

[Omura Zakura (Omura Cherry Blossom)]

Government-designated Natural Monument * Cherry tree on the front page

The municipal flower of Omura City, Omura Zakura is characterized by its unique double-row petals, which look like two layers of a double-flowered Yaezakura variety. This unique cherry tree generally has 10 sepals (while the ordinary variety has five) and 60 to 200 petals. It is known as one of the excellent satozakura cultivars for its elegance and grace.

The Adventure that is Omura

About 400 years ago, Japan's first Christian daimyo (samurai feudal lord), Omura Sumitada, sent four boys to faraway Europe, together with a grand dream. Thereafter, the town flourished under the reign of the Omura clan as Japan's first community that looked at the outside world. The castle town of Omura is now a city named Omura that has inherited a rich set of cultural and historical assets and relics. It is its cultural and historical affluence that has made the city so unique and original.

<Major Events>

- Nagasaki Kaido Omura Shuku Hina Doll Festival Early March to early April
- Matsubara Shuku Hina Doll Festival Mid-March to early April
- Old Residence of Kusumoto Masataka Omura Hina Doll Festival End of March to early April
- Omura Flower Festival March 25 to June 20
- Shakunage (Rhododendron) Festival Early April to early May
- Nodake New Festival May 3 to 5
- Takematsu Yukata Festival July
- Omura Nagoshi Fireworks Festival (Nagoshi Yoi Festival) August 1
- Omura Nagoshi Main Festival August 2 to 3
- Mt. Hachimaki Higanbana (Spider Lily) Festival End of September
- Omura Castle Town Lantern Festival
– Buke Yashiki (Samurai Residences) in the Long Autumnal Night Early October
- Matsubara Kunchi Mid-November
- Nodake Lake Walk Mid-November
- Farm Festival November
- Omura Autumn Festival November
- Hoyo Festival (Kuromaru Dance) November 28
- Matsubara Shuku Rediscovery Walk Event February
- Nagasaki Kaido Omura Domain Shukuba Festival February 11

● Tourism Promotion Department, Omura City

Kushima 1-25,
Omura City, Nagasaki Prefecture 856-8686
TEL: 0957-53-4111 FAX: 0957-54-7135
<http://www.omuranavi.jp/>
mail: kankou@city.omura.lg.jp

● Omura City Trade and Industry Promotion Association

Higashi-honmachi 1-1,
Omura City, Nagasaki Prefecture 856-0831
TEL&FAX: 0957-54-1061

● Omura City Tourist Convention Association

Kushima 1-45-3
Omura City, Nagasaki Prefecture 856-0834
TEL: 0957-52-3605 FAX: 0957-52-3652

● Omura City

Tourist Information Center
TEL&FAX: 0957-53-6060

*Supported by Airport Environment Improvement Foundation

G U I D E · B O O K

The Adventure that is Omura



Omura, the Town of History and Flowers <Guide Book>

Located in Nagasaki Prefecture,

Omura is a town known for its long history

and beautiful cherry blossoms next to an enchanting sea.



About 400 years ago the first Christian daimyo (feudal lord), Omura Sumitada, dispatched four youths to distant Europe in pursuit of his dream. Since then, Omura has remained proud of its prosperity as the first port open to the outside world. The rich cultural heritage and history have shaped the warm and open personality of the people of Omura.

Castle Town Omura Four Colorful Seasons

Cherry Blossom, Japanese Iris, Rhododendron,
Spider Lily and Many Other Seasonal Flowers Soften the Visitor's Heart

● Cherry Blossoms in Omura Park

Omura Park has been chosen as one of the Top 100 Cherry Blossom Viewing Spots in Japan. The park is covered with pink flowers of some 2,000 cherry trees and the national natural monument Omura Zakura, providing a great joy to visitors from the end of March to the middle of April. Visitors can enjoy the beautiful cherry blossoms even in the night when they are illuminated for the flower festival season from March 25 to June 20.

Omura Park was chosen as one of the Top 100 Historical Parks and Top 100 Cherry Blossom Viewing Spots in Japan.

Nature-rich Omura is busiest with tourists in spring. Omura Park is the harbinger of spring for Omura, the Town of Flowers, when cherry blossoms of about some 2,000 cherry trees and 300,000 Japanese iris flowers on some 100,000 stocks welcome visitors to the park. This park has been chosen as one of the Top 100 Cherry Blossom Viewing Spots in Japan. The government-designated natural monument Omura Zakura, standing in the park, is a must see.



● Japanese Iris

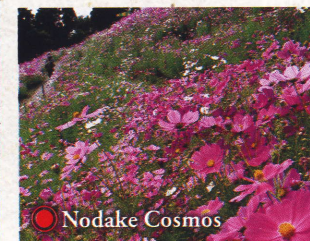
The former moats of Kushima Castle are now filled with 300,000 Japanese iris flowers on some 100,000 stocks of 171 kinds that come into bloom between the end of May and the middle of June. Their gorgeous, elegant and graceful flowers are a great feast for the eyes of the citizens and visitors.

There is a clump of rhododendrons from around the world by the 30-m long waterfall, Urami no taki, a little bit away from the city center of Omura.

The top of Mt. Hachimaki, near Nodake Lake becomes covered with Spider Lilies when the summer heat fades and fall approaches. Coupled with a 360 degree panoramic view, the spider lily-covered mountain is an amazing spectacle for visitors.

● Rhododendron

As you walk along the path that leads from the Urami no taki Natural Flower Park to the plunge basin of the 30 m high waterfall, you can see a colorful mixture of some 5,800 rhododendrons of about 45 kinds from all over the world from early April to early May.

