

## Local Specialties



Matsutake Mushrooms, Sweetfish, Wild Boar Meat and Wild Vegetable Dishes

From the 700 meter high Shionami Plateau, one can observe the beauty of the Kiso river, and on a clear day even see the Ise bay in the distance. The rich mountain nature produces unique flavors along with the seasonal changes. Please try some of the local specialties such as wild mountain vegetables, Matsutake mushrooms, wild boar meat, sweetfish and honey.

### Kurikinton (Chestnut Sweets)

In Yaotsu, everywhere you go you see chestnut trees. During autumn large crops of chestnuts are harvested. Carefully selected chestnuts are used for the centuries old way of preparing the sugared chestnut sweets, Kurikinton. This local specialty is a great way to enjoy the natural taste of chestnuts.



### Local Sake

Yaotsu has three sake breweries with a long history. Using carefully selected rice grains and pure water, they prepare delicious, full-flavored sake. Today's brewers use skills and methods passed on through the ages. Please enjoy this traditional, authentic flavor.

### Yaotsu Senbei

The Yaotsu Senbei (wheat cookies) gained popularity throughout Japan after World War II. Before the war only a handful of people knew the secrets of Yaotsu Senbei, but after the war, as its unique flavor became famous, up to 100 different companies, making thousands of various senbei products, were established all over the nation. This senbei is made of wheat (and not rice as usual) and has a gentle taste particular to Japan. In addition, it contains no chemicals or artificial ingredients and is a purely natural product. The simplicity of the taste, that touches the tongue so lightly, conveys the spirit of Yaotsu.



### Local Rice Vinegar

There is an old saying that "good vinegar comes from good sake." Vinegar brewing in Yaotsu is a technique that has been passed down for generations of family businesses, and uses only natural ingredients. The vinegar has a gentle fruity aroma, and a luxurious blend of sourness and sweetness, that ripens through time and creates a harmony of flavors.

### Konnyaku Products

The Konnyaku, jelly made of devil's tongue starch, is known to be a healthy vegetarian ingredient. Combining traditional recipes and new products are being made using konnyaku.



### Soba and Udon Noodles

Made with fresh water from the mountains, these handmade noodles are healthy traditional items.

### Miso and Soy Sauce

Miso (soy bean paste) and soy sauce are prepared in Yaotsu using traditional methods and natural ingredients.



### Vegetables Cooked and Pickled in Soy Sauce

Vegetables that grow in the rich soil of the plateau are carefully selected and cooked or pickled with fresh soy sauce using traditional techniques.

### Processed Meat Products

Using high quality soy sauce of local production, various types of meats are prepared by hand according to original recipes.



# The Hill of Humanity

Surrounded by abundant greenery, the monuments of this park send a message of peace to the world through a fantasy of light and music.



Sugihara Chiune Memorial Hall



The symbol monument of The Hill of Humanity Park



Sugihara Chiune Memorial Hall Monument



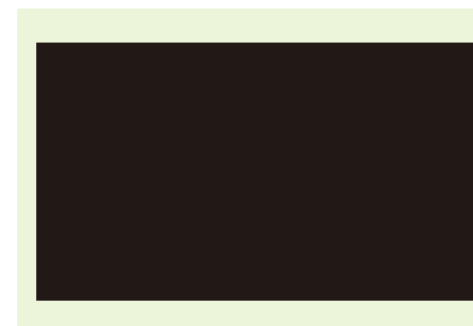
The Hill of Humanity Stone Plate Monument



### Chiune Sugihara,

The Diplomat Born in Yaotsu (1900 - 1986)

Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat, is revered for defying his own government and rescuing thousands of Polish Jewish refugees fleeing the persecution of Nazi Germany during World War II by issuing scores of life-saving transit visas through Japan on his own accord. The humanitarian act he performed regardless of his own safety left a deep impression on people around the world. The state of Israel has granted him the honor of "Righteous Among the Nations" in 1985, and there is a street in Kaunas, Lithuania named after him.



### The Hill of Humanity Map



**杉原千畝記念館**  
The Chiune Sugihara Memorial Hall  
1071 Yaotsu, Yaotsu-cho, Kamo-gun, Gifu-ken, 505-0301  
TEL/FAX 0574-43-2460

Opening Hours : 9:30-17:00 (admission accepted until 16:30)  
Closed : Every Monday. When Monday falls on a national holiday, the Memorial Hall closed on the following Tuesday.

