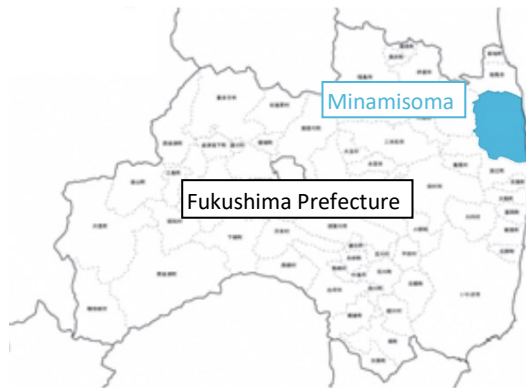


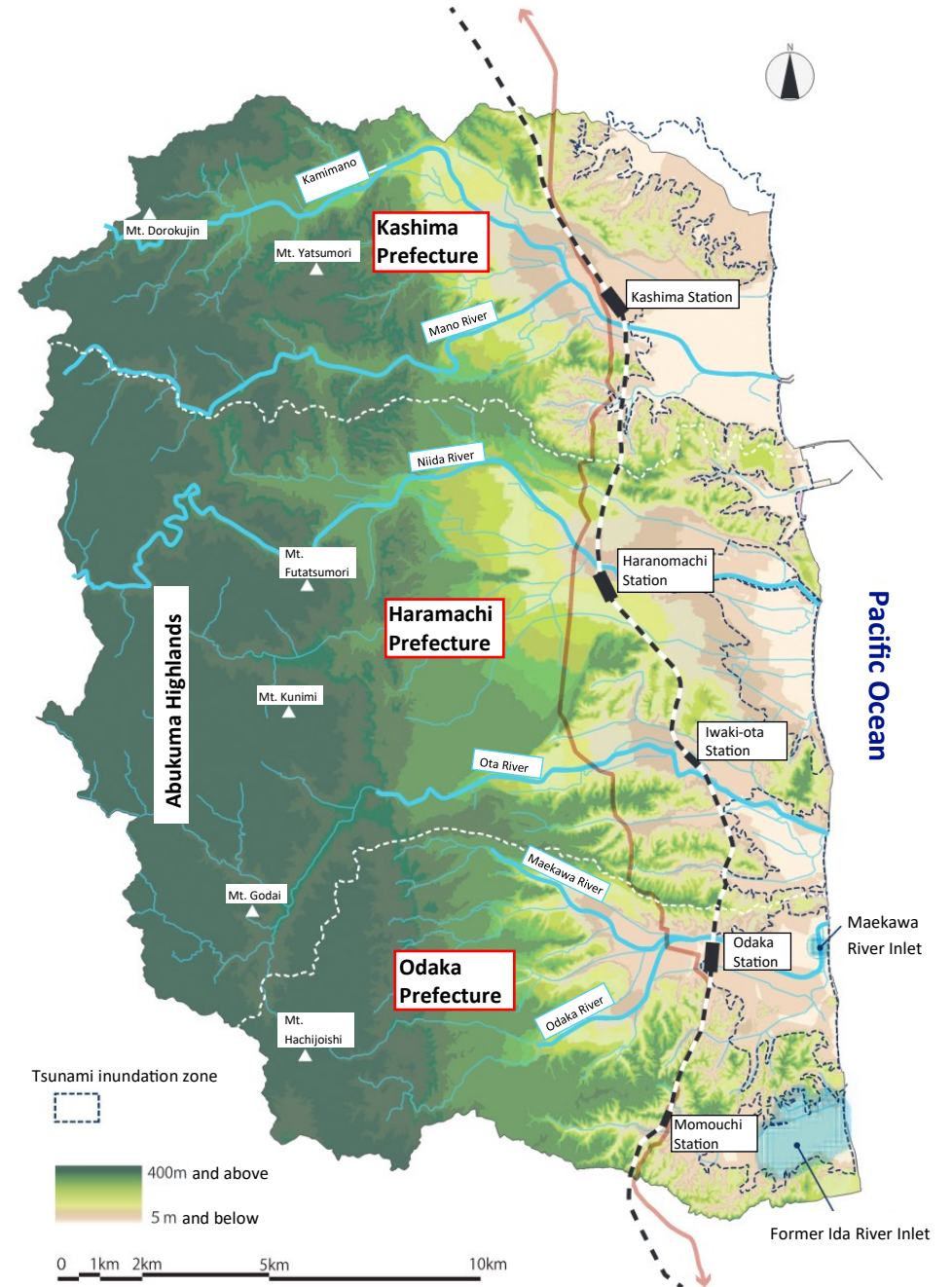
## Minamisoma: A Town Brimming with History and Culture

