

{Inscribed on the World Heritage List in July 2018.}



World Cultural Heritage
Hidden Christian Sites
in the Nagasaki Region

8

Remains of Villages on Nozaki Island

Guide Map

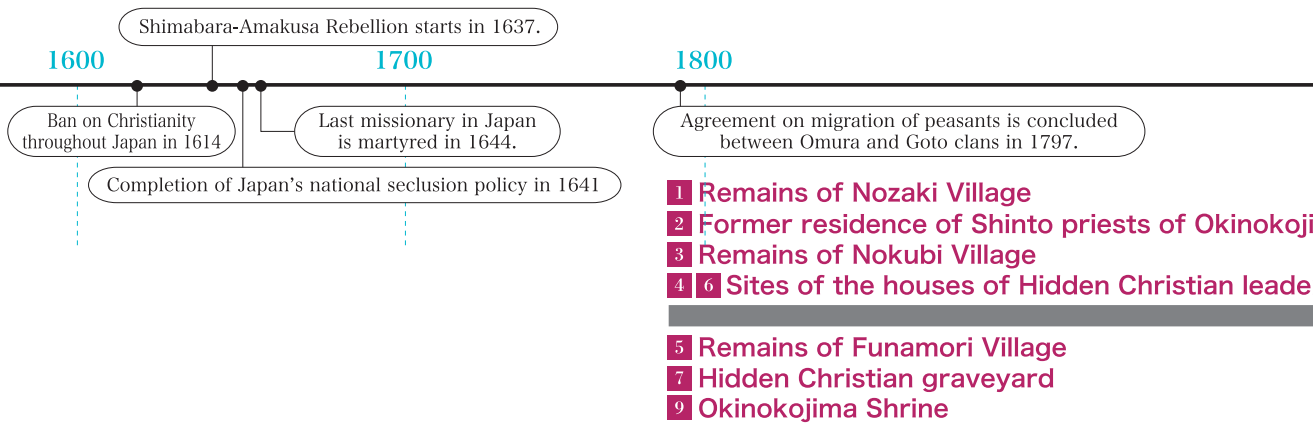


Significance of Remains of Villages on Nozaki Island

I. Beginning of the absence of missionaries and hiding of Christians

II. Hidden Christians' endeavours to continue their religious faith

III. Hidden Christians' endeavours to maintain their religious communities



Position in 'Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region'

- ◎ Remains of Villages on Nozaki Island are one of the four components that demonstrate to which locations Hidden Christians chose to migrate in order to maintain their religious communities.
- ◎ Hidden Christian migrants maintained their communities after they settled in Nozaki Island, which was regarded as sacred by Shinto believers.

《Basic information》

Designation title as cultural assets	Designation title as cultural assets
Designation category	Important Cultural Landscape selected by the national government
Year of designation	2011
Location	Ojika Town, Kitamatsuura District

Manners when visiting the village remains and prior notice before visiting the Former Nokubi Church

Nozaki Island is virtually uninhabited. It is essential that you consult the Ojika Island Tourism website or inquire by phone before visiting the island. When you do so, please ask for a copy of the guidebook for visitors to Nozaki Island.

Ojika Island Tourism

2791-13 Fuefukigo, Ojika Town, Kitamatsuura District, Nagasaki Prefecture 857-4701 (within the Ojika Port Terminal)
Tel +81-959-56-2646

Opening hours: 9:00 to 18:00 (open every day, with the exception of the New Year holiday period)

