

Gujo City Tourism Guide

Gujo!

Gujo City

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Full of the tips make your tour lovely. Why not try?

Tourist Information Centers

- Gujo-Hachiman Tourist Association 520-1 Shimadani, Hachiman-cho, Gujo City, Gifu Pref. TEL 0575-67-0002
- Yamato Tourist Association 585 Tokunaga, Yamato-cho, Gujo City, Gifu Pref. TEL 0575-88-2211
- Shirotori Tourist Association 693-2 Mukaikodara, Shirotori-cho, Gujo City, Gifu Pref. TEL 0575-82-5900
- Takasu Tourist Association 3328-1 Ayutate, Takasu-cho, Gujo City, Gifu Pref. TEL 0575-72-5000
- Minami Tourist Association 725-3 Hakusan, Minami-cho, Gujo City, Gifu Pref. TEL 0575-79-3111
- Meiho Tourist Association 1015 Otani, Meiho, Gujo City, Gifu Pref. TEL 0575-87-2844
- Wara Tourist Association 1056-1 Sawa, Wara-cho, Gujo City, Gifu Pref. TEL 0575-77-2211

Websites

En=English TC=Traditional Chinese SC=Simplified Chinese Ko=Korean

	En	TC	SC	Ko
● Gujo City Hall	http://www.city.gujo.gifu.jp/	○	○	○
	http://www.city.gujo.gifu.jp/tour_guide/tourist_brochures.php	○	○	○
● Gujo City Tourism Federation	http://eng.gujokankou.com/	○	○	○
● Gujo Hachiman Tourist Association	http://www.gujohachiman.com/kanko/index_e.htm	○		
● Takasu Tourist Association	http://kankou.takasu.or.jp/e/index.html	○		

Visit a world of history and culture in the castle town of Gujo



Hakusan belief



Mt. Hakusan

In Japan we have had faith in mountains since ancient times. The Hakusan belief is one such faith. **Mt. Hakusan** which straddles Ishikawa and Gifu prefectures is one of the three mountains in Japan – together with Mt. Fuji and Mt. Tateyama – which are considered "holy" in Japanese tradition. The mountain's main peak, Gozengamine, is 2702 meters high. Being covered with permanent snow on the top even in summer, the graceful Mt. Hakusan exudes a sense of exalted grace and nobility. As such, it is perhaps natural that people have regarded it as an object of holy veneration and a domain of deities since ancient times.

In 717, a Buddhist monk, Taicho, officially christened Mt. Hakusan as a holy site. Since then, Mt. Hakusan came to be known widely in Japan as a place for religious training and also as a pilgrimage destination. Especially around Kamakura and Muromachi periods (12th – 16th century), Mt. Hakusan was at its peak of popularity. Many pilgrims from all over Japan made the pilgrimage to climb Mt. Hakusan. The site was normally so crowded with pilgrims that it gave rise to a popular Japanese expression, still extant, which goes "A thousand people climbing, a thousand people coming down, and a thousand people gathered at the foot of the mountain". The main pilgrimage site was the *Hakusan-Okunomiya Shrine* at the mountain's summit, where pilgrims bowed and prayed before the sunrise.

Hakusan-Chukyo Shrine in Itoshiro area is one of the most important spots for the Hakusan belief. In the precincts of the shrine, there stand many big cedar trees over a thousand years old, which add a sense of majesty and tranquility to the atmosphere of the site. *Nagataki-Hakusan Shrine* and *Choryu Temple* in Shirotori-cho are also historically significant sites in the area. In the nearby *Wakamiya-Shukokan Museum* and *Hakusan Cultural Museum*, you can view a large number of Buddhist statues and other works of art related to the Hakusan belief and culture.



Itoshiro Old Cedar



Nagataki Hakusan Shrine



A climbing route to Mt. Hakusan

* The old trail for religious training is now maintained as a **climbing route**. Climbers following the trail can trace history as they encounter the ruins of ancient structures and legendary place names along the way. At the starting point for a climb, there is a cedar tree called the "Itoshiro Big Cedar Tree", which overwhelms all who regard its majesty. Its circumference is about 13 meters, and it is estimated that it is some 1,800 years old. This stately grand tree evokes a feeling of awe in those who encounter it.



"Ennen" traditional performing art

伝える

Instruction in Kokin-Wakashu, a collection of ancient waka poems



The Field Museum - Kokin Denju no Sato

The Field Museum - Kokin Denju no Sato is located in the Yamato-cho area. It is a place where you can learn and enjoy *waka/tanka* (a 31-syllable Japanese poem). *Waka* was a required cultural skill for aristocrats and *samurais* in ancient times. It is also an artistic traditional culture for the Japanese. Each building in the premises is constructed in authentic Japanese style and arranged to blend in with the surrounding bamboo groves, ponds, and the **Scenic Beauty Toshi-Yakataato Garden**. The area is surrounded by a delicate *satoyama* landscape where visitors can delight in its changing seasonal atmosphere.

