

Course Overview 2: The Islands Tell the Tale: Then and Now

【Course Period】

August 12 (Monday) – August 16 (Friday)

Stay on the smallest islands in the Goto Islands, Ojika Island and Nozaki Island, and experience island life. Through living on the islands, you will learn about the faith and life of the people on Ojika Island. On Nozaki Island, you will discover the what is left of the religions of "Shinto" and "Christianity" that people once believed in, and consider how religion influenced life on the island. Additionally, on Ojika Island, through various challenges of living on remote islands, you will learn about efforts being made to create a sustainable future for the island.

【Program Structure and Learning Objectives】

Through workshops regarding the challenges of island life and brainstorming sessions for sustainable futures, as well as events for interaction with local residents, the program will provide opportunities to experience local culture and lifestyle. Throughout the program, you will understand the influence of religion on people's lives and cultures, and cultivate thinking and problem-solving skills for sustainable futures in the region through solving challenges on remote islands.

【Program Structure】

Week 3	2024/8/12	2024/8/13	2024/8/14	2024/8/15	2024/8/16
Morning	Nagasaki (JR Seaside Liner at 7:40) → (9:43) Sasebo (Ferry at 10:40) → Ojika Islands (13:55)	Ojika Island (Ferry at 7:25) → Nozaki Island (8:00) Walking around Nozaki Island Nozaki Island Settlement	Preparing for Ojika-machi Summer Festival	Ojika-machi Peron (Dragon Boat) Race	Ojika-machi Summer Festival Clean-up
Afternoon	Walking around Ojika Island Okinokamijima Shrine visit, Ojika-machi History Museum, etc.	Nozaki Island (Ferry at 15:10) → Ojika Island (15:30)	Ojika Islands "88 Places" Excursion	Ojika-machi Summer Festival	Ojika Island (Ferry at 14:05) → (16:40) Sasebo (JR Seaside Liner 17:12) → Nagasaki (19:27)
Stay	Ojika Town Youth Center	Ojika Town Youth Center	Ojika Town Youth Center	Ojika Town Youth Center	Hotel (Nagasaki City)

- August 15 (Thursday): Participate in the Ojika Island Peron (Dragon Boat Race) Tournament and Summer Festival.

【Activity Details】

August 12 (Monday)

Morning: From Nagasaki to Ojika Island

Afternoon: On a Ojika Island guided tour, visit places like the Ojika Island Town Historical Folk Museum, Okinoshima Shrine, and learn about Ojika Island .

August 13 (Tuesday)

Morning: Visit the former Nokubi Church ruins in the Nozaki Island Settlement, and learn about the form of Christianity that the people of Nokubi and Funamori settlements believed in during their time as “Hidden Christians.”

Afternoon: Visit the Okino Kamijima Shrine ruins in the Nozaki Island Settlement and learn about the Shinto religion that the people of Nozaki believed in. Learn about the background of the people at the time who tried to maintain a Christian faith community by migrating to Nozaki Island, which was originally a sacred place of Shinto.

August 14 (Wednesday)

Morning: Interact with the Ojika Island Youth Group through summer festival preparations and learn about island life. Also, share meals prepared by the islanders and learn about the diversity and changes in food culture.

Afternoon: Visiting the 88 temples and sacred places of Ojika Island is a form of pilgrimage especially revered in Japanese Buddhism, referring to pilgrimages around 88 Buddhist temples and sacred places. Learn about the faith of the islanders and engage in spiritual practices while taking in all of the nature and history.

August 15 (Thursday)

Morning: Participate in the Peron Tournament on Ojika Island.

Afternoon: Join the Ojika Island Summer Festival. Experience Bon dancing and enjoy the summer festival at your leisure.

August 16 (Friday)

Morning: Summarize what you learned on the remote islands.

Afternoon: Return to Nagasaki.