

 KURE where Suzu lived



In this Corner_{the} of World

THE WAY TO KURE FROM HIROSHIMA

JR rail In the story, Suzu used the train to go to Kure. You can travel to Kure from JR Hiroshima station via the Kure line. The rapid train service departs every 30 to 60 minutes during the day and the journey takes around 30 minutes. The local trains operate every 30 minutes and the trip takes 45 minutes. The train fare is free upon presentation of your JAPAN RAIL PASS.

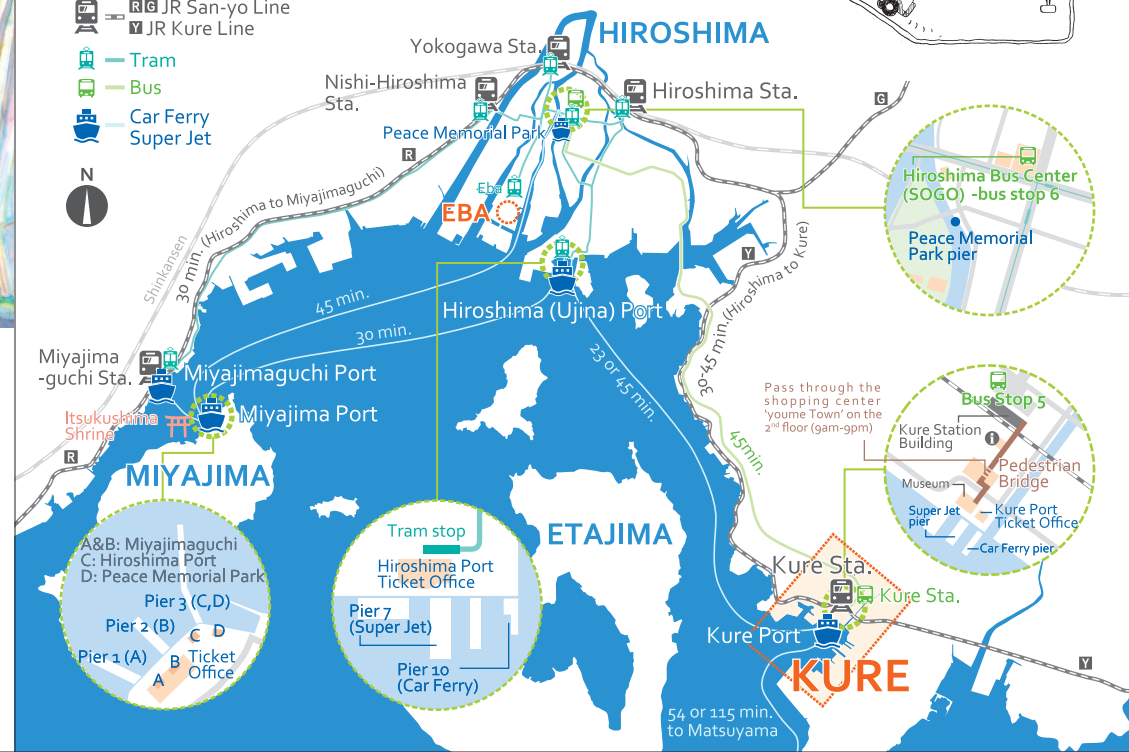
Bus From Hiroshima Bus Center inside the SOGO department store building, you can catch a Hiroden Bus or JR Bus to Kure. The buses depart from bus stop 6. The name of the bus line is Kurea Line (クレアイン). These buses run regularly every 10 to 20 minutes and take roughly 45 minutes to reach Kure Station. When boarding the bus, please take a numbered ticket. There is a screen inside the bus which will tell you the fare you need to pay according to the number on your ticket. If you can, try to prepare change before you get on the bus. However, you are able to change a 1000 yen bill into smaller coins via the machine next to the driver.

