

Kyushu Olle

Amakusa-Iwajima Course



What is "Kyushu Olle"? "Olle" originated on Jeju Island in South Korea. The word "Olle" means a small path or alley leading from the street to a house, and it refers to a network of trekking courses. Kyushu Olle is a series of walking trails inspired by the original Jeju Olle.

How to Enjoy the Olle One of the main features of Kyushu Olle is the landmarks you can find along the trail, including the horse-head symbol known as "Kanse," inspired by Jeju Island, red and blue ribbons, and wooden arrows. The horse-head symbol and arrows indicate the direction of the trail.

You can enjoy the Olle by experiencing the rich natural scenery of the coast and the mountains, engaging all five senses, and walking at your own pace to feel a sense of ease and pleasure. Along the way, you can also enjoy the history and local food of each course.

Kanse A horse-head symbol pointing the hiking direction.



Ribbon Red and blue ribbons are one of the landmarks of the course.



Wooden Arrow A red arrow indicates the backward direction, and a blue arrow indicates the forward direction.



【Amakusa-Iwajima Course】

◆ **Distance: 12.3km Time:4~5 hours**

Difficulty:Intermediate~Advanced

◆ **Stamp Points:**

★ **Amakusa Shiro Tourism Association (8:30AM~5:30PM /**

Close:2nd and 4th Wednesday/Dec. 30th~Jan 3rd)

★ **Guest House - ChoKoEn (9AM~5PM only on weekends and
national holidays available)**

★ **Iwa Post Office (9AM~5PM /Close:Every Weekend, National
Holidays)**

◆ Access (by public transportation):

Hakata Station (博多駅) ➡ «JR Kyushu-Shinkansen» ➡

Kumamoto Station (熊本駅) ➡ «Bus · Rapid (Kaisoku) Amakusa»

➡ ➡ Sun Pearl (Bus Stop) ➡ «Taxi» 20 min ➡ Senzaki (千崎)

【Start Point】

(By cars):

We recommend parking your car behind the Iwa Integrated Branch Office of Kamiamakusa City, which is located between the start and goal points. It is approximately 1.4 km from the Iwa Branch Office to each point.

【View Points】

a. Senzaki (千崎) ➡ b. Senzaki Burial Mounds (0.1 km) ➡

c. ZoZo (蔵々) Fishing Port (2.5 km) ➡ d. Iwa Sakura-Hana Park

(5.5 km) ➡ e. Mt. Takayama (高山) (6.4 km) ➡ f. Hokabura (外浦)

Coast (7.8 km) ➡ g. Senzoku (千束) Tenmangu Shrine (12.3 km)

a. **Senzaki** is the starting point of the Iwajima Course. The signs leading to the starting point are a blue sign and the Kanse, as shown below.



b. **Senzaki Burial Mounds** date back to the early Kofun Period (c. 250–592). The site contains 26 box-shaped stone coffins arranged vertically. These burial mounds are believed to have been built for a powerful local clan that prospered through maritime trade, as they are located on a hill with a commanding view of the ocean.



c. Around **ZoZo Fishing Port**, it is said that the mother of Amakusa Shiro (天草四郎) gave birth to him. Amakusa Shiro, also known as Amakusa Shiro Tokisada (天草四郎時貞), later led the Shimabara-Amakusa Rebellion, an uprising of Japanese Catholics against the Tokugawa Shogunate.

A well that was dug in 1622, the year of his birth, still remains at the site.



d. At **Iwa Sakura-Hana Park**, you can enjoy a variety of beautiful flowers and trees, including cherry blossoms and daffodils. From the observation deck, you can also enjoy a scenic view of Matsushima.

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The park was once the site of a local elementary and junior high school, and the stone main gate can still be seen today.



e. Mt. Takayama is the tallest mountain on Iwajima, standing at 166.9 meters. On clear days, visitors can enjoy a panoramic view of the surrounding area, including Mt. Aso, Mt. Unzen, the Kyushu Mountain Range, the Amakusa Islands, the Yatsushiro Sea, and the Ariake Sea.



f. Hokabura Coast was formed approximately 65 million years ago and is known for its beautiful and dynamic coastal scenery.

Please be aware that during spring tides, seawater may reach your feet at high tide.



g. If you find **Senzoku Tenmangu Shrine** and the Iwa Post Office, you are almost at the goal.



★★★Information on the Iwajima Course★★★

1_ If you take a short detour from the course at point **d**, **Iwa Sakura-Hana Park**, you will find **Zozogama (蔵々窯) Pottery** located right next to the restrooms.



Zozogama Pottery offers a unique experience. With an advance reservation, visitors can enjoy a pottery experience followed by a lunch of pasta and a cup of coffee. The total cost is 3,000 yen.



If time allows, the owner may also play the guitar for visitors. If you are interested in visiting Zozogama Pottery, please call **0964-58-0990**.