

# MINAMI SHIMABARA

Nagasaki Prefecture, Minamishimabara City Tourist Guide

Guide map overleaf.



Amakusa Shiro with his hands clasped in prayer, created by sculptor Kitamura Seibo.

A World Heritage registration candidate tour site

## History

Four hundred years ago, Minamishimabara, after adopting Christianity and the newest arts and sciences, became a window to Western culture and established an indispensable position in Japan's culture.



### The Ruins of Hara Castle

The final battle field of the Shimabara Rebellion is covered with cherry blossoms in spring and today fittingly comforts the spirits of the people who died here.



### The Tombstone of Amakusa Shiro

The tombstone was said to be found in stonewall at a local Nishimura resident and later enshrined in the Ruins of Hara Castle.



### The Statue of Amakusa Shiro

The Statue of Amakusa Shiro, with his hands clasped in prayer, was created by sculptor Kitamura Seibo who was born in Minamishimabara.



### A Christian tombstone

The beautiful half-barrel roof tombstone is the oldest Christian tomb with Roman inscription in Japan.



### The Ruins of Hinoe Castle

The castle was once lived in by a powerful Christian feudal lord of the Arima family in Hizen during the Sengoku Era. Gold-coated roof tiles were unearthed.



### Kitamura Seibo Memorial Hall

Kitamura Seibo is the sculptor of the Peace Monument in Nagasaki. His birthplace displays about 60 pieces of his carvings and calligraphy. Open: 9:00-16:00. Closed: Thursday, year end and New Years holidays. Admission: ¥100 for adults, ¥50 for children, 30% group discount (20 persons or over). Telephone: 0957-85-2922.



### Kuchinotsu Museum of History and folklore

The only remaining Western-style building from the Meiji Era displays various materials representing the prosperity of the once world-famous port Kuchinotsu. Open: 9:00-17:00. Closed: Monday, year end and New Years holidays. Admission: ¥200 for adults, ¥150 for senior high school students, ¥100 for junior high school and elementary school students, group discount (20 persons or over). Telephone: 050-3381-5089.



### The Harajo Culture Center

The center displays crosses, medals and replica bones of victims excavated in the Ruins of Hara Castle. Closed: Monday. Admission: Free. Telephone: 0957-85-3217.



### The arrival port of Western ships

A monument stands here to commemorate the arrival of three Portuguese ships, four years earlier than Nagasaki.



### The Tawaraishi Observation Deck

The roadside deck on Route 57 connecting Unzen and Shimabara offers a spectacular view of the Ariake Sea, the Shiranui Sea and Mt. Aso.



### The Ayugaeri Waterfall

Kusiro Unsen, an Edo period artist, is said to have given up his brush at the surpassing beauty of the waterfall.



### Bathing beach

MinamiShimabara has four popular bathing beaches for families in the summer.

- Maehama bathing beach
- Shirahama bathing beach
- Nodahama bathing beach
- Marin Park Arie



### Memorial Park of Houses destroyed by debris flow

The park is located in the Roadside Station Mizunashihonjinfukae preserves and exhibits 11 devastated houses by the Unzen volcanic disaster. Open: 9:00-17:00 (varies seasonally), 365 days a year. Admission: Free. Telephone: 0957-72-7222.



### Tanimizu rice terrace (The 100 Rice Terraces in Japan)

The Tanimizu rice terrace in Shirakino was awarded the Prize of Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery at the Fifth Beautiful Pastoral Scenery Contest in Japan.



### The Ecopark Ronshobaru

Surrounded by the first National Park Unzenamakusa, the Ecopark Ronshobaru has five cabins and 25 camping stalls and offers people the chance to relax in nature. Closed: Tuesdays (except summer holidays). Telephone: 0957-65-7056.

## Nature

Wind blows across the temperate south country.  
The sparkling surface of the sea stretches in all directions.  
Tranquil pastoral scenery and the murmur of a brook.  
It releases me from my routine and heals my soul.



## All about Minamishimabara City

### 1 Applying for a World Heritage registration

Minamishimabara, after adopting Christianity and the newest arts and sciences, became a window to Western culture and established an indispensable position in Japan's culture. The area is home to many cultural assets including the Ruins of Hara Castle and the Ruins of Hinoe Castle and Christian Tombstone, which make up the properties for the Tentative List registration for World Heritage status. Today they tell us about the history of prosperity, religious conflict and persecution of Christianity. We hope many visitors will come, see and feel the tide of history.



The Ruins of Hara Castle

A Christian Tombstone

The Ruins of Hinoe Castle

### 2 The first National Geopark in Japan

A Geopark or Geological Park is a natural park encompassing precious geological assets, supported by UNESCO and promoted worldwide by Global Geoparks Network (GGN). Shimabara Peninsula, including the Minamishimabara region, qualified to be the first National Geopark in Japan and is being nominated as a GGN member. The park includes a variety of geological properties from the Unzen volcano, such as faults, strata, and hot and cold springs. Visitors are encouraged to touch nature, the resident's history, and embrace Mother Earth.



