

SADO ISLAND  
LOCAL GUIDE

# OGI

Discover a Historic Port Town.

Ogi Area

SADO  
ISLAND



# OGI

## Uncover the History Hidden in the Houses and Streets of Ogi

Since the ancient Edo period, the riches of Sado Gold and Silver Mountain and the famous Kitamaebune merchant ships of Shukunegi have sailed to the world from the safe harbor of Ogi Town. The town has a long history of welcoming visitors from off-island, a tradition reflected in architectural anomalies such as the unique omote-gamae, the second floor that projects above the first floor to provide a larger welcoming space for visiting travelers. The town itself is laid out in narrow strips of land between the two main streets, Honmachi Dori and Hamamachi Dori, both of which run parallel to the coast. Before the Ogi earthquake of 1802, part of Hamamachi Dori was a Venice-like waterway called the Shamisen Canal. Evidence of the canal's existence remains today, leading to the area's designation by the Japanese government in 2024 as an Important Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings.

A Closer Look!



Second Floor Sticking Out over the Street

A Closer Look!



Machiya Townhouses along Honmachi-dori Street



### MAP 01 **Kassai** FOOD

This izakaya bar and restaurant has long been a local favorite in Ogi. They offer a wide menu of seafood dishes like their fresh seafood bowl (pictured; lunch only), as well as grilled meat dishes, pork cutlet bowls, and even gyoza dumplings. The owner's friendly hospitality and endearing Sado dialect make this a popular stop for visitors, too.

🕒 Hours: 12:00 to 14:00 and 17:00 to 20:00 (last order at 21:00)  
Closed 1st and 3rd Sun. of the month  
☎️ 0259-86-2124



### MAP 02 **Tochiman** SHOPPING

Enjoy taiyaki (fish-shaped treats) freshly made with a batter featuring 100% brown rice flour from Sado for a crispy outside and a chewy inside, and filled with plenty of sweet bean paste. Or, instead of the usual filling, choose from a variety of unique savory options, like ham and cheese!

🕒 Hours: 10:00 to 17:00 • Open 7 days a week ☎️ 080-5476-9397



### MAP 03 **Kihachiya Goro Café** FOOD

This building, now a Nationally Registered Tangible Cultural Property, was once the Kihachiya Ryokan, a five-story wooden inn built over a century ago. The cafe's signature item is coffee, roasted by the owner using a hand-cranked roaster, which goes well with bread from popular Sado Island bakeries or French toast made with Sado butter. Visitors can also tour the building.

🕒 Hours: 10:30 to 17:00 • Closed Mon. & Tue.  
☎️ 090-1031-7835



### MAP 05 **Origine** FOOD

This is a French restaurant run by Chef Kaoru Ito, who moved to Sado after falling in love with the island's natural abundance and the excellent local ingredients. The restaurant has only six counter seats, allowing guests to enjoy multi-course meals made with vegetables grown in the chef's own garden. Breakfast is also served on weekdays.

🕒 Hours: 7:30 to 11:00 (last order at 10:00; opens at 8:00 Jan. through Mar.) and 18:00 to 22:00 (last order at 21:00; open only for dinner Tue. through Thu.)  
Open 7 days a week  
☎️ 080-2115-9996

### MAP 04 **Kisaki Shrine** SHRINE

Kisaki Shrine was built in 1609 by Okubo Nagayasu, the first magistrate to rule Sado, as a prayer for the prosperity of the gold and silver mines and for the safe transportation of these precious metals. This shrine also served as a place to store gold and silver brought from Aikawa. Inside the front hall, there are many wooden Ema panels with ship motifs, as one would expect from a shrine in a port city. The inner shrine building is a Prefectural Designated Tangible Cultural Property.

🕒 Hours: Open 24 hours a day  
Open 7 days a week  
☎️ 0259-86-3575

There are plenty of other restaurants to visit, too! Check the Minami Sado area of the "Eat" section of the Sado Tourism Navi website. 📍



## Wander Maze-like Streets of a Wooden Wonderland

Four kilometers southwest of Ogi Town is a small town carved into the mountain: Shukunegi. This is a dense network of about 100 traditional houses built by families who owned cargo ships, sailors, and shipbuilders. From the mid-Edo period until the early 20th century, Shukunegi's Kitamaebune or Sengokubune cargo ships carried rice, gold, and other important goods from halfway around the main island of Japan. The town thrived on trade and supported all kinds of specialists, from blacksmiths to bucket makers. Today, the tiny town is a maze of houses of all shapes and sizes along stone streets called koji that open to the sea. Wooden walls of repurposed planks and nails, and roofs of wooden slats topped with stones, create a time-traveling townscape that has led to Shukunegi being recognized by the Japanese government as an Important Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings. Three houses are open to the public for a fee, allowing visitors to understand how deeply Shukunegi's history is tied to traditional Sengokubune cargo ships.

