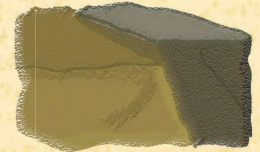


Take a History Tour of Awaji City



The Gateway to Awaji Island: Awaji City

History and Culture in Balance with Rich Nature

Awaji-shi is the gateway to Awaji Island for people coming across the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge. It occupies roughly the northern part of Awaji, the largest island in the Inland Sea. To the east is Osaka Bay and to the west is the section of the Inland Sea known as Harima Nada. In the center of the administrative region is Myoken-zan, a mountain that extends north to south with a 522-meter peak. The ancient peoples of the island, closely in touch with the sea, developed a culture unique to their island environment. The area has many designated culture assets, both tangible and intangible, and all kinds of historical and cultural features that have reached through history to the present day.





Awaji Island in the *Kuniumi* Creation Myth of Japan—from the *Kojiki*

Skills of the Ama, People of the Sea, in Support of the Ancient State

Japan's oldest written historical record, the *Kojiki*, starts with the birth-of-the-nation (*Kuniumi*) myth. Awaji Island appears as the first island in the Japanese archipelago, giving it special status. The story is told of the island's inhabitants (known as *Ama* or *Umi-no-tami*—people of the sea) supporting the ancient state through their various skills. Awaji Island was recognized as a Japan Heritage, and has 31 designated cultural properties across the island.

Of the 31 cultural properties on the island, 11 are found in Awaji City.



1. Gossa-Kaito Archeological Site and Artifacts
- *2. Shiotsubonishi Archeological Site
- *3. Funaki Archeological Site
- *4. Ishi-no-neya Kofun Group
- *5. Hatada Archeological Site Stone Rods
6. Kifune Jinja Archeological Site
- *7. Hikino Archeological Site
8. Izanagi-jingu Shinto Shrine
9. Oi-no-Shimizu Spring
10. Akashi Strait and Matsuho-no-ura Bay
11. Eshima Island

See map on p. 14 for locations. Items marked with an asterisk (*) are not open to visitors.

MAP 1 Gossa-Kaito Archeological Site, National Historic Site

Hilltop Village Overlooking the Sea Where Iron Tools Were Made

At one time, about 1800 to 1900 years ago in the late Yayoi period, a village existed for making iron tools. This place, now the Gossa-Kaito archaeological site, was designated a historic site by the national government on September 19, 2012.

Of the 23 pit dwellings that were discovered, twelve had evidence of use as iron-forging work shops. Iron was extremely important in the Yayoi period—the Iron Age in world history. Iron tools were made at this site for over 100 years in the same spot, which is rare for any place in Japan, making it a valuable historic site for understanding the age of iron tools in the evolution of society.



Key feature of Gossa



Gossa Ironsmith Work Shop (left)

This large, thatched roof structure has a diameter of 10.5 meters, and is built with 10 pillars. When it was in use, it had been rebuilt at least three times, each time becoming a little larger.

Reconstructed on the same scale as the original ironsmith work shop, it is the largest structure on the site. Inside, you can get a good idea of what it was like to forge iron.

Ironsmith Forge Structure (right)

This round pit dwelling with thatched roof has a diameter of 8.5 meters, and is built with 7 pillars, reconstructed precisely over the unearthed site. In the center is a round dug pit, around which you see the remains of four fire pits where the smithing work was done.

Numerous unearthed relics



Smelting Hearth

Discovered on the floor was this earth turned red from high heat, the remains of a hearth. Visitors can see how the section where air was blown in was baked hard by the high temperatures.



Stone Tools

Many stone tools used in ironsmithing were discovered, such as an anvil stone, pounding stone, and sharpening stone.



Iron Implements

Over 100 individual items made of iron were discovered at the site, from arrowheads to small fragments left over from the production of iron implements.



Flat Axehead

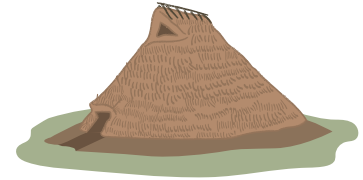
An axehead discovered here that was made on the Korean peninsula (total length: 17.8 cm/7 inches). The original shape emerged after removing the rust and soil.

