

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



World Cultural Heritage  
Hidden Christian Sites  
in the Nagasaki Region

6

# Ono Village in Sotome

Guide Map

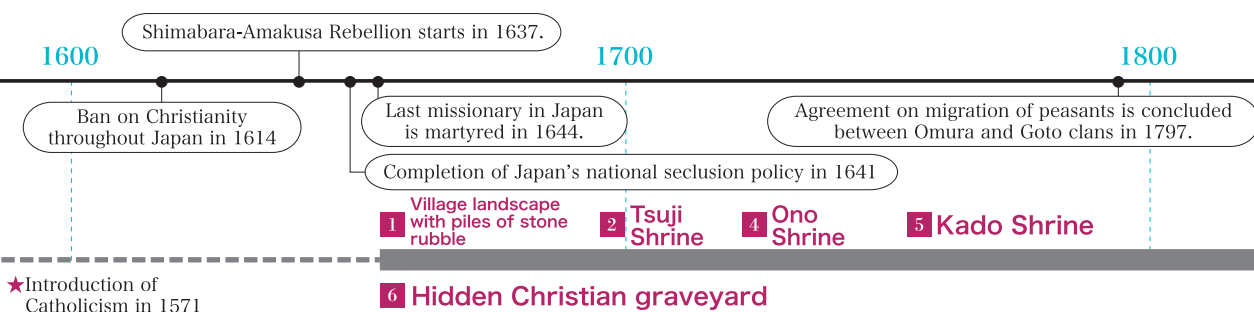


# Significance of Ono Village in Sotome

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 faith



## Position in 'Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region'

- Ono Village in Sotome bears testimony to what Hidden Christians venerated to practise their religious faith.
- Hidden Christian villagers in Shitsu practised their religious faith by venerating their own deities secretly enshrined in Shinto shrines.

### 《Basic information》

Designation title as cultural assets	Ono Church	Landscape with Terraces Retained by Stonework of Sotome in Nagasaki
Designation category	Important Cultural Property designated by the national government	Important Cultural Landscape selected by the national government
Year of designation	2008	2018
Location	Shimo-ono-machi, Nagasaki City	Nagasaki City

### Manners when visiting the village

Please remember that there are people living in the village. Thus, please respect their privacy and follow proper manners while you enjoy exploring around.

- Since there are no public trash cans, please take home any trash you may have.
- When you walk in the street, please do not take up the entire street and always walk within the shoulders of the roads.
- If you smoke, please do so within designated areas and do not smoke and walk at the same time or litter cigarette butts.
- Please never under any circumstances trespass, enter any crop field, peek into people's homes, or open any doors to people's homes without permission.
- Please use designated restrooms only.

### Give prior notice before visiting the churches

When you wish to visit Ono Church, please contact the relevant organisation below and give it prior notice via its website. Please note that, owing to a large number of visitors or due to religious events inside the church, there are times when it may not be possible for you to visit.

### 'Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region' Information Centre

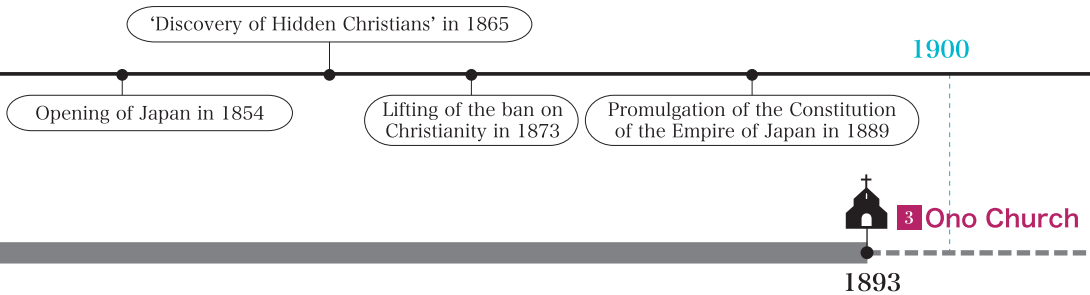
Dejima-Wharf 2nd floor, 1-1-205, Dejimamachi, Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture 850-0862  
Tel +81-95-823-7650, Opening hours: 9:30 to 17:30

