

Shared Residence

1 Somehatsu



TEL 090-4483-3141
yosoro.com/somehatsu
CLOSED Thursday

Okonomiyaki Restaurant

2 Okonomiyaki KAZUKI



TEL 0823-66-3895
CLOSED Thursday

Tourist Information

3 Mitarai Rest Area



TEL 0823-67-2278
yutaka-kanko.jp
CLOSED Tuesday

Cafe & Souvenirs

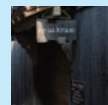
4 Shiomachikan



TEL 0823-66-3533
yosoro.com/shiomachi
CLOSED Irregular Holidays

Rental Gallery

5 Art Lab KITANI



TEL 090-1357-2315
soinew.com/kitani.html
CLOSED Monday-Friday

English Teahouse

6 T-House [Formerly Tom's Shashinkan]



TEL 0823-67-2015
islandpictures.co.jp
CLOSED Tuesday, Wednesday

Japanese Teahouse

7 Tarumasu



TEL 090-7541-5405
tarumasu.com
CLOSED Monday-Friday

Nabeyaki Udon Noodles

8 Bishuya Udon Restaurant



TEL 080-6431-7016
yosoro.com/bisyuya
CLOSED Monday-Saturday

Clock Shop

9 Shinko Clock Shop



TEL 0823-66-2429
shinko-tokei.jp
OPEN Irregular Holidays

Please be aware services, opening hours and other information on this pamphlet is correct at the time of printing, but might change in the future.