This museum is located near the ruins of *Shinowaki Castle*. The To-Family governed Gujo and lived in the Shinowaki Castle. The To-Family were renowned for their waka-composing skill.

Among the To-Family, the ninth hereditary lord *Tsuneyori* (ca. 1401-1484) was widely known as the Patriarch of Instruction in Kokin-Wakashu. A collection of waka poems which had been published in 905 by the order of *Emperor Daigo*. *Tsuneyori* instructed the interpretation of difficult words and essence of the poems to the *poet Sogi*, who was a master of the Renga style of linked verse poetry (1421-1502) highly regarded at the time for his skill.

An episode is known to tell us *Tsuneyori's* ability and integrity. While the absence of *Tsuneyori* because of his going on a campaign, neighboring *Shugo-dai* (administrative position) *Saito* attacked *Tsuneyori's* Shinowaki Castle and deprived it. *Tsuneyori* lamented the society where anything could be done to achieve the goals, and made 10 waka poems about his feelings. Those poems traveled to *Saito* through people. It is said that *Saito* regretted his enormity and returned the castle to *Tsuneyori*.

On the premises, there are several facilities such as **Waka Bungaku-kan** where the works by Japan's representative poets are exhibited. Also on the site is the *Shinowaki-Sanso* cottage, where poetry parties, tea ceremonies, and other events are held. There is also the *Momochidori restaurant*, where you can dine while viewing beautiful scenery, and also a Japanese style fancy goods shop and a teahouse.



The Scenic Beauty Toshi-Yakataato Garden



Waka Bungaku-kan

* **Sogi-sui**: The *poet Sogi* visited Gujo to receive *Tsuneyori's* Instruction in waka poems. He built a hut by a clear spring in Gujo-Hachiman and stayed there for about three years. The spring is now known as the Sogi-sui. People said *Sogi* loved this site. (→ P9)



Castle town Gujo-Hachiman

活かす

Gujo-Hachiman Castle is a symbol of the Gujo-Hachiman area. It was the sixth castle lord *Tsunetomo ENDO* (1628-1676) who built the basis of the present town centered on the castle. He diverted water into town, moved temples and divided the town into 8 areas such as *Kajiya-machi* for blacksmiths and *Shokunin-machi* for craftsmen. He also repaired the Hachiman Castle. The "old town street" that has been preserved with great care has a beautiful atmosphere that gives visitors a sense of calm and comfort. The water flowing in the canal is very clear. Old houses in the area have been beautifully maintained to preserve their historically accurate appearance, adding a special touch to the atmosphere of the site.



Gujo-Hachiman Castle

In Gujo-Hachiman, many historical stories have been told. One is about **Chiyo** (1556-1617), who was a daughter of *Morikazu ENDO*, the first lord and builder of Gujo-Hachiman Castle in 1559. She was married to **Kazutoyo YAMANOUCHI** and known as a woman who used her considerable abilities to further her husband's career. One day, *Kazutoyo* saw a magnificent stallion which he wanted to buy as a warhorse. But the horse was too expensive. However, *Chiyo* bought the horse with the money she had saved secretly and presented it to her husband. This was the beginning of a brilliant career which would see the lower-class samurai *Kazutoyo* eventually rise all the way up to become the domain lord of the *Tosa* domain. This episode of *Chiyo's* is very famous as an example of the value of having a wise wife.



Bronze statue of Kazutoyo and Chiyo

Another famous legend is the one about the *Horeki Sodo* peasant uprising (1754-1758), which was an actual important historic event in Gujo. It saw a clash

between the lord who tried to raise taxes and the peasants who were opposed to this policy. At last, the peasants in Gujo brought up this issue to the court of the feudal government in *Edo* (Tokyo). The court's decision took the side of the peasants. Although the peasants themselves made great sacrifices, the domain lord *Kanamori family* suffered a fall from grace. More than 3000 such so-called "*Ikki*" or peasant riots are known to have occurred in Japan during the *Edo* period, but this *Horeki Sodo* is the only one that succeeded in seeing to the dismissal and replacement of bureaucratic officials of the feudal government such as the *Roju* and domain lord. The lore that surrounds this incident tells us much

about the judiciousness and solidarity of the peasants in Gujo. After the *Horeki* uprising, the feudal government appointed *Yoshimichi AOYAMA* (1725-1779) as domain lord for the area. From this point on, the *Aoyama family* served as hereditary domain lords in Gujo until the end of the Shogunate system in the late 1860s.



