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OKAZAKI



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GUIDE TO OKAZAKI

ENGLISH





Experience the Romantic Past OKAZAKI

Okazaki's past is full of dramas unfolded in quests for happiness and glory. Through the Warring States (1467-1568) and Edo Periods (1603-1867), Okazaki has developed its own unique culture. Known as the birthplace of Tokugawa Iyeyasu and the land of the Mikawa warriors, Okazaki is alive with tales of Japan's journey to the modern world. The Yahagigawa River has long safeguarded those who travel amidst the shifting sands of time. Crossing it, you will find a traditional castle-town that in some ways has changed little since antiquity. Come see Okazaki for yourself and enjoy a journey through time, history, and emotion.



Otogawa Funsui (Otogawa River Fountain)

Designed with a motif of flying dragons and Mikawa fireworks, this is one of the largest river fountains in Japan. Since Okazaki Castle is also known as *Tatsugajō* or the 'Dragon Castle', it is quite fitting that this fountain be located in Okazaki. The center fountain reaches a height of 35 meters (115 feet), while the flanking fountains on each side create an arch some 50 meters (164 feet) across.

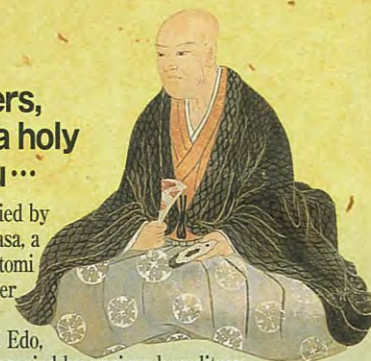
Okazaki Castle: the setting for a tale of passion and adventure that transcends all time.

Passed down through a long line of rulers, surviving countless battles to become a holy site associated with Tokugawa Iyeyasu ...

Okazaki Castle was originally built on the grounds of Myōdaiji Temple in 1455 by Saigō Tsugiyori. It was moved to its present location in 1531 by Matsudaira Kiyoyasu, grandfather of Iyeyasu, since which time it has been known as Okazaki Castle. During the reign of Iyeyasu's father Hirotada, the castle was the center of bitter feuding between the Imagawa Clan of the East and the Oda Clan of the West. When Hirotada died, the castle fell under the rule of the Imagawa Clan and served as the residence of Imagawa Clan generals until the death of Imagawa Yoshimoto in the Battle of Okehazama in 1560. After that same battle, Tokugawa Iyeyasu returned to his homeland where he took back the castle, built his fortress and restored peace to Mikawa. After that, the castle served as a secondary base for the Tokugawas until 1590.

After Iyeyasu relocated to the Kanto area, the

castle was occupied by Tanaka Yoshimasa, a retainer of Toyotomi Hideyoshi's. After Iyeyasu moved his shogunate to Edo, the castle was occupied by various hereditary vassals of the Tokugawas: the Honda Clan for 44 years, the Mizuno Clan for 117 years, the Matsudaira Clan for 8 years, and then again by the Honda Clan, who occupied it for 102 more years. Although the castle-town of Okazaki was only "gomangoku" (that is, in times of peace it produced a rice harvest of only nine million kg [9,920 U.S. tons] each year), it is said that the occupying daimyo always took great pride in serving there as the lord of the castle. As the birthplace of Iyeyasu, Okazaki Castle was seen as a holy site.



▲ Portrait of Saigō Tsugiyori (Shōrakuji Temple in Kōta-chō)

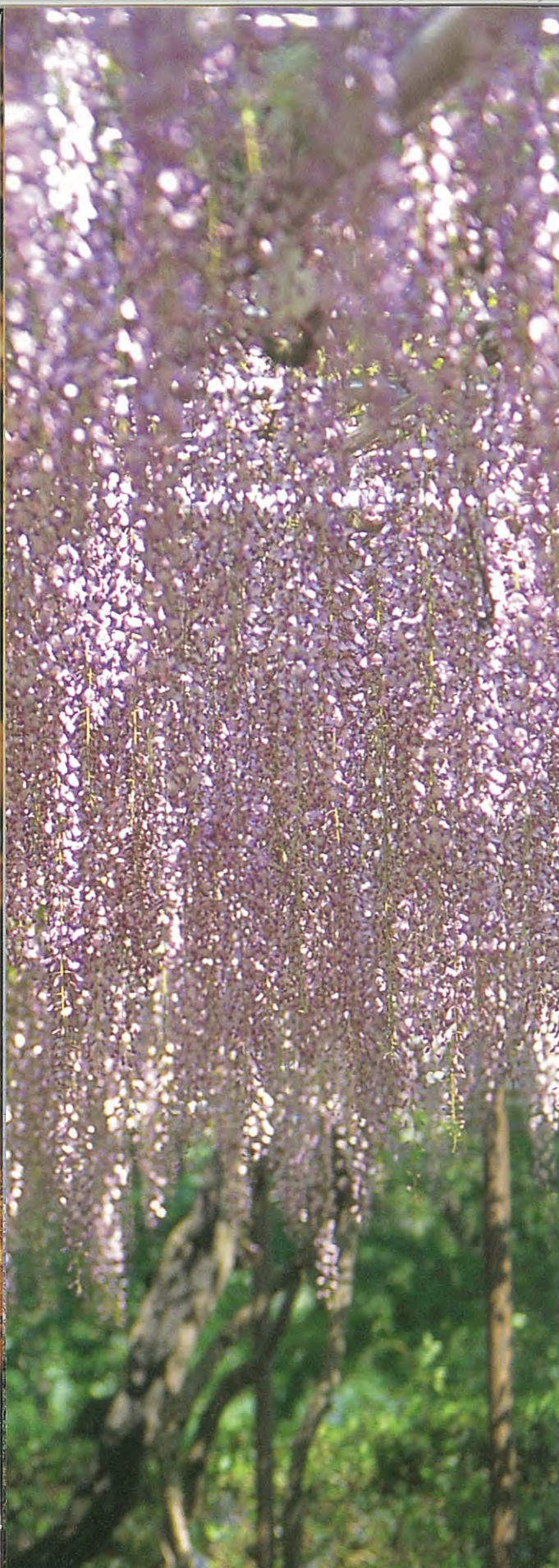


With both an impregnable fortress and its position as one of the best stations along the Tōkaidō Road, Okazaki flourishes.

Okazaki Castle was originally built by Saigō Tsugiyori, the castle's first ruler, but Tanaka Yoshimasa added the 4.7km (roughly 3 miles) of moats on the north, east and west sides and established the castle-town. When the Tōkaidō Road, one of the major roads connecting Edo (modern-day Tōkyō) to Kyōto in the Edo Period, was brought to the town, Okazaki, the archetype of the Japanese castle-town, was complete. The streets back then had many turns and curves, which made the town "hard to attack and easy to defend". All this turning and curving resulted in quite a length of street, along which many shops opened up, which in turn boosted the economy. During the time of Honda Yasushige, the occupying lord after Tanaka,

the Tōkaidō Road was extended onto the castle grounds and the layout of the town – now with '27 turns' – was complete. Honda Yasunori turned the castle into a well-protected fortress by building the 3-story keep with a basement floor, well house, ancillary turrets and a turret on each corner, and he took advantage of the lowlands and river to the west and south, building fortifications to the east and north. The town was complete, and by 1617 was one of the foremost stations on the Tōkaidō Road. The streets were lined with inns; general stores and shops selling rice cakes, tobacco and souvenirs; and local specialties like Hatchō Miso and Awayuki Tōfu were born. Okazaki was booming like never before.





