

# FEEL KUNISAKI

The SENTO Trekking Digest/ KUNIMI



# 1300 YEARS PRAY AND GORMELY STATUE BUDDHA AND MODERN ART

## CLIMB THE HISTORICAL MOUNTAIN, AND EXPERIENCE A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

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Kunisaki Peninsula is formed through the volcanic activity, which is almost round shaped. It is vertically corn shaped with the peak of Mt. Futago located at the central part. And around thirty valleys were formed toward the periphery. Six towns, including Tashibu, Kunawa, Imi, Kunisaki, Musashi, and Aki (Rokugo in Japanese), flourished. Rokugo Manzan is the generic term that represents the temples in the Peninsula.

In Year 718, the origin starts from when a monk called Horen was directed by the priest of Usa Miroku-ji Temple, the temple of Usa Shrine. Total 65 temples were developed by the Heian Era (Year 1168), divided into three categories by their roles, such as learning, training and mission. By the Kamakura Era, 183 temples were constructed in the prime of time.

After that, however, since the era moved to the Japanese War Era, small number of supporting members were left as a temple in the village. After the Meiji Restoration, the Meiji government promoted the separation of Buddhism and Shintoism, which lead the Rokugo Manzan to ruin. Secretly standing temples in the mountains, and temples with continuous visitors, and 70% stone Buddha exist in the Peninsula, which shows the people's pray. Kunisaki Peninsula welcomes 1300 year anniversary in 2018.





Nio Statue  
Kyusento-ji Temple Ruins



Okuno In



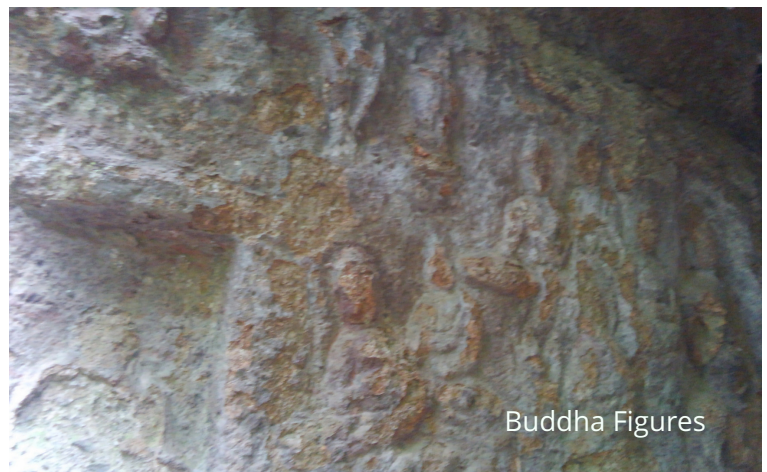
Goninto

# SENJO TREKKING

Welcome to the Sento Trekking where you can see many old Buddhas and a modern art.

Sento area is surrounded by untouched nature and is one of the symbolic places in Kunisaki Peninsula because many monks including the legendary Ninmon Budhisatva trained here. Ninmon is the one who is told to sermon Buddhism in the Peninsula.

This Sento Trekking course starts from the gate of the temple which separates the sacred and secular world.



Buddha Figures

Passing through the gate, you will see a tower called Hokyointo where a great monk called Saigyo went back here because he met a clever novice and thought that he did not need to visit Buddhist priest because of the high skill of the novice.

Next, another gate welcomes you as the entrance of Rokusho Gongen where 6 gods enshrined, which shows the syncretism of Shinto and Buddhism. Temples attached to the shines and shrines attached to the temples. Shrines attached to temples are Rokusho Gongen here in Kunisaki, which shows the strong relationship between temples and Usa Shrine.

You can meet a set of Nio Statue of Kyusento-ji Temple. Nio Statute normally guards a temple in front of a temple made by wood. One opens the mouth (A) and the other (UN) closes. The root of the AUN is a spell in Indian religions, such as Bramon, and is translated in China. The characteristics of the statues are made by stone and and standing in front of not only temples but also shrines in Kunisaki. It is also rare due to half carved one. Continue climbing up the stairs made by stones, Okunoin, the back building of the main one, is hollowed out the cliff. Many stone Buddha are placed at the both sides of the stairs. On the left side of the wall, Buddha Figures carved on the surface of rocks are also seen.

On your left side, there is an original form of temple called Iwaya. This Iwaya is the place where Ninmon Bodhisattva was dead. This is called Pillow Iwaya. On your right side, Rokusho Gongen Shrine Ruin can be seen.

Passing through, Gorin Towers are a memorial tower which consists of 5 (Go) parts describing the universe, including ground, water, fire, wind and sky from the bottom. Kunisaki Tower is unique tower in Kunisaki Peninsula.



Pillow Iwaya



Rokusho Gongen Shrine Ruin



Grave of Ninmon Bodhisattva



Ninmon Kunisaki Tower

# THE POWER OF ART

Another Time XX

"The story of the  
time"  
said by Antony  
Gormley

## LOOKING AHEAD, AS A PART OF NATURE

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Another Time XX

Gormely Statue is standing at the top of Mt. Fudo. This is made by the British sculptor, Antony Gormley, as a part of Kunisaki Art Festival, intended to revitalize this area by the power of art. The weight is 629kg in the shape of his own body.

The sculpture was established through a lot of consultations with related entities. Additionally, although the initial plan was to carry by helicopter, it was refused due to the safety issue. While the project team was at a loss, a person named Sonoda who is engaged in forestry at Kunimi, alternatively, proposed to use the way to carry building materials to the top of the mountain. 200 m away from the ground has to be connected by the wire and dummy sculpture was used to practice. You can see the story of the settlement at the Fudo-Chaya house.

The statue looks toward the east of Sento.

Two other public arts exist in Kunisaki City, selected by many aspects of the producer and artists feelings and intensions, the maintenance cost and stability.

# ITSUTSUJI FUDO



This is the place where Ninmon Bodhisattva and other 4 monks trained. The view from here is also the highlight of the trekking. Hime Island, Shikoku and Chugoku regions can be also seen if it is clear.

