# WALKING AOSHIMA

26 OCT - 29 OCT 2026




青島を歩く

Aoshima Miyazaki, is a landscape of thresholds. It exists between land and sea, mainland and island, ordinary and sacred, past and present. A threshold is not simply a boundary, but a space or condition through which one thing becomes another - whether marked by a bridge, a torii, the moving shoreline, or a ritual act.

Through a guided walk across the island, we will explore how these thresholds are shaped by architecture, tide, mythology, ritual and history. Each stop introduces a different kind of in-between condition, using the landscape as a way to observe, question and interpret how Aoshima has experienced over time.

Rather than viewing Aoshima as a collection of separate landmarks, the walk focuses on the relationships between them, and on what happens in-between.

# An introduction to walking Aoshima.

## What exists in between?



# A landscape of thresholds.

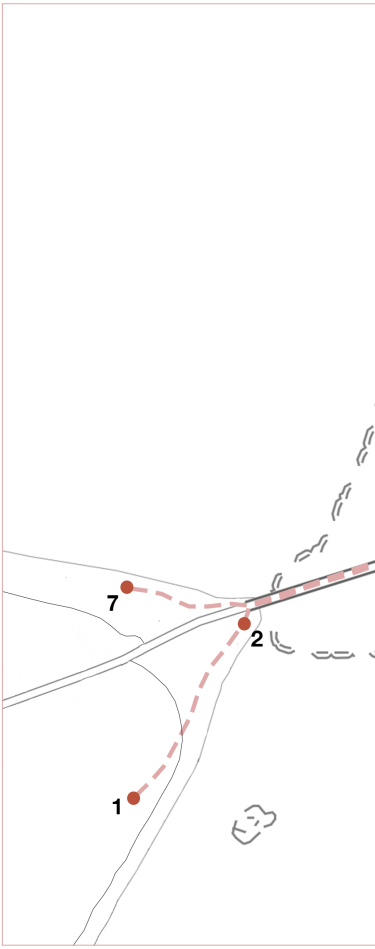
A threshold is not simply a boundary, but a place, space or process where two conditions meet and one can become another.

