

Cape Sata Observatory

Follow the undulating 800-meter path to reach the observatory for stunning panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and the East China Sea. On clear days it is possible to see Mt. Kaimon, a 924-meter volcano also known as “the Mt. Fuji of Satsuma,” as well as the islands of Iojima, Takeshima, Tanegashima, and Yakushima.

Misaki Shrine

Located part way along the walking trails to the observatory, Misaki Shrine stands beneath the dense foliage of tropical trees. Though its exact origins are shrouded in mystery, it is said that the shrine was established in the year 708, in a cave on the steep rock face of Cape Sata. The shrine is now popular with those looking for luck in love due to its distinctive red color and countless *inome* motifs, which resemble hearts. The design actually represents the eye of the wild boar, an ancient Japanese symbol used to ward off harmful spirits.

Lighthouse Keepers' Square

Separated from the lighthouse itself, the British-designed lighthouse keepers' quarters sit at the southernmost tip of Cape Sata on the Osumi Peninsula. While only part of the original structure remains, both the lighthouse keeper's quarters and lighthouse itself are of important historical and cultural value to the area.