

### **Uminomichi Munakatakan Museum**

Across from Hetsu-miya Shrine, the Uminomichi Munakatakan Museum has exhibitions on the history of Munakata Taisha and its World Heritage status. Although Okinoshima is off-limits to the public, 3D movies in several languages and a surround-screen presentation create a virtual visit to the sacred island, and allow us to understand its role and what can be found there. Exhibitions in Japanese and English give visitors a good overview of the three shrines that make up Munakata Taisha and the rituals performed on Okinoshima.

Other exhibitions cover the history of Munakata City and the sea routes that linked Japan and the Asian mainland, with displays featuring artifacts excavated in Munakata and the ancient tombs (*kofun*), in the region. There are regular activities for children at the museum, including a craft room where visitors can try their hand at making items such as the comma-shaped beads (*magatama*) that were used as offerings on Okinoshima. At the back of the entrance hall there is a cafe offering light meals and drinks, along with souvenirs and books on the history of Munakata Taisha. A library on the premises includes books on Munakata's history, culture, and the local landscape. Rental bikes and free lockers are available at the museum.