### MAP 06 Seikuro (Old Private House Open as Museum)

This is the former residence of a shipowner who amassed his fortune in the early 20th century. The house is believed to have been built in the mid-19th century using the finest materials and techniques available at the time, including lacquered zelkova wood doors and whole sugi cedar panels. The spaciousness of the living room also suggests a luxurious lifestyle.



Hours: 9:00 to 16:00 Apr. to mid Nov. (contact in advance), 9:00 to 17:00 late Jul. to late Aug.  
 Closed weekdays Apr. to mid Nov. (open for national holidays), but open 7 days a week late Jul. to late Aug.  
 Admission: Adults ¥400, children 6-14 ¥200  
 0259-86-3852

### MAP 07 Sankakuya (Triangle House)

This house was built in a triangular shape to fit into this tight space. It's an iconic structure in Shukunegi that showcases the wisdom and skill of ship carpenters in making the most of the land. Home to residents until 2006, it is now a museum showing the way of life of the past.



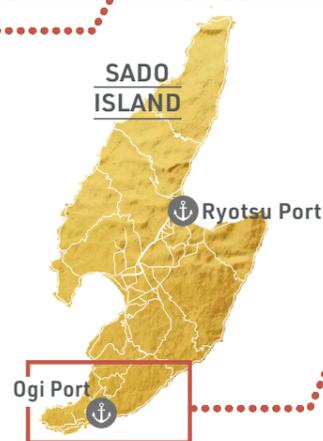
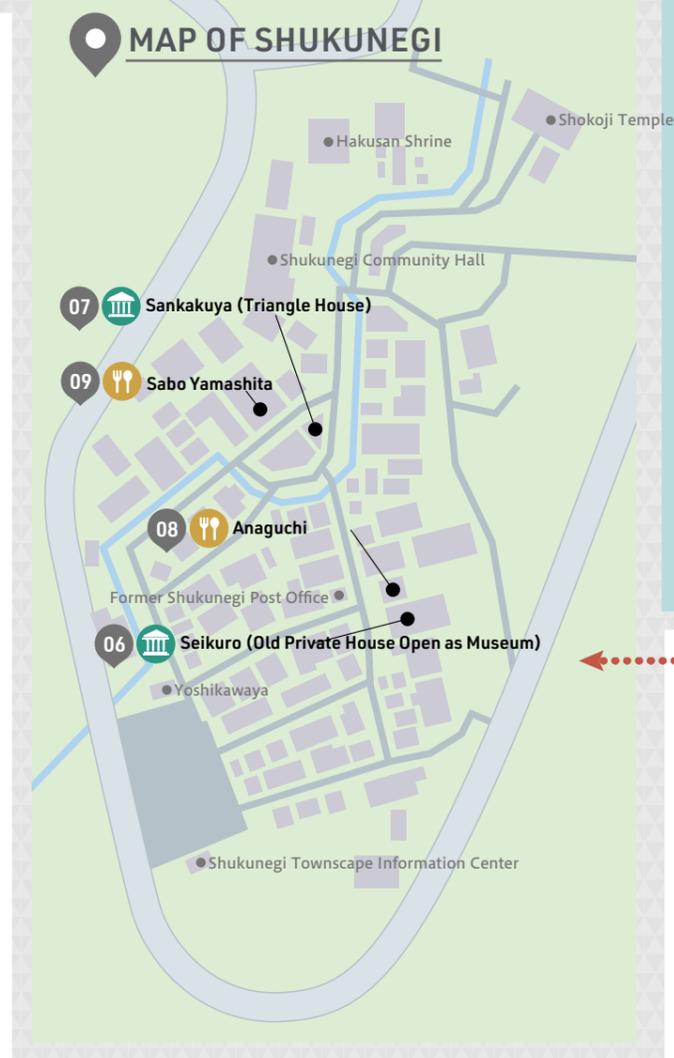
Hours: 9:00 to 16:00 mid Mar. to late Nov. (contact in advance), 9:00 to 17:00 late Jul. to late Aug.  
 Closed weekdays mid Mar. to late Nov. (open for national holidays), but open 7 days a week late Jul. to late Aug.  
 Admission: Adults ¥300, children 6-14 ¥150  
 090-4725-3717 (Mr. Hamada, at the Association for Lovers of Shukunegi)

