

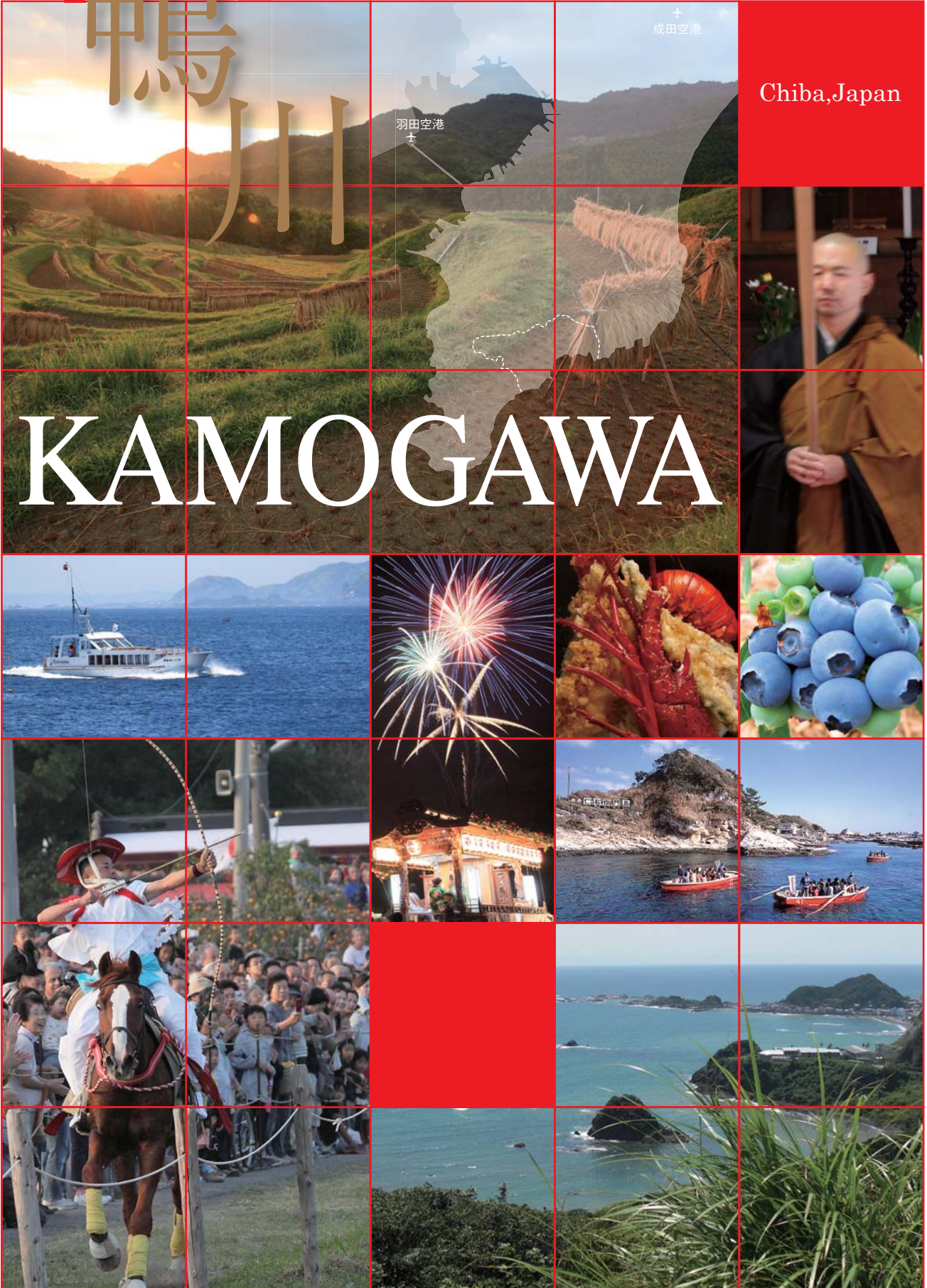
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Chiba, Japan

KAMOGAWA



Sightseeing

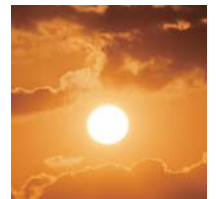
KAMOGAWA
Chiba, JAPAN

Please take your time enjoying the Kamogawa's rich nature by exploring the distinct characteristics of each area of the city.



Amatsu-Kominato Area The Town with Japan's Earliest Sunrise

Asahigamori is located at highest point of the Seichoji Temple grounds. Asahigamori's exact location has been measured at latitude 35d9m21s N, longitude 140d9m20s E, and 333.636m above sea level. According to a study on the Maritime Safety Agency Hydrographic Department Homepage, the earliest sunrise that can be seen from Asahigamori is at 6:44am, the second earliest sunrise in Japan (the first being Mt. Fuji).