OKAZAKI CASTLE

大河浪漫
OKAZAKI



Replica of Iyeyasu's Gold-Lacquered Armor

B 3 Okazaki-jō Tenshukaku (Okazaki Castle Keep)

The keep (*tenshukaku*) was built in 1455 by Saigō Tsugiyori, the guardian of Mikawa. Some 70 years later, it served as the residence of Matsudaira Kiyoyasu, grandfather of Iyeyasu. It came under the control of the Imagawa Clan after Hirotada, Iyeyasu's father, was killed. After returning home from the Battle of Okehazama, Iyeyasu took the castle back and brought peace to Mikawa, which served as his base for uniting all of Japan. Today, the keep houses a museum.



B 3 Ôtemon Gate

The Ôtemon Gate stands 11 m (36 ft) tall and 16.4 m (54 ft) across, serving as the entryway to Okazaki Park. It was built alongside National Route 1 in 1993. The stone base is made of locally quarried and polished granite, while the hip-and-gable (*irimoya*) roof is covered with Edo tiles. Today, the gate has become a symbol of the city.



B 3 Karakuri Tokeitō (Karakuri Clock Tower)

This popular little clock tower is located near the Iyeyasu and Mikawa Samurai Museum. When the three clocks strike each hour, they pop open and Iyeyasu appears on the lit stage dressed in Noh costume. He performs a traditional Noh dance to music and closes with some of his famous last teachings.



B 3 Okazaki-jō Ninomaru Nôgakudô (Okazaki Castle Ninomaru Noh Theater)

The Ninomaru is known for being the first municipally-run Noh theater in Japan. It was built on the site where the Ninomaru (second compound) of Okazaki Castle once stood, in a style that gives the visitor a sense of what it must have been like in Iyeyasu's time. The theater hosts Noh and other traditional performances and in this way contributes to education and the promotion of local culture.

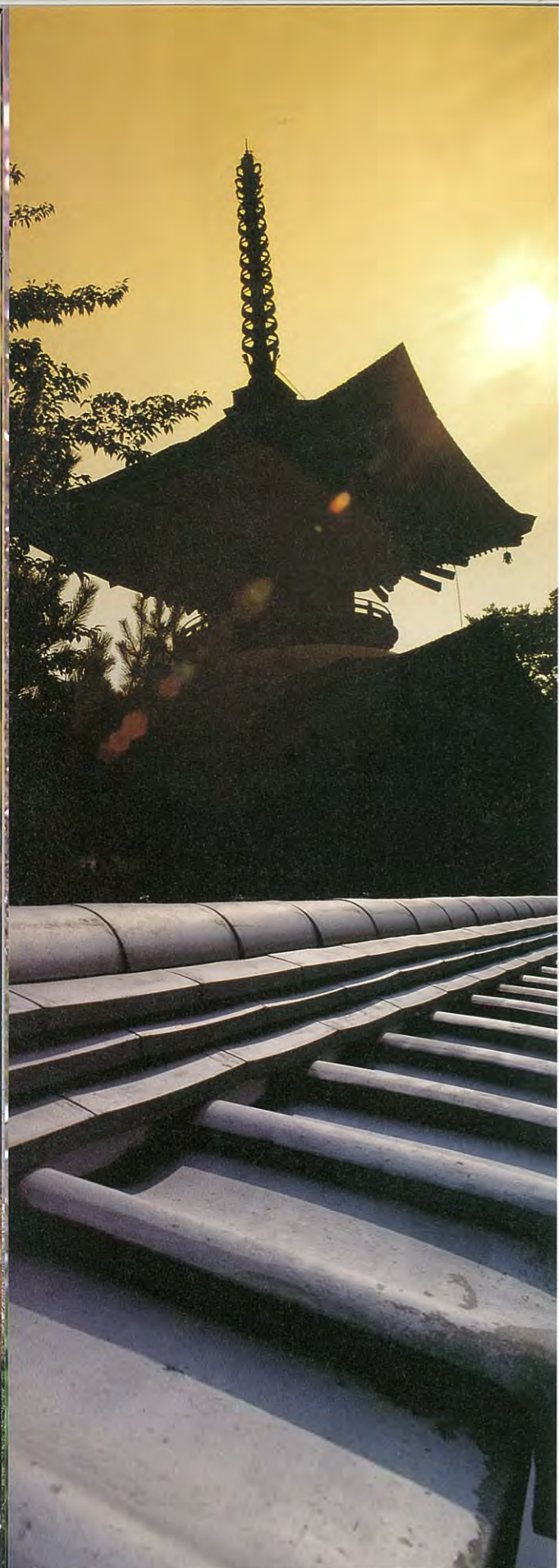
B 3 Mikawabushi no Yakata Iyeyasukan (The Iyeyasu and Mikawa Bushi Museum)

This historical museum opened in 1982 in the western corner of Okazaki Park, on the site where the *ninomaru* (the second compound of the castle; please also see below) once stood. The permanent collection presents a chronological exhibition divided into themes, beginning with the Mikawa samurai and continuing through the history of the eight generations of the Matsudairas, Iyeyasu's ancestors, and the 75 years of Iyeyasu's life. In addition, there are frequent special exhibitions, a library, video-room and storehouse, making the history of Mikawa accessible to all.



B 3 The Gomangoku Wisteria in Okazaki Park

Along the banks of the Otagawa River on the southern edge of Okazaki Park extend 1,300 m² (nearly 14,000 ft²) of trellises from which dangle the long clusters of beautiful, violet wisteria flowers, or *fuji* in Japanese. The Gomangoku wisteria is the official flower of the City of Okazaki. Every year from late April to early May, the Gomangoku Wisteria Festival is held to celebrate the splendor of the blossoming *fuji*.



B 2 Daijuji Temple • Tahôtô

Built in 1535 by Matsudaira Kiyoyasu, grandfather of Ieyasu, Daijuji is the family temple of the Matsudaira Clan and the family of Tokugawa generals. The 2-tier structure with its rectangular first floor and round second floor has been designated one of Japan's Important Cultural Properties. Also noteworthy are the beautifully-carved beam tips and frog-leg struts from the late Muromachi Period. There is a splendid view of the Tahôtô Pagoda through the sliding doors on the west side of the main hall.

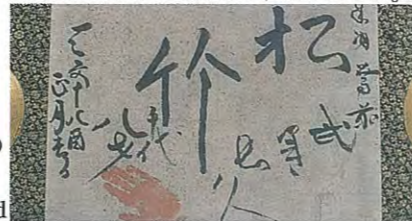


Wooden statue of Tokugawa Ieyasu (Motoyasu)

Writing from Ieyasu's Childhood (said to have been written by Ieyasu himself)

D 5 Hôzôji Temple

Hôzôji Temple is where Ieyasu studied from 8 years of age. Many articles from Ieyasu's childhood can be seen here, including his old ink stone and case, samples of handwriting (which served as his "textbooks"), his desk, his ink-stained kimono, and his *harayumi* (special bow and arrows believed to keep away evil spirits and ensure proper growth). There are also many cultural properties on the grounds, most notably the Kaiunshori Kannon in the hexagonal tower, Tôshô Gongengû Shrine, a cherry tree Ieyasu planted himself, a pine tree where Ieyasu hung his books and a well where he drew water for calligraphy. Also, on the hillside is a burial mound said to entomb Kondô Isami, the leader of the Shinsen-gumi.



THE LIFE OF IYEYASU; HISTORIC SITES

B 2 Daijuji Temple • Sammon Gate

It was here that Ieyasu came after the Battle of Okehazama; though originally determined to kill himself before the graves of his ancestors, he was persuaded otherwise by the priest Tôyo, and found new hope in life. The Sammon Gate of Daijuji Temple was most revered by the Tokugawas. Named a Cultural Property of Aichi Prefecture, the Sammon Gate was built in 1641 by third shogun Iyemitsu, along with the bell tower and Sammon Gate. The sign on the front of the temple displaying the name "Daijuji" was written by Emperor Gonara (who reigned from 1536 to 1557) himself. On top of the gate are enshrined several wooden figures, three of Buddha and sixteen of his disciples.