Left: Upon excavation (covered in rust)

Right: After cleaning

A Large Historical Park Where People Can Come to Learn About and Experience Prehistoric Japan

The site of the Gossa-Kaito historic remains is a place that invites people to visit, learn and grow. It aims to be a park at which people can gather for friendly events to spur community development. It can host many kinds of events that could extend to research and education-based organizations. This large historical park is an ideal setting for people from everywhere to come to study and get a sense of prehistorical times.



Workshop in Ancient Smithing

Ancient ironsmithing, which the people of Gossa specialized in 1800 years ago, is a workshop experience being offered to visitors. Learn to braid metal using ancient techniques, or how to build a fire. Experience "Japanese manufacturing" in its early form in prehistorical times.

This is a course for training volunteers to become guides for visitors to the historic site or to support the workshops and other activities. Volunteers learn about life in the Yayoi Period and ancient skills from that time. The course will expand the circle of people able to communicate the wonders of both the site and the history and culture of the area.

Volunteer Training Course



Course participants learning how to restore a thatched roof pit dwelling

Making Iron Tools in the Yayoi Period



The ability to produce iron itself in Japan did not begin until the Kofun Period (ca 300 to 538 CE), an age known for its burial mounds. It is believed that in the preceding Yayoi Period the iron-making material was brought over from the Korean peninsula and other places, then heated, pounded, lengthened, and cut into various shapes for use as tools. Fishing-related objects, such as pots for catching ocellated octopuses, have been found at the archaeological site, which indicates that the people of Awaji brought iron to the island through the Inland Sea.

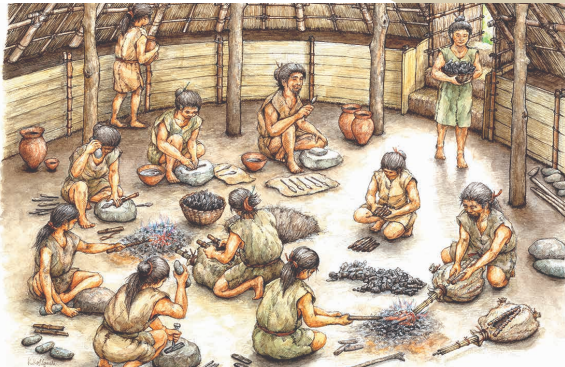
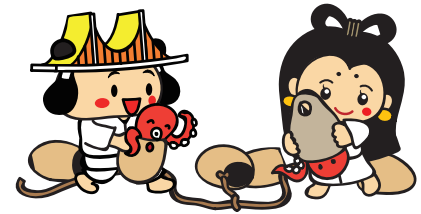


Illustration of iron-smelting work in ancient times



Gossa-Kaito Archeological Site, National Historic Site

🏠 1395-3 Kurodani, Awaji City 📞 0799-70-4217

🕒 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 🎫 Free admission

Closed Mondays (following day if holiday),

Year-end/New Year holiday (Dec. 28 to Jan. 3)

🚗 About 10 min. by car from Hokudan IC



Racing to gather onions

The Gossa Town Development Council and Awaji City hold two festivals annually—the Gossa Onion Festival on May 3rd, and the Gossa-Kaito Historic Site Festival in the autumn. The festivals bring people to the large historical park for various events, including an experience of ancient skills through ironsmithing or making comma-shaped beads once used for necklaces, or to buy locally grown fresh vegetables or compete in a game of gathering onions.

MAP 2

Café Marugo Kitchen

Inside the activity center at the site, Marugo Kitchen is a popular place to have lunch, prepared by local women. The meal includes an ancient strain of wild rice grown locally and plenty of fresh seasonal vegetables.



Lots of great local foods
in Gossa!



📍 1395-3 Kurodani, Awaji City

☎ 0799-70-4217

🕒 Open: Saturdays and Sundays,
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



The Revival of Marugo Onions

The great taste of onions grown on Awaji Island is known throughout Japan, and Gossa onions have become known by the nickname "Marugo," which means "Circle Five." A cooperative for growing and selling Marugo onions ceased to operate about 20 years ago, so in its place, to sustain farming in the area, Gossa Eino Co., Ltd. was established and the ⑤ mark was revived (a circle around the number five). The onions grown in the area are dried in a traditional way in onion sheds made with roofing tiles produced on Awaji Island.



