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## Messages from FUKUYAMA

Special  
Interview

Anri Sugihara

〈from FUKUYAMA CITY〉





# Anri Sugihara

## A Stroll through Tomonoura

Japanese entertainer Anri Sugihara loves her hometown of Fukuyama. Walking around Tomonoura, a port town in Fukuyama that has prospered since long ago as a port for awaiting favorable tides, she talks about the charm of Tomonoura and Fukuyama.

### PROFILE

A native of Fukuyama City, Anri Sugihara has appeared in numerous variety television shows and as a swimsuit model in magazines. Recently, her activities in publishing fiction and as a stock investor have attracted much attention. She continues to explore different areas of work.

Native of  
Fukuyama  
City

I love the views in Tomonoura.  
I feel energized every time I come back here.



(Above) The view from SHION is truly stunning. It is the perfect spot for getting a close-up look at the kind of vista that Tomonoura provides, where the sea, islands, and sky unfold before you. (Center) In addition to various types of practical boat supplies, Sawamura Marine Goods Store also sells an abundant range of items evocative of port town life. (Right) The symbols of Tomonoura—joyato (stone lighthouse) and gangi (tiered dock). Even tourists sit down and take a break here.



With the shopkeeper  
of Sawamura Marine  
Goods Store

At the gangi (tiered dock)  
and joyato (stone lighthouse)  
in Tomonoura



### Lovely views of townhouses, backstreets, and islands Rediscovering Tomonoura, a place filled with memories

During the years when ships relied on the flow of the tides and winds, Tomonoura prospered as a port town where people waited for favorable conditions. Remnants of scenes from the Edo period (1603-1868) still remain here, such as the iconic joyato (stone lighthouse) that lights up the port and gangi (tiered dock) where boats would offload their cargo.

"I loved getting on a bus every May when I was in junior and senior high school to come watch the Tomonoura fireworks display," Sugihara says. She returns to Fukuyama five or six times a year for work and pleasure. She also did a photoshoot in Tomonoura for a photo collection to mark her 30th birthday.

The harbor light begins a memory-filled stroll around the port. "This really has become the symbol of Tomonoura," she says, admiring the stone lighthouse. Entering the streets around the port, many tourists pass by. Interactions with the older women who operate the souvenir shops along the streets add a human touch. Facing a narrow street, Sawamura Marine Goods Store was founded at the end of the 17th century, and its appearance is reminiscent of that time period. The elegant woman who operates the store tells Sugihara about the history of Tomonoura.

"I'm surprised that so many buildings from the Edo period are still here," says Sugihara. "I want to get to know more people from around here and learn more about Tomonoura."

Heading back to the shore as the sea breeze blows through

her hair, Sugihara looks out at the view that stretches from the prefectural wharf, from which ships are bound for Hashiri-jima Island and Onomichi, and gazes at the mountain sides. "I really love this location. Tomonoura was probably even more prosperous during the Edo period...my imagination really runs wild."

Next is Taichoro at Fukuzen-ji Temple (see page 7), located on the top of a hill. During the Edo period, this building served as the guest house for envoys from the Korean peninsula. Today, it is one of Tomonoura's most popular tourist spots and—surprisingly—a first-time visit for Sugihara. "The view from here is amazing! Just seeing this makes me feel energized!" Just as she says, the view from Taichoro that encompasses the islands of Benten-jima and Sensui-jima is as beautiful as a painting.

Finishing up her stroll around Tomonoura, Sugihara stops by the Café and Gallery SHION located on the second floor of the Municipal Ferry Building. Sugihara lived in Fukuyama until she moved to Tokyo at age 19, and during her time in her hometown she often rode the Heisei Iroha Maru ferry that sails in front of the café. "The green of the islands and blue of the sea makes me feel relaxed. So does the Seto Inland Sea and its gentle waves. I've learned more about my hometown since moving to Tokyo than while I was living here."

Sugihara shares some final thoughts about Fukuyama. "I think it would be great to see a lot more young people around here. I have a lot of friends with dreams who are trying to stir things up in Fukuyama, and I want to let more people know about what's so great about this city that I love!"



### Sea Park Ohama (formerly known as Dolphin Beach)

In summer, it seemed like I went to Dolphin Beach every day with my friends (or to another beach nearby when it was too crowded). I loved to look at the tranquil waters of the Seto Inland Sea, and above all else it was just fun to be with my friends. I got to be good friends with the old lady who ran the parking lot, and she even treated me to meals from time to time.

### Roses

I'd always get together with my friends to chat at the rose flower beds in front of Fukuyama Station. Going to the Fukuyama Rose Festival that's held in May every year and other events, roses have been a part of my life ever since I was little. Maybe because of that, since I've started living in Tokyo I've subconsciously been picking hand creams and other things that are rose-scented.