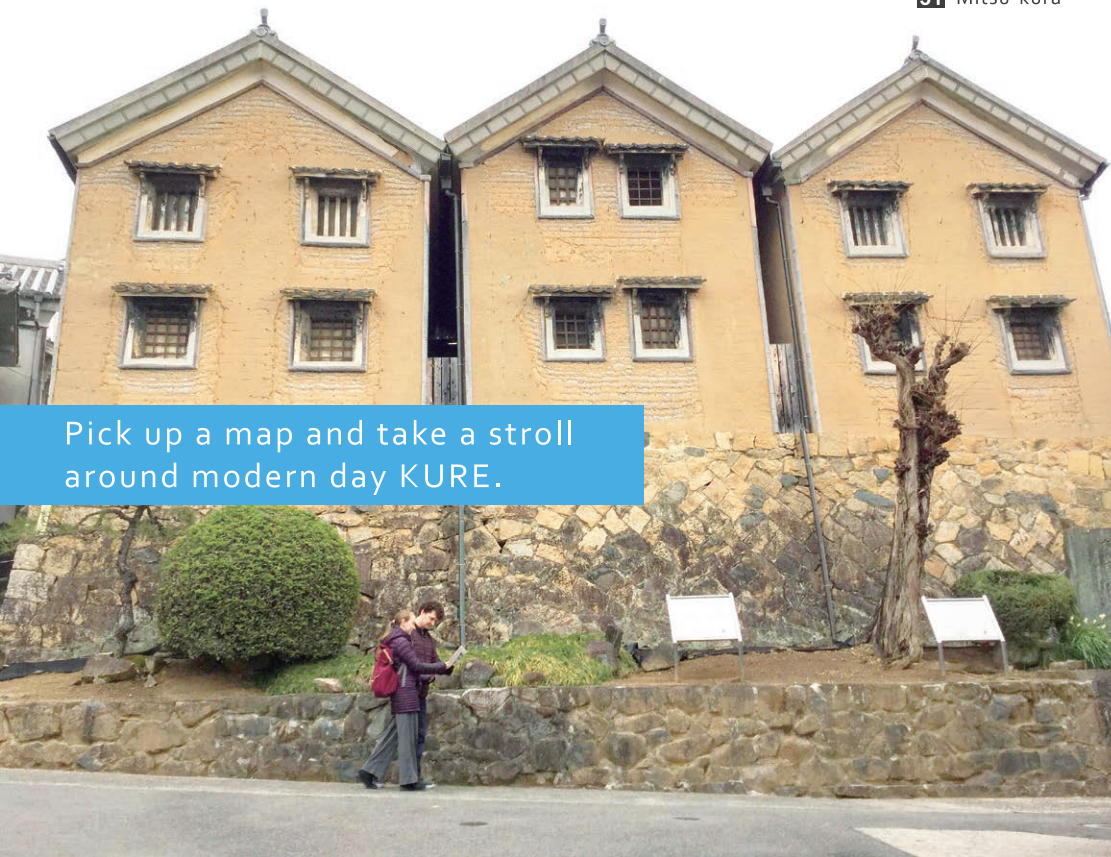
Car Ferry / Super Jet The 'Super Jet' high-speed ferry running from Hiroshima (Ujina) Port to Kure Port operates every 1-2 hours and takes approximately 23 minutes. The fare is 2100 yen. The 'Car Ferry' also takes you to Kure but with a longer journey time of close to one hour. It will cost 930 yen. You can buy tickets at the port from the terminal window.

Note: Please make sure that the ferry will stop at Kure as some ferries travel directly from Hiroshima to Matsuyama without stopping at Kure.



 JR San-yo Line
 JR Kure Line





Pick up a map and take a stroll around modern day KURE.

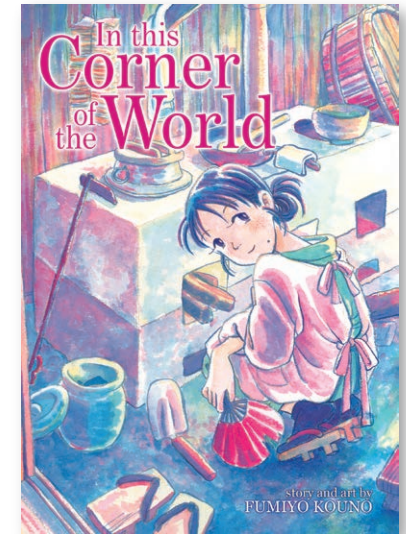


You will find links to KURE's past.



About The Manga "In this Corner of the World"

This story was set in Hiroshima Prefecture, in the 1940s. Suzu, the main character, was born in Hiroshima and went to Kure to join Shusaku, her husband, and his family in the ship-building industry in Kure. Suzu slowly gets used to her new life in Kure. Despite being in a difficult situation and struggling against the war, she finds small happiness in everyday life. The story is highly rated for its detailed description of the lives of the local people and the unique psychology of the characters trying to survive the war in Kure. The manga was made into an animated film in 2016.