Tai-no-Ura (Bay of Sea Breems)



Around the time Holy Priest Nichiren was born, countless schools of sea breems, which are deep water fish, were spotted off the shore of Tai-no-Ura. There were so many fish that the villagers were left astounded. This phenomenon is known as one of the "three prophecies" that occurred at Holy Priest Nichiren's birth. The sea breems of Tai-no-Ura are thought to be sacred and continue to be carefully protected by the local residents to this day. You can catch close up views of the sea breems by taking a ride on the pleasure boats cruising around Tai-no-Ura. It takes about 30 minutes to cruise around this designated natural heritage area.

Tanjoji Temple



Tanjoji Temple was constructed to commemorate the birthplace of Holy Priest Nichiren. It also serves as the head temple for the Nichiren sect of Buddhism. It is that "three prophecies" occurred when Nichiren was born, a spring opened up quite suddenly in the garden, lotus flowers bloomed suddenly near the shore, and an infinite number of schools of sea bream appeared suddenly off the shore.

Seichoji Temple



Seichoji Temple, a sacred ground surrounded by thousand-year old cedars, boasts a rich 1200 year history. Asahigamori refers to the highest point within the temple grounds. Some theories say that you can see the earliest sunrise in the Eastern Kanto region from Asahigamori. Perhaps it is not a simple coincidence that Holy Priest Nichiren is rumored to have climbed to the top of the mountain and achieved his enlightenment as he faced the sunrise he saw from there. The temple was originally constructed as Tendai sect temple, then affiliated with the Shingon sect before becoming a part of the Nichiren sect in 1949.

The Smell of the Sea and Incense of Tanjoji



The rocky shore around the Obenten/Kobenten islands stretches to over 100m during low tide, revealing one of the largest areas for seaweed production in the prefecture. The refreshing scent of the sea rising from the shore and the incense from Tanjoji's grounds earned this area a place in the Ministry for the Environment's "100 Most Fragrant Landscapes."

The Yomogi Fudo Waterfalls



If you drive 1 kilometer down a road leading away from Prefecture Route 127 in the Yomogi District, and go another 150 meters into the mountains, you will find a sanctuary tucked away in the woods. There you will find a set of waterfalls 10 meters in height and 8 meters wide. The larger waterfall is aptly named Odaki ("male waterfall") and the smaller is called Medaki ("female waterfall"). The waterfalls are spectacular after a downpour, especially among the fresh green of early summer and the vibrant colors of early winter. A truly amazing area amongst the autumn colors, there is a waterfall observation post and hiking path built for nature walks.

Shiraiwa Autumn Colors



Cruising down the Yoro Valley Line towards Kimitsu, the road becomes steeper as the air becomes crisp. The autumn foliage of Shiraiwa, Kamogawa's hidden sanctuary, is best viewed between late November and December. The cliffs dyed with the lively colors of autumn are outstanding.

Amatsu Shinmei Shrine



Amatsu Shinmei Shrine enshrines the Seven Gods, including the Amaterasu-Omikami (the Sun Goddess), Toyouke-Omikami (goddess of agriculture and industry), Ebisu (god of fishermen and fortune), and Ohoyamatsumi (god of the mountains, sea, and war). Shinmei Shrine is also known as the Ise Shrine of the Boshu region. The Marubachisha tree (also called Nanjamonja tree) can be found on the temple grounds and is a Prefecturally Designated National Monument.

Shirosaki Beach's Glowing Sunsets



A gorgeous white sandy beach stretches across 300 meters near the mouth of the Shinmei River, towards the center of the Amatsu-Kominato District. A popular swimming spot for younger generations because of its dazzling sunshine and clear blue water, Shirosaki is said to be one of the best beaches in the Minami Boso region. In the evening, the white sands and blue waters of Shirosaki are bathed in a warm red tinge of the sunset, creating a different world where time seems to stand still.

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Central Kamogawa Area

Kamogawa Seaworld

Performances by the great killer whales, the clever dolphins, the talented sea lions, and the other sea creatures can all be found at Seaworld, Kamogawa's most famous and popular attraction. Learn about aquatic life as you explore the full variety of the aquarium's exhibits, which recreates the flow of water from river into the sea.

Maebara-Yokosuka Beach (one of Japan's 100 Most Beautiful Beaches)

In the summer, beachgoers flock to Maebara-Yokosuka Beach, Kamogawa's largest beach. The "Seaside Promenade," which runs parallel to the beach, is a popular course for morning and evening strolls.

