

Kurase Observatory

Kurase Observatory, located at the northern end of Jinoshima Island, has views of Oshima and Okinoshima in the Genkai Sea. A sign at the observatory indicates the position of Okinoshima on the horizon.

Kurase Observatory is a wide, grassy viewing area with seating, located atop a cliff. Near the base of the cliff, visitors can see a semi-submerged reef as well as a large rock just offshore that is similar in shape to a traditional sake flask.

Walking the 1.2-kilometer-long Camellia Road trail to Kurase Observatory takes around 20 minutes from Toyoka Ferry Port. The trail is lined with camellia trees and is suitable for most fitness levels. About 700 meters before the observatory, a path branches off to the summit of Mt. Gion (139 m). This path, marked by a stone torii gate, is a little steep and slippery when wet. Near the top, a small stone shelter (*hokora*) enshrines the deity Gion Tenjin.

Kurase Observatory is a popular picnic spot for hikers. Boxed lunches (*bento*) can be purchased at Nagomi, the only restaurant on the island, located at Toyoka Fishing Port.