Disclaimer

This map was originally produced by the Kure Tourism Association to introduce the places that appear in the manga, but the manga production is not directly involved in the production of this map.

Request for Visitors

The map "KURE where Suzu lived" has detailed some walking routes that pass through residential areas. These areas are not sightseeing spots in Kure, and therefore we ask that you refrain from disturbing local residents and do not trespass on any private properties without permission.

KURE where Suzu lived

Production	ARCHITECTURE WALK HIROSHIMA
Translation	Reiko Inaba(Deep Kure). Kieko Hirata
English proof-reading	Lindsay Tharby. Benjamin Tharby
In-kind sponsor	FUTABASHA publishers Ltd.,Tokyo
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Publisher	KURE TOURISM ASSOCIATION 4-7-1 Hondori, Kure, Hiroshima, 737-0045 Japan https://www.kure-kankou.jp

Discover Kure where Suzu used to live.

The manga "In this Corner of the World", later made into an animated film, depicts Kure in the latter stage of WW2 and was written through the perspective of people living in Kure city. So, what is Kure like ?

The History of the Modern Navy in Japan

First of all, we have to know about the history of the modern navy in Japan to understand Kure. In Japan, a more modern government was established after political change in the late 19th century, and it began to develop a navy modelled after the navy of the United Kingdom. The Japanese navy became the third largest in the world (after the UK and US) in the 1930s. However, Japan lost the war and the Japanese navy was decommissioned. The new constitution of Japan proclaims that Japanese people must renounce war forever, but in 1954 the Maritime Self Defense Forces (JMSDF), quite similar to the navy, were established and still exist to this day.

The Construction of Kure City

Kure used to be a small village made up of some rural areas. Kure is on the Seto Inland Sea and is surrounded on three sides by many hills. To go outside of the city, there were only a few narrow, steep roads. These geographical features prompted the Japanese Government to establish a naval base, and in 1890 a naval port was built. The navy also led the city planning of Kure. From the 17th to 19th century, land was reclaimed from Kure's bay and used as farmland. On this land, the navy constructed roads that formed a grid. Huge numbers of soldiers and factory workers moved to Kure and the population rapidly increased. Therefore, houses had to not only be built on flat land but also on the hill sides. During the war, the central part of the city was a very busy downtown hub. There were lots of buildings such as restaurants, theaters, shops and pool halls that were crowded with sailors. Also, civil infrastructure such as trams and waterworks were developed.

Naval Buildings in Kure

Before the modernization of Japan, there was no technology to build a large facility using bricks and iron. It was necessary to master the Western techniques. Kotaro Sakurai, a Japanese architect who studied abroad at the University of London, was an excellent student and became a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He designed some wonderful naval buildings such as the Kure Naval District Headquarters **9** and the Former Official Residence of Commander-in-chief. **16**

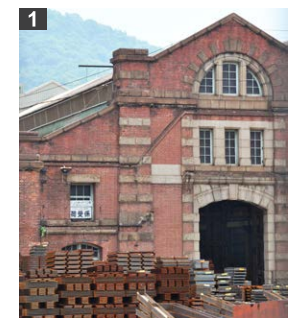
The Flourishing and Decline of Kure

As the Japanese navy grew, the naval port in Kure was getting bigger and eventually it became the biggest naval port in the east. The navy dockyard was world-class in terms of its scale and technology and a lot of battleships and aircraft carriers were built here. The population of Kure increased to become one of the ten largest cities in Japan.

However, this prosperity did not last long. During WW2 (1941-1945), many of the naval facilities



6 Battleship Yamato was built in Kure



increased to become one of the ten largest cities in Japan. However, this prosperity did not last long. During WW2 (1941-1945), many of the naval facilities were destroyed by US military air strikes. Indiscriminate bombings of heavily populated civilian areas occurred. After Japan's surrender in the Pacific War, the Australian, New Zealand, British, and the U.S. army was stationed in Kure for several years. The naval base was taken over by the Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and the navy dockyard was sold to private companies. Suzu, the main character, 'In this Corner of the World', moved to Kure at the height of the war. She saw how the city of Kure had changed since the peak of its development.

Kure Today

Kure was seriously damaged during the war, however, thanks to the high level of shipbuilding expertise, the city has recovered to become the vibrant industrial city it is today. A few naval facilities and old houses still remain. Walk with this map and try to imagine for yourself the city of Kure that Suzu must have seen !

