

“Craftsmen Skill” and the “Taste of Hometown”, the pride of Gifu City

The Taste of Hometown



Ayu Cuisine

Ayu (sweetfish) cuisine is a specialty of Gifu City. The 1300 year tradition of cormorant fishing on the Nagara River has supported Ayu cuisine. Please enjoy the specialty cuisine of each restaurant to your heart's content!



Medicinal Herb Cuisine

The mountains and fields around Gifu City are known as treasure houses of medicinal plants since ancient times. At Nagara River hot springs, healthy dishes using selected medicinal herbs can be enjoyed. (Reservations required)



Ayu Desserts

Ayu desserts associated with cormorant fishing on Nagara River, including rice gelatin wrapped in sponge cake and rice crackers in the shape of Ayu.



Dried Ayu / Ayu Wrapped in Seaweed

Young Ayu are filleted and salted, and dried overnight, or are wrapped in many layers of soft Konbu seaweed. Both have an exquisitely rich taste.



Crafts

Gifu Paper Lantern

Gifu is the production center of paper lanterns in Japan. Graceful pictures are drawn on Mino Japanese washi paper, attached to a bamboo frame. The soft light is relaxing.



Gifu Japanese Umbrella

Kanou, Gifu City, boasts the top production volume of Japanese umbrellas in all Japan. Japanese umbrellas are painstakingly constructed by craftsmen using a detailed process, and are recognized for their value as beautiful works of art.



Gifu Shibu Uchiwa (Fans)

Gifu fans are individually hand-crafted with Mino Japanese washi paper and bamboo. Shibu fans are finished with a coating persimmon tannin, providing outstanding original taste and beauty.



Special Products

Fuyu Persimmons

The Fuyu persimmon is called the king of persimmons, due to its high quality and shape, uniform color and elegant sweetness.



Edamame Soybeans

Land supplied by the Nagara River water system is the best suited for growing edamame soybeans, and has the top production volume in Japan.



Saba Strawberry

Cultivation of Saba strawberries began at the end of the Taisho era. Features include good color and shine, and large size.

● Access from Tokyo			
Train	Tokyo	Bullet Train Nozomi 1 hour 40 minutes	Gifu
		JR New Express 18 min.	
		Meitetsu Express 29 min.	
Bus	Tokyo (Shinjuku)	Highway bus via Chuo Expressway	Gifu
		6 hours	
Car	Tokyo	Tomei, Meishin, Chuo, Tokai-Hokuriku Expressways (Chinomiya-Kisogawa I.C.) 25 min.	Gifu
		6 hours	
		Gifu-Kakamigahara I.C. 20 min.	
● Access from Chubu International Airport			
Train	Airport	Meitetsu Express "μSKY" 56 min.	Gifu
		Centrair Line, Hantou Road, Nagoya / Higashi-Meihan / Meishin Expressway (Chinomiya-Kisogawa I.C.) 25 min.	
Car	Airport	75 min.	Gifu
		Gifu-Kakamigahara I.C. 20 min.	
● Access from Osaka			
Train	Osaka	Bullet Train Nozomi 52 min.	Gifu
		JR New Express 18 min.	
		Meitetsu Express 29 min.	
Car	Osaka (Toyonaka)	Expressway (Chinomiya-Kisogawa I.C.) 25 min.	Gifu
		2 hours 30 minutes	
		Gifu-Kakamigahara I.C. 20 min.	
● Access from Toyama			
Train	Toyama	JR Takayama Line Express 3 hours 30 minutes	Gifu
		JR Hokuriku / Tokaido Line Express 3 hours 10 minutes	
Car	Toyama I.C.	Hokuriku / Tokai-Hokuriku Expressway Seki I.C. 25 min.	Gifu
		2 hours 40 minutes	

Contact to

■ Gifu Convention and Visitors Bureau
TEL.+81-58-266-5588
2 2-chome, Kanda-machi, Gifu City
http://www.gifucvb.or.jp

■ Gifu City Tourism and Convention Division
TEL.+81-58-265-4141(Rep.)
11 1-chome, Kanda-machi, Gifu City
http://www.city.gifu.lg.jp