* **A golden "Dohyo"**: *Aoyama's* treasure. Incidentally, the name *Aoyama* in the urban center of Tokyo derives from the fact that the *Aoyama* family maintained a *shimo yashiki* townhouse in the area in the old *Edo* capital. The family crest of the *Aoyama* clan is the "*hagiku*", a chrysanthemum and its leaves, which represents an unflinching spirit called *ryoso*, referring to the ability of the *hagiku* to weather frost. This *ryoso* spirit lives on today in the people of Gujo.

The Charms of Sightseeing in Gujo



1



2 3



4 5



7 8



9



10



6 11

Where to walk in the castle town Gujo-Hachiman

Gujo-Hachiman is a castle town that preserves unique traditional Japanese culture. From the tower of Gujo-Hachiman Castle, you can get a **spectacular view of the surrounding castle town** [1].

Gujo Hachiman Hakuran-kan museum is a good place to begin a walking tour of the town. It provides a good introduction to Gujo, with exhibits divided into the themes of "water", "traditional arts and craft", and "Gujo Odori Dance Festival" (see page 10 for details). Since the performances of **Gujo Odori dance** [2] at the museum by dancers wearing authentic *yukata* take place year round, you can watch the real Gujo Odori dance even during the dancing off-season.

In the area around the Hakuran-kan museum, you can see old streets and a way of life very close to the

way it was centuries ago in the Edo period. On both sides of the town streets, there are channels carrying water down from the surrounding mountain, as well as the nearby Sogi-sui spring. You can hear water running everywhere in town.

Also, the town is home to many temples and shrines. The **Jion Zen Temple Tesso Garden** [3], made in the Muromachi period, is a place where you can have special pleasure in enjoying seasonal flavors in a tranquil atmosphere.

If you need information assistance during your walk, drop by the **Kyuchosya-Kinenkan** (Gujo Hachiman Former Government House) [4]. It has a tourist information center, souvenir shops, and a lounge.

■ Tips for walking in the castle town

You will see *mizubunes* when walking in the castle town. It is a facility where potable water is provided free. As for **pocket parks** [5], there are many mini parks in various styles. Among others, popular spots include **Yanaka Mizu no Komichi** [6] where art museums are located, and the

Igawa Komichi canal [7] where carps and fishes swim around in water from a spring-fed creek.

There are also many gourmet spots in the town. It is nice to use "a map for walking and dining". It contains coupons which can be used at various restaurants and food outlets, and is sold at the Kyuchosya-Kinenkan.

■ Experience Japanese culture in the castle town

The **old town streets** [8] of Gujo-Hachiman are still in use as a residential area. Traditional fire walls called *sodekabe* still remain on the second floor of the townhouses. Those townhouses were made in a unique architectural style whose frontage was narrow and whose depth was long as a clever way of avoiding higher property taxes at the time.

The canals are used for **daily life water** [9] by using *segi-ita*, a type of wooden water barrier. You can encounter people washing their laundries and vegetables there. Along the river flowing in the center of the town, you can see people fishing for *Ayu* sweetfish and other fishes in the spring-fed creek. In summer, you can see children playing in the water and jumping into the river from the bridges.

Regardless of age and sex, people in Gujo naturally come to learn how to live in harmony with the natural environment.

