

Recommended Walking Courses

These walking courses designed by the Yamanaka Onsen Tourism Association make a great way to enjoy the natural beauty, history, and seasonal dishes of Yamanaka Onsen.

Trace the Footsteps of Matsuo Basho
Required time: about 50 minutes/about 0.5km

Basho-no-Yakata Museum ⇄ Site of Izumiya Ryokan (the Japanese-style inn where Basho stayed) ⇄ "Kasa-no-Tsuyu" drinkable onsen / "Ashiyu" foot spa ⇄ "Kiku-no-Yu" bathhouse / Yamanaka-za ⇄ Ioji Temple (free entry to the exhibition hall)

"A Walk Along the Streets of Yamanaka Onsen"
Required time: about 1 hour/about 1.2km

Korogi-bashi Bridge ⇄ Minami-machi Yuge Kaido District ⇄ "Kiku-no-Yu" Hot Spring/Yamanaka-za ⇄ Souvenir Shops ⇄ The "Shamisen-dori" Ave ⇄ Kurotani-bashi Bridge

For Ryokan(Japanese-style Inn) Information:

Kagari Kisshotei かがり吉祥亭	.....	(0761)78-2223
Kayotei かよう亭	.....	(0761)78-1410
Kissho Yamanaka 吉祥やまなか	.....	(0761)78-5656
Kuriya Yasohachi 厨八十八	.....	(0761)78-8080
Kocho 胡蝶	.....	(0761)78-4500
Shirasagiyu Tawaraya 白蘆湯たわらや	.....	(0761)78-1321
Suimei Katsura Gyoen 翠明桂御園	.....	(0761)78-1616
Suzuya Konnichiro すずや今日楼	.....	(0761)78-4848
Select Grand Kagayamanaka セレクトグランド加賀山中	.....	(0761)78-1122
Yukai Resort Yosinoya Irokuen 湯快リゾート よしのや依緑園	.....	(0570)550-178
Hanamurasaki 花紫	.....	(0761)78-0077
Usagi-no-Oyado Tsuki Monogatari うさぎのお宿 月物語	.....	(0761)78-4126
Ohanami Kyubei お花見久兵衛	.....	(0761)78-1301
Miyakowasure-no-Yado Koorogirou みやこわすれの宿 こおろぎ楼	.....	(0761)78-1117
Yamanaka Onsen Kajikaso Royal Hotel 山中温泉 河鹿荘ロイヤルホテル	.....	(0761)78-5550
Yukai Resort Yamanaka Grand Hotel 湯快リゾート 山中グランドホテル	.....	(0570)550-178
Yukai Resort Yamanaka Onsen Hana-Saichoraku 湯快リゾート 山中温泉 花・彩朝楽	(0570)550-178

Yamanaka Onsen Tourism Association Ryokan Cooperation Association

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Highlights of Yamanaka



Kurotani-bashi Bridge (Autumn)



Kiku-no-Yu (Winter)



Kakusenkei Gorge Walking Path (Summer)



Kakusenkei Gorge Riverside Seating Area (Spring)



Korogi-bashi Bridge (Summer)



Hot Spring District (Spring)



Kakusenkei Gorge (Autumn)



Korogi-bashi Bridge (Winter)

YAMANAKA ONSEN WALKING MAP



Sightseeing Destinations

A Yamanaka-za

Yamanaka-za features a stately atmosphere, with its lacquered pillars and lattice-style walls, and the maki-e inlay work on the ceiling. On Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, geisha performances are held here — just one of the forms of traditional culture that visitors can enjoy. Admission: Adults ¥700, children ¥350

B Great Sugi of Kayano

This 2,300-year-old sugi cedar tree is located at Sugahara Shrine, and known in Japan as the emperor's great sugi cedar tree. The tea house in front of the shrine offers delicious kusa-dango dumplings, and is a must-visit while you're here.

C Ioji Temple

Established 1,300 years ago by the Buddhist priest Gyoki, this temple protects the town's hot spring. Offers a magnificent view of the hot spring town.

D Yamanaka-za & Kiku-no-Yu Bath (women's bath)

This elegant and feminine building is located near the source spring for Yamanaka Onsen. At the Kasa-no-Tsuyu foot bath in front of Kiku-no-Yu, visitors can even drink the spring water. Yamanaka-za next door is a concert hall where Yamanaka geisha shows are performed, and is worth a visit simply to see the beautiful maki-e inlay work and Yamanaka lacquerware in the recessed panels of the ceiling in the lobby. Coin-operated lockers available for bath visitors.

