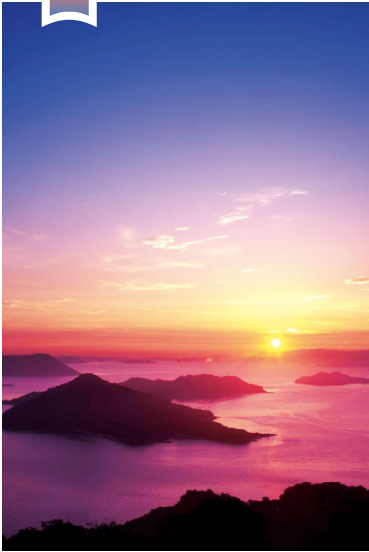
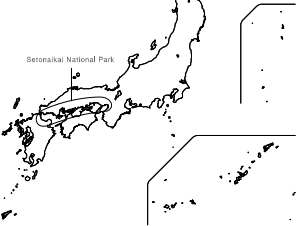


Setonaikai National Park

National Parks of Japan



National Parks of Japan



A national park is designated by the Japanese government as a natural landscape that represents Japan based on the Natural Parks Act. Thirty-four national parks are designated from Hokkaido in the north down to Okinawa and the Ogasawara Islands in the south, and more than 300 million people visit them every year. These national parks are full of precious treasures such as wild animals and plants, history and culture in addition to the scenic beauty. Japan's national parks are characterized by various environments such as forests, farmlands, villages, etc. While some are untouched, the local history and culture derived from nature and people's lives can be appreciated. Come visit our national parks to fully enjoy the beautiful nature of Japan that shows off various sceneries in each season.

Contact List

I Osaka, Hyogo and Wakayama Pref.  
Kinki Regional Environment Office  
8F, Osaka Merchandise Mart (OMM) Building, Otemae 1-7-31,  
Chuo Ward, Osaka City, Osaka Prefecture  
540-6591  
TEL: 06-4792-0795 FAX: 06-722-2872  
URL: <http://kinki.env.go.jp/>  
Osaka Ranger Office TEL: 06-4792-0705  
Kobe Ranger Office TEL: 078-331-1146

II Okayama Pref., Hiroshima Pref., Yamaguchi Pref.,  
Tokushima Pref., Kagawa Pref., Ehime Pref.  
Chugoku-Shikoku Regional Environment Office  
11F, Okayama Joint Government Building No. 2, Shimoiishi 1-4-1,  
Kita Ward, Okayama City, Okayama Prefecture  
700-4907  
TEL: 086-223-1586 FAX: 086-224-2081  
URL: <http://chushikoku.env.go.jp/>  
Okayama Ranger Office TEL: 086-223-1586  
Hiroshima Office TEL: 082-223-7450  
Shikoku Office TEL: 087-811-4227  
Matsuyama Ranger Office TEL: 089-931-5903

III Fukuoka and Oita Pref.  
Kyusyu Regional Environment Office  
4F, Kumamoto Regional Joint Government Building B,  
Kawa 2-10-1, Nishi Ward, Kumamoto City,  
Kumamoto Prefecture  
860-0047  
TEL: 096-322-2412 FAX: 096-322-2447  
URL: <http://kyushu.env.go.jp/>  
Fukuoka Office TEL: 092-437-5851  
Kuju Ranger Office TEL: 0973-79-2631

Setonaikai National Park Website  
<https://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/nps/park/setonaikai/index.html>

For Safe Travel  
Please download below application in order to get information about  
warning for earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunami and so on.  
\*Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=jns.jp.setonaikai>  
\*iPhone: <https://apps.apple.com/jp/app/safety-eyes/id658257744?hl=en>





Supported by Japan Tourism Agency (<https://www.jnto.go.jp/safety-top/eng/app/en/>)

Ministry of the Environment  
Year published: 2018

\* Please note that the highlights & guide map's purpose is to show an overview of the designated area; therefore, a margin of error shall be allowed.