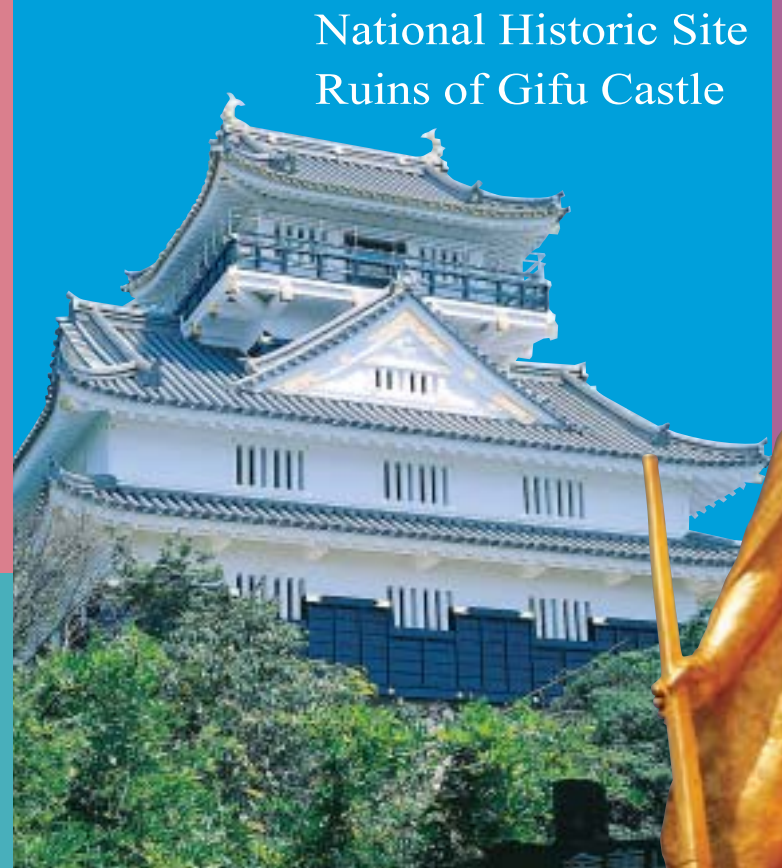
■ Gifu City Tourist Information Office
TEL.+81-58-262-4415
2nd Floor JR-Gifu Station

A City of Much Beauty Enchanting GIFU CITY

英語



Gifu Park Ropeway



National Historic Site Ruins of Gifu Castle



Golden Nobunaga Oda Statue



Panoramic Night View from Gifu Castle



Cormorant Fishing on the Nagara River



Kawaramachi Town

1300 years of tradition seen in elegant classic picture scrolls alive today

Cormorant Fishing



The good old view of the historic town

Watching closely...

◆Cormorant Fishing on the Nagara River in Gifu

Cormorant fishing on the Nagara River in Gifu is a summer attraction that still conveys the classical fishing method down to this day. This is old history, more than 1300 years old. In pitch-black darkness, flames of Kagari-bi (fishing fire lanterns) reflect off the surface of the river, *usho* (Cormorant Fishing Masters) and *u* (cormorants) slowly drift downstream, working together as they perform the classic "cormorant fishing." A gallant scroll of history unfolds before your eyes, inviting a world of subtly and awe. The best way to watch cormorant fishing is from the viewing boat. Viewing boats range in size from 15-50 passengers, and a barrier-free boat is also available. There is also a general viewing boat for even smaller groups and individuals.

◆Cormorant Fishing Viewing Boat Office and Waiting Area

The cormorant fishing viewing boat office and waiting area in front of the office were renovated to match the historical scenery of Kawaramachi town in May 2009. The meeting place is used not only by those who will ride the viewing boats, but also used by persons strolling through the town throughout the year.



