases of such graves in the Aikawa area. Ooka worked for the shogunate and was exiled to Sado Island in 1651 for renting a tenement to Marubashi Chuya during the Keian Uprising, a failed coup d'état attempt carried out against the Edo shogunate. Marubashi was a ronin (lordless samurai) and master of the yari, a traditional Japanese spear, who plotted to overthrow the Edo Shogunate together with fellow ronin and military scholar Yui Shosetsu.

### 5 Aikawa Daiku-machi

During the early Edo period, this area housed miners employed by the Magistrate's Office. In Aikawa, miners were known as *daiku* (lit. "carpenters"), while house-builders

were called *bansho*. Houses with *kamado* at the entrance (a traditional stove) and Kansai-style *torinawa* (an earthen passageway from the entrance to the back garden) still remain, preserving the town's living conditions as they were hundreds of years ago.

### 6 Chomyoji Temple Jodo Shinshu School of Buddhism Designated Tangible Cultural Property

Built in 1614, Chomyoji Temple is the oldest building to survive several major fires that ravaged Aikawa. The carvings above the transom in the inner sanctuary have a Momoyama period splendor, while the layout of the walls and pillars and the simplicity of the paper sliding doors retain vestiges of the early Edo period.

### 7 Sounji Temple Shingon School of Buddhism

Constructed in 1602, Sounji Temple features a serene appearance with a finely carved medieval *Jizo* as its main worship object. In Japan *Jizo* are bodhisattvas who look over children, travelers and the underworld. Stone Buddhas representing the 88 sacred sites of Shikoku surround the Daishi Hall on the left, while those representing the 33 Kannon of Shikoku are displayed on the right upon entering the hall, each exhibiting impressive expressions.

### 8 Suisenji Temple Nichiren School of Buddhism

Founded in 1624, Suisenji Temple is attributed to mine manager Mikata Tajima Ietsugu. It is said that he built the temple to honor his late father, Ieshige, using cypress wood brought from Oshu. The main hall, dating from the mid-1600's, and the grand Deva gate, constructed during the Genroku period (1688-1703), are highlights of the temple's splendor and magnificence. Notable tombs on the grounds include those of Kashiwabara Zenzaemon, a wealthy Aikawa merchant, Ogawa Kyuzo, a leader in the rice riots at the end of the Meiji period, and figures linked to the famous 47 Ronin (lordless samurai).

### 9 Daifukuji Temple Jodo Shinshu School of Buddhism

This temple was founded in 1612 by the monk Soshun who came from Jogasaki in Tonami County of Echigo Province. It was originally situated at the mouth of the Nigori River. Due to its main object of worship, a distinctive Buddha statue, Daifukuji Temple is thought to be linked to the old Kanto Shinshu School of Buddhism, predating the religious reforms initiated by Rennyo Shinin, head priest of Honganji Temple and descendant of the schools founder, Shinran.

### 10 The Old Aikawa Detention Center National Tangible Cultural Property

The Aikawa Detention Center was built in 1954, in close proximity to the court. As detention centers were usually only established in areas where a court was also located, it was notably uncommon that it continued its operations even after the court was relocated from Aikawa in 1969.

### 11 Renkoji Temple Jodo Shinshu School of Buddhism

This temple was built in 1603 by Tokuryo Shinin, the fourth generation of Ganshoji Temple, who traveled to Sado from Echigo Province. Gold Mine Magistrate Okubo Nagayasu granted Tokuryo a plot of 900 square meters of land to establish the temple. Renkoji Temple subsequently served as liaison temple for the Higashi Honganji Temple Sect on Sado.

### 12 Kyomachi Street

In its heyday, this street thrived amid the prosperity of the Gold Mines. Merchants sourced goods from Kyoto and Osaka, adorning the streets with shops. Rare three-story houses symbolized the era's affluence. Wealthy merchants set up gold and silver exchange shops, strategically placing branches downtown. They also operated cargo ships and extended their services to the shogunate government. The distinctive T-shaped and key-shaped passageways that characterize this neighborhood are remnants of early Edo period urban planning. The area is recognized as a nationally important cultural landscape.