Characteristics

Islands and the Sea That Keep Shining  
- An Inland Sea Archipelago Landscape with a Harmony Between Nature and Humans -

Setonaikai National Park together with Unzen and Kirishima were designated as the first national parks of Japan in 1934. The vast area of the sea surrounded by four straits of Kitan, Naruto, Kannon, and Hoyo, the islands within, and the land area overlooking such sea and islands have been assigned as the park areas. The park area extends over 11 prefectures and is the largest national park in Japan with over 900,000 hectares including the sea area. It features archipelago landscapes of the inland sea which is comprised of a large number of islands of various sizes. There are many scenic spots along the coastline where these extraordinary landscapes can be observed. In addition, Setonaikai Sea is a region where cultures have prospered from early on, and people and nature have coexisted. An amiable scenery of nature and people dwell together, such as terraced fields on the islands and port towns which were developed as a place for fishermen to wait for the tide to turn, is one of the biggest charms of this place.

(Date of Designation) March 16, 1934  
(Relavant Prefectures) Osaka Pref., Hyogo Pref., Wakayama Pref., Chugoku Pref.,  
Hiroshima Pref., Yamaguchi Pref., Tokushima Pref., Kagawa Pref.,  
Kure Pref., Fukuoka Pref., Oita Pref.  
[Area] 66,934 ha (Land area) / 837,541 ha (Sea area)



Geiyo Islands Seen from the Boshu Island Conservation Beach (Odetsuchi City, Hiroshima Prefecture)

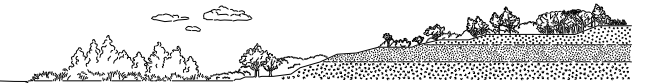
Terrain  
Geological Features  
Landscape

The Setonaikai Sea can be broadly divided into the following four areas in order from east to west: Awaji Island and its surroundings, Bisaneto Strait and its surroundings, Geiyo Islands and their surroundings, and Suonada Sea and its surroundings. It has a complicated structure with relatively vast water areas called seas or bays and areas connected by narrow waterways called straits or channels, and the inland sea that is segregated from the open sea is known for its large tidal range and rapid current. Although various geological features are distributed from the Paleozoic to the Cenozoic, many are granite. A peculiar terrain called "badland" that is formed by granite which is easily weathered and eroded can be seen in the Horaiyō Valley at the foot of Mt. Rokko. In addition, the area of the extrusive rock called "Setouchi Volcanic Rocks" has scenic spots such as Mt. Yashima which is known for its dissected lava plateau and Kankakei Gorge of Shodoshima Island where strangely-shaped rocks and ridges of agglomerates can be seen. Further, a lava dome, a crater, and rare milky-colored obsidian can be found in Himeshima Island.



Kankakei Gorge (Shodoshima Town, Kagawa Prefecture)

Mt. Yashima (Takamatsu City, Kagawa Prefecture)



- Archipelago Landscape -

The islands scattered around in the calm waters reveal varied archipelago landscapes depending on the angle and location to view from. Some of them include views from the shores and views of islands appearing one after another from a ship going by. Moreover, views change as time changes from the morning to the evening and as season changes.

- Natural Landscape -

Although the Setonaikai Sea is calm, there are straits, complex submarine topography, rapid current water areas because of tidal differences. In particular, Naruto Strait, Funaoi Strait, and Ondono-Seto Strait are famous. Sightseeing boats to experience the wonders of tidal flows and the whirlpools up close are available in the Naruto Strait and Funaoi Strait.