Cormorant Fishing Viewing Boat Office
Address: 1-2 Minato-machi, Gifu City Telephone: +81-58-262-0104
Operating Season: May 11- October 15

Feel the ambition of Nobunaga Oda

National Historic Site

◆Gifu Castle

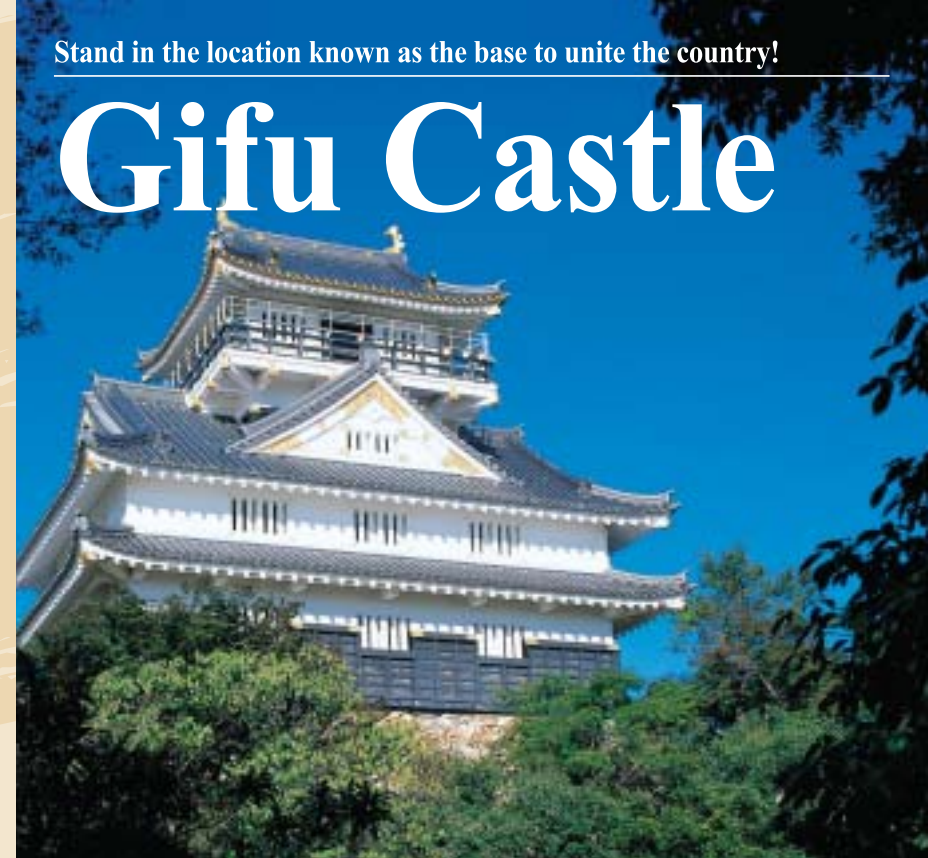
During the Kennin era (1201-1204), Yukimasa Nikaiko of the Kamakura bakufu first constructed a fortress atop Mt. Kinka. After that, the Saito clan, the head retainer for the Toki clan, stayed at the castle in Mino, but Dosan Saito overthrew his superiors and claimed the castle. In 1567, Nobunaga Oda killed Tatsuoki, the grandson of Dosan, claimed the castle and subdued the entire area. Previously called Inabayama Castle, the name was changed to Gifu Castle, and set as the base of subjection of the whole country for approximately 9 years until the construction of the Azuchi Castle. In 1600, at the preliminary encounter of the Battle of Sekigahara, the castle was invaded by the Eastern Army, because Hidenobu, grandson of Nobunaga, had joined the Western Army. The following year, Gifu Castle was abandoned, and the tower and turret, etc., were transferred to Kanou Castle. The current castle was built with reinforced concrete in 1956, and restored as a 3 tiered, 4 story castle. In 1997, fundamental reconstruction was carried out, and has since become a symbol of Gifu City.

The Mt. Kinka region, including Gifu Castle, has been designated as national historic site "ruins of Gifu Castle" since February of 2011.

