

Oiso Station

Tokaido Railway : Shinbashi-Yokohama Line opened in 1872 and was extended from Yokohama to Kozu , when Oiso was established as the station nearest to the sea. The current simple nostalgic wooden station with yellow-tiled roof was restored shortly after the Kanto earthquake of 1923.

Oiso station looks like an ordinary countryside railway stop despite its legendary big name.

Stepping onto the platform, one is surprised to see beautiful small hills in the backgrounds and no advertisements or even traffic signals. Stepping into the town, however, one will find many places of interests, including views of Shonan sea and Tanzawa mountains .It' s also fun to walk and search out historical properties, or fish and swim along the beach.



Miki Sawada Memorial House

Ms. Miki Sawada (1901-1980), founder of the Elizabeth Saunders Homes was born into the wealthy and distinguished Iwasaki Family. She devoted her passion to the education of post-war orphans of mixed parentage. She is also well known as a collector of the relics left by the “Hidden” Christians (kakure-kirishitan). Miki Memorial House was established in 1998 according to her last wishes as a place to preserve her collections.



A ship-shaped chapel stands in silence on top of the green hill (Iwasaki-yama) just in front of Oiso station. The building is an oblong hexagon in the image of Noah' s ark designed by Tashiro Miyake, with St. Stephen chapel on the upper floor and the exhibition room on the ground floor showing historical artifacts of the martyrs from the Civil War to the Edo period. Memorial House with Ms.Sawada collection is a treasure Oiso town was keen to have as part of its cultural heritage.

Later, a charming concert hall with 200 seats was built on the hill of St. Stephen Schools, where both citizens and visitors can enjoy musical concerts, lectures and other cultural events. The wide-open ocean which can be seen through the transparent glass curtain behind the stage should be noted.