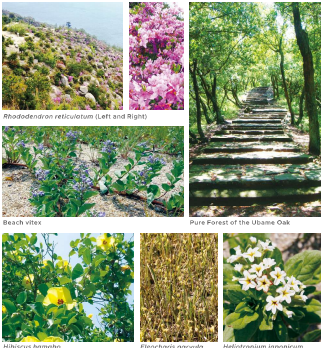


Geiyo Islands Seen from Mt. Ryuo (Mihara City, Hiroshima Prefecture)

Wild Animals and Plants

- Vegetation and Rare Plants -

Vegetation in the coastal area is dominated by secondary forests consisting of the Japanese red pine, *Quercus serrata* (a kind of oak) and the azalea. Meanwhile, valuable natural vegetation such as Ubatse oak forests on the cliffs along the coast, forests surrounding Shinto shrines which are dominated by chinquapin and oak trees, mixed coniferous and broadleaf forests of Mt. Misen remains in various places. In addition, salt-tolerant seaside plants such as the beach vitex, *Haliotriplax japonica* (a kind of heliotrope), *Hibiscus hamabo* (yellow hibiscus) can be found on the sandy beaches, and rare plants such as *Elettaria parvula* can also be seen in salt marshes.



Rhododendron reticulatum (Left and Right)

Beach vitex

Pure Forest of the Ubatse Oak

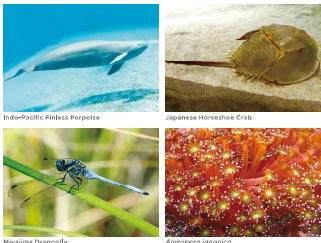
Hibiscus hamabo

Eleutheria parvula

Haliotriplax japonica

- A Variety of Ecosystems and Rare Animals -

The Setonaikai Sea has diverse ecosystems centered around marine areas such as mudflats, seaweed beds, beaches, and tidal marshes. Especially, there are habitats of rare creatures such as the following: the Indo-Pacific finless porpoise that lives in warm shallow water area, the Japanese horseshoe crab that inhabit the mudflat area of calm enclosed bay and is also known as "Living Fossil," and *Orchetrum pacificus miyajimense* (Miyajima dragonfly) only found in the island of Miyajima in Japan. The southwestern part of Miyajima including tidal marshes with brackish water where Miyajima dragonfly inhabit was designated as a Wetland of International Importance of Ramsar Sites in 2012. Further, Japan's largest colonies of *Alveopora japonica* (hydrocorals and scleractinian corals) were confirmed in the offshore of Yashiro Island, and this area including the seaweed beds was designated as the first marine park area of the Setonaikai Sea in 2013.



Indo-Pacific Finless Porpoise

Japanese Horseshoe Crab

Miyajima Dragonfly (*Orchetrum pacificus miyajimense*)

Alveopora japonica



Culture

- Prospered Setonaikai Sea Trading Routes and Remained Port Towns -

The Setonaikai Sea has been a major route for marine traffic connecting Japan and abroad since ancient times. The Setonaikai Sea Route was established in the Edo period, and port towns to wait for the tide to turn or for the suitable wind have flourished since northern-bound ships, Korean envoys, and both domestic and international visitors arrived at the ports. Townscapes filled with historical ambience can still be found in many places including Ushimado, Shimotsui, Tomonoura, Onomichi, Mitani, and Muroran. In addition, a large number of remains are left at the military bases for Shiawaku sailors (warship crews) and Murakami Navy who were skilled maritime pilots, for the Setonaikai Sea having complex tidal current and topography.

- Culture Created by People and Nature -

Since the Setonaikai Sea area had flourished since early times, its famous places have been written in many of Manyoshu (the oldest existing collection of Japanese poetry), Kojiki (Japan's oldest extant chronicle), Taiheiki (a Japanese historical epic), and the like. In addition, there are many buildings and historic sites with the background of the Genpei War and worship of temples and shrines, and traditional festivals and customs still exist on the islands.



Quaint Townscape of Tomonoura (Tomonoura City, Hiroshima Prefecture)

Beikushimayama Shrine of Miyajima (Miyajima City, Hiroshima Prefecture)

Conservation Efforts

- Conservation of Natural Environment -

Protection of wildlife, conservation of the landscapes, and surveys have been carried out in order to protect the natural scenery and the rich biodiversity of the national park. A variety of projects, including protection projects and population surveys for the Miyajima dragonfly (*Orchetrum pacificus miyajimense*), cleanup of seashore areas, surveys of marine park area candidate sites, have been conducted.