Address: 18 Tenshukaku, Kinkazan, Gifu City
Telephone: +81-58-263-4853
Hours: Mar. 16- May 11 9:30-17:30
May 12- Oct. 16 8:30-17:30
Oct. 17- Mar. 15 9:30-16:30
*New Years only 6:30-16:30
*Extended hours for Panoramic Night View

Stand in the location known as the base to unite the country!

Gifu Castle



◆Nagara River Cormorant Fishing Museum

The Nagara River Cormorant Fishing Museum is the only facility in Japan which introduces cormorant fishing on the Nagara River through many various displays. Cormorant fishing on the Nagara River is representative of the traditional culture of Gifu City. While the actual fishing season is limited, the museum shares its beauty even during the off-season.

Address: 51-2 Nagara, Gifu City
Hours: May 1- Oct. 15 9:00-19:00
Oct. 16- Dec. 28 9:00-17:00
Jan. 4- Apr. 30 9:00-17:00
*Jan. 4- April 30, Oct. 16- Dec. 28, open everyday except non-holiday Tuesdays (if Tuesday is a holiday, the following Wednesday)
*Last entrance is 30 minutes before closing.



◆Cormorant Fishing Village

Cormorant fishing masters wearing Kazaori headwear and old style straw skirt costumes. The costumes are vestiges as a reminder that cormorant fishing was originally an imperial court event. Walking through the Cormorant Fishing Village, you may unexpectedly meet a cormorant fishing master wearing such a traditional costume. There are six cormorant fishing master houses in this village, with orderly stacks of firewood and cormorants in the gardens. Here, a scene of 1300 year old history can be seen everyday.



◆Cormorant Fishing Viewing Boat Dockyard

The dockyard for construction of wooden viewing boats, which is rare today. Boats built here do not come with a blueprint, but are skillfully constructed using the techniques and skills of the craftsmen. As such, only about 2 ships can be made in each year. For this reason, coming to view the dockyard is valuable.



◆Mt. Kinka

Mt. Kinka, situated in the heart of Gifu City, stands 329m high with Gifu Castle soaring above its summit. The view from the top floor of Gifu Castle is of the grand scale, which even Nobunaga Oda viewed with magnificence. And while being in the center of the city, it is surrounded by the castanopsis natural forest, filled with many kinds of thick growing ferns, and inhabited by over 60 kinds of birds, including *shijukara* (great tit) *yamagata* (varied tit) and *mejiro* (white eye). It is like a virtual natural museum.



◆Gifu Castle Museum

Located just east of Gifu Castle, and the former armory and food depository were restored as *Sumiyagura-jokaku tsukuri* (corner scaffold castle wall built) in April 1975, historical resources such as ancient texts, weapons and armor, and swords of the time periods from the Warring States to Edo, as well as the castle tower.



◆Mt. Kinka Ropeway

A cable car from Gifu Park to the top of Mt. Kinka in three minutes. Enjoy the beauty of nature during each of the four seasons and a view of Nagara River.

Address: 257 Senjojiki-shita, Gifu City
Telephone: +81-58-262-6784
Hours: Mar. 16- May 11 9:00-18:00
May 12- Oct. 16 8:00-18:00
Oct. 17- Mar. 15 9:00-17:00
*New Years only 5:00- 17:00
*Extended Operations for Panoramic Night View

The beautiful river chosen as one of the best 100 water places

Nagara River

Nagara River runs through the center of Gifu City, and is a symbol of Gifu City alongside Gifu Castle. Always brimming with water, the river flows gently but surely. Furthermore, it is the only river that has been selected as one of the "88 bathing areas throughout Japan." In the summer, couples, families, etc. enjoy intimacy with the river while they barbeque along the riverside, and play in the river. The friendly Nagara River is a symbol of relaxation for the towns people. Many fish inhabit its waters, and precious red spotted *masu* trout can often be seen. You can still see crowds of fishermen seeking to catch wild *ayu* (sweetfish). Such natural beauty has been maintained in the very heart of the major urban area, preserving the old town atmosphere from times gone by.



◆Nagara River Promenade

A 1.3km esplanade along the Nagara River, located upstream from the Nagara bridge. Facing Mt. Kinka and Gifu Castle, you can watch cormorant fishing in the night as well.



