

Mt. Arai and Konpira-jinja Shrine

Two Shinto shrines, Miyajidake-jinja and Konpira-jinja, are located on either side of Mt. Arai (249 m). A hiking trail links them. Near the summit of Mt. Arai, two torii gates stand in a clearing, with views toward the sacred island of Okinoshima. The clearing is used by those who wish to worship the island from afar. The sweeping view through the torii gates across the city of Fukutsu and out to the Genkai Sea is popular with photographers.

Konpira-jinja Shrine was originally built at the summit of Mt. Arai but was moved to the base of the mountain during the Edo period (1603–1867). The shrine has a relationship with Konpira-jinja Shrine in Kagawa; both enshrine Omononushi, a deity of the sea and guardian of seafarers. Konpira-jinja Shrine is known for its autumn harvest festival, held every year on September 9. Local people dress as members of the Kuroda family, which ruled the region during the Edo period, and in a colorful procession carry a portable shrine from Konpira-jinja Shrine to the sea and back.