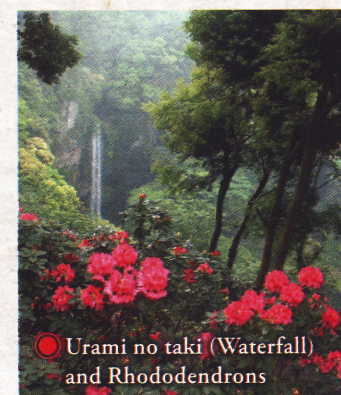


● Nodake Cosmos



● Spider Lily on Mt. Hachimaki

Coupled with a panoramic view from the top, Mt. Hachimaki is decorated with colorful flowers of one million Spider Lilies in colors like red, white and cream, around the end of September. Stalls are set up during the festival to sell local products.



● Urami no taki (Waterfall) and Rhododendrons

花ごよみ Flower Calendar

[Omura Zakura (national natural monument)]

Omura Zakura is characterized by its unique double-row petals, which look like two layers of a double-flowered Yaezakura variety. This unique cherry tree generally has 10 sepals (while the ordinary variety has five) and 60 to 200 petals. It is known as one of the excellent satozakura varieties for its elegance and grace.



March	April	May	June	September	October
	Someiyoshino				
	Omura Zakura and Kushima Zakura				
	Rhododendron				
	Azalea				
		Japanese Iris			
				Cosmos	
				Spider Lily	

Japan's First Christian Daimyo: Omura Sumitada

The samurai war lord with foresight and vision sent a group of young Japanese emissaries to Rome ("Tensho Embassy") and had them return to Omura with that era's most advanced technology and knowledge

● Statues of the Young Ambassadors of the Tensho Embassy to Europe

This set of statues stands near Mishima Bridge leading to Nagasaki Airport. The images represent, from left to right, chief of the embassy Mancio Ito, Miguel Chijiwa, deputy chief Martinho Hara, and Julian Nakaura.

Originally a member of the Arima clan, the ruling clan of Shimabara Domain that had the greatest power in Hizen Province, Omura Sumitada became the 18th head of the Omura clan as an adopted heir to the domain chiefdom. He opened a port at Yokoseura to start trading with the West in 1562. He built Sanjo Castle. Then, he opened two more ports at Fukuda and Nagasaki to lay the foundation for the city of Nagasaki that now attracts visitors with its exotic atmosphere.

In 1582, Sumitada together with two other Christian daimyo, Otomo Sorin and Arima Harunobu, sent the Tensho Embassy to Rome.

The Tensho Embassy went down in history for their great contributions to feudal Japan in the midst of the warring period of this country with little exchange with the Western world. Committed to learning about the unknown world of Rome, the Embassy received a great welcome as an official emissary in various parts of Europe including Rome. They stayed there for 8 years and 5 months and brought back Europe's advanced technology and knowledge including a printing press to Japan.



● Omura Sumitada Historical Park (municipal historical site) D-4

This park was built at the residence where Sumitada breathed his last breath. A garden with a fountain and its clean flow of water still remains as the core attraction of the park. Visitors can learn some historical facts about Sumitada including details of local Japanese Christians and trading with the West.



● The remains of a garden with fresh water in the old residence of Omura Sumitada

The route by which the Tensho Embassy travelled to Rome



● Tensho Yume Hiroba (Dream Square) F-5

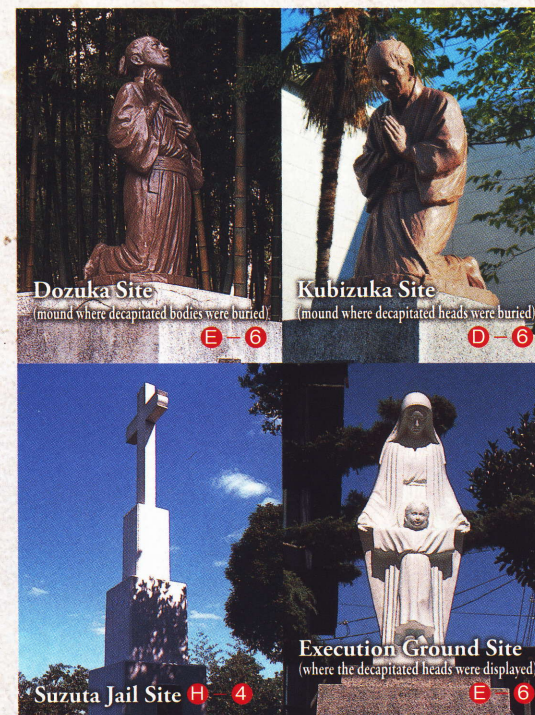
Located near JR Omura Station, the turf-covered Tensho Dream Square features the Tensho Dream Clock, which contains wind-up dolls of the young emissaries, the symbol of the international city Omura.

The history of oppression against Christians started when Toyotomi Hideyoshi issued a Christian deportation edict. The sadness of Christians, as evidenced by the Collapse of Kori and the 26 Holy Martyrs, continued until 1873 and the start of the Meiji Era.