◆Nagara River Hot Springs

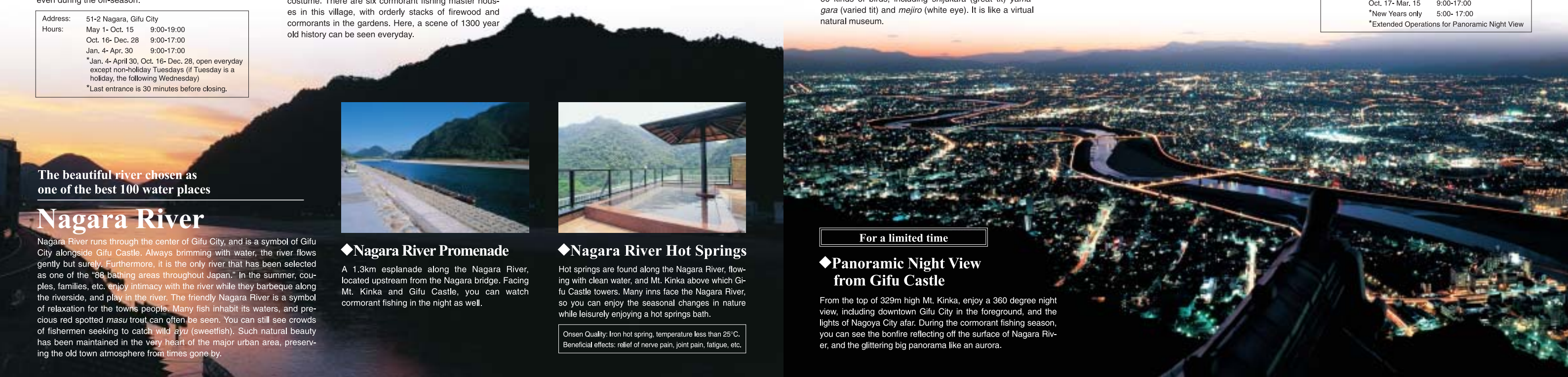
Hot springs are found along the Nagara River, flowing with clean water, and Mt. Kinka above which Gifu Castle towers. Many inns face the Nagara River, so you can enjoy the seasonal changes in nature while leisurely enjoying a hot springs bath.

Onsen Quality: Iron hot spring, temperature less than 25°C.
Beneficial effects: relief of nerve pain, joint pain, fatigue, etc.

For a limited time

◆Panoramic Night View from Gifu Castle

From the top of 329m high Mt. Kinka, enjoy a 360 degree night view, including downtown Gifu City in the foreground, and the lights of Nagoya City afar. During the cormorant fishing season, you can see the bonfire reflecting off the surface of Nagara River, and the glittering big panorama like an aurora.



A cityscape with a retro atmosphere, take a “stroll and remember the olden days.”

Soak up the unchanged town scenery of ancient Gifu

Kawaramachi Town

The town scenery extends from the cormorant fishing viewing boat office on the south of Nagara Bridge, towards the west. Minato-machi, Tamai-cho, and Motohama-cho are collectively called “Kawara-machi,” with a town scenery which looks like the open set of a movie with its continuous lattice doors. The shops of Gifu *Uchiwa* (fans), long-standing Japanese sweets shops, and galleries all operate while preserving a retro atmosphere. And over the past several years, modern restaurants taking advantage of the traditional shop building have appeared, and new attractions have been added. Since the town is close to the boarding place of the cormorant fishing viewing boats, taking a stroll before boarding is highly recommended.



A place for Gifu residents to relax.

Gifu Park

Embraced by Mt. Kinka and Nagara River, and Gifu Park is a popular place for residents and tourists to relax. Entrance to climbing Mt. Kinka and ropeway access are nearby, and there are many other places to see, such as the ruins of Nobunaga Oda's residence, the Kabuki gate, land monument where Kazutoyo Yamauchi and Chiyo got married, the Gifu City Museum of History, and Kato Eizo / Toichi Memorial Art Museum.