### Fukuyama Castle

Fukuyama Castle is a place loaded with memories...we would always come through here when going to school, and my friends and I would hang out in the park nearby. The view is wonderful if you go up to the top of the castle's main tower, and from there you really feel like you have conquered Fukuyama! (laughs) I really feel proud of the fact that there is a castle in the place where I was born.

## \\ Anri's Favorite Things in Fukuyama \\

Learn more with the  
official app!

### Fukuyama Tourist Guide



FUKUYAMA  
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# 5 A Place Blessed by the Sun, Wind, and Sea Messages from Fukuyama

The warm sun, cool breezes, and calm waters of the Seto Inland Sea area have brought many blessings to Fukuyama. Throughout the years, the city has developed a fascinating history and culture, cultivated and cherished its many roses, and has made continuous innovations in manufacturing. Here are five “messages” from Fukuyama that tell of just a few of the city’s many charms.

## 1 Tomonoura The Beauty of the Port for Awaiting Favorable Tides

Long ago, sailors and merchants spent a lot of time at this port waiting for the tides to rise or fall. As a result, Tomonoura became known as “the port for awaiting favorable tides.” This spectacularly beautiful port even appears in the *Manyoshu*, the oldest existing collection of Japanese poetry. Even today, visitors are captivated by the glittering surface of the Seto Inland Sea and the unique atmosphere of the townscape. Spend some time here and let your spirit be rejuvenated by this area’s scenic beauty!



The symbol of Tomonoura—an absolute must-see!

### Joyato (stone lighthouse)

Joyato (stone lighthouse) was built in 1859, and this photogenic spot is known as the symbol of Tomonoura. Including its stone base in the sea, the height of this lighthouse is over 10 meters, making it the tallest joyato-style lighthouse in Japan.



If you come to Tomonoura, you should check out the view of the Seto Inland Sea from beside Joyato.

### 5 Edo period harbor facilities

Tomonoura is the only location in Japan with a complete set of still-intact Edo period harbor facilities. These five facilities are joyato (stone lighthouse), gangi (tiered dock), hatoba (wharf), tadeba (boat repair dock), and funabansho (boat guardhouse station).



Visit the home of homeishu

### Ota Residence

Homeishu is a medicinal liqueur that is known as a specialty product of Tomonoura. It is believed to have been served to Commodore Matthew Perry during his expedition to Japan in the 1850s. Located near Joyato, the structures of the Ota residence tell of the success of the merchant who made his fortune through homeishu during the Edo period (1603-1868). The buildings of the Ota residence are designated as National Important Cultural Properties.

☎ 084-982-3553

📅 Tuesdays (or the following day if Tuesday is a holiday)

Sakamoto Ryoma landed in Tomonoura, too!

### Iroha Maru Museum

In 1867, the Iroha Maru, a steamship under the command of the Kaientai (association of lordless samurai) which was led by Sakamoto Ryoma, collided with the Meiko Maru, a warship of the Kishu Domain. The Iroha Maru sank, and Sakamoto famously negotiated with and won reparations from Kishu Domain representatives. The Iroha Maru Museum has a video showing a survey of the site of the sunken ship from underwater as well as other remains of the ship that were recovered from the sea.

☎ 084-982-1681

📅 New Year's period

The Iroha Maru Museum is a shore warehouse located next to the Joyato lighthouse. It's worth a visit just to see the building, which was built during the Edo period.



Recognized throughout Japan and the world

### The Historical Value of Tomonoura

Designated as an Important Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings, Tomonoura is a town that preserves a great deal of history from the Edo period. For example, historical documents that envoys from the Korean peninsula left at the Taichoro Reception Hall of Fukuzen-ji Temple have been included on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register, attracting attention not only in Japan but also throughout the world.

勝形一第東日



### One of the Pleasures of Walking through the Town

As you stroll through the historic town of Tomonoura, you'll find corner shops selling things such as chirimen (dried whitebait) and iriko (dried baby sardines) from the Seto Inland Sea. The shops have food you can eat right away and a wide selection of seafood for cooking, so they're always crowded with locals and tourists. Some shops even sell fresh fish and other products from the sea!



Ken-chan's Iriko Shop is on a narrow stone-paved alley near the Joyato lighthouse. The shop's popular irikoya no oyatsu (a sweetly seasoned snack of iriko and almonds) makes the perfect gift.





