

Enjoy the time slowly pass by Hida Furukawa Guide & Map



Seto River and Carp

The "Seto River" which was made for the development of new field, using water from the moat of Masushima castle about 400 years ago, is said to be named after the caretaker "Genbei Setoya" who made the river. In old days, the Seto River was a clean canal that could be used to wash vegetables, but it was seriously polluted during the high-growth period. Request for making Seto River beautiful again, with resident's donation, carp has been stocked since 1968. During the winter period, carps move to a wintering spot and move back to Seto River in spring again.

The History of Hida Furukawa

In an age of provincial wars, Nagachika Kanamori dominated Hida instructed by Hideyoshi Toyotomi. Second generation Arishige built the "Masushima castle" here in Furukawa, the only flat castle in Hida and made a castle town in 1589. As a cornerstone this cityscape still remains even now.



Takumi(master) of Hida



During the Nara era, carpenters from Hida, who went off to the capital and took an active part in the construction of shrine and temples, were called "Takumi of Hida" for their outstanding skill. The tradition and technique has been carried down to the present day. In Furukawa, there are many buildings with "cloud" carvings decorated on a small arm at the space under the eaves. This is a symbol of Furukawa carpenter's pride of his work, and decorates the building he built with the same pattern. About 170 kinds of these "cloud" patterns are said to exist now.

Maintaining Cityscape

Urban area of Furukawa has lots of traditional wooden architecture houses standing in a row, and new buildings are built with balance with the surrounding area, too. The high conscious mind of residents and technique of carpenters maintain the beautiful cityscape. Additionally, the tourist association established a system to honor building structures that blend in the cityscape and nature with "Scenery design award" in 1985, and help maintaining the beautiful cityscape.



Sake brewery and Sakabayashi

There are two Sake breweries in Furukawa and each brew particular good tasting Sake. "Sakabayashi", leaves of Japanese cedar bundled in a ball, are hung under eaves of Sake breweries front door and changed to a new one after new Sake is brewed in late November every year.

Kigake Japanese Candle



Junji Mishima makes the kigake (pure) Japanese candles. He is the seventh generation owner of Mishima Japanese candle shop. All the ingredients are natural vegetable and all the processes are done handmade. There are less than ten shops that create Japanese candles by hand in Japan.

Furukawa Festival·Okoshi Daiko (April 19)



The Furukawa festival that signals the arrival of spring to Furukawa is an annual celebration of Ketawakamiya Shrine and designated the national significant intangible folk cultural asset. The "Okoshi Daiko" performed in the night of 19 is the "motion" face of Furukawa festival. Led by more than a thousand of people with lanterns, a few hundred men, naked except for the cloth wrapped around their upper body and loin, go through the streets carrying a wooden tower. Young men wait on every street corner in town, holding a small drum called "Tsuke daiko", and charge towards the big drum. The scene of fighting for each block's honor and the fierce battle is the most exciting moment.

Furukawa festival is the "big moment" the residents have been waiting for. People prepare for months for this day and deepen the bond of the area. Furukawa festival means a lot to the community areas

Furukawa Festival·Festival Float (April 19,20)



The 9 brilliant and gorgeous festival floats lined up, Mikoshi (portable shrine) and Tokeiraku parade around the town is the "calm" face of Furukawa. Child Kabuki and wind-up doll are dedicated on the middle part of the float,



and on the street corner, the Shishimai (lion dance) is shown. Convivial atmosphere prevails in all of Furukawa town. The float weighs about 2 tons and it's structure consist of 3 parts, upper part, middle part and bottom part, and different woods are used to fit each parts behavior. You can see many craftsmen technique on the float, decorated with delicate carvings, gorgeous clasps and jet-black color and vermilion-lacquered add spice to it.

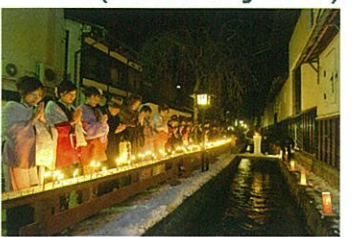
Yataigura(Float Storehouse)

There are 10 float storehouses in the town. The float is very delicate, so it is stored in a humidity controlled clay storehouse. Organization called "Taigumi" operates and maintenance these float, and their symbol called "Taimon" is decorated on the upper part of the float storehouse door. And, of course alongside of Seto River, there are many clay storehouses in the Furukawa town. It is said to have become a large clay storehouse town like today, to protect property from the repeated conflagration and since the plasterer technique was introduced from Edo in the Edo era.



Santera Mairi(Three Temples Visit) (January 15)

Santera Mairi is held annually on January 15 and people visit three temples, Enko-ji, Shinshu-ji and Honko-ji commemorating the virtue of Shinran the beginner of Jodoshinshu. Snow candle statues over 2 meters stand in a row on the main street and thousand candles are lit at Seto River. These are familiar by the people as a winter tradition of Furukawa. In 19th century, young females came home from working away at a thread factory in the end of December, they dressed up and visited the three temples, so it was a good chance to find a wife and said to be many marriage were fulfilled.