Food Culture of Kure

Kure doesn't have a long history like Kyoto, however, Kure has a unique port town food culture influenced by its naval traditions.

Curry and rice : Curry is a kind of stew and the recipe that the Japanese navy made is based on British curry. It has become one of the most popular dishes to eat at home today. You can eat an original navy curry at some restaurants in Kure. **A**

Nikujaga : Nikujaga is a dish made of simmered potatoes and beef in a sweet soy sauce. It is also a dish the Japanese navy made and became a popular family meal. Until the Meiji era (which began in 1868), Japanese people did not eat a lot of meat. Curry or Nikujaga was made for building up soldiers' health. There are restaurants today that sell original and authentic Nikujaga. **D**

Fried Cake : This is a doughnut filled with sweet bean paste. Just after the war ended, a shop named FUKUZUMI produced and sold them. They are sold even today. **E**

Mitsumanjyu : It is a manjyu, a baked bun, made with a sweet bean paste and dough mixed with honey. **F**

Onraimanto : Onraimanto is a manju, a kind of bun, filled with pineapple jam. They got the idea of using pineapple jam from Taiwanese sweets. **G**

Yatai (mobile restaurants) : Yatai appear every evening on Kuramoto-dori street. Many of them offer ramen, Chinese style noodles. Few owners of these restaurants can speak English but it is definitely worth trying. **C**



Figure 1
Kure in the 16th century

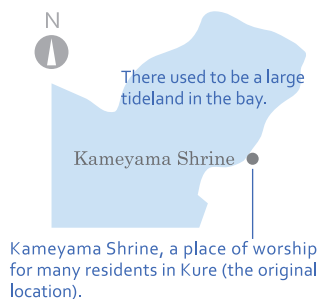


Figure 2
The area of Kure where the bay was reclaimed (during the mid-19th century).

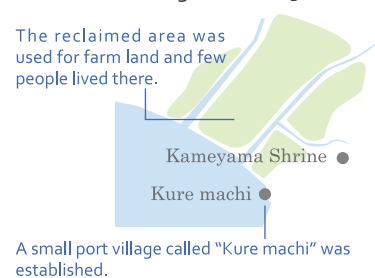


Figure 3
The construction of Kure City led by the Navy (in the late 19th and early 20th century).

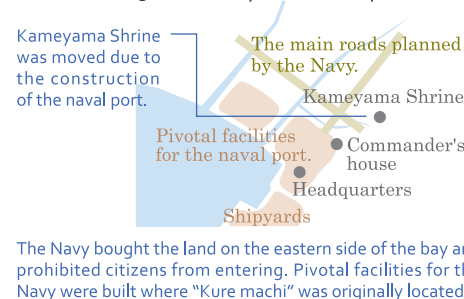
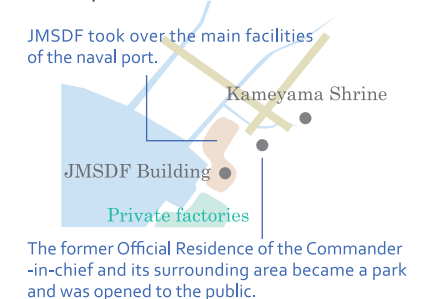


Figure 4
After WW2 (From the late 20th century to the present)





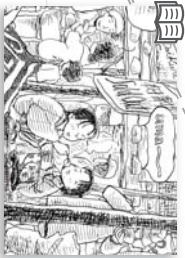
16 The former Official Residence of the Commander-in-chief of the Kure Naval Station

The main feature of the residence is that it is composed of two styles of houses. The western style room was used for meetings and welcoming Western guests. The Japanese style rooms were occupied by the Commander-in-chief and his family. The visiting hours are 9am to 4:30pm, but it is closed on Tuesdays.



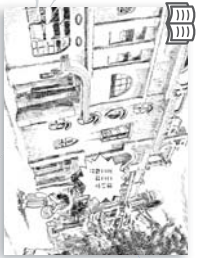
17 The WYCA of Kure

Used as a Navy Warehouse during WW2 and later as a chapel by the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) in 1948.



24 One of the post-WW2 black markets

In the story, Suzu was said to have enjoyed a porridge of rice with vegetables made from the leftovers of the BCOF. Suzu spoke about the delicious salty taste of the porridge, but realized she had never thought of the lack of seasonings available in Japan.

