

North
Kujukushima

Kujukushima
Visitor Center

South
Kujukushima

Working together to maintain the beautiful and rich natural environment of Kujukushima!

Saikai National Park, Kujukushima

Manners guide

- Related organizations
- Ministry of the Environment Sasebo Ranger Office 0956-42-1222
 - Nagasaki Prefecture Northern Region Promotion Bureau General Affairs and Planning Section 0956-23-4211
 - Sasebo City Tourism and Products Promotion Bureau 0956-24-1111
 - Sasebo Pearl Sea Co., Ltd. 0956-28-4187
 - Sasebo Convention & Visitors Association 0956-23-3369

Saikai National Park Kujukushima Visitor Center

1053-2 Kashimae-cho, Sasebo City, Nagasaki Prefecture, 858-0922 (Within the Saikai Pearl Sea Resort)

[Tel] 0956-28-7919 [Fax] 0956-28-7351

[E-mail] info@kujukushima-visitorcenter.jp

[Website] <http://www.kujukushima-visitorcenter.jp/>

Issued by : Kujukushima Visitor Center Operation Board
Board for the Facilitation of the use of the Southern Kujukushima Sea
Issued date : March 2012

Index

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|---|
| P1 | What is Kujukushima? | P13 | What are fishing rights? |
| P3 | The Kujukushima area is part of the "Saikai National Park" | P14 | Manners to observe when on the sea |
| P4 | Attention Using the Kujukushima area | P15 | To prevent sea accidents... |
| P5 | Plant life in the Kujukushima area | P17 | To protect yourself |
| P7 | Aquatic animals in the Kujukushima area | P18 | Please use the Kujukushima Visitor Center |
| P8 | Manners to observe when landing on uninhabited islands | | |
| P11 | The Kujukushima area is a rich fishing ground | | |

What is Kujukushima?

The pride of Kujukushima

- A total of **208** islands!
The densest concentration of islands in Japan!

- A high proportion of natural coastline
288.44km - 81.5% of the total (The average for Japan is 53.1%)

- **The Kujukushima area is inhabited and home to many rare plants and animals that are no longer seen elsewhere.**

- Number of Kujukushima fishermen — **around 1,200**
Types of fish — **around 1,000**
Amount of fish caught each year — **around 4,500ton**
(excluding offshore fisheries)

- Number of tourists visiting Kujukushima each year **around 780,000**
Number of people boarding sightseeing cruisers each year **around 320,000**

- **The Kujukushima islands are located at the westernmost point of mainland Japan. The picturesque scenery even made an appearance in a Hollywood movie - in the opening scene of "The Last Samurai."**



A "natural coastline" which remains to this day

The Kujukushima area has a high ratio of natural coastline, one of the greatest in Japan.

This natural coastline is home to a large variety of wildlife.



Horseshoe crab - a living fossil

This horseshoe crab is an endangered species which only lives in Yamaguchi Prefecture and a very small area of Kyushu. Large areas of the environment necessary for this precious crab to survive still remain in the Kujukushima area.



The "Kujukushima Oyster" food brand

The aquaculture of oysters, fugu pufferfish, sea bream and young yellowtail is common in the Kujukushima area.

Oysters in particular have been branded as "Kujukushima Oysters" and are shipped to destinations all over Japan.



An excellent area for sea kayaks

With its calm waves and the islands providing shelter from the wind, the area is excellent for kayaks and safe for even beginners to row.

To protect the beautiful and rich natural environment of Kujukushima and to pass it on to future generations...

We must all observe good manners!

The Kujukushima area is part of the "Saikai National Park"

The Saikai National Park is located in the northwestern part of Nagasaki Prefecture. It is a marine park which stretches from the Sasebo "Kujukushima" to Hirado Island and the Goto Islands. It was designated as Japan's 18th national park on March 16, 1955.



● National Parks have various rules and regulations

Under the Natural Parks Act, the Kujukushima area (excluding Kuroshima) is classified as a "special area" where various actions are regulated for the sake of the use and protection of nature.

Information on National Parks can be obtained from
the Ministry of the Environment's Sasebo Ranger Office.
(Tel. 0956-42-1222)
Or the Ministry of the Environment's website at <http://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/nps/park>

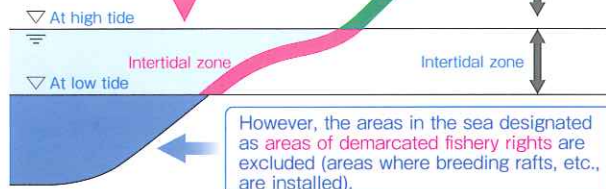


Using the Kujukushima area

● The areas available for use

Even if an island is uninhabited, it is still owned by someone. It is not possible to land on an island without the owner's permission. The only areas available for use without permission are the intertidal zones and on and under the sea.