The Ikuta District has traces of remains that indicate a fortress of the lord of the powerful Hosokawa clan existed here. Today, a well still exists that stands in a rice field. The Ikuta Community Revitalization Council runs the Ikuta Cultural Properties Tour and Ikuta Village Folk Arts Festival. These are held on the same days that events are held at the Gossa Historic Site and at Tosanji Temple to give more people the chance to become familiar with the history and culture in the area, including nearby districts.

Ikuta Village Soba and Flower Festival/ Ikuta Village Folk Arts Festival

Held simultaneously at the Soba Café Ikutamura. These festivals give folks a chance to make soba noodles and experience the area's traditional culture.



Ikuta Cultural Properties Tour

Follow the Ikuta Village "Treasure Map" to find the castle remains and discover terraced rice fields, ponds, small shrines, and other features of the area.

📞0799-70-1478

MAP 3 Soba Café Ikutamura

Opened in a former nursery school. Try freshly ground, pounded, and boiled soba noodles made from locally grown buckwheat for a special taste experience.

🏠152 Ikutahata, Awaji City

📞0799-70-1478

🕒Open: Saturdays, Sundays and holidays,
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

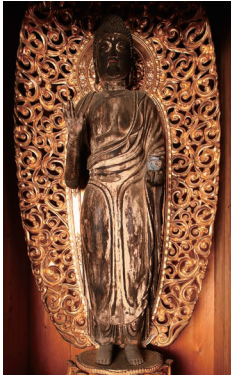
🚗About 10 min. by car from Hokudan IC



Making *zori* (straw sandals) the traditional way



The Nagasawa District is home to Tosanji Temple, which houses these important cultural properties: a wooden statue of Yakushi Nyorai (Buddha of Healing and Medicine) and wooden statues of the Twelve Heavenly Deities. Tosanji is also noted for its vivid red momiji maple leaves in autumn. It is listed as one of the top 100 scenic attractions on Awaji Island. Every autumn, the temple welcomes visitors for foliage viewing, during which time trees are lit up at night.



*Wooden statue of Yakushi Nyorai (Buddha of Healing and Medicine)
Designated Important Cultural Property*

Top 100 Scenic Attractions of Awaji Island

The top 100 scenic attractions were voted on by the public, based on which things people wanted to protect and which they felt best represented Awaji Island, a survey undertaken by Hyogo Prefecture's Awaji Regional Office.

MAP 4 Tosanji Temple

The temple is known to have been founded by Kobo Daishi (Kukai) in 819, as the only Buddhist nunnery on Awaji Island. In addition to being a nationally designated cultural property, it has six cultural properties designated by Awaji City, including the main hall and the Niomon gate.



- 📍1389 Nagasawa, Awaji City
- ☎0799-64-1185
- 🚗About 20 min. by car from Hokudan IC

MAP 5 Jinenjo Shokudo

The Jinenjo Shokudo (wild yam cafeteria) is run by the Nagasawa Genki-Mura Council. Jinenjo is rarely grown on Awaji Island, but it is grown locally and offered in this seasonal lunch spot, served as tororo-jiru gohan, wild yam soup poured over rice.



- 📍620-2 Nagasawa, Awaji City
(formerly Nagasawa Nursery School)
- ☎090-4495-3288
- 🕒Open: Every 4th Sunday in January to March
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- 🕒Open: Every 4th Sunday in January to March
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- 🚗About 20 min. by car from Hokudan IC

Candlelit Scenes in Late and Autumn to Early Winter and Soft, Soothing Light in the Mountains

Three districts working on local area revitalization—Gossa, Ikuta and Nagasawa—have coordinated in creating exotic spaces with lanterns made from bamboo, an abundant local resource. Bamboo lantern events are held in succession from mid-to-late November, handed off from one district to the next like in a relay.