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Toy Museum & Shop

10 Mitarai Showa Museum



TEL 0823-66-5005
CLOSED Tuesday

Canteen & Inn

11 Miharashi



TEL 0823-66-2056
miharashi.localmade.jp
CLOSED Sunday

Gallery & Shop

12 Wakiya Residence



TEL 090-4483-3141
yosoro.com/wakiya
CLOSED Irregular Holidays

Guesthouse & Bar

13 KUSUSHI



TEL 070-2365-0924
hatagoya-kusushi.com
CLOSED Thursday

Luxury Guesthouse & Japanese Restaurant

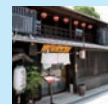
14 Shintoyo



TEL 090-4483-3141
mitarai-shintoyo.com
OPEN All year round

Grilled Anago Eel Restaurant

15 Nagomitei



TEL 0823-66-3558
CLOSED Monday-Friday

Cafe

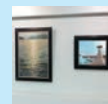
16 Cafe Wakacho



TEL 090-4483-3141
yosoro.com/wakacho
CLOSED Monday-Friday

Gallery & Shop

17 Mitarai Gallery



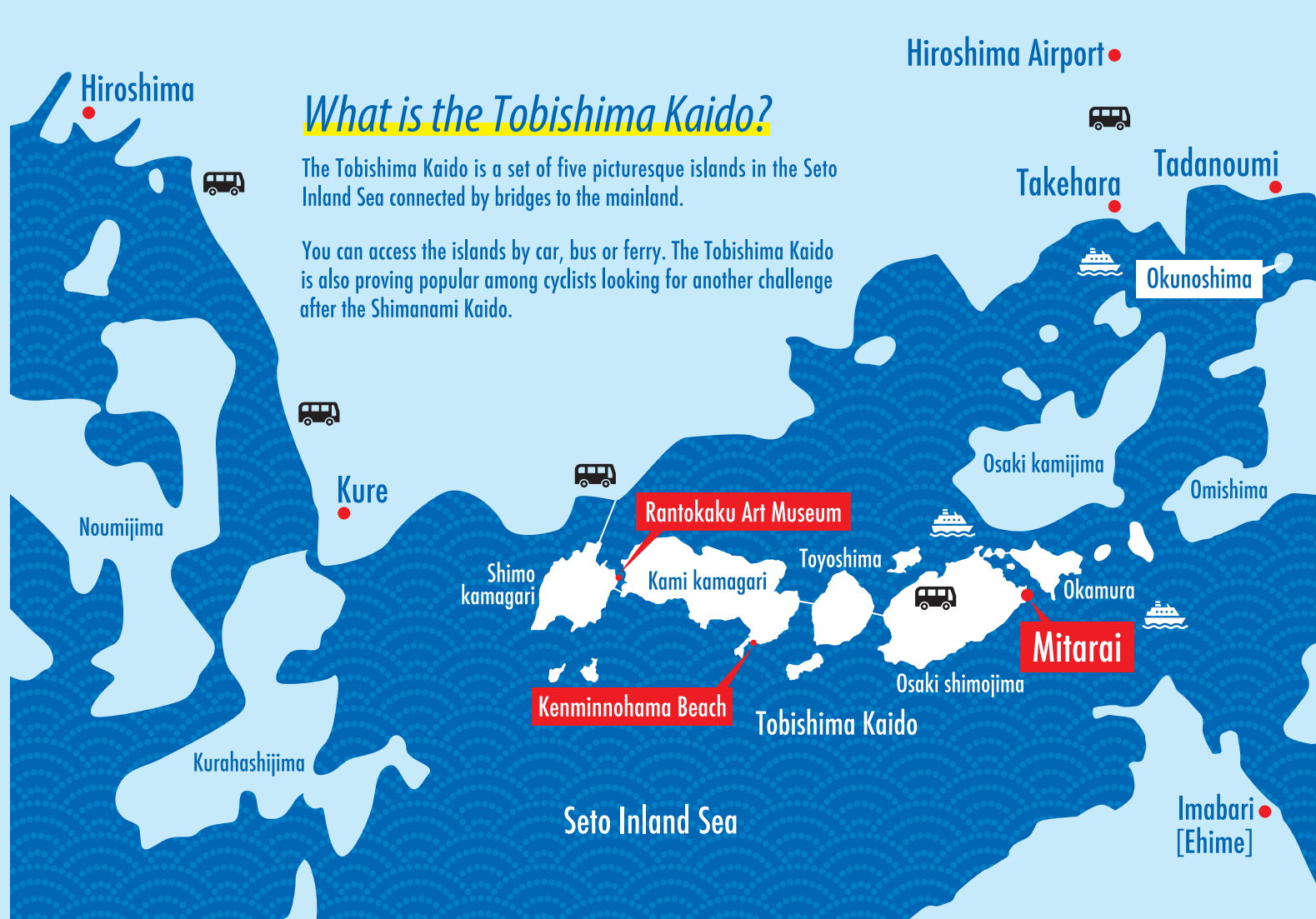
TEL 090-1357-2315
atelier340.com
CLOSED Monday-Saturday

