

# Explore the port town of Donko river and Sankinkotai detail.

See the town of Inukai where there were local government's buildings such as lodging houses, the magistrate's office, and storehouses, and the site of the Port of Inukai which was used during the Sankinkotai detail (a shogunate scheme requiring feudal lords to stay in their residences in Edo every other year.)

① Kamaboko rocks

The rocks flank the road that leads to the old Port of Inukai, and they are shaped like kamaboko fishcakes. It is believed that each stone had a pole inserted into the hole for holding up a cloth to hide the local feudal lord from view as he traveled through the area for his Sankinkotai detail.

**What is a Sankinkotai Road?**  
When traveling to Edo from the Oka Domain to render services to the shogunate, the local feudal lord would hike over a mountain pass from Oka Castle's Shimohara Gate and travel to Inukai on foot. He would then take a boat from the Port of Inukai and go down Ono River to the Misa estuary, and then to the Sea of Setouchi.

④ Inukai Tenmansha Shrine

Built on a small hill with commanding views of the town of Inukai, the shrine has an eye-catching main hall painted in vibrant colors. The monument dedicated to Confucianist Kuso Mori on the shrine grounds has an inscription stating that the area had been a vast plum grove.

② The Port of Inukai

The Port of Inukai on Ono River was a key logistics center of the Oka Domain and prospered as the dock for the Sankinkotai detail in the Edo period. There are remnants of the cobble street at the dock that remind us of the bygone days. The famous Donkuzuri Competition and sweets/fish fishing are also popular in the area.

③ Naminori Jizo

There are various theories as to why the jizo was made. One theory says that the Domain Lord Nakagawa had carved it to pray for safety as he set out to Funchi for his Sankinkotai detail, and another says that the Sumi painter Sesshu had produced it when he had stopped by to paint the Chinda Falls in the town of Ohno.

The stone Buddhas of Inukai

Kenkofu Gorge  
The scenic spot was named by Chikuden Tanomura.

**The origins of the town of Inukai**  
Inukai developed as a port for transporting Oka Domain's personnel for the Sankinkotai detail and the domain's supplies. There were official buildings such as lodging houses, the magistrate's office, and storehouses, and the town was created by inviting merchants from outside the domain to relocate.

Course	Walk through the town of Inukai, see the historical sites associated with the Sankinkotai detail, and trek along the river inhabited by dark sleepers. ①Kamaboko rocks → ②The port of Inukai → ③Naminori Jizo → ④Inukai Tenmansha Shrine	Book	Tourism Bungo-Onho TEL: 0974-22-3706 (Japanese only) FAX: 050-3730-6057 (Japanese only)
When?	As and when needed		
Times	As and when needed		
Meet-up	Bungo-Ono City Hall Inukai Outstation Inukai, Inukai-machi, Bungo-Ono City, Oita Prefecture.	Fee	Call for details.

Please note that requests for dates and times may not be met as they are subject to the availability of the volunteer guides.