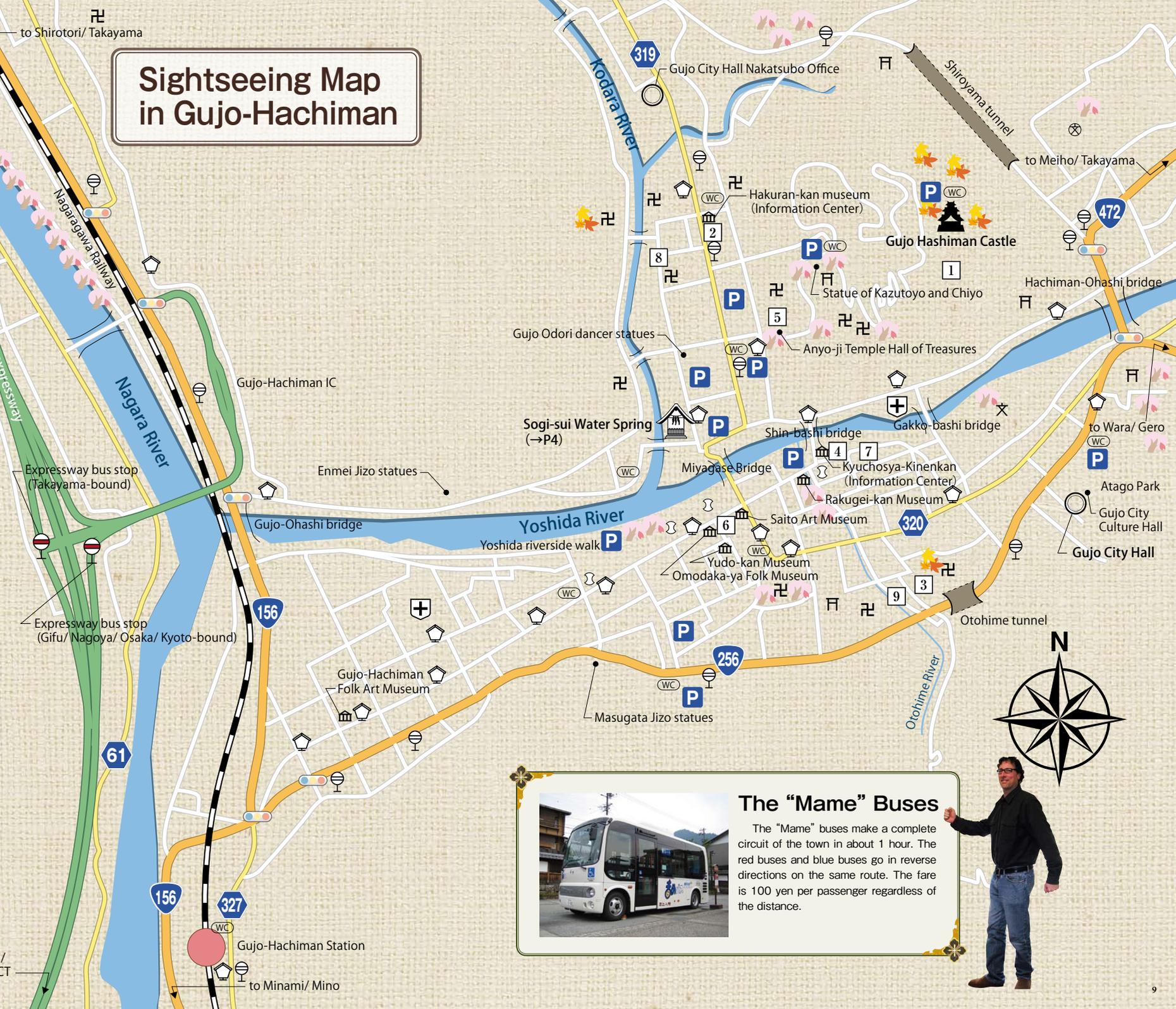
Close by Yanaka Mizu no Komichi, there is the house of the **Saito family**, which has been designated a national cultural asset. Entering from the front, you can enjoy *Matcha*, powdered green tea, viewing the garden from the Japanese style tearoom.

In the beginning of winter, a green *sugidama* – a ball of cedar leaves – is hung from the eaves of the local *sake* brewery. It is for telling passersby that fresh sake has been brewed. Around the same time, you can see **The Nantendama** (red nandina balls) [10] hung from the eaves of the local stores. A nandina is a lucky charm for turning hardship into good fortune.

In summer, many tourists wearing *yukata* and *geta* [11] walk around the town. *Yukata* is a traditional casual summer *kimono*. The wearing of *yukata* and *geta* is getting more popular year by year as a way of enjoying Japanese culture. The *geta* make a charming sound like "*karan-koron*" as their wearer walks in them. After taking a walk with *yukata* and *geta*, you can enjoy the Gujo Odori dance at night without having to change clothes. That's really the way to walk around Gujo-Hachiman. Give it a try and enjoy the fashion!

Sightseeing Map in Gujo-Hachiman

-  Museum
-  Temple
-  Shrine
-  City Hall
-  Hospital
-  Bank
-  Elementary or junior high school
-  High school
-  Mame Bus stop
-  Gifu Bus stop
-  Expressway Bus stop
-  National Route
-  Prefectural road
-  Parking
-  1 ~ 9
Numbers correspond to pictures on pages 6 to 7.



The "Mame" Buses

The "Mame" buses make a complete circuit of the town in about 1 hour. The red buses and blue buses go in reverse directions on the same route. The fare is 100 yen per passenger regardless of the distance.



to Meishin expressway Ichinomiya IC/
Tokai-Kanjo expressway Mino/Seki JCT

Gujo-Hachiman Station
to Minami/ Mino

Japan's one of the biggest odori dance towns, Gujo

The traditional dancing culture of Gujo, dating from the Edo period, continues to attract visitors even now. Today, large numbers of traditional dance fans come to Gujo to enjoy Gujo Odori dance and Shirotori Odori dance from all over Japan in summer. People of all ages can enjoy the event, joining together in large dancing circles. Anyone is welcome to spontaneously join in the dance circle.