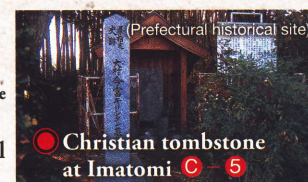
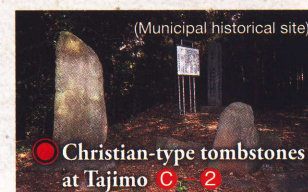
The Tragic History of Omura Christians Started in the Azuchi-Momoyama Period

Hokobaru Martyrdom Site E-6

When the area was controlled by Japan's first Christian daimyō, Omura Sumitada, the majority of the residents were converted to Christianity, and they numbered about 60,000, or about 40% of all Japanese Christians in those days. It was a peak time for Japanese Christians in the feudal days. Sumitada transferred Nagasaki and Mogi to the Jesuits, who used them as the bases for their missionary work and trading. But when Toyotomi Hideyoshi issued a Christian deportation edict in 1587, oppression against Christian missionaries started. The severity of oppression worsened in the Edo Period when belief in Christianity was banned and Christians were brutally persecuted. One of the events called the "Collapse of Kori" ended by hunting down hidden Christians. Those 406 Japanese Christians found were punished by decapitation. There are many ruins that remind us of the sad history of martyrs in the present city of Omura.



Medallion of Immaculate Virgin Mary (prefectural tangible cultural property) a piece in the Omura Municipal Historical Museum



[Christian Pilgrimage] One-hour Drive Course
 Airport (or JR Omura Station) → ① Hokobaru Martyrdom Site → ② Execution Ground → ③ Honkyo-ji Temple and Omura Domain Lords' Cemetery → ④ Omura Sumitada Historical Park (the residence where he breathed his last) → Airport (or JR Omura Station)

[Christian Pilgrimage] Two-hours Drive Course
 Airport (or JR Omura Station) → ① Historical Museum → ② Hokobaru Martyrdom Site → ③ Execution Ground → ④ Honkyo-ji Temple and Omura Domain Lords' Cemetery → ⑤ Omura Sumitada Historical Park (the residence where he breathed his last) → ⑥ Obitori "Junisha Gongen" Martyrdom Site → Airport (or JR Omura Station)

The striking sight of the five-colored wall constructed of colorful marine pebbles fixed by stucco welcomes visitors to the cemetery of the Omura Domain Lords accentuated by a tombstone that is over six meters high.

The Long History of Castle Town Omura

● Five-colored wall flanking Kusabakoji Buke Yashiki Street G-5

Omura was the castle town of the Omura Domain, with control of 27,000 koku (171,990 cubic feet), in Hizen Province. The Omura clan was the daimyo family that continuously reigned over this area from the Middle Age until the Meiji Restoration through the Edo period.

In the beginning, the clan's main site changed from the Omura Residence to Sanjo Castle. But in 1599, the first domain chief Omura Yoshiaki constructed Kushima Castle at a site surrounded by the sea on three sides.

With this, he constructed five streets including Honkoji Street that leads to the main gate of Kushima Castle and which the residences of the clan family members and the administrative buildings were built. Other streets are Uwakoji, Koshokoji, Kusabakoji, and Hokaarakoji, and they are still flanked by heavy stone walls reminiscent of the old samurai days. The old Residence of Kusumoto Masataka, located in an alley going to Iwafune Buke Yashiki Street, beautifully maintains the traditional architectural style of "buke yashiki" or "samurai's residence." "Five-colored walls," made of stucco-fixed colorful marine pebbles, unique to this area, are seen here and there along those historical streets.

These "samurai residence" streets are still alive in today's modern world.

The Omura clan converted from Christianity to Buddhism (Nichiren Sect) in compliance with the order of the Shogunate government and built Honkyo-ji Temple as their family temple. The cemetery of the Omura clan, located

Recommended Tour Courses

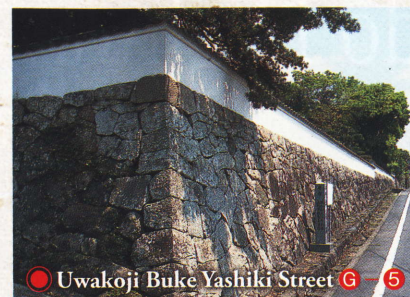
[Omura Castle Town] One-hour Stroll Course (see p. 29 of the Map)

Omura Park → Onari-mon Gate of the Gokokan School → Jail Slope → Old residence of Nakao Motojimeyaku → Koshokoji Street → Elder Counselor Inada Residence Site → Elder Counselor Asada Residence Site → Elder Counselor Hario Residence Site → Omura City Ichibanchi → Omura Park (Kushima Castle)

[Omura Castle Town] Two-hours Stroll Course (see p. 29 of the Map)

Omura Park → Onari-mon Gate of the Gokokan School → Jail Slope → Old residence of Nakao Motojimeyaku → Koshokoji Street → Elder Counselor Inada Residence Site → Elder Counselor Asada Residence Site → Old Residence of Kusumoto Masataka → Garden of Former Enyu-ji Temple → Kusabakoji Street → Elder Counselor Hario Residence Site → Omura City Ichibanchi → Omura Park (Kushima Castle)

* No entry is allowed to residences other than the Old Residence of Kusumoto Masataka.



● Uwakoji Buke Yashiki Street G-5



● Old Residence of Kusumoto Masataka (prefectural tangible cultural property) G-4



● Garden of Former Enyu-ji Temple (national scenic beauty) G-5

This is the garden of Enyu-ji Temple constructed by the fourth domain chief Suminaga in 1652. Designed in the "stone garden" style of the early days of the Edo period, the garden uses a variety of stone combinations with over 400 stones along a slope stretching some 50 m east-west. Reminiscent of the original grandeur of the garden, it also features a gardening concept that simulates a san-sui (mountain-water) landscape painting with water flows simulated by white pebble stones and dry falls and flows created by using the natural topography.

in the grounds of the temple, has various styles of pagodas including a five-storied pagoda, kasatoba pagoda, ishitamaya, hoto pagoda, and kakuto pagoda. The grandeur and excellence of their stone masonry is very impressive. Such pomp is generally understood as being a token of the Omura clan's compliance with the cognate's official banning of Christianity. The castle town quarters are formed in the area from Honkyo-ji Temple to Sanjo Castle, where scenes of the olden feudal days still remain.