### 13 Sogenji Temple Soto School of Buddhism

Founded in 1619 by feudal lord Ishige Shogen, this temple was the liaison temple of Zen Buddhism on Sado during the Edo period. It is also the resting place of late Edo period magistrates Iizuka Ihei Hidenaga, Sasayama Jobei Kageyoshi, Suzuki Denichiro Masatsune and others. From here, you can get a stunning view of Aikawa Bay and the Kitazawa Flotation Plant.

### 14 Oyamazumi Jinja Designated Tangible Cultural Property

This imperial shrine was built by magistrate Okubo Nagayasu in 1605 to pray for the security and prosperity of the Sado Gold Mine. In 1926, shrine records usually detailed the number of *ujiko* (local clan parishioners) for each shrine. However, Oyamazumi Jinja's records are unique; instead of listing *ujiko*, they document 1,500 *saitaisha* (worshippers) of the shrine. Each July, a unique ritual called *yawaragi* is performed on the shrine precincts to kick off the Gold Mine Festival. Noteworthy are two wooden tablets, recognized as Designated Tangible Cultural Properties by the city - one illustrating the *yawaragi* ritual, and the other depicting a Noh play narrating the tale of the seven deities of good fortune.

### 15 The Graves of Mr. and Mrs. James Scott

In order to modernize the mining industry in the early Meiji era, the government invited 54 foreign engineers to Japan. Seven of these engineers were dispatched to Aikawa, including the Scottish James Scott, who stayed in Japan from 1870 to 1881, contributing greatly to the modernization of the mines. Unfortunately, Scott faced personal tragedy on Sado Island, losing his wife and child during his tenure.

### 16 Tomb of Maruyama Meihoku

Maruyama Meihoku was a scholar and the father of education on Sado Island. In 1836, he went to Edo to study under the Confucian scholar Kameda Ryorai. In 1855, he became a professor at the Aikawa Shuikyokan. After the Shuikyokan was abolished in 1876, he dedicated the next fifty years to teaching his students at home, actively contributing to the education of future generations.

### 17 Daijoji Temple Shingon School of Buddhism

Established in 1612, Daijoji Temple is the family temple of Tachibana Shobei, an early Aikawa rice wholesaler and merchant. It also holds significance as the ancestral residence of Onobu, the mother of the renowned poet Ryokan.

### 18 Former Mizukane Red-Light District

In 1717, eleven brothels were relocated to the Mizukane area. Although none of the buildings remain today, a few vestiges of the original buildings still exist, such as a 2-meter wide stone arch bridge over the Mizukane River and cobblestones at the site of the former red light quarters.

### 19 Honkoji Temple Nichiren School of Buddhism

Said to have been founded in 1506 by monk Honkoin Nichigi Shinon to spread Myoho Buddhism, this temple features a symbolic grave for couples who committed "lovers' suicide." The memorial, constructed in May 1859 by a Mizukane district brothel owner, reflects compassion for the couple who chose to end their lives together.

### 20 Mukadeyama Daigongen

On the outskirts of Shimo-Aikawa and up the mountain from Fukiage, there used to be a Jodo school Buddhist temple there was built in 1600. However, during the Meiji period when there was a movement to abolish Buddhism, it merged with Honenji Temple. Today, a Kannon Hall stands in its place.

### 21 The Grave of Shizume Ichizaemon Designated Historic Site

Shizume Ichizaemon was a magistrate on Sado Island during the peak prosperity of the Gold Mine. He is credited with implementing many good policies, such as a 20% price cut on rice for the townspeople. His family temple was Sogenji Temple, but according to his last will and testament, he had his grave built on the coast, far from the town of Aikawa. The present tomb was rebuilt during the Koka era (1844-1848), and until recently, the "Shizume Festival" was held here in honor of his memory.

### 22 Former Fukiage Coast Stone Quarry Designated Historic Site

This area, also called "Fukiageura", served as a quarry for hard rhyolite stones which were turned into millstones and used to grind ore extracted from the Sado Gold Mine during the Edo period. wedge holes and chisel marks from when the quarry was in operation can still be seen today. Since few quarries of this kind have been confirmed in Japan, it is a valuable historical site and was officially designated as such in 2009.