A Popular and Rejuvenating Spiritual Location

## Sensui-jima Island

The island of Sensui-jima was named after its beauty, as the island is said to be beautiful enough to mesmerize (sui) an immortal mountain sage (sennin). To get to the island, take a 5-minute ride on the Heisei Iroha Maru from the Municipal Ferry Port. The island has a campsite, beaches, cave steam baths, an outdoor bath considered “the world’s best,” and western Japan’s only goshiki-iwa (five-colored rock).



The hiking path has spectacular views and a cool ocean breeze.

The view of Tomonoura from Iō-ji Temple is magnificent!



Enjoy the view of the Seto Inland Sea while relaxing at Taichoro.

Learn about Tomonoura’s history here!

## Fukuyama City Tomonoura Museum of History and Folklore

Built on the ruins of Tomo Castle, the museum is also fondly known as the “Shiomachi no Yakata” (“House for Awaiting Favorable Tides”). The museum displays historical documents tracing Tomonoura’s history and folk materials about the Otebi Fire Festival and other events. After you visit the museum, you can enjoy a panoramic view of the harbor.

☎ 084-982-1121

📅 Mondays (or the following day if Monday is a holiday)



## Volunteer Guide Support



If you get lost exploring the town, how about requesting a volunteer guide? These expert guides can introduce you to interesting spots that aren’t always mentioned in the regular tourism magazines—places that only the locals know about. English-speaking guides available.

☎ 084-982-3200

So this is where Sakamoto Ryoma hid?



Discover Sakamoto Ryoma’s hideout!

## Masuya Seiemon Residence

For a few days after the Iroha Maru Incident, Sakamoto Ryoma stayed at the residence of Masuya, a shipping agent. With his life already under threat, Ryoma used the name Saidani Umetaro and hid in a secret room in the attic, which is now open to the public. What was Ryoma thinking as he envisioned Japan’s future and negotiated with nerves of steel? The room is the same as it was during the final years of the Tokugawa shogunate, so you can get a real sense of the time in which Ryoma lived.

☎ 084-982-3788

📅 Tuesdays to Thursdays



This legendary secret room that was discovered over 120 years after Ryoma’s death is a must-see for even those who are not history buffs.

The scenery praised by Korean envoys

## Fukuzen-ji Temple Taichoro

The Taichoro Reception Hall, located next to the main hall inside the grounds of Fukuzen-ji Temple, was built around the year 1690. Enjoy the beautiful scenery that envoys from the Korean peninsula who visited hundreds of years ago described as “the best view in Japan” (the most beautiful scenery between Tsushima Island and Edo [present day Tokyo]). The spectacular view overlooking the islands of Sensui-jima and Benten-jima is like a scroll painting.

☎ 084-982-2705 📅 Open every day



## Tomonoura Take a Stroll through History and Nature

Since long ago, Tomonoura has had many visitors from overseas and other parts of Japan, and many valuable historical documents related to those visits still exist. After enjoying a stroll through history, you can board the Heisei Iroha Maru and take a voyage on the Seto Inland Sea—just like the famous samurai and political reformer Sakamoto Ryoma did. When you arrive on Sensui-jima Island, you can enjoy this spiritual location that is full of nature. By exploring the island, you can experience another fascinating side of Tomonoura different from that experienced when walking through the town.

There are lots of historical buildings and places with beautiful scenery!



You don’t have to stay overnight to enter the baths at the various onsen (hot spring) facilities. Soak in the outdoor bath with a cool ocean breeze and a spectacular view of the Seto Inland Sea.

Recover from fatigue and get refreshed

## Tomonoura Onsen

Tomonoura Onsen is located in the middle of the Seto Inland Sea coastline. The spring waters are said to be effective against nerve pain and fatigue. Soak in the hot water, and you’ll feel warmed to the core. Both your body and soul will be rejuvenated!

☎ 084-982-1123 (Tomonoura Onsen Cooperative)



## Tomonoura: The Harbor Frequently Visited since the Time of the Manyōshū

In the past, ships passing through the Seto Inland Sea were sure to make a stop at the harbor in Tomonoura. The *Manyōshū*, Japan’s famous collection of ancient poetry, has a poem composed by Otomo no Tabito (665-731) celebrating Tomonoura. The harbor town is also historically famous for being the base where Ashikaga Takauji reestablished himself and became the first shogun of the Muromachi shogunate, the dynasty that governed Japan from 1336 to 1573. Ashikaga Yoshiaki, the last shogun of that period, set up the Tomo shogunate here after Oda Nobunaga drove him out of Kyoto. During the Edo period, the town was visited not only by sailors and merchants but also by people from overseas, such as German physician and traveler Philipp Franz von Siebold (1796-1866). Like so many others, Siebold enjoyed the beautiful scenery of the area.