Although everyone is listening to the same music, each person is free to dance as the music moves them, with some in a graceful dance, some in a lively, vigorous style, and still others in a slow and solemn dance. Whatever the style, both dancers and spectators can surely enjoy them all. Why don't you find your favorite style and dance along with the crowd?

The music used for the dancing is very artistic, featuring distinctive singing styles, Japanese drums, shamisen, and flutes. Traditional Japanese geta clogs also add to the festive mood.

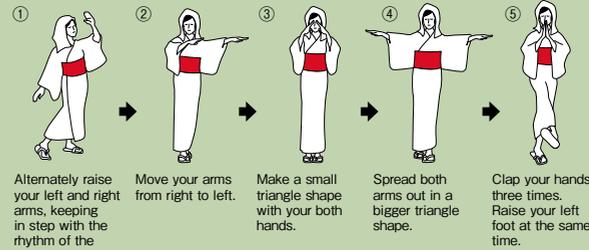
So, why not put on your yukata (traditional casual summer kimono) and geta and join the dancing!

* Within the city, many shops sell yukata kimono and geta. Japanese style hotels have a rental service for yukata and geta.



Gujo Odori

How to dance "Kawasaki"

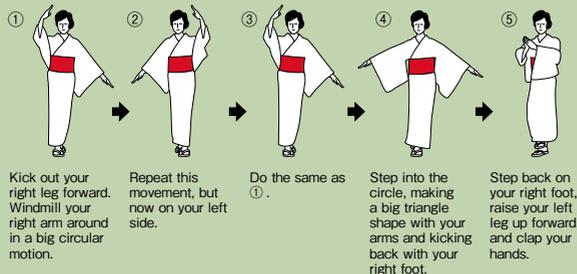


Gujo Odori Dance Festival

The dance season lasts for about 30 nights in Gujo-Hachiman, from mid July to the beginning of September. People dance all night during the peak of the season, from August 13th to 16th. There are ten varieties of the dance, including the famous "Kawasaki" style. During the festival, the venue changes according to the events in each town. In addition, dance contests are held in separate categories including individual, group, and masquerade events.

The "Gujo Odori Dance Festival in Aoyama" is performed for two nights in Aoyama, Tokyo every late June. Many overseas performances have also been taken places in Los Angeles, Russia, Hawaii, Beijing, Toronto, and so on. The dynamism of the Gujo Odori is so irresistible that anyone watching it cannot help but dance. The "Gujo style" is an international standard so that both local people and visitors from overseas join the dance and enjoy together.

How to dance "Gensuke-san"



Shirotori Odori Dance Festival

The Shirotori Odori dance features eight music pieces, including "Gensuke-san", and is popular for young people because of its up-tempo style. The dance festival is held over about twenty nights from the end of July in Shirotori-cho area. During August 13th to 15th, people dance all night in a circle. You can find an old style dance in the Haiden Odori in which dancers sing to each other and stomp out rhythms with their geta clogs under the kiriko hanging lanterns. A masked dance contest is also held every year.



Haiden Odori



A thrilling winter resort, Gujo

For everyone from beginners to experts Satisfying layout of the courses

Winter sports are fun! In Gujo, we have 11 ski resorts that add excitement to the winter here. We have good courses for experts, such as the ones where the Snowboard FIS World Cup is held. Of course, we provide many course layouts for intermediate and beginning skiers, as well. Opening in the end of October, each ski resort provides great facilities. These include a halfpipe course for snowboarding that is one of the largest in Japan, with music provided by hot DJs you can listen to while you cruise the ski slopes. Please come and enjoy the dynamism and speed of skiing and snowboarding here in Gujo!



Snowboard FIS World Cup

Come, see, and feel! Enjoying the snow

If you first experience a snow resort, try riding a **banana boat** and tubing! You can experience an exciting ride on the snow while enjoying the beautiful surrounding natural scenery. Children can have fun sledding. An exclusive sledding area is provided so children can sled safely. The "Takasu Snow Festival" is held in the mid February every year. Here you can see big snow sculptures and *kamakura* snow houses, and enjoy many other snow-related events.

* Plentiful restaurants and souvenir shops in the area mean you can have fun off the slopes as well! There are also hot springs nearby. Why don't you refresh yourself there? Every ski resort has a rental shop for your convenience.