1 Sofuku-ji Temple

When Nobunaga Oda moved to Gifu, he established and preserved his family temple there. Even now, many mementos are still there, such as the father-son mausoleum behind the main temple, where mementos of the death of Nobunaga and Nobutada at the Honno-ji Incident are buried and their mortuary tablets are kept.



2 Jyozai-ji Temple

This temple was established by Dosan Saito as the base of his subjection of Mino Province during two generations with his father, and is the setting of the “Kunitori-Monogatari” novel by Ryotaro Shiba. This is the family temple of the Saito clan for three generations after Dosan, and there are pictures of Dosan Saito and Yoshitatsu Saito, national important cultural properties.



3 Gifu Great Buddha (Shoho-ji Temple)

The Great Gifu Buddha in Shoho-ji Temple is 13.7m high, and has a face length of 3.63m. Along with the Great Buddhas of Nara and Kamakura, the Gifu Buddha is called one of the three Great Buddhas in Japan. It is a dry lacquer Buddha molded from wood, bamboo, and clay, and covered with Japanese washi paper with sutras written on it, and the finished with gold foil. It is the largest Buddha in Japan made by this technique.



4 Japan-China Friendship Garden

This garden was constructed to commemorate the 10th anniversary of friendship city affiliation between Gifu City and Hangzhou City (China) in 1989. A pair of lions at the entrance, a Chinese-style gate, a mud wall, and a small arbor create an exotic mood. The pond was constructed to copy the popular West Lake of Hangzhou City, reflecting the scenery of four seasons.



5 Inaba Shrine

This shrine is thought to have been established when Emperor Keiko dedicated the land of Tsubakihara (currently Maruyama of Mt. Kinka) more than 1900 years ago. The enshrined deity is Inshikihiko-mikoto. He is popular as the general guardian deity of the birthplace of Gifu.



6 Gifu Park General Information

At the entrance of Gifu Park, replica old samurai residences from the Warring States Period, a three-storied pagoda and Gifu Castle can be viewed. In addition to general information about Gifu Park, souvenirs of Gifu are sold, and snacks and beverages are available. A rental bicycle station is also there.



7 Ruins of Nobunaga Oda's Residence

When you stand at the entrance, a huge Kabuki gate can be seen. A little further, you will encounter a walkway using huge stones, stone walls, earthen walls and channel paths, and foundation stones. These historical sites are precious pieces of proof of the ambitious days of Nobunaga. Current excavations are being carried out to clarify the overall facts.



8 Gifu City Museum of History

At Sengoku Wonderland, you can experience traditional games such as shell spinning tops and a dice game, or try on a kimono at the Rakuichi Stereoscopic Picture Scroll which reconstructs the town of Gifu during the Warring States Period when Nobunaga Oda was most active. You can also look at “Tenka Bird's Eye View Scroll” and view things from Nobunaga's viewpoint, and feel the past era.



9 Kato Eizo/Toichi Memorial Art Museum

This is the antique and godown type museum in the Gifu Park. The works of Kato brothers from Gifu City well known as painters are collected and exhibited.



10 Three-storied Pagoda

The vermilion three tiered tower is surrounded by green trees, and is located in the mountainside east of Gifu Park. The majestic appearance vividly draws attention from afar.



11 Nawa Insect Museum

One of the nation's most popular insect museum in Gifu Park. A large number of insect specimens from around the world, including the “Gifu butterfly (Japanese Luehdorfia),” are exhibited. Approximately 12,000 kinds and 300,000 specimens are stored.



12 Informal Tea Room

Casually enjoy green tea and sweets in a Japanese and calm atmosphere. *Suikinkutsu* (water koto cave) is established in the entrance, and a refreshing melody soothes the heart of visitors.



Spring

1 Chujyo-hime Seiganzakura (Early-mid April)

Tradition holds that this cherry tree was planted by Chujyo princess in Ganryo-ji Temple in the Nara era. The huge old tree is 8.1m high with a 1.5m base. It is a variation of the *yamazakura* (wild cherry tree), with 20-30 petals, and is designated as a national natural treasure.