▼ Daijuji Shôgun Onari no Ma

Daijuji Temple burned down in 1855. When it was rebuilt to original scale in 1857, Reizei Tamechika painted his "Emperor En'yû's Amusement on the Day of the Rat" on the sliding fusuma doors in the Hall of Generals. The doors are designated important cultural properties by the Japanese government.



大河浪漫 OKAZAKI



B 3 Rokusho Jinja (Rokusho Shrine)

At the top of the stone staircase - which in ancient times only the more powerful daimyos were allowed to ascend - is the ornately colored *rômon* gate, beyond which lies the shrine building. Many generations of Matsudairas revered the shrine as the guardian of their native area. The beautiful carvings and rich colors are from the Edo Period (1603-1867). The sanctuary (*honden*), inner offering hall (*heiden*), worship hall (*haiden*), *rômon* gate and offering-house (*shinkusho*) are all designated as important cultural properties by the Japanese government.



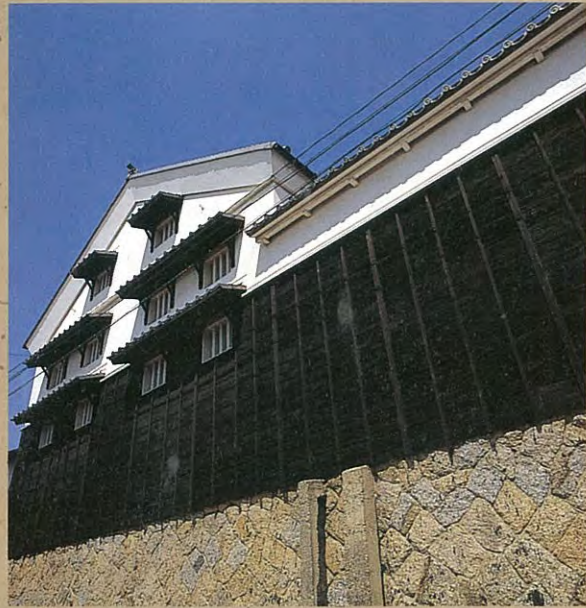
B 3 Iga Hachimangû Shrine

Matsudaira Chikatada, the fourth-generation leader of the Matsudaira Clan, brought this guardian deity from Iga, in Mie Prefecture, and prayed here for protection in battle and for the prosperity of his children and grandchildren. Generals throughout the Edo Period worshipped here, as did Ieyasu himself prior to major battles. The sanctuary, inner offering hall, worship hall, see-through fences, offering-house (*gokusho*), Zuishimmon Gate and sacred bridge are all designated important cultural properties by the Japanese government.



A 3 Myôenji Temple

Myôenji Temple was built in 1258 by Andô Satsumanokami Nobuhira, the Lord of Hekikai, who in 1235 was so impressed by the monk Shinran that he abandoned his life as a warrior to take Buddhist rites. Many years later, Ieyasu sought refuge here during the Mikawa Rebellion. Up until that time, the temple's name was written with different characters. Ieyasu later gave the character *gen* (meaning "origin") to the temple, from which it gets its current name Myôenji. Myôenji Temple is said to have the oldest *dôjô* belonging to the Shin Sect of Buddhism.



Okazaki shuku
岡崎宿

B 3 Toyumizuru no Kamban
(Bowstring Makers Shop Sign)

The home of bowstring maker Mori Genjiro still preserves the look of the Edo Period (1603-1867). The tools used to soften the cotton Mori Genjiro used in making his bowstrings tell the tale of Okazaki as a cotton-producing region.



B 3 Hatchôkura-dôri

The village of Hatchô (literally meaning "eight cho") got its name because it was eight cho (approx. 87m; 2850 ft) from Okazaki Castle. The renowned miso made here is also called Hatcho miso, and today there are still two shops here that produce it. The narrow street lined with miso storehouses gives visitors a sense of what it was like long ago.



B 3 Okazaki Shin'yôkinko Shiryôkan (Kyû-shôkôkaigisho)
(Okazaki Shinkin Bank Museum, former Chamber of Commerce and Industry)

This Renaissance-style brick building was built in 1917. On exhibit inside are some monies from around the world and the history of Okazaki's economy.



Stone Statues

Lining both sides of the Okazakishuku Temma Rekishi Promenade are 20 stone statues that recount the history of the mail-horses (temma) when Okazaki functioned as one of the foremost relay stations along the Tōkaidō Road.



C 3 Kakemachi Nijunanmagari no Hi
(Kakemachi and the "27 Turns" Stone Marker)

In Kakemachi, at the starting point of the "27 Turns," is a stone marker that shows how the Tōkaidō Road used to go through the city.

C 3 Kyôdokan

(Okazaki City History Museum)

The building itself was built in 1913 as the Nukata County Public Hall and commercial exhibition hall. Architecturally, it is a faithful representation of the western styles common at that time. The Japanese government has named the building an Important Cultural Property of Japan. In 1969, the city took over the facility and turned it into a local history museum. Exhibits include a collection that belonged to world-renowned geographer Shiga Shigetaka, born in Okazaki, and information on the history of the Mikawa region.



SHUKUBA-MACHI

Fujikawashuku was the 37th station from Edo and about 1km (0.625 miles) in length. The active life of the relay post was supported by 302 homes, 1 wholesaler, 1 military headquarters with barracks, and 36 inns. The castle-town and station of Okazaki was also a busy place as the roads and rivers were used for distribution. Curves were added to the Tōkaidō Road for defensive purposes, which earned it the name "27 Turns". In Fujikawashuku, one can enjoy the atmosphere of the ancient roads; in Okazakishuku you can follow the curves of the "27 Turns".



C 5 Fujikawa no Matsu-namiki

(The Rows of Pines at Fujikawa)

Around 90 black pines tower over this stretch of road (roughly 1km; 0.625 miles), giving visitors a feel for what it must have been like to travel long ago. These rows of black pines were named a Natural Monument of the City of Okazaki in 1963. Amongst the trees stands a giant pine nearly 30m (98 feet) tall with roots 2m (6.5 feet) around.



C 5 Kôsatsu

A kôsatsu is a signboard with rules or laws that was put up in busy markets or crossroads. There were reportedly 8 in Fujikawashuku. Only 6 remain today, 3 of which are in the Fujikawashuku Museum.



C 5 Higashi Bôhana

This was the eastern entrance to the relay station. Utagawa Hiroshige, a famous ukiyo-e (woodblock print) painter of the Edo Period (1603-1867), painted Fujikawa as the entrance to the 53 stations of the Tōkaidō Road. It was and still is a symbol of Fujikawa.



藤川宿
Fujikawa shuku



C 5 Fujikawashuku Wakihonjin Ato

(Site of the Barracks at Fujikawashuku)

These barracks were built to house soldiers in the Edo Period (1603-1867). It is said to be the oldest building associated with Fujikawa as a station on the Tōkaidō Road. The current gate dates back to the late Edo Period. The barracks house the small Fujikawashuku Museum.



C 5 Basho no Kushi

(Basho Monument)

This monument is engraved with a haiku about Fujikawa composed by poet Matsuo Bashô. It reads (roughly), "Here, in Mikawa, irises of purple wheat." In connection with this poem, local people began growing the purple wheat once more, and now the wheat makes a colorful spectacle for those who visit the area in mid-May.