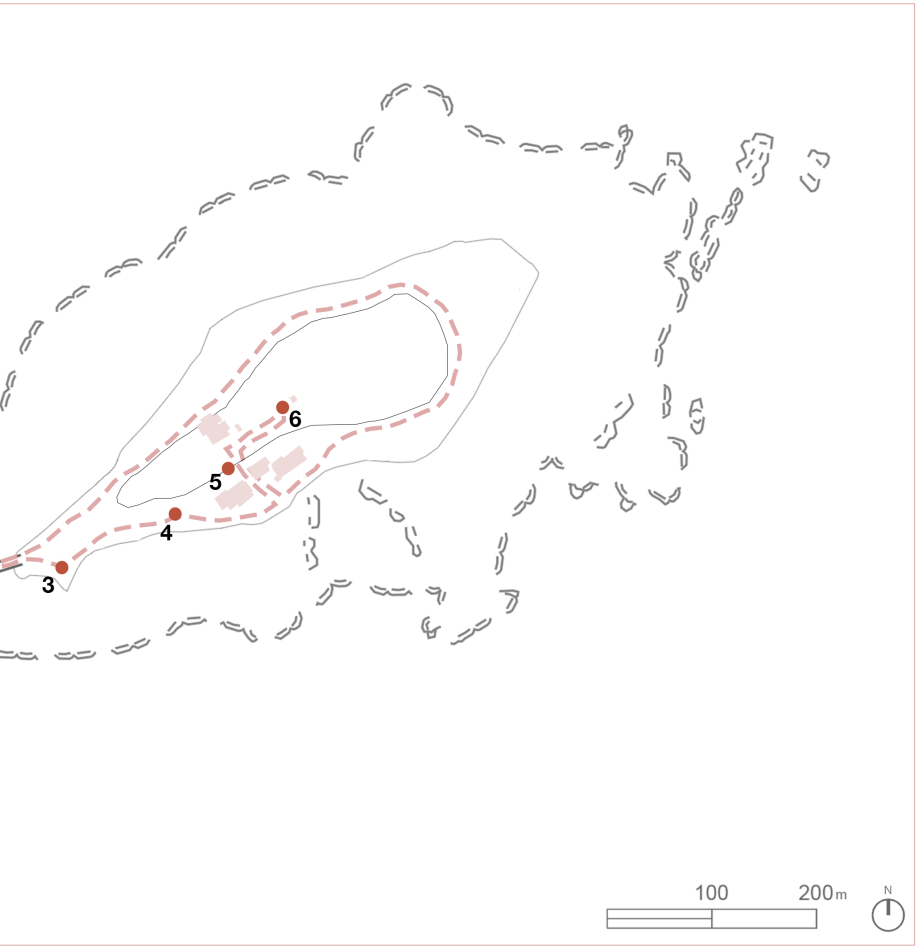
THE ROUTE

1 TOGAHAMA
2 YAYOI BRIDGE
3 DEVIL'S WASHBOARD
4 TORI
5 MISOGI
6 MOTOMIYA
7 SHORELINE

THRESHOLD

ROUTE




6
5
4
3
100
200m
N

# THRESHOLD 01



Togahama
absent / present

Togahama was once a place of worship from afar, used when ordinary people were not permitted to enter Aoshima. From the mainland shore, worshippers purified themselves and faced the sacred island across the water. Today, a hidden marker remains as a trace of this former ritual threshold between distance and approach, exclusion and access.

# THRESHOLD 02



Yayoi Bridge
mainland / island

Before Yayoi Bridge was built, access to Aoshima depended on the tide, with worshippers crossing through shallow water at low tide. The bridge transformed this temporary route into a permanent connection between mainland and island. It marks a threshold between environmental time and architectural access, replacing a crossing once governed by changing water levels with a route that can be used at almost any moment.

# THRESHOLD 03



Devil’s Washboard / oni no sentakuita
submerged / revealed

The Devil's Washboard, or Oni no Sentakuita, is formed from rock layers that accumulated around 6.5 million years ago and were later exposed and eroded by the sea. Its changing visibility with the tide makes time physically present in the landscape. Here, the threshold between land and sea is not fixed, but continually remade through cycles of submergence, exposure, erosion and return.

# THRESHOLD 04



Torii
ordinary / sacred

The torii marks the transition from ordinary space into the sacred precinct of Aoshima Shrine. Unlike a wall, it does not physically prevent movement, but gives an invisible boundary a visible architectural form. Passing beneath it makes the act of crossing itself significant, changing how the space beyond is understood and how visitors are expected to move, behave and approach the shrine.

# THRESHOLD 05



Misogi
ordinary / sacred

Misogi is a ritual act of purification through water, preparing the body to enter sacred space. At Aoshima, purification connects the physical body with ritual transformation, making water part of the experience of crossing. The threshold is not only passed through but enacted through washing, preparation and bodily change, turning movement toward the shrine into a ritual process.

# THRESHOLD 06



Motomiya
past / present

Motomiya contains material traces of ritual activity stretching back through time, including shells, pottery and other archaeological remains. These fragments connect present-day worship with practices that are no longer visible. The site becomes a threshold between past and present, memory and material trace, allowing ancient acts of offering and belief to remain perceptible within the landscape long after the original participants have disappeared.

# THRESHOLD 07



Shoreline
land/sea - myth/present

The shoreline becomes a ritual threshold during Hadaka-mairi, when participants enter the sea for purification in remembrance of Hoori's return from the Sea God's realm. The ritual brings mythic time into the present through repeated bodily movement. Here, land and sea, myth and ritual, immersion and emergence meet, while each annual repetition renews the connection between story, body and place.

PLENARY

Aoshima is shaped by many thresholds: physical, environmental, historical, ritual and mythological. As you reflect on the walk, think about which threshold felt most significant to you, how it changed the way you understood the island, and what you noticed in the spaces in-between. Which threshold stayed with you most? What changed when you crossed it? What did the walk help you notice that you might otherwise have missed?