2 Bairin Park (Mid February-end of March) Gifu Ume Festival (Early March)

Bairin park is one of the most famous parks for *ume* trees (Japanese plum) in the Tokai District, with approximately different 50 kinds and 1,300 trees. "Gifu Ume Festival" is held during the blooming season, with various events such as a photo session, tea ceremony, and *koto* (Japanese harp) performances.



3 Cherry trees blooming along Nagara River (End of March-early April)

During the cherry blossom season each year, cherry blossoms are at their peak from the Nagara Bridge to the Obusa bank on the right, and to the entire Gifu Park and the Japan-China Friendship Garden on the left. Crowds flock to view the cherry blossoms both day and night.



4 Gifu Festival (Yoimiya) / Dosan Festival (First Saturday in April) (First Saturday in April and the following day)

This annual temple celebration of shrines in the city, includes Inaba Shrine, guardian deities of the birthplace of Gifu, and Kogane Shrine. The festival is filled with activity, and four floats and miniature shrines are designated as important tangible folk cultural properties of Gifu City. Dosan Festival is held in the center of the city during the day, and is surrounded by cheerful atmosphere such as miniature shrine parade.



5 Tejikara Fire Festival (Second Saturday in April)

This gallant fire festival has been designated as an important intangible folk cultural property of Gifu City. Around 7pm, waterfall fireworks built 20m atop in the shrine are ignited. While the roar of the firecrackers resounds, naked men in high spirits carry the miniature shrine which is also ignited with fireworks, dancing feverishly. In the explosive rain of sparks, the audience becomes intoxicated by the performance of flame and noise.



Summer

6 Nagara River Firework Festival (Last Saturday in July, first Saturday in August)

The summer festival where fire art burns the night sky. Pyrotechnicians gather from all over Japan for this festival which is famous in Japan both historically and in scale. Beautiful, large flowers are painted on the summer night sky one after another, as fireworks, both traditional and new, brightly color the dark night.



7 Nagara River Noh night performance by firelight (August)

With Mt. Kinka as the backdrop, Noh and Kyogen plays are performed on a stage built along the clear waters of the Nagara River. The staging of fire taken from the bonfire on cormorant fishing boat floating along on the Nagara River is especially beautiful, even among Noh throughout the country, and transports the audience to the world of illusion and romance.



8 Tejikara Fire Festival / Summer (Second Sunday in August)

"Tejikara Fire Festival" held every April at Tejikarao Shrine is replayed with Mt. Kinka and Nagara River in the background. Miniature shrines are carried by half naked men marching under a curtain of fireworks falling from 20m above, splashing from the miniature shrines. Handheld fireworks are also lit simultaneously at the festival's climax. Also, fireworks shooting up from the ground are another feature of this festival.

Events in Gifu City, experience Japan's four seasons

Jan. Mid January

Dairyu-ji Temple memorial service for Daruma (Dairyu-ji Temple)

Feb. 3rd

Gyokushouin Setsubun Tsurikomi Festival (Gyokushouin Temple)

Mar. Early March

Gifu Ume Festival (Bairin Park)

First Sunday

Mieji Festival (Mieji Kannon)

Apr. First Saturday and Sunday

Gifu Festival / Dosan Festival (Throughout the center of the city)

Second Saturday

Tejikara Fire Festival (Tejikarao Shrine)

May. 11th

Opening day of cormorant fishing on Nagara River (On the riverside of Nagara River)

Jul. Last Saturday

Gifu Castle Panoramic Night View (Gifu Castle)
National Nagara River Chunichi Fireworks Competition (On the riverside of Nagara River)

Aug. First Saturday

Nagara River Noh night performance by firelight (On the riverside of Nagara River)

First Saturday

National Fireworks Competition (On the riverside of Nagara River)

Second Sunday

Tejikara Fire Festival / Summer (Nagara River Park)

Oct. First Saturday and Sunday

Gifu Nobunaga Festival (Throughout the center of the city)