### 23 Oma Port Designated Historic Site

Oma Port opened soon after the start of mining activities in Aikawa in the early 1600s. A guardhouse was established, and initially, the primary cargo unloaded at the port was rice. In 1885, as Kitazawa developed into a sizable modern ore dressing plant, earth and sand excavated from the site were used in the construction of Oma Port, creating the port's current layout, a distinctive gourd-shaped bay, completed in 1892. The port primarily received coal for the mining industry. However, due to its limited size, docking large ships was a challenge, and small boats were used to shuttle between the port and offshore anchoring locations. The revetment, constructed using the "ataki method" pioneered by Hattori Choshichi, received recognition as a Japanese Civil Engineering Heritage site in 2015.

### 24 Gonjojizaka Slope Designated Historic Site

It is thought that this path was created by officials from the Sado Magistrate's Office so that they could visit Toshugu Shrine, Oyamazumi Jinja, and Hachiman Shrine. Stretching 225.5 meters, it features 138 stone steps, now somewhat overgrown. The slope is named after the temple, Gonjoji, which once stood atop the hill.

### 25 Aikawa Folk Museum Designated Historic Site

Opened in July 1956, this museum is housed in the former Sado Branch Office of the Imperial Property Bureau, signified by the presence of the imperial seal of the chrysanthemum on the roof tiles. The bureau managed imperial properties under the Meiji Constitution. It established a Sado Branch when the Sado Gold Mine came under ownership of the imperial family during the eras of the Tokugawa Shogunate and Meiji government.



### 26 Kitazawa Flotation Plant Designated Historic Site

Constructed in 1938 with the aim of significantly boosting gold production, this mining facility boasted a monthly ore processing capacity of 50,000 tons. The introduction of the flotation method, the most advanced technology at the time, led the mine to achieve the highest annual gold production since the Meiji period. The facility processed not only ores from the tunnels, but also stones from the shore. Today, only the foundation of the facility remains, as the roof and other parts have been removed.



### 27 Sado Magistrate's Office Designated Historic Site

Built in 1603, the Sado Magistrate's Office held a pivotal role, serving not only as a key player in the development of

the Gold Mine in Aikawa and as a political hub, but also as a center for the manufacturing of *koban* (gold coins). Recently restored, this historic building is now open to the public.



### 28 Sado Hangamura Museum Designated Tangible Cultural Property

Built in 1888 initially as a courthouse, this structure now houses a woodblock print collection. Surrounded by a red brick wall, the building still retains its stately appearance.

### 29 Jishoro Bell Tower Designated Historic Site

This historic bell tower has been marking time in Aikawa for nearly 200 years, starting in the early 18th century and spanning to the beginning of the Meiji period. The bell is still tolled by hand at 7am and 6pm from March through September, and at 5pm between October and February.

### 30 Nishizaka Slope Designated Historic Site

This slope was created in 1719 to go around the Magistrate's office. Its gentle incline contrasts in comparison to the steep Nagasaki slope nearby. This path became a popular route, connecting the down town area with the upper part of town. At the junction of the Nishizaka Slope and the Nagasaki Slope, a creek flows under a stone bridge. During the Edo period, this locale once housed a small jail.

### 31 Former Aikawa Tax Office Designated Tangible Cultural Property

Founded in 1889 as a satellite of the Niigata Prefecture Taxation Department, the Aikawa Tax Office has undergone several relocations and name changes over the years. The present structure, erected in 1931 to replace a deteriorating predecessor, showcases a front roof decorated in a gable style, imparting a Western aesthetic to the building.

### 32 Daianji Temple Jodo School of Buddhism Designated Historic Site

Built in 1606 by Sado's first Magistrate, Okubo Nagayasu, this temple boasts a beautiful stone pathway leading up to its

gate, with many graves of magistrate officials on its precincts. Two pagodas within the complex—the Gorin Pagoda (1608) dedicated to former retainer of feudal lord Uesugi Kenshin, Kawamura Hikozaemon, and the Gyakushu Pagoda (1611) built by Okubo Nagayasu—are recognized as national historic sites.