What is the intertidal zone?
This is the sandy beach, tidal flats and shallows covered by water at high tide and uncovered at low tide.



● You have 2 options of landing on uninhabited islands. The basic rule is **landing on the intertidal zone.**



① Landing on the intertidal zone

The sandy beaches, tidal flats and shallows, etc., in the intertidal zone are not recognized as land. It is therefore possible to land on and use these areas without permission. However, various living creatures inhabit the intertidal zone, so manners must be observed when using them. The tide level must also be checked before landing.

② Landing and entering the interior of the islands

Permission must be obtained from the owner of the island to land on and go into the interior of the island, for example for nature studies or observation groups.

Plant life in the Kujukushima area

Southern plant life can be found in the Kujukushima area due to its warm climate, which is a result of the effects of the Tsushima Current. Furthermore, since development of the area has been regulated since Japan's Meiji period, there are many rare plants growing naturally which can no longer be found elsewhere.



Lilium speciosum

Best seen from mid-July through August. This is the flower symbol of Sasebo City. It can also be seen from sightseeing cruises.



Mucuna sempervirens

These are at their best from mid-April to mid-May. They are only found in three places in Japan - Yamaga City in Kumamoto Prefecture, Kurume City in Fukuoka Prefecture and Sasebo City in Nagasaki Prefecture.



Hibiscus hamabo

Best seen in July and August. These grow on warm coastlines with a yellow flower shaped like a hibiscus. The bright yellow color lasts for just one day and the flowers droop on their second day, but new flowers continue to bloom one after another.



Rules we must all observe

Manners to observe when landing on uninhabited islands



●Do not take the plants or animals!

Various species of plants and animals live in balance in the Kujukushima area. Do not damage the plants or animals and do not take any away with you.



●Do not trample

Many rare species inhabit the Kujukushima area, including some that are endangered. Be careful not to stand on any accidentally when going on to the land.



This just looks like a weed, what is it?

This is the rare "*carex kobomugi*" (Japanese sedge) plant.

It grows on sandy beach areas on the coastal intertidal zone. Be careful not to tread on it.



●The Kujukushima area is a "sanctuary" for wild birds

More than 50 species of wild birds live in the Kujukushima area.

To these birds, the Kujukushima islands are a place to rest and feed.

Manners must be observed in order to maintain this excellent natural environment and the various living things within it.

Aquatic animals in the Kujukushima area

There are many sandy beaches and tidal flats on the Kujukushima islands and various kinds of creature live in the sand and mud with a balanced ecosystem. The area is inhabited by many important aquatic animals which are no longer found elsewhere.



Uca lactea (Fiddler crabs)

These live in the holes they dig in the muddy sand on tidal flats. They can be seen from May to October.



Onchidium hongkongensis

These live in muddy tidal flats. They are said to be on the verge of extinction on the Japanese mainland, but they can be seen in the tidal flats of the Kujukushima islands.



Periophthalmus cantonesis (Mudskippers)

These live in the tidal flats and move about by jumping across the mud. They can be seen between April and November and breed in the summer.



Rules we must all observe

Manners to observe when landing on uninhabited islands

Do not build open fires directly on the ground

Many creatures live in the sandy beaches and tidal flats. These are killed by fires directly on the ground. Fires directly on the ground can also result in uncontrolled fires. Never build a fire directly on the ground.



A Stimpson's ghost crab living in the sand



When using flames, always use equipment which will not affect the natural environment, for example a barbecue stove. Also be careful to extinguish the fire completely.



Never build open fires directly on the ground.



Do not remove the wildlife!

Many precious creatures live in the tidal flats and shallows. Never take any creatures away with you. The taking of creatures such as clams and oysters living in the tidal flats and shallows is also prohibited for persons without fishing rights.

Anomalocardia squamosa

These are said to be on the verge of extinction on the Japanese mainland, but can still be seen on the tidal flats of the Kujukushima islands.

See page 13 for information on fishing rights.