End of October - End of November

Chrysanthemum Doll Show, Chrysanthemum Exhibition (Gifu Park)

Nov. November 1 - May 10

Houseboat Hospitality

Dec. Second Saturday

Ikenoue Misogi Festival (Katsuragake Shrine)



Autumn

9 Dondan Azalea (Enkianthus perulatus) at Dairyu-ji Temple (Spring / Fall)

Dairyu-ji Temple, also known as "Daruma Kannon," is famous for its Doudan azaleas. Approximately 1,200 Dondan azaleas are planted in the temple garden and along the back of the mountain, some bushes are over 350 years old. Many people come to enjoy the white flowers blooming in the spring, and the changing colors of the leaves in autumn.



10 Gifu Nobunaga Festival (First Saturday and Sunday in October)

This festival honors the great works of Nobunaga Oda who tried to unite the whole country, starting with Gifu Castle. Various events are held such as the "Nobunaga Soldiers' Mounted Parade" through the main street, a historic pageant for boys and girls, a musical band parade, and "Residents' Free Parade."



11 Chrysanthemum Doll Show, Chrysanthemum Exhibition (End of October - end of November)

The Chrysanthemum Doll Show, Chrysanthemum Exhibition is held in Gifu Park, with approximately 3,000 carefully cultivated chrysanthemums, such as "Minogiku," which was produced in Gifu and boasts a large flower, as well as "Yamagiku," and "Oogiku," on exhibition.



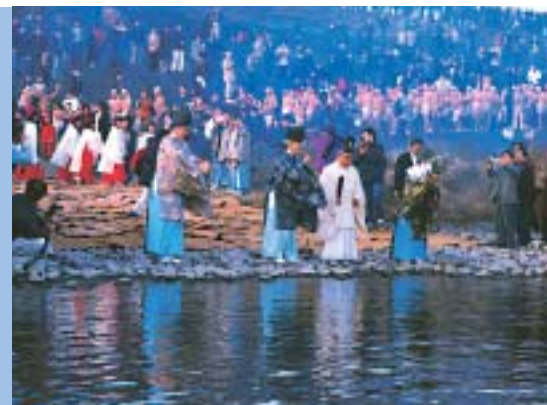
12 Autumn colors at Matsuo Pond (End of November - early December)

Built as an irrigation reservoir in 1885, the pond is fed by clear stream water from Hagi Waterfall. In the autumn, when the mountains are filled with many colors, many photographers visit in search of the beautifully colored leaves reflecting off the pond and lovely water birds.



13 Ikenoue Misogi Festival (Second Saturday in December)

At this festival, men clothed in loincloths and towels wrapped around their heads dive into the intense cold of Nagara River and blowing wind, cleansing themselves of the sins of the year, and offering prayers.



14 Gyokushouin Setsubun Tsurikomi Festival (February 3)

The Tsurikomi Festival at Gyokushouin in Kanoutenjin-machi is a traditional event where one prays to strip off all bad luck and ask for good luck. On the night of February 3rd, a miniature shrine with a "red ogre" and an ancient style court carriage with an "ofuku-san" circles Kanou town, and when it reaches the temple grounds, the "red ogre" and "ofuku-san" are lifted up to the main temple, and the festivities reach their climax.



15 Koyomi no Yobune (Winter solstice)

Under the editorship of Katsuhiko Hibino, a Gifu born artist, a new winter tradition is carried out with the voluntary participation of many residents. Large paper lanterns in the shape of numbers are placed on houseboats, cruising the Nagara River. Subtle, profound, and artistic beauty can be seen in the paper lanterns which take advantage of traditional culture such as Japanese washi paper, bamboo, and paper lanterns.



16 Houseboat Hospitality (November 1 - May 10)

Converse with nature on a houseboat floating on the clear waters of Nagara River with Mt. Kinka in the background. Enjoy local Okumino *Kojidori Nabe* (chicken pot soup), *sukiyaki*, etc., or have a party in the warm houseboat. Operations are from November 1 to the following May 10, during the cormorant fishing off season.