Good courses for experts



Enjoying the banana boat



Takasu Snow Festival

Experience craftsmanship! Hands-on spots



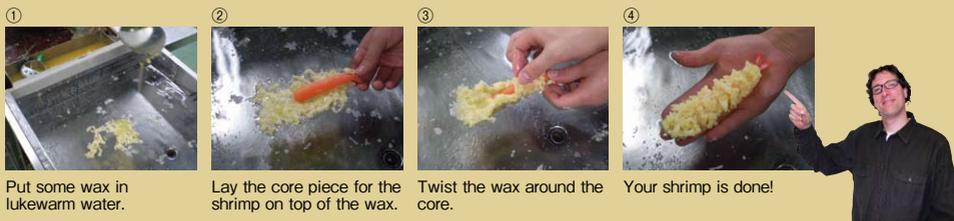
In Gujo, we have a wonderful culture of craftsmanship. The superb techniques and very soul of master craftsmen of old living in this castle town have been passed down through generations of craftsmen ever since. These traditional crafts include objets d'art and other original products.

■ You should try making “food replicas” by yourself!

In Japan, molded plastic resin replicas of menu items are often displayed in the showcases of restaurant entrances so that diners can grasp the contents of the offered menu at a glance. It is very convenient because you don't need to read menu books carefully when ordering. These replicas are not common in other parts of the world, but have long been a part of the food culture in Japan. This technique was commercialized by *Takizo IWASAKI*, who was born in Gujo-Hachiman. He founded a company using his process in 1932. His hobby was painting, which was considered a luxury at that time. He researched diligently into developing method of using his painting technique to color the food replica products of his company, and his efforts eventually succeeded in a company with nationwide product distribution. The first food replica was of an omelet. It was christened “The Commemorative Ome”.

■ How to make a shrimp tempura

In Gujo, there are hands-on shops where you can make food replicas. By following instruction of the shop staff, anyone can easily make replicas of tempura and lettuce that are identical with the real thing. You should experience the amazing moment when food replicas come to completion! (There are 5 hands-on shops in the city.)



① Put some wax in lukewarm water.

② Lay the core piece for the shrimp on top of the wax.

③ Twist the wax around the core.

④ Your shrimp is done!

Making Soba Buckwheat Noodles



Make your own buckwheat noodles and eat them at the selective shops using the buckwheat flour grown in town. Available from 1 to 60 persons

Experience the Gujo Odori Dance



A workshop for experiencing the Gujo Odori dance. Tips for stylish dancing are given, and participants receive a certificate of attendance for the workshop.

Pottery Classes



A beginner can make a masterpiece! It will take a month for the work to be fired.

Experience Rafting



Experience a thrill rafting the rushing water of the pristine Nagara River.

Enjoy dining spots!

Various specialties of food are produced in Gujo, for example, hams, seasonings such as miso (soybean paste) and ketchup, sake, buckwheat noodles, Japanese pickles, and sweets and snacks. In the city, there are a number of restaurants which serve fine homemade cuisine using fresh local vegetables and other ingredients.

Eat and compare Gujo cuisine favorites!

Popular food with a homey touch! Okumino curry

The 26 restaurants in the city cooperated to start what they call “the Okumino curry project”. This project is very unique because its member restaurants are not only Western-style restaurants but also ramen noodle shops and other Japanese food restaurants. The menu created by each restaurant is unique and rich in variation. Curry and rice, noodles, rice bowl dishes...it will be nice if you go to the shops and eat and compare their original curry. For some of the hidden flavor of the curry, traditional *Gujo miso* is used. Most of the materials are home-grown in Gujo. Each restaurant has its original taste, for example, with some using wild game meat such as boar and venison. Others use *Hida beef*, *ko-jidori chicken*, and so on. The marker for member shops is a yellow flag. A meal will cost about 1000 yen at any shop.



Number one in Japan! Ayu-wild sweetfish-in Gujo

Ayu wild sweetfish is a river fish which Japanese people have loved as “kogyo - fish of delicate flavor” since ancient times. The river flowing in Gujo is the upper stream of the Nagara River, which is one of the cleanest rivers in Japan. It attracts many fishermen from all over Japan during ayu season. Ayu grow by eating algae in the riverbed, with the result that their taste changes slightly according to the environment of their native river. The more delicious the ayu, the more clean you know their native river is. Ayu in Gujo have a special reputation in Japan. They are called “Gujo Ayu” and are regarded as a delicacy. The best ayus are shipped directly to high-class Japanese-style restaurants in Tokyo. The ayu in Gujo have won the grand prix in the “Seiryu-meguri Kikiayu Kai” contest, a nationwide contest judging the cleanliness of rivers by comparing the flavor of the ayu they produce.



