

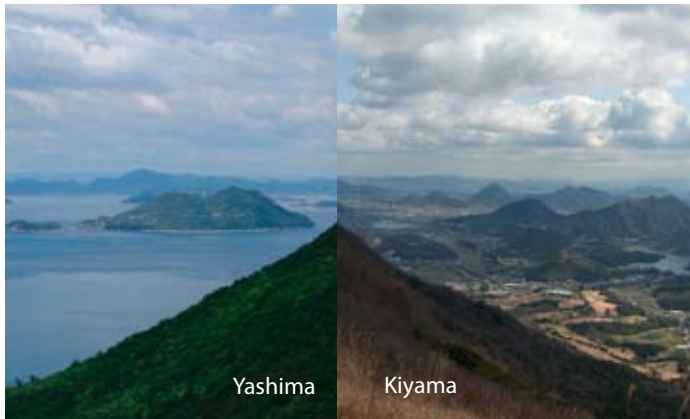
Ancient Gen-Pei War

Gen-Pei War

This war was a 6-year-long conflict between the Minamoto (源 Gen) and Taira (平 Pei) clans during the late-Heian period of Japan. It resulted in the establishment of Kamakura shogunate under the Minamoto.

Battle of Yashima

Following a crucial defeat at Ichi-no-tani, the Taira clan retreated to Yashima, an island unconnected by cove called Dan-no-ura. Here they improvised a fortress and a palace for Emperor Antoku and the imperial regalia at the foot of Yashima. Minamoto-no-Yoshitsune attacked the Taira's fortress by crossing the tidal flat of the cove on horse. The Taira abandoned the palace, and took Emperor Antoku and the imperial regalia on board to another Dan-no-ura.



Inland scenery of Kagawa Pref. reminds us Archipelago. Seto Inland Sea is believed to have been a grassy plain in the ice age.

Dan-no-ura (檀ノ浦)

Yashima which is currently connected to inland was an island one thousand years ago. About one third of the Dan-no-ura cove was the tidal flat which was submerged and exposed approximately twice daily (photo A of cover). Minamoto-no-Yoshitsune searched the flat for shallower spots to cross over to attack it.

Another Dan-no-ura

The Taira clan perished at the naval Battle of Dan-no-ura (檀ノ浦) in Shimonoseki strait, Yamaguchi Prefecture.



Yashima

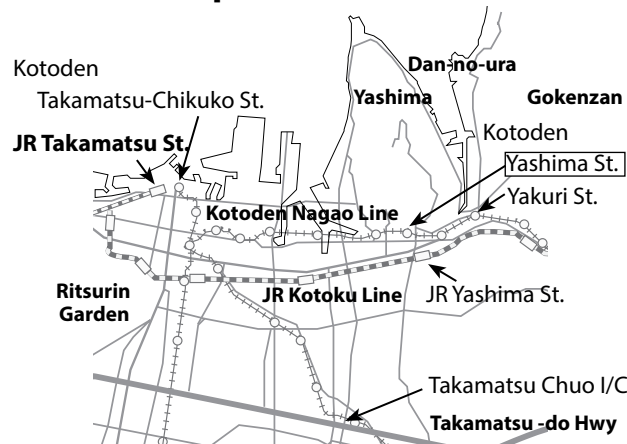
Gokenzan

Dan-no-ura cove (from inland)

Tidal flat

Dan-no-ura cove used to form a tidal flat between Yashima and Mt. Gokenzan. Flat mud have might be deposited by Kasuga river which pours against Yashima. After the last ice age, sea water poured into this area forming Seto Inland Sea. The tide and Kasuga river counteracted in water flow, resulted in mud deposit. A battle of Gen-Pei war took place here about 1000 years ago. In Edo period, the tidal flat was used for salt evaporation ponds, and then gradually reclaimed as industrial salt production began.

Access map



From JR Takamatsu Station - 20 min. by train
Kotoden Nagao Line: To Kotoden-Yashima St.
JR Kotoku Line: To Yashima St.
From Takamatsu Chuo Highway I/C - 20 min. by car



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Enjoy Setouchi Outing No.2



屋島・檀ノ浦・五剣山 Yashima, Dan-no-ura and Gokenzan Day Out



2. Explore the ancient tidal flat



Dan-no-ura cove



A



B



Breathtaking view of Dan-no-ura from Dankorei (2 in map)

Mt. Gokenzan

Discover Ancient Japan

Yashima & Dan-no-ura



1 Yashimaj-ji temple

The 84th temple of Shikoku 88-temple pilgrimage. A Buddhist stature of Senju Kannon has been worshiped since ancient time.

2 Dankorei

One of the greatest view points in the whole Yashima area (see above). The route of Shikoku pilgrimage to Yakuri-ji temple is near by.



3 Shrine of Emperor Antoku

There was a temporary palace for the emperor during the Gen-pei War. Today, the shrine stands to mourn for the dead.

5 Somon (Main Gate)

The main gate of the Taira's fortress was built at the tidal flat of Dan-no-ura. This was set on fire by Minamoto and lost.



Two peaks of Mt. Gokenzan fell down by the Hiei earthquake in 1707.



Mt. Gokenzan was named after the five peaks of its ridge. As seen in the drawing below, there used to be five peaks before the Hiei earthquake occurred in 1707. It is believed that the right two peaks of the ridge were lost by the earthquake.

Mt. Gokenzan



4 Battle site

As Taira were more experienced in naval battles, Minamoto made a surprise land-based attack on them at low tide, when the island got connected to the main land. Finally, Taira clan fled away on board.

7 Yakuri-ji temple

Yakuri-ji temple was built just below the five peaks of Gokenzan (photo B of cover). This is a place well suited for Yamabushi monks to do ascetic practices in hard trackless mountain area in order to awake spiritual power.

Watch Sanuki Stone Arts!



Isam Noguchi Garden Museum

A world-famous landscape architect, Isamu Noguchi held his atelier here. It was opened in 1999 as museum. Reservation: 087-870-1500.

6 Stone Museum

Mt. Gokenzan produces high-quality granite at its foothill. The mountain has been quarried and left the huge scars. History of quarry is exhibited here.