CULTURAL LANDMARKS

C1 Okutono Jin'ya (Okumoto Manor House)

Okutono Jin'ya dates back to Sanetsugu, son of Sanenori, a fifth-generation Ogyū-Matsudaira. Sanetsugu, a first-generation Okutono-Matsudaira, unified the region. Later, in 1711, Norizane, a fourth-generation Okutono-Matsudaira (and the first ruler of the area known as Okutono-han) moved the manor house to Okutono, marking the start of Okutono-han. Today visitors can see an earthen wall that surrounds a beautiful white-walled home on a small hill and part of the homes of the descendants of the samurai. Other sites worth visiting are the *Kimpōki* tea room that has been reproduced in the style of the early Edo Period (from 1603), and the *Hōrai* Garden.



B2 Shinkōmyōji Temple

Built by third-generation Matsudaira Clan head Nobumitsu, the temple is known for its historical connection to the Matsudaira Clan. Ise Shinkurō (later known as Hōjō Sōun), attempted to burn the temple down; the Kannon hall survived the fire and is now an important cultural property of Japan.



B4 Ueji Hachimangū Shrine

Said to have been built by Minamoto Noriyori, the main hall, 3 bays wide with a flowing-style gable roof of the same size on both sides, with shingles of Japanese cypress bark, is an Important Cultural Property of Japan. The shrine also houses a "groaning stone" that is said to groan on nights when it threatens to rain.



F4 Ten-onji Temple

The central temple of the Mikawa Region. Built in 1362 by Ashikaga Yoshimitsu as the dying wish of Ashikaga Takauji. It contains the oldest *yakuimon* gate in Japan and a Buddhist image typical of the Muromachi Period (1336-1573) and such is recognized as an important cultural property of Japan.

C2 Takisanji Temple • Sammon Gate

Under the orders of Emperor Temmu, this temple was originally called Kichijōji Temple and was dedicated to the Buddha of Healing (*yakushi nyorai*). There are many officially-designated important cultural properties, including the Kamakura-style main hall and Sammon Gate, and life-size Kannon statues of Minamoto Yoritomo.

大河浪漫 OKAZAKI



B4 Toro Hachimangū Shrine

The main hall of this shrine also has a 3-bay structure, plus a stage. It is named an important cultural property of Japan. The shrine was burned down during the rebellions, but it is said that Iyeyasu ordered Ishikawa Kazumasa to rebuild it.



D5 Shinsen-gumi Kondō Isami Kubizuka

(The Tomb of Kondō Isami, Leader of the Shinsen-gumi)

The hillside of Hōzōji Temple is a peaceful site protected by ancient pines and giant cedars, and graced with the gentle trickle of a crystal clear spring. Here lies the tomb of Kondō Isami, the leader of the Shinsen-gumi.



A2 Kitano Haiji Ato

(Kitano Temple Ruins)

In the Hakuho Period (645-710), a *shitennoji*-style temple with a tower 30m (98 feet) tall, a golden pavilion and lecture hall all stood on this site, arranged in a straight line. It is a park today with stone foundations marking the layout of the buildings to help visitors imagine what it might have been like in its time. Designated as an important cultural property of Japan.



C4 Ōhira Ichirizuka

Ichirizuka (similar to mileposts) were placed every *ri* (approx. 4km/25 miles) from Nihombashi in Edo (modern-day Tōkyō). In a local song about Mikawa fireworks, this particular *ichirizuka* is mentioned as a "place where people look up into the sky". Designated as an important cultural property of Japan.



E3 Ōgawa Shimmeigū no Butai

(Ōgawa Shimmeigū Shrine Rural Community Stage)

A beautiful outdoor stage with a thatched roof. Built in 1882 and used until 1955. It features a revolving stage and various other facilities.

C4 Nishiōhira-han Jin'ya Ato

(Nishiōhira Manor House Site)

Here stood the manor house of the Ōoka Clan, who ruled Nishiōhira for many generations. This illustrious family held the post from 1748, when Ōoka Tadasuke, (who was the protector of the Echizen area - present day Fukui Prefecture), was named the daimyo, until the Meiji Period. Today, only the site remains



B3 Shingū Iseki

(Shingū Shrine Ruins)

The historical significance of this site spans the broad period of time from the end of the Jōmon Period (300 B.C.) to the Heian Period (794-1185), and many scientifically important artifacts have been unearthed here. It is a rare site in Japan as scientists continue to find artifacts even now. Designated as an important cultural property of Japan.



C1 Shimpukuji Temple

This famous temple was one of 46 built in the Hakuho-style by Prince Shotoku. It is commonly known as a temple of healing and is well-known for its traditional dishes featuring bamboo shoots.



G4 Manzokudaira no Shishigaki

(Manzokudaira Stone Wall)

A stone wall built to keep wild boars, deer and monkeys out of the fields. A fine example of the work of the people who worked the land many years ago.





Kuragari Canyon Cottage



H 4 Kuragari Keikoku
(Kuragari Canyon)

Complete with a campsite for camping and a cottage, this is a perfect environment to be at one with nature. Campsites are equipped with barbecues and campfires. In this beautiful environment one can relax in the calmness of the stream and enjoy trout fishing.

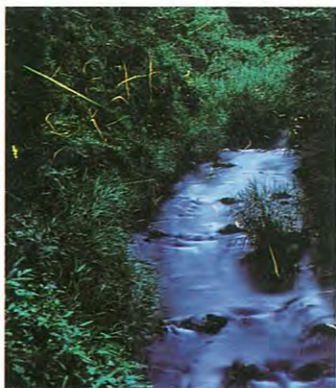
Autumn Leaves
(mid-November~early-December)



G 3 Zemanjō Kayabuki Yashiki

(Zemanjō Thatched-Roof Dwelling)

The traditional landscape of an old farm village lives on in Zemanjō where the old thatched-roofs of the mountain village meet the city. In the nearby terraced rice fields one can experience farming, making buckwheat noodles and other country crafts.



F 5 Hotaru(Fireflies)

Many kinds of fireflies, including two species of Japanese fireflies, the *genji* and *heike* fireflies, can be seen for about one month from mid-June.

F 4 Otogawa Yana(Otogawa River Weir)

This kind of weir is used in a traditional way of catching fish. Nowadays the area is open from late May to late October and catching sweetfish, or *ayu*, by hand is popular with both young and old.



B 1 Okazaki Shizentaiken no Mori
(Okazaki Eco-Education Forest)

The park is nestled in a rich natural environment and is open to all. Visitors can learn about the environment and at the same time experience the great outdoors.



C 3 Okazaki-shi Bijutsu-hakubutsukan
(Okazaki City Museum)

The Okazaki City Museum, also known as the Mindscape Museum, is located in Okazaki Chūō Sōgō Park. The museum is the first of its kind, its exhibits focusing on the mind, heart and soul of humanity. The atrium near the entrance is a must-see. Special exhibitions are held periodically.

COMMUNE WITH NATURE,
AND BE ENLIGHTENED...



C 4 Okazaki Sekai Kodomo Bijutsu-hakubutsukan(The World Children's Art Museum in Okazaki)

On display are works created during the childhood years of some of the greatest artists from Japan and abroad. The museum was created as a place where children, who will, after all, someday be in charge of the world, can gain a broad international perspective on life, feel creatively stimulated, and deepen their feelings of friendship. At the Oyako Zōkei Sentā (Family Workshop) next door, families can enjoy the experience of making things together.



B 4 Minami Park

This park boasts an amusement park, a pool and a transportation plaza. Attractions popular with families include the ferris wheel and cycle monorail. The plum grove is a famous flower-viewing site as well, bringing beautiful tidings of the coming spring.



Winter

D 5 Yamanaka Hachimangū Shrine Denden Gassari Festival (January 3, Maigi-chō)

This is a traditional festival dating back to the Muromachi Period. The festival consists of four parts: opening songs, closing songs, recitations and acting. Every scene features songs and prayers for a good harvest.