Rules we must
all observe

Manners to observe when landing on uninhabited islands

Landing on the intertidal zone



●The basic rule for landing is to land on the "intertidal zone"

The sandy beaches, tidal flats and shallows, etc., in the intertidal zone are not recognized as land. It is therefore possible to land on and use these areas without permission. However, various living creatures inhabit the intertidal zone, so manners must be observed when using them.



Beware of the rise and fall of the tide

The sea is quite calm in the Kujukushima area, but there is a large 4 m difference between the low and high tides and the movement of the tides is therefore quite fast. It is important to check the tide levels for that day before landing and to be aware of the rising and falling of the tide while on land.




●The number of people landing

In order to reduce the burden on the environment, we should aim for no more than around 50 people landing on an island in one day. Please use guided tours, etc., when going on land.

●Be considerate of wildlife

It is essential that you are considerate of the precious living creatures when landing on the islands. When pitching tents or other structures, check beforehand that no rare species are living in that location.



 Please contact the
Kujukushima Visitor Center
for information on guided tours
and rare species.

●Fish only in the intertidal zone when on the uninhabited islands

Angling is not restricted on the Kujukushima islands, but some land on the islands is privately owned, so angling should only be done in the intertidal zone. Furthermore, some rare species inhabit those intertidal zones, so be careful not to tread on them and when using fires.



●Always take garbage home with you

All items brought on to the islands must be taken home. When fishing, do not leave anything like leftover ground-bait or fishing line.



●Do not take pets on land

Do not take dogs, cats or other pets onto the islands. This is to ensure that rare and other species are not trampled and destroyed.



Going into the interior of the islands

●Permission must be obtained from the owner before going into the interior of the island.

The permission of the owner of the island is necessary before landing on the islands and going into the interior, for example, for nature studies or observation groups.

The Kujukushima area is a rich fishing ground

The sea around the Kujukushima islands is a tourist area for various kinds of marine leisure. However, it is also a place where fishermen are engaged in fishing to make their living.

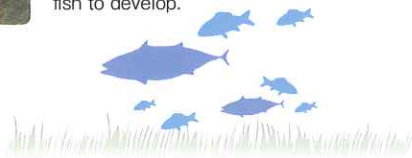
It is a rich fishing ground inhabited by around 1,000 diverse species of fish.



● Zosteria beds - the secret behind the bountiful seas

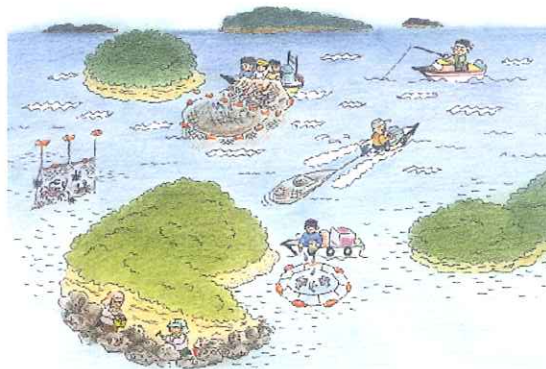
A large amount of seaweeds such as eelgrass grow in concentrated areas in the shallows around the Kujukushima islands, forming what are called "zosteria beds."

These zosteria beds provide an important place for small creatures and juvenile fish to develop.



● The fishing industry in the Kujukushima area

In the sea around the Kujukushima islands the fishery is mostly operated with offshore fixed nets, gill nets and pole and line fishing. Many types of fish and shellfish are caught. Aquaculture is also widely practiced.



● The marine products industry in the Kujukushima area

In addition to the large volumes of species such as isaki (Chicken grunt), squid, sea cucumbers and false kelpfish that are caught, large volumes of oysters, fugu pufferfish, sea breams and young yellowtails are also shipped from aquaculture farms.

In particular, oysters are shipped to all over Japan under the brand name of "Kujukushima Oyster".



What are fishing rights?

●Fishing rights

This is the right to engage in the fishing industry in a fixed area of water. In the coastal zone in particular, joint fishing rights are established such that the members of the fishery association practice fishing in the fishing grounds off that strip of land, while also managing the resources and fishing grounds themselves.

In these areas, the taking of creatures such as sea urchins, sea cucumbers, spiny lobsters, octopus, clams or seaweed without permission is prohibited.

If people other than the fishermen take fish and shellfish, then this is an infringement of the fishing rights and is punishable by law.



●Shellfish gathering at low tide is prohibited in the Kujukushima area

Shellfish such as oysters or clams are covered by fishing rights and it is not possible for anyone other than the fishermen to take them.