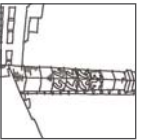


26 Suzu gets lost in ASAHl-Machi Yukaku (Pleasure Quarters)

In the story, Suzu met a girl called Rin who worked at the Futaba-House. It and other parts of the district were buried down due to attacks on the urban areas of Kure in 1945 and now nothing remains.

27 A cemetery for the former Navy

A cemetery for Navy personnel. It has many memorial monuments and also includes individual graves of British sailors in the Nagasaki Park.



28 The chimney of Japanese sake brewery 'MIYAKEHONTEN'

The long-standing chimney was made of bricks and required for the process of sake brewing.

29 Kure Goe-Touge Pass

Trams (Kure Electric Railway) once ran on the sloping road that connects the center of Kure with Hiro. The Hiroshima Prefectural Route 174 runs there now.



30 Naganoki-Kaidou Road

This road started from the Sawahara family home (#42) and was lined by stores and merchants from Kure. The road gradually declined due to the modernization of Kure that followed the establishment of the Imperial Japanese Navy base in Kure (#9).

ASAHl-Machi Yukaku used to be an entertainment district in Kure.

25 Senba-Machi Town

This used to be a black market street where Suzu got 1 kin (600g) of sugar. It was crowded all day long.

31 Mitsu-Kura Store to the Sawahara

These were traditional Japanese houses. The Mitsu-Kura forms a unique street scene. The storehouses were used for sake, and tatami mats (straw mats) were not burned by the air raid and remains the same as it was years ago. This spot is one of the scenes in the story.

32 The former (An impo

The Sawahara family home is a kind of contribution of this house has

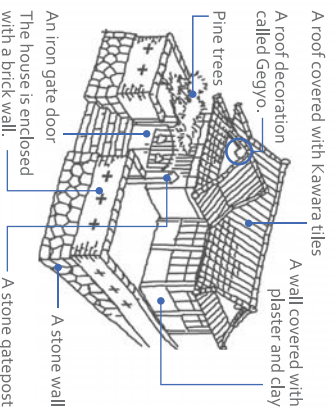
Do you know why Kure has many houses along the slope in the mountains?

Setting up a Naval base in Kure increased its population through providing industrial laborers many new jobs. Workers had to build their houses on the mountain slopes because the navy itself used a large quantity of the flat land to build their facilities. In addition, as the Kure navy did not have a good system in place to provide housing for workers, some people in Kure built houses and rented them to naval personnel and workers.



Here is an image of a typical style of house for the era (see the figure on the right). It is a point of interest that some houses in Kure had bricks wall built around them. Bricks were not often used in Japan and originally arrived through Western import. Many bricks were needed to build Western-style buildings so many brick production sites were established around Kure. These bricks were also used in the construction of private houses in Kure.

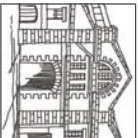
The typical traditional house of Kure



About water history of

The Japanese Navy opened a water supply system in Kure in 1890. This service was a kind of contribution to the city. As a result, citizens had to drink clean water. Soon, the order to supply plenty of water was issued.





1 The former precision weapon factory

This is the most beautiful building that remains of the former Navy arsenal factories. Some traces of damage from air raiding are left on the outside wall. This is a restricted area.

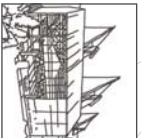


2 The former electric factories and warehouses for Kure Naval Arsenal

You can see a lot of facilities with naval history in this area. The inner areas are not open to the public.

5 Kushiya Park

Ten minutes up the hill from Karasukojima Alley, brings you to Kushiya Park and a wonderful view of the sea. You can see ruins of a shrine and an intercept surveillance station here.



6 The former naval arsenal shipyard building

The construction of the Battleship Yamato was top secret. A roof was set up over the shipyard to hide it from public view. The shipyard building is still in use today.



7 The ruin of a gate to the naval arsenal

The navy built blindfold fences to sequester the construction of the Battleship Yamato. It separated the naval area from the city area. Only people with permission could enter the naval area.



8 The road where Suzu walked with Harumi

The road has a slightly different appearance nowadays. Suzu and Harumi were in a shelter around this area during an air raid on the Kure naval arsenal.

