



Access to Shodoshima Island



Welcome to Nakayama

Original landscape of Japan Nostalgic Village Nakayama

Nostalgic village Nakayama is in the hilly and mountainous area located center of Shodoshima Island. This village is composed of terraced rice fields spread over the slopes of the mountain with a difference of 100 meters in height, thickly forested mountains, the important water resource "Tonogawa River", and village houses dotted among them. The village retains the unspoiled landscape of farming villages in Japan, which has been designated as one of "the 100 Most Beautiful Japanese Historical Landscapes" and "the 100 Best Villages in Japan". Rice terraced fields "Nakayama Senmaida" is said to have been created in the period from the Northern and Southern Courts period to the mid Edo period. Ancestors created it steadily by providing stone masonry on the rapid slopes. It has been preserved in the more and more difficult situation with aging of farmers and being lack of successors. "Nakayama Noson Kabuki (farmers' kabuki)" as a dedicatory kabuki to gods to pray for a rich harvest is still continuously performed as a traditional entertainment having a history of 300 years.



There was a time in which over 30 water mills were lined along the river for grinding wheat berry, taking advantage of a water volume of the Tonogawa River, which supported the local industry of somen noodle production of this island. This village has the scenery telling the traditions passed down and preserved, as well as providing a place to sooth visitors' souls.



Nakayama Walking Map

Shodoshima Island



Commerce/Industry/Tourism Division, Municipal Office of Shodoshima Town
 1896 -1, Nishimura-ko, Shodoshima cho, Shozu-gun, Kagawa pref., 761-4434, Japan
 Phone: (0879) 82-7007 / Fax: (0879) 82-7017
 URL: <http://town.shodoshima.lg.jp> / E-mail: olive-shoko@town.shodoshima.lg.jp



Mushiokuri (Event to drive away harmful insects)

This is a traditional event passed down around since 300 years ago held on the date of hangesho (the eleventh day after the summer solstice), aiming to drive away insects from the rice field and to pray for rich harvest, walking along the footpath between fields holding a pine torch over a rice field. This event has been halted for a while in Nakayama area but was resumed getting motivated by the film "Rebirth (Yokame no Semi)" in which "Mushiokuri" took place as an important scene. About 300 participants including children and their parents walk down the slope with 100 meters of difference in height, shouting together "Light up, light up!". The fantastic scene of a long line of torches flickering along the footpath attracts many people.

Nakayama Noson Kabuki (farmers' kabuki)



Warigo bento lunchbox

Nakayama Noson Kabuki is said to have originated 300 years ago (in the mid Edo period). According to a remaining record, there were totally 30 large and small kabuki stages and 600-700 actors in the entire island during the Meiji and Taisho periods (late 19th century to early 20th century). However, today, stages exist only in Nakayama area and Hitoyama area. A drum labeled with "the first year of Kansei (1789)" still exists, which is the oldest material of this Nakayama Noson Kabuki. This is a traditional entertainment performed by local people including actors and backstage staff, which is passed down through generations over the past several hundred years as a dedicatory kabuki for a rich harvest. For local people, on the day of the performance, it is customary to gather to the balcony seats bringing a "warigo bento" lunchbox prepared at each home to watch the kabuki play drinking sake with others.





Nakayama Walking Map

1



Nakayama Noson Kabuki Stage
(farmers' kabuki stage)

This farmers' kabuki stage, designated as a national tangible cultural property on March 3 1987, is said to have been built, before the Tenpo era (before 1830), based on the design of the former Kanamaru-za Theater in Kotohira. The seats, located on a gradual slope, are divided by stone masonry. The costume storage contains 720 costumes, 62 wigs, 206 stage settings and stage properties. About 600 kabuki scripts are also preserved here. Nakayama Noson Kabuki play is performed at the beginning of October every year.

2



Hitoyama Noson Kabuki Stage
(farmers' kabuki stage)

Shodoshima kabuki play has a history of over 300 years since the Edo period. There used be stages across the island, however, only two of stages survive today: one in Nakayama area and one in this Hitoyama area. This stage in Hitoyama, designated as national tangible cultural property, has a structure with a hipped thatched roof like the stage in Nakayama but it is a little larger than the stage in Nakayama. The farmers' kabuki play in Hitoyama is performed on May 3 every year.

3



Senmaida Terraced Rice Fields

This is the only place in Kagawa prefecture that is designated as one of "the 100 Best Terraced Rice Fields in Japan". In a total hilly area of 12 hectare on the slope of the Yufune Mountain, magnificently beautiful curves are created by about 800 large/small rice fields terraced from an elevation of 250 meters to 150 meters. It is also said that the rice grown here is very delicious thanks to the spring water from the Yufune Mountain which is known as "Yufune no Mizu" selected as one of "the 100 Best Spring Waters in Japan".

The recommended view spot is indicated on the map.

4



Yufunesan Temple

Yufunesan Temple is located in the center of Shodoshima and there are many native-grown tall trees including camphor and juniper trees. The forestland of the temple with those trees is protected as a natural treasure of Kagawa prefecture and as a protected species of Shodoshima town. The spring water, called "Yufune no Mizu", serves as a precious water resource that will never dry up even under any dry weather. It has been carefully used as living water and also as water for agricultural irrigation since long ago.

5



Communal Washing Place

Communal washing place stands in the terraced rice fields. It serves as a place for washing vegetables and clothes. It also serves as a place for local people to relax meeting up after a day's work, where they can enjoy chatting cheerfully around a washing place while washing vegetables.



6



Nakayama – Home of Fireflies

Various measures to increase a natural population of fireflies have been taken, such as incubating and stocking larvae of fireflies. Today, you can see the fantastic dance of fireflies such as *Luciola cruciata*, *Luciola lateralis*, and *Hotaria parvula* for a month from the end of May. Nearby, there is a farm toolshed with a wall painting of insects based on the concept of the Home of Fireflies. In addition, the island people continuously make efforts to improve habitat environment hospitable for wildlife such as *Sasakia charonda* (giant purple butterfly) that is Japan's national butterfly but vanished in this island, as well as restoration of narcissus fields.



Hiding place of Ukon Takayama

It is said that Ukon Takayama, Christian lord, was expelled from his domain with the Edict for expelling Jesuit Missionaries (in 1587) and hid himself under the protection of Yukinaga Konishi, Cristian lord like Ukon, in Shodoshima Island which was under his control. Island people were tolerant toward Christians. So, they were able to keep their religious faith. Buddhist statues with a cross engraved on it and Christian lanterns are still preserved here and there in the island.

