

English

Living condition of the Izu-Oshima people is reflected in their specialty. Let's "Habu" Bekko-zushi!

Izu-Oshima first group

What is Bekko-zushi?

It is a kind of sushi, which is considered as a special food of people living in Izu islands. It is prepared by soaking a white fish to the soy sauce with hot green pepper. It became such a name because the color after soaking is similar to the tactile work made of the turtle shell.

What makes it different from an ordinary sushi?

| | Bekko-zushi | Sushi |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Color | Amber | Original |
| How to make it | Soaking the fish in soy sauce containing hot green pepper | Only cutting the fish into pieces |
| Taste | Distinct spicy, soy sauced- taste | Original taste is remained |
| Purpose | Storing it for a long time | Enjoying fresh fish |

Why this special sushi was prepared in a different way?

People in Izu-Oshima Island thought that there should be a good way of making a difference in the food preparation mainly because of the following reasons:

- 1. **Weather.** Izu-Oshima Island is warmer than the main island and the food turns bad easily so preservation is needed.*
- 2. **Preservation.** Each region in Japan had its own way to preserve the food for a long time since ancient times. In the case of Oshima, soaking fish in soy sauce with hot green pepper makes it possible.*

English

Walking around the Habu is like walking on the earth's inner crust!

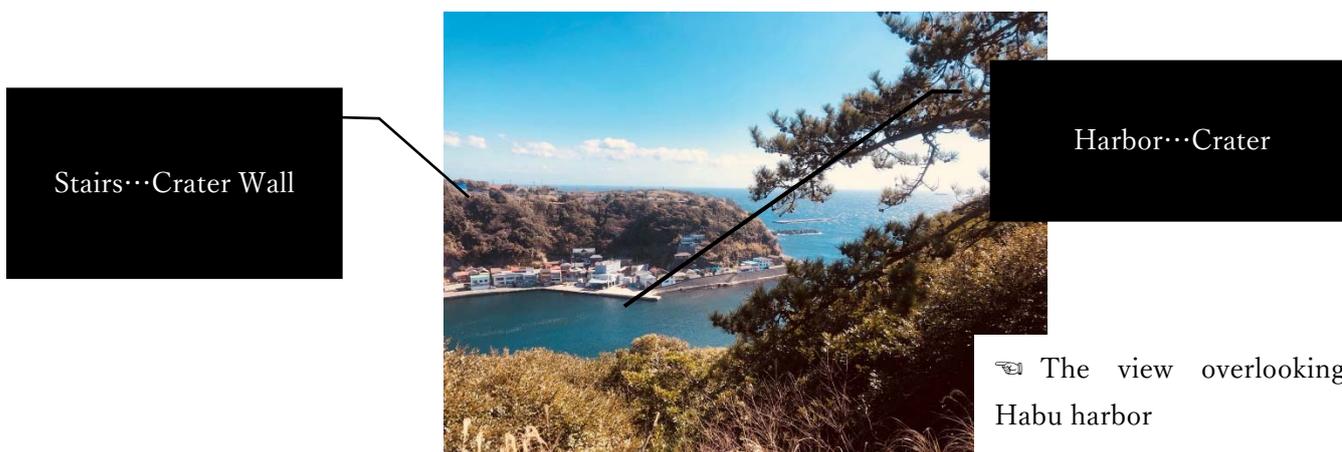
~Harbor created from the power of Volcano~

◆◆History◆◆

A volcanic eruption in the year 838 created the huge opening of the crater which eventually accumulated rainwater, after which became a lake.

In 1703, the wall of the lake, which separates it from the sea, was destructed by a strong earthquake and tsunami which eventually connects the water to the sea. It was utilized then as a port that opened around 1800.

The existence of ancient volcano opened the Habu harbor, thanks to the earth's power!!



◆◆Point◆◆

Walking around the Habu is like walking on the earth's inner crust!

Why don't you feel the power of the earth by walking around Habu? Walking in Habu harbor is like walking in the inner part of the earth.

→Therefore, going down the stairs is the same as going down the crater wall.

→Standing in the harbor is the same as standing in the crater!

English

Bodily sensation experience !