The favorite ayu cuisine for Japanese is grilled ayu sprinkled with salt. Others include *ayu-zosui* (Japanese risotto), fried ayu, and *ayu-zushi* (ayu sushi). Among unique recipes from Gujo, we cook ayu in *gyoden* (fish dengaku) or serve as *sashimi*. You can eat fresh ayu directly from the fishery at the restaurants and Japanese style hotels in the city from the beginning of summer to autumn. Please try this ayu cuisine when you visit Gujo.

The home cuisine of Gujo! Kei-chan

“Kei-chan” cooking from northern Gujo is the cuisine of stir-frying chicken thigh and organ meat with cabbages and onions after marinating the meat in sauce using *miso* and soy sauce and other ingredients. The restaurants which serve kei-chan are proud of the flavor of their offerings, so they are using various ingredients and techniques such as flavoring with garlic and creating secret sauces. Originally, kei-chan was a home cuisine, so people in Gujo have very discriminating tastes about the food. Also, each Gujo native has his or her own preference, such as “I like the hinc meat (adult chicken) best for snack food to go with sake,” or “I prefer the tender meat of young chickens”. Kei-chan is very popular in Gujo. Why not give it a try?



Wild game meat cuisine in Gujo

Botan Nabe - Nabe with boar meat

This is a *nabe* pot-boiled dish including boar meat with vegetables and *tofu*. It is seasoned with miso. Also venison and horse meat version have been eaten in traditional Gujo cuisine. Along with wild vegetables, berries and fruits, these meats are truly “blessings from the mountain”.





The charms of "Ryokan"

Enjoy travel in comfortable accommodations!

Where to stay ?

Which type of the accommodation suits your travel style? Both western and Japanese style hotels add special color to your travel. We have various types of accommodations in Gujo City.

* We have no tipping custom in Japan. However, you may tip the maid right before checkout when you feel you have been taken special care of in a ryokan Japanese style hotels.

Hotels



Western style hotels offer single, twin, double, and triple rooms. Each room has a western style toilet and a shower with bathtub. They vary from convenient business hotels to big hotels that offer hot springs facilities and shops on site. If you want to stay for dinner and breakfast, please indicate so when making a reservation.

Ryokan Japanese style hotels



A good way to experience Japanese hospitality is staying in a ryokan! Basically, the charge for an overnight stay includes a dinner and a breakfast. The meals you eat are typically served as room service, although in some ryokan they will be served in a dining room or restaurant in the hotel. Please check the arrangement when you are making a reservation.

Minshuku lodging



Minshuku are guest house facilities located in private homes. It's simpler than a ryokan. Since most of them are Japanese style houses, you can enjoy *tatami* mat rooms and home cuisine. This is suitable for those seeking cozy and homey surroundings.

Cottages



Cottages are just right for the people who want a relaxed pace stay with family or friends. The areas surrounding the ski resorts have these cottage style accommodations. Please check the furnishings such as a toilet, bathroom, kitchen, and a refrigerator, when making a reservation.

Campsites



Camping is a good choice for summer fun if you want to relax in a refreshing natural environment with your friends and family. Bungalows are available for rent, as well as blankets and sheets. You can cook on a wood fire at a communal barbecue site. Toilets and coin showers are available.

1st

You can enjoy authentic Japanese seasonal high cuisine served on beautiful tableware.



2nd

It is a beautiful space filled with authentic Japanese touches such as Japanese style rooms, *tsuboniwa* gardens, and *ikebana* flower arrangements.

3rd

Experiencing a pure relaxing sleep in a *futon* bed laid on *tatami* mats.



4th

You can have a leisurely bath in hot springs, large Japanese style bathing facilities, or outdoor bathtubs. Wearing a *yukata* is good for relaxing after a bath. It is acceptable to walk around the ryokan wearing *yukata* and slippers.



- * No swim suits in the bath
- * No towels in the water
- * Wash yourself before getting in a tub. Pay attention not to splash water onto other people.



Geta: Japanese traditional wooden clogs

5th

Enjoy the wonderful smile and hospitality of your *okami*
* An *okami* is either a landlady of a ryokan or its on site female manager.



The collar of a *yukata* should be arranged like this.
* It's the same for both men and women.

Spring



Cherry blossom trees at Myoken Shrine



Bokka no Sato Park



Gujo Hachiman Castle in autumn leaves



An autumn festival in Satoyama landscape

Seasonal colors

The natural environment in Gujo is blessed by the holy mountain Hakusan bestowing its seasonal beauty on us in spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Ninety percent of the Gujo area is mountainous. The rich mountains carry superbly clear water that is the source of our vital energy. You can find unique seasonal entertainments and sights in Gujo. Come and enjoy the beautiful nature of Gujo!