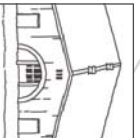


11 The stairs in front of the Old Naval Hospital

Hill Overlooking Historic Areas
歴史の見える丘

10 The former navy court

The former naval office where Shusaku worked.



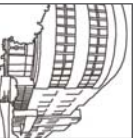
12 The former service reservoir for the Miyahara purification plant

The Miyahara purification plant was one of the oldest purification plants in Japan and was completed in 1890.



14 Oshokan

A facility for the navy with an art deco style. Plays, concerts and other performances were held here during the war.



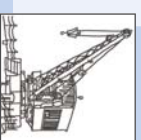
15 The former Naval Assembly Hall

Navy sailors who disembarked at Kure often spent their free time at this facility. The building used to have a beautiful tiled outside wall, but after the war it was painted red. The building isn't used today.

Kushiya Park
串山公園

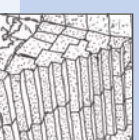
3 An old crane

A crane which was made in Britain and used to ship the torpedoes made in the facilities nearby (#2). It was relocated here after the war.



4 Masonry revetment

Very solid masonry revetment made by the navy as a barrier.



Alley Karasukojima
アライからすこじま

The early 19th century coastline

9 The Kure Naval District Headquarters Building

This elegant building with bricks and granite was constructed in 1907. JMSDF Headquarters District uses this building now. It is open to the public every Sunday. The visit requires prior reservation.

18 The Kure Maritime Museum (Yamato Museum)

By visiting the Yamato museum, you can experience the importance of peace, and the wonders of the sea.

19 The Old Naval Pier

Historically, the present-day Kure Port was the Imperial Japanese Navy. Civilians were not allowed to enter.

Kure Port 呉港

Yamato Museum

13 Kure Marine Corps

These buildings used to be the facilities where young men received basic training to become sailors. JMSDF still uses this facility today.

20 An old fuel oil line

21 An old railway bridge

22 Sakai-Bashi Bridge

This is an original bridge which survived Kure air raids during WW2.

呉

Scale 1/10,000

0 m

Course
Exploring

70 minutes

In the story,
Harumi went
air raid near
On Course 1
walked. Pass
of the course
the shipyard
station from

Pedestrian
Bridge

shopping center
Younmei Town

JR

37

Kameyama Shrine 亀山神社

refer to Figures 1-4

es around Naka-dori
ve not changed much
war and is still the
business and entertain-
of Kure.

Imanishi-dori Street

Niko Park
二河公園

ehouse (belonging
a household (#32))

Japanese storehouses and
uniquely shaped building
ed to store Japanese rice,
traditional straws mats). It
air attacks during the war
it was when it was built 210
one of the most popular



mer Sawahara family home
important cultural property in Kure)

family were local influential people (merchants, bankers and government officials) and they
ated to the modernization of Kure. This residence showed the family's prosperity. The interior
as not been opened to the public and can only be viewed from the exterior.

33 Tatsukawa Bus Stop

This is the nearest bus stop to the Hyogo
house where Suzu lived after marrying
Shusaku. Like a scene from the story, this
area is like a looking glass into the past.



This bus stop is for JR
Kure station. The bus
fare is 170 yen and you
can pay when getting off.

r getting married, is in this vicinity, but the details of the house
This is so as to not disturb residents living near the house.

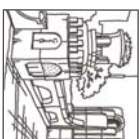
f Kure

a modern water service for
as only for the Navy of Kure
d access to this service.

ing a well or get water from
e navy built a huge dam in
water. Finally, citizens were
provided a water supply
from the dam in 1938.

Suzu had to use a hand
pump to bring water up
from her well since her
house was built above the
dam (see the image on
the left). Only people who
lived below the level of
the dam were able to use
it as a water supply.

22 Niko-Hashi Bridge
This art deco style bridge has been
around since 1932. This bridge still
remains the same as it was during
Suzu's time.



23 Koharu-Bashi Bridge

This scene shows Suzu and her
husband, Shusaku, going on
their first date. Despite being
a married Japanese couple,
they did not meet in person
until their wedding day. This
was normal in those days. This
is one of the most popular
scenes of the story, however
the bridge can no longer be
seen. A new bridge has been
built in its place.



34 Niko Park

Before the war, a
festival was held
here every April
3rd. It was custom-
ary for people to
gather and enjoy
the cherry blossom
in Kure.