Enkouji temple

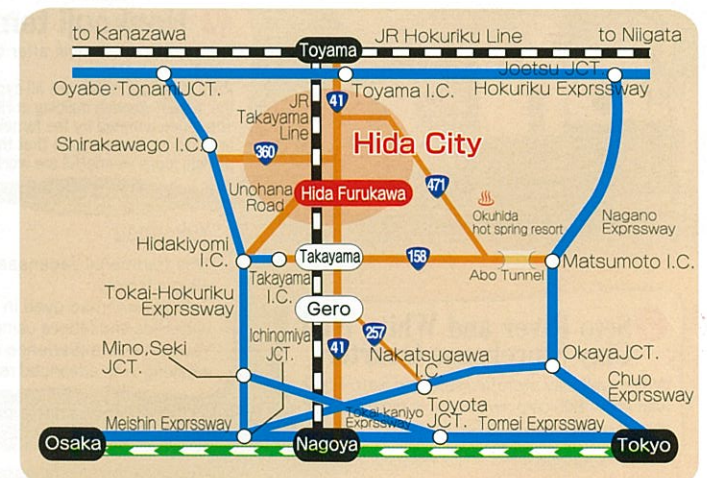


Honkouji temple



Shinshuji temple

Access from Hida Kiyomi IC



Nagoya	JRtrain Wide View Hida 2 hours 20 minutes	Takayama	15minutes	Hida Furukawa
Toyama	JRtrain Wide View Hida 1 hours 15 minutes	Takayama	15minutes by car	Hida Furukawa
Ichinomiya JCT.	Toukai-Hokuriku Expressway 1 hours 30 minutes by car	Hida-Kiyomi I.C.	Unohana-Road 25minutes	Hida Furukawa
Scheduled Bus	Nohi bus center in front of Takayama station		35minutes	in front of Furukawa station

[Inquiry]
Hida city hall tourism department
TEL0577-73-2111 <http://www.city.hida.gifu.jp>
Hida tourism association
TEL0577-74-1192 <http://www.hida-tourism.com/>

Town where Japanese spirit live unchanged since olden times

Hida Furukawa map

to Unohana Road
Tokai-Hokuriku Exprssway
Hidakiyomi I.C.



From long ago, The humanity of the residents and cityscape where master technique lives are also expressed "Come to Furukawa, when you are exhausted in your busy life". Touch the feeling of Furukawa where you just relief and feel nostalgic.

6 Mishima Japanese candle shop
Old established shop of "Kigake Japanese Candle", lasting over 240 years. Using natural plants ingredients, all the making process are done handmade. You'll see the master's works, sometimes.

Glass Art Museum "Koma"
About 800 of retro-spect and golden oldie Japanese glass collections are exhibited.

Hineno Art Museum & Café
Art museum in the cityscape invites you to a nice Japanese beauty. You can enjoy the art and relax watching inner garden at the café. Handmade snacks of the season are available.

7 Honkouji temple
The temple was rebuilt after conflagration loss in 1904. 25m long four sides are all-cypress made, and it is the largest wooden building in Hida. The fence donated by the female workers in the Meiji era and the temple gate that the master techniques of Hida looks wonderful are worth seeing.

3 Seto River and White Wall Clay Storehouse Quarter
White wall clay storehouses and Seto River with about 800 carp swimming is the must visit spot of castle town Hida Furukawa.

5 Enkouji temple
The Muromachi era style long lives in the temple. Both sides of the ridge have "Water calling turtle", and is said that it protected the temple from the Furukawa conflagration in 1904. It is said that temple gate is former Masushima castle gate.

8 Shinshuji temple
The main hall covered with gold leaf and the carvings of "Qilin", "Dragon" and "Turtle", the works of the Master of Hida, are wonderful. The temple makes beautiful contrast with the red Imamiya bridge over Araki river.

4 Cityscape of Furukawa
Cityscape of Furukawa was made about 400 years ago as a basic of a castle town. The traditional urban architecture style of Hida still comes down to today and the beautiful wooden houses stand in a row. Houses have an arm-elbow wood called "Cloud" in the space under the eaves. This is a sign of the master carpenter who built the house and said to be about 170 kinds in Furukawa.

1 Hida Furukawa Matsuri Kaikan (Hida Furukawa Festival Museum)
You can see the valiant Okoshi daiko and traditional Mikoshi(portable shrine) parade appearance in exciting stereoscopic vision. Also in the museum, there are three real festival floats exhibited and a performance of wind-up doll is demonstrated.

2 Hida no Takumi Bunkakan (Hida Crafts Museum)
There are exhibits of the Takumi tools and technique, and also a corner where you can actually experience the timberwork in the museum.



Furukawa Festival Festival float line



Yukoubou



Hida no Takumi Bunkakan

- ★ sightseeing spot
- ℹ information
- 🛍 souvenirs
- 🏠 Floats storehouse
- 🚗 taxi
- 🏦 bank
- 🍖 Hida beef
- 🍜 Japanese food
- 🍽 western style food
- 🍜 noodles
- 🍷 others
- ☕ café
- 🏠 accommodations
- 🍩 Hida sweets · snack
- 🔒 coin-operated locker
- 🚲 rent-a-cycle shops
- 🏪 merchant and craftsman section
- 🏯 samurai town section

0 100m 200m

〒 Ketawakamiya shrine

Tourist Information Center

recommended course
time required 3hours



For about 1.5 hour

※ See this as a guide for allocation of time for people who don't have time
For about 1.5 hour