### 33 Stairway to Teramachi Designated Historic Site

This staircase spans about 145 meters, with 246 steps in total. Each step is 2 meters wide, 10 to 20 centimeters high, and 50 centimeters deep, and each are made from three pieces of processed tuff and quartz. At the top of the stairway, you'll find Kannonji Temple, Hondenji Temple, Honenji Temple, Renchoji Temple, and Horiinji Temple.

### 34 Minamizawa Drainage Tunnel Designated Historic Site

Thousands of laborers, equipped solely with chisels and hammers, worked for a period of five years starting in 1691 to excavate this Gold Mine drainage tunnel. Water from the mine shafts still flows through it into the Sea of Japan. Magistrate Ogiwara Shigehide commissioned the construction, with Shirzuo Yeomon serving as the planning surveyor. This valuable historical site stands as a testament to the advanced surveying techniques of the time.

### 35 Myoenji Temple Nichiren School of Buddhism

Founded in 1596 during the peak of the Gold Mine's prosperity, Myoenji Temple once stood with the vast mansion of prospector Mikata Magodayu right behind it. The temple grounds are thoughtfully designed, utilizing both flat land and slopes, creating a spacious environment. A memorial grave for the workers contracted by the mine manager Suzuki Kikuji during the late Meiji period is also located on the precincts.

### 36 Horiinji Temple Nichiren School of Buddhism Designated Tangible Cultural Property

Established in 1604, this temple features a significant stone lantern on the right as you enter through the main gate. Gifted by *mushukunin*, individuals without a family register sent from Edo to work in the mines, this lantern serves as a poignant reminder of the arduous work they did, pumping ground water from the tunnels. The temple also hosts a designated tangible cultural property: a votive tablet depicting scenes of the mine workers.

### 37 Honenji Temple Jodo School of Buddhism

This temple was relocated from Kawaharada to Aikawa in 1606. Upon entering the temple grounds, a rare large stone Buddha dating back to the early Edo period stands to the right. Additionally, the site boasts the five-story pagoda of magistrate Itami Yasukatsu, along with the tombs of magistrate Okuma Zentaro and late-Edo period scholars Tanaka Kien and Kurata Shigeki.

### 38 Hondenji Temple Nichiren School of Buddhism

This temple was built in 1623 by the wealthy merchant Yamada Kichizaemon. The cemetery features a memorial to Genroku period magistrate Ogiwara Hideshige and the grave of his son, magistrate Ogiwara Genpachiro.

### 39 Shiogama Jinja Designated Tangible Cultural Property

This shrine was originally dedicated to the deity of salt production (*shio* means salt in Japanese), however it now venerates the deity of safe childbirth. The shrine's annual festival is held on May 15, featuring *kagura* (Shinto music and dance), and other rituals. Notably, the shrine's Aikawa Ondo votive tablet is recognized as a designated tangible cultural property.

### 40 Kotohira Jinja

This shrine moved from the current Kanaei area to Aikawa in 1640. During the Gold Mine's decline in 1675, shrine petitioner Gorozaeon prayed at Kotohira Jinja. Subsequently, a significant new vein of gold was discovered, and Gorozaeon rebuilt the shrine in celebration. Sailors also frequented the shrine to worship the deity of safe navigation.

### 41 Futatsuiwa Daimyojin

Futatsuiwa Daimyojin enshrines Danzaburo, the great leader of Sado's raccoon dogs known as *mujina* in the local dialect. Worshipping this deity is believed to bring blessings to your life. Whenever a worshipper's wish came true, a dedicated torii gate inscribed with their name was placed along the path leading to the shrine.

### 42 Grave of the Christian Martyrs (Nakayama Pass)

Located along the Nakayama Highway, this grave site is established as a holy place of Christian martyrdom, and holds significant importance for Sado Island's Catholic Church.