- Promoting Nature Experience -

Various seasonal programs such as nature observation have been conducted mainly around the visitor's hubs such as Mt. Washu and the island of Miyajima with the cooperation of park volunteers and nature park guides. Educational projects for learning the importance of nature and environment, such as "Junior Park Rangers" for children have also been conducted.

- Maintenance of Park Facilities -

Park facilities have been maintained for visitors to experience the nature of the national park safely and comfortably. These facilities include visitor centers, trails, picnic sites, campgrounds, and others around the visitor's hubs within the park, such as Mt. Rokko and Goshikidai highland.












Beach Cleanup (Ishikawa City, Hiroshima Prefecture)

Basic Workshop (Sakabe City, Kagawa Prefecture)

Crafts House (Sakabe City, Kagawa Prefecture)

National Parks Etiquette

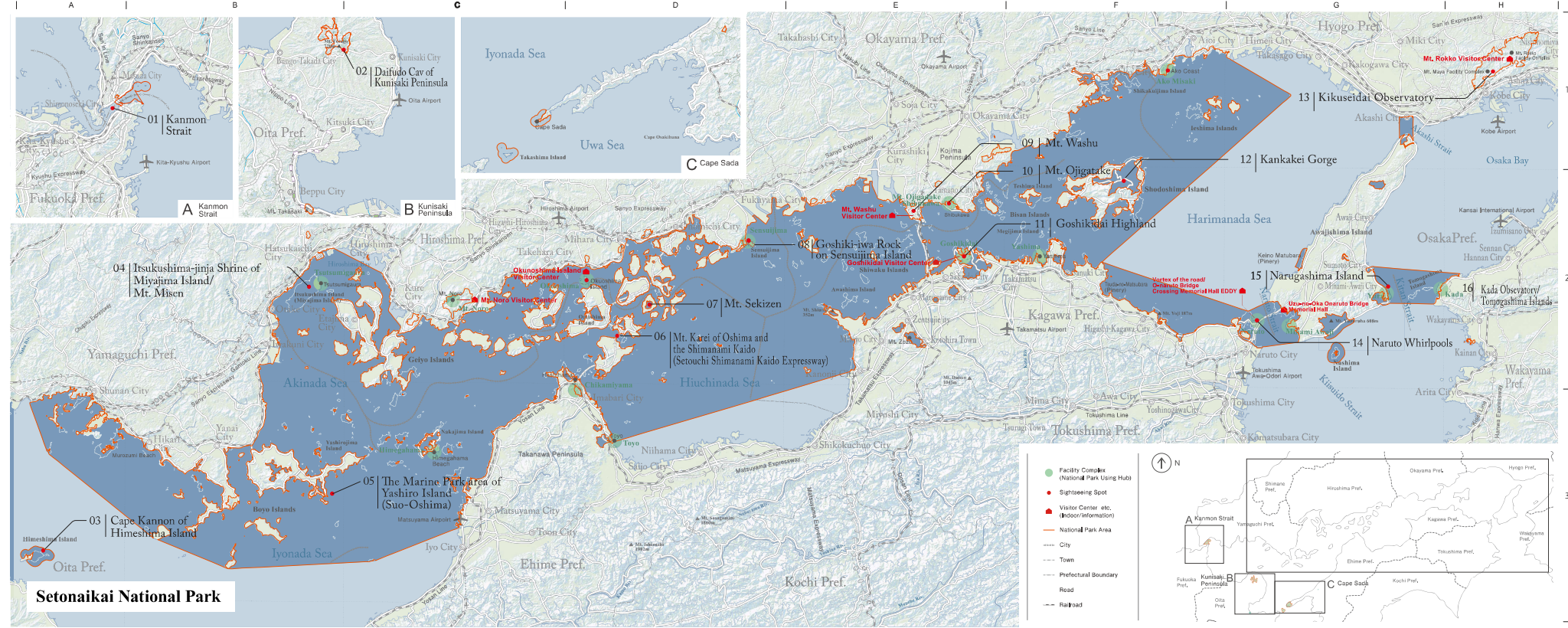
Please keep in mind the importance of nature and observe the following while staying in the national park so that everyone can enjoy.