### MAP 08 Anaguchi

This French restaurant occupies the former home of a shipowner who was among the wealthiest individuals in Sado at the time. Multi-course lunches and dinners are available (reservations required), showcasing the delights of Sado with seasonal local ingredients. In addition to the food and architecture, the garden is worth visiting to appreciate the affluence of bygone days.



Hours: 11:00 to 14:00 (last order) and 17:00 to 19:00 (last order)  
 Closed Sun. to Tue. (open by reservation for groups of 5 or more!)  
 0259-58-7227



### MAP 09 Sabo Yamashita

Originally used for storage by a shipowner, this building still features its thick beams and columns. The large vermilion table is actually an upside-down washtub boat. Relax and take a break from exploring with homemade treats like zenzai, a sweet soup made with azuki beans.



Hours: 10:00 to 16:00 (last order at 15:30; lunch 11:00 to 14:00)  
 Closed Thursdays (and occasionally on other days)  
 0259-86-1212

### MAP 10 Sadokoku Ogi Minzoku Museum (Sado Island's Ogi Folk Museum)

This retro museum, converted from the 1920 wooden schoolhouse of Shukunegi Elementary School, features some 30,000 artifacts. These range from resources related to shipbuilding and fishing on Sado's south coast to everyday goods from the early 20th century. The full-scale replica of the Shukunegi Sengokubune cargo ship, the Hakusanmaru, authentically built from historical blueprints, is also a must-see.



Hours: 8:30 to 17:00 (last admission at 16:30)  
 Closed Dec. 29 to Jan. 3  
 Admission: Adults ¥500, children 6-14 ¥200  
 0259-86-2604

### MAP 11 T&M Bread Delivery Sado Island

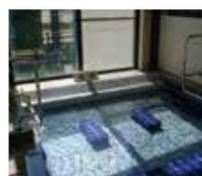
Operated by a couple: an American named Marcus, and his wife Tomoko. Their bread dough is leavened with natural yeast from seasonal flowers and fruits that grow on the island, and their products are made with organic vegetables they grow themselves, and other local produce. Open Fridays and Saturdays only.



Hours: 8:00 to when they sell out  
 Open Fri. and Sat. only  
 090-3064-2880

### MAP 12 Kuaterume Sado

This is the only place on Sado Island that offers baths directly fed by a natural hot spring. The spring water is said to make the skin smooth, and some claim it can help relieve pain and improve sleep quality. The bathing areas feature high ceilings and large glass windows, creating a sense of spaciousness to enjoy along with the various baths.



Hours: 15:00 to 21:00  
 Closed Mon.  
 Admission: Adults ¥550, children ¥300  
 0259-88-3566

### MAP 13 Tagayasudo Donuts

A donut shop located in Osaki, an area full of natural beauty. Every morning, the owner Mr. Yoneyama gets up early to make the donuts. His recipes are simple and old-fashioned, with a mellow sweetness and a rich wheat flavor — great for a quick, casual snack!



Hours: 10:00 to 17:00 (or when they sell out)  
 Closed Tue. and Wed.  
 070-5266-2738

### MAP 14 Hokusetsu Sake Brewery

Established in 1872. This brewery uses traditional techniques, combined with new approaches like musical performances, ultrasonic vibrations, centrifugal separators, and more. Visitors can sample various sakes and buy some to take home, or even tour the brewery (May through October only; reservations required).



Hours: 9:00 to 16:30  
 Open 7 days a week  
 0259-87-3105

### MAP 15 Yakichi-Maru Crab Shop

Here you'll find sellers of red snow crabs caught off the coast of Sado Island. They bring in their catch using their own fishing boat, then cook and sell the crabs the same day. The result is fresh, delicious crab meat packed with a natural sweetness. Their red snow crab served on the half shell, stuffed with both crab meat and crab paste, is especially recommended.