Restaurant & Accommodation

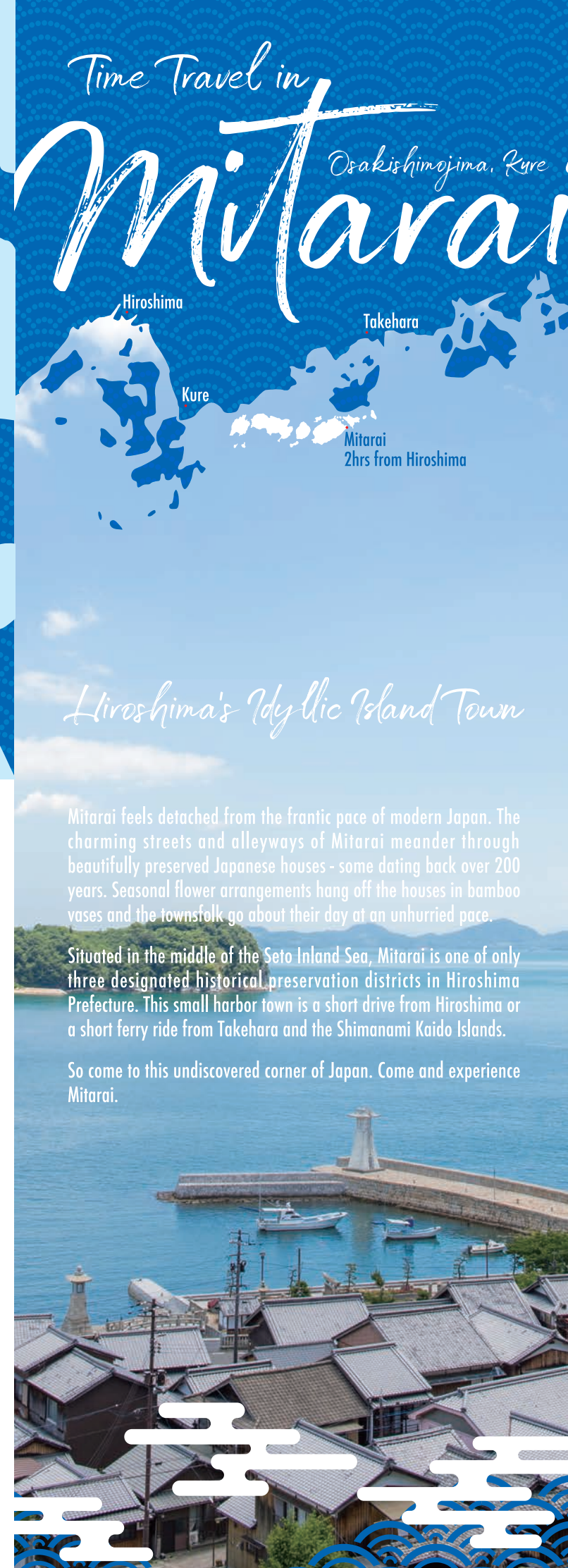
18 Watari



TEL 0823-66-4343
CLOSED Monday-Friday



How to Access



Mitarai's Origins

You would be forgiven for thinking the slow life existed here for centuries. In fact, in its heyday, Mitarai was regional hub for trade, entertainment and pleasure.

The town developed with domestic sea trade routes during the Edo Period. This was a time when Japan was in 'sakoku' - isolated from the rest of the world for over two hundred years until 1853.

Japanese shipping hugged the coastline, riding the tides and the winds up and down the length and breadth of Japan. With its natural protected harbor and located on the important sea route to and from Osaka, Mitarai became an ideal place to drop anchor.

The town thrived. They re-stocked ships in the harbor with water and provisions, while the town provided the wealthy captains and seafarers with everything from theaters, shops, sento bath-houses, to even a geisha house. Most of these buildings still survive today.



The women of Mitarai prepare and maintain these bamboo flower arrangements through the year.



Rekishi-no-mieru oka Park



Sumiyoshi Shrine



a Kyu Shibaya Residence

The famous Edo Period cartographer and surveyor Ino Tadataka stayed in this house on his travels to create the first map of Japan.



b Tokiwa Street

This is the oldest main street in Mitarai, where wholesale stores bought and sold goods carried in by the trade vessels.



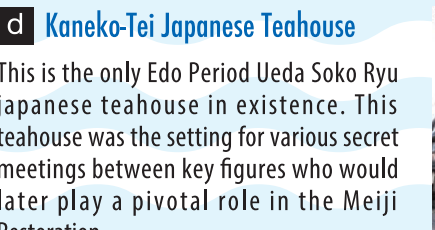
c Tenmangu Shrine

This shrine venerates the famous Sugawara no Michizane, who came to Mitarai after losing in battle in 901CE. According to legend, Michizane washed his hands in the well at the back of the shrine, thus giving the town its name "Mitarai", which means "washing hands".



d Kaneko-Tei Japanese Teahouse

This is the only Edo Period Ueda Soko Ryu Japanese teahouse in existence. This teahouse was the setting for various secret meetings between key figures who would later play a pivotal role in the Meiji Restoration.