-  Do not litter.
-  Do not pick plants.
-  Do not feed any wildlife.
-  Do not catch/capture any wildlife.
-  No smoking while walking.
-  Bonfires shall be built within the designated area only.
-  Beware of high waves, high seas, and strong winds (pay attention to changes in tide levels).
-  Watch out for mudslides when raining.
-  Beware of earthquakes and tsunamis. (Evacuate to higher grounds when feeling a large tremor.)












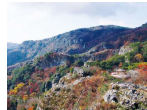




\*Camping is prohibited outside of the designated camping areas.  
\*Beware of wildfires.

\*Beware of dangerous, poisonous creatures when playing at the beach or fishing. For example, Pteropus japonicus (a species of edible catfish), the blue-lined octopus, Aglaophenia whitelegged Bale (a kind of Hydrozoa), and the fireworm.





Please contact each responsible ranger office or regional environment office of the Ministry of the Environment for area details.

<div>01   Kanmon Strait</div> <div><p>(Kiyakushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture and Shimomuro City, Yamaguchi Prefecture)</p></div> <div>The boundary between Dananoura and Mekari, separating Honshu (main island) and Kyushu, is called Ilayasu-no-Seto. Hinoiyama Park, Mimonoogawa Park, and Mekari Park are scenic spots for the Kanmon Strait.</div>	<div>02   Daifudo Cave of Kunisaki Peninsula</div> <div><p>(Kunisaki City, Oita Prefecture)</p></div> <div>This cave has been traditionally used for monk's training, and the path used for this training is now maintained as part of the Kunisakihantou Minemichi Long Trail. Oddly-shaped rocks and sharp ridgelines can be observed by the cave formed in the rock wall.</div>	<div>03   Cape Kannon of Himeshima Island</div> <div><p>(Himeshima Village, Oita Prefecture)</p></div> <div>Cliffs of a cape of Kannonzaki are made of obsidian, and obsidian artifacts produced here in the stone age have been found from the ruins throughout Japan. It is designated as a Natural Monument of Japan as well as a Japanese Cicopark.</div>	<div>04   Itsukushima-jinja Shrine of Miyajima Island/ Mt. Misen</div> <div><p>(Hatsukiruchi City, Hiroshima Prefecture)</p></div> <div>The island of Miyajima, which is one of the three most scenic spots of Japan, shows a representative scenery of Japan. Itsukushima-jinja Shrine and the primeval forests of Mt. Misen (a Natural Monument) on its back were designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.</div>	<div>05   The Marine Park area of Yashiro Island (Suo-Oshima)</div> <div><p>(Suo-Oshima Town, Yamaguchi Prefecture)</p></div> <div>Japan's largest communities of <i>Alveopora japonica</i> have been confirmed and designated as a marine park area along with good seaweed beds in order to conserve them.</div>	<div>06   Mt. Karei of Oshima and the Shimanami Kaido (Setouchi Shimanami Kaido Expressway)</div> <div><p>(Imabari City, Ehime Prefecture)</p></div> <div>The archipelago landscape including Hakanajima Island and Omishima Island as well as Noishima Island where the base of the Murakami Navy used to be located can be seen from the observatory on the island. The Shimanami Kaido Expressway connecting Onomichi and Imabari can be crossed by bicycles.</div>