B 1 Iwazu Hatsutenjin

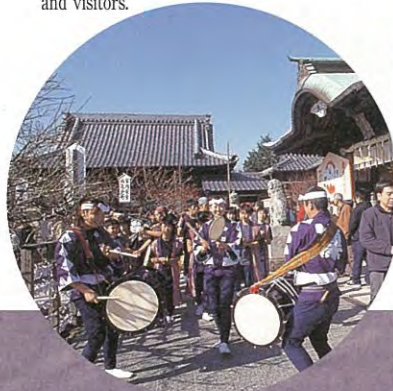
(The Saturday & Sunday closest to January 25, Iwazu-chō)

Iwazu Temmanjū Shrine is believed to house the deity which oversees academic achievement, and many people visit this shrine throughout the year to pray for academic success. These first days are particularly lively, with plenty of activity and visitors.



C 2 Taksanji Oni Matsuri (Oni Festival at Taksanji Temple)

(The Saturday closest to the 7th day of the first month of the lunar calendar, Taki-cho)
This festival originated in the Kamakura Period (1185-1333), and was celebrated by the shogunate during the Edo Period (1603-1867). This intensely exciting fire festival is held to pray for good harvests and peace. It has officially been designated as an intangible cultural asset of Aichi Prefecture.



B 3 Iyeyasu Gyōretsu (Iyeyasu Parade)

(1st or 2nd Sunday in April, from Iga Hachimangū Shrine to the banks of the Otogawa River)

This parade features more than 1,000 participants dressed as warriors and cavalry, all centered around Tokugawa Iyeyasu. The parade is reminiscent of an ancient picture scroll; the battle reenactments will take one back in time to Japan's Warring States Period (1467-1568).



G 3 Zemanjō Kagura

(Sunday closest to April 16)

Kagura is a traditional kind of sacred music and dance performed at shrines. A lion dance related to historical traditions is offered to the gods.

B 3 Okazaki Kankō Natsumatsuri Hanabitaikai (Okazaki Summer Festival Fireworks Show)

(1st Saturday in August, on the banks of the Oto and Yahagi Rivers)

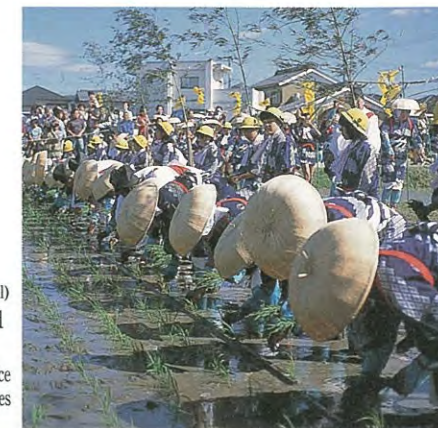
This is the place to be when it comes to Mikawa fireworks. More than 20,000 fireworks including skyrockets, "starmines," "goldfish fireworks" and combinations of all descriptions light up the evening sky above the banks of the Otogawa and Yahagigawa Rivers.



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B 3 Shimmeigū Taisai (Simmeigū Festival) (Second Saturday & Sunday in May, Nomi-Shimmeigū Shrine)

The streets around Nomi-Shimmeigū Shrine come to life as parishioners pull 8 danjiri floats along the festival route. The floats - lit with Japanese lanterns - create an almost magical scene after sunset, as they make their way into the shrine.



A 5 Daijōsai Yukisaiden Ottauematsuri

(Daijōsai Yukisaiden Rice-Planting Festival)
(Early June, Shimoaono-chō and Nakajima-cho)

This festival is held in order to pray for a good rice harvest. Participants dress in old-fashioned costumes and use tools from times past to plant rice.

Summer

B 3 Okazaki Kankō Natsumatsuri Gomangoku Odori/Mikoshi

(Okazaki Summer Festival Gomangoku Odori Dance/Mikoshi Floats)
Some 3,000 people flood the street on the night before the Okazaki Summer Festival Fireworks Show to dance the Gomangoku Odori, and dozens of mikoshi floats decorated specifically for this event are paraded through the streets.



Autumn

B 3 Yahagi Jinja Taisai (Yahagi Jinja Festival)

(Early October, Yahagi Jinja Shrine)
Yahagi Jinja Shrine stands on the west bank of the Yahagigawa River and enshrines Susano'onomikoto, a god that features in Japanese mythology.

F 4 Natsuyama no Hi Matsuri (Natsuyama Fire Festival)

(Sunday closest to the 9th day of the 9th month on the lunar calendar)

The fire festival of the brave. Traditionally if one is hit by the burning stick that is held by the oni, or devil, you will have good luck.



Winter

Plum Blossoms

〈Late January~Early March〉

Minami Park [B4]
Iwazu Temmangū Shrine [B1]

Minami Park has around 170 plum trees, both crimson and white, that come into bloom in unison. The graceful fragrance is a pleasant reminder that spring is on the way.



Minami Park



Okuyamada-cho

Cherry Blossoms

〈Early~Mid-April〉

Okazaki Park [B3] Okuyamada-cho [C1]
On the banks of the Igagawa River [B3]

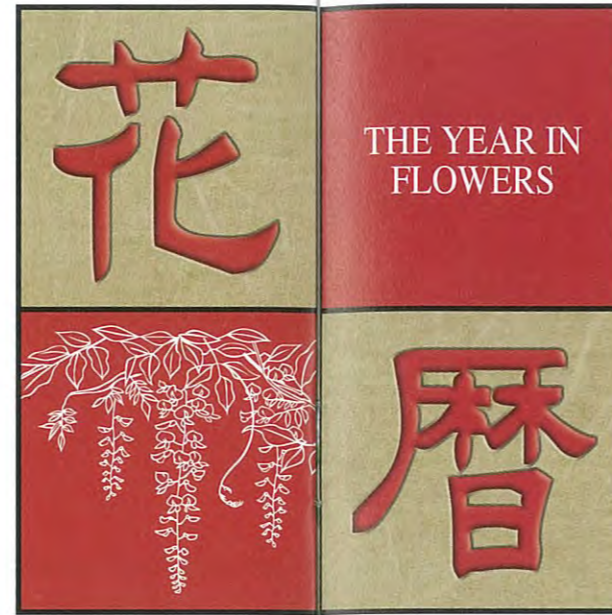
The 1,700 or so cherry trees around the keep of Okazaki Castle have been selected as one of the Top 100 scenic spots in Japan. Nighttime viewing is highly recommended as the trees are illuminated. Another terrific location for viewing cherry blossoms is along the banks of the Igagawa River. Also, in Okuyamada-cho there is a majestic drooping cherry tree some 17 m (56 ft) tall with roots 2.5 m (8 ft) around. The tree's branches span 15 m (49 ft) east to west, and 17 m (56 ft) north to south. The tree has been named a natural monument of Okazaki. It is said that Emperor Jitō himself planted the tree, approximately 1,300 years ago. The tree is lit up at night.



Okazaki Park



On the banks of the Igagawa River



Summer

Hydrangea

〈Late June~Early July〉

Kuwagai Sansō Lodge [D6]

These gorgeous hydrangeas open up into large blossoms of colorful petals all around this hilltop estate some 350 m (1150 ft) above sea level. During the hydrangea festival the area is quite lively and hosts several events, particularly morning markets.



Irises

〈Late May~Mid-June〉

Higashi Park [C3]

In Higashi Park visitors can stroll about, commune with nature and learn about Japanese culture. There is an iris garden nearly 2,900m² (31,200 ft²) in area. Some 9,000 flowers blossom all at once, their vivid colors announcing the arrival of early summer.



Cosmos

〈Mid-~Late September〉

Okutono Jin'ya (Manor House) [C1]

Beautiful cosmos flowers bloom in gardens near to Okutono Jin'ya, adding color to the autumn mountains.