Amida-ga-taki Falls



Playing in the Wara River



Nandina berries, a specialty in Gujo



Snowboard FIS World Cup

Summer

Winter

Helpful tips

Japanese for travelers

Try speaking Japanese at the hotels and shops you visit! That will surely bring you some heartwarming moments. Because writing and drawing are also the means of communication, it may help you to carry a memo pad and a pen with you.

[Greetings in Japanese]

- Good morning. ▶ おはよう **ohayo**
- Good afternoon. ▶ こんにちは **konnichiwa**
- Good evening. ▶ こんにちは **konbanwa**
- Good bye. ▶ さようなら **sayonara**
- Thank you. ▶ ありがとう **arigato**

The first word to remember!
"Thank you" in Gujo dialect

Thank you ▶ おおきに **okini**

[Useful expression] Use these basic expression patterns in various situations by altering the vocabulary accordingly.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Excuse me ... ▶ すみません Sumimasen ... | I want to go to ▶ 私は...に行きたい Watashi wa ... ni ikitai |
| Where is the ... ? ▶ ...はどこですか ... wa doko desuka | I want to buy/get ▶ 私は...を買いたい Watashi wa ... o kaitai |
| How much is/are ... ? ▶ ...はいくらですか ... wa ikura desuka | I want to drink ▶ 私は...を飲みたい Watashi wa ... o nomitai |
| Do you have...? ▶ ...はありますか ... wa arimasu ka | I want to eat ▶ 私は...を食べたい Watashi wa ... o tabetai |

[Helpful vocabulary]

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| water ▶ 水 mizu | milk ▶ 牛乳 gyunyu | here ▶ ここ koko |
| beer ▶ ビール bilu | rice ▶ ごはん gohan | yes ▶ はい hai |
| coffee ▶ コーヒー kohi | bread ▶ パン pan | no ▶ いいえ ieie |
| japanese sake ▶ 酒 sake | I ▶ わたし watashi | yesterday ▶ 昨日 kino |
| wine (red/white) ▶ ワイン(赤/白) wain(aka/shiro) | you ▶ あなた anata | today ▶ 今日 kyo |
| juice ▶ ジュース jusu | restroom ▶ トイレ toire | tomorrow ▶ 明日 ashita |

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----|-----|---------|----|------|-------------|-------|--------|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| ichi | ni | san | shi/yon | go | roku | shichi/nana | hachi | ku/kyu | ju |

[Helpful expressions at the shops]

- May I use credit card? ▶ クレジットカードは使えますか **Kulejitto kado wa tsukaemasuka**
- What is today's specials? ▶ おすすめは何ですか **Osusume wa nani desuka**
- Bill us separately, please. ▶ 別々に払います **Betsu betsu ni haraimasu**



Sightseeing map in Gujo City

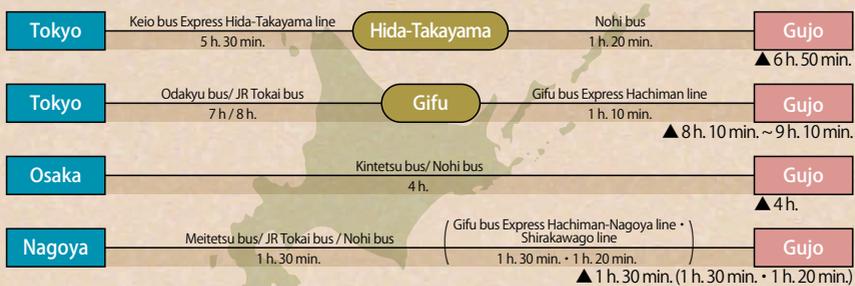


Access-Guide

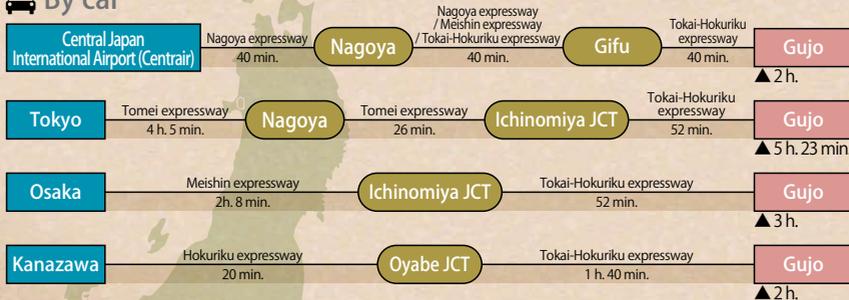
By rail



By express bus



By car



How to use the Nagaragawa Railway line

① When boarding

Please take a numbered ticket from a ticketing machine when boarding.

② When getting off

Put your fare or ticket into the fare box together with the numbered ticket. Please put exact fare into the box after checking your fare from the displayed fare chart.

➡ Please exit from the front door after paying your fare.

