

Kozukumi-jima and Ozukumi-jima Islands

This pair of picturesque islands is visible off the coast of Toshijima island. The closer of the two, Kozukumi-jima, is uninhabited and off limits for visiting or fishing. Long regarded as sacred ground by local fisherfolk, it is the site of a Shinto consecration ceremony every July.

The larger island, also uninhabited, is Ozukumi-jima. Archaeologists have discovered ancient shell middens dating back to prehistoric times, and many of the shells are from deeper waters, suggesting that the predecessors of *ama* divers may have plied their trade here. Even today, its waters are renowned for the quality of the seafood. Note that the island is not accessible by public transport.