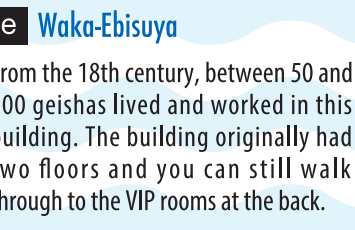
f Shinko Clock Shop

One of the oldest clock shops in Japan is still in business on the main road in Mitarai. They began selling clocks in 1858 and current shop was built in 1919. Its 4th generation master watchmaker Keiichi Matsuura is famous throughout Japan for his skill at repairing antique timepieces.



e Waka-Ebisuya

From the 18th century, between 50 and 100 geishas lived and worked in this building. The building originally had two floors and you can still walk through to the VIP rooms at the back.



g Mitarai Showa Museum

This museum exhibits a vast array of toys and artifacts from Japan's Showa Period (1926 - 1989). All the exhibits come from the extensive private collection of Mitarai's chief monk at Daitoji Tem-ple, Kazuaki Sekifuji.



h Otomeza

A classic theater and cinema built in 1937. In 2002, the building was fully restored to its original state and opened to the public.



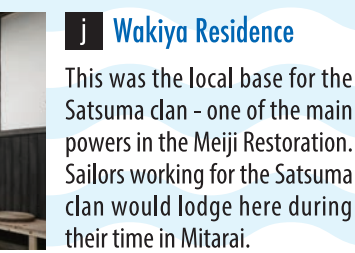
i Mitarai Edo Museum

This museum houses documents relating to the origins and development of Mitarai during the Edo Period from 1666 to 1868.



j Wakiya Residence

This was the local base for the Satsuma clan - one of the main powers in the Meiji Restoration. Sailors working for the Satsuma clan would lodge here during their time in Mitarai.



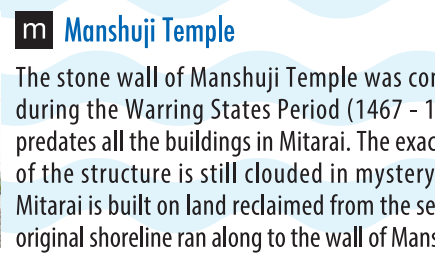
l Shichikyo-Kan Residence

This beautiful house was frequented by Sanetomi Sanjo - one of the leading characters of the Meiji Restoration. Originally at the tip of Mitarai, the house was famous for its unparalleled sea views.



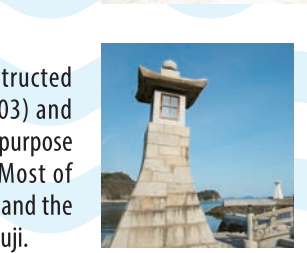
m Manshuji Temple

The stone wall of Manshuji Temple was constructed during the Warring States Period (1467 - 1603) and predates all the buildings in Mitarai. The exact purpose of the structure is still clouded in mystery. Most of Mitarai is built on land reclaimed from the sea and the original shoreline ran along to the wall of Manshuji.



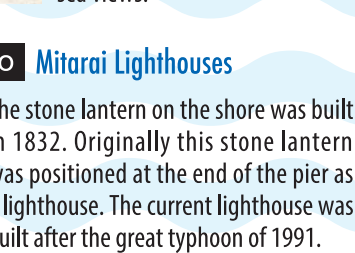
n Seafront Terraces

Originally built by merchants, the middle of the three buildings (currently Wakacho Cafe) was used as seafront lodgings for members of the Ōzu clan, and later for the Uwajima clan (both pre-sent-day Ehime Prefecture).



o Mitarai Lighthouses

The stone lantern on the shore was built in 1832. Originally this stone lantern was positioned at the end of the pier as a lighthouse. The current lighthouse was built after the great typhoon of 1991.



p Chisago Pier

The stone pier was created by the Hiroshima clan in 1829. With a length of 120 meters, this was the largest of its kind in western Japan.