### 43 Nakayama Highway Designated Historic Site

During the Keicho and Genna periods (1596-1624) when the Sado Gold Mine was at the height of its prosperity, travelers made their way to Aikawa using a mountain trail. However, as the downtown area around the magistrate's office thrived in the 1640's, there was a rising need for a more accessible route, and the Nakayama Highway was established.

### 44 Uto Jinja Designated Intangible Cultural Heritage

As the main shrine among Aikawa's seven regional shrines, Uto Jinja has long been protected by the magistrate's office. It holds one of the largest local festivals on the island, a shrine festival held annually on October 19, where various rituals like a portable shrine procession and Mamemaki-Onidaiko are performed. These traditional festivities are designated as intangible cultural heritages.

### 45 Kannonji Temple Shingon School of Buddhism Designated Tangible Cultural Property

The exact founding date of this temple remains unknown, though we know it served as the family temple of Ogura Dainagon, the chief councillor of state during the Heian period, and his son, both exiled to Sado in 1681. The temple is home to a designated tangible cultural property, a standing bronze statue of a Bodhisattva.



# Exploring Aikawa

Explore Aikawa's abundant natural beauty, shaped by volcanic activity long ago.

Discover its unique townscape, which flourished during the gold rush.

Tour the numerous places that weave the tapestry of its rich history.

Let this map be your guide to discovering all the fascinating places around Aikawa, while immersing yourself in its diverse history and culture!



Oma Port (Explanation ① on reverse)

**Driving time to Aikawa**  
 Ryotsu Port → Aikawa Town  
 About 50 min (25km)

**Driving time to Aikawa**  
 Ogi Port → Aikawa Town  
 About 70 min (38km)

One of Japan's 100 most beautiful coastlines!

## 1 Ryuginji Temple Designated Important Cultural Property

While the temple's origins remain a mystery, the historical record of temples and shrines on Sado indicates it was rebuilt in 1575. The temple's principal image is a standing gilt bronze Kannon statue, reputed to have belonged to Empress Juntoku. Designated as an important cultural property, this statue originated in Japan during the mid-8th century, bearing influences from the Tang Dynasty in China.

## 2 Hachifusa Plum Tree

This tree is located in an area called Futami (lit. 'see twice'), which is said to have derived its name from Emperor Juntoku. Exiled to Sado Island in 1221 for his involvement in an attempt to overthrow the shogunate during the Jokyu Rebellion, Juntoku visited here and was treated so warmly by the villagers that he expressed a desire to return and 'see the area twice.' Legend has it that the villagers gifted Juntoku a onigiri (rice ball), and he planted the plum seed that was inside, which eventually grew into the Hachifusa Plum Tree.

## 3 Daigahana Kofun Designated Historic Site

The Daigahana Kofun (burial mound) is estimated to have been built during the late 7th century, but all the ceiling stones are now missing, and part of the back wall was lost to theft during the Meiji period. The burial mound was built using the stone chamber construction method with a triangular lift-off ceiling and is built in the same style as the Korean Goguryeo mounds, making it the only one of this kind in Niigata prefecture. It was designated as a historic site in 1973.

## 4 Kitano Jinja Designated Intangible Cultural Property

According to legend, the spirit of Heian period aristocrat Sugawara Michizane rose from the sea in front of this shrine. It is a place of worship for the deity of maritime safety and abundant catches at sea. The shrine holds an annual festival on August 25, featuring a vibrant procession of a portable shrine, drumming, and shishimai (lion dance) performances. Recognizing its cultural significance, Sado City designated this festival as an intangible cultural property in 1974.

## 5 Jofukuji Temple Shingon School of Buddhism

Situated on the picturesque Nagate-Misaki Cape, this temple boasts the Sea of Japan as its scenic garden and offers a panoramic vista of Mount Kinpoku. In 1803, Ino Tadataka, who surveyed Sado Island, stayed at this temple. According to legend, during the construction of the temple, when lumber was needed to build the temple, a shipwrecked boat loaded with lumber washed ashore, which everyone took as a god-sent blessing.

