

Long, long ago  
Nanban ships  
tossed by a storm  
drifted ashore  
on a bay here in  
Kawaura, Amakusa.



## Kawaura - the birthplace of Amakusa's unique history and culture.

Knowing the  
history of that time,  
feeling the emotions  
of those people -  
maybe you will  
discover something new.

This map was made  
by the people of Kawaura  
who would like you  
to learn about this town  
and fall in love.



Made in  
Kawaura

# Amakusa Kawaura History & Culture Discovery Map

The Kawaura region of Amakusa  
surrounds a horn-shaped bay  
in a corner of Shimoshima Island.  
About 450 years ago, Nanban ships  
came from far-away western lands  
carrying new cultures...



I built the former  
Sakitsu Church.  
That was in 1888.

A shrine that split off from Aso Shrine in Higo  
in 1705. A crackdown on Imamiya village's  
hidden Christians took place here.

Father Ferrié  
rented a local  
home to care for orphans. In  
1887 he cleared Mt. Nebiki  
to open a new orphanage.

I crossed the  
mountains to visit  
the churches in  
both Sakitsu and  
Oe villages.

Oe Church  
Amakusa Rosario Hall

Father Garnier  
worked at  
Oe Church, in the next  
town over. The mountain  
pass he traveled became  
known as "Priest Road."

Priest Road

21 (National Cultural Landscape)  
Sakitsu and Imamiya, Amakusa

4 Nebiki Orphanage

Tatami-floored churches  
are unusual even in Japan.

Designed by  
Yosuke Tetsukawa

3 Imamiya Shrine

Information Center

Sakitsu Tunnel

Watchtower Ruins

6

2 Sakitsu Suwa Shrine

Sakitsu Museum Minatoya

H Kawaura Kaijo Cottages

389

7 Statue of the Virgin Mary

Kawaura's special  
sweet, Sugi-Yokan,  
originated here.

8 Ryukyu Kingdom  
Envoy Landing Point

Take a boat  
to come see me!

30 (City-Designated Ruins)  
Otsuka Kofun

389

Safe journey!

Father Halbout

I built the church at the  
village headman's house,  
where efuni took place  
in the Edo period.

Father Almeida

I was the first  
to bring Christianity  
to Amakusa.

11 Furue Grand Shrine

This is a shrine to a  
matchmaking god.

Father Valignano  
Jesuit Missionary

Martinho Hara

Juliao Nakaura

Mancio Ito

Father Mesquita

Miguel Chijiwa

The Tenno Embassy

Four boys from various seminaries were selected to travel to Europe

at the young ages of 12-13, carrying letters from the Christian Lord

Otomo. They were warmly welcomed by Pope Gregory XIII in Rome.

They visited churches all over Europe, studied western printing techniques

in Lisbon, and brought a Gutenberg press back to Amakusa. Later the

four boys studied at the Collegia. Excepting only Miguel Chijiwa, who

renounced Christianity, the boys were ordained as Jesuit priests and

comforted believers during the period of banned Christianity.

To Ushibuka

Lords Shigeisa and Hisatane Amakusa  
ruled from Kawachiura Castle on  
Shimoshima Island in the middle ages,  
a time when Christian traditions and  
western culture flourished in Amakusa.

A Pure Land Buddhist Temple founded  
by Shigenari Suzuki in 1645, this is one

of the four main temples in Amakusa.

The temple grounds and hill behind it

are the site of the former Kawachiura

Castle. The Lords Amakusa shared

meals with Father Valignano and

members of the Tenno Embassy

at the nearby Collegio.

29 (City-Designated Building)  
Todoro Bridge

(City Natural Monument) 25  
Nagi Tree at Yakushi Temple

266

Thought to be the site of a missionary  
academy. Luis Frois's "History of Japan"

described the Collegio as "built linked to

a house." Other churches in Amakusa

are built on the site of old temples. It's very

likely that the Collegio stood here.

28 (City-Designated Building)  
Iwayotaya Kannon Stele

266

Now my head's  
made of wood.

Shigeisa Amakusa

35

Uneya Ryukan

Kawaura ES

Kawaura PO

Anruri H

Yanaguchi Ryukan

Headless Jizo Statue

280

Shingo PO

Some say the  
dragon is actually  
an eel.

18 Dragon King God

This thing??

26

Stone Monuments  
at Yakushi Hall

Based on some characteristics of

the pagodas, it is thought they were

carved in the 15th to 16th centuries.

20 Memorial to Believers

A memorial to Christians

executed during the Christian

ban. The memorial seems to

float quietly on the ocean

at high tide.

24 (Prefectural Natural Monument)  
Hummulite Fossil

23 (Prefectural Natural Monument)  
Tree Fern Habitat

26 (City Intangible Folklore Asset)  
Ubushima Hachimangu Festival

26

Miyano-Kawachi PO

12 Ubushima Hachiman Shrine

I gave birth to a prince

here, on Ubushima in

Miyano-Kawachi village.

Empress Jingū

21 ~ 30 Many more cultural properties are located around Kawaura.

## TIMELINE

A western breeze  
in Kawaura  
as European  
culture flourishes

1591 Collegio and monastery moved to  
Amakusa from Kazusa, Nagasaki

1597

1614 Tokugawa Ieyasu bans Christianity  
in Japan

1637 Amakusa-Shimabara Rebellion

1805 Amakusa Kuzure crackdown

1813 Christianity ban is lifted

1864 Current Sakitsu Church is built

Fondo  
To Hondo

N



Cutama