Chrysanthemums

〈Late October~Early November〉

Okazaki Park, [B3]

and other places around the city

In the Mikawa area, the world of chrysanthemums centers around Okazaki. Displays feature some 2,300 pots of *tairin*, dwarf *fukusuke* and many other varieties. It is the largest such event in Aichi Prefecture and there are opportunities to purchase flowers at wholesale prices and learn about growing chrysanthemums.



Spring



Azaleas

〈Late April~Early May〉

Okazaki Park [B3]

Beautiful pink and white azaleas line the entrance to the park and the castle moat. Many people come every year to enjoy the spectacular view.

Wisteria

〈Late April~Early May〉

Okazaki Park [B3]

The wisteria is the official flower of the City of Okazaki. The trellises in Okazaki Park beautifully display the dangling bunches of violet wisteria flowers. The wisterias, along with the azaleas that bloom during the same period, are lit up at night.

Roses

〈Late May~Early June〉

Okutono Jin'ya [C1]
(Okutono Manor House)

The view of the gardens from the study that was restored on the site where the Okutono Clan had their manor house is spectacular. From the roses of early summer to the other seasonal flowers, visitors are always treated to a beautiful sight.



Autumn



Kaore Canyon

Autumn Leaves

〈Mid-November~Early-December〉

Higashi Park [C3] Kuragari Canyon [H4]
Kaore Canyon [F2]

Be surrounded by the beautiful autumn leaves, the fresh air and the gentle sounds of running water. A beautiful environment for hiking or a picnic.

OKAZAKI SPECIALTIES

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◆ Traditional Foods

Wholesome specialties such as *nameshi* rice and *dengaku* (a type of miso cuisine) can be found throughout Okazaki. Okazaki continues to preserve these traditional tastes, which are rooted in local history and in the land itself. The local cuisine, which is only prepared with the finest ingredients, is highly recommended.

◆ Jinenjo

Jinenjo, or Japanese yams, are full of nutrients and have a thick, sticky consistency when finely shredded or grated. One of the great blessings from the mountains.



◆ Hatcho Miso

Dating back nearly 600 years, Hatcho miso takes its name from the village where it first began. Allowed to ferment for 3 years, Hatcho miso has a special taste, specific to Okazaki. It has been known nationwide ever since the Edo Period.

◆ Grape Picking C2



(Late July ~ Early October, Komadachi-chō) For over 30 years, residents and visitors have been enjoying picking grapes in Komadachi-chō. Greenhouse grapes are also available for picking during inclement weather. Have fun, pick all the grapes you can eat, and even take a souvenir bunch home! Recreational facilities are also available.

◆ Tōfu

Made from the finest ingredients and pure natural mineral water, much care and time is taken to ensure that each batch of tōfu develops the sweet, full flavor for which it is well-known.



◆ Sweets

Thanks to an abundance of local specialties and the city's history as a castle-town and station on the Tōkaidō Road, Okazaki boasts a number of special confections. One of the most famous is "Awayuki," which has been on the market since the early Meiji Period. The idea for this sweet came from the Awayuki Tofu which is produced by the teashop known as Awayuki-jaya. This tofu was very popular with travelers on the Tōkaidō Road.



◆ Local Saké

To brew quality saké, good-tasting rice and water are essential. Blessed with both, Okazaki is home to numerous brands of saké. While preserving the history and traditions of saké brewing, a variety of personal touches have been added along the way, and the saké produced is well-liked among connoisseurs.



ふるさとへまめを知らせの
旅づとは岡崎味噌のなれて送る荷
吉田松陰

技

OKAZAKI CRAFTSMANSHIP



◆ Mikawa Fireworks

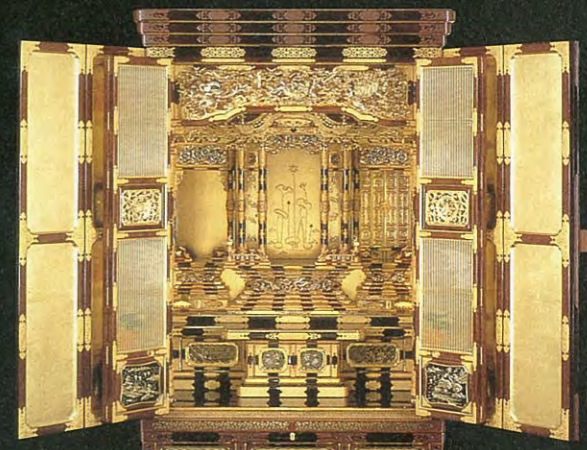
Fireworks were allowed for entertainment purposes for the first time by the second-generation shogun Tokugawa Hidetada, since which time they have developed as an intricate part of local festivals. The skill is carried on today by craftsmen who create their colorful skyrockets and combinations of fireworks.

◆ Stonework

Okazaki's relationship with stone products is said to date back to the locally-quarried blocks of granite used to build Okazaki Castle. In the early 16th century stonemasons from Izumi and Kawachi (present day Ōsaka Prefecture) were invited to Okazaki and commissioned to construct a wall around the castle. They stayed on in the area, eventually developing the trade that continues today. To this day a wide variety of stone products are made using locally-quarried granite.

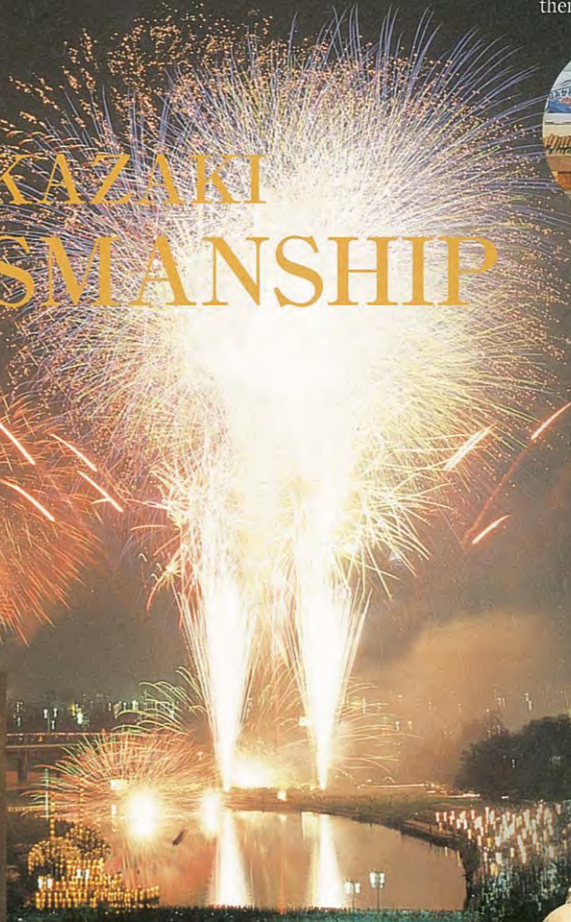
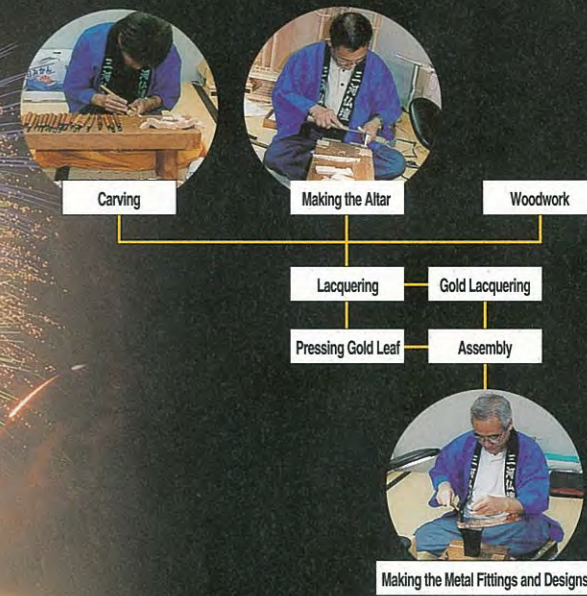