## 6 Hamahata Cave Designated Historic Site

Located 40 meters off the coast, this sea cave was formed by wind and wave erosion acting on a base of green tuff. Excavations in 1968 and 1969 unearthed Yayoi earthenware, oracle bones, and other artifacts, dating the cave to the Yayoi and Kofun periods.

**Legend:**  
 Nature trail, Public toilet, Beach, Campsite, Gas station, Historic site, Jinja, Temple, Lighthouse, Onsen

**Key Locations:** Soto-kaifu Coast, Aikawa Area, Aikawa Town, Ryotsu Port, Ogi Port, Senkakuwan Bay, Aikawa Gold Mine Sites, Mt. Kinpoku (1,172m), Osado Nature Trail, Osado Mountain Range Traverse Route, Osado Skyline.

**Numbered Points of Interest:** 1 Ryuginji Temple, 2 Hachifusa Plum Tree, 3 Daigahana Kofun, 4 Kitano Jinja, 5 Jofukuji Temple, 6 Hamahata Cave, 7 Ohira Jinja, 8 Kasugasaki, 9 Ogawa Battery Site, 10 Nurebotoke, 11 Mearai Jizo, 12 Himezu, 13 Senkakuwan Bay, 14 Taizoji Temple, 15 Kumano Jinja, 16 Tojigawa Daini Power Plant, 17 Wave Erosion Potholes, 18 Anjuzuka • Dattanzuka, 19 Katabe • Kanoura Coast Stone Quarry, 20 Monument to Kinoshita Junji's 'Twilight Crane', 21 Goreichi Jinja, 22 Ishina Selsuiji Temple, 23 Iwayuri Lilies, 24 Osugi Jinja, 25 Iwayaguchi Magaibutsu, 26 Osado Ishina Natural Cedar Forest.

# Aikawa Walking Tours

Explore historic sites around Aikawa Town and the Gold Mine

Discover Aikawa, a town that prospered thanks to the Sado Gold Mine, and where a wealth of historical sites still remain. Follow our local guides who will lead you to hidden gems not found in the guidebooks. Learn old stories and local legends that will give you a first-hand insight into the town's history.



Explore Aikawa with a personal guide – home to the Gold Mines and Sado's Folk Dance, Okesa.

## 1 One Hour Walking Tours

A Kitazawa Flotation Plant Area	B Sado Magistrate's Office Area	C Shitamachi Area
1 Kitazawa Parking Lot	1 Sado Magistrate's Office	1 Kirarium Sado ★
2 Kitazawa Pottery Studio	2 Sado Hangamura Museum	2 Matsubae Residence
3 Thermal Power Station, Flotation Plant Ruins, Incline Ruins	3 Nagasaka-machi	3 Former Murata Bunzo Residence
4 River Management Pathway	4 Jishoro Bell Tower	4 Kotohira Jinja
5 Thickener	5 Aizu-machi	5 Daianji Temple
6 Former Factory Complex	6 Kyomachi Street	6 Ito Sekisui Pottery Studio
7 Aikawa Traditional Skills Museum	7 Masuda Takashi Monument	7 Kirarium Sado ★
8 Aikawa Folk Museum ★	8 Sado Magistrate's Office	
9 Kitazawa Parking Lot		

If time allows, optional detour to Gonjoji Pottery Kiln and/or Daijoji Temple

★ Starred facilities require entry fees. The guide will provide explanations from outside. Walking routes may feature slopes and stairs. Exercise caution in places with uneven footing.

See reverse for more information on Aikawa and the Gold Mine

## 2 Two Hour Walking Tours

A Kyomachi Area	B Teramachi Area	C Gold Mine Area
1 Sado Gold Mine 3rd Parking Lot	1 Sado Gold Mine 3rd Parking Lot	1 Sado Gold Mine 3rd Parking Lot
2 Graves of the Mushukunin (Unregistered People)	2 Daiku-machi	2 Manshoji Temple
3 Daiku-machi	3 Chomyoji Temple	3 Graves of the Mushukunin (Unregistered People)
4 Kyomachi Street	4 Myoenji Temple	4 Daiku-machi
5 Sado Magistrate's Office ★	5 Honenji Temple	5 Kyomachi Street
	6 Hondenji Temple	6 Jishoro Bell Tower
	7 Daianji Temple	7 Sado Hangamura Museum ★
	8 Kirarium Sado ★	8 Sado Magistrate's Office ★