<http://ojikajima.jp/category/tourlism>

Ojika Island Tourism

Search

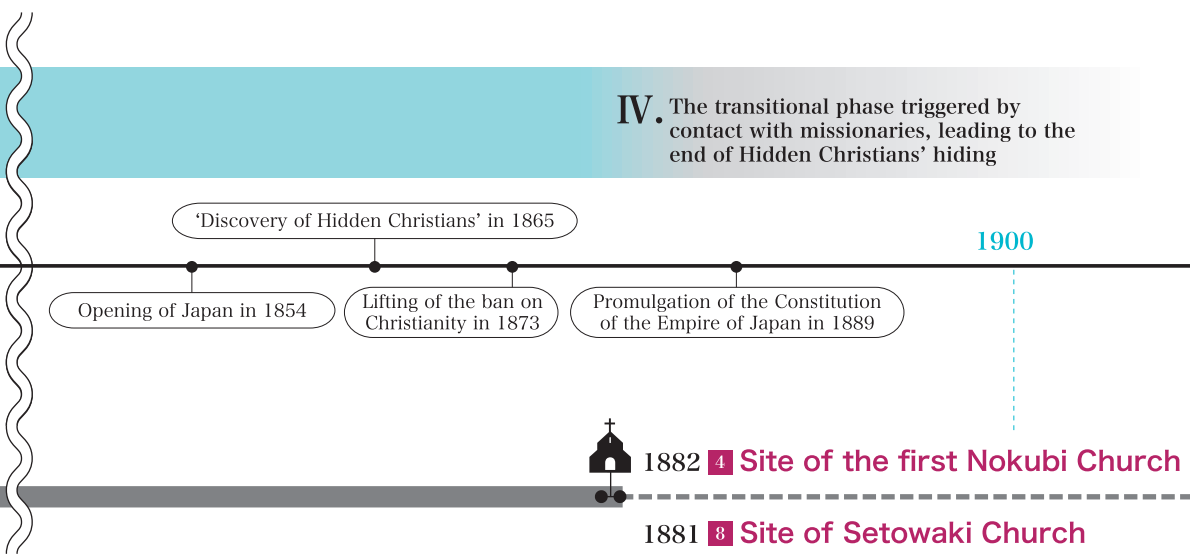


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IV. The transitional phase triggered by contact with missionaries, leading to the end of Hidden Christians' hiding

ma Shrine

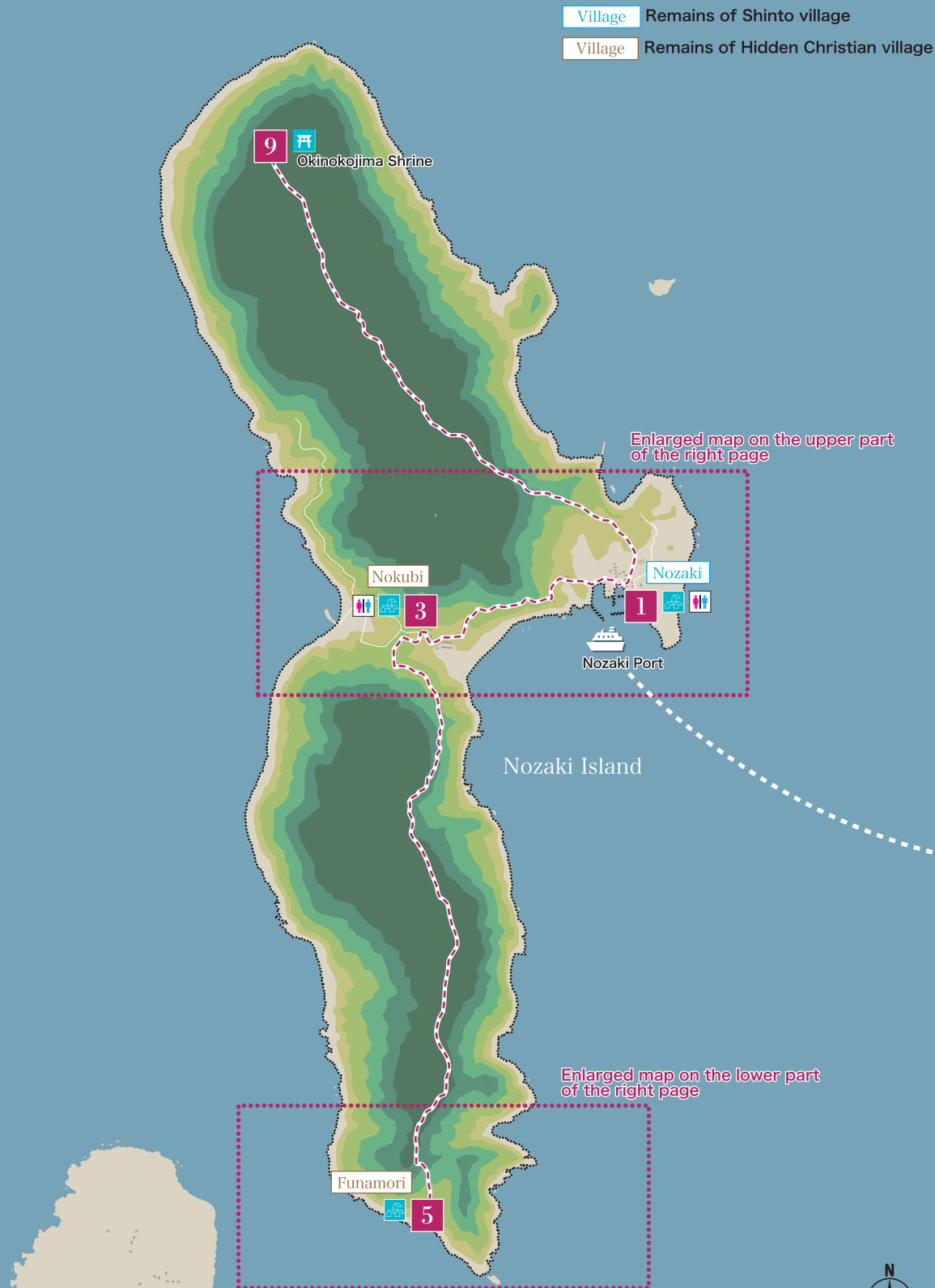
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History