E Soyu Kiku-no-Yu Bath (men's bath)

This bath has not once changed its location in the 1,300 years or so since this town's hot spring was first discovered by the Buddhist priest Gyoki. Until the early to mid 20th century, the town's ryokan inns didn't have their own baths — instead, overnight guests would come out to use this bath. This bath was also praised by the famous haiku poet Basho as one of Japan's three finest.

Kiku-no-yu admission (for men's or women's bath): Adults ¥440, children 6-11 ¥130, children 3-5 ¥50, children under 3 free

F Korogi-bashi Bridge

Famed for its breathtaking views all year round, and beloved by famous Japanese poets like Basho and Yumeji.

G Ayatori-hashi Bridge

This uniquely S-shaped bridge was designed by Hiroshi Teshigahara. Its redish purple color offers a stunning contrast with the surrounding natural scenery through all four seasons.

H Kurotani-bashi Bridge

A stone bridge that conjures up romantic images of the early 20th century, and was once crossed by many travelers along the Nata Road on their way into Yamanaka.

I Yamanaka Lacquerware Museum Yamanaka Urushi-za

Learn all about Yamanaka Lacquerware through exhibits of outstanding pieces and items available for sale. (Open daily)

J Katsura Shozu Spring

Long ago, visitors who came for the baths' medicinal properties would be reluctant to part with the ladies who assisted them here.

K Basho-do Hut

Dedicated to the haiku poet Basho, who famously praised this hot spring.

L Hakusan Shrine

The subordinate shrine for the Hakusangu shrines scattered around the area. Features beautiful cherry blossoms in spring.

M Kakusenkei Gorge Riverside Area

This popular destination is open through the end of October. Enjoy the lush greenery of the gorge and the peaceful sound of the water, as you relax with some delicious sweets in this beautiful environment.

N Tengu Rock

They say that if you see the three rocks at the top of the mountain from far away, it's a sign of good things to come.

O Great Three-forked Sugi

This 2,300-year-old sugi cedar tree at Sugatani Hachiman Shrine is 54 meters tall and eight meters around its base. The tree is said to possess a feminine beauty, and the mossy path to it has a quiet beauty all its own.

P Tsubaki Shozu Spring at Tokushoji Temple

Tsubaki Shozu spring, the yatsubusa ume plum tree, and okoshi-kake rock are remnants from the Buddhist priest Rennyo that can still be found here today. It's a bit out of the way, but worth the trip.

Q Basho-no-Yakata Museum

Learn about Basho's most famous work, Oku no Hosomichi, and traditional handicrafts. Admission: ¥200 (Closed Wed.)

R Rokuro-no-Sato Kogei-no-Yakata

Try wood-turning and weaving at this hands-on workshop. (Closed Wed.) Tel: (0761) 78-2278

S Hasebe Shrine

Dedicated to Hasebe Nobutsura, a man closely tied to Yamanaka Onsen's revival.

T Mugen-an

A samurai house from the age of the Kaga Domain, built in the Shoin-zukuri style. Admission: ¥500 (Closed for year-end & new year holidays)

Local Shops

- Kakusenkei Café "Higashiyama Bonheur"**
Enjoy beef stew rice in a grown-up atmosphere. (Closed Thu.)
- Kinuya Kutaniyaki Pottery Workshop**
Offering Kutaniyaki pottery and souvenirs. Their Yukatabe Ningyo dolls are especially popular. (Closed Thu. afternoons)
- Shirukuro Hands-on Pottery Workshop (inside Kinuya)**
Try the popular electric pottery wheel hands-on experience, or paint your own Kutaniyaki pottery or Yukatabe Ningyo doll. (Closed Thu. & Fri.)
- Japanese Sweets "Sankaïdo"**
Japanese sweets for a touch of luxury. (Closed Tue.)
- Suzuki Meat**
Offering ready-to-eat food like outstanding sukuyaki croquettes. (Closed Wed.)
- Handmade Gyoza Dumplings "Choraku"**
Delicious gyoza dumplings that can be mail-ordered to anywhere in Japan. (Closed Thu.)
- Ideyu Café "Sennokura"**
Offering gyosomen, thin "noodles" made from cooked ground fish. (Open daily)
- Kodesen**
Try their delicious soft-boiled onsen eggs or kamaboko fish cakes, or egg-flavored soft-serve ice cream. (Open daily)
- Yamanaka Ishikawaya**
Their Nyanya Manju sweets are a famous local specialty. (Closed Wed.)
- Gallery Keikan**
Featuring a permanent exhibition of local cloth, wood, and lacquerware crafts. (Open daily)
- Mokume**
Offering unique chopsticks made from natural wood. (Closed Thu.) Tel: (0761) 78-1757