Gossa District

Ancient Ironsmithing Site Footpath Lit by Bamboo Lanterns

Venue: Gossa-Kaito Archeological Site
(1395-3 Kurodani, Awaji City)



Ikuta District

Hanging Bamboo Lanterns at Ancient Castle Remains

Venue: Near Soba Café Ikutamura
(152 Ikutahata, Awaji City)



Nagasawa District

Foliage-Viewing Path Lit by Bamboo Lanterns

Venue: Tosanji Temple
(1389 Nagasawa, Awaji City)

MAP 6 Funaki Archeological Site

Large Settlement in the Mountains Shows its Leading Role in the Yayoi Period

The Funaki Archeological Site is a large area that was involved in the production of ironware, extending roughly 800 meters north-south and 500 meters east-west. Many ironware implements and traces of large pit dwellings thought to have been ironsmithing work shops have been discovered, along with bronze fragments such as a valuable fragment of a Chinese mirror. These discoveries led archaeologists to believe that this mountaintop village played a central role in Japanese culture in the late Yayoi Period (ca 100 – 300 CE).



Bronze Mirror

The eyelet from the back of a bronze mirror. This excavated fragment is made from material produced in south

China and is believed to date to the Late Han Dynasty (ending in 220 CE). The Funaki Archeological Site proves that Awaji Island people had obtained a rare Chinese mirror from overseas.



Evidence of Advanced Techniques and Culture

Despite being on top of a mountain, many fishing tools have been unearthed, showing the people's deep connection to the sea. The ironware production techniques and Chinese mirror discoveries are considered important evidence of the role and position of these people in society in that age.

Right: Traces of a large structure

Left: Iron fishing spear

History Tour

Nojima Fault—Designated Natural Monument of Japan

Lessons for Posterity from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

The temblor that hit southern Hyogo Prefecture occurred at 5:46 a.m. on January 17, 1995; it measured a magnitude 7.3 on the Richter scale and a seismic intensity of 7 (maximum) on the Japan Meteorological Agency scale. The disaster claimed thousands of lives and caused unprecedented damage, and was named the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

The earthquake was attributed to a shifting of tectonic plates, causing a seismic slip of the Nojima fault. The exhibitions at the Hokudan Earthquake Memorial Park & Nojima Fault Preservation Museum reveal the sheer magnitude of the earthquake and the raw power of nature, preserving a length of about 150 meters of shifted ground along the Nojima Fault that appeared on the surface on the day of the earthquake. It is a place to convey to future generations the memory of the earthquake and lessons from the disaster to teach preparedness for possible natural disasters in the future.

MAP 7 Hokudan Earthquake Memorial Park & Nojima Fault Preservation Museum

📍 177 Ogura, Awaji City ☎ 0799-82-3020

🕒 Open: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Every day from January to November
(closed temporarily in late December) 🚗 About 10 min. by car from Hokudan IC

Nojima Fault

Designated a natural monument on July 31, 1998 by the Japanese government to serve as a valuable resource for academic studies.



Earthquake Room

One can physically compare the difference in the shaking of the 1995 Southern Hyogo earthquake with the 2011 earthquake off the Pacific coast of Tohoku.

Earthquake House

The property through which the fault cut through is preserved, along with the house on it, with a display of how the house shook in the earthquake.

Lectures on the Earthquake

Lectures are held to ensure that the memory of the earthquake does not fade and so that personal experiences can guide future action.



Active Fault Lab

Visitors can learn about the science of earthquakes and their mechanisms from many angles, including a liquefaction demonstration and video simulation of a tsunami.

Kobe Wall

This firewall from Kobe withstood air raids in World War II and the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Set up by the Nojima Fault, it is a visual reminder of the disaster.

