

Sakatejima Island

Easily reachable via a ten-minute ferry ride from Toba, Sakatejima allows visitors to experience the relaxed pace and beautiful scenery of Ise-Shima's outlying islands in a half-day trip. Toba's closest island is known for its beautiful purple irises (*Iris laevigata*), which bloom from mid-May through to the beginning of summer. Legend has it that Princess Yamatohime-no-Mikoto brought the first iris here from Nara. The princess is said to have established Ise Jingu, the most important *jinja* (Shinto shrine) complex in Japan.

In summer, visitors can also enjoy swimming in the waters of Sakatejima's beaches.