# The City of One Million Roses

Fukuyama is passionate about its roses. After World War II, residents planted around 1,000 young rose plants in the hope of bringing some warmth to the devastated city. This was the beginning of using roses as part of city planning in Fukuyama. Since then, businesses and the local community have joined together in planting and caring for roses, and in 2016, the city became the City of One Million Roses. Through this passion for roses, the activities of the people of Fukuyama are what make this city blossom.

An impressive display of 5,500 roses of 280 varieties

## Rose Park

This is the park that symbolizes Fukuyama, the City of Roses. Covering 15,000 square meters, the park has 5,500 roses of 280 different varieties. During the spring and fall when the flowers are in full bloom, the park is usually crowded with visitors. It is one of the main sites of the Fukuyama Rose Festival, which is held every year in May. During the festival, the park's roses are illuminated at night.

**Fukuyama City Parks and Forestry Division**  
084-928-1095



See



The roses in the park are cleverly arranged to make them appear as beautiful as possible. Consideration is given to both the contrast of colors and the angles created by the height of the plants.  
Enjoy another unique beautiful view of the roses at night.

A park with a spectacular pyramid-shaped flower garden

## Midorimachi Park

This multi-purpose park features an impressive hexagonal pyramid-shaped garden called "Rose Hill." A "Rose Owner" system allows citizens to become "owners" of the roses that are lovingly raised on Rose Hill. The park also has facilities related to disaster prevention, recreation, and environmental conservation.



Roses bring joy to those who visit this tiered flower garden. Different kinds of beautiful roses are in full bloom in both spring and fall.

**Fukuyama City Parks and Forestry Division**  
084-928-1095



## FUKUYAMA Eau de Parfum

Developed jointly by Fukuyama City and Shiseido to commemorate the city's centennial, the gentle rose fragrance of these products will calm your spirit and warm your heart.



## Ten Varieties of Roses with "Fukuyama" in Their Names

Currently, there are ten varieties of roses with "Fukuyama" in their names. These include names that evoke a lovely image, such as Rose Fukuyama and Princess Fukuyama; names that remind us of history, such as Fukuyama-jo (Fukuyama Castle); and even one name that commemorates a Hollywood movie filmed in Fukuyama City. You can find all of these roses if you visit the Rose Park, Hanazono Park, and Midorimachi Park.



Rose Fukuyama

Beautiful Fukuyama



Princess Fukuyama



Smile Fukuyama



Charmy Fukuyama



Lovely Fukuyama



Anniversary Fukuyama



Fukuyama-jo



Wolverine: FUKUYAMA



Rose Mind Fukuyama

## Cute Rose Sweets

In Fukuyama, there are many sweets made with edible roses. Here are three such items, which also make great gifts! Enjoy the natural fragrance, color, and flavor of the rose with these sweets.

**Machimoto Co., Ltd.** 084-958-5511



### Rose Ice Cream

Ice cream made with about one rose per serving. The rose petals floating in the ice cream make this dessert look as beautiful as it tastes.



### Rose Tea

Tea made from rose petals in a teabag. Add lemon for an even more vivid rosy color. Delicious with some added rose jam, too!



### Rose Jam

Edible roses made into a flavorful jam. About three and a half roses are used to make fifty grams of jam.



## May 21: Rose Day

May 21 was enacted as Rose Day through the "Fukuyama, the City of Roses Ordinance." This date was chosen because the first Rose Exhibit, the forerunner of the Fukuyama Rose Festival, was first held on that day. Rose Day is a day for people to exchange their rose-filled thoughts and feelings.



## From Fukuyama to the World: Fukuyama's Rose Ambassadors

### Promoting Fukuyama's Roses through Her Concerts

I especially love Fukuyama in the spring and fall when the city's beautiful roses are in full bloom. I'd like to tell people around the country about the charms of Fukuyama by wearing costumes at my concerts that are decorated with the roses with "Fukuyama" in their names and in other ways as well.

After releasing a demo CD on which she sang "The Rose," Aoi Teshima made her debut with "Therru's Song," which was used on the soundtrack for *Tales from Earthsea*, a fantasy film animated by Studio Ghibli. Her inspirational voice has made her a singer who continues to be loved by her many fans.

The City of One Million Roses - Fukuyama Support Ambassador

Aoi Teshima



### Roses: A Strong Player for Fukuyama

Roses have strength. I myself often use roses in my flower compositions. Roses are one of the most notable flowers, and I think they're a strong player for Fukuyama. I will keep talking about Fukuyama's flowers on my website and during my performances.

Nicolai Bergmann is a Danish floral artist who has attracted attention with his unconventional creations that mix a European style with a Scandinavian sensibility and a Japanese attention to detail.

The City of Roses - Fukuyama PR Ambassador

Nicolai Bergmann