Minamisoma is abounding in diverse natural environments, with numerous rivers running from the Abukuma Highlands through the hills in the east before emptying into the Pacific Ocean. Since long ago, humans have skillfully used this diverse nature and lived in unity by the river basins.

A culture based around this natural system was fostered over time, eventually giving rise to the modern-day localities of Odaka, Kashima, and Haramachi. These regional characteristics are carved into the cultural heritage of each area, and coupled together with the area's rich nature, fill every part of Minamisoma with the feeling of a deep history and culture.



Location of Minamisoma



Topography of Minamisoma

# The Six Characteristic Themes of Minamisoma's History and Culture

Cultural heritage colored with Minamisoma's unique characteristics is spread throughout the city area. We've divided those cultural heritage properties into six themes in order to introduce the charms of Minamisoma's history and culture.

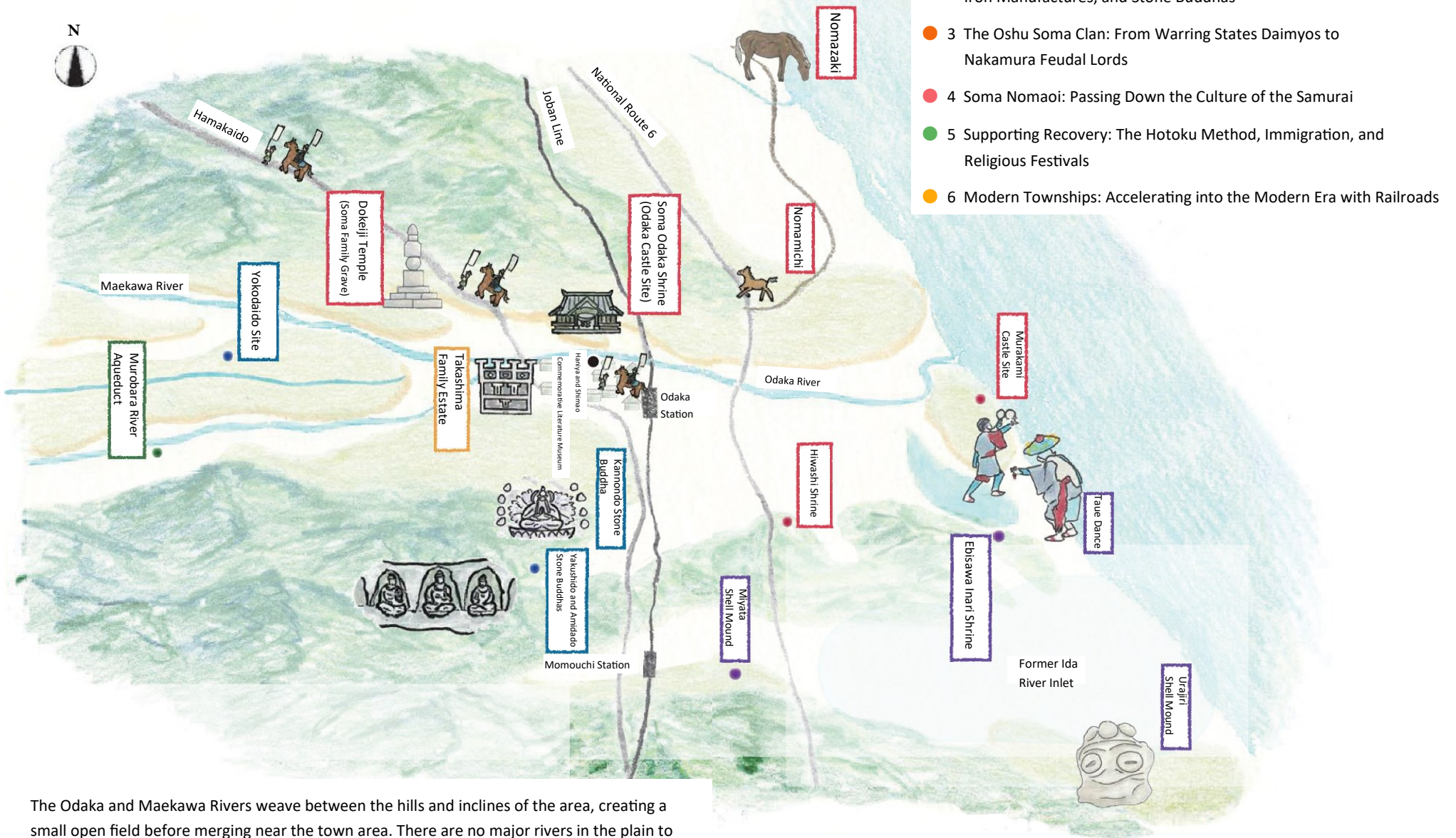
- ① **Jomon Space: Life with the Sea and the Forest**
- ② **The Call of Ancient History: Burial Mounds, Government Offices, Iron Manufactures, and Stone Buddhas**
- ③ **The Oshu Soma Clan: From Warring States Daimyos to Nakamura Feudal Lords**
- ④ **Soma Nomaioi: Passing Down the Culture of the Samurai**
- ⑤ **Supporting Recovery: The Hotoku Method, Immigration, and Religious Festivals**
- ⑥ **Modern Townships: Accelerating into the Modern Era with Railroads**