- ◎ Okinokojima Shrine **9**, situated in the northern part of Nozaki Island, has been widely venerated as the seat of a guardian deity of maritime. Since the island itself was considered such a sacred place for Shinto practitioners, there were hardly any settlements established there.
- ◎ Until the 19th century, human settlement only occurred around the residence of Shinto Priests of Okinokojima Shrine **2** in the Nozaki area **1** on the eastern coast of the central part.
- ◎ In the middle of the 19th century, some Hidden Christian migrants, starting from Sotome and moving from one place to another, settled in Nokubi **3** in the central part of Nozaki Island and Funamori **5** at the southern tip of the island.
- ◎ These Hidden Christians outwardly followed the widely venerated Shinto shrine to camouflage their inner faith and maintained their community under the guidance of their own religious leaders. (**4**, **6**, and **7**).
- ◎ Hidden Christians of Nokubi and Funamori made the steep difficult slopes usable, developing narrow plots of flat land by building stone retaining walls and creating plots which to grow potatoes and wheat.
- ◎ Following the 'Discovery of Hidden Christians', Hidden Christians on Nozaki Island contacted the European missionaries at Oura Cathedral, and they rejoined the Catholic Church after the lifting of the ban on Christianity.
- ◎ They initially used the houses of former Hidden Christian leaders as temporary churches, but later constructed wooden churches in 1881 in Funamori and in 1882 in Nokubi. (**4** and **8**)
- ◎ Nozaki Island has been almost uninhabited since the last villagers left the island in 2001.

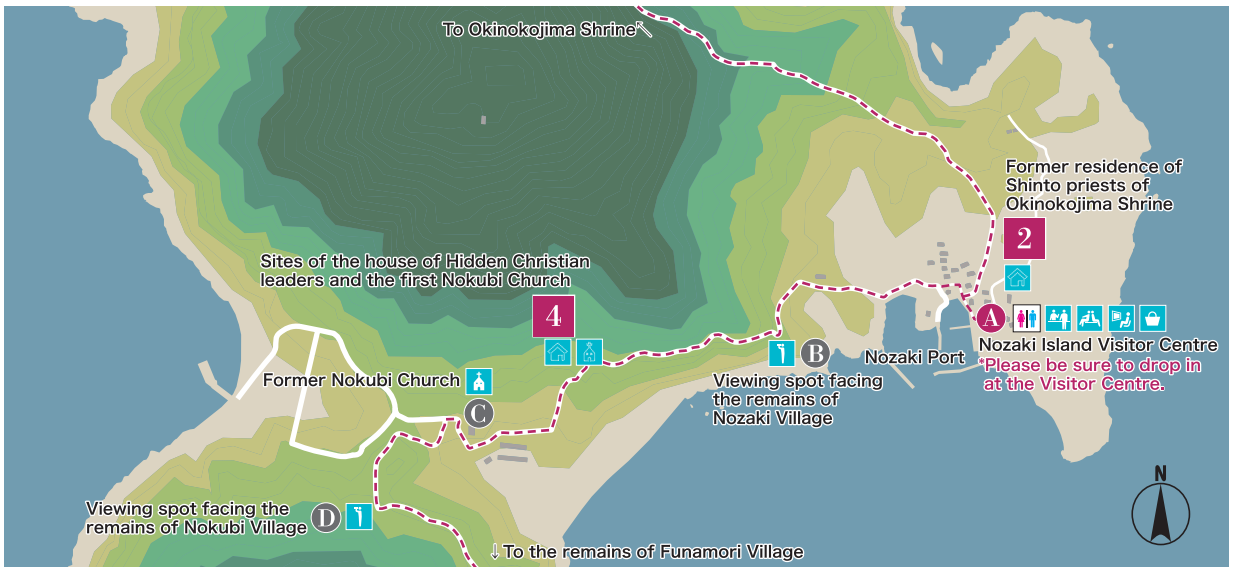
Wide-area map around Remains of Villages on Nozaki Island



