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Shiraishijima Hiking Course

Posted on 2011/08/11 by [Sunao amano](#)



Great hiking courses line the ridges of the hills of Shiraishijima. You can enjoy a panoramic view of the bountiful natural beauty of the Seto Inland Sea.



Courses are dotted with many rocks and massive boulders. These can be used as places for weary hikers to take a breather.



Over the course of three or four hours, you can visit 5 peaks, and you can access Kairyuji temple on your descent from any of the peaks.

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Shiraishi Island Community Center and the reclaimed beach.

Posted on 2011/06/20 by [Sunao amano](#)



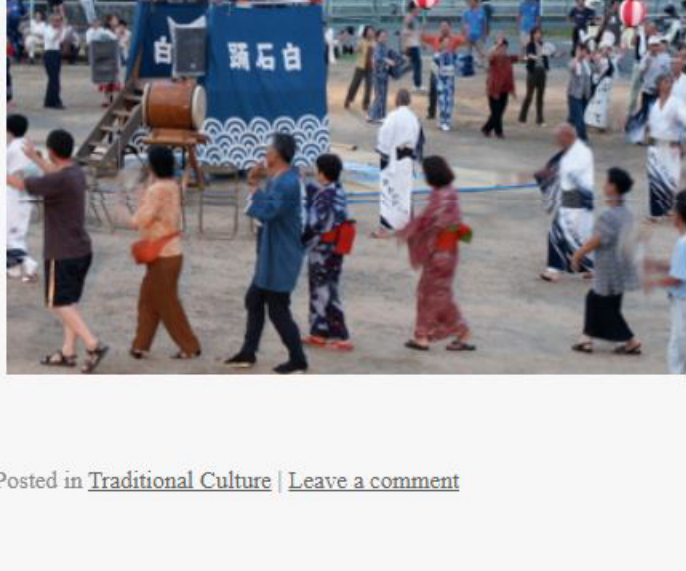
The central part of the Island is home to public institutions such as the community center, town hall and the police station. Originally this area was a beach, but it was converted to reclaimed land and a school was built on the site soon after.

Later, the school was converted to a community center.

Many people who died during the Mizushima battle in the Genbei War drifted onto this beach and the Shiraishijima folk dance, which commemorates this, has been performed since those times.



Now that the beach has been turned into reclaimed land, it is where Bon Festival dance is held every summer.



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Shiraishi folk dance

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The Shiraishi folk dance dates back approximately 800 years. It was created in commemoration of the war dead that drifted onto the shores of the Island after the Mizushima battle of the Genbei war (between Genji and Heike clans). The defining characteristic of the Shiraishi folk dance is that many dance styles can be seen in one dance circle. There are 13 dance styles, and the "Danyo", the "Joyou", the "Kasayou", and the Senyou are often performed at public functions.

Annually from the middle of July to the middle of August, there is a Shiraishijima Island dance preservation society meeting every weekend.

Every year Island residents dance the Shiraishi folk dance in the Bon Festival for 4 days from August 13 to 16.

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Mushi-okuri ceremony

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There is a purificatory ceremony on the Island in July to drive away crop-eating insects. Bugs and bad spirits are sent off in a boat in prayer for a good harvest. Participants march around singing a mushi-okuri (insect send-off) song and then release the model boat from Nishiura public swimming beach.

Mushi-okuri song

*Houjoutounaonobori
Houjoutounaonobori
Saito Sanemori saki ni tate
Nemushi, Hamushi okutta (insects sent off)
Gaamen dou mo okutta (trouble also sent off)*

*Houjoutounaonobori
Houjoutounaonobori
Saito Sanemori saki ni tate
Nemushi, Hamushi okutta
Gaamen dou mo okutta*

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August, 1955 NHK beach singing contest

Posted on 2011/06/20 by [Sunao amano](#)



This photo shows the NHK singing contest held on Shiraishijima Island. As you can see, the stage with a speaker through which contestants sang was set up with its back to the ocean on the deck of a ship.

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Marine turtles washed ashore Shiroishi Island

Posted on 2011/06/20 by [Sunao amano](#)



Some years ago, sea turtles washed up on Shiroishi Island. Because it was a rare phenomenon, pictures were taken to record the events.

A phone call was received by officials from a 57-year old Fukuyama woman who as a child had seen this turtle.

It is now a stuffed specimen preserved in the Tamano Marine Museum.

A suckerfish found in the turtle's stomach was stuffed and preserved.

It was then apparently mounted as decoration in Shiraishijima Elementary School.

Do you think it's still mounted there?
2011/06/10

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Shinmei Sakura (cherry blossoms)

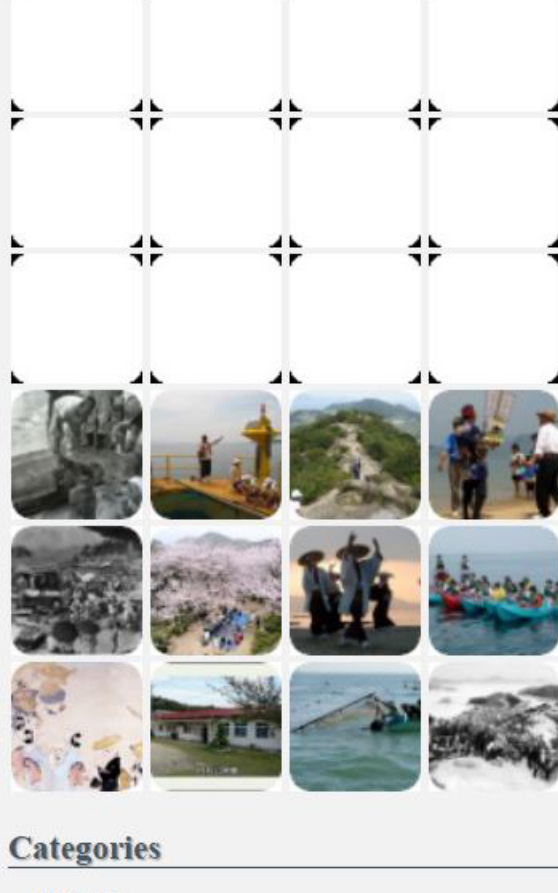
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