<div>07   Mt. Sekizen</div> <div><p>(Korinuma Town, Ehime Prefecture)</p></div> <div>Views of cherry blossoms along the ridgeline and the archipelago landscape of Geiyo Islands seen from the mountain-top observatory or trails are simply spectacular.</div>	<div>08   Goshikiwa Rock on Sensuijima Island</div> <div><p>(Fukuyama City, Hiroshima Prefecture)</p></div> <div>Sensuijima Island located off the coast of Tomonoura has flourished as a port to wait for the tide to turn since ancient times, and it is a scenic spot said to be "so beautiful that even a hermit could get mesmerized." An outcrop of Goshikiwa Rock (meaning five-colored rock) which is a weathered rhyolitic tuff can be seen.</div>	<div>09   Mt. Washu</div> <div><p>(Kurashiki City, Okayama Prefecture)</p></div> <div>Bisaneto Strait viewed from Mt. Washu and an archipelago landscape of Shikoku Islands are supreme scenic spots that were essential to win the designation of national park. Shinotani, where Mt. Washu is located, has prospered as a port to wait for the tide to turn.</div>	<div>10   Mt. Ojigatake</div> <div><p>(Kurashiki City and Tomono City, Okayama Prefecture)</p></div> <div>It has a unique mountain shape with a series of beautiful formations of enormous granite rocks and oddly-shaped rocks, and Bisaneto Strait can be observed from the summit. The Shibukawa Beach with a white sand beach and green pine forests at the bottom of the mountain is used as a beach resort.</div>	<div>11   Goshikidai Highland</div> <div><p>(Sakado City and Takamatsu City, Kagawa Prefecture)</p></div> <div>Goshikidai Highland (meaning five-colored peak) with a series of five hills offers outdoor facilities, historic ruins, and Oheuro (pilgrimage) where hiking, nature observation, exploration of local history, and others can be enjoyed. Especially, the sunset view of the Bisaneto Strait is breathtaking.</div>	<div>12   Kankakei Gorge</div> <div><p>(Ehimehima Town, Kagawa Prefecture)</p></div> <div>Kankakei Gorge is one of the three most beautiful valleys of Japan with extraordinary views of groups of uniquely shaped volcanic rocks that have been exposed to the weather for many years as well as spectacular views of cliffs, which can be appreciated throughout the year. In particular, the autumn leaves are outstanding.</div>
<div>13   Kikuseidai Observatory</div> <div><p>(Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture)</p></div> <div>Scenery of cities and the Osaka Bay spreading below can be observed from many places of Rokko mountains situated adjacent to cities of Hanshin region. Especially, the Kikuseidai Observatory is an ideal scenic spot for a spectacular panoramic night view.</div>	<div>14   Naruto Whirlpools</div> <div><p>(Naruto City, Tokushima Prefecture)</p></div> <div>The whirlpools caused by the rapid tidal current acknowledged as one of the "World Three Greatest Tidal Currents" can be seen at the times of high tide and low tide, and its maximum diameter can be as large as 20 meters. Visitors can observe the whirlpools closely from a sightseeing boat.</div>	<div>15   Narugashima Island</div> <div><p>(Sumoto City, Hyogo Prefecture)</p></div> <div>It consists of about a 3-km-long sandbar connecting Mt. Narayama on the north and Takasaki on the south, and it used to be referred to as "Awajishinade." There is a salt marsh in the center of the island, and rare species of plants and animals inhabit the area.</div>	<div>16   Kada Observatory/Tomogashima Islands</div> <div><p>(Wakayama City, Wakayama Prefecture)</p></div> <div>Unique landscapes such as sea cliffs and wave-cut platforms with uplifted or inclined strata of the Izumi Group can be seen. Tomogashima Islands situated in the Kitan Strait can be observed from the Kada Observatory.</div>	<div><div>Information</div><div>Facilities</div><div>Goshikidai Visitor Center Nabiyama 773-18, Kawa, Ogochi Town, Sakado City, Kagawa Prefecture 762-0004 TEL 0874-242479 FAX 0874-242408 URL http://goshikidai.jp</div><div>E2</div><div>Okunoshima Island Visitor Center Okunoshima, Tadonotsu Town, Takehara City, Hiroshima Prefecture 752-0011 TEL/FAX 0845-256-0100 URL http://choshiokai.com.gov/okunoshima-top.html</div><div>D2</div></div> <div>Please directly contact each facility for details such as the hours of operation, etc.</div>	