

Shirahama Beach Park and Kashima-jinja Shrine

In addition to the white sand beach, Shirahama Beach has a park with picnic and barbecue areas and hosts a wide variety of seasonal outdoor activities for visitors, including dragnet fishing from March through September.

Nearby Kashima-jinja Shrine is reputedly home to a somewhat picky deity. According to legend, local residents would traditionally make ritual offerings of unfiltered sake (*doburoku*) to the deity. One year, however, the rice yield was so poor that they had to offer alcohol made from wheat instead. The following year, the rice crop was bountiful. The community expressed its gratitude with a traditional offering of sake, only to suffer a sudden outbreak of illness and injury. Putting their heads together, they came to the conclusion that the deity of this shrine preferred wheat-based offerings to rice-based sake. This preference earned Kashima the nickname the Beer Shrine, and to this day, worshippers still bring offerings of beer.

Kashima-jinja Shrine was washed away by the 2011 tsunami, but the foundation of the original structure is still visible, and many of the monuments lost in the disaster have since been recovered.