Admission Fees :

Private Visitor	Adults/High school students	300 YEN
	Elementary/Junior high school students	100 YEN
Group (20 People and more)	Adults/High school students	200 YEN
	Elementary/Junior high school students	50 YEN

YAOTSU  
GUIDE BOOK



## 岐阜県八百津町 Yaotsu Town Gifu Pref.



Public Office, Shrine, Hospital, etc.

1. Yaotsu Town Hall	43-2111	9. Fire Station	43-0476
2. Yaotsu Family Center		10. JA Megumino, Yaotsu Branch	43-1201
Board of Education	43-0390	11. Isaji Clinic	43-0011
Health Center	43-2111	12. Zenkeiji Temple	43-0704
Commerce & Industry	43-0266	13. Forest Cooperative	43-1895
3. Obune Shrine	43-0743	14. Post Office	43-1401
4. Daisenji Temple	43-0245	15. Kasuya Clinic	43-0035
5. Sato Clinic	43-1200	16. Isaji Hospital	43-8051
6. Maruyama Dam Office	43-2780	17. Yume Hiroba "Yu Yu" Social Welfare Council	43-4462
7. Yaotsu Primary School	43-0059		
8. Police Station	43-0002		

YAOTSU TOWN HALL  
3903-2 Yaotsu, Yaotsu-cho, Kamo-gun, Gifu-ken, 505-0392  
Tel.0574-43-2111 Fax.0574-43-0969  
http://www.town.yaotsu.lg.jp  
yaotsu@town.yaotsu.lg.jp

## Plan 1 Goho Waterfalls

Miyamoto Musashi legendary waterfalls spakling a plume of milky white water mist

### History and Culture

The first waterfall is 44 meters tall, the second 23 meters tall and the third one is 13 meters tall. Together they create a flow of 80 meters. Amidst the green mountains, the sparkle of fresh water gives one's heart a refreshed, serene feeling. The little red bridge hanging high over the ravine adds a particular beauty to the scenery. Moreover, during springtime various edible plants grow here, in autumn the leaves turn red, and there is a hiking course that allows you to enjoy the scenery through all seasons. It requires some effort to reach the summit, but the view from there is breathtaking. So how about hiking the five waterfalls to rejuvenate your senses?

### Niten Waterfall

It is said, that great swordsman Miyamoto Musashi trained by this waterfall. Therefore, the name of the waterfall is derived from the pen name of this great warrior and artist - Niten Doraku.

### Enmei (Circling Light) Waterfall

Along with Niten Waterfall, this was also a place of practice for Miyamoto Musashi. The nearby Musashi Ravine is also named after him.

## Plan 2 Meditation Forest

Fill your lungs with the fresh, fragrant air of the forest.



### The View from Forest

You can see the Hill of Humanity Park in front of you and further away the panoramic view of Yaotsu is spreading before your eyes. In the forest there are various paths to walk, such as the main forest promenade, a path that provides a nice view of the waterfalls, one suitable for bird watching and other unique paths. You can have a good rest in this quiet beautiful environment.



### The Pathway Rich in Colors

The pathway entertains visitors with rich flowers and trees in each season such as azalea garden, wisteria trellis, and grove of Japanese maple.

### The Metasequoia Forest

Looking up, you can see tall trees towering up to the sky. This is the Metasequoia Forest. In the past these trees were found in Japan only as fossils, but now they are blooming again, applying a romantic touch to the surroundings.

Plan 3 Park · Outdoor

On weekends, people in Yaotsu enjoy various activities for their body and soul!


**Friendly Park Ohira**

This park is surrounded by affluent nature, located on the banks of the Tabisoko River, a tributary of the Kiso River. Enjoy playing in the river, fishing or whatever you would like.




**B&G Ocean Center**

Yachts with colorful sails, canoes, speedboats and wind surfing can be experienced at this part of Sosui Park, which lies on the banks of the Kiso river. In summer, school activities are held here, in which both children and adults gladly take part. The people in Yaotsu are grateful for the gift of water.



Plan 4 History · Culture

The legacy of times gone by, passed through generations, holds a special place in the heart of Yaotsu.