● Omura Domain Lords' Cemetery in Honkyo-ji Temple (national historic site)

F-6

The Highway of Foreign Cultures — Nagasaki Kaido Highway

It is the only route in the feudal period of self-isolated Japan that exchanged information and culture between foreign countries and Japan.



● Domain bordering stones and the Palanquin Parking Spot

● Suzuta Pass

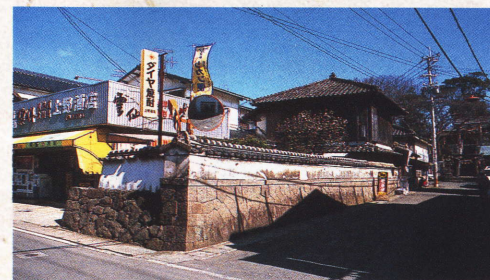
— One of the Top 100 Historic Roads selected by the Agency for Cultural Affairs

Located on the border between the Omura Domain and the Isahaya area of the Saga Domain, this pass played an important role for domain administration. It still vividly reminds us of the feudal days with ruins of facilities such as the Palanquin Parking Spot (Kago-tate-ba). This is a terrace space built with stonewalling over the mountain slope to provide a space for a daimyo procession to put down a palanquin in which a daimyo was riding to rest.

1 1

The Nagasaki Kaido Highway was a route connecting Nagasaki and Kokura in the Edo period. It provided information on the foreign world that arrived at Nagasaki, Japan's only door to Europe in self-isolated Japan, to Edo, the then capital of Japan, and sent Japanese information overseas.

The highway section in Omura City spreads for 15 km in total, and along it were situated Omura Shuku ("shuku" is a posting station in ancient times), where there was Honjin, an accommodation facility for daimyos during their travel to and back from Edo, and the Matsubara Shuku, which was a booming community with many blacksmiths. Samurai residences, Shinto shrines, Buddhist temples and other historic and cultural properties still remain along the highway. Suzuta Pass, located at the border of today's Isahaya City, still maintains relics of the olden days and has been chosen as one of the Top 100 Historic Roads.



● Matsubara Shuku

A-6

One of the 25 ancient stations along Nagasaki Kaido, it flourished as an important base for land and sea transport for centuries. Blacksmiths also gathered in this station, and raw steel was brought to this station from Yasuki in Shimane Prefecture by ship in olden days.



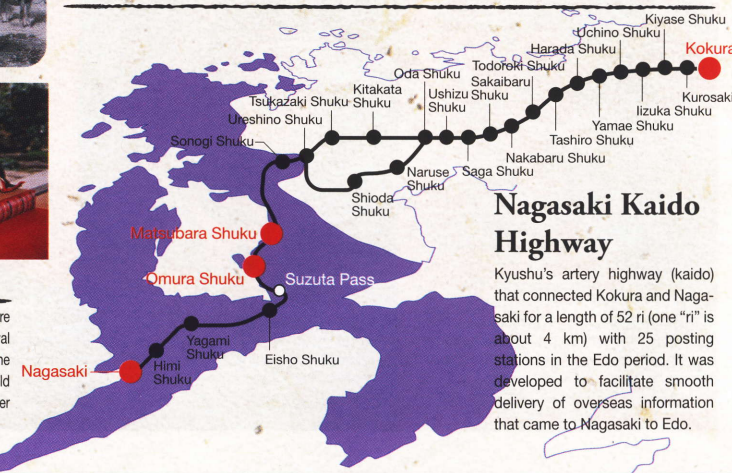
● Omura Shuku

In this major posting station were located the honjin, waki-honjin (auxiliary facilities for the honjin), guard station, ekiba (toi-yaba), notice board, messenger's residence, and marine guard station. It prospered as a commercial center in the area facing Omura Bay as the major station for land and sea transport. It continues to prosper today as the area forms the central part of the city of Omura. The picture on the left is an illustration placed in the Illustrated London News showing a scene of the Omura Shuku near the end of the Edo period.



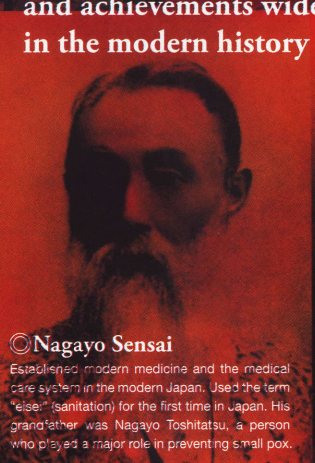
● Hina Doll Festival

Exhibitions of hina dolls and varying events are annually held during the hina doll festival period from early March to early April along the Central Shopping Mall (Omura Shuku), Old Residence of Kusumoto Masataka, and Former Matsuya Ryokan Inn (Matsubara Shuku).



The Meiji Reformation and Omura's Heroes Involved

Cultural and military people from the Omura Domain had their names and achievements widely recorded in the modern history of Japan.