<http://kyoukaigun.jp/en/>

Hidden Christian Sites Information Centre



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



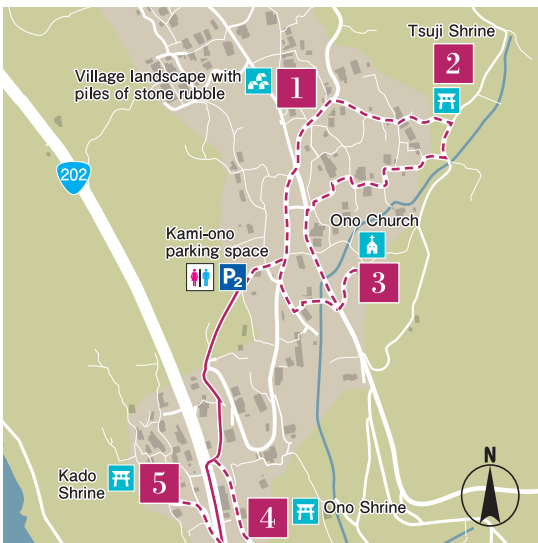
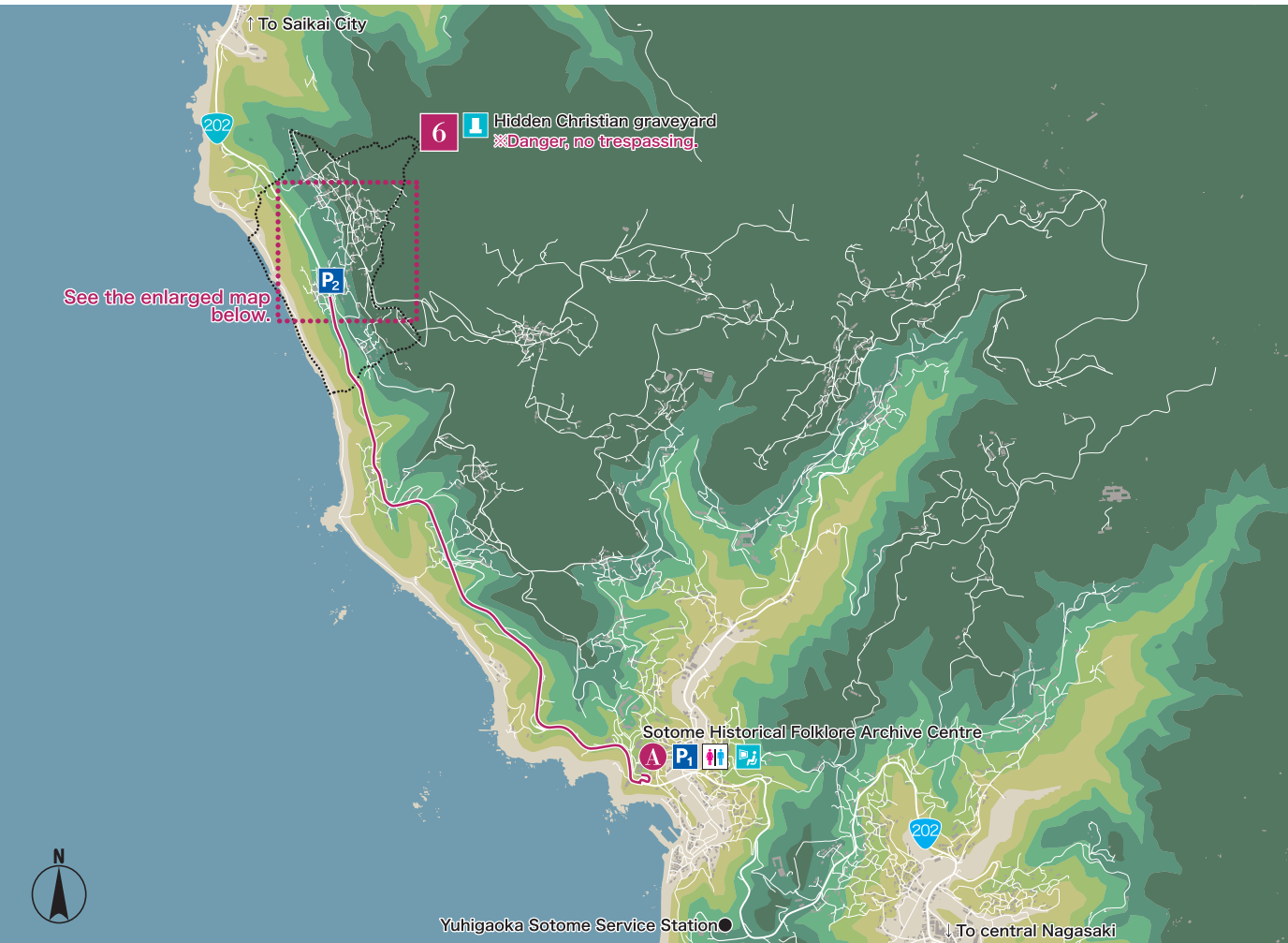
### History

