

Theme for Amakusa Geopark plan

The physical and biologic history of the Earth over 100 million years

Amakusa; a diverse paradise of dinosaurs and dolphins with a characteristic stone culture.

The Amakusa Islands bask in a long history bringing to the present a sense of fantasy regarding times gone by. The five elements comprising the main core of the Amakusa Geopark plan include geology, geography, viewing points, culture and industry which are shown at the geosites throughout the islands.

1 Record of the earth over 100 million years

In the Amakusa Islands, the geologic and geographic evidence of layers consisting of sedimentary and igneous rock brought forth by magma over a long period of time can be seen.

2 An abundant variety of fossils

In Amakusa, fossils such as abundant and various marine shellfish from Cretaceous formations and Paleogene layers exist, along with those of dinosaurs of 100 million years ago and large-sized mammals of 50 million years.

3 A vision of scenic islands

The geographic folding of the land that appears in the archipelago and other features such as cuesta created by erosion create the beautiful scenery that Amakusa is well known for.

4 A rich ecosystem

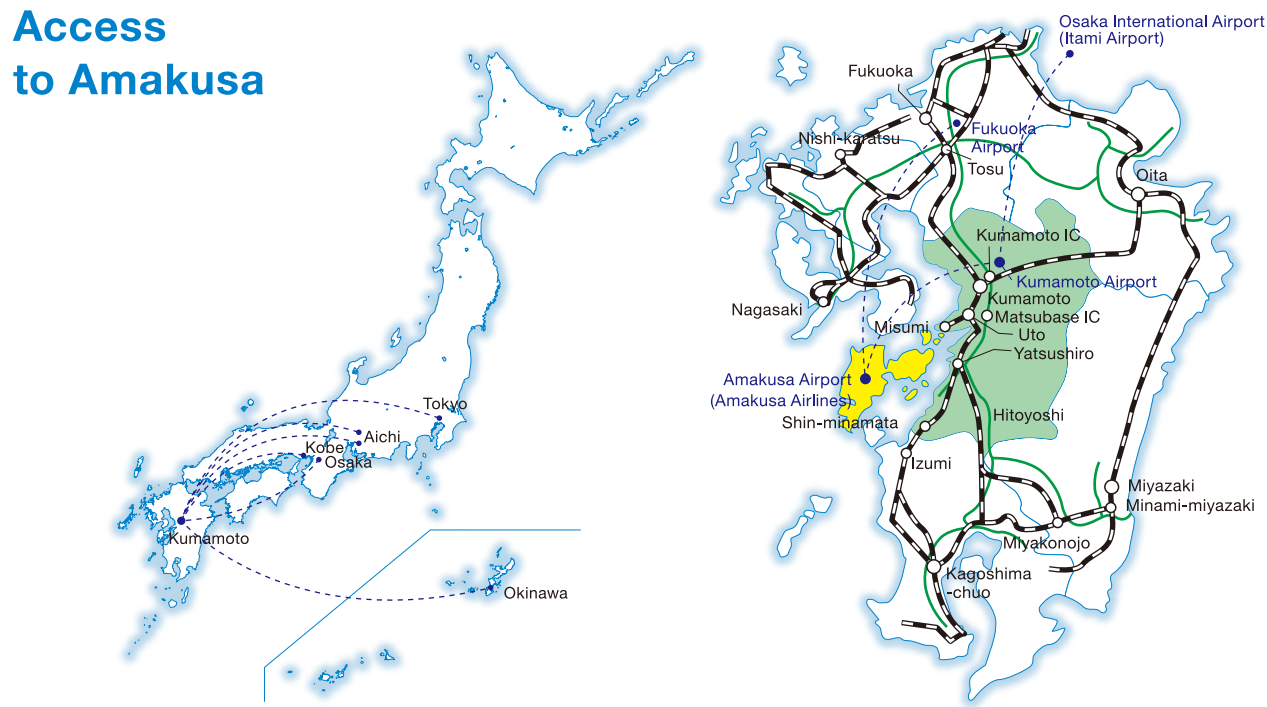
Due to Amakusa's unique ecosystem and the equally unique bottom topography of the west coastal sea region, Wild Minamihando dolphins reside permanently.

5 Underground resources and stone culture

The rich underground resources of Amakusa gave rise to a deeply rooted "stone" culture spawning the production of pottery, stone bridges and whetstones which remains evident today.

What is a Geopark?
Geology and geography are earth sciences and from these words Geo has been coined meaning earth and land. Park means a field for playing and amusement. Thus, Geopark includes not only the physical aspects of geology and geography, but also those of creatures and the history and culture concerning them. A Geopark is also a place authorized to promote conservationism and remain available for local use.

Access to Amakusa



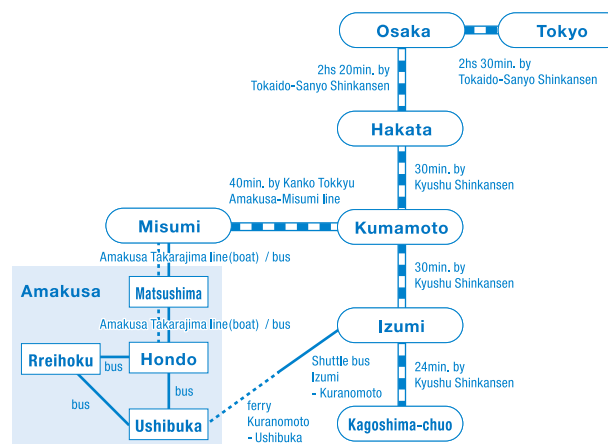
by AIR BUS

Kumamoto Airport arrival and departure	Fukuoka Airport arrival and departure
Kumamoto (Kumamoto Airport)	Fukuoka (Fukuoka Airport)
Amakusa Airline 20min.	Amakusa Airline 35min.
Amakusa (Amakusa Airport)	Amakusa (Amakusa Airport)

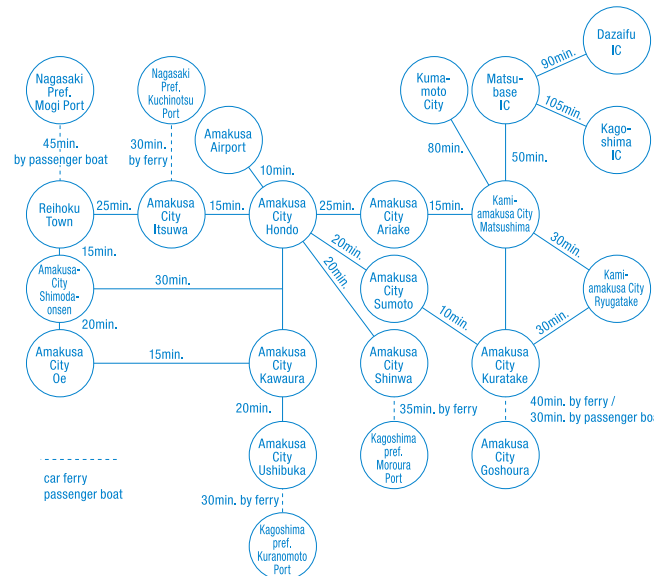
by BUS



by JR



by CAR



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A museum surrounded by sea water

AMAKUSA GEOPARK PLAN

天草ジオパーク構想

an abridged version

Amakusa Geopark planning promotion committee
(Amakusa City, Kamiyamakusa City and Reihoku Town)