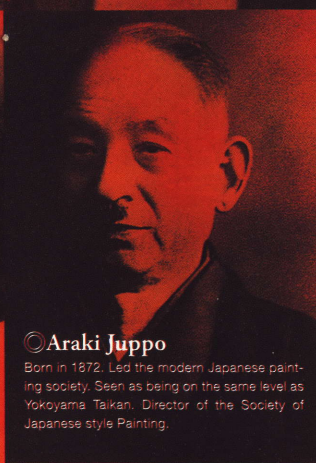
©Nagayo Sensai

Established modern medicine and the medical care system in the modern Japan. Used the term "else" (sanitation) for the first time in Japan. His grandfather was Nagayo Toshitatsu, a person who played a major role in preventing small pox.



©Kuroita Katsumi

Modern historian. Established Japan's historical science by editing the Compendium of Japanese History that preserved basic data and materials on Japanese history in printed format.



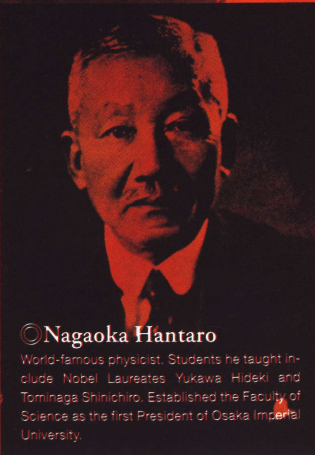
©Araki Juppo

Born in 1872. Led the modern Japanese painting society. Seen as being on the same level as Yokoyama Taikan. Director of the Society of Japanese style Painting.



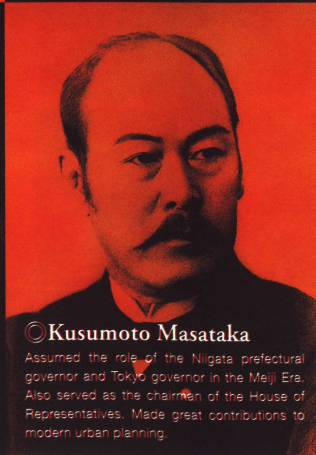
©Ishii Fudeko

Born as the eldest daughter of Watanabe Kiyoshi in 1861. Made great contributions to women's education and welfare for mentally disabled people.



©Nagaoka Hantaro

World-famous physicist. Students he taught include Nobel Laureates Yukawa Hideki and Tomonaga Shinichiro. Established the Faculty of Science as the first President of Osaka Imperial University.



©Kusumoto Masataka

Assumed the role of the Niigata prefectural governor and Tokyo governor in the Meiji Era. Also served as the chairman of the House of Representatives. Made great contributions to modern urban planning.

©Watanabe Kiyoshi

Attended the meeting between Saigo Takamori and Katsu Kaishu that resulted in the blood-free surrender of Edo Castle. Played an important role in the new Imperial government as the governor of Fukuoka and Fukushima prefectures.

Education of children in the Omura Domain got off to an early start when the Domain established its own school, Gokokan, in the 17th century. The school produced many brilliant people and they particularly played important roles before and after the Meiji Restoration in 1868. Gokokan school was unique because of its unprecedentedly open policy for accepting not only samurai but also farmers and townsmen. A martial arts school was also established to educate domain people both intellectually and physically.

Brilliant students who learned at Gokokan school include Nagayo Sensai, the founder of Japan's modern medicine, Kusumoto Masataka, the chairman of the House of Representatives, Nagaoka Hantaro, the world-renowned physicist, and Kuroita Katsumi, the founder of Japan's modern historical science, Watanabe Kiyoshi, who played a major role in bringing about the Meiji Restoration, was among the 37 Pro-Imperialists of Omura Domain, as well as Ishii Fudeko, the forerunner of women's education and welfare for people with disabilities.



● Goseimon Gate of Gokokan (prefectural historic site) G-5



● Monuments of the 37 Pro-Imperialists G-5



● Bust of Ishii Fudeko G-5

She was the trailblazer of modern Japan's women education and welfare for people with disabilities. This bust is located beside the Goseimon Gate of Gokokan along Honkoji Street. It was constructed as part of a project to commemorate the great people of Omura in 2002.



● Old residence of Nagayo Sensai (municipal historic site) G-4

Recommended Tour Courses

[Visiting Omura Heroes] Two-hours Drive Course

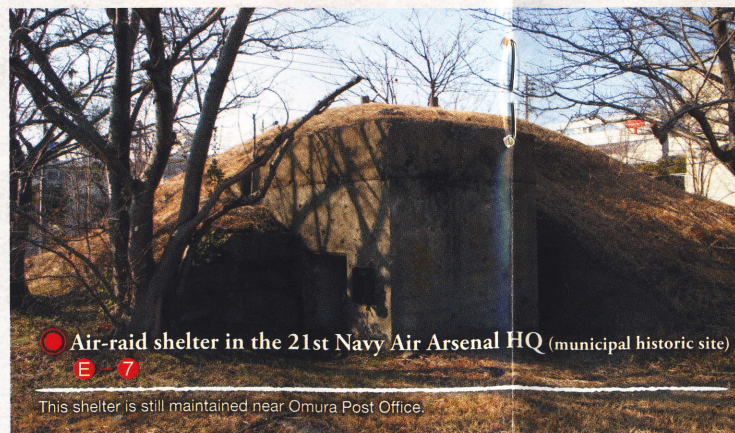
Airport (or JR Omura Station) → Omura Park → Goseimon Gate of Gokokan → Bust of Ishii Fudeko → Old residence of Nagayo Sensai → Former Nagaoka Hantaro Residence → Old Residence of Kusumoto Masataka → Monuments of the 37 Pro-Imperialists → Airport (or JR Omura Station)

Eternal Prayer for Peace

The Orient's Greatest Aircraft Manufacturing Plant, the 21st Navy Air Arsenal was located in Omura during the Pacific War.