- ◎ The Sotome area is on the western coast of the Nishisonogi Peninsula facing the East China Sea. Once Catholicism was introduced into this area in 1571, the missionary work progressed so well that a residence for missionaries was established.
- ◎ A document written by a Dominican in 1615 attests to the fact that Hidden Christians secretly continued their religious faith in Ono Village even after the ban on Christianity was issued.
- ◎ The Hidden Christian villagers outwardly behaved as Buddhists and followers of three Shinto shrines in the village— Tsuji Shrine **2**, Ono Shrine **4**, and Kado Shrine **5**.
- ◎ Kado Shrine had been the seat of various deities from antiquity, and Hidden Christian villagers enshrined an early Japanese Catholic to secretly pray to him and practice their religious faith.
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- ◎ After the 'Discovery of Hidden Christians', the Hidden Christians in Ono Village contacted missionaries and gradually rejoined the Catholic Church. In the early years after their rejoining, they walked to Shitsu Church, but in 1893 they built Ono Church **3** in the centre of the village.



※This image is for illustrative purposes only.

# Wide-area and enlarged maps around Ono Village in Sotome



《Recommended route》



.....	Boundaries of the component	<b>P</b>	Parking space		Shinto shrine
-----	On foot		Toilets		Tomb or graveyard
—————	On foot or by car, etc.		Exhibition		Church
<b>0</b>	Important spot		Community		
<b>A</b>	Guidance facility				



# Introduction to important spots in Ono Village in Sotome

1

## Village landscape with piles of stone rubble



①

The main features of Ono Village are the landscape of terraced fields with piled-up stone walls, where sweet potatoes are grown. The development of farmland progressed along with increase in sweet potato cultivation due to population growth that started in the latter half of the 17th century. Villagers quarried rubble from the ground for stone wall construction. The farmland spread to the foot of Mt. Onodake. The stone walls around the terraced fields still remain in good condition.

2

## Tsuji Shrine



①

Tsuji Shrine is one of the three Shinto shrines in Ono Village. Hidden Christian villagers nurtured a distinctive religious system in which the Shinto shrine provided a focus for their worship. The shrine is recorded in an old document created during the period of the ban on Christianity. Although it was dedicated to the deity of the mountains, the Hidden Christian villagers also revered it to combine their religious faith with common Shinto practice.

## 3

## Ono Church



※It is not allowed to enter the church.



Ⓜ



Ⓜ

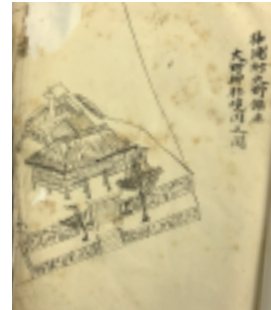
Those Hidden Christians who returned to Catholicism after the lifting of the ban on Christianity attended Shitsu Church at first. Then in 1893, Father Marc Marie de Rotz constructed Ono Church in the centre of the village as a branch of Shitsu Church. That led to the end of 'hiding' of the Hidden Christian villagers. A special feature of Ono Church is its unique wall, called de Rotz's wall, which was constructed with locally gathered basalt, using red clay mixed with limestone as joint filler.

## 4

## Ono Shrine



①



Pictorial maps of the shrine created in 1875 (Housed in Sotome Historical Folklore Archive Centre)

Ono Shrine was the highest-ranking Shinto shrine in the area, and was venerated as the seat of the guardian deity of the whole village. The village headmen (*shoya*) served as head priests of this shrine from generation to generation. There are records of reconstruction of the shrine in 1671, attesting its existence in the village during the period of the ban on Christianity. Hidden Christian villagers outwardly behaved as followers of this shrine just like the other villagers in order to camouflage and continue their religious faith.

5

## Kado Shrine



①

Kado Shrine is one of the three Shinto shrines in Ono Village. Hidden Christian villagers nurtured a distinctive religious system in which the Shinto shrine provided a focus for their worship. Kado Shrine houses guardian deities of Kado community, as well as various kinds of Shinto deities. Hidden Christians also enshrined an early Japanese Catholic in this shrine.

6

## Hidden Christian graveyard

※As this site is dangerous,  
please do not enter it.



①

This Hidden Christian graveyard is located in a place called Nyudo. While most of the villagers were buried in the village's public cemetery, former Hidden Christians who professed the Christian faith after the lifting of the ban on Christianity were not allowed to be buried there by the *shoya* (village headman) or government officials. Therefore they had to set up a graveyard on their own in this place at a distance from the village. During archaeological excavation here, a crucifix was unearthed.

## Introduction to other spots in Ono Village in Sotome

A

### Sotome Historical Folklore Archive Centre



①

This archive centre displays historical and cultural documents regarding Christianity and villages in Sotome. It also houses various other materials related to Christianity.