Kure's Local Cuisine

A Clayton Bay Hotel

"KAIGUN Curry" (Navy Curry) and "KAIJI Curry"
(JMSDF Curry) are served from 10 am to 5 pm at
the restaurant "Cote d'Azur & Joffret" on the first
floor. This hotel has English-speaking staff.

B Kure Hankyu Hotel

"KAIJI Curry" (JMSDF Curry) is served from 11:30
am to 08:30 pm at the restaurant "IL MARE" on
the first floor. The hotel has English-speaking
staff.

C Food Stalls on Kuramoto-Dori Street

Yatai (food stalls) are dotted along the street from
7pm to 12am or later. One of stalls named "カサ"
(KASA) is popular among fans of "In this Corner of
the World" because it appears in the photo book
with the voice actor 'Non'(Suzu's voice in the
film).

D ISEYA (いせ屋)

ISEYA is a popular restaurant in Kure. You can try
"KAIGUN NO NIKUJYAGA" and western foods
uniquely adapted to Japanese tastes. It is closed
on Thursdays.

E FUKUZUMI (福住)

You can buy "Fried Cake" here. This shop is closed
on Tuesdays.

F MITSUYA (蜜屋)

You can buy "MITSU MANJU" here. It is closed
on Tuesdays.

G TENMEIDO (天明堂)

Here you can buy "ONRAMANTO". There is a
seating area for customers who wish to eat inside.
It is closed on Sundays.

KURE where Suzu lived



Course 1

Exploring the former naval area

10 minutes on foot

1. "In this Corner of the World", Suzu and Kure were the only towns in Japan that were not destroyed during the war. You can take a bus back to JR Kure station.

2. You can follow the route where they lived during the war still remain. When exploring these areas, you may feel like you are stepping into the past. We recommend climbing the 200 steps of Ryojo. JR Kawaishi station is near the end point of this course.

Course 2

Exploring the areas where Suzu spent her life

10 minutes on foot

This course takes you to the area where Suzu used to live, through Naka-Dori street, the downtown hub in Kure, and Senba-machi town where the markets used to be. Though you may be tired from walking uphill, you can experience the everyday life of Suzu. Please respect the local residents when passing through residential areas. From the end point, you can take a bus back to JR Kure station.

Course 3

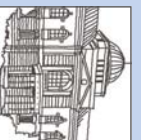
Exploring areas of Kure which are frozen in time from the war

10 minutes on foot

This course takes you to the west side of Kure to Kawaishi and Ryojo. Although these areas do not appear in the story, some buildings that survived air raids during the war still remain. When exploring these areas, you may feel like you are stepping into the past. We recommend climbing the 200 steps of Ryojo. JR Kawaishi station is near the end point of this course.

quartiers

There are two very narrow brick tunnels for pedestrians to cross under the Kure Line.



Yamato Museum)

experience the history of Kure, of naval science and technology.

Pier could only be used by the Kure Line. The older one is no longer in use.

The Ryojo tunnels

There are two railway tunnels side by side in Ryojo. The older one is no longer in use.



Niko River

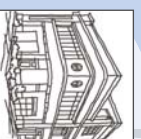
An old air raid shelter

Kure Station 呉駅



Shops along the coast

Civilians were prohibited from using the Kure pier (#45), so they used a pier in Kawaishi. Because of this, the area became a very busy shopping area. You can see some interesting buildings around here.



Props of blindfold fences in Kawaishi

The navy built blindfold fences along the Kure Line to conceal the construction of the Battleship Yamato.



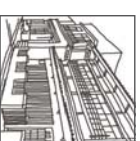
The early 19th century coastline

31

JR Kawaishi Station 川原石駅

'Machiya' (traditional merchants' houses), and western style houses

Many merchants who lived near the shoreline where the naval facilities were to be built, were relocated to Kawaishi. You can see some historical shops.



The 200 steps of Ryojo

A very narrow stone staircase on a steep hill. If you climb the 200 steps, you can enjoy a beautiful panoramic view of Kure.

The Houses Along the Steps Of Ryojo

Most of Kure's limited flat land was used to open the Kure Naval District. Locals had to build their houses on the mountain slopes. Many of the higher-ranking naval personnel lived in Ryojo.



The Memorial Martyrdom, for the sinking of Submarine No.6 of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

The anchor and the chain of the submarine, rest at the foot of the monument. Before the war, this shrine was one of the most popular tourist attractions and a memorial ceremony

The early 19th century coastline