- Meigetsuro Annex**
Since its founding, this restaurant has prided itself on its eel-topped rice bowls. (Closed Tue.)
- Roadside Sta. Yamanaka Onsen Yukemuri Kenko-mura**
Drop in for a great selection of local goods and souvenirs! (Open daily)
- Yu-yu-kan**
This beautiful hot spring facility makes a wonderful place to relax. Kenkyo Bath: Adults ¥500 (Closed Tue.)
- Lacquerware "Asada"**
Make your own one-of-a-kind painted bowl. (Closed for year-end & new year holidays) Tel: (0761) 78-4200
- Shokusaikan "Yamaboshi"**
Try making your own soba noodles or enjoy other local specialties. (Closed Wed.) Tel: (0761) 78-0051
- Kaya-no-Osugi Chaya**
Kusa-dango dumplings with eight centuries of history. (Closed Thu. and from Dec. 11 through Apr. 9)
- 250 years of history! "Matsuura Shuzo Tsukushiya"**
Visitors can purchase the local sake Shishi-no-Sato directly from the brewery here. (Open daily)
- Yamanaka "Kataoka Tsurutaro Craft Museum"**
The works of Tsurutaro are on display and for sale. Visitors can also enjoy the coffee salon. (Open daily)
- Salon de thé "Seiyogashi-Club Takanokura"**
Makers of fine cakes and cookies. Featuring a café salon. (Closed Wed.)
- Lacquerware "Tadakeikan"**
Production, wholesale, and direct sales of lacquered goods. (Open daily)
- Kanamori**
A great place to grab a snack for walking around town, like their famous Kinton Pie! (Closed irregularly)

- Sake Club "Kubode"**
Offering local sake, sake cups, and more. Try the daiginjo sake soft-serve ice cream. (Closed Thu.)
- Yorozuyoshiya**
Purveyors of sesame tofu and toriyasai miso to Eiheiji Temple. (Closed irregularly)
- Yuge Kaido "Tezukuri Nakama-no-komichi"**
Featuring Saikieian soba noodles, R2, Kawa-ee, and Kokoya. (Closed Thu.)
- Abachan Music Box Shop**
Offering music boxes and 100 unique varieties of chopsticks. (Open daily)

- Hashidate Port Wholesale Direct Shop "Gamba"**
Try their popular fresh seafood lunch, or take home some fresh or dried seafood as a souvenir. (Closed Wed.)
- Izumiya Meat**
Try their delicious handmade croquettes! (Closed irregularly)
- Nakamasa Local Vegetables & Art Gallery Yo**
Make your own washi paper, or visit the juice bar for Kaga vegetable juice, made by a vegetable sommelier. (Closed Wed.) Tel: (0761) 78-1112

- Kaga Local Sake Brewery "Tsuiji Shuhan"**
Visitors can sample various types of local sake here. (Closed Tue.)



Tour of Literary Monuments

If you feel like following in the haiku poet Basho's footsteps and composing a poem or two, feel free to share them with us! There are poem collection boxes at Basho-do Hut, Korogi-bashi Bridge, Ayatori-hashi Bridge, Ioji Temple, and Yamanaka-za.

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|----|------------------------|---|--------|
| 1 | Basho-do Hut | Tako kirete/Shiranegadake wo/Yukue kana | Toyo |
| 2 | Site of Kido-mon Gate | Yamanaka ya/ Kiku wa taorazi/Yu no nioi | Basho |
| 3 | Site of Kido-mon Gate | Kagari bi ni/Kajika ya nami no/Shita musebi | Basho |
| 4 | Site of Kido-mon Gate | Kyou yori ya/Kakitsuke kesan/Kasa no tsuyu | Basho |
| 5 | In front of Kiku-no-Yu | Akimizu no/Oto takamari te/Hito wo omou | Kyoshi |
| 6 | Site of Izumiya | Yu no nagori/Koyoi ha hada no/Samu karamu | Basho |
| 7 | Domyo-ga-fuchi | Yamanaka ya/Kiku ha taorazi/Yu no nioi | Basho |
| 8 | Korogi-bashi Bridge | Kagari bi ni/Kajika ya nami no/Shita musebi | Basho |
| 9 | Hiraiwa-bashi Bridge | Kagari bi ni/Kajika ya nami no/Shiya musebi | Basho |
| 10 | Iohji Temple | Yamanaka ya/Kiku wa taorazi/Yu no nioi | Basho |