In 1923, the Imperial navy's runway whose area measured 1 km in four directions was constructed in Omura for the purpose of training pilots useful for active duty. In 1941, the 21st Navy Air Arsenal, probably the largest of its kind in Asia, was established. This plant was used to manufacture and repair Type Zero Observation Seaplanes, fighter planes such as Ryusei or Shidenkai, and engines.

*Photo showing part of the HQ of the Navy Arsenal taken around 1953.



● Air-raid shelter in the 21st Navy Air Arsenal HQ (municipal historic site)
E-7

This shelter is still maintained near Omura Post Office.

● 21st Navy Air Arsenal

This facility opened on October 1, 1941 and had 180 factories over a wide area of 2.1 million square meters in its prime. A total of 50,000 engineers and workers gathered from all over the country to work at the facility. Known as Asia's largest, the arsenal was destroyed by a major air raid on October 25, 1944, and abolished on November 30, 1945.



● Camphor Tree Street E-6

A tree-flanked street leading to the sea. Many of the camphor trees were planted when the arsenal was constructed.



● Bunker D-6

Air raid shelter for aircraft. The building still remains in the grounds of Shimoharaguchi Park.



● Front Gate of the Worker Training School

This front gate of the worker training school is now used as the back gate of Omura municipal Ni-shi-omura Junior High School.

E-6



● War Memorial Park F-6

This facility was built to commemorate the victims of the disastrous air raid on October 25, 1944. A memorial ceremony is held at this monument, designed by using the former air raid shelter, every year on October 25 by the 21st Navy Air Arsenal Martyr Memorial Promotion Association. Bereaved families of the victims and their coworkers attend the ceremony from all over the country.



● Combat fighter plane Shiden-kai

Shiden-kai is one of the combat fighters used by the navy air squadron during the Pacific War, and it was manufactured and repaired here.

Local Performing Arts and Festivals
Reminiscent of the Ancient Days
Traditional Events Handed
Down to the Present Day

Omura's Local Performing Arts and Festivals

● Okita Dance

● Suko Dance

● Kuromaru Dance

Three dances, Suko Dance, Okita Dance and Kuromaru Dance, are believed to have been performed in commemoration of the victory of a campaign that gave the 16th head of the Omura Clan, Sumikore, control of his original domain after six years of banishment. Known as the Three Dances of Kori, they are intangible cultural properties of the prefecture. Of them, the Kuromaru Dance is characterized by valiant, gorgeous but plaintive dancing with dancers shouldering large flower wreaths measuring almost 5 meters in diameter. It is believed good fortune will come to those who pass under the large flower wreaths.

The Omura Nagoshi Festival, held every year for three days from August 1 to 3, is a joint ritual for purification conducted in a total of 25 Shinto shrines in the city of Omura. Various events, joint drum performances, and local performing arts are held, with a variety of stalls set up for visitors. The festival culminates in the Omura Ondo ("Omura dance song") and So Odori Dance, and all citizens participate to enjoy the festive mood. Large lantern towers that stand in front of JR Omura Station during the festival period are an overwhelming sight that is not to be missed.



● Fireworks of the Omura Nagoshi Festival



● Omura Nagoshi Festival

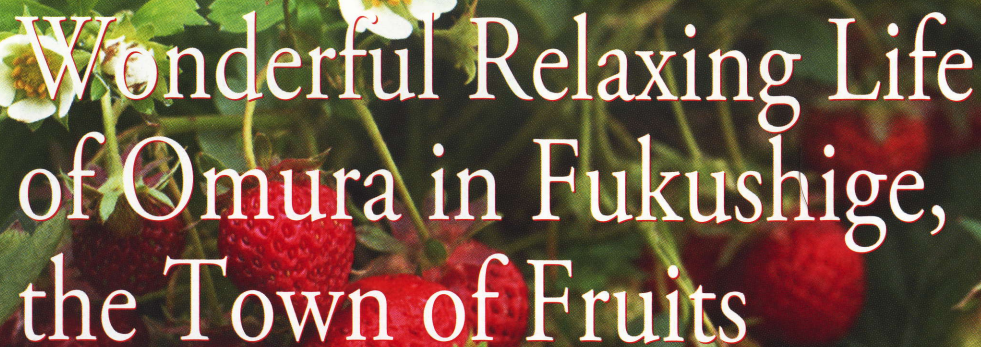
Omura's Festivals and Local Performing Arts Handed Down for Generations

- Omura Flower Festival March 25 to June 20
- Hina Doll Festival Early March to early April
- Takematsu Yutaka Festival July
- Omura Nagoshi Fireworks Event (Nagoshi Yoi Festival) ~ August 1
- Omura Nagoshi Main Festival August 2 to 3
- Matsubara Kunchi Mid-November
- Omura Autumn Festival Around November
- Hoyo Festival (Kuromaru Dance) November 28



● Omura Autumn Festival

This festival is designed to advertise local performing arts, local agricultural, fisheries and forestry products of nature-rich Omura, local handicraft products, tourist souvenirs, and many other local specialties and industrial products to as many people as possible.



Wonderful Relaxing Life of Omura in Fukushima, the Town of Fruits

**Popular Fruit Picking and Farm Village Restaurant
— You Can Have a Tasty and Enjoyable Holiday**

You can find joy in spending leisure time in a farming village in the Fukushima and Matsubara area. When you get off the Omura Interchange and go northward along Rainbow Road, you will see a signboard saying “Fukushige, the Town of Fruits.” In the neighborhood, we can enjoy grape and pear picking from mid-August to around October and strawberry picking from December to May.