Enlarged map of Remains of Villages on Nozaki Island

1 Remains of Nozaki Village

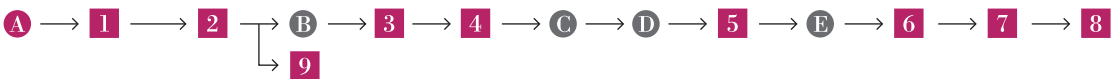
2 Remains of Nokubi Village



3 Remains of Funamori Village



《Recommended route》



.....	Boundaries of the component	A	Guidance facility		Guide and information office		Shop		Related building		Church
-----	On foot	A	Other spot		Rest space		Village remains		Viewing spot		Remains of church
0	Important spot		Toilets		Exhibition		Shinto shrine		Tomb or graveyard		

Introduction to important spots in Remains of Villages on Nozaki Island

1 Remains of Nozaki Village



Only Shinto priests of Okinokojima Shrine and their followers had lived on Nozaki Island before Hidden Christians moved from Sotome to the island in the 19th century. The migrants avoided the existing communities in Nozaki Village and instead settled in Nokubi and Funamori, neither of which were inhabited at that time. A stone statue by Nozaki Village's well represents a deity of water based on the Shinto faith. This kind of object cannot be found in Hidden Christian communities in Nokubi and Funamori.

2 Former residence of Shinto priests of Okinokojima Shrine



①



①

The family of the Shinto priests of Okinokojima Shrine lived in this residence for generations. Hidden Christian migrants outwardly followed the practice of Okinokojima Shrine and participated in Shinto rituals here. To cite a specific example, when they could not visit Okinokojima Shrine due to inclement weather, they offered prayers within this residence to the shrine's deity from a distance. It was found out that the altar in this site for worshipping from afar was built in 1823, during the period of the ban on Christianity. The ownership of the residence was transferred from the Shinto priests' family to Ojika Town, and it underwent repair work.

3 Remains of Nokubi Village



Nokubi Village was formed by Hidden Christian migrants who came from Sotome in the 19th century. They cleared the rough terrain, established houses and farmlands, and formed a village. The remains of houses and farmlands are important evidence of the life of the Hidden Christians.



4

Sites of the house of Hidden Christian leaders and the first Nokubi Church



①

It is believed that various rituals based on the faith of the Hidden Christians were conducted at this house during the period of the ban. After the lifting of the ban, the first church of the village was constructed here in 1882, marking the end of 'hiding' of the Hidden Christians.

5

Remains of Funamori Village



①

Funamori Village was formed by Hidden Christians who migrated from Sotome in the 19th century. They selected an uninhabited place in Funamori, cleared the rough terrain, established houses and farmlands, and formed a village. There was a marriage between a resident of Funamori and a person from Nokubi, which shows that these two villages maintained their religious faith by nurturing mutual relationships.

6

Site of the house of Hidden Christian leaders in Funamori Village



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Religious leaders of the Hidden Christians lived here during the period of the ban on Christianity. Various rituals based on the Hidden Christian faith are believed to have taken place here during the ban. The religious leaders followed the teachings of Catholic missionaries after the lifting of the ban, and played a role in helping the villagers rejoin the Catholic Church.