Take
History
a
Tour
Awaji City Map



MAP 7 Hokudan Earthquake Memorial Park & Nojima Fault Preservation Museum

MAP 6 Funaki Archeological Site

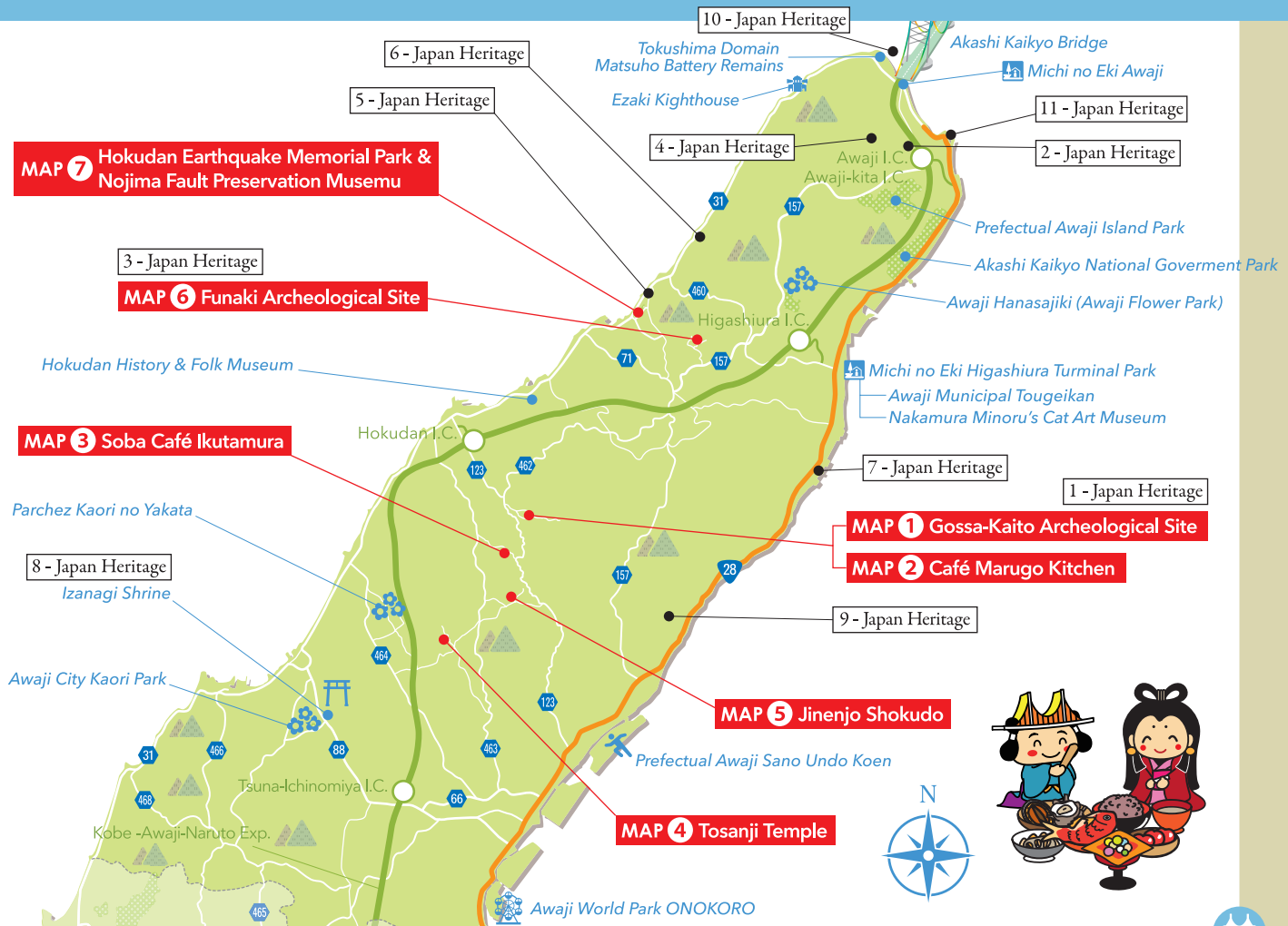
MAP 3 Soba Café Ikutamura

MAP 1 Gossa-Kaito Archeological Site

MAP 2 Café Marugo Kitchen

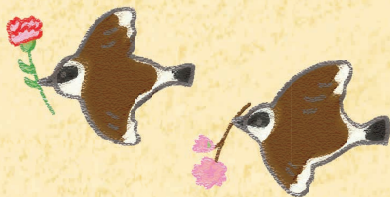
MAP 5 Jinenjo Shokudo

MAP 4 Tosanji Temple



* The information in this pamphlet is current as of March 2019.

Please be aware that information about facilities, etc., may change without prior notice.



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Awaji City Council to Create Sites for Tourism based on
the Historical and Cultural Asset Protection
(Awaji City Board of Education, Education Unit, Social Education Division)

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