Up to 23 tour participants per guide

**Reservations Required**  
 (Must be made at least one week prior to the tour.)

● Booking and Inquiries  
**Sado Aikawa Tour Guide Office**  
 TEL (0259) 74-2220 FAX (0259) 74-3321  
 E-mail aikawa@visitsado.com

## 7 Ohira Jinja Designated Natural Monument

Legend says that the deity worshipped at Ohira Jinja was born on the seashore as the heavenly child of a sea goddess. Many believe this divine entity to be the god of safe childbirth. The forest surrounding the shrine is the largest bay tree forest on the island, extending 300 meters to the vicinity of Anyoji Temple in the center of the village. This forest was designated as a natural monument by the city in 1974.

## 8 Kasugasaki

Kasugasaki, situated at the tip of Kabuse village, is a marine terrace that offers a sweeping panorama of the city, including the scenic Doyu no Warito. The Kasugasaki Lighthouse was established on the cape in 1628 for the safety of ships passing by offshore.



## 9 Ogawa Battery Site Designated Historic Site

In 1804, Russia dispatched ships to the Sea of Japan as part of its policy of southward expansion. In response, the Sado Magistrate's Office built forts at various locations on the island to monitor the movements of the ships and protect the coast. The site of the former Ogawa Battery is one of the rare places where we can still see the earthen remnants of one of these forts clearly, providing a glimpse into history, along with a breathtaking panoramic view of the Sea of Japan.

## 10 Nurebotoke

Nurebotoke, a seated statue of Amida Buddha, has an intriguing origin story. According to legend, a vessel carrying 12 Buddha statues shipwrecked off the Ogawa coast and one of the statues fell into the sea. The Buddha statue manifested in someone's dream, entreating, "I rest on the nearby shore; enshrine me at 'Tamonin Temple.' Moved by this divine message, the individual carried the sacred statue to the temple. However, due to the raccoon dogs on the temple grounds, the statue was later relocated to its present location.



## 11 Mearai Jizo

These Jizo statues are located in Taasha village, which is associated with the legends of Anju and Zushio. The name 'Taasha,' meaning 'in good health,' derives from a story where Zushio and his mother were reunited and rejoiced in each other being in good health. The mother was blind, but when she washed her eyes at the spring near these statues, her sight was miraculously restored, inspiring the name 'Mearai Jizo,' meaning eye-washing Bodhisattva.

## 12 Himezu

Himezu is a fishing village that was created after the discovery of the Gold Mine. In order to provide protein-rich fish to the booming population in Aikawa, magistrate Okubo Nagayasu brought fishermen from Iwami Province (present Shimane Prefecture) and had them learn longline fishing methods. Consequently, many people in Himezu have the family name Iwami.



## 13 Senkakuwan Bay Designated Scenic Spot

In 1933, Dr. Wakimizu Tetsugoro, a national monument examiner, named Senkakuwan Bay, likening its beauty to Norway's renowned Hardanger Fjord. The cliffs, formed by undersea volcanic activity, rise 30 meters above the sea and have been shaped by millennia of monsoon waves. Glass-bottom boat rides are available outside winter for close-up experience. Senkakuwan Bay gained fame in 1953 as the setting for the movie 'Kimi no na wa.' Designated a marine park in 1971, it was recognized as one of Japan's top 100 coastlines in 1996, and is a key attraction in Sado's Geopark.

## 17 Wave Erosion Potholes Designated Natural Monument

The wave erosion potholes at Hiranezaki are a rare occurrence in Japan, formed by the phenomenon of bedrock erosion caused by waves. This spot was designated as a natural monument in 1940.

## 18 Anjuzuka • Dattanzuka

Anjuzuka is a memorial mound believed to be the resting place of the legendary Anju, though unconfirmed. Adjacent is Dattanzuka, a grave built by the villagers to memorialize the Tatar people who washed ashore and died here. 'Dattan' is the Chinese-character name for the Tatars.