Kyoninji Temple

A temple with deep ties to Holy Priest Nichiren, who was born in Kamogawa's Kominato District. The large pine trees found on the temple grounds are particularly impressive, and the hydrangea bloom beautifully in the early summer.

Futomi Fishing Village

A tiny fishing port is surrounded by folk homes lined side by side. Experience a lifestyle that can only be found at a small fishing village where the residents live by supporting each other.

Nagasa-Oyama Area

Kameda Sake Brewery

Kamogawa's sole brewery, Kameda has a wide selection of original Kamogawa products that make great souvenirs. The brewery is a must for sake lovers, which also has a variety of samples available at the sake tasting corner.

Minnami no Sato

You'll often find Minnami no Sato's farmer's market, which sells produce of the season, and the restaurant, which serves local cuisine made with seasonal ingredients, crowded with visitors. You can also take a leisurely bike ride as you enjoy the rice paddy scenery by renting a bicycle from the rent-a-cycle center here.

Futomi Area

Futomi Flower & Fishing Center

Enjoy over 2,000 different types of flowers that bloom throughout the facilities, including the flower clock and flower beds, an all weather greenhouse, as well as the fishing pond. This facility is open all year round.

Oyama Senmaida

Chosen as one of Japan's Top 100 Rice Paddies, Oyama's 375 rice paddies stacked up and curving around the mountainside represent the very image of Japan. In the fall, there is a special event where the paddies are lit with candles at night.

Niemonjima Island

Niemonjima is a Chiba Prefecture Designated Place of Scenic Beauty, privately owned by Niemon Hirano. Cross over to the island on a rowboat. On the island, you can tour a Japanese house that is over 300 years old, observe wildlife native to the island, and more.

Oyama Fudo Temple

A historic temple located on a mountain, where you can look down over Nagasa Valley all the way to the Pacific Ocean. The two carvings of dragons found within the temple were created by the great carver Ihachi during the Edo Period. You can enjoy a deeper look into history by touring the temple with a volunteer guide (Japanese language tours available only).

Seasonal Sights in Kamogawa



Spring

◆ Strawberry Picking (January – early May)

Get a taste of Kamogawa's spring by enjoying strawberry picking as early as the beginning of the new year.

- Minnami no Sato 1696 Miyayama, Kamogawa TEL 04-7099-8055
- Tamura Farms 2034 Minami Komachi, Kamogawa TEL 04-7097-1162

◆ Flower Picking (January – late April)

Take a photo with the fragrant flowers blooming in spring flower fields. The flowers make a great present for family and friends back home.

- Michi no Eki Ocean Park 22 Emi-Tayuzaki, Kamogawa TEL 04-7096-1911
- Farmer's Shop Kamogawa -Hana no Eki (Flower Station)-
832 Nishi Emi, Kamogawa TEL 04-7096-0417

◆ Cherry Blossom Viewing (late March – early April)

There are two major spots in Kamogawa for viewing Yoshino cherry trees, the symbol of Japanese spring. The beautiful and gentle sight of the cherry blossoms in full bloom will make you feel at peace.

- Issemba Park 3277 Kaisuka, Kamogawa TEL 04-7093-1678
- Uchiurayama Kenmin no Mori 3228 Uchiura, Kamogawa TEL 04-7095-2821

Summer

◆ Swimming Beaches (mid-July – mid-August)

Each of the 5 designated swimming beaches located throughout Kamogawa have their own characteristics, and can be enjoyed in many different ways.

- Maebara Beach 5 minutes by foot from JR Awa-Kamogawa Stn.; the city's largest beach. The vast sandy shore and promenade are like Hawaii's beaches.
- Futomi Beach 5 minutes by foot from JR Futomi Stn.; the small, cozy beaches are surrounded by rocky coast, so you can enjoy both swimming and playing on the rocks here.
- Emi Beach 10 minutes by foot from JR Emi Stn.; a beach with a small shore; great for those who want to avoid the crowds.
- Shirosaki Beach 15 minutes by foot from JR Amatsu Stn.; a gorgeous white sandy beach boasting the clearest water in Minami Boso.
- Uchiura Beach 5 minutes by foot from JR Kominato Stn.; the gentle waves of Uchiura Bay make the perfect swimming spot for families with children.

Autumn

◆ Fall Foliage Viewing (late November – early December)

A 20 minute drive by car from the Amatsu District, the hidden sanctuary Yomogi is located on the border of Kimitsu City. The fall leaves here in late autumn make for a wonderful sight. The vivid foliage stretching out over the white stone bluffs next to the river are a must-see.