

## **Pearl Culture in Ise-Shima National Park**

Ise-Shima is the birthplace of pearl culture, and visitors can experience firsthand the care and skill that is required to produce the world's finest pearls. Located off the Toba waterfront, Mikimoto Pearl Island is the place where industry pioneer Mikimoto Kokichi (1858-1954) practiced pearl farming. The museum here contains detailed explanations on the history of Mikimoto, pearl farming, and the process he developed. There is also a showroom that displays a large collection of pearl jewelry, and a shop where visitors can purchase pearls. Other pearl shops in Ise-Shima National Park offer visitors firsthand views of the harvesting process, as well as the chance to create handmade pearl accessories. The many pearl rafts floating in the calm waters of the bay are a sign of the pearl culture industry's importance in Ise-Shima.