Other tourism-related facilities include Japan's first coffee plantation, a hands-on farming village familiarization facility, local agricultural product store, and farming village restaurant, all of which help you enjoy a wonderful relaxing life.



Strawberry Picking

You can pick strawberries and eat them then and there. A popular strawberry cultivar Nagasaki Toyonoka, which has many fans in urban areas, features big fruit and a sweet-sour aroma. It is available on the market from December to May.

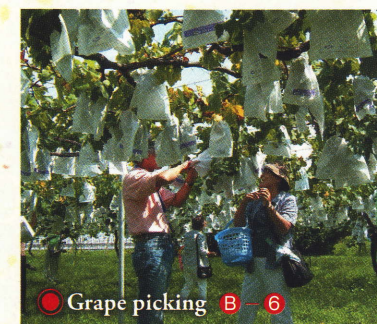
B-5



Image photo



● Pear picking B — 6



Grape picking B-6

August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
Grape picking									
Pear picking									
			Strawberry picking						



☉ Coffee Plantation (Nagasaki Suko Coffee Park) B-6

Japan's first coffee plantation. Pure white flowers are in bloom from the end of April to September. Coffee beans turn very red in 10 months, ready for harvest. Adult trees of coffee as well as other tropical trees such as banana, papaya, and bougainvillea create a tropical atmosphere all year round in the park.



● Nodake Tea Festival **A-3**

This festival is held every year for three days from May 3 to 5 at Rosa Mota Square in Nodake-ko Park that commands a panoramic view of Omura City and Omura Bay. Various events are planned and held there, including sale of local products and sampling the first tea of the season.

Enjoy home cooked food at Suzuta Pass



● **Farming Village Restaurant** H-1
(Suzuta Pass Yacho-no-mori Restaurant)

A buffet-style restaurant that offers local dishes containing fresh local vegetables. The menu includes home cuisine using plenty of locally produced fresh vegetables and Omura's local cuisine using shiroae (vegetables marinated in drained tofu seasoned with salt and a pinch of sugar) and nigomi (cooked mixture of vegetables and many other ingredients). Fresh agricultural products are also sold in this restaurant.



Hands-on Farming Village Facility (Omura Yume Farm "Shushu") **B-5**

In this facility designed to promote exchange with the farming culture, visitors can enjoy a homemade bread shop, handmade ice cream stand, barbecue house, and farm and farmers' market. Practical field classes and fresh strawberry picking are also available.

Enjoy the Wonderful Nature of Nodakeko Park and Omura

Feel the breeze from Omura Bay and Mt. Tara,
Spend Leisure Time and Enjoy Nature



Fukazawa Gidayu

He earned a fortune catching whales and spent a lot of his own money on constructing and repairing Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples and implementing irrigation projects. His greatest contribution among them is the construction of Nodake Lake.

One of the Top 100 man-made lakes

● Nodakeko Park A-3

Nodake-ko Park is a beautiful scenic site in Taradake Prefectural Park. It is an artificial lake with a circumference of 4 km, constructed using the private money of Fukazawa Gidayu, a great merchant who made a fortune catching whales in the Edo days. The neighborhood around this lake is an excellent mountain-surrounded recreation spot with various athletic attractions such as camping, cycling and pedal boating.

Kuroki Valley is also a scenic spot upstream of the Kori River that runs into Omura Bay. As you pass Kayaze Dam, you go into the mountains of Tara that offer mountain climbing courses and camping sites.



● Camp Site

Consisting of the East Site and Central Site, this camping area has five bungalows and permanent tents. The amenities include hot water showers and toilets. Rental tents and blankets are also available. A comfortable outdoor life is here for the taking at this nature-rich lakeside area.

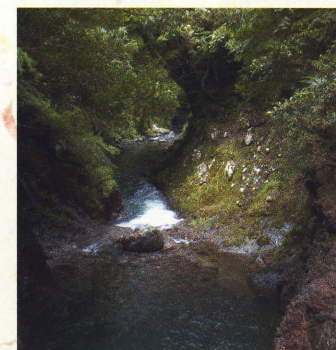
A-3



● Ichigashi (Quercus gilva) Natural Forest (national natural monument)

D-1

This natural forest spreads over a soft-sloping hill, about 200 to 300 m above sea level, at the foot of the Tara Mountain Range. A variety of trees thickly grow to form vast woodland, with Ichigashi, a national natural monument and the city tree, as the core attraction.



● Kuroki Valley (Kori River Sabo Park and Campsite)

B-1

The valley has various attractions including river activities, day dreaming in the woods in summer and beautiful autumnal leaves in the fall as well as rare alpine flora and mountain river fishing. The valley is popular with climbers and campers in the high season. Recreational facilities are also available including minshuku inns, camping areas, bungalows, and Kori River Sabo Park.



● Kayaze cedar C-1

The Omura clan focused on forestry, and actively planted trees. The cedar and Asunaro tree (Thujiopsis) Forest Reserve, which expands 3 km eastward, are old Omura clan trees around 240 years old.



● Hidake Observatory

1-2

A breath-taking point to view Omura Bay, on which Nagasaki Airport is located, the city of Isahaya, and Unzen. Also popular as a spot for viewing the colorful setting sun.



