Hashima (Gunkanjima)

The History of Hashima

Coal was discovered on Hashima around 1610. Although the Saga clan carried out some small-scale coal mining, it was when the mine came under the control of Mitsubishi Gōshi Kankai (Mitsubishi Limited Partnership) in 1880 that full-scale seabed coal mining operations began.

As the amount of coal being excavated increased, the population of Hashima grew, and in 1910 optics first encroached concrete high-apartment buildings were constructed to house the many people living on this small island. At its peak the population of the island was around 5,300, giving a population density nine times greater than that of Tokyo at the same time.

The Energy Resolution caused a shift away from coal towards oil products. As demand for coal fell, the mine's production gradually shrank along with the island's population. In January 1974 the mine was closed, and in April of the same year the island became uninhabited.

Work in the Coalmine

Between 1861 and 1974, around 15.7 million tons of coal was excavated by the "men of the pit." Mining the seabed coal reserves of Hashima took the miners to points over 1,000m below sea level. After making the grueling journey down the steep slopes of the shafts, they worked in terrible conditions, braving temperatures of 30ºC and humidity of 95%, not to mention the ever-present danger of gas explosions. In the mine, an often-exchanged greeting was "Goanzen ni" (literally, "safely"). By this, the miners meant "take care not to have an accident."

Island Expansion

Originally, Hashima was just a small, barren shelf of aqueous rock. However, as mining methods continued to develop, the island was expanded. Embankments were constructed six times through land reclamation, until the island reached its present size and shape. Originally, Hashima was only a third of its current size.

Life on the Island

The rules of social behavior, the formation of social norms, and the establishment of social relations are regarded as the primary factors that give rise to a sense of belonging. In the context of social inclusion, family and community are considered crucial for this sense of belonging. Moreover, the community's shared values and beliefs play a significant role in shaping social norms and practices. These shared values and beliefs are embedded in the community's cultural practices and traditions, which are passed down from generation to generation.

Hashima Safety Protocols

1. Do not leave the designated observation area.
2. Do not do any of the following things in the observation facilities:
   (1) Dangerous actions such as climbing forces
   (2) Actions which dirty the facilities
   (3) Drinking alcohol (including on the boat)
   (4) Smoking
   (5) Cause annoyance to other people
3. Follow the instructions of the safety guide and other staff.
4. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear that allows for safe use of the observation facilities:
5. Do not drop litter.
6. People who cannot walk unaided, such as young children or people with disabilities, must be accompanied by a guardian or caretaker.
7. Depending on the weather and sea conditions, it may not be possible to use the observation facilities. In the event that the facilities are unusable, facility usage fees will be refunded.
8. For reasons of safety, intoxicated individuals are restricted from using the observation facilities.
9. Elementary school students and young children must have a letter of consent from their parent or guardian.

Entry Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Standard (above 12 years)</th>
<th>Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>¥200</td>
<td>¥240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary School Students</td>
<td>¥150</td>
<td>¥210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact Details

Nagasaki City Call Center (Ajisai Call) (TEL 095-825-5175)
Nagasaki Tourist Information Center (TEL 095-823-3631)
Around half these buildings remain.

The General Office building, there was a large communal bath area for the miners. The bathtub is said to have always been built in the basement of the mine. The brick building was the nerve center of the mine. In the entrance hall there was once a main altar there was once a worshipper’s hall, but it has collapsed. Today only a small remains. The swimming pool was moved here in 1958 from in front of the school, after it was damaged in a typhoon. The 25 meter long pool and attached children’s pool used sea water until a year or two before the mine was closed. There was another pool at the kindergarten on the roof of Building No. 63, which used tap water since its construction in 1952.

The swimming pool was moved here in 1958 from in front of the school, after it was damaged in a typhoon. The 25 meter long pool and attached children’s pool used sea water until a year or two before the mine was closed. There was another pool at the kindergarten on the roof of Building No. 63, which used tap water since its construction in 1952.

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In 1933, the Mitsubishi Corporation established a standard elementary school on the island. In 1921, the school came under the management of the local municipality. The building that survives today was constructed in 1938, with the first four floors serving as an elementary school, floors 5 and 6 serving as a junior high school, and floor six housing an auditorium, library and music room. In 1970 a gymnasium and lunch hall were added, along with the island’s only elevator, which was used to transport school meals.

This shrine was a spiritual cornerstone for the miners who reek their labors working in the pit. On April 3 every year, great celebrations took place all over the island to mark the shrine’s Yamagami Festival. Before the main altar there was once a worshipper’s hall, but it has collapsed. Today only a small shrine remains.

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As the island was expanded in the Meiji Period (1868-1912), sea walls were widely constructed. To this day these retaining walls survive all over the island, contributing to Hashima’s unique scenery.

Before the introduction of propane gas in the mid-1950s, coal furnaces were used. Boiled water used to be stored in an elevated water tank and distributed to communal water hydrants in several areas on the island. In 1957, an underwater water supply pipe was laid between Hashima and the town of Sanwa-

General Office

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No. 30 and No. 31 Apartment Buildings

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