



Spectacular Katsurahama

MAP 4-E

The glistening blue ocean reflects dazzling sunshine at Katsurahama, where there are colorful stones on the beach with white sand and green pines lining the coast. A statue of Sakamoto Ryoma stands on a hill, inviting visitors to this charming land that is famous for having a beautiful moon. There is also an aquarium by the sea, which has sea lion shows, the Tosa Dog Museum, where you can pet the puppies, and a souvenir center, where Kochi souvenirs are available.

Access

30 minutes by car from the Kochi Station
 OR Local bus headed for "Katsurahama" from Minami Harimayabashi bus stop.
 OR MY Yu Bus (see pg. 16). Get off at "Katsurahama".

Tosa Fiefdom and Samurai Culture

Sakamoto Ryoma

Ryoma paved the way in the transition from feudal times in Japan to the Meiji constitutional government, and then to today's democratic republic.

On November 15, 1835, near the end of the Edo period, Ryoma was born to a low-ranking samurai engaged in small business. Although he was shy and cried easily when he was young, he defined himself through the practice of Japanese swordsmanship. In 1861, he joined the Tosa Loyalist Party (Tosa is the old name for Kochi). After many incidents, including exchanges with like-minded samurai of other clans and becoming a disciple of Katsu Kaishu, a vassal of the shogun, he decided to leave the clan and discard the restrictive status of clan samurai. He accomplished many historic achievements that led to the structure of modern Japan, such as founding the trading company and private navy Kameyama Shachu, as well as forming the Satsuma-Choshu Alliance and restoring imperial rule in Japan. On November 15, 1867, he was assassinated at the Omiya Inn in Kyoto along with his sworn friend, Nakaoka Shintaro. He was 33 years old. Three months after his death, the new Meiji government was established. Ryoma's humility, his principle of living according to his beliefs, and his fearlessness in the face of change still do not fail to attract the hearts and minds of many people even to this day.



Ryoma's Birthplace Memorial Museum

MAP 1-C



Located in Kamimachi, where Ryoma was born and raised, this museum introduces Ryoma's boyhood years through images, audio, and CG. Many visitors take pictures sitting next to the seated Ryoma statue. "Pendoku", a multilingual audio guide, is available for easily understandable explanations of exhibits in four languages: English, Chinese, Taiwanese, and Korean.



Access

15 minutes by streetcar from Kochi Station, get off at Kamimachi 1-chome



The Sakamoto Ryoma Memorial Museum

MAP 4-E

This Memorial Museum introduces the life and promotes the image of Sakamoto Ryoma. Located on a hill in Katsurahama Park, from where a sweeping view of the Pacific Ocean can be seen, it also serves as an information center for documents related to Ryoma.



Statue of Sakamoto Ryoma

MAP 4-E

Built in 1928 through the nationwide fund-raising efforts of Kochi youths, this magnificent statue conveys the achievements of Ryoma to future generations. Here he is dressed in traditional Japanese clothing and western boots as he gazes at the Pacific Ocean and conceals his hand.