● Kotohira Sky Park

D-2

A natural park located 333 m above sea level, Kotohira Sky Park commands a panoramic view of the city of Omura with the Tara Mountains in the background, Omura Bay with Nagasaki Airport afloat in the sea, Unzen and Saikai Bridge. Its features include an observatory, cherry tree path with 999 steps, a 99.9 m long roller slider, putter golf course and grass sleighing. It is also a great spot for paraglider fans.

Refined Skills and Arts of Omura Craftsmen

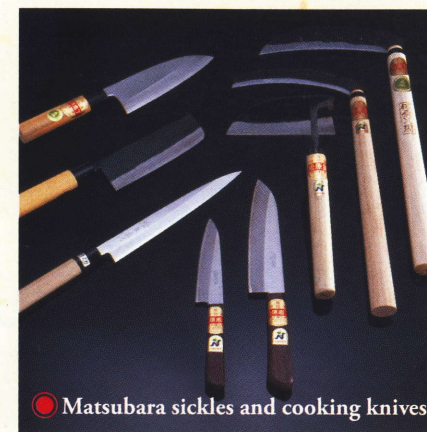
Careful and deliberate handwork that stands the test of time
Traditional handicraft alive in our modern daily lives



Matsuraba sickles and cooking knives are highly valued for their excellent edge, durability and long service life. This traditional handicraft started when descendants of master swordsmiths from the Heike clan who settled in Matsubara started making crescent-shaped sickles at the request of farmers about 500 years ago. Reputed as masterpiece work, these sickles are characterized by using a special process to prevent edge nicks in which steel is placed at the center of the sickle, their original iron color without polishing, and the use of manual work in all processes.

Nagayo Sansai had been known as legendary sansai (ceramics using three intermingled colors for decoration).

The potters of the Shuzan Kiln revived the ancient style of sansei ceramic art. Three kinds of glazes, green, brown and yellow, are fused together to create a wonderful glitter of multi-color texture. It would be wonderful to have one of these at home.



● Matsubara sickles and cooking knives



● Sansai Ware

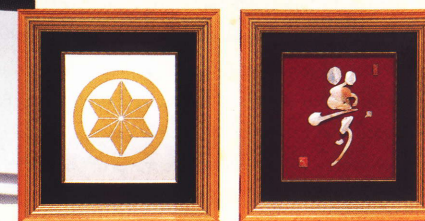


The pearls of Omura Bay have a long history. They have been cultivated under the serene waves of Omura Bay for centuries.

Catching or cultivating pearls has been conducted in Omura Bay for many centuries. Formerly the Japanese government's pearl research institute was located in the city. Now pearls are processed as Omura's specialty products and still please people with their high quality and elaborate decorative value.

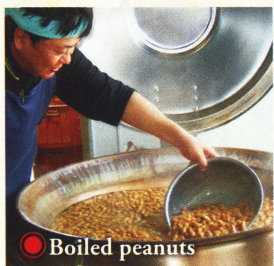


● Pearl craft products

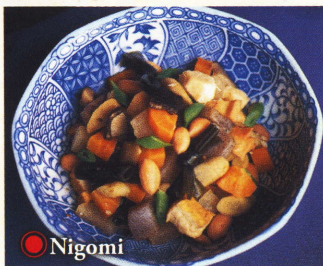


Eat Omura's Original Cuisine with Gusto

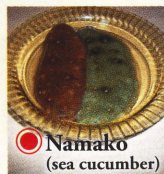
With Omura Zushi as one of the representative dishes, Omura's proud local dishes are the blessings of nature, products from mountains and the sea.



● Boiled peanuts



● Nigomi



● Namako
(sea cucumber)



● Iidako
(Ocellated octopus)



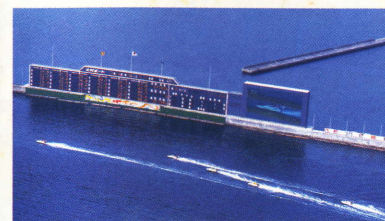
● Shako
(Mantis shrimp)

Omura Zushi, a special sushi dish unique to Omura, has a long history. Back in the warring days, war lord Sumikore lost a war, and deprived of his feud he wandered for years. He staged a comeback and regained his original feud. Residents in the feud hurriedly made some "oshi zushi" to celebrate their ruler's victory. "Oshi zushi" is a type of sushi made of vinegared steamed rice and various ingredients pushed together in a box and pressed as a quickly prepared type of sushi. It is said that the samurai soldiers of Sumikore cut oshi zushi cakes into square pieces with their short swords and ate them. What is unique about Omura's peanuts is that peanuts are boiled with their pods on. Popularly called "Yude Pea," Omura's boiled peanuts are an indispensable food for Omura people.

A variety of marine products, including iidako (ocellated octopus), shako (mantis shrimp), and namako (sea cucumber), grown and caught in the gentle waves of Omura Bay, and agricultural products grown in the rich natural environment are essential food ingredients for local dishes.

Leisure and Tourist Information

The Tourist Information Center provides a wealth of information on Omura's very original local souvenirs. The motor boat race track is also a good place for families.



● Boat Race Omura G-6

Omura is the place where Japan's first motor boat race was held in 1952. This boat race course has a memorial hall in commemoration of its status as the birthplace of Japan's boat race on its grounds. The features of this facility include Women-only seating, Kids play area, and a food court including Sasebo Burger shop. It is a popular recreational spot also for family holidaymakers.

● Omura City Tourist Information Center F-5

Located in front of JR Omura Station, the Center provides sightseeing information mainly in the urban area of the city. A store selling local products is also located in the facility. Please drop in. ●Open from 9:00 to 18:00

