

**Isso Wharf**

Ebisu, one of the seven gods of fortune, is believed to bestow good catches upon fishing fleets and ensure the safety of all who travel by sea. Small shrines dedicated to him, like the one overlooking Isso's wharf, are common in Yakushima's coastal communities. In olden days, fishermen returning to port with a bountiful catch would throw an offering toward the shrine in gratitude. This cheerful kami is feted in Isso today at an annual festival in late July. Held on the Sunday before Marine Day, it features a colorful boat parade—a rare opportunity to board one of the fishing vessels for a tour out to sea and back.