Hours: 8:30 to 16:30  
 Closed Wed.  
 0259-87-3146

There are plenty of other restaurants to visit, too!

Check the Minami Sado area of the "Eat" section of the Sado Tourism Navi website.

# ACTIVITIES

Activities to Enjoy in Ogi

## Washtub Boats

Experience an "Ocean Stroll" in an Ogi Original Taraibune Tub Boat

Taraibune, or tub boats, are boats shaped like wooden washtubs. Invented in the late 19th century, taraibune were created to help fishermen maneuver the narrow and crowded rocky reefs that are typical of the Ogi coast. You can enjoy boat rides from three different locations: Rikiya Kanko Kisen in Ogi Port, Yajima Taiken Koryukan in a cove near Ogi Port overlooking the scenic Yajima and Kyojima islands, and Hangiri in Shukunegi. The Hangiri boat tour even includes a night cruise illuminated by glowing bonfires.



Activity Time About 10 minutes

**MAP 16** **Rikiya Kanko Kisen Washtub Boats**

Meeting Place: Rikiya Kanko Kisen (1935 Ogi-machi, Sado)  
 ¥ Adults 12 and up ¥700, children 4-11 ¥400  
 ☎ 0259-86-3153



Activity Time About 10 minutes

**MAP 17** **Yajima Taiken Koryukan**

Meeting Place: Yajima Taiken Koryukan (365-1 Ogi, Sado)  
 ¥ Adults 12 and up ¥700, children 4-11 ¥400  
 ☎ 0259-86-2992



Activity Time About 15 minutes

**MAP 18** **Shukunegi Hangiri Washtub Boats**

Meeting Place: Shukunegi Coast (393 Shukunegi, Sado)  
 ¥ Adults 12 and up starting at ¥1,000, children 5-11 starting at ¥700  
 Torch-Lit Night Cruise (reservations required):  
 adults 12 and up ¥4,000, children 5-11 ¥3,500  
 ☎ 090-4835-5446



**MAP 20** **Manjojiki**

This is a wide, flat, elevated area eroded by the waves of the sea. On calm days, the surface can be covered with a thin layer of water, creating a mirror-like effect similar to the famous Uyuni salt flat in Bolivia.



**MAP 21** **Sawasakihana Lighthouse**

This lighthouse is located on Sawasakihana, at the tip of the Ogi Peninsula. At over 24 meters, it is the tallest lighthouse in Sado and guides mariners near the southwestern end of the island.



**MAP 22** **Chojaga Bridge**

This bridge offers a spectacular view of a deep inlet in the Fukaura area. The bridge itself has a distinctive V shape, and makes a great place to enjoy the contrast of the surrounding greenery and crystal-clear seawater.



**MAP 23** **Sobama Swimming Beach**

This is the largest beach on the island and is known for its incredibly clear waters. There is also a campground near this long, shallow, sandy beach.



**MAP 24** **Ryuodo Cave**

The largest lava cave on the island, sometimes nicknamed the Blue Cave of Sado. On clear days, when the sun shines just right, the seawater can take on a beautiful blue glow.

## Taiko Drumming

Taiko Drums are Deeply Rooted in Sado's Culture. Come and Play Them Yourself!

Taiko drumming is an essential part of onidaiko, a traditional performing art from Sado. Perhaps the most famous example of Sado taiko drumming is Kodo, a group that performs around the world. At the Sado Island Taiko Centre, you can try your hand at taiko drumming under the guidance of instructors from Kodo. Immerse yourself in the powerful rhythms of the drums, including a demonstration by the instructor using a taiko drum made from a 600-year-old zelkova tree.

Activity Time About 60 minutes

**MAP 19** **Sado Island Taiko Centre (Tatakokan)**

Meeting Place: Sado Island Taiko Centre (150-3 Ogi Kanetashinden, Sado)  
 ¥ Adults 12 and up ¥3,000, children 6-11 ¥2,000 (reservations required)  
 ☎ 0259-86-2320



# EXAMPLE ITINERARIES

Here are some suggestions to get you started.