●Address: 2800 Nishishitsu-machi, Nagasaki City TEL: +81-959-25-1188

●Opening hours: 9:00 to 17:00

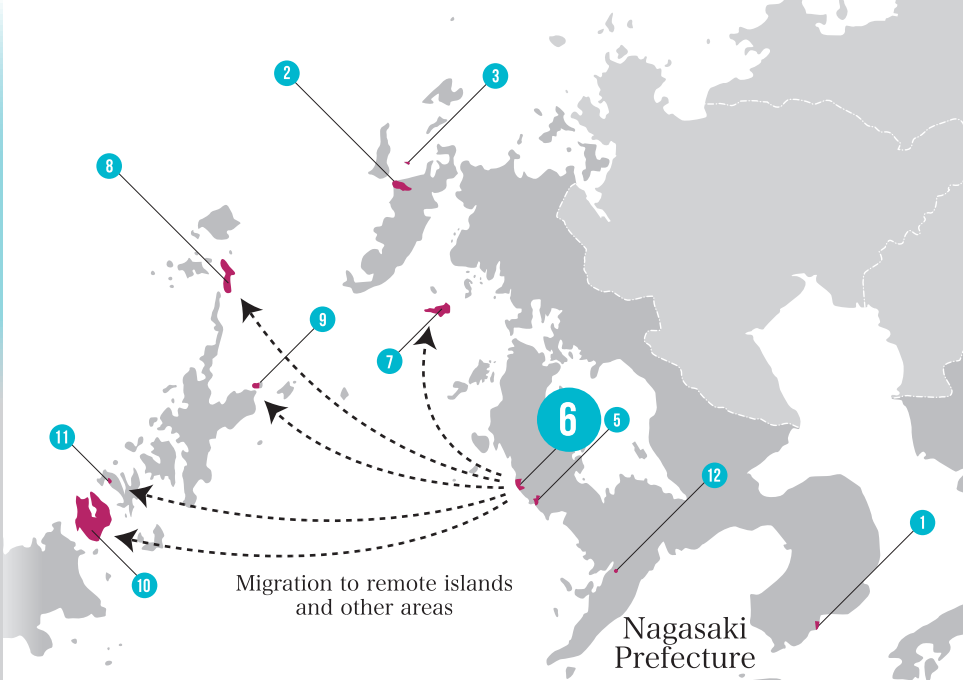
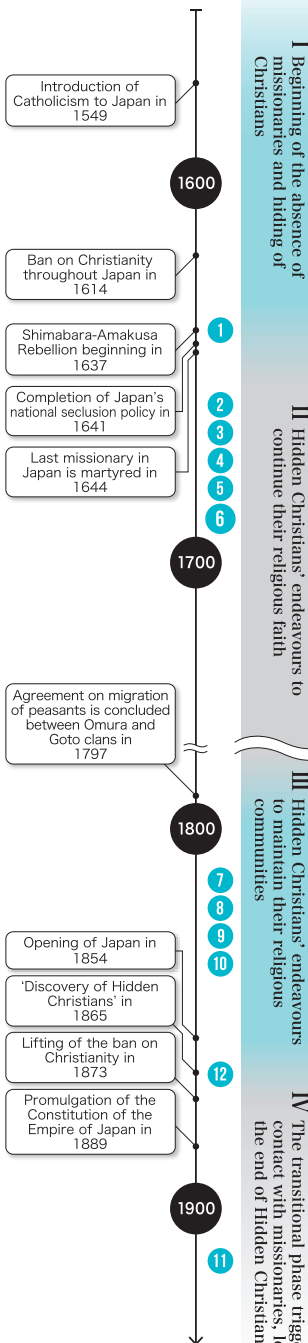
●Closed from 29th Dec. to 3rd Jan.

●Entry fee: adults (300 JPY), students of high school/ junior high school/ elementary school (100 JPY)

Group tours (10 or more people): adults (240 JPY), students of high school/ junior high school/ elementary school (60 JPY)

●[Website] <http://www.city.nagasaki.lg.jp/kanko/820000/828000/p000837.html>

# 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 Ono Village in Sotome:**  
**Nagasaki City Ajisai Call Centre**  
 TEL: +81-95-822-8888, Opening hours: 8:00 to 20:00 (open 7 days a week)  
 [Website] <http://city.nagasaki.ajisai-call.jp/>  
 Ajisai Call is a one-stop call centre handling all kinds of inquiries about systems, procedures, events, facilities, and other aspects of life in Nagasaki City.

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  
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United Nations  
 Educational, Scientific and  
 Cultural Organization



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