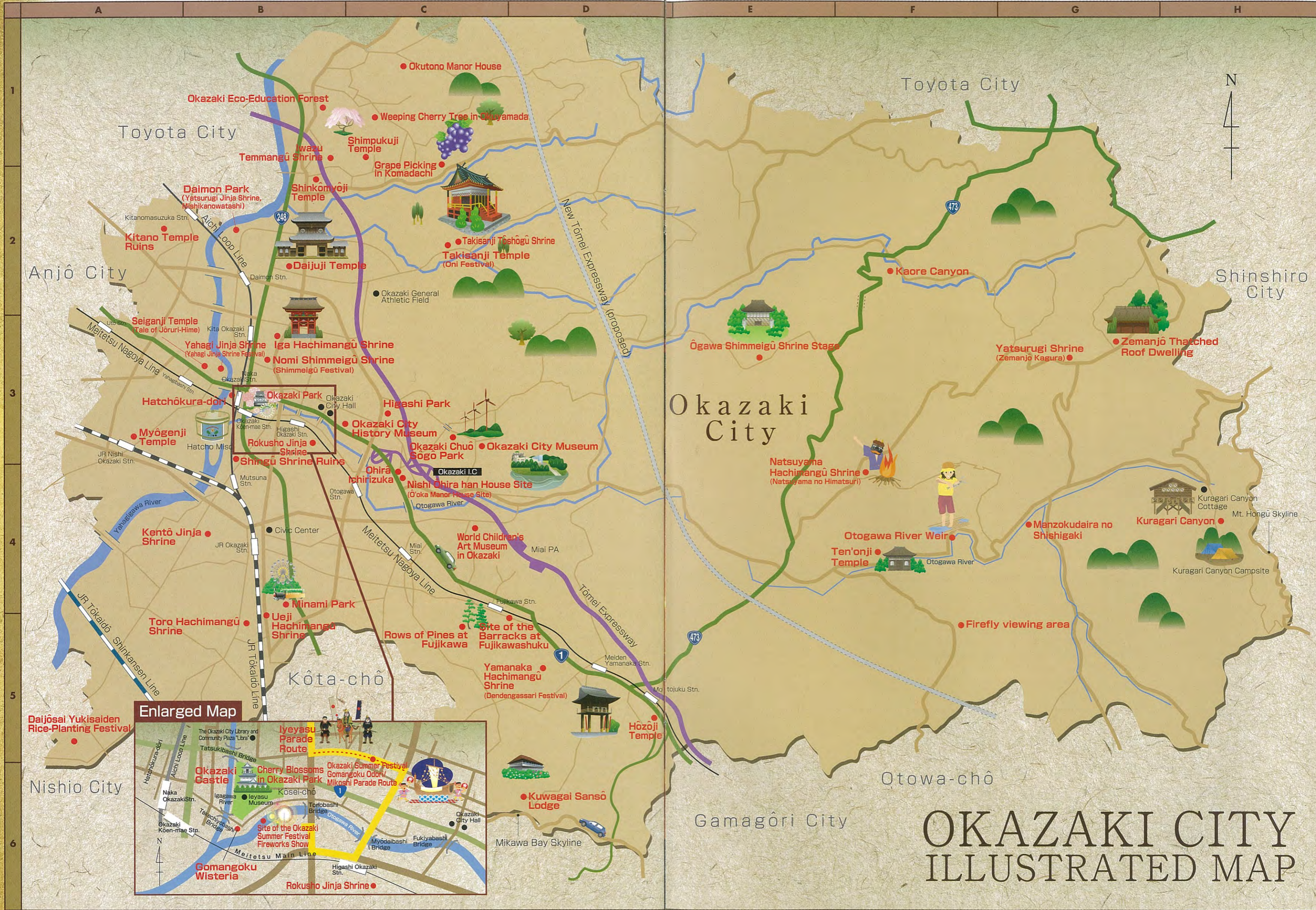
大河浪漫 OKAZAKI



◆ Mikawa Buddhist Altars

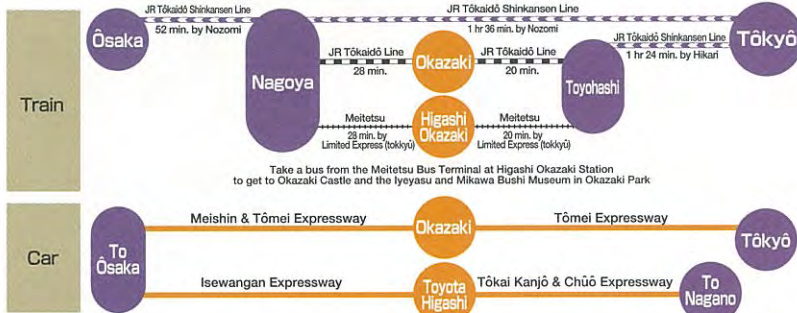
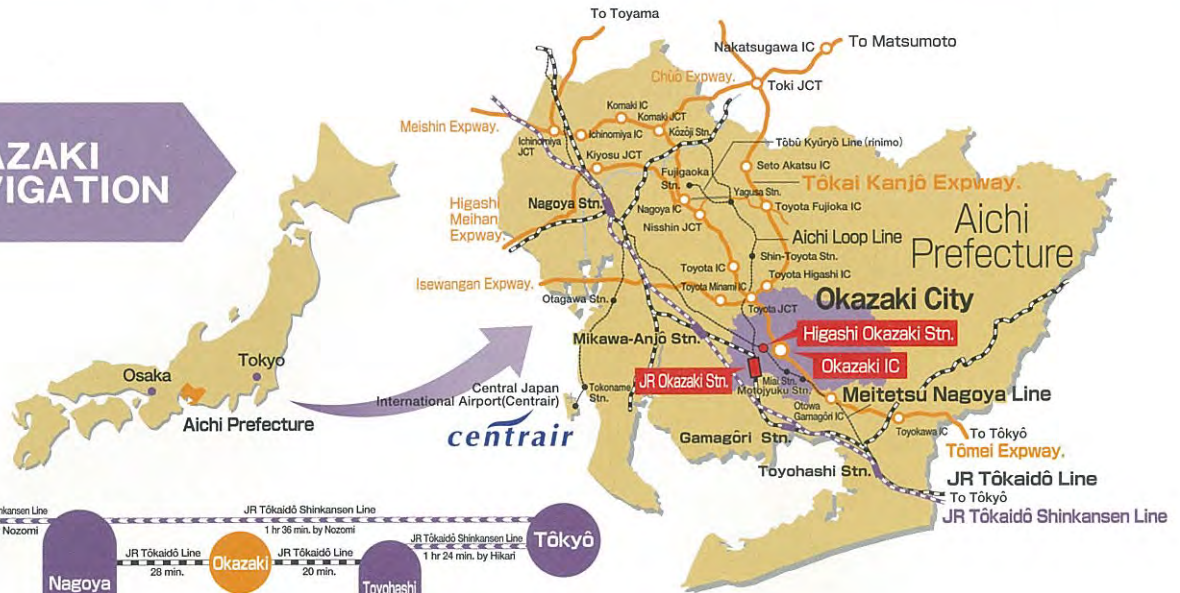
The Buddhist altar trade of Mikawa is said to date back to 1704. The tray section of Mikawa altars is lower down than usual, making it easy to make one's daily offerings. Craftsmen use a very elaborate style known as *unerinageshi* carving that incorporates the splendor of temple altars into a scaled-down version for the home. These altars are characterized mainly by their intricate carving.