View on Google Maps

Biking



Yajima Taiken Koryukan



P.5

10 min. (2.7 km)

Ogi Folk Museum



P.3

5 min. (0.2 km)

Anaguchi



P.3

You can also ride washtub boats in Shukunegi (p. 5)

25 min. (4.7 km)

Sawasakihana Lighthouse



P.6

15 min. (1.7 km)

Manjojiki



P.6

25 min. (4.5 km)

Sado Island Taiko Centre



P.5



View on Google Maps

Walking



Rikiya Kanko Kisen Washtub Boats



P.5

10 min. (0.4 km)

Kihachiya Goro Café



P.1

3 min. (0.1 km)

Walk along Honmachi-dori and Hamamachi-dori Streets



P.1

1 min. (0.1 km)

Tochiman



P.2

3 min. (0.3 km)

Kisaki Shrine



P.2

3 min. (0.2 km)

Origine



P.2

# ACCESS

How to get here, and how to get around.



## Bicycle Rentals

Eco-Da-Chari e-bike rentals are available at the Minami Sado Tourist Information Center. Choose from three styles of e-bikes: "sport type" and "sport type mini" cross bikes, or "city type" bikes for a more casual ride.



Bicycle Rental Details

### ■ Sport Type & Sport Type Mini

¥2,000 for first 2 hours, then ¥500 per additional hour

¥4,500 for 24 hours

Additional ¥2,000 to return bikes at a different location (Tourist Centers only)

### ■ City Type

¥1,000 for first 2 hours, then ¥300 per additional hour

¥3,000 for 24 hours



## Local Buses

While there are no trains on Sado Island, there are local buses operated by Niigata Kotsu Sado Co., Ltd. These eleven bus lines connect the island and are a viable option for travelers who want to take their time getting around. It's a good idea to check the bus schedules ahead of time, as you may need to change buses to reach your destination.

(Please note that on weekends and holidays, only the Honsen Line, Minami Line, Ogi Line, Kaifu Line, and Nanaura-Kaigan Line usually operate. All other bus lines require advance reservations by telephone by 5:00 p.m. the day before).



## Niigata Kotsu Sado Local Bus Timetable

Contact: Niigata Kotsu Sado 0259-57-5114

■ Unlimited ride passes for 1, 2, or 3 days also available!

### Bus Lines

- Honsen Line
- Kaifu Line
- Minami Line
- Nanaura-Kaigan Line
- Uchi-Kaifu Line
- Higashi-Kaigan Line
- Ogi Line
- Matsugasaki Line
- Kuninaka-Kanamaru Line
- Maehama Line
- Akodomari Line

### Toward Ryotsu

Ogi

Ogi Line

Mano-Shimmachi

(Transfer)

Minami Line

Ryotsu Port Ferry Terminal

### Toward Aikawa

Ogi

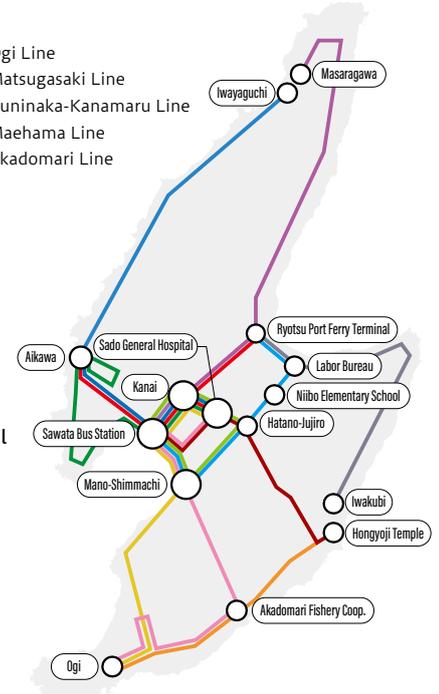
Ogi Line

Sawata Bus Station

(Transfer)

Honsen Line

Aikawa



## Car Rentals and Taxis Also Available

- Sado Kisen Rental Car, Ogi Port ..... ☎0259-27-5195
- Sado Rent-a-Car Ogi ..... ☎0259-86-3010
- Toki Car Rental ..... ☎0259-23-3500
- HS Rent-a-Car ..... ☎0120-66-2170
- JA Rent-a-Car ..... ☎0259-22-3133
- Niigata Kotsu Sado Taxi Department, Hamochi Office ..... ☎0259-88-2101



Scan for more detailed public transit information