## 19 Katabe • Kanoura Coast Stone Quarry

This Edo-Period stone quarry is situated around 12 kilometers north of downtown Aikawa, on Sado's west coast between Katabe and Kanoura. This quarry was established to supply millstones for grinding ores to the Gold Mine. Granite conglomerate extracted here was transported by ship to down town Aikawa, where it was processed into bedstones (the fixed lower member of a pair of millstones). Numerous wedge holes and other tool markings still remain today, leading to its designation as a National Historic Site as part of the Sado Gold and Silver Mines on January 24, 2012.

## 15 Kumano Jinja Designated Intangible Cultural Property

Kumano Jinja is known for a martial art called *Shinto Shiraha* that is performed at its shrine festival annually on October 19th. Originating from the teachings of monk Taikobo from Senbusudo Temple, the martial art evolved into the form we see today after villagers integrated it with movements from *Onidaiko*, a traditional masked deity drum dance. It is designated as an intangible cultural property by Sado City.

## 16 Tojigawa Daini Power Plant Designated Historic Site

This hydroelectric power plant was built to supply electricity to the Gold Mine. The first Tojigawa Power Plant, Tojigawa Daichi, began transmission in 1915. The second, Tojigawa Daini, began transmission in 1919 and operated until 1977. The existing Tojigawa Daini Power Plant was designated a National Historic Site as part of the Sado Gold and Silver Mines on October 7, 2015.



## 21 Goreichi Jinja Designated Intangible Cultural Heritage

Goreichi Jinja in Kita-Tanoura is a *chinjusha*, a Shinto shrine dedicated to a guardian deity. It is said that villagers learned the 'Hanagasa Odori' (flower hat dance) and the 'Shishimai' (lion dance), featured in the annual shrine festival, from visitors to the village about 350 years ago. The festival was traditionally celebrated on the evening of the 20th through the following day, the 21st of July in the old Japanese lunisolar calendar. It is now held from the evening of April 14th through the following day.

## 22 Ishina Seisuiji Temple Shingon School of Buddhism Designated Natural Monument

It is said that the large ginkgo trees in front of the main hall of Ishina Seisuiji Temple, designated as a natural monument, were planted by Kannon, the Deity of Mercy, and grew extraordinarily quickly.

## 23 Ohata Jinja Designated Intangible Cultural Heritage

The shrine holds a festival on April 11 each year, featuring various ceremonial activities such as yabusame (horseback archery) on the coast, naginata (long sword fighting), and bean-tossing. These ritual celebrations have been officially recognized as intangible cultural properties by the city.

## 24 Osugi Jinja (Sabuto Daimyojin)

Osugi Jinja enshrines a *mujina*, or raccoon dog deity, named Seki no Sabuto, who is said to be one of the four mujina kings alongside Futatsuiwa's Danzaburo. Osugi refers to a girl named O-sugi who accidentally got buried alive by a landslide nearby Seki Village.

## 25 Iwayaguchi Magaibutsu

Two caves overlook the sea in Iwayaguchi Village, each featuring two *magaibutsu*, or Buddha figures carved directly into the rock face of the caves. Next to one of the Buddha, an additional 'Namu Amida Butsu' prayer, the signature of the Edo period monk Jogan, and the shape of a seal are also carved into the rock. The inscription of the Buddha's name on the rock wall above the cave entrance is attributed to Monk Tanzei Shorin, who arrived on Sado in 1590 after achieving enlightenment through meditation at Mt. Dantoku.

## 26 Osado Ishina Natural Cedar Forest

As the Osado Ishina Natural Cedar Forest is located about 900 meters above sea level near the ridge of the Osado Mountain Range, the area is prone to clouds and fog throughout the year, and during the winter months, there is a lot of snowfall and strong monsoon winds, making it a very harsh environment for the cedar trees to grow normally. As a result, many uniquely shaped cedars remain, some of them are said to be over 300 years old. The boardwalk is open to visitors between late May and mid-November.