Introduction to important spots in Remains of Villages on Nozaki Island

7 Hidden Christian graveyard in Funamori Village



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This graveyard was made by Hidden Christians who settled in Funamori. Although it seems no different than a normal Buddhist cemetery in its appearance, archaeological excavations have confirmed that the corpses were not buried facing west toward Sukhavati, the Buddhist Pure Land, but in the opposite direction (i.e., with the faces of the corpses looking east).

8 Site of Setowaki Church



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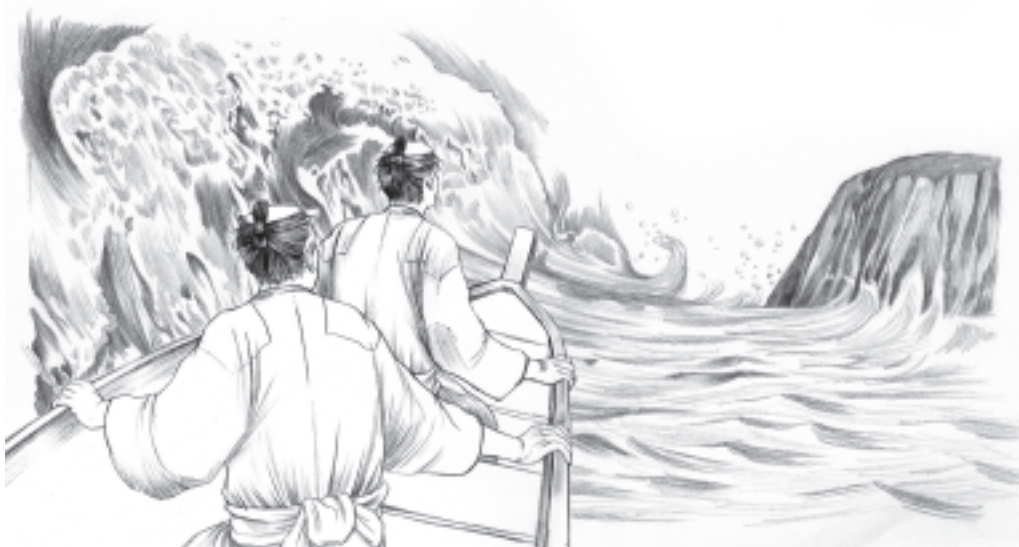


Setowaki Church (photo taken in 1967 or earlier)

The first church in Funamori was constructed here in 1881, following the lifting of the ban on Christianity. This site bears testimony to the end of 'hiding' of Hidden Christians. The church was dismantled after all the residents left the village in 1966. The parish house was moved to Ojika Island and is still in use as the building of Ojika Church.



Okinokojima Shrine was established in 704 as the seat of a guardian deity of maritime safety for ships bound for China from Japan. Since that time, the entire island has been a Shinto sacred site and venerated by Shinto practitioners throughout the Goto Islands. In the middle of the 19th century, Hidden Christians living in Sotome migrated to this island by outwardly behaving as Shinto followers. This subterfuge minimised the likelihood of any suspicions of officials that they might be Hidden Christians.



*This image is for illustrative purposes only.

Introduction to other spots in Remains of Villages on Nozaki Island

A Nozaki Island Visitor Centre



*If you wish to visit the island, please lodge a request at the Visitor Centre.



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This centre introduces visitors to the various rules that they must observe in order to ensure their safety and preserve the natural and cultural features of Nozaki Island. Various materials in the centre provide essential information to help visitors understand the World Heritage value of this island. There are also product sales and displays related to the natural environment, history, and culture of the island.

- Address: 192 Nozakigo, Ojika Town, Kitamatsuura District, Nagasaki Prefecture
TEL: +81-959-56-2244
- Opening hours: 8:15 to 15:00
- Closed on the days when the boat to Nozaki Island ('Hamayu') is out of service (basically on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month)
- Admission free

B Viewing spot facing the remains of Nozaki Village



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Remains of Nozaki Village (photo taken in 1978)

One can see the remains of Nozaki Village clearly and understand the village of the Shinto priests and their followers was established in the best part of the island, which has a natural port and a large plain suitable for farming. Beyond the sea are Hirado Island and other islands lying between Sotome and the Goto Islands.