**Yaotsu Old Power Plant Museum**

Built in 1911, this is the oldest electric plant using water of the Kiso River. Nowadays it is used as a museum of electricity generation technology, and designated as a national important cultural asset. The materials exhibited tell you the roots of water-power generation in Japan.


**Myokyoji Temple Kannon Hall**

Built in the dignified style of the Muromachi Era (1392-1573), this temple, that belongs to a sect of Zen Buddhism, is designated as a national important cultural asset because its style of the construction is unique and rare.




**The Site of Wachi Castle**

In the Sengoku (Civil Wars) Era, here was the castle of the local warlord, Inaba Ukon Masamichi. Nowadays it is a place where local people come to relax.



**Daisenji Temple**

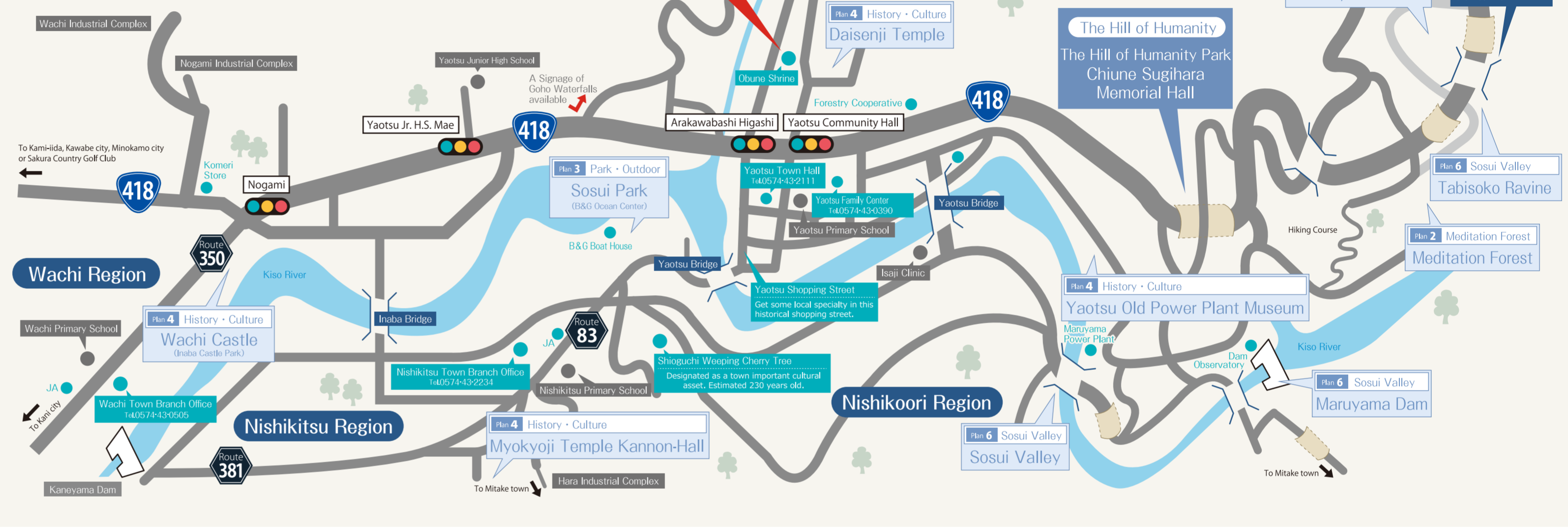
This temple is known to be the place where the legendary warrior Miyamoto Musashi conducted his Zen training. It is said that the chief priest of the temple, Gudo Kokushi, was his spiritual mentor.



# Yaotsu Tourist Map

Approx. distance and time from Yaotsu town hall.

Daisenji Temple	0.4km	1 min.
Hill of Humanity Park / C.S Memorial Hall	4.1km	7 min.
Goho Waterfall Park	3.7km	20 min.
Yaotsu Old Power Plant Museum	2.0km	9 min.
Maruyama Dam (via Sosui Valley)	3.4km	15 min.
Meditation Forest	6.9km	18 min.