The Hayasaki Basalt

Tatsufushi (concealment of Koshirazu group and Unzen Volcano)

Mt. Fugen, Mt. Heisei Shinzan

## Minamishimabara tourist guide



### Hara Castle Tour Guide Association

With helpful information, guides conduct tours to the nationally designated Ruins of Hara Castle where Amakusa Shiro and tens of thousands of his followers entrenched themselves about 370 years ago.

### Kuchinotsu Tour Guide Association

Kuchinotsu Port, the first window to Western culture, also thrived in Western trade. Guides offer information on the unique development of history and culture interwoven by the exchange with foreign countries.

### Arima Tsunamo Tour Guide Association

Guides conduct tours to the nationally designated Ruins of Hinoe Castle, where the Christian feudal lord Arima family lived, and the Ruins of Arima Seminario, where boys of the Tencho Christian Delegation attended.

### For further information, contact:

The Minamishimabara Sunflower Tourist Office, Telephone: 050-3381-5032.

## Extraordinary experience of the Unzen volcanic disaster

The volcanic boulder flow left much destruction. The devastated elementary school building was preserved. Nearby, the Onokoba Sabo Mirai Hall displays images of the damage caused by the eruption, a natural disaster beyond control.

### For further information, contact:

#### Onokoba Sabo Mirai Hall Devastated Former Onokoba Elementary School Building

Open: 9:00-17:00. Closed: year end and New Years holidays. Admission: Free. Parking: available for up to 40 cars. Telephone: 0957-72-2499. Free entrance to school building.



## Roadside Station Mizunashihonjinfukae



### For further information, contact:

Open: 8:30-17:00 (varies seasonally). Closed: year end and New Years holidays. Free Parking: available for up to 200 cars. Telephone: 0957-72-7222.

The largest roadside station in Japan, Mizunashihonjinfukae, was established transcending municipal boundaries, to facilitate the reconstruction of the Fukae and Shimabara areas heavily affected by the Unzen volcanic eruption. The station, with additional large facilities such as the Boulder Flow Simulator, Soba Training Dojo and Memorial Park of Houses destroyed by debris flow, offers a lava dome view of Mt. Heisei Shinzan. The station also functions as a communication center for reconstruction history to future generations.

## Dolphin watching

Approximately 300 wild dolphins live in the sea between the Shimabara Peninsula and Amakusa. The dolphin watching cruise has become increasingly popular for all ages and offers mental and physical relaxation.

Boarding fee: ¥2,500 for adults (junior high school age students and over), boarding fee: ¥1,500 for children (elementary school age students and under). Travel time: between 60-80 minutes.

### For further information, contact:

- Kazusa Dolphin Watching, Telephone: 0957-87-4640
- Kuchinotsu Sightseeing Boat Association, Telephone: 0957-86-4433
- Harajo Leisure Fishing Boat Association (Harajo Onsen Masago), Telephone: 0957-85-3155

\* Early reservations are recommended.



For further information, please contact the Commerce, Industry and Tourism Section, Planning and Promotion Department, Minamishimabara City. Telephone: 050-3381-5000 (main), Fax: 0957-82-3084 (main), 96-2 Satoba, Nishiarie, Minamishimabara City, 859-2211, Nagasaki, Japan



- Fukae**  
 Unzen Mikado Hotel Main Building  
 Telephone: 0957-72-5420  
 Wedding Ishikawa  
 Telephone: 0957-72-2031  
 Toll Free: 0120-75-2031  
 Yasuragi-no-yado Yuki  
 Telephone: 0957-72-5778  
 Shimabara Country Club House Lodge  
 Telephone: 0957-72-4444
- Futsu**  
 Takedaya Ryokan  
 Telephone: 0957-72-3108
- Nishiarie**  
 The Shioyu Ryokan  
 Telephone: 0957-82-3121  
 The Sukawa Kanko Hotel  
 Telephone: 0957-82-3967
- Kitaarima**  
 Suwa Tei  
 Telephone: 0957-84-2215  
 The Ecopark Ronshobaru Cabin  
 Telephone: 0957-65-7056
- Minamiarima**  
 Harajo Onsen Masago  
 Telephone: 0957-85-3155  
 Ryokan Shiro  
 Telephone: 0957-85-2148
- Kuchinotsu**  
 Minshuku Ando  
 Telephone: 0957-86-3850  
 Minshuku Matsuo  
 Telephone: 0957-86-3944  
 Mariners Welfare Center  
 Telephone: 0957-86-2279
- Kazusa**  
 Unzenkan  
 Telephone: 0957-87-2052  
 The Setoguchi Ryokan  
 Telephone: 0957-87-2338  
 The Tokiwaya Ryokan  
 Telephone: 0957-87-2013  
 Minshuku Taiyo  
 Telephone: 0957-87-4964