C Former Nokubi Church



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The church has been rebuilt twice, with the current building constructed in 1908. The building was designed and constructed by Tetsukawa Yosuke. The construction was funded using the profits from *kibinago* herring fishing activities carried out by local Christians. It is a brick structure with a Japanese tile roof. The year inscribed on the side altar suggests that it was used also in the previous church building.

Code of etiquette

The Former Nokubi Church is a precious cultural property. When visiting, you are kindly requested to observe the code of etiquette and respect the church's spiritual atmosphere.

- Please remove your hat and respect the church's spiritual atmosphere.
- Please do not touch any statues or other items within the church.
- Please do not enter the chancel (the area surrounding the altar and marked by an altar rail).
- Please do not eat, drink or smoke within the church.



D Viewing spot facing the remains of Nokubi Village



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This spot commands a panoramic view of Nokubi Village.

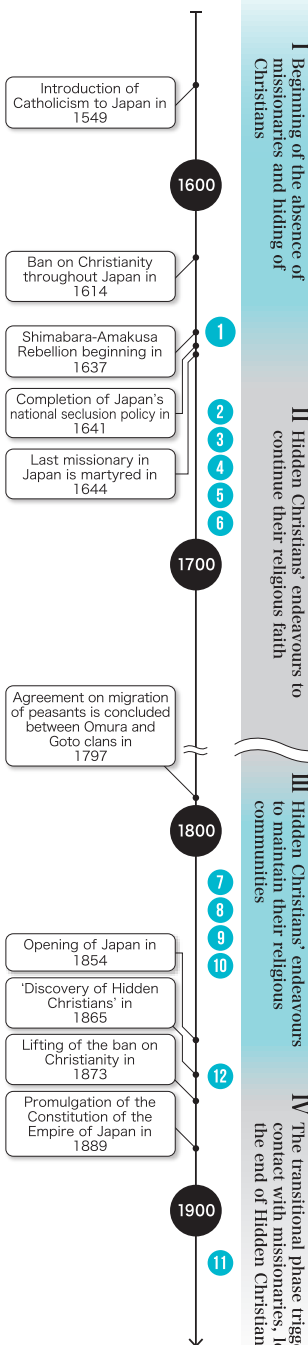
E Viewing spot facing the remains of Funamori Village



D

This spot commands a panoramic view of Nokubi Village. The Goto Islands can be seen on the south side.

12 components of 'Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region'



- 1 Remains of Hara Castle [Minamishimabara City]
- 2 Kasuga Village and Sacred Places in Hirado (Kasuga Village and Mt. Yasumandake) [Hirado City]
- 3 Kasuga Village and Sacred Places in Hirado (Nakaenoshima Island) [Hirado City]
- 4 Sakitsu Village in Amakusa [Amakusa City]
- 5 Shitsu Village in Sotome [Nagasaki City]
- 6 Ono Village in Sotome [Nagasaki City]
- 7 Villages on Kuroshima Island [Sasebo City]
- 8 **Remains of Villages on Nozaki Island [Ojika Town]**
- 9 Villages on Kashiragashima Island [Shinkamigoto Town]
- 10 Villages on Hisaka Island [Goto City]
- 11 Egami Village on Naru Island (Egami Church and its Surroundings) [Goto City]
- 12 Oura Cathedral [Nagasaki City]

Inquiries regarding Remains of Villages on Nozaki Island:
Ojika Town Board of Education
 Address: 2371-1 Fuefukigo, Ojika Town, Kitamatsuura District, Nagasaki Prefecture
 857-4701 JAPAN
 TEL: +81-959-56-3838

Issued by Prefectures of Nagasaki and Kumamoto, Cities of Nagasaki, Sasebo, Hirado, Goto, Minamishimabara and Amakusa, and Towns of Ojika and Shinkamigoto

Hidden Christian Sites Search <http://kirishitan.jp/en>

Photographers/📷Ikeda Tsutomu, 📷Higurashi Yuichi
 Issued in July 2018



United Nations
 Educational, Scientific and
 Cultural Organization



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