OKAZAKI CITY ILLUSTRATED MAP

OKAZAKI NAVIGATION



Train and Bus

Aichi Loop Line ... 0564-32-3911
 JR Tōkai (Train) ... 0564-52-5584
 Meitetsu Train ... 0564-22-0424
 Meitetsu Bus ... 0564-21-1918

Taxi

Ōwa Taxi ... 0564-33-2222
 Okajō Taxi ... 0564-21-0066
 Okariku Taxi ... 0564-53-5411
 Kamome Taxi ... 0564-25-1234
 Meitetsu Taxi ... 0564-51-1111
 Hōei Taxi ... 0564-31-2268

◆Facilities and Attractions

Name	Telephone (area code 0564)	Closed	Hours	Admission	please see page:
Okazaki Castle	22-2122	Dec. 29 - Jan. 1	9:00 - 17:00	Adults/200 yen, Children/100 yen	5
Ieyasu and Mikawa Bushi Museum	24-2204	Dec. 29 - Jan. 1	9:00 - 17:00	Adults/350 yen, Children/200 yen	6
Okazaki Shinkin Bank Museum	24-2367	Mondays, National Holidays and December 31-January 3	9:00 - 17:00	Free	9
Okazaki City History Museum (formerly Nukata County Public Hall)	23-1039	Mondays, days following national holidays, Dec. 29 - Jan. 3	9:00 - 17:00	Free	9
Fujikawashuku Museum	23-6177 (City of Okazaki Community Education Division)	Mondays, Jul. 1, Dec. 29 - Jan. 3	9:00 - 17:00	Free	10
Okutono Manor House	45-7230	Mondays (Tuesday, if Monday is a national holiday), New Year's holidays	9:30 - 16:30	Free	11
Nishiōhira Manor House Site · Shimpukuji Temple · Takisanji Temple	23-6177 (City of Okazaki Community Education Division)			Free	11
The Okazaki Eco-Education Forest	45-5544	Mondays (The first business day after Monday, if Monday is a national holiday), Dec. 28 - Jan. 4		Free	13
Kuragari Canyon	83-2057			Entrance is free. A fee is charged for use of some of the facilities.	13
Zemanjō Thatched Roof Dwelling	83-2590	Tuesdays	10:00~20:00, Accommodation available	Entrance is free. A fee is charged for use of some of the facilities.	14
Minami Park	52-9095	Thursday (Friday, if Thursday is a national holiday), Dec. 29 - Jan. 3		Admission to park is free; fees charged at each attraction	14
Okazaki City Museum	28-5000	Mondays (a later day if Monday is a National Holiday), December 28-January 3. Open 10:00-18:00 June-September, 10:00-17:00 October-May.		It depends on the exhibition.	14
Okazaki Chûô Sôgô Park	25-7887	Mondays (a later day if Monday is a National Holiday), December 28-January 3	9:00 - 21:00	Entrance is free. A fee is charged for use of the facilities.	14
The World Children's Art Museum in Okazaki	53-3511	Mondays, the day after National Holidays (open if it is a Saturday) August 22, December 28-January 3.	9:00 - 17:00	Adults/300 yen, Junior High School Students/100 yen	14
Okazaki Hall of History, Osamu Uchida Jazz Collection Exhibition Room (The Okazaki City Library and Community Plaza "Libra")	23-3100	Wednesdays (Open if it is National Holiday), Dec. 29 - Jan. 3	9:00 - 21:00	Free	

◆Shrines and Temples

Name	Telephone (area code 0564)	please see page:
Daijuji Temple	21-3917	7
Takisan Tōshōgū Shrine	46-2516	7
Hōzōji Temple	48-2636	8
Myōgenji Temple	31-5402	8
Rokusho Jinja Shrine	51-2930	8
Iga Hachimangū Shrine	26-2789	8

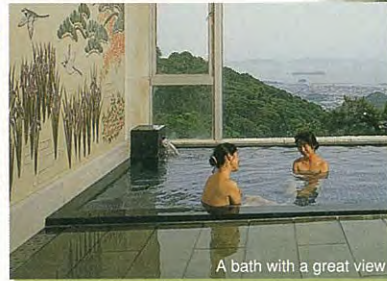
Name	Telephone (area code 0564)	please see page:
Shinkōmyōji Temple	45-2100	11
Ueji Hachimangū Shrine	51-9127	11
Ten'onji Temple	82-2433	12
Shimpukuji Temple	45-4626	12
Takisanji Temple	46-2296	12
Iwazu Temmangū Shrine	45-2525	17

OKAZAKI CITY ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

Come spend a peaceful day
communing with nature

Spring is for wild cherries, camellias and bush warblers chirping in the trees.
Summer is for the cool breezes at 400 m (1300 ft) above sea level and colorful hydrangeas.
Autumn is for walking in the woods.
Winter is for building stamina with Hatchō miso!

Dating back to the time when the Mikawa warriors included Hatchō miso in their provisions, miso-based cuisine is still the pride of our hilltop retreat. Sampling the food of the proud warriors, made with the tastes of Okazaki is simply a must.



A bath with a great view



Lobby

City of Okazaki Citizens' Recreation Facility
Kuwagai Sanso Lodge

桑谷山荘 284 Sensuyama, Yamatsuna-chō Okazaki, Aichi 444-3513
TEL.0564-48-2855 FAX.0564-48-7387

Guided Tours in Okazaki

Guided tours of the famous places associated with Tokugawa Ieyasu in Okazaki Park are offered free of charge. There are two courses to choose from: a 30-minute tour and a 1-hour tour; simply select whichever fits your travel schedule. Groups of all sizes are welcome. Please note that the guided tours do not take you inside Okazaki Castle or the Iyeyasu and Mikawa Bushi Museum. If interested, please apply by fax or telephone in advance. Let our guided tours add an extra dimension to your visit!



■ Available April 1 ~ November 30
■ To apply, please contact: 0564-23-3751 (Tel & Fax)
Tours are only available in Japanese.

【The Legend of Jōruri-Hime】



▲ Wooden figure of Jōruri-Hime (Seiganji Temple)

There was a rich man in Yahagishuku who had a beautiful daughter named Jōruri-Hime. When she turned 16 years of age, Hime fell in love with a man named Minamoto Yoshitsune who visited her house on his way to Tōhoku (the north-east). Having stayed a while, the time came for Yoshitsune to continue his journey; so he left Hime with a flute (known as 'usuzumi') which he had given her as a keepsake. As the days went by, Hime's longing to see Yoshitsune grew greater and greater. So much was her desire to meet him that she set out after him, but she was unable to catch up. Saddened by her unrequited love for Yoshitsune, Hime threw herself in the Sugōgawa River, ending her life. Ever since, the reeds that grow in Yahagishuku have borne just one leaf apiece, in sympathy for the feelings of Jōruri-Hime.



岡崎川物語

Okazaki River Folklore

【Three Deer Crossing】

In the year 1560, while on his way home after the Battle of Okehazama, Tokugawa Iyeyasu came to the Yahagigawa River only to find the water too high to cross. While trying to think of a solution, he decided to pray to Yatsurugi Jinja Shrine on the other side. All of a sudden, three deer appeared from behind a pine tree. As if showing him the way, the deer crossed the swollen river in a shallow spot, and Iyeyasu, too, made it across safely.



He was so moved by the event that he named the area Mishikanowatashi (three deer crossing). The pine tree where the three deer appeared is called Shikagamatsu (deer pine). Even today, the 3rd generation "descendant" of the Shikagamatsu is growing on the levee north of Okazaki Ōhashi Bridge.



For more information, please contact:

City of Okazaki Tourism Division / Okazaki Tourism Association

9, 2-chōme, Jūō-chō, Okazaki 444-8601
TEL (0564) 23-6216 / 6217

<http://www.city.okazaki.aichi.jp>