~For you who want to move actively ~

Recommended spot

[Seaside Nature trail] Length of time: 20minutes~3hours (you can choose to take the easy or hard course)

~You shouldn't take walking in the Seaside Nature trail lightly~

The seaside Nature trail is like a jungle in Oshima park. We recommend the place for people who who wants to enjoy hiking or climbing the mountain. The scenery from the cliffs of the volcanic island is the best view of the island.

*Tips . . . After hiking, we suggest you to try the Oshima milk ice cream because it is very tasty and refreshing.



[Camellia festival] Length of time: 30minutes

~ Experience the local folk entertainment of Izu Oshima.

Season: Late January~ Late March

*Ankosan . . . A woman wearing an island's traditional garment. You can wear traditional Anko's garments. Anko's garment is originally worn for working women



but men can also enjoy. You can also enjoy dancing with the local Anko-san. The local dance music is called "Asitaba Ondo"

[Oshima Park Zoo] Length of time: 1~2 hours

~You can experience a close interaction with animals~

You can feed the donkey, pig, ring-tailed lemur. Attention, please! You can't buy feeds inside the zoo. You should buy at the shop before entering the zoo. You can have a valuable experience to feel the instinct of animals. The Barbary sheep and ring-tailed lemur live freely inside the mountain areas where lava had been deposited from previous volcanic eruption. You can also enjoy the life of birds in the big cage so it looks like they are in the wild.



*You can see the beautiful ocean from anywhere in the park. It is unique to the island!

Recommended route

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Camellia festival | Lunch | Camellia museum | Zoo | Seaside Nature trail | Eating Oshima milk ice in the shop |
| 11:30 | 12:00 | 12:30 | 13:00 | 14:00 | 15:00 |
| ¥0 | ¥600 | ¥0 | ¥100 | ¥0 | ¥300 |

Oshima Park

~Oshima's interesting points are gathered as one!~

English

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You can enjoy the traditional dances
Which is only shown during the
Camellia festival. Also, you can try
Anko costume on if you want!



Trying Anko costume on

You can also enjoy the beautiful and
different varieties of Camellia flower,
which blooms during this season. You
can also learn the history especially
the camellia that bloom only in
limited season.



Season limited camellia, *kinkacha*



The Oshima milk ice cream

Enjoy with the various interesting activities and sceneries

English

Charm of Oshima Zoo

Oshima Zoo is consisted of the botanic garden, the camellia garden, the zoo, the hiking trail and others. This time, we will introduce the zoo and camellia festival that is held in a particular season.

【the zoo】

One of the most attractive charms that the Oshima zoo has is that we can see the animal upclose and personal. For example, we gave feeds to donkeys, pigs, monkeys and other animals. Moreover, we can enter the big cage where the animals are being held yet they are very quiet while birds are flying around freely like they are in the wild areas. In addition, we can see not only the animals, but also the formation of lava that was created when volcano erupted in the past. These lava formations served as habitat for monkeys living in the same area. Since the zoo is situated facing the sea, you can enjoy the picturesque scenery overlooking the sea.

【camellia festival】

Camellia festival is held from the end of January to end of March in Izu-Oshima where Yabu Camellia flower is very famous. During Camellia Festival, you can experience 4 special activities:

First, you can enter Camellia Park during camellia festival where you can especially enjoy the greenhouse of camellia built inside the park. You can experience the good smell inside the greenhouse because of the good smell of the flowers. In the park, there are more than 1000 kinds of Camellia. Second, you can enjoy the dancing show of the “Anko-san” and you can join and dance with them. . “Anko-san” originated from a Japanese word “Anko” meaning sister and “Anko-san” is referred to women who are wearing the traditional garment at work in the past. The garment is composed of bandanas, aprons and a dress similar to kimonos. In the past, these women would collect water from a well full of rainwater and carry the container through their head. The wearing of these garments today is based on the tradition of these women at work. Third, you can wear Anko-san’s garment for free. At first, you will feel hesitant of wearing such garment but eventually you will enjoy trying such traditional garment without any cost. Finally, you can enjoy learning and seeing displays of different Camellia flowers in Camellia Museum. where you can learn the varieties of these flowers.

“Camellias and smiles are blooming.” During Camellia festival, camellia flowers bloom in season. Not only tourists but also people living in Izu islands enjoy this season. The locals’ warm welcome and smile make the place bloom like flowers.