

## **The Story of Chiringashima Island**

Near the mouth of Kinkowan Bay (also called Kagoshima Bay) is the island of Chiringashima. With a circumference of three kilometers and a maximum height of 90 meters above sea level, the island is popular from March to October, when at low and half tide the island is connected to mainland Kyushu by a sandbar known locally as the Chiri Ring Road.

Farmers on the island used to produce abundant potato, sweet potato, and rapeseed. Now, walking paths meander across the forested island. At the top of the island's hill, an observatory platform offers panoramic views to the south and west. Ring the bell at the top and wish for happiness. Legend has it that your wish will come true.

The island is a popular destination for couples. It is said that in the same way that the sandbar "unites" the island with the mainland, couples who walk along the sandbar together will be united in love.