Plan 5 Yaotsu Festival, Kutami Festival

Honoring the gods that bless Yaotsu with beauty



**Yaotsu (Danjiri) Festival**

Yaotsu Festival is held over two days on the second Sunday and the Saturday before in April every year and is based around Obune Shrine, which is said to house the guardian god of Yaotsu. The Danjiri floats of the Yaotsu Festival are unique and beautifully decorated in each, consisting of three different Danjiris that are carried separately, then finally combined to create one ship. They represent the history of Yaotsu which had once flourished as a town with river ports.

**Kutami Festival**

The six gorgeous floats are lined up in front of the shrine and the original "Karakuri string puppet" performance in dedication to the god of the shrine take place. The theme for designing puppets is filled with humor and changes every year. Kutami Festival is held on the third Sunday in April every year.




Plan 6 Sosui Valley Driving Course

Enjoy a drive through natural surroundings by the emerald green lake.

**Maruyama Dam**

Towering at the height of 98.2 meters, 260 meters long, holding water at total weight of 79,520,000 ton, and producing 188,000 kilowatt/hour, this is a truly formidable dam. With cherry trees in the spring, fresh greenery in summer and maple leaves in autumn, one can fully enjoy the beautiful scenery while standing on top of the dam.

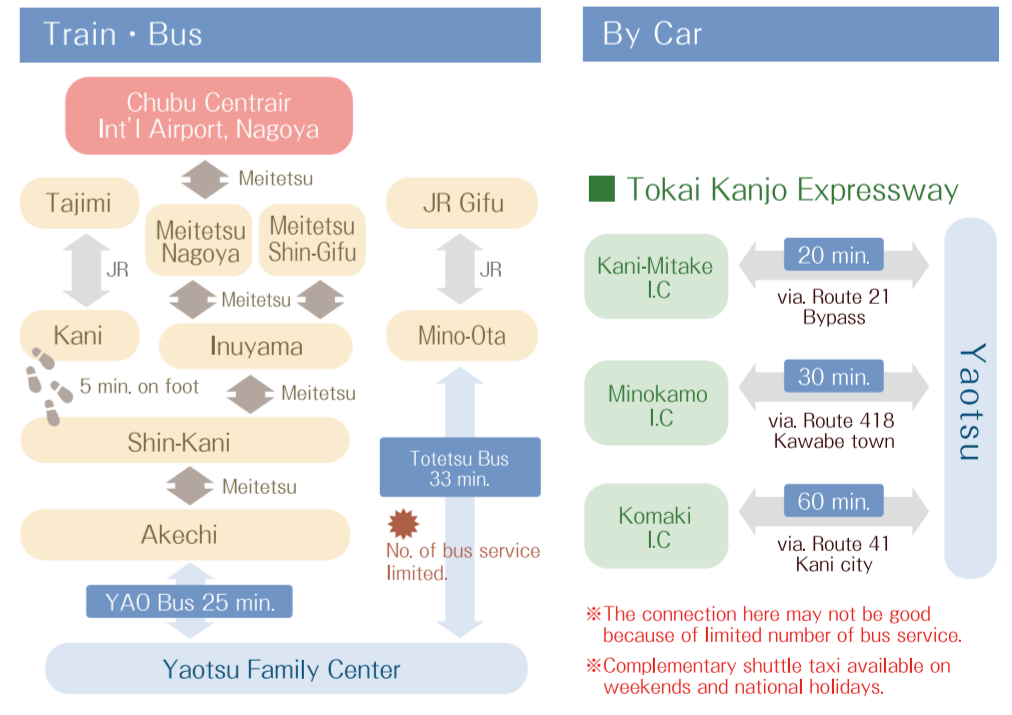



**Sosui Valley**

At the foot of Maruyama Dam is the Sosui valley. The Kiso river has 36 famous scenic spots and this is one of them. Here you can enjoy the breathtaking scenery and the dynamic sight of water rushing through the rocks.

**Tabisoko Ravine**

Don't miss the opportunity to observe the lively greenery of Tabisoko ravine and breathe in its sweet fresh air.



Check out the charms of Yaotsu on the websites below:

**Yaotsu Tourist Association Website**  
Offering tourist information featuring facilities and shops in Yaotsu town.  
URL <http://kankou.yaotsu.jp>

**MIKKE!やおつ**  
Introducing the charms of Yaotsu with movies!  
URL <http://mikke-yaotsu.jp>