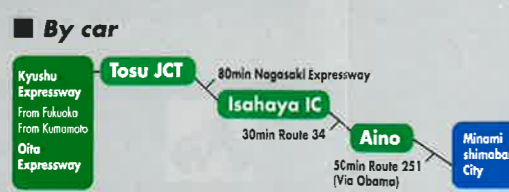
- Shimabara Railroads, Buses  
 Telephone: 0957-62-2231  
 Shimatsutsu High-Speed Boat  
 Shimabara Port Office  
 Telephone: 0957-64-1515  
 Kyushu Ferry Shimabara Port Office  
 Telephone: 0957-62-3246  
 Ariake Ferry Taira Office  
 Telephone: 0957-78-2100  
 Ariake Ferry Reservation Center  
 Telephone: 0957-78-2105  
 Kumamoto Ferry Shimabara Branch  
 Telephone: 0957-65-0701  
 Shimatsutsu Ferry Kuchinotsu Port  
 Telephone: 0957-86-2165
- Fukae**  
 Miyazaki Taxi,  
 Telephone: 0957-72-2057
- Futsu**  
 Mishio Taxi, Telephone: 0957-72-2209
- Arie**  
 Heisei Kanko Taxi,  
 Telephone: 0957-82-1011  
 Arie Taxi, Telephone: 0957-82-2001  
 Mishio Taxi, Telephone: 0957-82-2814
- Nishiarie**  
 Sukawa Taxi,  
 Telephone: 0957-82-2009
- Kitaarima**  
 Tachibana Taxi,  
 Telephone: 0957-84-2099  
 Arima Taxi, Telephone: 0957-84-2029
- Minamiarima**  
 Harajo Kotsu Taxi,  
 Telephone: 0957-85-2103
- Kuchinotsu**  
 Honda Kanko Taxi,  
 Telephone: 0957-86-2100

Minamishimabara City hotels and inns

Public transportation



**Roads and transportation**



**■ By boat**

<b>Kumamoto Port</b>	30 min by Kumamoto Ferry	<b>Shimabara Port</b>	30 min by Bus	<b>Minami Shimabara City</b>
<b>Miike Port</b>	60 min by Kyushu Shosen Ferry		30 min by Car	
	50 min by Shimatsutsu High-Speed Boat			
<b>Nagasaki Port</b>	40 min by Ariake Ferry	<b>Taira Port</b>	60 min by bus	
<b>Oniike Port</b>	30 min by Shimatsutsu Ferry	<b>Kuchinotsu Port</b>		

70 minutes from Fukuoka to Miike Port by Nishitetsu Railway

**■ By train**

<b>Tokyo Station</b>	300 min by Shinkansen (Bullet Train)	<b>Nagasaki</b>	17 min by JR train	<b>Isahaya</b>	100 min by bus	<b>Minami Shimabara City</b>
<b>Osaka Station</b>	150 min by Shinkansen (Bullet Train)	<b>Sasebo</b>	80 min by JR train			
		<b>Fukuoka</b>	90 min by JR train			
			Direct Express Bus			
			60 min by JR			
			8 min by Nishitetsu Railway			
			50 minutes by Shimatsutsu High-Speed Boat			
			30 min by Car			
			30 min by Bus			

**■ By air**

<b>Tokyo (Haneda Airport)</b>	120 min	<b>Nagasaki (Omura Airport)</b>	105 min	<b>Shimabara Port</b>	30 min	<b>Minami Shimabara City</b>
<b>Osaka (Itami Airport)</b>	80 min					
<b>Nagoya (Centrair Airport)</b>	90 min			<b>Isahaya</b>	100 min	
					by Bus	

# MINAMISHIMABARA NAGASAKI

**Legend symbol**

- Sightseeing point
- Bathing beach
- City Hall
- City Liaison Office
- Hot Spring
- Camp ground
- Police
- Wheelchair-accessible toilet
- Cultural property
- National designated property
- Prefecture designated property
- World Heritage Candidate
- National natural property
- Prefectural natural property
- Geosite

**Old arrival port of Western ships**  
 Three Portuguese ships first arrived here in 1567, and another five fleets of Western vessels also arrived. In Europe, the name of Kuchinotsu became popular as a good Japanese port. Today, only the ruins of the old stone wall show the past glory.

**The 100 best Rice Terraces in Japan (Tanizaki rice terrace)**  
 A printer, brought by the Tenso Christian Delegation, was restored and currently exhibited.

**The Ruins of Hara Castle**  
 From November 1637 to February 1638, Amakusa Shiro Tokisada, his followers, and 37,000 Shimabara and Amakusa Christians, entrenched themselves in Hara Castle. After a fierce battle, the castle finally fell with 120,000 surrounding government forces and most of the rebels brutally killed.

**Shimabara handmade Vermicelli**  
 A specialty, produced from carefully selected flour, mixed with pure water from Unzen and 250-year-old preserved traditional skill.

**Yushima (Dango Island)**  
 During the Shimabara Rebellion, Shimabara and Amakusa Christians developed strategy on this island.