Usubae

Famous for its imposing red-brown cliffs, Usubae is located at the western tip of the Ashizuri Peninsula and is the place where the warm Kuroshio (Japan Current) first hits Shikoku on its way north along Japan's Pacific coast. The great intensity of the current is evident in the whirlpools that form around the rocky reefs just beneath the cliffs. These whirlpools can be admired from above.

Besides its natural beauty, Usubae is remembered for its role in local history. It was in the sea just off these cliffs that the local people first managed to catch skipjack tuna (*katsuo*), from which *katsuobushi* fillets are made. The wives of the fishermen would traditionally hold feasts at Ryugu Shrine, which sits high above the ocean on one of the Usubae cliffs, to pray for their husbands' safety and a plentiful catch.