The cultural heritage properties on this map are color-coded according to the above six themes.

Map of Minamisoma's Main Cultural Heritage Locations

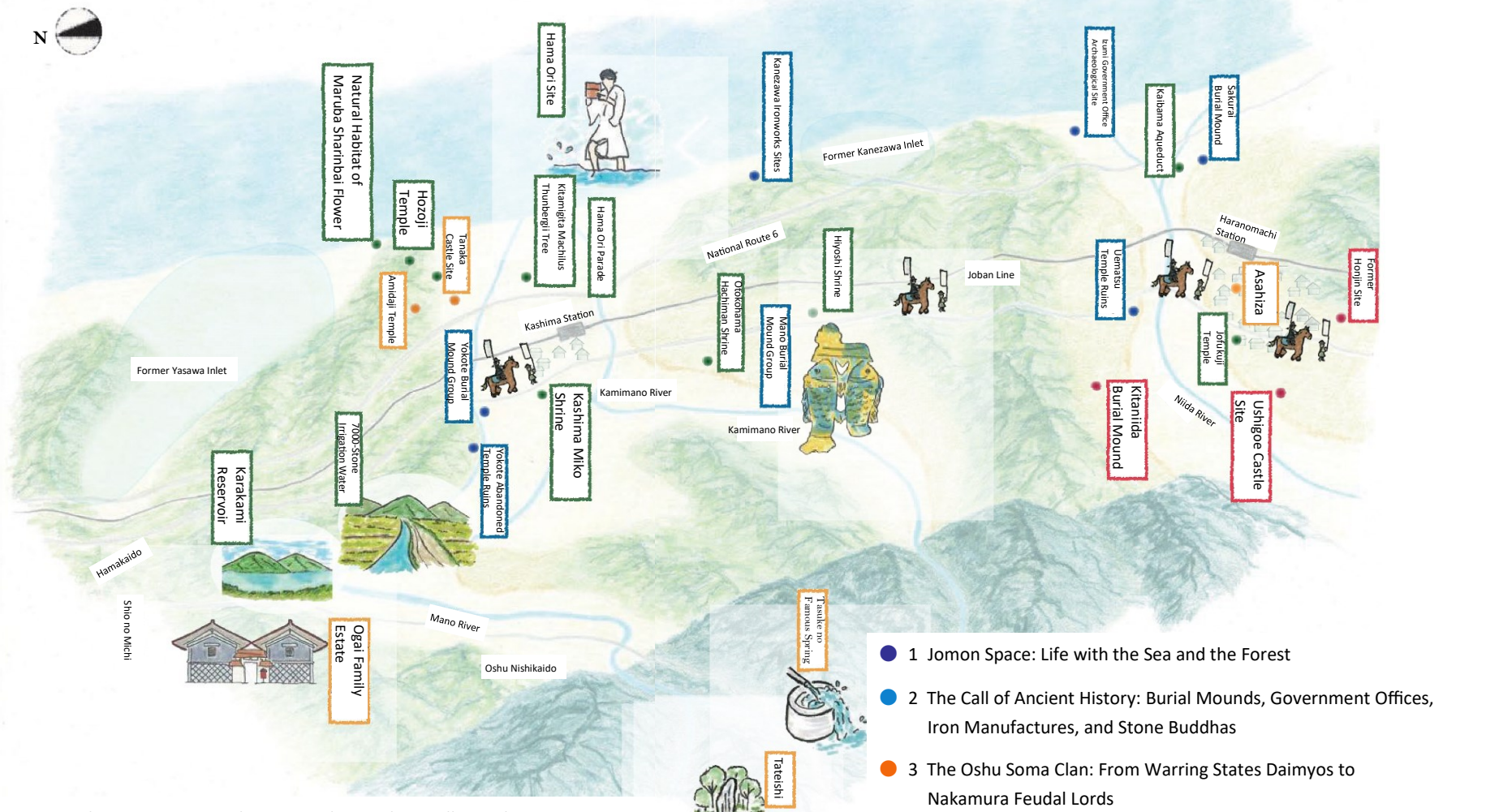


# Odaka's Cultural Heritage



The Odaka and Maekawa Rivers weave between the hills and inclines of the area, creating a small open field before merging near the town area. There are no major rivers in the plain to the south, and until the Taisho period (1912-1926) there was a large lagoon named the Ida River Inlet which contained a mixture of saltwater and fresh water.

