

Special Place of Scenic Beauty

Nijinomatsubara

(National Protection Forest)



Nijinomatsubara is a protection forest and fulfills the following functions:

- 1 . Windbreak forest
To reduce the wind speed and protect farmland from wind
- 2 . Sea splash damage control forest
To reduce sea salt and tidal wave damage
- 3 . Public health protection forest
To provide a recreational place , conserve air quality and prevent the noise

Saga District Forest Office tries to protect Nijinomatsubara

Kyushu Regional Forest Office
Saga District Forest Office

User's manner

The whole area of Nijinomatsubara is a Cultural Asset, Natural Park and Protection Forest and is designated as a Special Place of Scenic Beauty. Nijinomatsubara is valuable as a cultural heritage for us.

1. Take good care of pine trees.
2. Don't throw away rubbish
3. Don't throw away cigarette ends

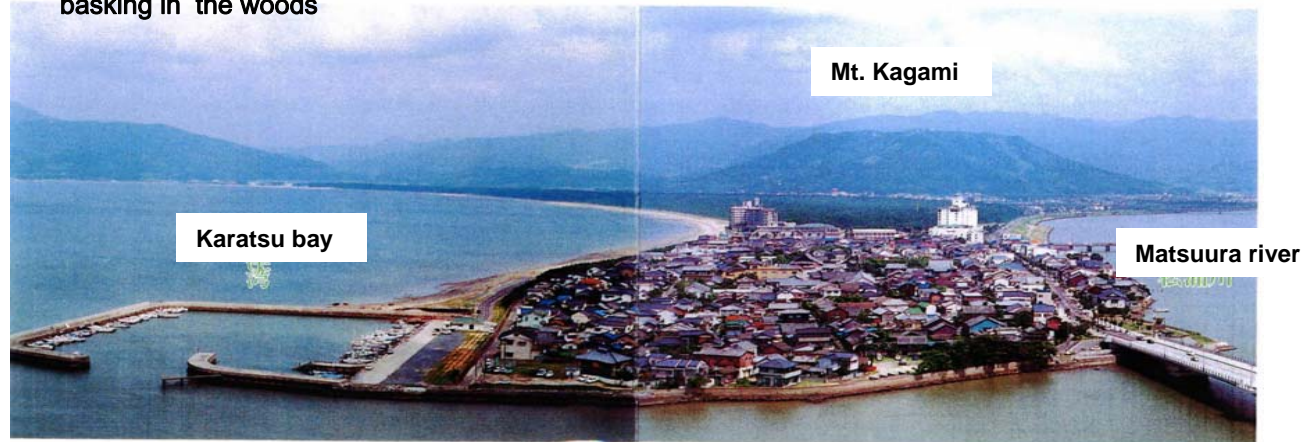
Local volunteers and members of Nijinomatsubara Protection Conference are active in protecting Nijinomatsubara with the support from Saga Prefectural Government.

Activities not prohibited within Nijinomatsubara

- 1 . Hunting
- 2 . Bonfires
- 3 .Gathering soil, grass and fallen leaves.

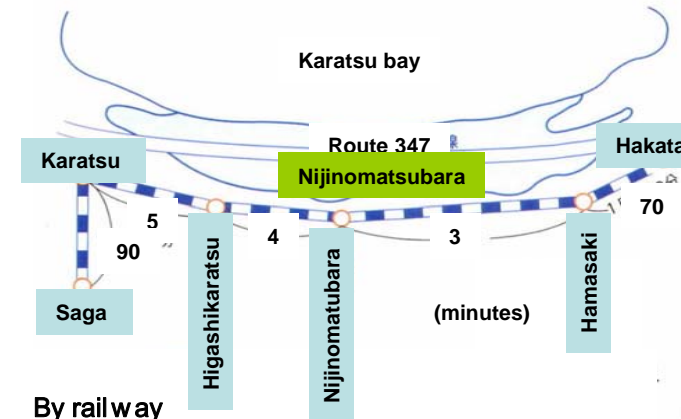
Location and others

Nijinomatsubara has an area of 218ha, is enjoyed by many people in the summer season as a sea bathing resort . Through four seasons it is also popular for sightseeing area and the basking in the woods



A view of the coastline of Nijinomatsubara and Matsuura river from the Karatsu castle

Facilities for transportation



By rail way

Hakata → Nijinomatsubara 1hour 20 minutes.
Saga → Nijinomatsubara 1hour 40 minutes
(Change at Karatsu station)

By bus

Hakata → Nijinomatsubara 1hour 50 minutes.
Saga → Nijinomatsubara 2hours

Saga District Forest Office

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A view of Nijinomatsubara and Karatsu-bay from the Kagami observation platform(Left Karatsu-city, Right Hamatama-town)

History of Nijinomatsubara

The pine forest is 400-700m wide along the coast of Karatsu-bay and the length is 4.5km following the curved coastline.

The main tree species is the Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*) that grows from youth to over-200-years-old trees, and whose diameter is over 2m at eye-level.

Growth of the trees is influenced by the strong coastal winds and they tilt toward the inland, attributing to an abstract beauty in which onlookers might imagine dragons, snakes and spiraling birds.

This pine forest was made to stabilize the sandy coast by Terasawa-Shimanokami; a Karatsu-liege lord (who made Katsasu castle in 1608 and died in 1633). This forest belt has been protected since the Edo period as it protects the paddy fields to the south of the pine forest from wind and sand.

- 1898. 1 Designation of Windbreak and Sea Splash Damage Control Forest.
- 1916.10 Designation of Place of Scenic Beauty.
- 1955. 3 Designation of Special Place of Scenic Beauty
- 1957. 3 Designation of Quasi-Natural Park (Special Area of Class 1, felling prohibited.)
- 1981. 1 Designation of Public Health Protection Forest

Management

The following are projects we work on annually for the protection of Nijinomatsubara.

- 1 . Preventing pine sawyers using helicopter.
- 2 . Replanting, weed clearing and tree thinning
- 3 . New establishment of hedgerows

We also put out 19ha of land for lease, to Saga-prefecture and Karatsu-city for the use of playgrounds, parking lots and road surfaces.



Sightseeing (The outskirts of Nijinomatsubara)

Mt.Kagami(peak of 284m) to the south of Karatsu-bay has been famous since ancient times. In olden times it was called Mt.Hirefuri or Mt.Shichimen (Hirefuri means a scarf waved in parting with a Japanese princess Sayo in the 5th century)

Mt.Kagami is composed by many poets in the Manyoshu (This is the oldest existing anthology of poetry and was compiled by Yamanoue Okura in the 8th century. It contains approximately 4500 poems.)

On the top of the mountain, we can see the beautiful landscape of the Quasi-Natural Park that is full of poetical sentiment. We can see Tamashima-Sato and Karatsu Castle, Karatsu shrine, Chikamatsu Temple etc.



The lily(*Lilium auratum*) which blooms in Nijinomatsubara