*It is possible to pay to gather shellfish at low tide in some other regions.



★Restrictions on the capture of fish and shellfish

The Nagasaki Prefecture fisheries adjustment regulations stipulate the size and period for taking fish and shellfish and what may not be taken, either by fishermen or by the general public.

★Information can be found on the Nagasaki Prefecture Fisheries Department website "[Yumetobi net](#)".

★Regulations on fishing tackle and fishing methods

The Nagasaki Prefecture fisheries adjustment regulations stipulate the types of fishing tackle and the fishing methods which can be used by the general public other than the fishermen. For example, the use of harpoons and diving apparatus (including scuba breathing apparatus) to take aquatic animals and plants is prohibited.



★Information can be found on the Nagasaki Prefecture Fisheries Department website "[Yumetobi net](#)" (Japanese only).

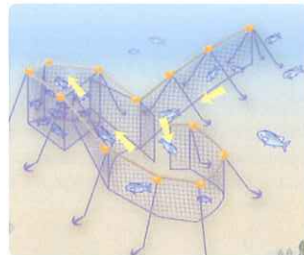


Rules we must all observe

Manners to observe when on the sea

●Stay away from the breeding rafts and fishing devices

Docking at the breeding rafts and approaching fishing equipment and devices may cause unnecessary suspicion and conflict. Keep away from them.



Be careful when operating personal water craft and pleasure boats

●Move slowly when close to breeding rafts

When navigating close to the breeding rafts, move slowly so that no wake is created that will affect them.



The wake can cause people working on the rafts to fall into the sea.

The fishery may also be affected, for example, the farmed fish may stop eating.

To prevent sea accidents...



The seas around the Kujukushima islands are navigated by many fishing boats, sightseeing cruisers, kayaks, boats, yachts, personal watercraft and others.

Please be careful of the following points, in order to prevent sea accidents.

●Check the weather and the sea conditions

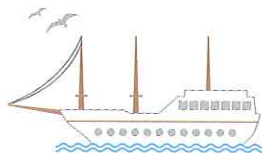
Always check the weather forecast. Collect information before departure and never take any chances.



●Check that the sea route is safe

The difference between high and low tides is large around the Kujukushima islands and the varied profile of the sea bed also means that there are many shallow areas.

Try to understand where the safe sea routes are, by checking nautical or similar charts for any obstructions before setting off, and also by checking which routes are navigated frequently by fishing boats.



●Inspections before setting out to sea

Breakdowns of vessels on the sea can lead to serious accidents. Also check the vessel before departure.



Sea kayaks

Make efforts to prevent accidents involving other vessels, and enjoy these in safety.



●Navigating sea kayaks

Sea kayaks should navigate close to the islands. When crossing open sea, be sure to check for other vessels first and then cross quickly, taking the shortest possible route.



●Always put up a safety flag

Always put a safety flag on your sea kayak.

Also select bright colored sea kayaks, life jackets, paddles and clothing, etc.

Diving

●Always put up a diver down flag

Plant a "diving flag" on the boat when diving.



To protect yourself

●How are you feeling?

Do not take chances if you are feeling unwell. Also, be prepared and bring with you your necessary medicines and treatment for insect bites and injuries.



●Wear clothing appropriate for outdoor activities on the sea and on the islands

Always wear a hat.
The general rule is to wear long sleeves and long trousers.
Take an extra jacket with you.
Use bags such as backpacks that keep both hands free.
Wear sturdy, non-slip shoes.
Don't forget your rainwear.

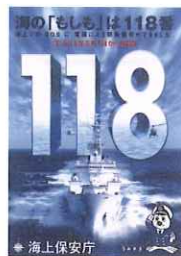
●The three most important points for protecting yourself



Always wear a life jacket



Have some method of communication such as a mobile phone



To request a rescue, dial 118 for the coast guard

To find out more about the Kujukushima area...
Please use the Kujukushima Visitor Center.

●Kujukushima Visitor Center

Built by the Ministry of the Environment inside the Saikai Pearl Sea Resort in July 2010.

The center functions as a base for communicating information on the nature of the Saikai National Park Kujukushima area.

It gives a broad introduction to the beautiful scenery and rich natural environment of the Kujukushima area of the Saikai National Park and provides an opportunity to learn about the various lives of the many creatures that live there. It also hosts events such as nature observation groups, to enable experiencing the nature of the Kujukushima area.



- Entrance: free / ● Open every day of the year
- Hours of opening: March - October: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
November - February: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.