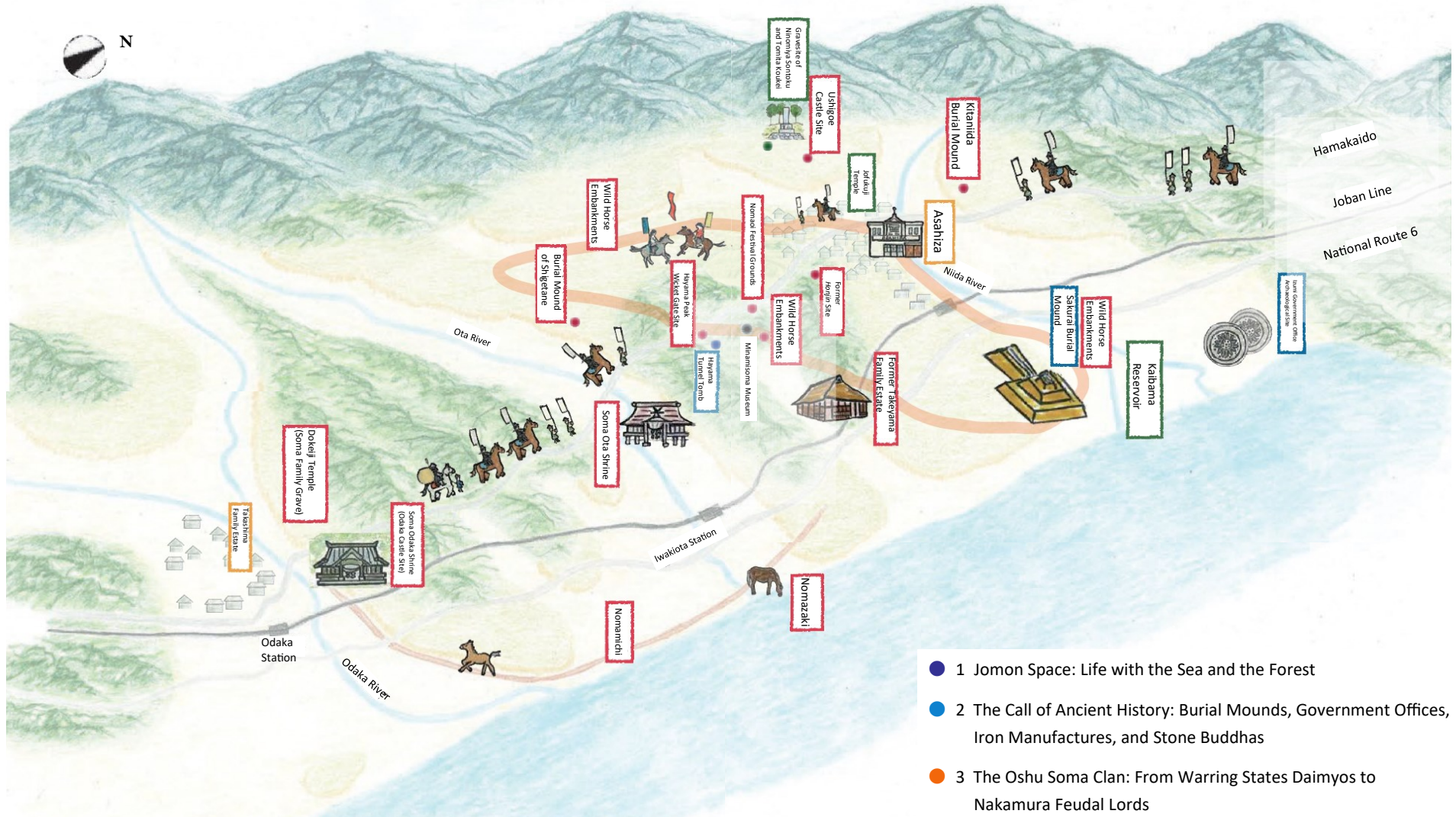
# Kashima's Cultural Heritage



The Mano and Kamimano Rivers have carved out a deep valley in the mountains. A path stretches through the valley, connecting to the Nakadori region. The rivers merge near the town area, where a relatively large plain stretches out near the river mouth. A gulf named Yasawa Inlet used to exist in the coastal area on the border of Soma City, but the land was reclaimed using embankments in the Meiji period (1868-1912).

- 1 Jomon Space: Life with the Sea and the Forest
- 2 The Call of Ancient History: Burial Mounds, Government Offices, Iron Manufactures, and Stone Buddhas
- 3 The Oshu Soma Clan: From Warring States Daimyos to Nakamura Feudal Lords
- 4 Soma Nomaoui: Passing Down the Culture of the Samurai
- 5 Supporting Recovery: The Hotoku Method, Immigration, and Religious Festivals
- 6 Modern Townships: Accelerating into the Modern Era with Railroads

# Haramachi's Cultural Heritage



Between the Niida and Ota Rivers which stream out of the Abukuma Highlands lies an extensive flat field area. This vast plain was named Nomaaoi Field in the Edo period (1603-1868) and used as grazing land. The pastures were surrounded by embankments to keep wild horses inside. A path called Nomamichi starts from Nomaaoi Field and trails along the coast down to Odaka.

- 1 Jomon Space: Life with the Sea and the Forest
- 2 The Call of Ancient History: Burial Mounds, Government Offices, Iron Manufactures, and Stone Buddhas
- 3 The Oshu Soma Clan: From Warring States Daimyos to Nakamura Feudal Lords
- 4 Soma Nomaaoi: Passing Down the Culture of the Samurai
- 5 Supporting Recovery: The Hotoku Method, Immigration, and Religious Festivals
- 6 Modern Townships: Accelerating into the Modern Era with Railroads